

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

March 2026



Legionnaires, March has been a very busy month again for our Post. Bingo did very well with 185 players attending. Thanks to everyone that helped with the floor and our concession stand operated by the Auxiliary. We conducted our unclaimed Veterans Ceremony at Fort Jackson National Cemetery on the 6th and it was very well attended. Our Post members always do an excellent job of showing our fallen comrades the honors that they have earned and deserve. We also sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Post on the 9th. Our Post Meeting and the Auxiliary Meetings were well attended even with a number of people away on the cruise that is affiliated with the Post. We accomplished a lot of business for the new Post and other items related to our Post activities. We also had the **interviews for the Palmetto Girls' State sponsored by our Auxiliary on the 18th and 19th. Once again we participated as volunteers for the VEAC On the 19th thru the 21st, helping out with parking and other duties assisting that program. We also have begun planning for the Memorial Day Ceremony that we conduct each year. Our first meeting being on the 26th. Last, but not least, the Zorba's breakfast sponsored by the American Legion Riders is Saturday the 28th.** Tickets are still available and can also be bought at the door. Always a good time to get together and have a great breakfast while helping to fund all the great charities and activities our Riders support each year. **While I'm talking about breakfast, don't forget the great ones that our Post puts out every Monday morning.** We have been averaging about 100 Veterans at each one. The kitchen crew does an amazing job of feeding our Legionnaires. So, as you can see, March was a very busy month and as we get closer to moving into our new Post it will only get busier. Please help out when you can and I hope to see you at our meetings, breakfast, or one of our many activities soon.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1

Adjutant



It is hard to believe that it is already the end of March and we are heading full steam ahead into April. We have exceeded our 2026 membership goal of 433 members and as of 12 March 2026 our membership was at 436 with a 96.38% member renewal rate. That is fantastic and all due to you, the members of Post 193 who make our Post an organization that is welcoming and provides value to its members and the community. We will continue to grow and as we move forward must adjust to new ideas and find ways to attract and retain our younger veterans and their families as they are our future. I am a proud member of Post 193 and look forward to our continued growth.

Post elections are in May; Bill Moser is our Nominating Committee Chairman and if you desire to fill one of the elected positions in the Post, please let it be known, do not let the fact that the incumbent desires to remain in the position keep you from running. In a perfect scenario we would

have three or four members running for each position. We are a growing Post and there is plenty of talent out there to serve in all our elected positions or on one of our committees.

Recently I was compiling information pertaining to the Post 193 activities during 2025. After compiling the information and somewhat organizing it I was amazed at our accomplishments and the many activities and events we had facilitated/organized or participated in. Wow, we are **collectively a pretty busy and valuable bunch of "Veterans strengthening America"**.

Steven Goulet / **"We Can Build It" / "Veterans Strengthening America"**

First Vice Commander / Quartermaster



Happy St. Paddy's Day!!! We will be having our 2nd Membership Drive/ Gun Raffle Sales, Friday Mar 27, 2026 from 8am to 4 pm at Bolands and Saturday Mar 28, 2026 from 8am to 10 am at Zorbas in conjunction with the Riders breakfast.

The Mar 9th blood drive netted us 26 units of blood. The next Blood drive will take place on May 11, 2026 from 11am until 5 pm . Future blood drives will probably happen at our new facility.

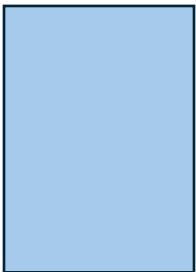
Fireman and Teacher of the year awards were passed out to the appropriate facilities with deadlines of March 15, 2026 for the applications to be turned in. I have not received any response on either.

Those that ordered t-shirts, they have come in and I'll have them at the Monday morning breakfast. They are \$25.00

I hope everyone had a great St. Paddy's Day, green beer and corned beef and cabbage and all that is Irish. See you next month

Jerry Lebar / For God and Country

Third Vice Commander



There are numerous opportunities to volunteer and represent the post. These activities are important to sustain the post and foster community relations. I am always looking for volunteers to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Town Hall. Currently we have April, May and June covered.

Additionally, There are still a large number of nametags that need to be retrieved. Please see Jerry LeBar if you have ordered one and not received it.

Russ Taylor / For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Thanks to the Breakfast Crew who prepared Monday's breakfast with five members of the Crew out. Even with limited staff we pulled it off. Thanks to Mark Harvey for getting in early and helping out and to Tom Yeoman who somehow managed to mirror Steve Goulet's super secret potato recipe. The Post hosted another successful Red Cross blood drive and Chapin Women in Service came in and folded the unserviceable US flags dropped off in our flag box. A huge thanks to Steve Turner for coordinating that effort.

New Building Committee:

A big Thank You! to Chapin Women in Service who presented a \$10,000 check to the Commander to be used for landscaping expenses for our new Post.

Thanks to Anne Richardson for doing such an awesome job on the bar top. It looks amazing! Thanks also to her able assistant Walt for his work on the bar top. Also thanks to the **15 members and Lexington County Sheriff's Department for escorting and handling** the bar top so we could get it in the Post.

The kitchen equipment is in. Can't wait to use it for Monday Morning breakfast and other functions. The flooring is in except for the bar area. Plumbing will finish up as soon as we get water. We had some very positive movement on obtaining water from City of Columbia, so we'll stand by. A huge thanks to Bob Barito and his son for installing myriad low voltage systems in the Post. The speakers sound awesome.

Next steps are for the landscaper to run his irrigation systems and Mid Carolina to install all of the light poles in the parking lot.

A huge thanks to our JAG, Jeff Barham, for his detailed & diligent efforts in obtaining our liquor license and liquor liability insurance. No one would want to tackle that job. If you have **90 minutes, I'm sure Jeff would be glad to outline all the steps it has taken to get to where we are now. Thanks for everyone's patience and continued support as we get this project completed...**

David W. Schimsa/For God and Country

ALR Director



From the saddle of my Goldwing

Your Riders, with great appreciation to Zorbas (Chapin) are putting on our annual Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday March 28th, 0730-1100. The \$15 breakfast is a buffet, all you can eat, of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, grits, coffee and orange juice. Tickets can be purchased from Riders, or purchased at the door. This is our BIG fundraiser, and we would appreciate your joining us and supporting your Riders.

That same Saturday morning, your Riders are participating in Chapin High Schools JNROTC EGGstravagansa! This fundraiser for the Chapin JNROTC program will be a fun event for parents and children. Join us at Chapin High School and support the NJROTC!

Tom Yeoman/For God and Country/Safety First, People Always

Chaplain's Corner



Just a poem this time:

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you King for a day.
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife Whose judgement upon you must pass;
The fellow who counts most in your life, Is the guy staring back from the glass; He's the fellow
to please, never mind rest; For he's with you clear up to the end. And you have passed your
most dangerous, difficult test; If the guy in the glass is your friend.

Author unknown

Comrade Care List:

When you pray, remember those listed on our Comrade Care List.

Choose two or three and be mindful of those two or three for a couple days then choose
another two or three others for a few days.

Remember our Post family:

- **James Blackwell's family**
- **Billy Lindsay's family**
- **Charles Smith, Auxiliary member, Laura Smith's husband passed recently**
- Paul Holiday is back home from his treatment in Jacksonville, Florida
- Bill Szala
- George and Carol Smith; George is at home under hospice care.
- Betsy Harvey and her daughter
- Michael Rowley Knee surgery
- John Siemens
- Larry Archer
- Buddy Miller with lung cancer near his heart
- Richard Royer as he battles with cancer
- Walt Richardson
- Bob Dilworth lost his house to a fire recently
- Jack Hule
- Ed Abston

Forward your request for this list to me at rcmullinax@gmail.com

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Auxiliary



Two Auxiliary officers attended the ALA SC District 15 Meeting on February 28th at Post 7 in Lexington to receive updates from SC ALA Leadership. We were pleased to be recognized for our volunteer efforts and for meeting our membership goals. We also learned an essay submitted from our unit for the 2025 ALA Americanism Essay Contest not only won first place for SC but also for the Southeast Region – very exciting! On March 13 three members of our unit volunteered for the early morning shift at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport USO. We all enjoyed greeting and serving food and drinks to veterans who stopped by and especially to 125 recent graduates of Basic Training at Ft.

Jackson before they left SC for advanced training sites across the country. Over the next two weeks we will be interviewing applicants for Palmetto Girls State, securing entries from local schools for two annual competitions (Americanism Essay Contest and Poppy Poster Contest), and making plans to help students at Chapin Elementary School celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April.

Marthalyn Schimsa/President/In the Spirit of Service, Not Self



Auxiliary Unit 193 Girls State Committee Chairperson Deborah Royer, Committee members, Mary Plexico, Kathy Smith and Unit Vice President Carmen Goulet recently held their Girls State interviews to determine Delegates for the 2026 Girls State encampment.

Post Activities and Events

- 31 MAR: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 2 APR: BINGO 1730-2200, Chapin Town Hall, 157 Columbia Ave, Chapin. POC Floyd Rogers
- 6 APR: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 7 APR: ALR Executive Meeting 1800 - 1900, Post Building. POC: Tom Yeoman
- 9 APR: Post 193 and Auxiliary Meeting, Dinner at 1800, Meetings at 1900, Post Building, POC: Steve Goulet
- 13 APR: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 14 APR: Chapin Post 193 Amateur Radio Club Meeting 1800 - 1900
Air Force Reserve Birthday All Day.
- 20 APR: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- 21 APR: ALR Chapter Meeting 1800 - 1900, Post Building. POC: Tom Yeoman
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Russ Taylor
- 23 APR: Army Reserve Birthday All Day.
- 27 APR: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](http://americanlegionpost193.com)
For info on our Chapin Newberry Baseball Team visit, [South Carolina American Legion Baseball Home Page \(scalb.org\)](http://scalb.org). You can find a great deal of info on our Post website at www.americanlegionpost193.com or on our Facebook page [Chapin American Legion Post 193 | Chapin SC | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Chapin-American-Legion-Post-193-Chapin-SC/)



Sometimes you just need to take a break! In March a few of our Post members, their friends and family cruised the Caribbean on the Post 193 sponsored cruise. Betty Barrette of Dream Vacations did a great job taking care of the arrangements and the entertainment and food aboard the ship was wonderful.



Post 193 Unclaimed Veteran burial service at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery for two Previously Unclaimed Veterans. " **You** Are Not Forgotten"

Chapin Women in Service (CWIS) visited our Monday morning Veteran breakfast and brought a nice \$10K donation to the Building Fund



Chuck Wilcox was recognized by Commander Nielsen for 50 continuous years in the American Legion.



(L) Chapter 193 members received certificates for completing all requirements to receive the ALRSC Unity Patch