

AMERICAN LEGION

JOHN E. JACOBS LEGION POST 68 LELAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Submitted by:

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WATERFORD OF THE CAROLINAS DONATION TO POST 68

Each year on Memorial Day, the Waterford community, led by the community's Social Committee, holds a commemorative event and cookout at the Waterford clubhouse. Proceeds from refreshment sales at the cookout are typically donated to a local charity or veterans' organization. This year, despite the challenges associated with a flooded community room and the threat of inclement weather, the event drew a strong turnout. On Thursday, July 16, members of Waterford's Social Committee, led by Chairperson Carol Fesser, attended the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 membership meeting. In recognition of Post 68's role in service to area veterans and families, Carol Fesser presented a check for \$243 to Post Commander Tom Powers and John Hacker, 2nd Vice Commander, Post 68, and Chair of the Legion's NC Department *Be The One* program. The donation will support Post 68's preeminent "Be the One" suicide awareness program.



L-R Tom Powers, Commander, Post 68; Waterford Social Committee: Gary Studer, Lori Gonzalez, Missy Barsky, Patti Pearce, Michelle Herrmann, Carol Fesser; (Chair) and John Hacker, 2nd Vice Commander and *Be The One* Chair.

The American Legion's *Be the One* program highlights the alarming rate of veteran suicides and provides resources to address the issue. Under Hacker's leadership, Post 68's program is recognized as a leader at the state level and has recently attracted the attention of the Legion's national leadership. Intended to serve veterans and their families in Brunswick County, the Post 68 program (<https://www.ncpost68.org/be-the-one>) serves as a model for American Legion Posts throughout North Carolina. The local program recently received additional attention with the release of the song and video *Be The One*. Written and performed by Scott Wargo, with vocals by member Kobe Kelley and Post supporter Bex Helton, the Ten Crow Studio professional recording of the song is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewX3YYHMz40>.

The program has been presented to local service providers, nonprofit organizations, emergency responders, and law enforcement agencies. Training sessions have been held at the Brunswick Community College Extension Campus and other locations across the eastern Carolinas, with sessions open to the public. Additional information and resources are available at betheoneconnects.org. The site provides veterans, their families, and other interested parties with a wide range of resources and contacts to help address food, housing, employment, addiction, and other issues.

To learn more about Leland's John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68—who we are and what we do for veterans and the community—visit <https://www.ncpost68.org/>. Membership meetings are typically held in the banquet room at Blossoms Restaurant (1800 Tommie Jacobs Drive, Leland) on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Dinner is an informal gathering for members, starting between 4:30 pm and 5:00 pm; the official meeting begins at 6:00 pm. After the meeting, members socialize over drinks in the Blossoms bar area. Everyone is welcome: members, visitors, guests, and spouses. **NOTE:** Due to a scheduling conflict, the next Post 68 meeting is on Wednesday, August 19.