



Volume 4, Issue 2

105 Sumter Ave. Summerville, SC 29483

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Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 4,
6:30 pm.

Come and help us
Remember the 4 Chaplains



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

Summerville Post 21



Position	Officer
Commander	Ken Thompson
First Vice Commander	Kim Shultz
Second Vice Commander	Bill Schmitz
Finance Officer	Brian Ponder
Chaplain	Karl Naugle
Sergeant at Arms	Bill Dutour
Historian	Dave Corvino
Post Adjutant	Bob Ticknor
Judge Advocate	Steve Smith
Webmaster	Ken Thompson



Post Website: <https://summervillepost21.org/>

**American Legion
Post 21 - Clarence
A. Dunning -
Summerville, SC**

Empowering heroes through community
and resources.

JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



Memorial Dates in February

February features key military anniversaries and Days of recognition:

Feb 3 - Four Chaplains Day

Feb 19, 1945 - Battle of Iwo Jima Begins

Feb 19, 1941 - U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Feb 28, 1991 - Persian Gulf War Ceasefire

Feb 13, 1943 - Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established

Feb 23, 1945 - Flag Raising at Iwo Jima



Marine Corps Women's Reserve
Established (1943)



JANUARY MEETING

We had 27 people present at the January meeting including several visitors and new members. Our guest speaker was Dorchester County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Joanne Sallee. She and her husband are also the newest members of our Post! It's great to have such an advocate for us right here in our Post. Joanne presented us with the overview of the duties of a VSO and offered a great deal of good information and suggestions. She works at the Dorchester County Veterans Office on Main Street in Summerville. Bob Ticknor updated us on membership, financials and Eagle Scout Projects. Our paid membership is up to 90%! The Eagle Scout projects are moving along nicely with lots of great work done by the Scouts. Steve Smith updated us on the Sunday Morning Coffee with a Vet and how well that has been going. It is being held at the Post every Sunday from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Drop in when you can. Bill Dutour is once again heading up our Rifle Raffle and he needs volunteers (6 per month) to help him sell tickets. In fact, Bill does all of the work, he just needs people to take 2 hour shifts with him in case he needs to take a break. He is always there. We also discussed the upcoming 250th anniversary of the USA. There will be a Fireworks &



Festival at Gahagan Park on July 4th. Free and open to the public. This month we will celebrate the memory of the 4 Chaplains of World War II. More information regarding the 4 chaplains is in this newsletter. There will be a meal as usual, so be sure to come and take part in all the activities. The Department Convention is scheduled for May 16-17 in Columbia. Let Bob Ticknor or Ken Thompson know if you are interested in attending.

JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS



JANUARY MEETING PHOTOS



The Four Chaplains



The chaplains are also known as the "Dorchester Chaplains" or the "Immortal Chaplains."

Four Chaplains Day is celebrated on February 3 every year in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice and humanitarianism onboard a sinking ship. It was 1943 and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was sailing across the Atlantic ocean, packed to capacity. Tragedy struck when a German submarine fired a torpedo at the ship, sinking it and killing the hundreds who were onboard. The Four Chaplains on board the ship were Reverend George L. Fox of the Methodist faith, Jewish Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington of the Catholic faith, and Reverend Clark V. Poling from the Dutch Reformed Church. Many witnesses remember their courage, support, and prayers for the many distressed

people onboard. They offered their life jackets to four people in need and as a consequence had to remain on the sinking ship, comforted only by the thought of their actions and the fact that they were going to meet their Maker soon. In recognition of their valor, the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation was set up as a way of promoting interfaith unity and a spirit of service among individuals. The U.S. government awarded them the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross medals in 1944. Because they had not engaged in active combat with the enemy, they did not qualify for the Medal of Honor. Congress, therefore, created a 'Special Medal for Heroism' as an honorable substitute. Since the bombing took place on February 3, 1943, many military organizations and clubs across the country observe Four Chaplains Day, and in 1998, a senate resolution was passed to recognize the 55th anniversary of the incident making Four Chaplains Day official.

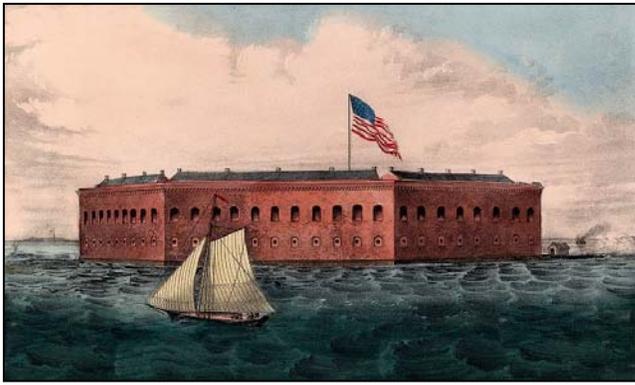
We will mark the anniversary of this day during our next Post meeting on February 4th.

The chaplains' actions included:

- Calming the passengers and crew
- Organizing an orderly evacuation
- Distributing life jackets
- Linking arms, praying, and singing hymns

The chaplains gave their own life jackets to others when supplies ran out. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats, and then went down with the ship.





History Lives Here

Four Chaplains Memorialization at Fort Jackson

The Army's chaplain training facility in South Carolina (Fort Jackson) uses the names of the Four Chaplains (George Fox, Alexander Goode, Clark Poling, and John Washington) for its teaching halls, ensuring their legacy of interfaith service and courage is remembered by new generations of chaplains. These four chaplains gave their life jackets and offered calm and spiritual guidance to soldiers as their ship, the USAT Dorchester, sank in the North Atlantic in February 1943, becoming a lasting symbol of selfless heroism. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard

and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post



offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains. That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. The Distinguished Service Cross



chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

While the chaplains themselves weren't from South Carolina, their story is deeply honored within the state's military chaplaincy tradition.



Women Marines and the South Carolina Connection

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island, is central to the history of Women Marines, serving as the primary boot camp location for enlisted female recruits since 1949, a foundational role that established their integration and training within the Corps, fostering deep ties through economic impact, military tradition, and the historic "Molly Marine" awards.

Parris Island as Boot Camp: All female recruits have trained at Parris Island since 1949, making the South Carolina base the birthplace of Women Marines.

Integration & Training Hub: Parris Island defined women's roles and training, with the dedicated 4th Recruit Training Battalion formed there in 1986 before integration with male training became the norm.

Economic & Cultural Impact: The depot is a significant economic driver for South Carolina, and its history with Women Marines is woven into the state's identity.

"Molly Marine" Tradition: The tradition of awarding the "Molly Marine" title (best recruit) at Parris Island celebrates female excellence, with the statue honoring this legacy, says Linda Priest, president of the

Women Marines Association in Beaufort.

Key Figures: The headquarters for the Women's Reserve was dedicated to Colonel Streeter at Parris Island, highlighting its leadership role.

Early Integration: The first Black women were accepted into the Corps in 1949 and trained integrated at Parris Island from the start, notes the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Evolution of Roles: Parris Island served as the foundation for defining women's service, leading to their roles becoming indistinguishable from men's in training and service. In essence, Parris Island isn't just a training ground; it's where Women Marines began, grew, and continue to forge their identity, creating a lasting connection with South Carolina.



Flag Retirement with the Fort Dorchester JRROTC

We had a flag retirement ceremony in January, headed up by the Fort Dorchester Jr. ROTC students. Summerville Mayor Russ Touchberry was the guest speaker. We retired an enormous number of flags. Thanks to Mayor Touchberry, the FD JRROTC, and the Post members and guests that came out and participated.



Flag Retirement Ceremony Photos





Did You Know?

Hollywood Legends Who Served With Extraordinary Bravery



Audie Murphy

**MOST DECORATED
WW2 SOLDIER**



Jimmy Stewart

**WW2 BOMBER
PILOT**



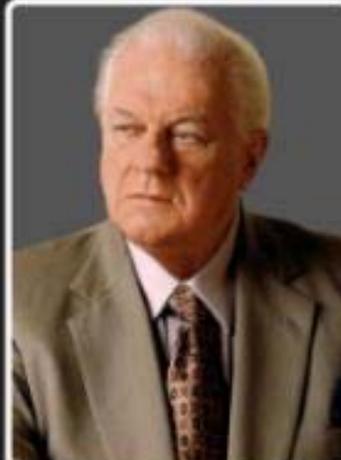
Clark Gable

**WW2 AERIAL
GUNNER**



Bea Arthur

**WW2 MARINE
TRUCK DRIVER**



Charles Durning

**WW2 RANGER, D-
DAY SURVIVOR**



Neville Brand

**HIGHLY DECORATED
WW2 SOLDIER**



Christopher Lee

**WW2 BRITISH
SPECIAL FORCES**



Julia Child

**WW2 SPY FOR THE
OSS**

Hollywood Legends Who Served With Extraordinary Bravery

Before the fame, the red carpets, and the silver screen, these men and women answered a far greater call. Their heroism didn't come from scripts — it came from service.

Audie Murphy

The most decorated American soldier of World War II. Murphy's battlefield courage — facing tanks and overwhelming fire — became legend long before Hollywood turned him into a movie star.

Jimmy Stewart

A real combat pilot who flew dangerous bombing missions over Europe. Stewart rose to Brigadier General, making him one of Hollywood's highest-ranking veterans.

Clark Gable

At the height of his fame, Gable enlisted and flew combat missions as an aerial gunner. Even enemy forces reportedly placed a bounty on his head.

Bea Arthur

Long before sitcom fame, she served as a U.S. Marine Corps truck driver, supporting wartime operations with grit and discipline.

Charles Durning

A U.S. Army Ranger who survived the brutal D-Day landing at Omaha Beach. Wounded multiple times, his survival alone is considered remarkable.

Neville Brand

One of the most highly decorated soldiers of World War II. His intense combat experience shaped the hard-edged characters he later played on screen.

Christopher Lee

Served in British Special Forces during WWII. Much of his wartime service remains classified, adding real mystery to his legendary screen presence.

Julia Child

Before she changed American cooking, she worked for the OSS (the CIA's predecessor), contributing to wartime intelligence and research efforts.

*They didn't just play heroes.
They were heroes — when it truly
mattered.*

*Some legends are born on screen.
Others earn their legacy under fire.*



Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island

Early Photos from Parris Island, Beaufort, SC



THIRD THURSDAYS

📅 5:30p-8:30p (unless otherwise listed)

EVERY Third Thursday of the Month

📍 Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central



- EVERY Third Thursday of the month
- 5:30 PM-8:30 PM – Rain or shine (unless otherwise listed)
- Hutchinson Square, W. Richardson & Short Central

On the third Thursday of each month, Historic Downtown Summerville transforms into a special marketplace featuring local entertainment, craft vendors and artisans, to complement the extended hours of our eclectic shops, boutiques and restaurants.

Third Thursday traffic is rerouted from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM from the following streets; Little Main Street, W Richardson to Central (closed for traffic). There is plenty of FREE parking throughout the downtown including the town garage behind Town Hall.





Bill Dutour, Rifle Raffle Guy

Here are the results of our 2026 inaugural Rifle Raffle sales at Palmetto State Armory.

A big Thank You to Greg Knop, Michelle Besson & John Bacon for braving the cold and lending a hand. It definitely made the time go quicker. I'll bring a lighter next time for the space heater. Several members of the public expressed interest in coming out to the Post at the February meeting. They were invited and we hope they attend.

We had a good day with the following results:

⇒ Total Tickets Sold:	36
⇒ Gross Sales:	\$900
⇒ Cash Sales:	9 x \$25 = \$225
⇒ Charge Sales:	7 x \$25 = \$675
⇒ Square charges:	\$19.95
⇒ Donations:	\$5
⇒ Net to Post: (36 x \$10)	\$19.95 + \$5 = \$345.05

Dorchester County Veterans Affairs



Summerville

500 N. Main St.
Summerville, SC 29483

Please use the Main St.
Entrance.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

Phone: (843) 832-0050

St. George

201 Johnston Street
St. George, SC 29477

The St. George office is
located on the Raysor St.
side of the building, behind
DSS.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday

Phone: (843) 563-0116

The Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Office assists veterans and their families who reside in Dorchester County in all matters that pertain to veterans and Veteran Benefits. You can contact the Veterans Affairs office at (843) 832-0050 to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.

The Veterans Affairs office assists all ex-service personnel with financial compensation claims including but not limited to:

- Hospitalization
- Training
- Insurance Benefits

These services are extended to eligible dependents, including parents, widows, children and orphans of ex-service personnel.

If you need support for a specific mental health problem - or if you're having problems sleeping, controlling your anger, or readjusting to civilian life - you are not alone. You don't need to be enrolled in VA health care to get care. To access free VA mental health services right away:

- Call or walk-in to any VA Medical Center - anytime, day or night
- Call or walk-in to any Vet Center during clinic hours

If you have questions about enrolling in VA health care, please contact the VA via phone at 1-877-222-VETS (1-877-222-8387) Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST. Veterans with hearing loss are asked to use the TTY phone number 1-800-877-8339.

Newly separated service members can expect three calls from qualified VA Solid Start representatives over the first year of separation. VA will attempt to contact you several times around 90, 180 and 365 days post-separation, so make sure your contact information is up to date in eBenefits.

VA Solid Start representatives will not ask you for financial information and will only discuss topics you are comfortable with. Remember that phone scammers often target Veterans, so always be vigilant and protect your financial information when talking to someone you don't know over the phone.

For questions about VA Solid Start, call 1-800-827-0611, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST.

VA Clinics

Trident VA Clinic

9237 University Boulevard
North Charleston, SC 29406-8908
Phone: 843-574-1010

North Charleston VA Clinic

6450 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29406-4882
Phone: 843-818-5100

Charleston VA Clinic

2424 City Hall Lane
Community Resource & Referral Center
Suite B
North Charleston, SC 29406-6538
Phone: 843-789-6804
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Goose Creek VA Clinic

2418 NNPTC Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445-6314
Phone: 843-818-6999, ext. 343100
Mental health: 843-577-5011

Ralph H. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

109 Bee Street
Charleston, SC 29401-5799
Phone: 843-577-5011

Beaufort VA Clinic

1 Pinckney Boulevard
Beaufort, SC 29902-6122
Phone: 843-770-0444

