

AMERICAN LEGION

Chapin American Legion Post 193

Commander

December 2023



Thank you for your continued service!

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

I sent out our intention to open the post to watch college football bowl games and the Super Bowl. Please let us know if you plan on attending and which games are of interest. Alan Aimar and Steve Goulet have the lead. We will call on other EC members to support as travel/family takes the lead during this season.

As we celebrate, reach out to each other to ensure no one is left alone or in need of help. Many members will be traveling this holiday, so we need each other to step into the role of watching out for our battle buddies, especially when we lack normal meeting times. Our Executive Committee and Chaplains stand ready to answer questions or get assistance to veterans. Contact us anytime.

Commander: Mark Harvey, Commander@americanlegionpost193.com (note domain name)

1st Vice Commander: Richard Nielen, 1stvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org

2nd Vice Commander: Donna Tsukayama, 2ndvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org

3rd Vice Commander: Jerry LeBar, 3rdvicecdr@americanlegionpost193.org

Adjutant: Steve Goulet, adjutant@americanlegionpost193.org

Finance Officer: David Shealy, financeoff@americanlegionpost193.org

JAG: David Knight, JAG@americanlegionpost193.org

Veteran Service Officer: Moses Cohen, vso@americanlegionpost193.org

Chaplain: Richard Mullinax, chaplain@americanlegionpost193.org

Facility Manager: David Schimsa, facilitymgr@americanlegionpost193.org

AL Rider Director: Walt Richardson, ALR193@americanlegionpost193.org

Sgt at Arms: Mike Rowley, mike11661@yahoo.com

Historian: Linda Warren, hist@americanlegionpost193.org

Auxiliary Unit President: Carmen Goulet, aux193@americanlegionpost193.org

Please get and stay involved. We are doing our veterans and the community good when we are active.

Mark Harvey/For God and Country/In Service

Veteran Help Line: Dial 988, option 1



Adjutant



Wow! What an amazing year it has been. Chapin American Legion Post 193 has had a very busy year making a difference in the lives of Veterans and citizens in the Chapin Community. If you happen to have a little time over the Holiday period just take a minute or so and browse back over the last 12 months of Post newsletters. I am sure like me you will be amazed at what we have been able to accomplish. You have certainly made a difference.

Our fundraising for the new building has been almost unbelievable. Dave and the New Building Committee have done a fantastic job getting us to this point and I believe we can all see the light at the end of the tunnel. Moving forward I am sure that there will be some bumps along the way and unexpected situations will arise. We must all lean forward in the foxhole and be supportive of Dave and the New Building Committee as I am sure once they break ground a new level of stress will come over each of them. Like each of you I am excited about 2024, it will be amazing!

The Wreaths Across America escort and unloading detail at the Ft. Jackson National Cemetery on the 16th of December went very well! The next phase we need assistance with is recovering all the wreaths at the cemetery. The date for cleanup is Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 0800. Last year it took us about 3 hours or so to finish collecting and stacking all the wreaths. The more volunteers we have the faster we will get done. If you can attend, please let me know.

Our membership is going well, we are currently at 89.49% of our membership goal for 2024 which exceeds our December 13th target goal of 75%. Since we have started taking memberships for 2024, we have added 26 NEW members to our roster! Would appreciate everyone renewing their dues as soon as possible but no worries if you do not, as your 2023 membership is good until December 31, 2023. If you want to pay your annual dues online visit @[Renew my membership NOW!](#). Just hold down the Ctrl key, hover over the link and right click. You will be taken to the site to renew; you only need your membership number and credit card.

May you and your families have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

Steven Goulet/" We Can Build It"/For God and Country

First Vice Commander



We are currently taking nominations for the Legionnaire of the Year Award. If you have someone in our post that you feel is deserving and you would like to nominate, please contact me at PH: 781-290-7154 / rhnielen@hotmail.com or Steve Goulet the Post Adjutant. We will be voting on the nominations at the January Post Meeting.

The initial batch of award requests were sent out last month to Law Enforcement and Firefighter organizations within the Chapin area with the information and instructions for the various awards. The suspense dates for their return will be NLT Midnight, 3 January 2024. We will conduct a review of

their submitted information forms on 8 January 2024, and meet the Department deadline of 11 January.

The Teacher of the Year Award information and instructions will be sent to the local area schools after the holiday season. This year input is not required until the 15th of February at the Department level. This is the same date for the Scouting Awards.

We **have scheduled the next recruitment drives at Boland's ACE Hardware for the first part of** next year. We will be conducting the recruiting efforts on the following dates of 20 January, 17 February, and 16 March. These dates are the 3rd Saturday in each of those months. We can also use this for the rifle raffle sale of tickets.

Richard Nielen/For God and Country

Facility Manager/NBC



Reminders on Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast - coffee on by 0700, chow served at 0830, line closes at 0900, stay as long as you like, breakfast is for Veterans only (no need to be a Post member), and no Monday Morning Veterans Breakfast on 25 December or 1 January.

New Building Committee

We have received \$1,092,000 to date & and a \$10,000 commitment prior to year-end for the Building Fund. So we will be well over \$1.1 M by 1 January. We have also received donations of \$42, 000 towards the dollar for dollar match up to \$50,000 incentive from one of our Post members. With the \$10,000 commitment, we surpassed the \$50,000 target. Thanks to all!! Another big thanks to John Fabian for cutting the grass and keeping the new Post site looking good. We also received a donation of a large commercial fan **and hood for our new kitchen. "**

Merry Christmas!

David Schimsa/For God and Country

ALR Director



As Christmas rapidly approaches, Anne and I would like to take this time to wish you and your family a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. As we celebrate this time of year with our family and friends, let us not forget all the US Armed Forces stationed around the world that are providing us this opportunity to celebrate this joyous season. Please remember these service members with your thoughts and prayers during these holidays.

We all know that this time of year is our busiest time of the year, and this year was certainly no exception. On December 3, ALR 193 took part in the Blue Knights-USMC Toys for Tots Ride and right after that, 193 met Chapter 166 (Goose Creek) in St. Matthews for the transfer of cremains for our Unclaimed Veterans Interment. The Newberry Boys Farm Toy Run, December 9, is certainly one of the events that we always attend. We left

Boland's Ace Hardware and went to The Newberry Shrine Club to provide toys for the boys at The Newberry Boys Farm. On Sunday, December 10 we had the Dorn VA Ride where Christmas necessities were delivered to the veterans at Dorn VA.

Friday, December 15, was a very busy day for the Riders of 193. In the morning, we had what has become our signature event. Chapter 193 conducted an Unclaimed Veterans Internment at Fort Jackson National Cemetery. With a Law Enforcement escort, Chapter 193 transported the cremains of previously unclaimed veterans to a full military funeral and their final resting place at FJNC. Later that day we had our annual Christmas party at Dave and Marthalyne Schimsa's home. A fine event this was, great fellowship, wonderful food, very nice beverages, and an outside bonfire for our enjoyment. A great time was had by all, a big THANK YOU to Dave and Marthalyne for hosting this annual event.

The Richard Strobel Wreaths Across America Escort took place on Saturday, December 16. American Legion Riders escorted the truck carrying the wreaths that were to be placed on every gravesite at Fort Jackson National Cemetery. After escorting the truck, riders assisted with unloading the truck, setting up for distribution of the wreaths to the graves, and getting the wreaths to the graves.

Due to the level of activities that the Riders take part in during this time of year, we cancelled our December Riders meeting. Now it is time to put our kick stands up and get back to activities that promote The American Legion. Our next Riders Meeting will be on January 16. Please plan on attending this meeting, things are going to start happening and happening fast. In February, we have the Legacy Pre-Ride to Myrtle Beach. In March Chapter 90 requested our assistance with a blessing of the bikes ride, more info to come later. April is a very busy month, we are contemplating a ride to Athens, Ohio, and Chapter 193 has The Legacy Ride for Children and Veterans. More info on these events to follow.

June 20 -23, we have the ALR ROMP. This event will take place at Post 186 in Little River. Registration for this event will open online on January 1. We still have to provide a basket for the Silent Raffle for the ROMP.

RIDING SEASON is rapidly approaching, if you have any ideas for a ride, please let Rich, our Ride Coordinator, know your idea.

Once again, Anne and I wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please RED, Remember Everyone Deployed, during this joyous season.

Walt Richardson/For God and Country

Chaplain's Corner



"BE THE ONE" is our national program and with our Post leadership I think that our Post has taken the challenge very seriously. Tom Yeoman has done a **Yeoman's job (Navy term) of leading this team and a big thank you to the 193 members** that have supported him. It would be hard to determine the impact a phone call might make in the life of our comrades.

Jesus calls us to be our brother's keeper and tells us just how important it is to show our love for one another.

Your call this Christmas may be the only call that some member gets this Christmas season. Your expression of love may be the only love that they feel. I believe that when you have a **person come to your mind and attention that it is God's way of giving you an opportunity to honor God, serve your fellow man and to receive a blessing yourself.** Ask the person that you call to share a personal story from their childhood or youth with you or possibly from their service days. It may be the most memorable gift that you will receive this year.

Find time to read the Christmas story or have a grand or great grand read it. Look in "Luke's Gospel" or google it.

Merry Christmas and may the Joy of Christmas fill your house, your Family and your heart.

Chaplain Richard Mullinax/For God and Country

Comrade Care List:

Our Post Family has lost several members this year. Christmas can be a very difficult time for those that have lost a family member. **I'm** hoping that all of our members that have lost a family member, live alone or in assisted care will get several calls and visits during the Christmas season. If you discover a need, please let me know and we will follow up.

Remember Jim Major and his Dad
Remember Richard Royer, second knee replacement
Remember Walt Richardson, shoulder surgery

Remember Betsy Harvey
Remember James Blackwell

Auxiliary



Hello ladies. Harriet Wilson has agreed to run our Americanism program with the schools. She will be visiting the schools and getting them the program materials in January or February. We are happy to participate in the Cookies for Soldiers again this year along with Francis Bissett and her crew. We will deliver the cookies to Ft. Jackson on the 22nd of December.

Good news! The Greater Chapin Community Foundation has again this year awarded our Unit a grant in the amount of \$1,075 for 2024 for Palmetto Girls State Program.

We need new Leaders, if you would like to serve in any of the Unit positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary etc) please let me know as soon as possible. We have a lot of good people in our Unit and I would like to see some of you step up and fill these positions. Those filling the current positions will certainly be available to assist in your transition into your new roles.

We also have a need for someone to head our Labor Day fundraiser committee as well as people to step up and work on the committee. We will need a fundraiser that will make enough money to fund at least five Girls State delegates. We should start this project earlier this year and keep in mind that if the labor day event is cancelled due to weather we will not make the money we anticipate.

Our Unit has a great group of ladies and I want you to know I appreciate all you do in your service to our Veterans. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Carmen Goulet/President



NORWEGIAN JOY WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE 9-16 NOV 2024



Planning your 2024 vacation?
Consider our Post 193 Fundraiser Cruise.

Post activities and events

- 20 Dec: Space Force Birthday (May the Force be with you!)
- 25 Dec: Merry Christmas! (no veteran breakfast)
- 1 Jan: Happy New Year (no veteran breakfast)
- 4 Jan: Executive Committee Mtg, 1815-1915, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 8 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
BINGO setup. 1630-1730. Post Building. POC: Matt Zambrano
- 9 Jan: BINGO 1730-2200, Ole Oak Barn, 1155 Holy Trinity Church Rd, Little Mountain.
POC: Floyd Rogers. Come help or play.
- 10 Jan: Wreaths Across America cleanup Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, 0800. POC Steve Goulet. (Bring a broom stick and work gloves)
- 11 Jan: Post 193/Aux Meetings with Dinner 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Steve Goulet
- 15 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1030-1600, Post Building. POC: Linda Tucker
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 16 Jan: ALR Meeting and Dinner, 1800-2000, Post Building. POC: Walt Richardson
Chapin Town Meeting, Pledge of Allegiance, 1800. POC: Moses Cohen **We need volunteers to lead the pledge Feb 24 – Dec 24 – POC: Gerard Lebar 3rd Vice Cmdr.**
- 20 Jan: Oratorical Contest. 1100-1400. Post Building. POC: Bill LaRoche
- 22 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa 7 Dec:
- 29 Jan: Veteran Breakfast 0800-1030, Post Building. POC: Dave Schimsa
- Post is open (generally) M-W-F 1000-1400. This will vary during the holidays due to travel.

For a complete listing of Post 193 activities visit: [Events Calendar \(americanlegionpost193.com\)](https://americanlegionpost193.com)
You can find a great deal of info on our Post website at www.americanlegionpost193.com or on our Facebook page [Chapin American Legion Post 193 | Chapin SC | Facebook](#)

If you are not receiving communications from the Commander at least on a weekly basis, please check your spam folder and, if that is not the problem, let the Adjutant know so the problem can be resolved.

HERE AND THERE



FUNDRAISING FOR OUR NEW POST HOME IS GOING VERY WELL.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS ARE ALWAYS A LOT OF FUN.



NEWBERRY BOYS FARM TOY RUN

Closed out 2024 Honoring those that have gone on before us. On 15 December we laid to rest seven previously Unclaimed Veterans who served in the the Army Navy and Air Force.



Many members from Post 193 and volunteers from across the Midlands came out to Fort Jackson National Cemetery to unload and stage the wreaths for the 1200 ceremony.



On the 16th of December our ALR Chapter conducted an early morning escort in support of the Wreaths Across America program at Ft. Jackson.

