



JOHN E. JACOBS LEGION POST 68 LELAND
MEDIA RELEASE

June 29, 2026

Submitted by:

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Flag Day Event. Despite a sparse community turnout due to the intense heat that blanketed Eastern North Carolina on Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, the planned event to honor our nation and its history was, by any measure, a great success. Sponsored by the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 (<https://www.ncpost68.org/>), the event was held at Leland's Founders Park with significant area organizations participating, including the Brunswick Town Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR); Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers; Friends of the Battleship North Carolina; USN Sea Cadets, Torpedo Squadron 8, Wilmington; Chapter 885, Vietnam Veterans of America; Manna Ministries of Leland; the Patriot Guard Riders; and others.

Brenda Bozman, Mayor of the Town of Leland, opened the event alongside Bea Frost, Commander, Post 68. On the eve of our Nation's birth, several speakers addressed the meaning and significance of Flag Day and publicly acknowledged the importance of collaborative efforts throughout the year by the organizations present. These included Suzanna Palmer, Vice Regent, Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR; Michelle Bunting, Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers; and Cadet Chief Petty Officer Dante Ricardi, USN Sea Cadets, Torpedo Squadron 8. Keynote Speaker Gary O. Green, USAF, Lt. Col. (Ret.), representing the Lower Cape Fear Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), spoke about the history of the flag and North Carolina's role during the American Revolution.

Post 68 member Jo Ann Britt briefly spoke about the American Legion's "Four Pillars:" Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. John Hacker, NC Department Chairperson for the NC Legion Be The One program, assisted the Sea Cadets in the solemn 13 Folds Ceremony. As the ceremony progressed, individual cadets explained the significance of each flag fold until the final fold formed a cocked hat, reminiscent of those worn by soldiers of the Continental Army. To learn more about the meaning behind the 13 Folds Ceremony, visit <https://www.nationalflagfoundation.org/the-meaning-behind-the-13-folds-of-the-united-states-flag/>.

Special thanks to Justin Smith, Publisher of North Brunswick News, for covering this important community event, and to Suzanna Palmer, Vice Regent of the Brunswick Town Chapter, NSDAR,

who presented John Hacker with a \$450 donation to the Be The One program. Thanks also to member Anthony Schirillo, organizer extraordinaire, who organized the event and arranged the speakers; to members Patty and Kobe Kelly for their speaking roles and support; and to Bill Davis for operating the sound system for speakers and music throughout the day.



L-R Suzanna Palmer (DAR), John Hacker (Post 68), and Marylyn O'Brien (DAR)



Post 68 Color Guard (L-R) Jeff Harriman, Jim Barkely, Bob Northrup, Jo Ann Britt



Flag Day 2026 - Sea Cadets Performing 13 Folds Ceremony

Installation of Officers. Newly elected 2026-2027 officers of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 in Leland were sworn in at the Post membership meeting on June 18. These included Jim McAvoy, 1st Vice Commander (returning); John Hacker, 2nd Vice Commander; Mike Mabey, Finance Officer; Alan Simmons, Historian; Rick Rodgers, Chaplain (returning); Bill Powell, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Members-at-Large Scott Wargo, Jo Ann Britt, and Evan Jones. Appointed Officers reinstalled included Dan Dodge, Adjutant (returning); Dale Todd, Parliamentarian (returning); Lane Adrian, Resource Officer (returning); Eric Mens, Public Affairs (returning); and Jim Barkley, Membership (returning). George Freeman, Commander, Legion Cape Fear District 9 (pictured below), conducted the swearing-in ceremony, with Jim Torr, District 9 Commander, in attendance. Tom Powers, the newly elected Post Commander for 2026-2027, will be sworn in on July 9.

