



**History of
Post 68
The American Legion
Leland, NC
For 2017 to 2018
By Daniel E Dodge**

PREFACE:

This is the second Annual Historical Report for Post 68, Leland, NC and the very first to be published and submitted to Department of North Carolina for judging.

It was prepared for the members of Post 68, citizens of the Town of Leland, and for the American Legion, Department of North Carolina.

Prepared by:

Daniel E Dodge
Historian - Post 68
21125 Forest View Circle
Leland, NC 28451

Introduction:

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2.4 million in 14,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. (1)

The organization is comprised of 55 Departments, one each in the 50 states with additional departments in the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Individual Departments can have additional levels between themselves and the posts.

The Department of North Carolina is subdivided into 5 Divisions with a Department Vice Commander (often called Division Commanders) who has the responsibility for the districts under their charge. In addition, each Division is sub-divided into 5 Districts. Each district is led by a District Commander and Vice Commander (2)

American Legion Post 68 is one of the fastest growing Legions in North Carolina. Originally founded in 1973, the post was revived in 2014 and has benefitted from a large number of new Brunswick County residents who were already American Legion members before retiring to the region. The post has grown to 122+ members with the majority being Vietnam veterans along several from Desert Storm and with a few representatives from the Korean War and 1 from WW2. The post also includes several women veterans.

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History of Leland, NC

In the mid-1890's at the crossroads where Village Road crossed the Wilmington, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad (on the way towards Summerville and Phoenix) there existed a settlement. The name of this settlement became formalized when, in late 1897, Mr. Joseph W. Gay and other area citizens petitioned the U.S. Post Office Department in Washington D.C., for a local Post Office. A list of three names was submitted at this time so that the Post Office Department might have a name from which to choose. The name Leland was chosen. Leland was the name of Mr. Gay's nephew, Leland Adams. The new Post Office opened on February 10, 1898, with Mr. Joseph Gay as Postmaster. The Post Office was located in a corner of Gay's General Store.

The Leland area was initially settled at the same time the earliest plantations along the Cape Fear and Brunswick Rivers came into existence. Early activity revolved around the Post Office, the school, two grocery stores, the railroad station, Leland Baptist Church, Leland Methodist Church and numerous homes. For many years Leland was one of the numerous small unincorporated communities throughout Brunswick Country which served as minor centers of trade throughout the early 20th century.

Due to its location adjacent to the Brunswick River, Leland also served as an early transportation center. By modern standards the early roads in the area were primitive. There were ferries in place across the Brunswick River and across the Cape Fear River for travelers going north and south. The Brunswick River received a bridge in 1890, prior to the Cape Fear River. The Brunswick River Causeway, across Eagles Island, was always known as a problem area because of the wetness of the soil and swamps between the two rivers. By 1923 the road from the Brunswick River through Leland had been hard surfaced and was known as State Road 20. Two churches (Woodburn Presbyterian and Woodburn Baptist) were named after the Woodburn family, which was a later subdivision of the Belvedere Plantation (home of William Dry and Governor Benjamin Smith). The Belvedere subdivision forms the nucleus of what is now the incorporated Town of Leland.

1946 – April, National Defense Reserve Fleet (Ghost Fleet) anchored in the Brunswick River. 628 vessels mothballed in the anchorage.

Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

A major pre-Revolutionary port on North Carolina's Cape Fear River, Brunswick was razed by British troops in 1776 and never rebuilt. During the Civil War, Fort Anderson was constructed atop the old village site and served as part of the Cape Fear River defenses below Wilmington before the fall of the Confederacy. Colonial foundations dot the present-day tour trail, which crosses the earthworks of the Confederate fort.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to acknowledge the tireless work performed by Post 68 officers and members in the running and management of this Post and making us successful and able to provide help and services for fellow veterans in our local area.

We would like to thank the staff and management of Brunswick Forest for use of space and facilities at Brunswick Forest.

We would like to thank officials at the Town of Leland for their support of our Post and their recognition of our efforts to assist members of our community.

We would also like to thank the local businesses in our area you have provided donations or other support for our events.



PREAMBLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION (3)

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- To maintain law and order;
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Chapter 1: Post Officers

	Commander	Jim Zelenski	afblueberet7494@gmail.com
	1 st Vice Commander	Alan Simmons	bandaid125@gmail.com
	2 nd Vice Commander	Art Dietrich III	dietriaw50@gmail.com
	Adjutant	Eric Mens	armyvet6770@gmail.com
	Treasurer/Finance Officer	Greg Miller	FlyBoyFB111A@gmail.com

	Chaplin	Brian Danielson	brian.e.danielson@gmail.com
	Sergeant at Arms	K.C. White	ken.white1031@gmail.com
	Service Officer	Dale Todd	daleetodd@gmail.com
	Supply Officer	John Marone	ionflyfish@aol.com
	Public Relations Officer	Lane Adrian	laneadrian@att.net
	Historian	Dan Dodge	lifesgood50@gmail.com

Executive Committee

	Lou Tranzillo	tranzillo@bellsouth.net
	Jim Thompson	jim66t@yahoo.com
	Bill Smith	depbill@att.net

Chapter 2: Roster of Post Chairmen

	Membership	Kathy McDonough	Katconnaughton@hotmail.com
	Flag Collection	Dan Fortini	dan14ef@hotmail.com
	Flag Retirement Event and overall Fund Raising Event coordination	Gerald Decker	gdecker1226@gmail.com

Chapter 3 – Post 68, American Legion - One-year Post History by month

June 2017 - May 2018

June 2017

Monthly Meeting:

All newly elected officers from May elections are now in place. All existing officers will be continuing on in their elected or appointed positions from the prior year.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Patrick Kelley, Director of Dignity Memorial, Wilmington spoke to those in attendance concerning veterans' burial benefits. Mr. Kelley, an Army veteran (First Cavalry Division), also discussed the "Veterans Planning Guide," an informative 48-page guide that addresses burial benefits available to veterans, military funeral honors, etc.

Meeting Summary:

During the month, the Post learned of the upcoming closing of Charlie Macgrooders where our meetings are currently held. Post Commander Jim Zelenski appointed the Executive Committee to explore new meeting locations.

Chaplain's Report: Brian Danielson, Chaplain, reported three sick calls - Jim Zelenski (knee surgery), Greg Miller (eye surgery), and Margo Chestnut (recent hospitalization).

Special Presentation to Post 68: Legionnaire Gordon Armiger, representing the Waterford Community, presented a check in the amount of \$350 to Post 68 to be used solely to benefit needy veterans in the Post 68 membership area. The funds will be deposited in the Poppy Fund which is strictly reserved for that purpose.

Department Convention:

Delegates to Department Convention in June included: Dale Todd, John Marone, & Lane Adrian. Dale Todd briefly recapped the convention. Post 68 received a plaque for achievement in membership gains for 2016 – 2017.

The following members were nominated for **National Commander Recruitment Awards:** Greg Miller and KC White (2017 Incentive Pin) and John Cook and Rick de Moya (2017 Incentive Certificate).

Committee Reports:

Membership: One guest this evening. The current roster is at 107. 4 new members were recognized.

Finance: Briefing of the 2017-2018 Budget will be in July. Results of the Annual Financial Review to be conducted by the Executive Committee will be briefed to the membership upon completion of the review and consideration by the Officers

The *Executive committee* was tasked with finding a new meeting location for Post 68. They were able to secure a new meeting location at Blossoms Restaurant meeting room at Magnolia Greens golf course. Meetings will be starting earlier, at 6pm. Members are encouraged to support Blossoms by having dinner prior to the meeting and staying for a beverage afterward.

Executive Committee – The remaining vacancy for the Executive Committee was filled at the meeting by Bill Smith. The Committee is led by Lou Tranzillo with Jim Thompson and Bill Smith serving as members. The Committee has been tasked with: finding a suitable replacement meeting facility, working with the Financial Officer to finalize the 2017-2018 Budget, and conducting the required Annual Financial Review.

Post activities during Month

In May, Post 68 members placed American flags on the graves of Veterans in several cemeteries in the Leland area.

An article was placed in the monthly newsletter for The Zion Baptist Church in Leland. (See Figure 6).

July 2017

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: None this month

Meeting Summary:

Commander's Opening Comments: "Special Thanks" to the Executive Committee, led by Lou Tranzillo, for arranging the use of the Blossoms Restaurant Meeting Room, Magnolia Greens for our meetings. Unlike previously, we will not provide coffee or sweets at the meetings. However, since Blossoms management is not charging for using their meeting facilities, we encourage you to join us in the restaurant for dinner before each meeting. We have also adjusted the meeting time to a 6 PM opening to allow members to socialize at the bar after the meeting and hope that you will join us.

Chaplain's Report: It was reported that Bill Carshaw was hospitalized for a short stay but is now home.

Thank you Note: This month, our commander received an email from **Meagan Clark**, a non-member who came across our web site. (See Figure 2)

National Commander Recruitment Awards: The Commander presented National Commander 2017 Membership Incentive Pins and Certificates to Gregory Miller (recruited 6 new members) and Kenneth White (recruited 12 new members). Also receiving recognition but not in attendance to receive their awards were John Cook and Richard de Moya (2017 Membership Incentive Certificates).

Presentation of 2017 -2018 Proposed Budget was performed during this meeting – It was noted that we pay \$490 annually for General and Officers Liability Insurance. Special thanks to Debbie Zelenski for her work in establishing the Post budget and for offering to provide the Officers with monthly updates that will be used to brief the membership. Approval of the 2017-2018 Budget by Acclamation.

Recent Decisions by Post Officers:

- Approved a \$250 donation to the BFA Backpack Program - school supplies and clothing for needy children vetted by BFA (BFA will make the purchases and distribute the backpacks on August 17th).
- Approved a \$500 donation to help offset unreimbursed expenses associated with food and supplies provided at the 2017 VBAC to help veterans initiate or settle claims with the Veterans Administration. Dale Todd will present the check to Tom Cerniglia at the next VBAC 2018 Planning Meeting.

Post Historian Dan Dodge has agreed to take on the additional role of Post Webmaster. Dan stated that he would like any pictures and articles for 2016-2017 events that we participated in for the Post 68 History Book.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Kathy McDonough: No guests or new members in attendance. As of July 20th, Post 68 has a total of 108 members on its local “Active” roster.

Post activities during Month

Post 68 Success Story: Twenty members, 8 spouses, and several grandchildren participated in the July 4th Parade in Magnolia Greens. “Special Thanks” to Romie Holmes and Marty McDonough for taking pictures and a short video of the parade. (Eric Mens constructed a slide show of the event that was shown before the meeting opened). Magnolia Greens donated \$100 to the Post for leading the parade with the Color Guard (Alan Simmons, Lane Adrian, KC White, and John Marone), followed by the Commander in a Mustang convertible driven by Art Dietrich, and WW II veteran Bill Carshaw driven by Eric Mens. The parade was followed by a picnic at the community pool and a mid-afternoon barbecue at Alan Simmons’ house in Brunswick Forest.

Fish Fry: Due to inclement weather, the Fish Fry and White Elephant Sale were rescheduled to Sat. August 12th,

August 2017

Monthly Meeting:

Note: Post 68 officers started meeting at the Leland Public Library for their monthly meeting in August.

Guest Speaker: David Hollis, Leland Town Manager, who is a native of Brunswick County spoke to the membership about population trends in Leland and development projects in the Leland area.

Meeting Summary:

NBHS Liaison: Rick de Moya, who is the liaison for the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) at NBHS will be the designated Lead for Boys State, JROTC, Shooting Team, and Legion Awards programs at NBHS. He will be assisted as necessary by the Executive Committee and Scholarship Review Committee (Lou Tranzillo, Pete Erbe).

Introduction of Boys State 2017 Participants: Post member Pete Erbe introduced Nick Worley and Parker Smythe, rising seniors at North Brunswick High School and two of the four boys that Post 68 sponsored to attend the 2017 Boys State program. Both boys spoke briefly but eloquently about their experiences at Boys State. Parker's parents, Andy and Karey Smythe, attended the meeting.

The adjutant gave a rundown to members on how their annual \$40 in dues is allocated:

- Post 68 retains \$12.50
- The North Carolina Department gets \$27.50

Some of the Post's fixed expenses include:

- Dues include one issue of Post 68 Ball cap
- A subscription to Legion magazine, and the Post 68 newsletter
- Post Liability insurance - \$469.00
- Post Website - \$240.00
- Post Supplies - 150.00
- Post P.O. Box - \$64.00

Chaplin: No report

Service Officer:

Assistance provided to area veterans – The plight of Donald Wright was brought to our attention by Anita Hartsell, Brunswick Veterans Office). Dale gave an update on the transportation needs of Mr. Donald Wright and his wife concerning medical appointments. We have also engaged Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) to help address their other needs (e.g., Meals on Wheels, etc.). We are also attempting to determine what assistance (if any) that the Post can provide for David Cote in coordination with BFA and Anita Hartsell's office. We have also put Carey Dorsey in touch with Anita's office to get her some help on a claim with the Veterans Administration.

Some events that several Post 68 members participated in support of Brunswick Family Assistance included a "Stuff the Bus" event on August 4th, a Commodities Distribution of USDA surplus food items to needy families on August 10th, and a Second Helping Collection on August 12th.

Our Service Officer also reports that he has received multiple requests for assistance from local vets for transportation, home repairs, and VA claim assistance

Survey: Post 68 has initiated a member survey this month. The survey form will be available on our web site

Committee Reports:

Membership: Several guests and new members were present this evening with 8 new members and 1 transfer. Membership count stands at 107.

Post activities during Month

Fish Fry, Aug 12th.

Kudos to John Cook and the members of his church for doing the cooking and to all the Post members and their spouses who worked hard to make this event a great success! About 36 members and 12 spouses participated in helping make this event a success. Thanks to KC. White and his team who pulled everything together. Greg Miller who handled the ticket sales. Also to the Spousal Support Group's White Elephant and Baked Goods Sales brought in \$325.00. A final reconciliation of Fish Fry ticket sales and donations was unavailable at the time of the meeting. (See appendix for pictures)

Wristband Sales – Downtown Concert Series Aug 12th:

A tally of funds raised from participating in this event should be available at the September membership meeting. (See appendix for pictures)

Open Letter to Town of Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman – Mallory Creek Connector.
(See Figure 7)

September 2017

Monthly Meeting:

The meeting was preceded with a slide show of Post 68 events that occurred this past year.

Guest Speaker: Tara Hurst, Event Coordinator, Public Administration Office, “Step up for Soldiers.” Ms. Hurst was a last-minute addition to the agenda at the request of Post 68 member Dominick Calderon, Jr. Dominick has been involved with the planning of the Wilmington Veterans Day Parade (John Marone is the Post 68 lead working with Dominick). Ms. Hurst wanted to meet our WW II veterans (Bill Carshaw and Robert Stafford) as WW II veterans will be the Grand Marshals of the parade.

Meeting Summary:

Honorary Lifetime Membership:

Reflecting a recent vote by the Post Officers, Dale Todd presented Mr. Robert Stafford, a former Marine and WWII veteran, with a certificate for an Honorary Lifetime Membership (HLM). HLM status means that Post 68 will pay Mr. Stafford’s dues for his lifetime. Mr. Stafford was accompanied by his son, Ron Stafford, who is a recent transfer from Wilmington Post 10. Robert brought pictures showing his father as a young Marine. He also brought an article from a 1940’s paper that talked about Mr. Stafford’s gallant contributions to the US Marine Corp.

Chaplin’s Report: No Sick Call reported.

Service Officer: Another busy month with continued work from last month regarding Mr. Cody and transportation, house and car repairs. Continued work on a veteran’s long-standing VA claim, what to do with WWII mementos from a veteran’s family and other misc. requests for support.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Current count stands at 128 members. Handed out 2018 cards to members present for the current year. Two new members were in attendance this evening.

Other New Business this meeting included:

- Spousal Support Group: Belk sales ticket. \$5 for each ticket. Pure profit. Sales at the store. Will be at next Post meeting selling tickets.

- Designating Mallory Creek and Brunswick Forest connector road in honor of local veterans. Will be discussed at Leland Town Council meeting if we can get it on the agenda. Members can attend in Legion shirts. Mike Callahan spoke (on council). Members can email or send letters to members of the Town Council. They need at least 3 votes from the board. Be kind, patient but persistent.
- First-time event: Non-Profit Expo at the Leland Cultural Arts Center, Sep 30th (Lead is KC White).
- Leland Trunk or Treat: Dan Dodge gave an update on T or T event. Kid friendly theme. Asked for donations from members in the form of candy, bales of straw, corn stalks. Bring to our next meeting.
- Wilmington Parade: John Marone is the Lead. Asking for post members to participate. Lou Tranzillo suggested calling members to get them to participate. There will be a float for those who cannot walk. Lou will work with John and Dale on calling list.
- Free Breakfast for Vets at Leland Cultural Arts Center on November 11th conflicts with the Wilmington parade.
- Christmas Parade Dec 9th. Working on getting a lead for this event. Asked for help from membership.
- Col Baker: ROTC instructor – year 3 of partnership with JROTC at North Brunswick High School. Working with Rick de Moya. Rifle team should be nationally ranked this year. Color Guard looking good. 130+ students in this program. Members can link their Harris Teeter VIC card to 8704 as they get cash donations to the group.
- Mike Callahan asked for feedback on Leland Founders Day event. Dale and Dan responded. One new member signed up that day. Mike also indicated that the Town Council made proclamation for POW/MIA day and to fly the POW/MIA flag on the day of recognition, September 15, 2017.
- Rick de Moya: Quickly discussed tax write-offs to ROTC. Asked about flag ceremony which Dale indicated has been moved to next year.
- Pete Erbe: Suggestion to send out meeting agenda and minutes prior to meetings (this has been regularly done).
- 9/11 – Bike ride “343” from Harley to downtown. Over 400 bikes. Was quite a showing.

Post activities during Month

Wilmington Sundown Concert Fundraiser (August) : Dale Todd talked about the success of this event and thanked those who participated. See appendix for pictures.

Founders Day: Post 68 participated in the Town of Leland’s annual Founder’s day celebration. The Post sponsored an informational booth while the Spousal Support Group sold baked goods.

As part of the festivities, the Town honored all WWII, Korean Conflict and Vietnam Vets in the crowd as a special salute and program to honor Leland area veterans

Community Services Expo: KC White described an event held at LCAC 6 post members present (see Pictures) with hat sales Several people signed up for membership or more info. This was an event for local community service organizations to showcase their groups to the public. Purpose of Post being there was to gain additional exposure to the Community. WECT was present reporting on the event. Per an article in the Brunswick Beacon (9/29/17):

The Northern Brunswick County Services Coordinating Council has worked for three years to assist local residents in need. This weekend, the NBCSCC coordinates its widest-ranging effort as it hosts a Community Services Expo from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at Leland Cultural Arts Center, 1212 Magnolia Village Way. Leland Town Manager David Hollis, who serves on the NBCSCC committee, said the expo is offered for two purposes. The first is to provide people in need of the services with the chance to come to one location to find out what is available. Secondly, the expo will provide information on how to get involved for those interested in volunteering. “Each organization will set up a booth to show what they have to offer and, for volunteers, to provide participation information. If people are in need of services, they can find out if the organization can assist and what is needed to qualify for their assistance,” Hollis said. “It will depend on the individual group if people can sign up Saturday or if they will explain the steps that they will have to go through (to sign up).”

Article from Wilmington Star News Online:

Brunswick County Veterans Coalition

Operation North State (ONS), its supporters and volunteers are calling on North Carolina’s People, Places, Products, and Pride (especially in the Oak Island/ Southport Community) to help support the fourth annual Peer Fishin’ Festival. The festival will be held Oct. 6 (rain or shine) on Ocean Crest Pier at Oak Island.

ONS and the Oak Island/ Southport Community will host 400 folks (wounded warriors, DVets, their respective guests, sponsors, pier mates, and volunteers) to a day of fishing and fellowship. According to Operation North State’s Founder/Volunteer, Terry Snyder, “the event is being held at the request of the wounded warriors/DVets that have fished in ONS’s Top Shelf Fishin’ Festivals throughout the state the past four years. The Peer Fishin’ Festival is one of eight such Fishin’ Festivals hosted throughout North Carolina each year by ONS. There is nothing else like our Fishin’ Festivals’ Schedule in the country. The wounded warriors/DVets are so excited to have the opportunity to return to Ocean Crest Pier this year and include their families and friends in the festival as well. Likewise, our sponsors and

volunteers are honored to be part of the festival and have the opportunity to give back, Snyder said.

The Peer Fishin' Festival is free to wounded warriors/ DVets and their respective guests. For wounded warriors/ DVets to participate, send an email to mailbox@operationnorthstate.com or call 336-764-5967. Provide your name, email address, telephone number and what North Carolina town you call home.

ONS is requesting assistance and participation in the festival as follows: Register a wounded warrior/DVet, volunteer, donate product, services, and/or cash for the dinner, snacks, beverages, and prizes, or provide a covered dish for the breakfast or lunch (the covered dishes are so popular). For more information, contact Terry Snyder, ONS Founder/Volunteer at the above email and phone number.

Cheryl Whitaker (reporter for Wilmington Star News)

October 2017

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Rick de Moya, Post 68 NBHS Liaison. Rick explained his role as interface and coordinator with the Brunswick High School JROTC team. He is working on a relationship with the HS to create a partnership regarding Boys State. The four students the Post sponsored this year were very successful. Looking at opportunities for three more. The North Brunswick Kiwanis club wants to partner with other small organization and in working with the high school principle whereby Kiwanis and the Legion would provide leadership and supervision to JROTC and Key Club members at the school. JROTC and Key Club working together on projects.

Meeting Summary:

Chaplin: Nothing to report

Finance: Greg Miller talked about setting up a possible GO FUND ME site to allow for donations to a building fund. He has talked to the manager of BB&T Bank in Brunswick Forest who says he would setup a free account for these funds to come into. Lou Tranzillo, Post Member indicated he knows of someone who is familiar with Go Fund Me Accounts and would attempt to obtain further information.

Service Officer: KC White continuing to provide transportation assistance to local veteran Mr. Wright

Survey: 20 surveys have been received as of this month

Note: There will be no meeting in November as this is our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser

Committee Reports:

Membership: Two new members this evening bringing our total to 122.

Brunswick Family Assistance: Commander discussed that there is a Brunswick Family Assistance Commodities Distribution day on November 9, from 7:30am to 12:00pm at the

Brunswick Beacon Building in Shallotte. Post members desiring to volunteer need to meet at the Port City Java parking lot in Brunswick Forest at 7:15am to carpool to the event.

Exchange Benefits: Commander discussed this benefit for Veterans and that we have links, etc. on our web site. KC White advised that if a Veteran could not be validated now, they should try again after Veterans Day. Dan Dodge indicated that he had already tried out the links, got verified and setup an account on AFSS web site

Other: Debbie Zelenski reported the Spousal Support Group had already collected \$360 from the Belk Charity Sale tickets in support of the Post.

Post activities during Month

Oct 2nd – Battleship Reception: USS North Carolina preservation organization hosted a reception for those organizations and individuals who have been supporters and contributors to the Battleship. Leland Post 68 was represented by Art Dietrich. Several other Legion area posts along with the state commander and vice commander were present. Monies collected have been used for not only restoration and maintenance of the Ship but also the building of the cofferdam and Veterans Memorial walkway to encircle the ship to the tune of \$17+ million.

Trunk or Treat: Post 68 participated in Town of Leland Trunk or Treat event on October 28th giving Halloween candy to area children along with 11 other vehicles including Town of Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman and the Town Fire Department. According to reports, over 3000 children and parents attended this even which lasted over 2 hours. Post 68 started out with close to 4 coolers worth of candy handing out all but about ¾ of one cooler. Post Commander Jim Zelenski and wife Debra also brought hundreds of glow rings and small plastic spider rings which the children loved. Post Historian Dan Dodge took the lead for this project and with the assistance of his wife Joeleen, adorned their car with kid-friendly decorations while dressed as Raggedy Ann and Andy. Several other Post members and officers participated in handing out candy to the crowds. Most were in costume. There was also a reporter from the Wilmington Star News who took pictures and interviewed a couple Post members with pictures showing up in an article in the next day's paper. Dan has been collecting candy from members and has also received donations from his Brunswick Forest neighbors. Thanks to all Post members and friends of Post 68 who donated candy to this successful event! Members and Axillary who participated:

See appendix for pictures

Dan and Joeleen Dodge

Jim and Deb Zelenski

Lane and Joan Adrian

Lou Tranzillo

Jim and Bobbie Jo Thompson
Lynn Keller
Debby White

From Town of Leland Newsletter (Nov 2017) (regarding Trunk or Treat):

Many thanks to the businesses and community members who decorated a trunk for this year's Trunk or Treat. The weather was great and we had a huge turnout. Approximately 3,000 kids and grownups came out to enjoy the day.

November 2017

There was no Post 68 membership meeting in November.

Monthly Meeting: No Meeting this month due to annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser event

Note: Post 68 normally has their annual spaghetti dinner at McGruder's. However, with McGruder's closing down this year, the dinner was moved to the meeting room at Blossoms restaurant. See notes regarding the dinner below....

Special Thank You from Post Adjutant, Eric Mens: Thank you to the Legion members who responded to my request for holiday cards that will be included in Care Packages and sent to deployed service members in time for the Christmas holidays. Between the Kiwanis Club of North Brunswick and our Legionnaires, we collected 130 plus cards, a dozen or so letters from children at Lincoln Elementary School, and three dozen homemade chocolate chip cookies. A special thanks to Patty Kelley for the cookies and to those members who had their grandchildren participate in the card/letter writing. The comments and letters from the children were particularly heartwarming! In this holiday season, let's keep all of our deployed service members in our thoughts and prayers!

Post activities during Month

Spaghetti Dinner: Dale Todd coordinated our annual Post Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser in its new location at Blossoms Restaurant and meeting room proved to be a great success! A total of 145 tickets were sold with 140 meals served. Total income received during the evening was \$2380 from ticket sales, our Support Group raffle and donations. After \$643 in expenses, we had a net profit of \$1737!! We had 13 volunteers who helped by serving meals, greeting, and assisting customers and keeping the dining room in good shape.

The feedback that we received from people we talked to during the event was all positive in terms of the food, the room set-up, and the overall environment. We have some lessons learned to apply to the 2018 event but overall this was a very successful fund raiser for Post 68. Hats off to Dale and all our volunteers along with our Ladies Support Group! Also, a big thanks to the staff at Blossoms for supporting us and providing us with a very enjoyable evening. See appendix for pictures.

Veterans Day Parade: Post 68 participated in the first Wilmington Veterans Day Parade with about 26 Post members along with a float trailer. The weather was great for this event. Members present include our WWII vet Bill Carshaw. Post 68 Commander Jim Zelenski was large and in charge on the float. Many thanks to John Marone who helped coordinate this event for our Post. See appendix for pictures.

Veterans Day Breakfast: Thanks to Kathy McDonough and her wonderful cook staff, some of whom were not members of the Post, a great time was had at our first annual Veterans Day breakfast held at the Community Commons in Brunswick Forest. Kathy showed that she really knew the difference between a spark plug wrench and a kitchen spatula. This is an event that we hope will continue for years to come. See appendix for pictures.

December 2017 Post 68 American Legion

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Jim Zelenski introduced the recently elected District 9 Commander, Nelson Anderson, who spoke briefly to the members about how far Post 68 has come in growth and how he expects that our Post will continue to grow in the future. He encouraged the membership to participate in Legion College, the Mid-Year Conference, and available online training provided by National so that we can be better informed about the Legion and thereby, better Legion representatives in the community.

Meeting Summary:

Presentation of Certificate: The Commander presented Rick de Moya with a Legion Certificate for membership recruitment in the past year.

Chaplin's Report: No Sick Call reported.

In other Post actions:

- Post officers committed to renting a storage unit at a facility on Lanvale Road, Leland. Monthly Rental is \$50.
- Agreement to sponsor two JROTC members for Boys State in 2018 (currently funded). We will revisit the issue if more applicants are received and considered to be deserving of sponsorship, as happened in 2017.
- Approved Post 68 member, George Williams, as nominee for JROTC NCO of the Year.
- Approved North Brunswick High School (NBHS) Project – Installment of a Flag Pole in front of NBHS and construction of a Freedom Wall inside the school. The Freedom Wall is intended to house copies of certain documents. This is being planned as a joint Post 68 and Kiwanis Club of North Brunswick effort. Kiwanis has agreed to provide \$1,000 towards funding the project. Our involvement will be primarily in the planning and construction phases of the project, as well as possible fundraising depending upon the final design of the project.

The Year in Review (Eric Mens): In 2017, the Post gained significant exposure within the local community by participating in:

- Unserviceable Flag Collection Day & Hotdog Sale
- Poppy Fund Drive
- Memorial Day Flag Placement at Local Cemeteries
- Fourth of July Parade in Magnolia Greens

- Leland Founder's Day Celebration
- Leland Non-Profit Expo Day
- Brunswick Family Assistance Food Bank Distributions
- Leland Trunk or Treat
- Wilmington's First Veterans Day Parade
- Post 68 Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast
- Leland Unity Group Christmas Holiday Parade

Post 68 Success Story - Spaghetti Dinner: On behalf of the entire Post, the Commander expressed his thanks to Dale Todd, the Spousal Support Group, and the numerous volunteers who made this event a great success! We sold 150 tickets, served 145 meals, and raised over \$1,700. The event was so well received that we are planning with Blossoms management to hold a repeat event on November 15, 2018.

Service Officer: This month we provided 4, \$100 gift cards to area veterans

American Legion Riders: Several members of our Post are interested in forming a Post 68 American Legion Riders Chapter. This is strictly in the incubation stage and they are looking for any interest among the Post members. The only stipulation is that you are a member of Post 68. Anyone interest in forming the Chapter, please contact Lane Adrian at laneadrian@att.net or Greg Miller at FlyBoyFB111A@gmail.com.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Post 68's Local Roster shows that we have 123 members. As of the meeting date, 81 percent of the members ha paid their 2018 dues. Two guests were present this evening.

Post activities during Month:

Unity Group Christmas Holiday Parade (Dec. 9, 2017): Inclement weather was a factor in the overall low turnout. The Town of Leland plans to take over the event in 2018. Post 68 still had a few hearty souls who braved the weather to participate. It was cold and rainy but our intrepid Color Guard of Lane Adrian, John Marone, K.C. White and Alan Simmons braved the elements along with our driver John Cook and co-pilot Bill Carshaw to represent the Post. Our day was made when we were granted a photo with the parade's Grand Marshal Ronald McDonald. See appendix for pictures

January 2018 Post 68 American Legion

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Eric Mens introduced Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director, Brunswick County Board of Elections. Melissa addressed issues related to voting in Brunswick County, her job responsibilities, how the growth in the County (particularly the influx of residents into the northern part of the County) has affected her job, and the need for volunteers to work at the polls on each election day. During Presidential election years, as many as 400 poll workers are needed to work at locations throughout Brunswick County. Pay is a minimum of \$150 on Election Day. Orientation and computer skills training for potential poll workers starts this month and runs through February.

Meeting Summary:

Chaplin's Report: No Sick Call reported.

Service Officer: Dale Todd: Post 68 continues to provide assistance to needy local veterans. A local veteran we had been assisting has recently passed away and we Salute his service. Another family is being helped by a local auto repair facility to get their car running and by Brunswick County Housing Services which will be working on a handicap ramp along with electrical and plumbing repairs.

Post 68 Success Story: In a surprise visit to Post 68, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Michael De Slaughter presented Post 68 with a Memorandum expressing thanks for our participation in providing cards, letters, and cookies to Air Force personnel deployed in Incirlik, Turkey over the 2017 holidays. Accompanying the letter was a flag that was carried aboard an A-10 Warthog from the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (Flying Tigers) on December 17th and onboard a KC-135R Stratotanker during Operation Inherent Resolve on December 27, 2017. Appropriate Certificates of Authenticity accompanied the flag. Thank you to all our members who took the time to write cards (each envelope also included a Post 68 business card and cut-out star) and in particular, to Patty Kelley for baking delicious chocolate chip cookies for the troops!

Legion Jackets: We are working to put together a quantity order of American Legion Jackets for sale to members. The price per unit goes down the bigger the order is. Please contact [John Marone](#) to order or for more info. Price is \$37.00 plus \$8.00 for "Post 68" lettering front and back for approximately \$53.00 plus shipping.

Brunswick High School / JROTC: Rick de Moya, Brunswick High School and JROTC liaison gave an update during our January meeting regarding two projects at North Brunswick High School: A Flag Pole Plaza in front of the school with 3 flag poles which may not be completed until later this year along with a Freedom Shrine of historical documents for a wall in the school's library which should be completed this Spring.

Pull Tabs Fund Raiser - Ronald MacDonald House: Post member Richard Fry talked to members regarding the collection of aluminum can pop-tabs as a fund raiser for Ronald MacDonald houses in North Carolina. He urges all members to start collecting tabs and bring them in during meeting nights for collection. Please contact Richard at 703-851-4322 for further info.

Post 68 Storage Facility: Post 68 is growing and with this growth, we now own a lot of "stuff" which has been being stored in the garages and spare rooms of several of our members. John Marone, our supply officer has been working to find a suitable storage area to pull together all our various items into one central location. John was able to get a good deal on a 5x10 unit at American Mini Storage on Lanvale Road. Keys have been issued to several Post 68 officers.

American Legion Oratorical Competition: Rick de Moya reported that he recently attended the Oratorical Competition held at Legion Post 543 St. James. NBHS currently does not have a Speakers Club but the principal is supportive of establishing one in the future. Rick will attend the Division 9 competition that will be held at Wilmington Post 10 in February in the hopes that Post 68 will be able to conduct its own competition next year.

Honor Flight Program: Bill Carshaw provided materials for the Honor Flight Program and suggested that our Vietnam veterans may benefit from participation. Rick de Moya and Eric Mens will follow-up on the program and potential Post candidates.

Community News! The Commander reported that Post 68 is gaining more recognition in the community as we have been invited to participate in Leland's Parks and Recreation (P&R) Advisory Committees and thereby provide input into future P&R community projects.

Committee Reports:

Membership: As of January 20178 meeting, our Post members stands at 122. We also had new faces in the crowd this month with spouses and 2 new membership applications. Let's keep growing! Invite a local Veteran to our meetings!

Other Business:

Elections are coming up! Most officers need to be replaced. The Executive Committee is working to identify candidates.

Post activities during Month

Post 68 members support Brunswick County Homeless Coalition: Two Post 68 members, Lou Tranzillo and Lane Adrian participated in an effort sponsored by Brunswick County Homeless Coalition on Wed, January 24th. The Coalition was working to determine the number of homeless individuals in the County. Lou and Lane were keeping an eye out for any homeless vets in the Leland area. They were able to locate one homeless camp but the inhabitants had already left for the day. This effort is another way Post 68 members are assisting our local community!

American Legion Oratorical Competition: Rick de Moya reported that he recently attended the Oratorical Competition held at Legion Post 543 St. James. NBHS currently does not have a Speakers Club but the principal is supportive of establishing one in the future. Rick will attend the Division 9 competition that will be held at Wilmington Post 10 in February in the hopes that Post 68 will be able to conduct its own competition next year.

February 2018 Post 68 American Legion

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Rick de Moya introduced Col. Steve Baker, Senior Army Instructor, North Brunswick High School, and member of Legion Post 68. Col. Baker spoke about the JROTC program at North Brunswick High School, events that the cadets participate in throughout the year, and thanked the Post for its support including the scholarship and recognition programs and participation in Boys State. Col. Baker invited Post members to participate in the Change of Command Ceremony at the High School on April 23rd at which time the Post 68 medal awards will also be made

Meeting Summary:

Member Recognition:

The Commander recognized the following Post 68 members for their work in our community in representing our “can do” spirit –

- Lane Adrian, Patty Kelley, Kobe Kelley, and Dale Todd for working the BFA Commodities Distribution on February 8th.
- Bobby Hunt for his work to date on Flag Collection and Flag Retirement events (Bobby had to step down as the Lead).
- Dan Fortini for taking the Lead on the Flag Collection Day (we need a Lead for the Flag Retirement event).
- Dan Dodge, Post Historian, for his continued excellent work on updating the Post 68 website.

Chaplin: No report

Service Officer: No new service requests have been received. However, Post 68 continues to provide assistance to needy local veterans. A local veteran we had been assisting has recently passed away and we Salute his service. Another family is being helped by a local auto repair facility to get their car running and by Brunswick County Housing Services which will be working on a handicap ramp along with electrical and plumbing repairs.

Dale and Lane also gave updates on the March VBEC and Veterans Stand-down event. Lane is helping to coordinate volunteers from other Military service related organizations

while Dale is doing the same with all other service organizations. Lane passed a signup sheet around asking members to step up and commit to a day and time slot.

District 9 Meeting – January 2018: Attended by Dale Todd and Lane Adrian. Post 68 received kudos for meeting membership target goals which included a presentation of challenge coins to by Dale and Lane to our Commander and Adjutant – Jim Zelenski & Eric Mens.

Post 68 Elections: Commander Jim Zelenski gave an update on the election of officers for May. All positions have at least 1 member posting for the slot with the exception of Adjutant which continues to be vacant.

Legion Jackets: We are working to put together a quantity order of American Legion Jackets for sale to members. The price per unit goes down the bigger the order is. Please contact [John Marone](#) to order or for more info. Price is \$37.00 plus \$8.00 for "Post 68" lettering front and back for approximately \$53.00 plus shipping. John also has American Legion T-shirts for \$12.

What about..... a Legion Riders chapter for Post 68? Post 68 members Lane Adrian and Greg Miller, both avid riders, are interested in exploring the idea of developing a Legion Riders chapter for Post 68. Interested members should contact Lane or Greg for more information. Also, if you know of any veterans who are also riders, please let them know about this effort. We may get a few new members!

Thank You Post 68! In January, Post 68 hosted Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director, Brunswick County Board of Elections as our guest speaker. We have received a THANK YOU card from Melissa for allowing her to speak.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Current roster shows us at 122 members

Post activities during Month

Kiwanis Breakfast Fundraiser: Post 68 members helped support Kiwanis at their pancake breakfast Feb 24th @ Fat Tony's

Announcement of Flag Collection Event: The Town of Leland posted the following event in their February 2018 Newsletter. (See Figure 8)

March 2018 Post 68 American Legion

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Anita Hartsell, Senior Veterans Service Officer, Brunswick County Veterans Services (Introduction by Alan Simmons) (2 Handouts were passed around – uploaded to our website). Anita Hartsell provided several handouts to all present and began discussing each with the members present.

Topics included:

- VA program to provide veterans more options regarding claim disagreements
 - The Decision Ready Claim program (DRC)
 - Types of claims that can be run thru the DRC program
 - Veteran Diseases associated with Agent Orange
 - Blue Water veterans and Agent Orange exposure
 - Forever GI Bill – Veterans Educational Assistance Act
 - MyHealthvet web site
 - VA Dental Insurance program
 - IRS corrections of taxes taken from veterans in error
 - VA ID Cards
 - New tool to allow veterans to upgrade their discharge status
 - VBEC event and stand down
 - Veterans separating from the military health care workshop
 - Benefits and programs – Brunswick Veterans Service Office
- Several members and guests asked questions of Anita.

Following her presentation, Anita was presented with an engraved keepsake thank you gift from Post Officers by Commander Jim Zelenski and Vice Commander, Alan Simmons.

Note: Anita was the first Post 68 speaker after the post was reorganized in 2013.

Meeting Summary:

Member Recognition:

Commander Jim Zelenski recognized the following post members for their service and support during the prior month:

- Dan Fortini and Lou Tranzillo for their outstanding work in ensuring the success of our Flag Collection Day!
- Gerald Decker for stepping up to take the Lead on the Flag Retirement ceremony!

- Kathy McDonough for mailing nearly forty 2018 membership cards to our members and making a poster display board for the Flag Collection Day!

Per the Commander: Your support and willingness to step-up to a challenge and take charge are much appreciated!

Awards! Two awards were given to Lane Adrian during the District 9 meeting which were then presented to our Commander Jim Zelenski during the meeting.

- 1) Certificate of Commendation from American Legion, Department of North Carolina to Post 68 for recruitment and retention of members

2) Certificate of Meritorious Service from American Legion, Department of North Carolina to Post 68 for equaling or surpassing the Post's previous all-time high membership enrollment record.

Battleship North Carolina: Post 68 has received an acknowledgment from Friends of the Battleship that they have received our gift of \$100 for restoration and education regarding the Battleship.

Chaplin: Nothing reported

After Action Report: Flag Collection Day – Commander

- * March 3, 2018, 8 AM – 4 PM, Leland Town Park
- * Great participation by Post 68 members
- * Leland Boy Scout Troop 747 participated
- * Collected over 150 flags
- * Proceeds from food and drink sales \$217
- * Donations \$45
- * 50/50 Raffle Net \$26 (\$26 to J. Buongiorne)
- * Lessons Learned
- * Lou is delivering letters to thank donors: Harris Teeter, Piggly Wiggly, and Lowes

Update on Financial Audit for the year 2017 – Lou Tranzillo

- * Audit took place on March 13, 2018
- * Members present: Greg Miller (Financial Officer), Executive Committee Member Lou Tranzillo, and Judi Buongiorne (Candidate for Financial Officer)
- * Last year's financial records were audited and no discrepancies found

* Lou commended Greg Miller for the fine shape of the books and indicated he was not aware of how much work was involved

Service Officer: Dale Todd

Current Veterans Assistance Issues; We are wrapping up assistance to Mrs. Cody with a wheelchair ramp and electrical work to be done by the Sea Bees

Update on March 2018 VBEC and Stand-down: Dale reminded members about the upcoming VBEC event and continued to request additional volunteers

Elections: Commander Jim Zelenski reviewed our full slate of officer candidates for upcoming elections reminding members that they may still post for any position and there would be no write-in candidates. Current list of positions and candidates is at Figure 9.

Four Chaplains Reading:

Alan Simmons, Vice Commander lead the Post in a first time reading of “The Four Chaplains”, a dramatic story of courage, bravery, focus and sacrifice in the face of death and disaster.

Committee Reports:

Membership: One new member was in attendance this evening along with 5 guests. We have 3 new members plus 1 transfer-in. 14 members were dropped by National bringing our total to 107

Finance: Recent Distributions include:

\$500 for NBHS Freedom Wall project

\$126 for Post D&O insurance

\$120 for Post T-shirts

Website: The Commander has asked webmaster Dan Dodge to create a “virtual bulletin board” on our website to hold certificates, awards, etc. the Post has received. Post bylaws and constitution have recently been added to the site.

Future Business – Commander

The Post briefly entertained the suggestion to march in the 2018 Azalea Fest parade. However, many Post officers and members will not be available to participate so the Post will decline.

There was also brief discussion involving renaming the I-140 bridges for Veterans. The Town and County are considering a request from the local American Legion Posts in the Brunswick County for this action.

Taps: The Post was saddened to report that Comrade John Cook just called the Commander to report that a former post member, Richard Williams passed away on March 18.

Post activities during Month

Flag Collection Event: Post 68 held their 2nd annual US Flag collection day to receive unserviceable flags for retirement. The event was held at the Leland Town Park. Dan Fortini, assisted by Lou Tranzillo worked to organize and make this event happen.

After Action Summary: *The second year holding this event did not go as well as expected. We did not reach or exceed our anticipated number of 120 local people attending this event; the weather was chilly and windy, but sunny, and the post organizers and participating members were awesome. However, over 150 unserviceable US Flags were collected for retirement! Need to heavily advertise and promote the event. Next year we need to make sure to get the word out earlier, local newspapers were not notified in time to publish the event. Strongly consider going back to The Commons in Brunswick Forest for the collection event for the next year for more exposure. A combined total of 26 post and spousal support members participated in this event. Eric Mens, Post Adjutant signed up one new member to our membership and several other potential members were handed post business cards and will consider joining. Overall, the Post received a total of \$217.00 in hotdog sales, \$45.00 in donations, and the 50/50 drawing was \$52.00, \$26.00 to the winner, our own Judi Buongiorne, with \$26.00 going to the post. After expenses of \$55.83 for supplies, the post netted \$232.17. We expect that chilly/windy weather also contributed to a low turnout. Although the post was able to use the Recreation Building free of charge, its location, off of the main thoroughfare of Village Road is believed to have hampered our visibility and location of the event. We did not “catch the eye” of the passersby along Village Road or other surrounding roads. Overall traffic was slow coming by the location of the event. See appendix for pictures*

Flag Collection Success Stories: *Leland Boy Scout Troop #747 participated with Post 68 in assisting with collecting flags. Troop #747 will also be participating with Post 68 on April 28th for our flag retirement ceremony! Several local businesses graciously contributed free items. Specifically, Lowes Foods donated several boxes of individual serving of potato chips, and hotdog buns. Piggly Wiggly donated ice and bottled water. Harris Teeter donated a \$50.00 gift certificate, which was used to purchase hotdogs.*

Monthly Meeting:

Guest Speaker: Kirsten Crook, Director of Operations and Carolyn Weinzapfel, Office Manager and Volunteer/Events Coordinator, Horseplay Farms and Home of Our Heroes, talked about their programs for veterans and individuals with special needs. Horseplay Farms is a 60-acre farm located at 1757 Clemmons Road SE, Bolivia, NC, 28422. In addition to providing boarding and riding lessons, the farm also provides equine therapy for veterans and individuals with special needs

Meeting Summary:

Member Recognition: Commander Zelenski recognized the following members for their service and support during March 2018:

- Members who volunteered at the March 22-25, 2018 Veterans Benefits Experience Center (VBEC): Lane Adrian, Gerald Decker, Art Dietrich, Dan Dodge, Richard Fry, Alan Greene, Richard Hollembeak, John Marone, Herb Moore, Alan Simmons, Bill Smith, Jeff Steward, Jim Thompson, Dale Todd, Lou Tranzillo, Jim Zelenski. Not previously recognized: Judy and Mike Buongiorno.
- Rick de Moya, Pete Erbe, and Bill Kous for their work on ensuring that we were able to sponsor an attendee at Boys State 2018.
- Gerald Decker for volunteering to take on the role of Fundraising Chair.
- Dan Dodge for creating the Post 68 Virtual Bulletin Board

Chaplin: Nothing to report

Service Officer:

Current Veterans Assistance Issues: The Seabees have completed building the wheelchair ramp for the Cote family. Electrical work is scheduled for the coming week. Also, our local veteran's high utility bill for water was brought to our attention at VBEC (could not be addressed through VA claim/assistance program). The landlord has declined to take any action. Steps taken to date include replacement of water meter but a legal review of current rental agreement may be in order to identify tenant versus landlord responsibility for upkeep of property, etc.

Update on May Elections and Candidate Bios:

- Elections will be held at the membership meeting on Thursday, May 24th (previously May 17th) (no speaker).

- Candidate Slate and Bios e-mailed with meeting agenda on March 11, 2018.
- Vice Commander Alan Simmons reviewed the full slate of Officer candidates for the upcoming elections, asked for any additional nominations from the floor (there were none), and officially closed the slate of Officer candidates for 2018-2019. Elections will be on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at Blossoms Meeting Room, 6 PM.
- Swearing in by District 9 Commander scheduled for June 21, 2018

JROTC American Legion Awards:

- Successful Candidate from NBHS for participation in the 2018 Tarheel Boys State – Santiago Lopez
- 2018 JROTC Awards made to:
 - o Military Excellence Award - Cadet First Sergeant Matthew Cason
 - o Academic Excellence Award - Cadet Captain Iran Ruiz
 - o Scholarship Award - Cadet Captain Matthew Smith
- Good Citizenship Award – Letter requesting selection and name of awardee was sent to Leland Middle School on April 11, 2018.

Post 68 Operating Policies and Procedures: Officers are working on a draft document that will provide procedural guidance for various aspects of running the Post. Future briefings to the membership for adoption will be made by a simple majority vote of members in attendance.

Committee Reports:

Membership: One new member in attendance this evening with 6 guests. The total count is 110 on our local roster

Finance: Recent distributions include:
 \$400 for 2018 Boys State Participants
 \$100 for two American Legion Awards
 \$ 70 for Annual Post Office Box Renewal

Fundraising: Gerald Decker has stepped up to take responsibility for our first Fundraising Chair

Post activities during Month

VBEC EVENT: Dale Todd & Lane Adrian
 * Held over three days - March 22, 23, and 24, 2018
 * At Elks Lodge, 5102 Oleander Drive, Wilmington
 * Potentially, to be held in Brunswick County in 2019

- * 754 veterans were served in 2018 (down from 2017)
 - * 8 out of 19 Posts in the District participated
 - * 54 Legionnaires volunteered over the three days
 - * Post 68 was first in numbers of members who volunteered: 18
- >> See appendix for pictures

Flag Retirement Ceremony: We finally did it!! With the intestinal fortitude of Gerald Decker and participating Post members, our first Flag Retirement Ceremony was held on Saturday, April 28th. Thanks to the Leland BSA Troop 747 for their support and participation, along with Leland Fire/Rescue and Leland PD. We also thank our Ladies Support Group for providing coffee and cake after the ceremony. See appendix for pictures

JROTC Change of Command Event: Several Post 68 members were present during the 2018 JROTC NBHS Change of Command ceremony lead by Legion member and JROTC Commander Col Baker. See appendix for pictures.

Battleship walkway dedication: The American Legion was recognized as a major supporter in providing the seven flag poles and the flags that fly at the platform used for special occasions. Post 68 member Lane Adrian represented our Post at this event. See appendix for picture and news article (See figure 10)

May 2018 Post 68 American Legion

Monthly Meeting:

Election of Officers was held at this meeting. No other new business was conducted, only elections and old business discussions.

Guest Speaker: None

Meeting Summary:

Commander Zelenski thanked Greg Miller, Finance Officer, Eric Mens, Adjutant and Alan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander for their support over the past two years. Commander Zelenski stated this was his last official meeting as Commander

Raffle Tickets, B-17 Flight, June 10th – PR Officer Lane Adrian provide a recap that raffle tickets were still available for the B-17 flight and the cost per ticket was \$5.00 each with \$4.50 going back to the post.

Legion Riders – PR Officer Lane Adrian provided a quick update on Legion Riders. Commander Zelenski requested he (Lane) provide Dan Dodge, Webmaster, with information so it could be posted on our web site.

Wristband Sales, Augusts 19th – Commander Zelenski reminded all that Dan Dodge is our Lead for the event and that 11 Members signed up, although we only need 8 for the event.

Fourth of July Parade, Magnolia Greens – Lead Gerald Decker reported that the Post has been invited again this year to participate in the Magnolia Greens 4th of July Parade and to provide him with any ideas concerning our participation in the parade. He also is working on identifying who will carry the Colors since several of the Color Guard Members will not be available on the 4th. Gerald also mentioned about handing out chocolate candy along the parade route to parade observers. More information to follow

Chaplin: Nothing to report

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kathy McDonough, Membership Chair stated there were three guests present this evening and that our current count was 110 members.

Finance: Commander Zelenski reported the new 2018/19 budget is in a draft and will be presented by the July 2018 meeting for final approval.

POST OFFICER ELECTIONS – Outgoing 1st Vice Commander Alan Simmons cast a single vote for the following individuals/positions since there were no other nominees on the ballot. The final slate of candidates was elected as noted:

- Commander – Dale Todd
- 1st Vice Commander – Jim Zelenski
- 2nd Vice Commander – Art Dietrich III, Appointed
- Adjutant – Dan Dodge
- Finance Officer – Judi Buongiorno
- Historian – Gerald Decker
- Chaplain – Brian Danielson
- Service Officer – Lane Adrian
- Sgt. At Arms – Bill Smith
- Executive Committee: Lou Tranzillo, Greg Miller, and Jim Thompson
- Logistics – John Marone, Appointed
- Public Affairs – Richard Fry, Appointed
- Membership – Kathy McDonough, Appointed

Post activities during Month:

Flag Retirement Ceremony 28 April 2018

This was the first time the Post has held this event. It met or exceeded all expectations in terms of procedure and operation. It was well attended by members of local government, family, and friends, Leland Boy Scout Troop #747, Brunswick County High School JROTC, local police and fire departments. The Post was well represented as over 25 members attended with many of them participating in the proceedings. **Leland Boy Scout Troop #747** played a key role in the proceedings. They presented flags, provided the fire pits, helped clean up, and generally made an excellent impression to all present.

Several local businesses graciously contributed free items, including **Leland Ace Hardware**, **WalMart**. Local business developer, **Jeff Earp** gave permission to use the Brunswick Forest location for the event. **Eleanor Nesmoglu**, former Marine Sargent and current UNCW student who sang the National Anthem. Commander Jim Zelenski wrote the ceremony's script that was read during the event. In addition, multiple Post members were involved to bring this event

together. All in all, the weather held out, we had multiple guests including local elected officials and more. Our own Spousal support group offered cake and coffee after the event to guests.

This was a highly publicized event. See press release – Figure 10.

NBHS Freedom Wall Dedication: May 7th, 2018

Members of the Brunswick school system, Kiwanis, Key Club, Exchange Club, Post 68 American Legion, Brunswick Forest Woodworkers club along with Mayor Brenda Bozeman were present today at the dedication of this important historical and educational feature. The School's Principal, Paul Price, has a designated wall in the School's library where the Shrine has been placed. This Freedom Wall dedication is made possible through a partnership among the North Brunswick Kiwanis Club, the American Legion Post 68, The Cape Fear Exchange Club, The Brunswick Forest Woodworkers club and the Brunswick County School District.

Kiwanis and Post 68 member Rick de Moya was the MC for this event. Rick has worked tirelessly to make this project happen. In all, 30 framed copies of historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc. regarding the United States of America are mounted on this wall for students to read and study. Principle Paul Price indicated that students would be given assignments based upon these documents. Many thanks to the members of the Brunswick Forest Woodworking Club who provided their skills and expertise today in constructing the Wall.

Freedom Wall background: The dedication of a Freedom Shrine Wall will be made to North Brunswick High School. The FREEDOM SHRINE is an impressive display of historic document replicas serving to remind all of us of the blood, sweat, and tears that have been invested over the years to ensure our freedom as Americans. The Freedom Wall originated with the Freedom Train which toured the nation in 1947 carrying an exhibit of historic documents. (Source: WWAY.com)

Annual Poppy Drive: Event was held this year on May 25th and had been rescheduled from May 19th due to bad weather. Since the event was held on a weekday vs. weekend, we were unable to setup at Food Lion. However, we were at a new location this year: Carolina Shores Car Wash with great results. Commander Jim Zelenski thanked those who were able to make it for our Poppy drive. According to totals provided, he is pleased to announce we took in approximately \$1,004.07!

Port City Java: \$178.00

Piggly Wiggly: \$270.00

Carolina Shores Car Wash: \$539.00 - this includes a generous \$100.00 check donation from the owner of the car wash. They were excited that we asked them to use their location this year.

Per the Commander:

“Overall, I would say we had a successful drive, especially only having three locations this year and having it on a Friday, ironically, National Poppy Drive Day. I think we have some lessons learned here on conducting it on a Friday. I believe having it on Saturday is much better. If you have any other suggestions on how we can continue to improve our poppy drive event, please let Dale and me know. One idea Alan had is to consider setting up a location at Magnolia Greens Golf Course if they permit us to do so, something we may want to investigate. Please let me know if I missed sending this to any post member not listed that participated today.”

Graveside Flag Placement Day – May 29th, 2018: 16 Post 68 members & spouses walked 3 local graveyards in the Leland, NC area today placing American Flags on the graves of Veterans. Old flags were also collected for proper disposal. Our Chaplin Brian Danielson read prayers at each site. Members of the Zion Church played Taps. The weather was great for this event which allowed the Post to once again, bring members together, support our community and remember our fallen comrades.

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1 – Photographs and Events

APPENDIX 2 – Internet web site, social and public media

APPENDIX 3 – Minutes

APPENDIX 4 – Newsletters

APPENDIX 5 – TAPS

APPENDIX 6 – Post awards and certificates

APPENDIX 7 – Misc. Items

APPENDIX 8 – Index of photos, figures and awards

APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPHS and EVENTS

June 2017:

New Post 68 Home



Pic 1 New home for Post 68 at Blossoms Restaurant Meeting facility in Magnolia Greens Golf community – Leland, NC

Harris Teeter Certificate of Appreciation



Pic 2 Post 68 Leland presents a certificate and letter of appreciation to Harris Teeter of Leland for their support of the Post's Unserviceable Flag Collection Day and BBQ fund raiser

Harris Teeter provided all the supplies for the BBQ. Pictured (L to R) Lou Tranzillo, Alan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander, Jim Widerman, Manager and Jim Zelenski, Post Commander. Not pictured Chip Spoons, Asst. Manager.

July 2017:

Leland July 4th Parade thru Magnolia Greens:



Pic 3 July 4th Parade - Color guard forming up



Pic 4 July 4th Parade - Post members milling about while waiting for start of parade



Pic 5 July 4th Parade - Post 68 members & Supporters ready for a parade!



Pic 6 July 4th Parade-Jim Thompson posing with a captive parade watcher in the holiday spirit!



Pic 7 July 4th Parade-Everyone marching!



Pic 8 July 4th Parade-Bill Carshaw, our WWII vet



Pic 9 July 4th Parade-Commander Jim Zelenski heading up the Parade



Pic 10 July 4th Parade-Marching on!



Pic 11 July 4th Parade-Post 68 Color Guard

August 2017:

1st Post 68 Fish Fry Fundraiser event – 8/12/17



Pic 12 Fish Fry-Article from Brunswick Beacon – local paper



Pic 13 Fish Fry-Getting setup!



Pic 14 Fish Fry-Spousal Support Group with goodies for sale



Pic 15 Fish Fry-Andy enjoying the day!



Pic 16 Fish Fry-Crowd enjoying their meal



Pic 17 Fish Fry-Guys in the kitchen



Pic 18 Fish Fry-Serving up chow on the line



Pic 19 Fish Fry-Happy ticket sales ladies



Pic 20 Fish Fry-The food line

September 2017:
Founders Day 2017



Pic 21 Founders Day-Post 68 booth with Spousal Support Group



Pic 22 Founders Day-Post 68 booth with Spousal Support Group



Pic 23 Founders Day-North Brunswick High School Band playing for the crowd



Pic 24 Founders Day-Local Veterans being honored

Downtown Concert Series – Wristband Sales Check award



Pic 25 Downtown Concert Series-Members of Post 68 with Wilmington Downtown rep handing off check for participating in wristband sales

OCTOBER 2017:

Truck or Treat – Town of Leland Park



Pic 26 T or T-Event organizer Dan Dodge with wife Joeleen



Pic 27 T or T-Commander Jim Zelenski with wife Debbie



Pic 28 T or T-Commander Jim with his posse!



Pic 29 T or T-Local children enjoying the event at our booth



Pic 30 T or T- There were long lines for a couple of hours



Pic 31 t or T-Post members posing for a photo



Pic 32 T or T-Local children dressed for Halloween



Pic 33 T or T-Commander Jim handing out glow necklaces



Pic 34 T or T-Joeleen Dodge Handing out plastic spider rings

NOVEMBER 2017:
SPAGHETTI DINNER NIGHT



Pic 35 Dinner-Alan Simmons, Jim Zelenski and Dale Todd at Spaghetti Dinner



Pic 36 Dinner-Servers at the Buffet table



Pic 37 Dinner-Diners going thru the serving line



Pic 38 Dinner-Happy diners enjoying their meal



Pic 39 Dinner-Raffle items



Pic 40 Dinner-Raffle winning!



Pic 41 Dinner-More people enjoying the evening



Pic 42 Dinner-Judi and Alan striking a pose



Pic 43 Dinner-Dessert Table

VETERANS DAY PARADE



Pic 44 VDAY-Post 68 members staging area Parade banner Greg Miller on cycle



Pic 45 VDAY-Local marchers with banner



Pic 46 VDAY-Greg Miller on cycle



Pic 47 VDAY-Commander Zelenski



Pic 48 VDAY-Post 68 float truck



Pic 49 VDAY-USCOG Diligence marching

Member Appreciation Breakfast 12 Nov 2017



Pic 50 Breakfast-Members and spouses working the serving line



Pic 51 Breakfast-Members and families enjoyed their meals



Pic 52 Breakfast-Happy members and families enjoying breakfast together

To all American Legion Post 68 members:

The Post 68 Officers are hosting a breakfast for members at the Brunswick Forest Community Commons, Brunswick Forest Parkway, Leland on Sunday, November 12. The breakfast is "no cost" to members, their families, and Support Group volunteers.

We will serve food from 9-11 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, sausage or bacon, coffee, orange juice and apple cider. We will have real Vermont maple syrup, sugar-less syrup, margarine, and butter. Port City Java in Waterford is donating the coffee setups.

Event setup is at 7a.m. Volunteer members will be doing the setup, cooking, seating, and cleaning. Brunswick Forest requires us to cleanup and vacate the room by Noon.

We need a headcount by November 4, so please contact Kathy McDonough via e-mail (katconnaughton@hotmail.com) or phone ([302-222-8845](tel:302-222-8845)) to sign up. Kathy is also taking names of all members who offer to help with setup, cooking, seating, and cleanup

DECEMBER 2017:
Leland Holiday Parade



Pic 53 Holiday Parade-Rainy day for the Holiday Parade affected participation from all organizations. However, a few Post 68 members still made it and posed with Ronald MacDonald

Membership Certificate Issued:



Pic 54 Certificate-Commander Jim Zelenski presents Rick de Moya with a Legion Certificate for membership recruitment in the past year.

JANUARY 2018:

Guest Speaker – Brunswick County Board of Elections



Pic 55 Board of Elections-Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director, Brunswick County Board of Elections



Pic 56 Board of Elections-Commander Jim Zelenski and Alan Simmons with Melissa Monroe

Special Air Force Presentation:



Pic 57 Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Michael De Slaughter presented Post 68 a certificate expressing thanks for providing cards, letters and cookies to Air Force personnel deployed in Turkey



Pic 58 MSG De Slaughter addresses Post 68 members



Pic 59 US Flag and certificates presented by MSG De Slaughter to Post 68

MARCH 2018

March Meeting Guest Speaker: Anita Hartsell



Pic 60 Anita Hartsell from the Brunswick County Veterans Services Office with Post 68 Officers

Post 68 Flag Day Turn-in event



Pic 61 Flag Collection-Entrance to Flag collection Booth



Pic 62 Flag Collection-Post 68 members with local Boy Scout troop 747 who assisted with flag collection activities



Pic 63 Flag Collection-Collection table area



Pic 64 Flag Collection-Post 68 board created by Kathy McDonough



Pic 65 Flag Collection-Spousal Support Group members



Pic 66 Flag Collection-Community members turning in another flag

Ramp Built for Local Veteran



Pic 67 Members of Seebee Veterans of America, Island X5, Cape Fear, NC work on a wheelchair ramp for a local disabled Vet

2018 VBEC EVENT



Pic 68 VBEC-Veterans line up outside BPO Elks building in Wilmington to receive VA assistance and services



Pic 69 VBEC-Commander Jim Zelenski with other Legion volunteers



Pic 70 VBEC-Volunteer ladies manning the reception table with coordinator Dale Todd



Pic 71 VBEC-Tables manned by multiple support organizations stand ready to provide assistance to vets



Pic 72 VBEC-Veterans awaiting to receive VA services



Pic 73 VBEC-Volunteer staff receive morning briefing



Pic 74 VBEC-Post 68 member John Marone mans the Canteen



Pic 75 VBEC-Post 68 members Art Dietrich and Jim Thompson



Pic 76 VBEC-Coordinator Lane Adrian chatting with VBEC officials

APRIL 2018

JROTC Change of Command Ceremony:



Pic 77 North Brunswick High School JROTC company ready for Change of Command Ceremony



Pic 78 Col Baker leading Change of Command



Pic 79 Post 68 members Lou Tranzillo, KC White and Gerald Decker with JROTC cadets

Flag Retirement Event

Our First US Flag Retirement event!



Pic 80 Flag Retire-Commander Jim Zelenski along with Post 68 officers present Flag Retirement ceremony to the crowd



Pic 81 Flag Retire-Members of NBHS JROTC Color Guard honored us with their presence this day



Pic 82 Flag Retire-First flag is presented to KC White from Eric Mens to be walked to burn pit



Pic 83 Flag Retire-KC White and Lane Adrian accompany flag to burn pit



Pic 84 Flag Retire-Event coordinator Gerald Decker receives flag from KC White at burn pit



Pic 85 Flag Retire-Members of Leland Boy Scout Troop 747, Post 68 members and other civilians all carried flags to burn pit for retirement

MAY 2018

Memorial Day Flag Placement Event

The Post visited 3 different cemeteries in the Leland Town area.



First Baptist 5/26/18

Pic 86 Memorial Day-First Baptist Church of Leland



Zion Church 5/26/18

Pic 87 Memorial Day-Zion Church



Pic 88 Memorial Day-King Memorial

NBHS Freedom Wall Dedication



Pic 89 Freedom Wall-Rick de Moya is Master of Ceremony with NBHS principle Paul Price



Pic 90 Freedom Wall-Post 68 members supporting this dedication event



Pic 91 Freedom Wall-Post 68 members along with the Brunswick Forest Wood Workers Club building the wall

Poppy Fund Drive



Pic 92 Poppy Day-Setting up for annual Poppy Fund drive at new site this year – Carolina Car Wash in Leland. Two other sites were setup in the Leland area: Port City Java and Piggly Wiggly

APPENDIX 2 – Internet, Social & Public Media

Web Site: Post 68 maintains a public web site presence for members and the general public.



Figure 1 Post 68 Web Site Home Page

<http://www.ncpost68.org>

Our website went thru a lot of change this past year by webmaster Dan Dodge. Hopefully, it serves the needs of Post Members by archiving Post information & activities and getting information out to not only our members but also provides resources to fellow veterans who access the site.

FaceBook: The Post also maintains a public Facebook page:

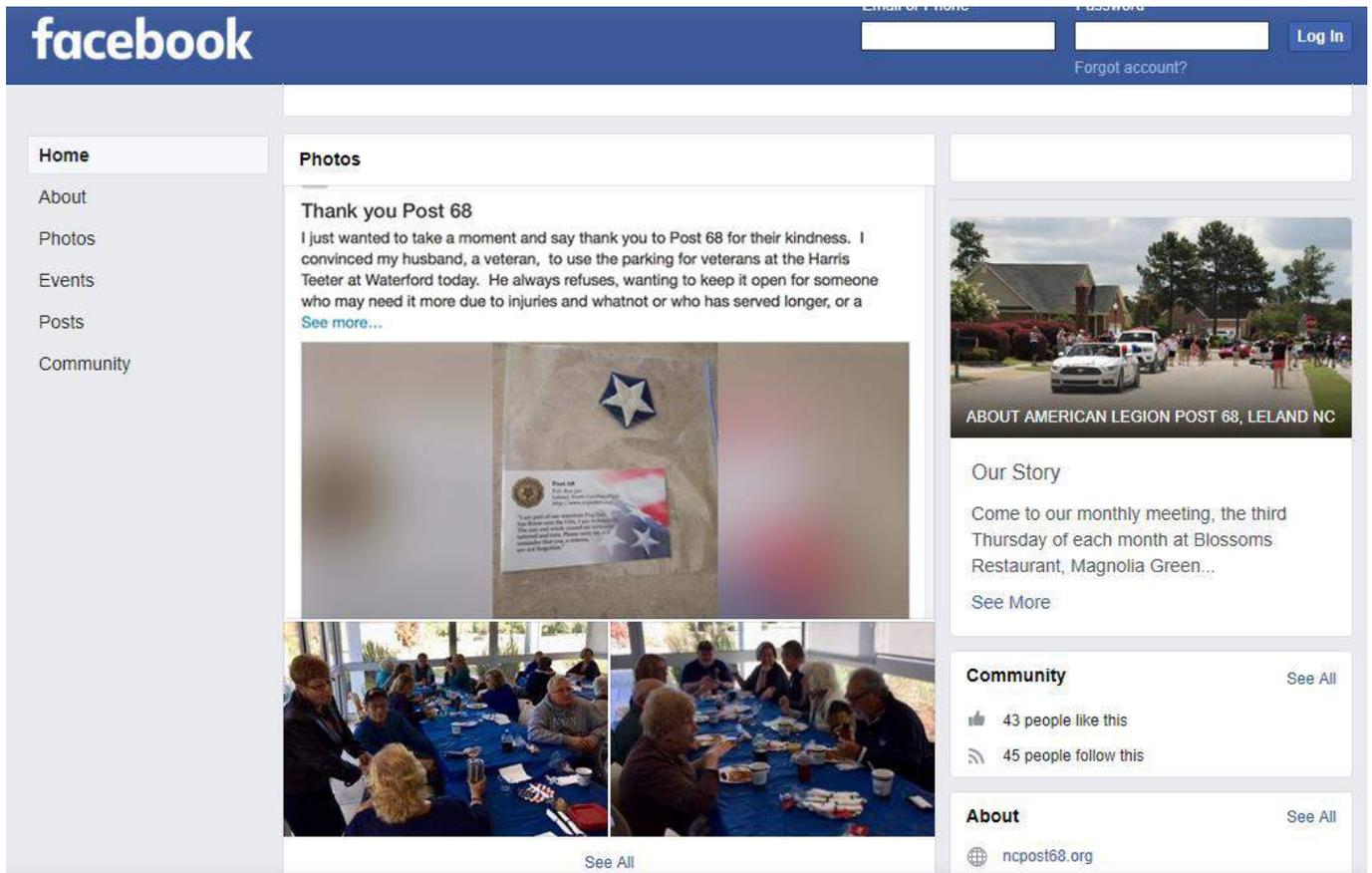


Figure 2 Post 68 Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-68-Leland-NC-511417442350351/>

Media outlets:

Post 68 works with local media outlets: Television, Radio and Newspapers to announce meetings and fund raising events to the general public. Meeting notifications have appeared in the Wilmington Star news along with the Brunswick Beacon paper and NEXTDOOR.com.

NEXTDOOR.com

The Post uses NEXTDOOR.com to publicize events and meetings:

**American Legion Post 68, Leland Monthly Meeting:
May 24, 2018**

Thu, May 24, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Magnolia Greens Golf Course

Going? ▾ ... 1 Going

Event details

Attention all Veterans! American Legion Post 68, Leland will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the Magnolia Greens Golf Course, (located at 1800 Tommy Jacobs Drive, Leland, NC). Our Meet and Greet begins at 5:30 pm with the General Meeting at 6:00 pm in the banquet building next to Blossoms restaurant.

Members attending this meeting will elect a new slate of officers. Newly elected officers will serve two-year terms beginning June 1, 2018. Click or copy and paste this link to see the full slate of candidates:
http://www.ncpost68.org/files/AL_March_2018_Newsletter-2.pdf. There will be no speaker at this meeting.

Attendees wishing to have dinner at Blossoms Restaurant prior to the meeting, should arrive no later than 4:45pm. All veterans are welcome to join us for our meeting. Any veteran in need of a ride to and/or from the meeting can call Richard Fry at 910-769-8961

Still Serving Those Who Served!

On behalf of Jim Zelenski
Post Commander
American Legion Post 68, Leland

Figure 3 NEXTDOOR.com for meetings and announcements

The following is an article from the Brunswick Beacon by Staff Writer Brian Slattery dated 2/23/2017 where the writer interviews the Post Commander, Jim Zelenski. Photo in article: American legion Post 68 in Leland was founded in 1973 but reorganized in 2014 and has since attracted 108 members

American Legion Post 68

By Brian Slattery Staff Writer (Brunswick Beacon 23 February 2017)



Leland's American Legion Post 68 is one of the fastest-growing American Legions in North Carolina, which is pretty good for a post that reorganized in 2014.

Originally founded in 1973, the revived Post 68 has benefitted from a large number of new Brunswick County residents who were already American Legion members before retiring to North Carolina.

And club members are enthusiastic recruiters. "We actively recruit in the community. When we run into (new) people, we'll ask if they are veterans and tell them to come sit in at a meeting," said First Vice Cmdr. Alan Simmons, who was the first commander when the American Legion post reorganized.

"We also get veterans' information and send personalized letters asking if they are interested in transferring in," Cmdr. Jim Zelenski added.

American Legion Post 68 has 108 members, with the majority being Vietnam veterans who have retired to the area, a couple of Korean War veterans and a World War II veteran.

The Post also includes four women veterans, including membership committee chairwoman Kathy McDonough.

"We also have some Desert Storm / Gulf War veterans and try to find other Gulf vets to join, but a lot have not retired yet," Zelenski said. Members encourage veterans with an interest in learning about Post 68 to attend a meeting, which is held at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Charlie Macgrooders, 117 Village Road NE in Leland.

"Come as a guest. There's no pressure, no commitment. We invite veterans to meet others, have a cup of coffee and experience a meeting," Zelenski said.

"(Meetings) are open to all veterans and spouses," Simmons said.

"We try to provide information for veterans' needs."

"With new people, we want to let them know here's what's happening in Brunswick County," Zelenski said, adding that while it doesn't have an auxiliary, spouses and partners are also active with the Post.

Post meetings include presentations on information veterans can use from Brunswick County Veterans Services director Anita Hartsell and speakers from the Wilmington Veterans Administration clinic.

"We try to get information that will help with day-to-day life and

present wh to veter- ans through the VA or other agencies," Simmons said.

Since reorganizing, the Post has become active in the community by participating at Leland's Founder's Day, Trunk or Treat and the North Carolina Christmas Parade.

It also supports the Dixie Youth little league and North Brunswick High School IROTC shooting team and provides a scholarship for a IROTC student and Americanism Award at Leland Middle School as well as providing gift cards to veterans and their families in need at Christmas.

The Post plans to assist American Legion Post 10 in Wilmington with the Veteran Benefits Action Center, providing veterans and their families with on-site assistance processing Veterans Administration claims March 30 through April 1. It will also host a U.S. flag collection day April 22 to collect and properly destroy worn and unserviceable flags.

A poppy drive on Armed Forces Day, May 20, will be followed by cemetery flag placement in Leland area cemeteries May 27 in tribute to those who served in the armed forces. And the Post will also provide goods to homeless veterans as

Day, Oct. 7. Post members also participate with St. James American Legion Post 543 in the Vet2Vet program, meeting with young veterans who have returned to school at Brunswick Community College.

In the works is creation of an American Legion Post 68 color guard to participate in parades, ceremonies and other community events. Events, activities; sign-up information and sections on community and special events are available on Post 68's website, ncpost68.org, and on the American Legion Post 68, Leland NC Facebook page.

Brian Slattery is a staff writer for the Beacon. Reach him at 754-6890 or bslattery@brunswickbeacon.com.

Meeting times

American Legion Post 68 meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Charlie, Macgrooders, 117 Village Road NE in Leland.

Contact

Email membership committee chairwoman Kathy McDonough at Katconnaughton@hotmail.com

Website

ncpost68.org 69 | Page

APPENDIX 3 – MEETING MINUTES

APPENDIX 4 – POST NEWS LETTERS

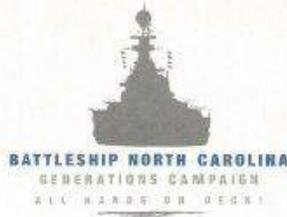
APPENDIX 5 – TAPS

Former Post Member Richard Williams passed away March 18th, 2018

APPENDIX 6 – POST AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

Awards and certificates received by Post 68 this year

Note: Images of all awards also appear on Post 68 website under “Virtual Bulletin Board” page



March 15, 2018

Commander James Zelenski
American Legion Post 68
Box 521
Leland, NC 28451

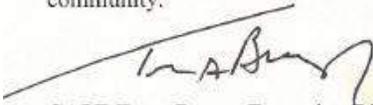
Dear Commander Zelenski,

On behalf of the Friends of the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, thank you for Post 68's **gift of \$100.00 to the Generations Campaign**. Your gift will support the Friends of the Battleship Generations Campaign for hull restoration and education. Our partnership with the American Legion is important to the Battleship and its heritage.

The timing to repair the Battleship and expand our educational and heritage mission is all the more urgent as we are hosting a tremendous wave of visitors. Since arriving in Wilmington in 1961, more than eleven million people have visited the Battleship. Thanks to your support we will continue to meet and expand our mission.

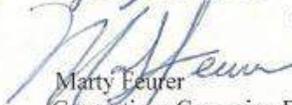
Cofferdam and SECU Memorial Walkway construction is well underway. Visit the USS North Carolina Battleship's website at www.battleshipnc.com to view updates.

On behalf of the Friends of the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA, thank you for your investment in our state's memorial to veterans and military families. We are honored that you have included the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA in your commitment to our community.


CAPT Terry Bragg, Executive Director
Battleship NORTH CAROLINA

*Thank you so much
for Post 68 - y*

*I hope you can join us
on April 26th*


Marty Feurer
Generations Campaign Director
(910) 399-9116
Marty.Feurer@ncdcr.gov

Gifts to the Generations Campaign are held in a separate audited account to be used for capital projects, programs, campaign or capitalized costs approved by the Battleship Commission. The Friends of the Battleship North Carolina, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law. **Tax ID #58-1074102**

Recognition 1 Battleship North Carolina



American Legion Department of North Carolina

Certificate of Commendation

Presented to

Post 68 Leland

In recognition and sincere appreciation of your efforts in the Recruitment and Retention of members which elevated your Post to the designation of Class E. Your accomplishment has contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

Presented this day of June 29th 2018

Handwritten signature of Tierian Cash in black ink.

TIERIAN CASH
Department Adjutant

Handwritten signature of Carol D. Barker in black ink.

Carol D. Barker
Department Commander

Recognition 2 Certificate of Appreciation for Recruitment

The American Legion



Certificate Of Meritorious Service

For Faithfulness In The Performance Of Duties, And Meriting Special Confidence And Esteem Because Of Manifested Cooperation And Loyalty. Recognition Is Hereby Accorded For Meritorious Service Rendered As Hereinafter Set Forth, And Presented To

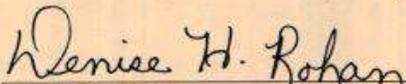
Leland Post 68

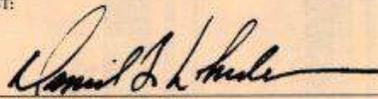
Department of North Carolina
The American Legion

Who Has Rendered Meritorious Service By Enrolling For The Year 2018, A Membership Equaling Or Surpassing Its Previous All-time High. This Enrollment Was Accomplished By December 31 Preceding The Beginning Of The Calendar Year Indicated.

In Witness Whereof, This Certificate Is Given To Said Post, Under The Hand Of The National Commander, And Duly Attested By The National Adjutant, At Indianapolis, Indiana, This 17th day of January, 2018, And Countersigned By The Commander And The Adjutant For The Department.

ATTEST:


National Commander


National Adjutant

Countersigned:


Department Commander


Department Adjutant

Recognition 3 Certificate of Meritorious Service for Membership

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**



“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

— Unknown

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to your group about elections. We enjoyed your hospitality and the chance to visit before the meeting.

Thank you

Messia Monroe

Adriana Rushton

Recognition 4 Brunswick County Board of Elections

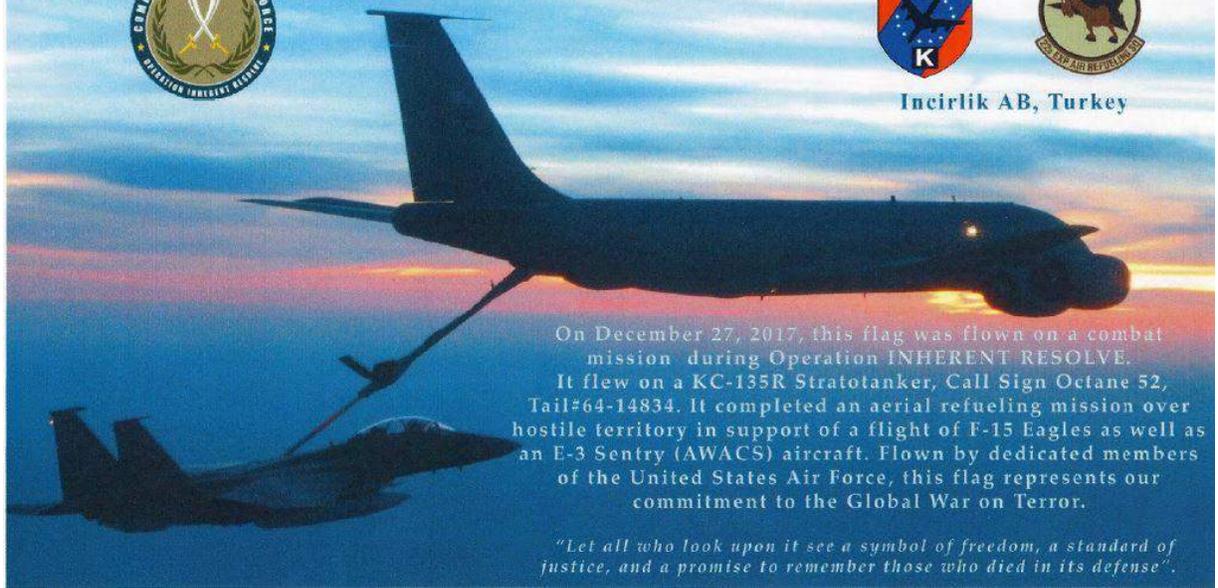
Certificate of Authenticity

THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN IN HONOR OF

AMERICAN LEGION POST 68



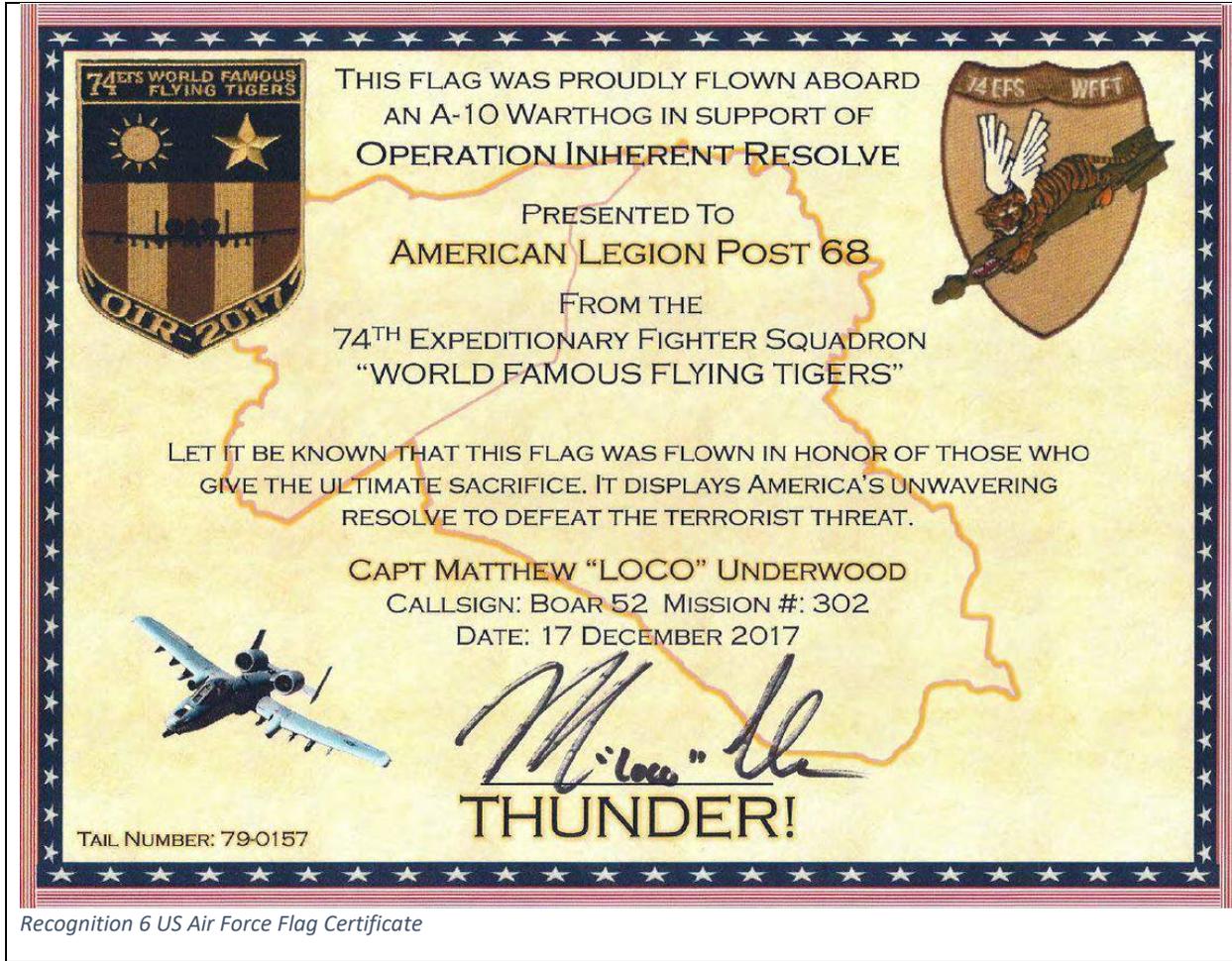
Incirlik AB, Turkey



On December 27, 2017, this flag was flown on a combat mission during Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. It flew on a KC-135R Stratotanker, Call Sign Octane 52, Tail#64-14834. It completed an aerial refueling mission over hostile territory in support of a flight of F-15 Eagles as well as an E-3 Sentry (AWACS) aircraft. Flown by dedicated members of the United States Air Force, this flag represents our commitment to the Global War on Terror.

"Let all who look upon it see a symbol of freedom, a standard of justice, and a promise to remember those who died in its defense".

Recognition 5 US Air Force Flag Certificate



THIS FLAG WAS PROUDLY FLOWN ABOARD
AN A-10 WARTHOG IN SUPPORT OF
OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

PRESENTED TO
AMERICAN LEGION POST 68
FROM THE
74TH EXPEDITIONARY FIGHTER SQUADRON
"WORLD FAMOUS FLYING TIGERS"

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THIS FLAG WAS FLOWN IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO
GIVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE. IT DISPLAYS AMERICA'S UNWAVERING
RESOLVE TO DEFEAT THE TERRORIST THREAT.

CAPT MATTHEW "LOCO" UNDERWOOD
CALLSIGN: BOAR 52 MISSION #: 302
DATE: 17 DECEMBER 2017

Matthew Underwood
THUNDER!

TAIL NUMBER: 79-0157

Recognition 6 US Air Force Flag Certificate



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
447TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP (USAFCENT)
INCIRLIK AIR BASE, TURKEY**



28 Dec 2017

**MEMORANDUM FOR AMERICAN LEGION POST 68
ATTN: Mr. Eric Mens**

FROM: 447 EAMXS/22 EAMU

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

1. Deployments during the Holiday Season can be difficult for some troops and their families. It is no different for our Airmen from the 916th Air Refueling Wing. Separating Airmen from their close family and friends during the holiday season is a sacrifice that no commander wants to ask from their Airmen. Unfortunately, our enemies do not afford us the latitude to relax during the holiday season. As a result, our leadership has the difficult task of mitigating the effects from the separation. One way of brightening up their holiday is by sending our Airmen care packages. It is quite extraordinary watching their eyes light up when they get a box of goodies or even just a card. It shows them that someone cares enough to take time out of their busy schedules to send something to let them know that they are not forgotten. Our deployed Airmen are genuinely appreciative of the gesture.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you and your volunteers for taking the time to make cards, letters and cookies for our Airmen. We appreciate your generosity, thoughtfulness and personal sacrifice you and your volunteers have given up for our Airmen. And for this, you are TRUE PATRIOTS!!

3. We hope that all of you at American Legion Post 68 had an exceptional Holiday Season! And wish that you all have a prosperous New Year!

**WILLIAM F. DUNN, Captain, USAF
Maintenance Officer**

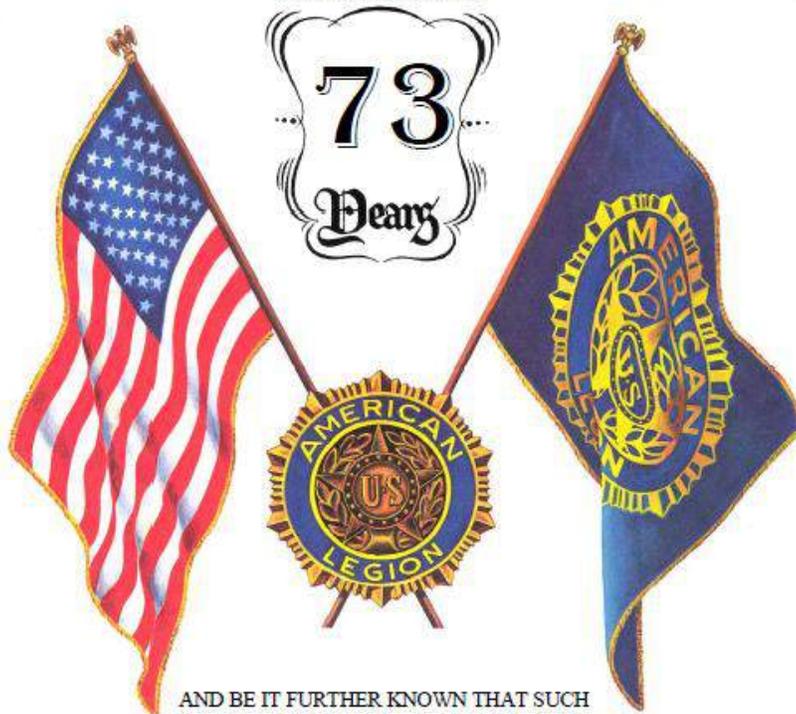
**ADRIAN H. DARBY, CMSgt, USAF
Superintendent**

Recognition 7 Letter of Appreciation Air Force

Certificate Given to member William Carshaw, September 2017

CONTINUOUS MEMBER CERTIFICATE

BE IT KNOWN THAT
PROPER ATTESTATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE EFFECT THAT
William H. Carshaw, Jr.
HAS BEEN A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CONTINUOUSLY
FOR THE PERIOD OF



AND BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT SUCH
RECORD OF CONSISTENT LOYALTY TO
THE AMERICAN LEGION MERITS THE
HONOR OF BEING CITED AS AN OUT-
STANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE PROGRAMS
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

October 1, 2017

ATTEST: _____

POST ADJUTANT

POST COMMANDER

Recognition 8 73 year award for Bill Carshaw

APPENDIX 7 – MISC. ITEMS

Post 68 Past Commander Alan Simmons publishes a monthly newsletter which is emailed to all members

Post 68 has a monthly officers meeting hosted by the Commander

FLAG Stars

Post 68 members have been working on a project to create Thank You cards for veterans with a cut-out of a star from an unserviceable flag. Members have been getting together at the Commanders house to cut out stars and have a brew at the same time. We give small bags containing a card and a star to veterans when we see them. Cards with stars are also placed on the windshield of cars in parking lots when we see an indication that the vehicles owner is a vet. This past year, we received a note from a veteran's wife expressing her thanks for this:



Pic 93 Post members Dan Dodge, Dale Todd and Jim Thompson at home of Jim Zelenski cutting out stars from retired flags

Pic 94 Post members Dan Dodge, Dale Todd and Jim Thompson at home of Jim Zelenski cutting out stars from retired flags

S Sherry DeLooze, Lanvale Trace 9



Thank you Post 68

I just wanted to take a moment and say thank you to Post 68 for their kindness. I convinced my husband, a veteran, to use the parking for veterans at the Harris Teeter at Waterford today. He always refuses, wanting to keep it open for someone who may need it more due to injuries and whatnot or who has served longer, or a [See more...](#)



Edited 5d ago · 19 neighborhoods in General

😊 Thank 💬 Reply ▾

15 Thanks · 12 Replies

[See 10 previous replies](#)

S Sherry DeLooze, Lanvale Trace · Edited 3d ago ▾

Thank you for your kind words and service Katrina and Oliver! And Trisha! I really hope sharing this experience changes the way some people view these parking spots. Also, thanks... [See more](#)

😊 Thank

Recognition 9 Thank you regarding a flag star

PULL Tabs

Post member Richard Fry has started an initiative to support Ronald MacDonal House. Richard is encouraging members to bring in aluminum pull-tabs. See article below:

Save those aluminum can pull tabs!!

Please join your fellow American Legion Leland Post 68 members in supporting the Ronald McDonald Houses of North Carolina. Since 1997, the North Carolina Department

of the American Legion's Children and Youth Commission has supported Ronald McDonald Houses of North Carolina (RMHNC) primarily through the collection of aluminum can pull tabs.

In 1997, the Department of Children and Youth Commission and the Department of North Carolina elected to adopt the support of Ronald McDonald Houses as one of its Children and Youth Programs. Your recycled beverage tabs support Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina. Every tab donated helps provide a temporary home away from home for the families of seriously ill children.

Bring your collected pull tabs to the monthly Post 68 meeting (6:00 PM on 3rd Thursday of each month at Magnolia Greens Blossoms meeting room)

PULL TAB FACTS

- It takes about 1270 tabs to equal 1 pound.
- Tabs are cleaner and easier to store than cans.
- You can save pull tabs from any aluminum can – soup, soda, beer, pet food, etc.
- Ronald McDonald Houses (RMH) recycle the aluminum at market value (about \$.50/pound), plus an additional donation.
- RMH of Greenville raised over \$4,000 from pull tab donations in 2016.
- In 2017, 90+ North Carolina American Legion Posts donated nearly 6,500 pounds of pull tabs (8,255,000 pull tabs!!).

Contact: Richard Fry [\(910\) 769-8961](tel:9107698961) E-mail: richard.fry8700@gmail.com

Four Chaplains Reading:

During our March 2018 meeting, Alan Simmons, Vice Commander lead the Post in a first time reading of "The Four Chaplains", a dramatic story of courage, bravery, focus and sacrifice in the face of death and disaster.

More info at: <http://www.fourchaplains.org/the-saga-of-the-four-chaplains/>

BFA – Brunswick Family Assistance:

Thanks to our Service Officer, Dale Todd, for answering the last minute call from BFA to help out with the "Stuff the Bus" event at Walmart on 8/4/17 despite the extremely wet morning weather! Participation in BFA events just continues to help forge our relationship with BFA in this part of the County and on a long term basis will benefit needy veterans in our area.

Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that is in its 35th year of operation. BFA is dedicated to improving the lives of families and individuals in crisis in Brunswick County, who are willing to help themselves, by providing emergency assistance and educational and skills development programs. Stephanie Bowen, BFA Executive Director, was our Guest Speaker at a Post 68 meeting earlier this year.

Eric Mens, Adjutant
Legion Post 68 Leland

Spousal Support Group:

Dear Post 68 Members: (send to members 8/30/17)

During the Spring of 2016, several of the Post 68 spouses gathered at Charlie Macgrooders restaurant to explore the value of organizing the spouses to facilitate a social networking group as well as one that would support the Post's efforts to meet its mission objectives. There were also "friends" of Post members who were interested in participating in the group soon to be named American Legion Post 68 Spousal & Friends Support Group. The Group agreed not to form an official auxiliary but informally conduct fundraisers and assist Post 68 in its efforts to help local vets. It was further agreed that members of this Support Group would not move forward with ideas or work independently of Post 68 members; activities would only be executed with full approval, and in conjunction with, Post 68 members.

By June of the same year, the Support Group had already identified numerous fundraising opportunities and was moving full steam ahead. Within less than a year, they had grossed over \$1165.00 with a net of \$891.75 being presented to the Post.

These efforts energized a sense of camaraderie among the Support Group so they proceeded to design a logo and had shirts made (at personal cost) to be worn at Post 68 events.

But, as is often the case with volunteer organizations, it's the same few individuals pulling their weight and getting things done. When the Support Group first organized, the recommendation was to have three leadership positions: Chairperson, Secretary, and Post Event Liaison. The Chairperson position was filled with the understanding that she would also serve as the Secretary and Post Event Liaison only until a volunteer could be identified. To date, no one has volunteered for either position.

Thus, the reason for this message – it is a call for more spousal volunteers! With 114 Post

members currently on the books, we currently have less than 8% of spouses actively participating in the Support Group. And, the time and effort is really minimal – bake a couple dozen cookies a year, research a fundraising opportunity, commit to several hours a year to assist at Post 68 events (i.e. Annual Poppy Drive, Fish Fry, Wilmington Sundown Concert Series Wristband Sales, Leland Founder’s Day, Leland Trunk or Treat, Spaghetti Dinner), and attend an hour and a half monthly dinner meeting.

So ... please let your spouse/significant other know about this Support Group. Dinner meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 5:00pm at Blossoms Restaurant in Magnolia Greens. Please have your spouse/significant send their contact information to Debbie Zelenski at debbielzelenski@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call Debbie at (910) 859-7891. There’s no pressure – just a terrific group of good people doing good things for our Post 68.

Still Serving those who Served!

Jim Zelenski, Commander

Legion Post 68 Leland

FIGURES AND TABLES:

Honoring Veterans on Memorial Day

On May 29, 2017 In advance of Memorial Day, American Legion Post 68 of Leland placed flags on the graves of veterans interred in the ZUMC cemetery. 34 flags were placed representing veterans from the Civil War through the Vietnam War. We know there are most likely more veterans interred in the cemetery but unfortunately not all graves are marked as such. There are at least 2 individuals that received the Bronze Star for valor buried in the cemetery.



Figure 6 From Zion Church Newsletter – Memorial Day Flag Placement

I'm writing to thank you for the resources [here](#) you've put together to help those who serve. My father-in-law is a disabled vet and lung cancer survivor, and it has meant the world to be able to find resources to help him pay for everything he needs. You're really doing a great service for people like him - I cannot thank you enough.

Figure 5 Thank you letter from Meagan Clark

August 31, 2017

Honorable Mayor Brenda Bozeman and Honorable Council Members
Town of Leland
Leland Town Hall
102 Town Hall Drive
Leland, NC 28451

Dear Mayor Bozeman and Council Members,

On behalf of the men and women of American Legion Post 68, I congratulate the Town for the recent completion of the connector road between the communities of Brunswick Forest and Mallory Creek. The road is an excellent example of the Town and residents working in harmony to provide a vital roadway within the community.

We understand that the roadway has been officially named for the purposes of emergency services and postal service requirements. However, Post 68 would like to propose that the roadway be given a secondary designation of “Leland Veterans Memorial Roadway” as a way of paying a fitting tribute to all Leland Military Veterans. We believe that, due to the roadway falling completely within the jurisdiction of the Town, a vote of the Council is all that is necessary to accomplish this secondary designation.

We trust that the Town’s leadership will fully embrace this initiative and announce it at an appropriate celebratory event such as Leland Founders Day or at ceremonies commemorating Veterans Day. Should you have any questions, please contact myself at (910) 859-7891 or Mr. Alan Simmons, 1st Vice Commander, at (910) 399-7057.

Sincerely,

James E. Zelenski

Commander
Post 68, Leland

U.S. Flag Collection Event

American Legion Post 68 is hosting a Flag Collection event on Saturday, March 3 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at Municipal Park on Town Hall Drive. Post 68 will store the flags until a traditional Retirement Ceremony is held. You do not have to bring a flag to retire to attend the event. Hot dogs and snacks will be available for a small donation.

Figure 8 Flag Collection announcement in Town of Leland newsletter

Post 68 Officers Elections - 2018			
Position	Incumbent	Candidate	REMARKS
Commander	Jim Zelenski	Dale Todd	Elected Position
Vice Commander	Alan Simmons	Jim Zelenski	Elected Position
2nd Vice Commander	Art Dietrich	Art Dietrich	Appointed Position
Adjutant	Eric Mens	Dan Dodge	Elected Position
Finance Officer	Greg Miller	Judi Buongiorne	Elected Position
Post Historian	Dan Dodge	Gerald Decker	Elected Position
Post Chaplain	Brian Danielson	Brian Danielson	Elected Position
Post Service Officer	Dale Todd	Lane Adrian	Elected Position
Sergeant At Arms	KC White	Bill Smith	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Lou Tranzillo	Lou Tranzillo	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Jim Thompson	Jim Thompson	Elected Position
Executive Committee	Bill Smith	Greg Miller	Elected Position
Logistics Officer	John Marone	John Marone	Appointed Position
Public Relations	Lane Adrian	Richard Fry	Appointed Position
Membership	Kathy McDonough	Kathy McDonough	Appointed Position
As of 27 Feb 2018			

Figure 9 Post 68 Slate of Officers for 2018 Elections

PRESS RELEASE: American Legion Post 68, Leland NC

Leland, NC, Date: April 28, 2018

SUBJECT: American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC holds U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony

On April 28, 2018, American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC conducted its first ever U.S. Flag Retirement Ceremony. Incoming Post Historian Gerald Decker, was instrumental in organizing and executing the solemn ritual, which was held at the Villages, Brunswick Forest.

The American Legion is one of the few organizations authorized by the US Congress to retire United States flags. The United States Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8k states: "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Flag Retirement is the term used to define the proper, dignified way of destroying United States flags that are no longer fit to serve the nation. Post 68's retirement of more than 200 unserviceable American Flags followed the strict honorable and respectful ritual established by the 19th National Convention of the American Legion in 1937.

Special guests included Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman, Leland Mayor Pro Tem Pat Batleman, Leland Councilman Michael Callahan, Belville Mayor Mike Allen, American Legion District 9 Commander Nelson Anderson, Post 68 World War II Veteran William Carshaw, Jr., and Post 68 Korean War Veteran Reginald Kidd, Jr. Mr. Dennis Harp, Scoutmaster, and members of Leland Boy Scout Troop 747 assisted Post 68 members with the flag retirement.

Mayor Bozeman commented "I am truly honored to share this special occasion with the members, families and friends of Post 68. I think all our hearts are especially touched as we solemnly show our deep love and respect for the retired flags that have served us so proudly."

Councilman Callahan added "I was very impressed with the care and professionalism demonstrated by members of Post 68 and members of the Boy Scouts of America. I think this very solemn event was a significant benefit to our citizens and reflects the patriotic American values we espouse."

The North Brunswick High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors and the National Anthem was beautifully sung by USMC Veteran Ms. Eleanor Nesmoglu. Assistant Fire Chief Ronnie Hayes and members of the Leland Fire & Rescue Department and Leland Police Department members were on hand to ensure safety and security.

Nearly 100 members of the general public attended the solemn proceedings.

Following the ceremony guests were invited to join Post 68 for refreshments at The Community Commons, Brunswick Forest, sponsored by the Post's Spousal and Friends Support Group.

Any Veteran interested in joining Post 68 is welcome to attend our monthly meetings held at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at Blossoms Restaurant, Magnolia Greens Golf Course. Membership information and applications are available on Post 68's website www.ncpost68.org.

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