



Richard H. Stewart, Jr.

American Legion Post 543

**General Membership Interactive Open
Forum Virtual Meeting**

WELCOME !



Open Forum

NC
Post
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Discussion By Area We Serve



American Legion – Who We Are

Veterans Still Serving America

In March 1919, while waiting to return home from WWI, members of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) met in Paris. Led by Lt. Col Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, they began by focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 and was founded on four pillars: **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.**

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

National Security

Americanism

Children & Youth



American Legion Post 543 – Who We Are

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Our Vision:

Serve veterans under the four pillars of the American Legion & take care of one another.

Goals:

- **Nurture a culture of service to veterans and their families**
- **Strive to meet the needs of our fellow Post members and local area veterans.**
- **Provide support and assistance to veterans' programs.**
- **Grow membership participation in the ongoing efforts of our Post.**
- **Partner with external organizations to improve Post programs.**
- **Comply with Department, Division and District requirements.**

Vet Affairs & Rehab

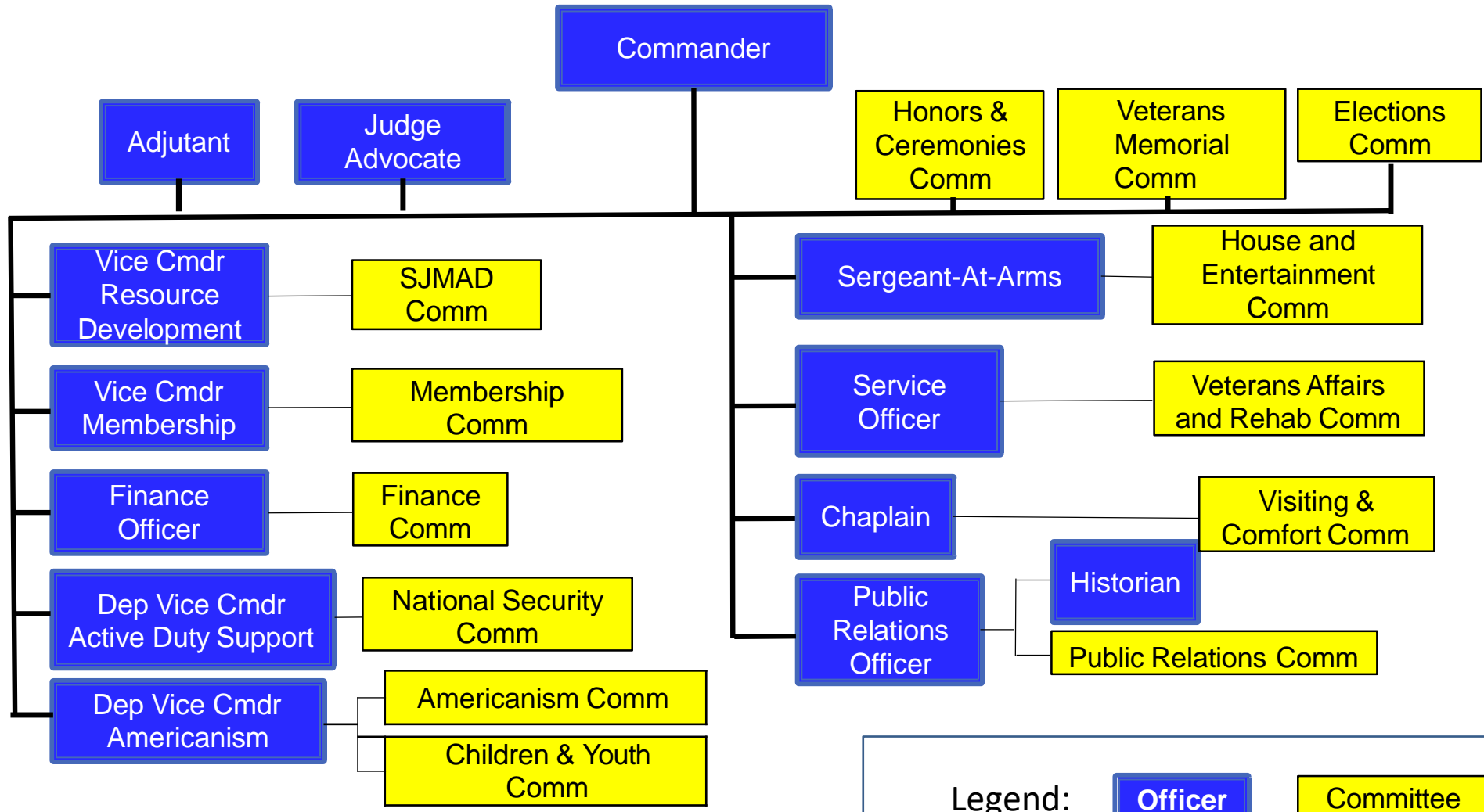
National Security

Americanism

Children & Youth



Post 543 Structure



Legend: Officer Committee



Memorial Committee

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The Veterans Memorial honors our nation's Armed Forces. This beautiful black and gray granite monument is located in front of the St. James Town Hall.

Post 543 conducts ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other appropriate occasions.

The walkways surrounding the monument are composed of engraved ceremonial bricks containing the inscriptions honoring friends and family members of their donors.

Memorial Committee insures SJP Veteran Memorial is properly maintained

- Leads the effort to raise funds by selling commemorative bricks
- Orders new bricks and have them installed





Adjutant

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Mission: Serves as Post Chief of Staff, responsible for all administrative requirements of the Post

- Primary advisor to Commander on administrative matters
- Records and publishes minutes of all meetings
- Assists the work of other Post officers and Committee leads
- Publishes official orders, announcements, and instructions
- Assists in the preparation of official reports to Division and National Headquarters



Vice Commander – Resource Development (SJMAD)

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MISSION: The mission of the St James Military Appreciation Day (SJMAD) Committee is to plan and conduct the primary fund-raising events to generate Post 543's annual operating funds.

SJMAD consists of two events:

1. Patriotic Concert in the Park, May 29, 2021 @ Woodlands Park

- Revenue from concert tickets and raffle tickets

2. SJMAD Golf Tournament, July 10, 2021 @ Members Club

- Sources of Revenue:
 - Local businesses; recognized by tee signs, pin flags, and advertising throughout the year
 - St James and Arbor Creek neighborhoods; recognized by tee signs and ad in our local newspaper
 - Golf tournament fees, shirt sales, raffle and mulligan tickets



Patriotic Concert in the Park

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We need your help to:

- Sell tickets to the concert in advance and at the gate.
- Help with set up and tear down before and after the concert



SJMAD Golf Tournament

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Wounded Warrior Golf Ball Donations



Neighborhood Tee Sign



Business Donor Banner



Foursome Enjoying Tournament

We need your help to:

- Solicit Businesses for Monetary & 'In-Kind' Donations
- Serve As Neighborhood Captain to Solicit Neighbor Donations
- Help with set up and tear down before and after the tournament
 - Prepare Golf Carts
 - Set up Pin Flags
 - Install Tee Signs



Honors & Ceremonies

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MISSION: The Honors & Ceremonies Committee plans, prepares and conducts veteran funeral honors, ceremonies, and parades on behalf of Post 543. In conducting these activities, the committee will establish the standard in military bearing and appearance for Post 543.

- Honor Guard conducts formal Military Funeral Honors for fallen veterans
- Color Guard presents Colors at monthly Post meetings and for local organizations
- Color Guard participates in local parades (4th of July, Veterans Day, Christmas parade, etc.)
- Organize, plan and conduct:
 - Memorial Day Ceremony
 - 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony
 - Veterans Day Ceremony
 - Wreaths For The Fallen
- Maintenance and rotation of flags at Cape Fear Memorial Park
- Maintain and secure all ceremonial equipment





Ceremonies & Honors Activities

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Posting Colors For Monthly Meeting



Marching in Local Parades



Wreaths For The Fallen Ceremony



Conducting Funeral Honors



Memorial Day & Veterans Day Ceremonies



Judge Advocate

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MISSION: To provide the post with accurate and timely legal support.

- Perform legal research on diverse subjects as requested or independently.
- Compose legal advice documents based on that research.
- Review documents required by the federal or state government to maintain our charitable status.
- Locate and provide the necessary forms needed by the federal or state government for assorted purposes.
- Complete forms required by the federal or state government, as needed.
- Consult with Judge Advocates from the Department and from National, when required.
- Arrange for and supervise outside legal counsel when necessary.





Membership Committee

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MISSION: Chaired by the Vice Commander – Membership, the Membership Committee supports current members to improve individual member retention and participation and secures new members to attain Legion membership goals. In coordination with fellow Post Officers and Committees, the Membership Committee recognizes and supports current members, and actively pursues programs to secure new members.





Finance Officer

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MISSION: Oversees all Post financial matters and perform duties assigned by the Commander, including:

- Maintaining all Post Banking and Investment Account records.
- Preparing a detailed Monthly Financial Report for EXCOMM and General Membership Meetings.
- Ensuring Post Insurance is current and Government License and IRS Tax Documents are submitted on a timely basis.
- Coordinating the annual Finance Audit of Post Financial Records.



Finance Committee

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MISSION: The Finance Committee prepares the annual budget, monitors budget execution, and recommends to the Executive Committee any changes or alterations of the budget.

- The Finance Officer is the Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- The Finance Committee receives budget requests and/or adjustments from each Budget Lead.
- The Finance Committee coordinates potential changes to budget requests/adjustments with the applicable Budget Lead prior to submitting the budget to the Executive Committee for approval.
- With Executive Committee approval, the Post Budget is presented to the General Membership for approval.





Active Duty Support

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MISSION: Chaired by the Vice Commander for Active Duty Support, the Active Duty Committee supports active duty members stationed within the area proximal to Post 543 to improve service members' morale and demonstrate community support. In coordination with military leadership, we host active duty members at various events, and provide personal support and mentorship. Current projects include:

- Marines golf tournament, which any active duty member can play in. The Post provides transportation from Camp LeJeune to St. James and back.
- Thanksgiving Dinner with St. James. Service members who are away from home enjoy Thanksgiving with a St James family.
- Support of Operation North State Fishing Tournament. Post members help with set up and registration and interact with Wounded Warriors and disabled veterans.
- Collaboration with Operation North State to send "care packages" to North Carolina service members away from home during the Holidays. All items are made in North Carolina. Funding provided by the Post.
- Maintaining liaison with Coast Guard Station Oak Island and Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal.



Active Duty Support

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Wounded Warrior Pier Fishing



US Coast Guard Station Oak Island



Marines Birthday Party



Hosting Marines At Thanksgiving



Marine Golf Tournament



Americanism Committee

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MISSION: Chaired by the Deputy Vice Commander – Americanism, the Committee develops and implements educational and leadership programs focused on patriotism and citizenship. The Committee works with educational institutions and other organizations supporting Americanism within Post 543's geographical area. Programs include:

- JRTOC Instruction at South Brunswick Senior High School
- JROTC Shooting Team Sponsor
- Annual Oratorical Contest
- Blue Star Family Recognition
- Memorial Day Poppy Distribution
- Law enforcement Officer of the Year
- EMT/Firefighter of the Year



Americanism

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Teaching SBHS JROTC Classes



Blue Star Families



Poppies Donation Campaign



Legion Oratorical Contest



SBHS JROTC Shooting Team



Children & Youth Committee

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MISSION: The Children and Youth Committee works with educational institutions and organizations providing Children and Youth programs to assist and make available self improvement opportunities. We develop, offer, and implement programs to help youth accomplish their goals.

❖ Scouting

- Assistance with Eagle Scout projects
- Preparation and submission of Eagle Scout of The Year applications
- Review requests from Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops for assistance

❖ Youth Leadership Training

- Assist with and review scholarship applications for National Programs
- Administer JROTC Scholarship program
- Student Trooper Program
- Tar Heel Boys State and Girls State Programs



Children & Youth Committee

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❖ STEM Educational Programs

- Robotics Program
- Computers 4 Kids
- Civil Air Patrol

❖ Academics

- Richie Hat Trick Scholarship
- Colin Furr Nursing Scholarship



Children & Youth

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Eagle Scout Project Assistance



Teaching At South Brunswick Middle School



NC State Highway Patrol Student Troopers L-R
Legionnaire Dave DeLong, Brady Udlinek,
Hailey Figley, Felicia Rainwater-Lyons,
Anna Botello, Joseph Nieto

Student Trooper Program



National Youth Leadership Training Scholarship



Robotics Club



Children & Youth (cont'd)

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Boy's State



Girl's State



Richie Stewart "Hat Trick" Scholarship



Richie Stewart "Hat Trick" Scholarship



House & Entertainment

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MISSION: Chaired by the Post Sergeant-at-Arms, the House & Entertainment Committee plans and coordinates events to create an experience that appeal to a wide audience and broaden the member's experience in the post. We build camaraderie and strengthen the sense of brotherhood/sisterhood in our post that includes, but goes beyond, the tremendous work our post is doing. Past events include:

- Army Navy Game Watch Party
- Southport Restaurant Take Out Nights
 - Bella Cucina
 - Southport Smokehouse
- “Letters from Home” Show
- Post Picnic



House & Entertainment

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Post Picnic At Waterway Park



Letters From Home Show



Post Picnic At Waterway Park



Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation

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MISSION: The Service Officer is responsible for advising Veterans and their dependents on their rights and benefits granted to them by law. Represents the Post on various outside committees and maintains communication channels with various Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's). The Service Office chairs the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee which is tasked with:

- Conducting benefit education sessions and briefings on eligibility requirements and procedures.
- Providing outreach and direct support to Post Members and their dependents, as well as non-member Veteran in the community, with claims support, including compensation, pension, health care, funeral benefits, etc.
- Coordinating local support for VA's Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) events, a one stop opportunity for veterans to meet locally with VA Representatives to file claims, register for benefits, get Veterans ID Cards (VIC), and learn about VA benefits.

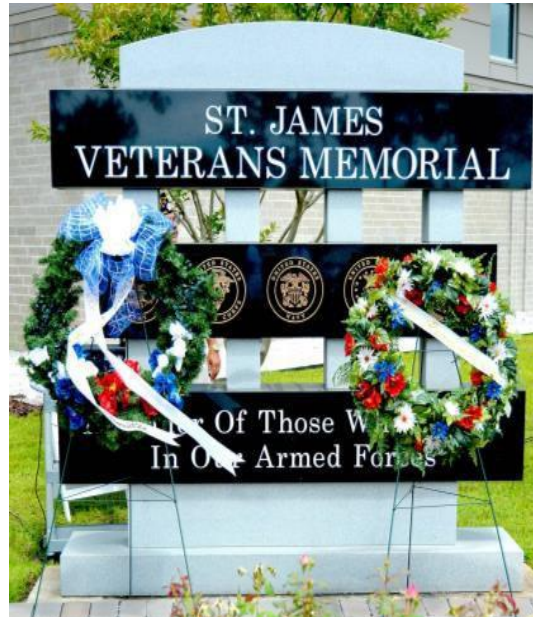


Veteran Services

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Ramp Built for Disabled Veteran



Veterans Experience Action Center



Veterans Experience Action Center



Veterans Experience Action Center



Post Ministry

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MISSION: The Ministry Team is made up of an Advisory Committee comprised of past Post Chaplains and a Working Committee comprised of Post volunteers. Chaired by the Post Chaplain, the Post 543 Ministry Team encourages, comforts, and services the physical, emotional and/or spiritual needs of any member of the Post, family members or others as determined by the Commander. Duties include:

- Identifying and reporting names of members on sick call; sending get well cards.
- In the event of a death of a Post Member (or immediate family member) sending a sympathy card and offering Post support or participation in burial services.
- Visiting and comforting Legion members confined to their homes, in the local hospital, or in a nursing home.
- Supporting efforts of the Service Officer with the local veteran community
- Conducting the annual "4 Chaplains Day" remembrance ceremony.
- Supporting Post's Wreaths For The Fallen ceremony.
- Providing a "Chaplain's Corner" article for the Post newsletter.



VOLUNTEER – You are needed!

- **SJMAD**
 - Solicit local businesses to donate \$\$ for SJMAD
 - Solicit local businesses/ golf courses to donate items for SJAMD raffle
 - Be a Neighborhood Captain and get donations from your neighborhood
 - Sell tickets for Concert
 - Prepare golf carts, place tee signs, register golfers for SJMAD Golf Tournament
- **Join the Honor Guard**
- **Active Duty Support**
 - Work with Wounded Warriors during ONS Peer to Pier Fishing
 - Host Service Members for Thanksgiving
 - Work with military units in the area to support active duty Service Members
 - Assist and support wounded warriors



VOLUNTEER – You are needed!

- **Americanism/ Children & Youth**

- Teach classes to JROTC at SBHS
- Coach the JROTC Rifle Team
- Become a judge for annual Oratorical Contest
- Help STEM Robotics club
- Supervise CAP and JROTC Cadets to get donations for poppies
- Help evaluate student applicants for various scholarships, Boys and Girls State, and Trooper programs

- **House and Entertainment**

- Help organize and conduct Post social events
- Support restaurant “take out” nights



VOLUNTEER – You are needed!

- **Public Relations**
 - Write articles about Post activities
- **Ministry Team**
 - Comfort veterans in hospice
 - Elmcroft visits
 - Help set up and staff the annual Post Christmas tree