

2022 – 2023 ANNUAL YEARBOOK



JOHN E. JACOBS AMERICAN LEGION POST 68
LELAND, NC

Compiled by:

Eric R. Mens, Post Historian
John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68
P.O. Box 521
Leland, NC 28451

YEARBOOK OF
JOHN E. JACOBS POST No. 68
THE AMERICAN LEGION
LELAND, NORTH CAROLINA
FOR 2022- 2023

By Eric R. Mens, Post Historian

INTRODUCTION

Originally founded in 1973, American Legion Post 68 was revived in 2014. It remains one of the fastest growing Legion Posts in North Carolina, having largely benefitted from an influx of new residents to northern Brunswick County. The County is the fastest growing county in the state. Many were already American Legion members before retiring to the region. Today the post has grown to over 200 members with the majority being Vietnam Era veterans, a few veterans from the Korean War, several Vietnam War veterans, and several Desert Storm veterans. The Post Roster also includes several women. Its last WW II veteran died in 2020.

In 2019, the Post formally changed its name to “John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68” to honor the only Leland resident killed during the Vietnam War. Jacobs was killed by small arms fire while on patrol in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam on October 1, 1968. At the time of his death, he was serving as an infantryman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division.

JOHN EDWIN JACOBS
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
3RD PLT, B CO, 1ST BN, 11TH INFANTRY, 5TH INF DIV, USARV
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
[Leland, North Carolina](#)
December 04, 1947 to October 01, 1968

[JOHN E JACOBS](#) is on the Wall at [Panel W42, Line 57](#)
See the [full profile](#) or [name rubbing](#) for John Jacobs



The compiler of this annual yearbook edition acknowledges the timely and exhaustive efforts of Anthony Schirillo, Post 68 Public Affairs Officer, as well as those who contributed pictures to help document and publicize the Post’s achievements in the 2022 - 2023 year. Their efforts have helped Post 68 further embellish its community reputation as an active, contributing organization focused on meeting the needs of community veterans, families, and youth.

NOTE: Several articles contained herein have been edited and/or formatted to ensure consistency in font and style. Hyperlinks provided allow the reader to view the original text as published in the local print media.

A WORD FROM THE COMMANDER

To our dedicated American Legion Post 68 members,

It has been three years since I became the Commander of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, in Leland, NC. Just one month after I was elected, the COVID pandemic hit us. Instead of burrowing ourselves underground to wait it out, our Post took the high road and began to come up with innovative ways to help our veterans and community during these trying times of illness, quarantines, and lockdowns.

With too many accomplishments to describe here, I will just say that our members, led by the exemplary and tireless efforts of our Post leadership and Executive Committee, pulled together to carry us through. As a result, we have come back during my tenure as a better Post and one that the community has taken notice of.

We are not 'just' an American Legion Post. We are a "LEGION of Veterans" dedicated to helping our veterans and our community, to make Leland a better place to live for all, and a great Post for others to who want to join us and help.

We ARE, indeed, the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, North Carolina!
It has been a very good 3 years!

I will always be proud to tell any group who 'John E. Jacobs' was. I am humbled and grateful to have been part of this journey and I thank you for the opportunity to have served you.

Thank you,

John Hacker, Commander
John E. Jacobs Post 68 Leland
American Legion



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Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

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 all 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 – ROSTER OF POST OFFICERS

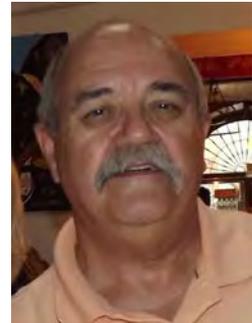
JOHN E. JACOBS AMERICAN LEGION POST 68

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

OFFICERS
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023



Post Commander – John Hacker



1st Vice Commander – Dan Fortini



2nd Vice Commander – Rob Penwell



Adjutant – Dan Dodge



Finance Officer – James Zelenski



Judge Advocate – Alan Simmons



Chaplain – Lou Tranzillo



Service Officer – Lane Adrian

OFFICERS
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023



Sergeant at Arms – Jamie Becker



Logistics – John Marone



Public Affairs – Tony Schirillo



Historian – Eric Mens



Membership – Eddie Jenkins



Members-at-Large
L – R: Elliott Koppel, Jim McAvoy, Bea Frost

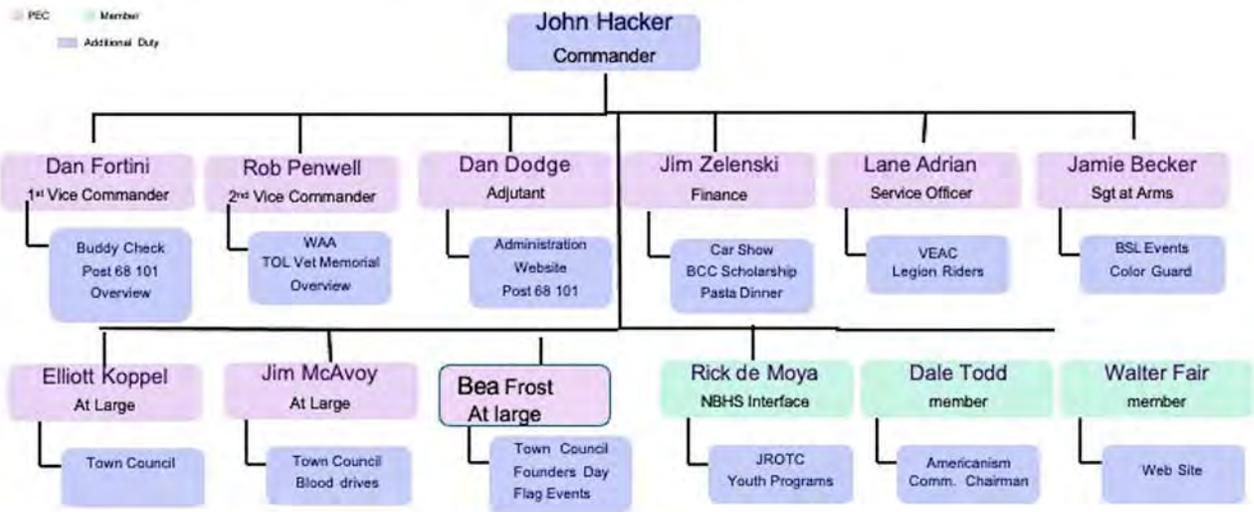
CHAPTER 2 – ROSTER OF POST CHAIRPERSONS

JOHN E. JACOBS AMERICAN LEGION POST 68

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

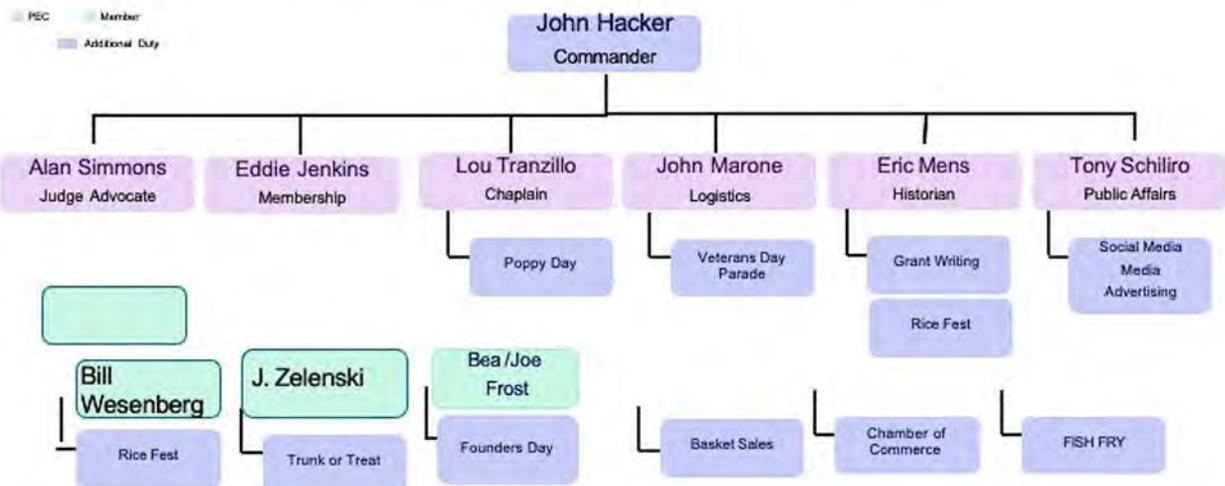
John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Organization chart – 12/10/22



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Organization chart – 12/10/22



CHAPTER 3 - ONE-YEAR POST HISTORY

JOHN E. JACOBS AMERICAN LEGION POST 68

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

Thursday, June 16, 2022
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022 – 2023
LELAND, NC



L-R: Commander John Hacker administering the Oath of Office to Lane Adrian, Service Officer; Eddie Jenkins, Membership; Elliott Koppel, Member-at-Large; James Zelenski, Finance Officer; Anthony Schirillo, Public Affairs; Eric Mens, Historian; Jamie Becker, Sergeant-at-Arms; Lou Tranzillo, Chaplain.

Monday, August 1, 2022
SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH KICK-OFF



L to R – John Hacker, Commander; Alan Simmons, Judge Advocate; Rob Penwell, Vice Commander; Jim Zelenski, Past Commander

Publicized in the Brunswick Beacon on October 17, 2022

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/local/kickoff-of-community-suicide-awareness/article_e21f0b66-14b7-5677-a33c-f60d4418b779.html

Thursday, August 18, 2022
POST MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Blossoms Restaurant, Leland, NC

Guest Speaker Sean Riley, Regional Director of PRECOA, spoke extensively about preplanning and how veterans' families can receive the most benefits upon the death of the veteran or the veteran's spouse.



L - Sean Riley gives his pre-planning presentation. R - Commander Hacker presents with a Post 68 coffee cup as a thank you.

Saturday, August 20, 2022
LELAND UNDER THE LIGHTS CAR SHOW
The Villages, Brunswick Forest, Leland



Friday, August 26, 2022
VET SMILES EVENT AND DONATION
Bolivia, NC

North Carolina, one of the most densely populated states with military service veterans has approximately 88,000 veteran residents who are “at risk” because they cannot afford access to essential dental care services, according to the Veteran Smiles Foundation (VSF). The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization - <https://lifeinbrunswickcounty.com/smile-factory/>. On August 26, 2022, VSF and ECU School of Dental Medicine’s Community Service Learning Center in Bolivia teamed up to provide nearly thirty veterans with various types of dental procedures including comprehensive oral exams at low or no cost.

Lane Adrian, AL Post 68 VSO, attended the Vet Smiles event to present the Post’s donation of \$500 to the ECU School of Dentistry for the Smiles program. David E. McCracken, Ret. USA COL, Founder of Veterans Smiles Foundation, and Jesse A. McCorvey, Ret. USA Lt Col, VSF Marketing Director, expressed their appreciation for the Post’s involvement in helping the veterans keep and maintain healthy teeth.



Pictured (L to R) David E. McCracken, Ret. USA COL, VSF, Lane Adrian Post 68 VSO, and Jesse A. McCorvey, Ret. USA Lt Col, VSF Marketing Director.

36 August 27, 2022
 JOHN W. JACOBS 100TH BIRTHDAY DRIVE-BY
 Leland, NC

HONORING GOLD STAR FATHER JOHN W. JACOBS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



Announcing Leland Town Proclamation – (L) Town Council Member Bob Campbell, (R) Town Council and Post 68 Member Veronica Carter, (Background) Lane Adrian, Post 68 VSO



Awarding Post 68 Recognition to John W. Jacobs – (L) John Hacker, Commander, Post 68; (R) Jim Zelenski, Past Commander, Post 68

September 3, 2022
 BOILING SPRINGS LAKE MARKET
 Boiling Springs Lake, NC



Photo L to R: Post 68 members Jerry Wolf, Patty Kelley, Kobe Kelley, Jamie Becker

<https://www.wwaytv3.com/vendors-of-boiling-springs.../>

Original blog post is at <http://NCPost68.org>

September 9, 2022
LELAND POST 68 BLOOD DRIVE
NORTH BRUNSWICK MAGAZINE



Red Cross Blood Drive at WWAY

On September 9 the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 Leland co-sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive with WWAY. The event was held at the WWAY Leland facility. The Red Cross collected 51 successful donations. Commander John Hacker says, "We live in a great community. The people that work and live in the Leland area repeatedly step up when there is a need identified. Our American Legion Post #68 holds several events, like this blood drive, to provide assistance to the community and the area veterans. It is an honor to participate in these types of events." Vice Commander Dan Fortini led this operation to its successful completion.

https://issuu.com/thenbm/docs/nbm_fall2022-lo?fr=sNGUyYzMyNjYzNzQ

September 10, 2022
LELAND FOUNDERS DAY
Leland Founders Park



102 Town Hall Drive | Leland, North Carolina 29451
Phone: (910) 371-0148 | Fax: (910) 371-1073

The Town of Leland's Founders' Celebration is almost here! We are so glad you are joining us to celebrate 23 years of Leland. Listed below is your Organization Space number and important information you will need the day of the event. Also attached is a map showing the location of your space.

Leland Founders' Celebration

113 Town Hall Drive

September 10, 2022, 3 – 9 PM

Only enter the event site via Village Road at Town Hall Drive during the time indicated below.

Vendor Number: 6 (See attached map for exact location)

Setup Time: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

- ALL traffic entrances will close at 2 PM.
- No vendors or organizations will be allowed to enter the festival grounds after 2 PM.
- No parking allowed in organization area. One vehicle per organization may park within the Organization Parking area on Perry Avenue.
- After unloading, vehicles must immediately exit to the Perry Avenue Organization Parking area. Organization vehicles parking in Organization Parking area should take your one (1) BLUE PARKING PASS.
- All extra assistants & vehicles will need to park at North Brunswick High School (114 Scorpion Drive, Leland) and ride the shuttle to the event. (Shuttle will start at 2:30 PM)

You must provide your own table, tent, and chairs if needed. No electricity will be provided. You will be on asphalt so please plan accordingly. Any tents must be weighted on all four legs.

Pets, except for service animals, are not allowed at Founders' Celebration.

You will be allowed to break down at 9:00 pm. NO vehicles are allowed within the Organization area until all participants are gone. Once you have packed your Organization area you will be allowed to exit the event site via Town Hall Dr. or Perry Avenue as directed by event staff or Leland Public Safety. (No event participants are still in exit area.) Please see attached map and directions for entering and exiting event site.

Founders' Celebration will be held rain or shine. If the event is cancelled due to severe weather (lightning, hurricane, tornado, etc.) there will be no rain date/refund.

In the event of inclement weather during the event, you will not be allowed to remove your booth until an official decision has been made to close the event. However, for safety reasons you may choose to leave your booth until that time.

Please contact us at (910) 332-5007 or info@townofleland.com with other questions or concerns.

Event Director Shirley shirley@townofleland.com	Event Support Mylene mylene@townofleland.com	Vendor Support Lorena lorena@townofleland.com
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October 8, 2022
FLAG COLLECTION
Leland, NC



**The John E Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland
will be hosting an unserviceable U.S. Flag collection!**

Bring your faded, damaged and tattered American Flags to
The Leland Founders Park on Town Hall Dr. Leland

Saturday October 8th, 2022, 8:30am to 3:30pm

We'll be in back of the Senior Center, look for the flags lining the street!

Refreshments will be Available-Donations will be appreciated

Meet & greet some of your local vets



October 10, 2022
FLAG RAISING
Lincoln Elementary School, Leland

The John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland presented an American flag that was flown over the Battleship North Carolina in Wilmington, NC, to the Lincoln Elementary School, Leland, 'Flag Patrol' on Monday, October 10, 2022.

The school's old flag was lowered, folded, and marked for proper disposal. The new flag was presented to the Lincoln Elementary School 'Flag Patrol' and raised in a ceremony by members of Post 68 including: Col Eric Terashima USMC Retired, Post 68 Commander John Hacker, 1st Vice Commander Dan Fortini, and Service Officer Lane Adrian. Members of the Post 68 Color Guard included Sgt at Arms, Jamie Becker, and Guard Member Jim Hendry.



Commander John Hacker and LES 'Flag Patrol'



L-R: Fortini, Hendry, Becker, Hacker, Col (Ret) Terashima



L-R: Fortini, Adrian, Becker, Col (Ret) Terashima, LES 'Flag Patrol,' Hendry, Hacker, LES SRO

October 15, 2022
FISH FRY FUNDRAISER
BRUNSWICK BEACON



L-R: John Marone, Logistics; Scott Wargo; Jerry Wolf; Evan Jones; Bob Page

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/post-68-in-leland-fish-fry-oct-15/article_758643c0-dcf7-5e29-8e18-942936c08fce.html

Saturday, October 29, 2022
LELAND TRUNK OR TREAT
Leland Founders Park, NC



L-R: Rick Rogers; Lou Tranzillo, Chaplain; Alan Simmons, Judge Advocate; Mrs. Jim McAvoy, Jim Zelenski, Finance Officer; Debbie Zelenski, Jim McAvoy, Member-at-Large; Mike Buongiorne, Judy Buongiorne

Saturday, November 12, 2022
VETERANS DAY PARADE
Wilmington, NC

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC, once again served as the parade's lead unit in the 2022 Southeast North Carolina Veterans Day Parade held in Wilmington, NC.

2022 SOUTHEAST NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARADE
12 NOVEMBER 2022 • 3rd Street, Wilmington, NC
Parade begins at 11:00 a.m.

Join Us & Be A Participant Volunteer Sponsor Spectator

FREE Admission Event Area Programs USA Flags

With Over 12 Marching Bands Featuring the East Carolina University Marching Pirates

Honoring All Veterans!

Our 2022 Grand Marshals!

For Information: sencvetparade@gmail.com
CONTACT US:
Dan Higgins 910-279-0956
Marc Biddison 910-540-5000

www.sencveteransparade.com



Monday, November 14, 2022
RED CROSS RECOGNITION
NORTH BRUNSWICK MAGAZINE



American Legion Post 68 is recognized as Red Cross Pump It Up challenge winner for outstanding community blood drive support.

John E. Jacobs American Legion NC Post #68 of Leland was named as a winner in the American Red Cross Pump It Up Challenge, which recognizes high-achieving blood drive sponsors that have grown the number of blood donations collected in their community to help hospital patients in need.

“Giving blood is a simple act of generosity that can truly make a lifesaving difference,” says Dan Fortini, blood program leader for Post 68. “Last year, we received an outpouring of support from the community at our blood drives, and our goal is to make it a success again this year for patients who are counting on us. We are proud to partner with the American Red Cross as a Premier Blood Partner and help it fulfill its critical mission.”

The need for blood is constant. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion, according to the American Red Cross.

Want to help?

Post 68’s final Blood Drive for 2022 is scheduled for December 9 at the WWAY studio on Magnolia Way in Leland.

Visit redcrossblood.org to sign up at this or another location.

<https://lifeinbrunswickcounty.com/helping-save-lives/>

Thursday, November 17, 2022
SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER
Blossoms Restaurant, Leland

November 9, 2022 – North Brunswick Magazine

<https://lifeinbrunswickcounty.com/raising-funds-for-veterans-needs/>



A Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on November 17 in Leland will help American Legion Post 68 with much-needed assistance and programs for veterans.

All are invited to the Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at Blossoms Restaurant on November 17. This is a fun event in which the community can meet and mingle with their neighbors who are veterans of the U.S. military.

Hosted by John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 in Leland, this fundraiser will help give assistance to local veterans in need, from building ADA-compliant ramps to helping with basic family needs and much more.

Want to go?

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Thursday, November 17

Limited seating, 5 pm and 6:30 pm

Blossoms Restaurant Banquet Room, Magnolia Greens Golf Course, 1800 Tommy Jacobs Drive, Leland

Tickets: \$20 each includes one dinner serving per person and a raffle ticket

Contact Jim Zelenski, (301) 535-1120 or Alan Simmons, (914) 419-1067

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
hosted by

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68
Thursday, November 17th, 2022
Seatings at 5:00pm & 6:30pm
Blossoms Restaurant Banquet Room
Magnolia Greens Golf Course
1800 Tommy Jacobs Drive, Leland, NC

Menu Includes: Linguini, Gluten free penne, marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, iced tea, soda & water - Adult beverages may be purchased on site.
- CARRY OUT AVAILABLE -

Tickets are \$20.00 each / Seating is Limited
Contact Jim Zelenski (301-535-1120) or Alan Simmons (914-419-1067)
(Ticket price includes one dinner serving per person & a raffle ticket for a chance to win a prize)
Tickets available at the door based on availability

Additional items will be raffled off at the end of the event. Raffle items will include merchandise, hand-crafted holiday décor, gift baskets & gift cards from local businesses.
Cost of raffle tickets: \$5 for 3 tickets / \$10 for 8 tickets.
Proceeds from this event will support Post 68's efforts to support local veterans & our Leland community at-large.

WINNER

Wednesday – Saturday, November 16 - 19, 2022
VETERANS EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER (VEAC)
Wilmington, NC

The American Legion, teaming with the Department of North Carolina and the Veterans Administration (VA), hosted a VEAC event in November 2022 to help veterans with their VA claims. The event brought veterans face to face with VA service officers and claims adjudicators. Held at American Legion Post 10, 702 Pine Grove Dr, Wilmington, NC, Post 68 normally has more volunteers than any other organization in the area. Post 68 members Dale Todd and Lane Adrian helped with volunteer coordination.

Pertinent Stats:

Veterans Served – 560
VA Raters – 24
VSO – 10-20 from different organizations
Post 68 Volunteers – 19
New Member Recruits for Post 68 – 8



The American Legion Department of North Carolina in partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, is proudly sponsoring the 5th annual Veteran Experience Action Center (VEAC)

All veterans and family members are welcome to attend

NEW DATES November 17 -19, 2022

Hours on Thursday – Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM & Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM

This is a great and unique opportunity for eligible veterans and their dependents to be assisted by a team that includes Veteran's Organization Service Officers, Department of Veteran Affairs Benefit Officials and Healthcare Representatives. These representatives can help facilitate and *Expedite* your new or existing VA disability claims, appeals, or other healthcare problems.

We will accept New Claims from the newly enacted Pact Act legislation, however claims will not be adjudicated until after January 2023

The Event will be held at American Legion Post 10, 702 Pine Grove Tri., Wilmington, North Carolina

If you would like to file a claim with the VA; if you have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled: if you have questions about VA healthcare:

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT!

You must come prepared with the proper documentation about your case: DD214, ALL medical records about you disability both military and civilian.

Everyone who registers during the day will be seen. To avoid overcrowding, please adhere to the following attendance suggestions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thursday, November 17, those who have the last two digits of their Social Security number ending 00-33 should register.

Friday, November 18, those who have the last two digits of their Social Security number ending 34-66 should register.

Saturday, November 19, those who have the last two digits of their Social Security number ending 67-99 should register.

Donations may be made to American Legion Post 511, P Box 10483, Southport, NC 28461 Please add VEAC to the memo section of your check

November 3, 2022
RED CROSS PUMP IT UP CHALLENGE WINNER
BRUNSWICK BEACON



The John E. Jacobs American Legion Leland Post 68 was named as a winner in the American Red Cross Pump It Up Challenge. The award recognizes high-achieving blood drive sponsors that have grown the number of blood donations collected in their community to help hospital patients in need.

Committed to helping save lives, Post 68 has helped collect 167 Red Cross blood donations for patients in need over the past 10 months and has already achieved the honored distinction of the Premier Blood Partner with the Red Cross.

“Giving blood is a simple act of generosity that can truly make a lifesaving difference,” said Dan Fortini, blood program leader for Post 68. “Last year, we received an outpouring of support from the community at our blood drives, and our goal is to make it a success again this year for patients who are counting on us. We are proud to partner with the Red Cross as a Premier Blood Partner and help it fulfill its critical mission.”

The need for blood is constant. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion, according to the Red Cross. The final Blood Drive for 2022 is scheduled for Dec. 9 at the WWAY studio on Magnolia Way in Leland.

Edited and reformatted - Mens 4/28/23

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/leland-post-68-is-red-cross-pump-it-up-challenge-winner/article_223ffcfd-f08a-53c0-b0bf-31197fa2cd75.html

Community

Honoring Veterans

Wreaths Across America Sales Has Begun

STORY BY JEFFREY STITES

Each December, the national non-profit Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 2,500 other locations across all 50 states and also abroad. For the past four years, Leland's John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 has been participating at Wilmington's National Cemetery on Market Street. The effort began with 40 wreaths and has grown to more than 400. Hopes are that this year will eclipse that.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to "Remember fallen US Veterans, Honor those who serve, and Teach children the value of Freedom." Wreaths are sponsored by donations that pay for the wreath itself and help support partner organizations. A portion of your Wreath donation will benefit John E. Jacobs's American Legion Post #68's efforts to assist local veterans, schools and other organizations through a variety of programs. Wreaths Across America understands and exists

to support the strong emotional connection, love for America and appreciation for our military personnel and veterans.

The wreaths will be laid at Wilmington National Cemetery on Dec. 17, beginning at 12 pm.

"It is amazing how many people are not aware of our national cemetery here in Wilmington, so much history there," event organizer John Hacker said of last year's



event. "History surrounds Wilmington National Cemetery. The grave sites are over 150 years old. WAA at Christmas allows us to take time to be really thankful for those who gave us their all for freedom. It's a time to reflect. It's very quiet there, and even though the crowds are there, it is peaceful. There is no yelling at one another, people smile and many tears are shed."

Wreaths Across America, given to your local American Legion member or mailed to American Legion Post 68, PO Box 521, Leland NC 2845. To donate online, simply go to wreathscross-america.org/NC0380P.



Wreaths can be sponsored in increments of \$15 per wreath with checks, payable to

Let Us Help You Achieve the Lawn of Your Dreams

- Custom Water Features
- Landscape & Hardscape Design
- Maintenance

We work hard, so you don't have to!

ALL IN BLOOM
GARDEN CENTER & LANDSCAPES
 336-687-8732
 3940 Old Bridge Rd. Southport
 Landscaping • Maintenance • Design • Install

Patricia Elliott Designs
 Authentic Sea Glass
 Earrings - Bracelets - Pendants
 Handcrafted in Sterling Silver

Mother Nature's GEM STONE
 Stop by Ricky Evans Gallery
 211 N Howe Street • Southport, NC
 Contact Artist at:
patelliott.seaglass@gmail.com

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
 hosted by

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Thursday, November 17th, 2022
 Seatings at 5:00pm & 6:30pm

Blossoms Restaurant Banquet Room
 Magnolia Greens Golf Course
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Tickets are \$20.00 each / Seating is Limited
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 Tickets available at the door based on availability

Additional items will be raffled off at the end of the event. Raffle items will include merchandise, hand-crafted holiday décor, gift baskets & gift cards from local businesses. Cost of raffle tickets: \$5 for 3 tickets / \$10 for 8 tickets.

 Proceeds from this event will support Post 68's efforts to support local veterans & our Leland community at-large.

Saturday, December 17, 2022
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PLACEMENT
Wilmington, NC

Published in the Brunswick Beacon

At Noon on Saturday, December 17th, 2022, Wreaths Across America sponsored the honoring of our deceased veterans and their families. The Wilmington National Cemetery holds over 5,000 gravesites and encompasses Brunswick, Hanover, and Pender Counties. Each grave was respected by our community. John Hacker, Commander of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland said, “The turnout by the local community and businesses was amazing.”

The intent of the wreath laying is not to decorate the gravesites, but to REMEMBER, HONOR AND TEACH. The event was moving and satisfying for all participants. During the opening ceremony, veterans were honored by Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman and other local dignitaries. Eagle Scouts Gregory Gennaro, Kwelin King, and Bryndan Taylor-Alexander from Leland Troop 747 opened the ceremony by leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Commander Hacker with Leland Mayor Bozeman



A wreath was presented during the opening ceremony by representatives of US Air Force, Navy, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, Merchant Marines, and POW/MIA. After taps, all

attendees assisted with the placing of the wreaths. As each wreath was laid the name of the veteran listed on the tombstone was read aloud.

REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH
FOR OUR VETERANS, THANK YOU
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland
Saturday, December 17, 2022



NOTE: The event resulted in approximately 623 wreath sponsorships.

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/leland-community-takes-time-to-honor-our-veterans/article_0babc3f9-b889-54e7-91ae-ec106f8bfa6d.html

3240
January 9, 2023
ORATORICAL CONTEST
North Brunswick High School, Leland

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 hosted the 2023 Oratorical Contest at North Brunswick High School (NBHS). Post 68 member and Past Commander Dale Todd led the youth Oratorical contest with students from North Brunswick High School competing for scholarship prize money. The annual contest is conducted as part of the American Legion National Youth Oratorical program. The event consists of high school students delivering prepared speeches on any aspect of the U.S. Constitution and the responsibilities of citizens regarding that aspect of the Constitution.

Each student also delivers a short speech on one of four predefined parts of the Constitution. The specific part to be addressed is randomly drawn during the contest. The purpose of the event is to promote understanding of the Constitution and help develop public speaking skills for students.

Winners received scholarship prizes of \$500 for 1st place and \$300 for 2nd place. This year's winner was Connor Rohlf, an 11th grader at NBHS. Connor will be participating in the District 9 Oratorical Contest on Saturday, January 14th.



Photo (L-R) NBHS student and contest winner Connor Rohlf receiving 1st place certificate from Post 68 Commander John Hacker with Post 68 Adjutant Daniel Dodge

January 19, 2023
NC PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS RECOGNIZES AL POST #68
FOR ASSISTANCE TO AREA VETERANS

(Photo L-R): Post 68 Leland Commander John Hacker with NCPGR Rep. Bob Page presenting donation.



At the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 Leland meeting Thursday evening, January 19th, Bob Page, representing the North Carolina Patriot Guard Riders (NCPGR), presented a donation to Post 68 to help support area veterans. Mr. Page stated this donation was in recognition for Post #68's efforts in assisting local veterans. The donation was a check for \$250 which will be used to directly support veteran needs.

A letter from the NCPGR Treasurer read: "American Legion Post 68: The Patriot Guard of NC would like to donate this \$250 to you for your dedication to our veterans

3029 and especially for your extensive suicide hot line program. Thank you again for everything you do. Sincerely, Paula Schronce, NCPGR State Treasurer.”

Post Commander Hacker stated that, “We are honored to receive the recognition, donation, and support from the NCPGR veteran organization.” Commander Hacker and Post #68 are leading a new suicide awareness program for veterans in the Leland area. The Commander has made several presentations to civic and business organizations in the North Brunswick county area.

ON RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY, 6 WAYS TO EXTEND GOODWILL IN WILMINGTON



Cheryl M. Whitaker
Wilmington StarNews
Published Feb. 16, 2023

Did someone ever do a good deed or just said a kind word to you for no apparent reason, and you never forgot it?

Well, there's a day for it. National Random Acts of Kindness Day will be observed on Friday, Feb. 17, and here are six of the many ways that you can pay it forward and extend goodwill in the Wilmington area.

Donate blood

The John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68, WWAY-TV and the Red Cross, will be sponsoring a blood drive, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17 at WWAY, 1224 Magnolia Village Way, Leland. Make an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Also, the Wilmington Blood Donation Center will be open 7 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, and is located at 1102 S. 16th St., Wilmington.

Walk-ins are welcome, but it is always better to make an appointment.

<https://www.starnewsonline.com/story/lifestyle/features/2023/02/16/on-random-acts-of-kindness-day-extending-goodwill-in-wilmington-nc/69821831007/>



February 26, 2023
NORTH BRUNSWICK CHAMBER BUSINESS EXPO

Participation helped the Post gain visibility among Leland area businesses and to gauge business community support for the planned November 2023 Post 68 Golf Tournament.

Photo (L-R) Commander John Hacker, Finance Officer Jim Zelenski, and member Scott Wargo receive a donation from Billie and Jeremy Gunn - JBG Service.

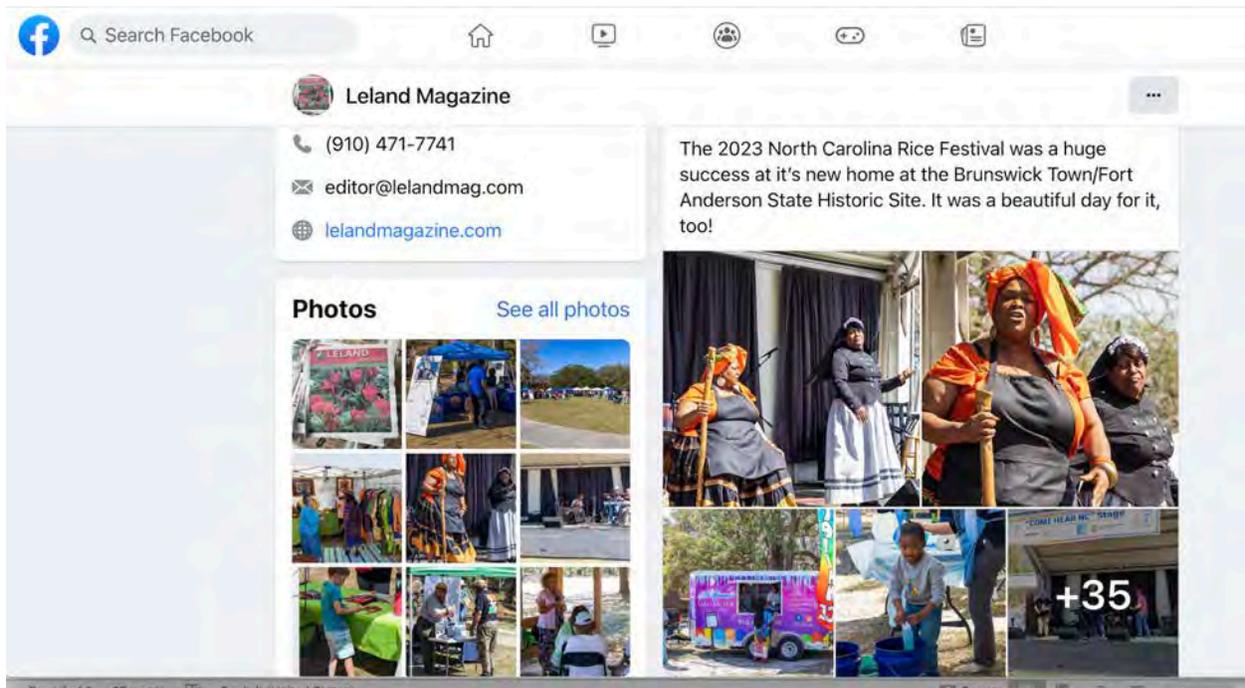
North Carolina Rice Festival
Saturday, March 4, 2023
Historic Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson

See Post 68 After Action Report (AAR) dated March 7, 2023.

<https://lifeinbrunswickcounty.com/to-celebrate-and-educate/>

[StarNews Online, March 8, 2023](https://www.starnews.com/story/news/local/2023/03/08/north-carolina-rice-festival-2023/7000000001/)

<https://www.facebook.com/Lelandmag/>



Derived from

Summary of Event: This was the second annual NC Rice Festival event at which members from Post 68 volunteered their assistance. The venue was at a much larger location than the previous event. In response to the suggestions discussed below, NCRF officials have responded that most of our recommendations will be adopted for the 2024 festival.

Success Stories: NCRF officials estimated a turnout of more than 2,800 people. Post volunteers helped ensure the success of the Festival, with several working past their shifts to help with site cleanup and vendor assistance. We were able to clear and clean up the site well before dark.

Post 68 Volunteers: **Adrian**, Lane; **Becker**, Jamie; **Fortini**, Dan; **de Moya**, Rick; **Fry**, Richard; **Hacker**, John; **Jenkins**, Ulysses; **Jenkins**, Eddie; **Jones**, Evan; **Kelley**, Kobe; **Kelley**, Patty; **Knipper**, Bill; **Marone**, John; **Mendenhall**, Jeff; **Mens**, Eric; **Penwell**, Robert; **Smith**, Bill; **Tranzillo**, Lou; and **Willis**, Todd.

NEWS

'Mission complete': After years of home damages, Leland veteran receives renovation



Jamey Cross
Wilmington StarNews
Published Mar 6, 2023



Freddie Smith, U.S. Army veteran accepts his newly renovated storm-damaged home.

For 14 months, Freddie Smith slept on an air mattress in his Leland home.

There was no heat, no air conditioning, no floors. Smith walked through his home on boards of plywood that had been placed on top of the floor joists.

Smith's home was first damaged in 2018 by Hurricane Florence. Then, in July 2021, the home's hot water heater pipe burst, sending water through a wall in his living room and flooding the home. The Army veteran said water was standing in the home two to three inches deep.

When Steve Muir with the American Legion Post 543 in Southport walked into Smith's home in February of last year, he wasn't convinced it would ever be fully repaired.

"We have done dozens of projects," Muir said. "Nothing on this scale."

Today, after years of repairs, his home is unrecognizable with new walls, cabinets, countertops, vanities, and floors.

"This has been a long, long process and I thank everybody for being there," said Smith during a "Mission Complete Ceremony" on Monday.

The renovations to his home were completed thanks to a joint effort by Purple Heart Homes, Lowe's Home Improvement, American Legion Post 543, American Legion Post 68 and the Military Officers Association of America. Purple Heart Homes is a national veterans housing charity based in Statesville.



Freddie Smith, U.S. Army veteran at his newly renovated storm-damaged home.

"It's not what you know, it's who you know sometimes," Smith said. "And that's how this whole project came about: one person knew somebody, one organization knew another organization, and then everybody else came on board. I'm very appreciative."

Smith served in the U.S. Army for seven years, including active duty in Operation Desert Storm, the 1991 attack by U.S. forces on Iraq's Air Force during the Gulf War.

Paul Cockerham, chief development officer for Purple Heart Homes, said the organization has helped some 1,056 veterans in 46 states by completing various home-improvement projects, "from simple grab bars in the shower to wheelchair ramps, widened doorways, ADA-compliant bathrooms, HVAC systems, roofing" all at no cost to the veteran.

Lowe's Home Improvement employs more than 26,000 veterans, according to Bill Ferimer, a store manager at one of the chain's three New Hanover County locations. Ferimer is one of them.

"This is a great opportunity to give back to the community," Ferimer said. "Warriors like [Smith] make our country great."

Jamey Cross covers Brunswick County for the StarNews. Reach her at jbcross@gannett.com or message her on Twitter @jameybcross.

<https://www.starnewsonline.com/story/news/2023/03/06/desert-storm-veteran-from-leland-receives-long-awaited-home-renovation/69933667007/>

March 17, 2023
DEPUTY SHERIFF OF THE YEAR AWARD
Brunswick County, NC



Honoring the Brunswick County Deputy Sheriff of the Year 2022

MAR 30, 2022

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, N.C.

SUBJECT: Brunswick County Deputy Sheriff honored by Leland American Legion Post 68

On Thursday, March 17, 2022, American Legion Post 68 honored the Brunswick County Deputy Sheriff of the Year at their monthly meeting, Deputy Sheriff Adam Locklair. Commander John Hacker presented Locklair with a plaque as our expression of gratitude and support for his dedication and service to our community.

<https://www.legion.org/stories/honors-achievements/honoring-brunswick-county-deputy-sheriff-year-2022>

423934 March 25, 2023
JROTC RIFLE TEAM CHAMPIONS
North Brunswick High School, Leland

The mission of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland, NC, includes supporting the youth of Leland, NC through programs that include annual military and scholastic excellence awards and a college scholarship to deserving North Brunswick High School (NBHS) JROTC Cadets. Following a two-day national competition, on March 25, 2023, competing at the national level against 220 individuals representing the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Army, the NBHS JROTC Rifle team earned first place honors for the Army and 5th in the nation across all services in the JROTC National Air Rifle Championship Sporters Division in Ohio on March 25, 2023.



The team, coached by 1SG George Williams, was led by Jose Gonzalez with a score of 1109 followed by Jasmine Lopez with a score of 1083, Tiffany Martinez with a score of 1079, and Hannah Gore with a score of 1070. The Team had a combined score of 4341. Jose Gonzalez was recognized for being the number one shooter in the Army and 5th in the nation across all services.

Friday, April 14, 2023
SUICIDE AWARENESS PROGRAM & GRANT AWARD
Sunset Beach, NC



Commander John Hacker briefed the Committee to Honor America's Veterans (CHAV), Sunset Beach, NC, on Post 68's Suicide Awareness Community program on Friday, April 14, 2023. Following the briefing, members of the Committee presented the Post with a grant check in the amount of \$1,000. Proceeds will be used to further advertise the Post's Suicide Awareness program through social media.

PHOTO - Front row L-R: Lynda Sanders; CHAV Chairman John Corbett; John Hacker, Post 68 Commander; CHAV First Vice Chairperson Karen Joseph; and CHAV Secretary Gere Andujar.
Back row L-R: Chuck Helmboldt; David Sheppard; CHAV Asst. Treasurer Lou DeVita; CHAV Treasurer Charlie Nern; Mike Mahoney; and AJ Oates.

Wednesday April 26, 2023
CATHERINE KENNEDY \$3,000 GRANT AWARD
Wilmington, NC

The Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 4782
Wilmington, North Carolina 28406



Dear American Legion Post 68,

The Board of Directors of the Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation commends you for your contribution to the elderly. At its meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, the Board approved a grant of \$3,000 for your organization. With your acceptance of this grant, you agree to use these funds only for the purpose stated in your application and to provide progress reports as requested by us. Misappropriation of grant funds or failure to timely and accurately complete and return progress reports may result in our demand for a repayment of monies to the Foundation.

We are pleased to invite you to our Grants Award Ceremony Tea on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. at the Cameron Center at First Presbyterian Church. Entrances to the parking areas are on Fourth Street or Orange Street (the BACK of the Cameron Center). Checks will be presented to the 2023 Grant Recipients at this time. We welcome two or three members of your organization or Board.

Please feel free to publicize your receiving these funds. However, we would appreciate a copy of any release you make.

The Directors of the Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation are pleased to support you as you serve the needs of the elderly in our community and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda B. Hundley".

Linda B. Hundley
Grants Chairman

MAY 4, 2023
LIFE CARE TRAINING
BRUNSWICK BEACON

LOCAL VETS TRAIN TO IMPROVE SERVICES AND CAPABILITIES TO ASSIST OTHER VETERANS

Lower Cape Fear Life Care organization and the Rivers Edge Veterans Association



L to R: Larry Shapiro, Dan Fortini, Gordon Humphries, Bruce Goins, Rick Rogers, John Hacker, Sherman Thompson, Nick Micale, Lou Tranillo, Jim MacAvoy
Larry, Nick, and Bruce are members of the Rivers Edge Veterans Association.

On Tuesday April 18th several members of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 Leland, attended a training session presented by members of the Lower Cape Fear Life Care organization and the Rivers Edge Veterans Association to qualify as Vet-to-Vet volunteers.

This program partners veteran patients with veteran volunteers to recognize their service with honor and respect through pinning ceremonies, which acknowledge and show appreciation for those who have served as they face end of life, or serious illness.



Life Care Coordinators – L-R: Laura Long; Volunteer Service Coordinator and Jenny Todd; Volunteer Program Coordinator

Volunteer coordinators Jenny Todd and Laura Long assisted us in filling out the necessary paperwork and showed us a film of a pinning ceremony. Jenny commented, “how many of the veterans have never talked to their families about their experiences in the service until this opportunity to chat with another veteran, it can be a very emotional event.”

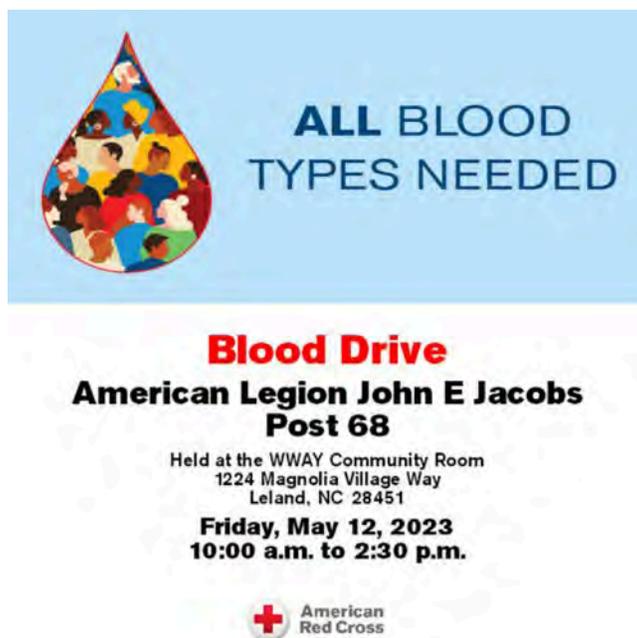
We also had three members of the Rivers Edge Veterans Association attend. Nick Micale, Larry Shapiro, and Bruce Goins. They work closely with Life-Care to coordinate the visitations and assists with training of volunteers.

They told us how the pinning can be very emotional but also an honor to recognize the service and dedication of the veterans. Many of whom have never felt welcome home until this moment.

At this time, the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 Leland has 10 members signed up to be pinners. Vice Commander Dan Fortini stated, “this is an example of our local Veterans taking care of fellow veterans and their families.”

http15s://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/local-vets-train-to-improve-services-and-capabilities-to-assist-other-veterans/article_4a2de33c-10d8-5889-a299-36083998e8dd.html

May 12, 2023
BLOOD DRIVE
WWAY Channel 3, Leland





JOHN E. JACOBS
American Legion Post 68, Leland
Annual Poppy Day, May 26th, 9am-2:30pm



With the support of Congress, the American Legion designates the weekends before Memorial Day as National Poppy Days. The American Legion Family encourages all patriotic Americans to wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance.

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform.

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland members will be distributing red poppies on Friday, May 26th at the following locations:

- Piggly Wiggly, 112 Village Road, NE, Leland
- Shores Carwash, 2040 Old Regent Way, Leland
- ACE Hardware 117 Village Road, Leland

Poppies are never sold, but donations are greatly appreciated. Your donations help fund Post 68's support of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. For More Information on National Poppy Day, go to www.Poppydayusa.org.

Honor the Fallen / Support the Living

Publicized in the Brunswick Beacon

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/memorial-day-tributes/article_fbe67a6a-d1a5-559a-bac1-1b0477836159.html

May 29, 2023
MEMORIAL DAY
Flag Placement in Local Cemeteries



Nearly two dozen Post 68 members, spouses, and friends met at 9 am at the First Baptist Church of Leland (517 Village Rd NE, Leland) on Monday, May 29, 2023, to place flags at local Leland area cemeteries to honor deceased area veterans. The event was led by Post Commander John Hacker and Logistics Officer John Marone.

June 2, 2023
WILMINGTON FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES
Marina Grill, Wilmington Waterfront

Post 68 members sold wrist band tickets at The Rolling Stones Tribute concert at the Wilmington waterfront on Friday, June 2, 2023. Members hauled in a good number of donations (over \$300) for our John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland, talked with some friendly, generous folks, AND got to listen some great music!



L-R Richard Rogers, Eric Mens, Lane Adrian, Cindy Bryant

L-R Jamie and Mike Becker & Matthew and Kelly Bergman

<https://www.facebook.com/Fourmulaone/posts/pfbid02ypJYEBWLN87B5qpbqFP7XkmMdYPUmMdmQFLUA3qsTuexc5Wq7PaMe6tygE4vZGKfl>

June 20, 2023
BFA CHRISTMAS IN JULY
Shallotte, NC

American Legion Post 68 Supports Schoolchildren



Photo (L-R) VSO Lane Adrian, Stephanie Jones, and CDR John Hacker

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland donated \$300 to Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA) for its Christmas in July Backpack Program for local students. The program provides a book bag containing required school supplies for the year, one complete clothing outfit, and a pair of shoes for the child to return to school. BFA has previously vetted the numerous families and children in Brunswick County who participate in the program.

“The veterans in our American Legion Post 68 are motivated to assist our community whenever we can,” stated Post Commander John Hacker. “Post 68 Leland has supported the Christmas in July program since 2016 and looks forward to continuing its support for programs like this in our community.”

Edited and reformatted – Mens

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/american-legion-post-68-supports-school-children/article_181b700d-6c41-543b-81d4-b5d8349c5c48.html

June 28, 2023
REV MORTGAGE AWARD
Leland, NC



For its wealth of contributions within the community, John E. Jacobs American Legion Post #68 is named North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce’s Non-Profit of Year.

At its June 2023 meeting, the North Brunswick Chamber of Commerce presented John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Leland with its Non-Profit of the Year award. REV Mortgage of Leland, a member of the North Brunswick Chamber, presented the Post with a \$3,000 donation for their work within the community.

“The veterans in the Leland area greatly appreciate REV Mortgage of Leland’s generous support,” said 1st

Vice Commander John Hacker. The Post will apply the funding to its efforts in assisting local veterans in need and several community projects, including youth programs, veterans assistance, and community activities.

Post members are very active in the local community, sponsoring local students to participate in the American Legion’s Boys State and Girls State programs and providing scholarships to support the education of children. The Post supports the North Brunswick High School JROTC and its members participate in local events such as Leland’s Founder’s Day and the North Carolina Rice Festival. Post 68 also conducts an annual oratorical competition that results in area youths being able to participate in American Legion regional, state, and national oratorical competitions.

With the strong leadership of Service Officers such as Lane Adrian, Post 68 additionally focuses on supporting local veterans in need with a wide range of member-driven programs, from building handicapped ramps for disabled veterans to coordinating a very successful annual event to ensure that veterans have their needs and issues addressed.

<https://lifeinbrunswickcounty.com/non-profit-of-the-year/>

June 28, 2023
NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Leland, NC

American Legion Post 68 of Leland recognized as nonprofit of the year!



Photo - Post 68 Commander John Hacker accepting the award from the Town of Leland Mayor Brenda Bozeman.

The John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 of Leland was awarded the "Non-Profit of the Year" award at Wednesday night's North Brunswick Chamber banquet. During the ceremony held on June 28, 2023, Commander Hacker accepted the "Non-Profit of the Year" award from Mayor Bozeman. Commander Hacker stated that he, "humbly accepts the award recognizing the efforts of the Post 68 members for their efforts and dedication to support the needs of fellow veterans and the community they live in."

Edited and reformatted - Mens

https://www.newsargus.com/brunswick_beacon/news/american-legion-post-68-of-leland-recognized-as-nonprofit-of-the-year/article_d17adc08-70b3-5e08-9f1c-ee37663a8351.html

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