



The Hezzie Gazette

Official Newsletter of Hezzie Griffis American Legion Post 30

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Commander's Comments

I'm excited to share some important changes and initiatives that will shape our Post's future and enhance our impact in the community.

What's in a Name?.....Our History! If you have the eye of an American Bald Eagle you will have noticed that our newsletter now displays the name, "The Hezzie Gazette," Official Newsletter of American Legion Post 30. This name was selected by our executive committee to better identify our Post with our namesake PVT Hezzie Franklin Griffis.

As you read through this first edition you'll notice a new order of the articles along with guest articles and new sections from some of our members. The new sections share diverse perspectives from within our ranks that we believe will make our newsletter more engaging. If you have a story you'd like to share let us know. We'd be happy to include it in a future newsletter.

I'm also pleased to announce that Post 30 will have a regular presence in The Edgefield Advertiser. This increased visibility will help us showcase our activities, achievements, and the value we bring to the community. Our first article was published on July 24, 2024. If you did not get a chance to read it the next paragraph will let you know where you can access it.

Lastly, we've launched a new section on our website called "[The Post 30 Press](#)." It will serve as a central repository for all the latest news, updates, and events related to our Post and community activities. It includes photo galleries showcasing our community events along with articles we've published in The Edgefield Advertiser. This makes it easier for both our members and the community to engage with our Post. Take a

moment to visit our website and browse through "[The Post 30 Press](#)."

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to Post 30.

-- Winston Boddie, Post 30 Commander

Honoring Our Purple Heart Recipients



Wednesday, August 7th and the entire month of August are dedicated to paying our respects to the brave men and women wounded or killed in combat. These periods commemorate a historic day in 1782, during the American Revolutionary War, when General George Washington, Commander-In-Chief of the Continental Army, commissioned the first Purple Heart Medal. Originally called the Badge of Military Merit, only three were awarded.

The medal was later redesigned and re-commissioned in 1932 by General Douglas MacArthur and renamed the Purple Heart. It is the oldest military medal, first awarded to World War I soldiers wounded or killed in combat. According to the Purple Heart Foundation, recipients often call the Purple Heart as "the medal that nobody wants." It's unknown how many soldiers have received it.

Only about 500 women have been awarded the Purple Heart in the entire history of the military, says the Foundation. That may be due to the fact that women have only been able to serve in the U. S. military since the Women's Armed Services

Integration Act of 1948, three years after World War II. Here's a couple vignettes from the Purple Heart Foundation archives:

Antoinette Scott, an eight-year Washington D. C. Army National Guard member was among the first women from D.C. to receive the medal. Deployed to Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, she was driving a truck to the Baghdad Airport with a group of soldiers when they came under attack. Shrapnel from an explosive device tore into her face, breaking her jaw and a main vessel to her brain. "I touched my face thinking it was sweat and it was blood," she reportedly said. She survived.

Marlene Rodriguez served three tours in Iraq. Two roadside bomb explosions and a firefight left her with seizures from traumatic brain injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Even with disability that reportedly plagues her to this day, she was quoted as saying, "I miss it [the military] so much. Just the structure, the discipline, the leadership, the honor." Marlene is now retired.

If you believe you know someone who was not awarded the Purple Heart and might qualify, encourage them to apply. it's never too late. This Army website tells how: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Purple%20Heart>.

God bless!

--J. W. "Pete" Peterson, correspondent at large

Adjutant Advisory

Our Post is currently at 54 members. 17 members have paid their 2025 Dues so we are off to a great start! Let's keep the momentum going!

American Legion members can now take advantage of a three-year membership starting July 1, 2024. This is also called: Multiyear membership. Multiyear membership sign-up is ONLY available on the national American Legion website (legion.org/renew for Current members).

Current members CANNOT renew for a three-year membership at the local Post level.

A single year membership is still an option by going through me to pay your Dues.

National has set the membership goals for 2024-2025, and we're determined not just to meet them but to exceed them.

Here's our roadmap to success:

- September 11 – 50%
- October 16 – 55%
- November 14 – 65%
- December 11 – 75%
- January 15, 2025 – 80%
- February 12 – 85%
- March 12 – 90% • April 9 – 95%
- May 14 – 100%

Let's make 2024-2025 our strongest year yet! If you have questions about membership or know someone interested in joining, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We accept cash or check, and you can turn in your dues to me at our monthly meeting, or you can mail your check, made payable to American Legion Post 30, to:

American Legion Post 30
P.O. Box 30
Edgefield, SC 29824

Thank you for being part of our Post 30 family!
-- Jane Doolittle, Post 30 Adjutant

Happy Birthday Coasties



The United States Coast Guard celebrates its 234th birthday on August 4, 2024. It's a day to recognize the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting America's maritime interests here and around the world. They're our policemen on the block, humanitarian helpers, and protectors all in one. The Coast Guard began in 1790 to enforce trade and tariff

laws, prevent smuggling, and protect federal revenue. Responsibilities expanded over time to include humanitarian duties, such as helping mariners in distress, deter terrorist attacks on the seas, enforce laws, increase port security, search and rescue, and even combat operations.

The United States Coast Guard today, although a comparatively small seafaring military service under the Department of Homeland Security, it is the world's 12th largest naval force. Among assets are roughly 250 cutters (masted boats), patrol ships, buoy tenders, tugs, and icebreakers, and another 200 small boats and specialized craft. An aviation division of 200 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft augment the fleet. But the heart of the Coast Guard is the more than 43,000 active duty, 8,000 reservists, and 31,000 uniformed volunteers whom we honor on this birthday. They do an awesome job even in combat.

During World War II, portions of the Coast Guard were transferred to the Department of Defense to augment fighting forces. One volunteer for Pacific duty brought particular lasting honor and pride to the fold. He was Signalmen First Class Douglas Albert Munro, who in 1942 under intense enemy fire led the rescue of nearly 500 endangered Marines during landings at Guadalcanal. Munro was mortally wounded. For his bravery, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the only Coast Guardsman to ever receive this award.

--J. W. "Pete" Peterson, correspondent at large

Chaplain's Corner

"The Man Behind the Curtain"

We are in the midst of one of the strangest national election cycles that I can recall in my lifetime. I try to avoid getting entangled in political debates, as it feels like there can be no "winner." The pundits and media I see online and on TV seem to be mud-slinging more at their opponents than truly addressing the issues and being honest about themselves. It is hard for me to trust any of them. But I will do my duty and go to the polls come election time.

Before I do, however, I am reminded what Jesus said when he was talking about truth, integrity, and real character. Jesus was rebuking the religious leaders when he told them in Matthew 23:25-26 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they

are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean." Jesus was saying that we should clean up our act inside before we profess to be something we are not on the outside.

I am also reminded of a scene from one of my favorite movies of all-time, The Wizard of Oz. When Dorothy and her fellow travelers are in the great hall of Oz's throne room for the first time, they witness a large eerie image and flames and a loud voice saying, "I am the great and terrible Oz!" The curious dog Toto notices something going on behind the curtain, which is the real Oz, working levers, and he wanders over there, drawing the others' attention to it. "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!" shouts the figure of Oz from the throne. Man, if that isn't a warning from 1939 that is just as timely today! It is indeed more important to pay attention to what is behind the scenes than the smoke and mirrors they are showing us on the outside! Politicians will spew angry rhetoric and sales pitches all day long because they want your vote and your money. But pay close attention to their real character. Who is on the inside? Do your own research. And don't get caught up with the crowd but be smart when you vote. Most importantly, pay attention to what is on your inside. Is your character consistent on the inside with what you profess on the outside? I pray we all strive for that.

Blessings,

-- William Beaver, Post 30 Chaplain

HUMOR IN UNIFORM

This is a new section we will periodically have in the newsletter. All of us have a funny story or two from our time in uniform. You know, the ones we tell when we're sitting around reminiscing with others. If you have a humorous story you'd like to share let us know.

Arriving at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, I was issued a one-size-fits-all flack vest that weighed a ton and had laces all over. I wondered why an aviator would want this medieval-looking men's wear outfit and threw it in the bottom of my locker. At 1:00 AM the next morning I heard a loud "Kaboom!" I instinctively rolled out of my bed hitting the floor. I hollered to my hootch mate who was also awakened, "What do you think that was?" He answered nonchalantly, "probably just a rocket!" I crawled in darkness to my locker to retrieve my flack

vest only to discover it didn't fit. It did when daylight came!

--J. W. "Pete" Peterson, correspondent at large

On the Horizon

We are gearing up for an exciting fall and winter season! Here are a few highlights to mark on your calendars:

September Meeting: Don't miss our upcoming meeting where Post 30 and the Auxiliary will welcome our Boys State and Girls State delegates along with their families. They will share their experiences and insights, and we will present them with certificates to honor their participation.

Fall Pecan Fundraiser: We are preparing for our annual pecan fundraiser, planning to offer the same selection and quantity as last year. Stay tuned for details on when pre-sales will begin!

Annual Christmas Party: Join us for our Christmas party on December 19 at 1800 at the Post! It will be catered by 3rd Generation Catering & Restaurant. Tickets will be available for pre-sale only, starting in September and ending on December 1. The ticket price will be determined during our August meeting when we finalize the menu. We are also looking for volunteers to join the Christmas Party committee. If you're interested, please let us know!

Calendar of Events

August 10, 2024

Quadrant 2 Membership Workshop at 1000, Cayce Post 130, 402 Naples Ave, Cayce

August 15, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830. Diner menu: Chris's famous pork chops, green beans with new potatoes and dessert will be Winston's peach cobbler.

August 22-29, 2024

2024 National Convention, New Orleans, LA

September 14, 2024

District 17 Meeting at 1000, Saluda Post 65, 108 South Rudolph St, Saluda

September 19, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830. Boys State and Girls State delegates and their families will attend.

October 17, 2024

Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 1800, meeting at 1830.

October 25-27, 2024

2024 SC Fall Conference, The Columbia Marriott, 1200 Hampton St, Columbia

NOTE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING:

You must call Winston Boddie (803-761-2508) or email the post no later than the Monday prior to our scheduled meeting so we can have an accurate headcount for dinner.