

May 1, 2009



Volume 3, Issue 05

A Gold Star Mother's meaning of Memorial Day

The Patriot



Georgette Frank's son Lance Cpl. Philip Frank, 20, was killed in Fallujah by sniper fire on April 8, 2004. She wrote this essay on the real meaning of Memorial Day.

Dear Friends,

In the past I would look forward to Memorial Day. It represented the beginning of the summer season at the Jersey Shore and a three-day weekend.

Then we lost our Phil in Iraq.

Memorial Day has now become a day of reflection and remembrance. It is a day to remember all of our Fallen Heroes from all of the wars. It is a day to think about the families that will forever grieve for their lost loved one. It is a day to be thankful to those who have served and made the ultimate sacrifice. They fought and died to win the freedom and democracy that we Americans cherish so dearly. They also fought and died to bring that same freedom and democracy to the people of other countries as well. As the family of a Fallen Hero, we are so proud of our loved ones who knowingly put themselves in harm's way so that they could make a difference in the lives of others.

I would like to share an excerpt from a sermon by John Hagee:

"I want you to close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge, as he holds his musket in his bloody hand. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred for the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war. He stands though, with fire in his eyes and victory on his breath. He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us this. ..." "I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it. I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains. I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech, and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business. I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.

"It's the soldier, not the poet, who gives you the freedom of speech".

"It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who allows you to demonstrate".

"It's the soldier, who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protester to burn the flag!"

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

Take a moment this Memorial Day to share the pride that we, the families of the Fallen Heroes, feel. Georgette Frank

..The Editor

Fort Mill VFW
All American
Post 9138
1442 Harris Rd.
Fort Mill, SC - 29715
803.547.5480
www.vfw9138.org

Inside this issue:
Commander News 2
Quartermaster News 2
Ladies Aux. President 2
Men's Auxiliary 2
Monthly News 2, 3, 4
Sponsors 3
Monthly Calendar 4

Officers for 2008-2009

House Committee: Rob Elkin, Jim Welch, Denver Tenney, Bill Trask, Ralph Best and Chairman, Art Courtemanche

- VFW Post 9138 Officers
Commander.....Bill Trask
Sr. Vice Cmdr.....John Marker
Jr. Vice Cmdr.....Rob Elkin
Quartermaster.....Ralph Best
Chaplin.....Steve Giles
Surgeon.....Monroe Tiller
Judge Adv.....Art Courtemanche
3 Yr. Trustees... ..Glenn Harris
2 Yr. Trustee...Larry Clinton, Sr
1 Yr. Trustee.....Sam Griffin
Membership.....Bill Trask

- Ladies Auxiliary Officers
President.....Anne Cash
Sr. Vice Pres. ....Sarah Clinton
Jr. Vice Pres.....Pam Elkin
Treasurer.....Kim Trask
Secretary.....Carolyn Griffith
Chaplain.....Kathy Shirley
Conductress.....Pam Fleetwood
Guard.....Frances Howe
3 Yr Trustee.....Elaine Marker
2 Yr Trustee.....Anne Cain
1 Yr Trustee..Charlotte Podgorski

- Men Auxiliary Officers
President.....Scott Collins
Sr.Vice Pres. ....Jerald Efird
Jr.Vice Pres.....Vacant
Treasurer. ....Dan Rollins
Secretary.....Dan Rollins
Chaplain.....Russel Planer
3 Yr Trustee.....David Cash
2 Yr Trustee.....Paul Skinner
1 Yr Trustee.....Lou Illiano



## A Note from the Commander

As we come into May we have a lot still to do to complete the year. Loyalty Day and Memorial Day are both this month. The post will have a Loyalty Day program on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will be taking part in the York County Memorial Day program at Lakeview Cemetery in York on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. I want to thank all of you for what we have been able to accomplish this year. We have expanded our Community Service program and our membership is over 100%. This could not be accomplished without the combined efforts of the entire post. I look forward to another year as Commander with a new team of officers. If you are planning to go to the Department Convention, registration forms are available on the State website and at the post for both the convention and hotel rooms. In closing I just want to say "Great Job This Year" and lets keep up the work next year. Bill Trask:  
wtrask@gmail.com

## From the Quartermaster

Our prayers go out to Sherri Bivens who lost Thomas ( Pee Wee) Baker this past week and we ask that everyone remember her in their prayers as she endures this loss. We ask that you keep our shut ins in your prayers also. Thanks to all for your patronage and hard work at the post  
Ralph Best: ralph.best@gmail.com

## News from Ladies Auxiliary President

The summer months are here and we will be having lots of things going on at the Post. I know everyone is busy with work, family and just summer fun but come out and support the Post when we have functions. Our monthly meeting will be May 11 see you there. .  
Anne Cash: acash09@yahoo.com

## News from the Men's Auxiliary

. We completed our election of new officers for the 2009-2010 year last month. We had a good participation this year, thanks to all who volunteered to serve as officers for the Auxiliary. We're looking forward to a great year and participating with the Women's Auxiliary and Post on several exciting projects they have in mind. If you have not done so yet, please stop by the Post and renew your membership for 2009 and enjoy the many services available to all members. Hope to see many more Men's' Auxiliary members at our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. Looking forward to putting plans together for more fun and rewarding projects in the months to come.  
Dan Rollins / Treasurer: darwjr@yahoo.com

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

We have several members of our VFW family that could use a call or card. Contact the Post for their names, telephone numbers and addresses. If you know any comrades or families in distress, please let us know. God bless our men and women in the military. ....Steve Giles

## Veterans lose advocate

Thomas Baker (Pee Wee) , husband of Sheri Bivens, was recently killed in a motorcycle accident. As some of you know, Sheri is our past Canteen Manager. Pee Wee and Sheri volunteered their time and money for Veterans. Pee Wee not only helped in putting together fundraisers through Poker runs, he and Sheri were instrumental in raising the money to cover the cost of postage for our 'Postage for Troops' program. Through their efforts, they raised enough to pay the Postage for 100 boxes which was shipped to the local National Guard unit (178th), that was deployed in Afghanistan. Even though Pee Wee was not a veteran, he was committed to helping them. Thank you Pee Wee. You will be missed.

## From the Editor

The newsletter is looking for a new editor. I have served as the editor for the last 6 years. As with any publication, there comes a time when fresh ideas are needed. This is a great opportunity for someone to take over this award winning publication. If you are interested, or would like more information, please let us know.

John Marker - jmarker@carolina.rr.com

**Election Results**

**Post Election Results**

Commander: Bill Trask, Sr Vice Commander: Art Courtemanche, Jr Vice Commander: Richard Gagnon, Quartermaster: Ralph Best, Judge Advocate: Bob Wiltz, Chaplain: Rob Elkins, Surgeon: Hal Rutter, 3yr Trustee: Sam Griffin, 2yr Trustee: Glenn Harris, 1yr Trustee: Larry Clinton

**District Election Results**

Commander: Bill Trask- 9138 Fort Mill, Sr Vice Commander: John Hill-6732 Clover, Jr Vice Commander: Wayne Johnson-6732 Clover, Quartermaster: Paul Hicks- 2889 Rock Hill, Judge Advocate: Jim Luchs-2889 Rock Hill, Chaplain: Charlton Blanks-5930 Chester, Surgeon: Doc Sweet-2889 Rock Hill, 3yr Trustee: Glenn Harris-9138 Fort Mill, 2yr Trustee: Jeff Payne- 8990 Kershaw, 1yr Trustee: Sam Griffin-9138 Fort Mill

We would like to congratulate Sam Griffin on the recent elections at the Fort Mill American Legion. Sam will serve as the Commander for 2009-2010. The Fort Mill VFW looks forward to working with the Legion on mutual projects.

Congratulations are also in order for Sarah Clinton, who was elected District 5 President for the Ladies Auxiliary.

**Our Sponsors**

**Business card Ads ( 2" x 4") Promote you products or services (see ad below)**  
\*\*\* New pricing- \$15 a month or \$150 a year (2 free months) . Call the Post for details: 803.547.5480



**WorldWideWeb Foundry**

Internet Solutions Forged from Creativity and Innovation

- Website Hosting
- Email Hosting
- Server Hosting
- Dedicated Server Management
- Remote Administration Services

**Bill Trask**  
Senior IT Administrator

Email: bill@w3f.biz  
Phone: (803) 493-2014

If you are interested in an ad, and do not have one, let us design one for free!

Our new advertising rates makes this one of the best media deals around.

Marketing | **Ad Design**



**Business**

MAIN PAGE  
ABOUT US  
NEWS  
SERVICES  
CONTACTS

**The Patriot**  
Fort Mill VFW

**The National Domestic Violence Hotline®**

PSA

Break the Silence, Make the Call  
**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**  
**www.ndvh.org**

This **Public Service Announcement**  
Is sponsored by the Fort Mill VFW



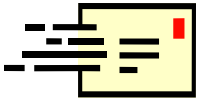
John VanderVoort  
Humana, Inc.  
420 The Parkway, Ste M  
Greer, SC 29650  
864.968.2307 - Office  
704.808.1022 - Cell

**VFW Sponsored**  
**Medicare Advantage and Part D**  
**Pinnacle Financial Services, Broker of Record**



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 All American Post 9138™  
 1442 Harris Road  
 Fort Mill, SC 29715

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Permit No. 12



Memorial Day  
 2009



[www.vfw9138.org](http://www.vfw9138.org)

“Honoring the dead by helping the living”



*May 2009*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HD-TV Sports	Support your Post	Happy Hour 5-7pm	Socialize with veterans And families	HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	1 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	2 HD-TV Sports
3 HD-TV Sports	4 Support your Post	5 Happy Hour 5-7pm	6 Socialize with veterans And families	7 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	8 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	9 HD-TV Sports
10 HD-TV Sports	11 <b>HC 5:45 Reg. Mting 7:00pm</b>	12 Happy Hour 5-7pm	13 Socialize with veterans And families	14 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	15 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	16 HD-TV Sports
17 HD-TV Sports	18 Support your Post	19 <b>Men's Aux. Meeting 7pm</b>	20 Socialize with veterans And families	21 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	22 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	23 HD-TV Sports
24 <b>York County Ceremony – LakeView Cem.</b>	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26 Happy Hour 5-7pm	27 Socialize with veterans And families	28 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	29 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	30 HD-TV Sports
31 HD-TV Sports	Support your Post	Happy Hour 5-7pm	Socialize with veterans And families	HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	HD-TV Sports