



# The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (January 2024)



## Commander's Corner:

Welcome to the January 2024 edition of The Howler.

As we begin a new year, it's important to reflect on the past and celebrate the accomplishments of our veterans. In 2023, Cary American Legion Post 67 continued to make a positive impact on the lives of veterans in our community.

One of the highlights of the year was the Veterans Benefits Live (VBL) event held in March. The VBL brought together veteran service officers and staff from the Department of Veterans Affairs to aid veterans seeking to file or check on pending benefits claims, enroll in VA health care, and tackle other issues involving VA. The event was a huge success, with many veterans receiving the help they needed to move forward.

In addition to the VBL, Post 67 hosted several other events throughout the year, including a Memorial Day ceremony. These events provided opportunities for veterans and their families to come together and honor the sacrifices made by those who have served our country.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to continue our work in supporting veterans and their families. We will be hosting several events throughout the year, including a Memorial Day

ceremony in May. We hope that you will join us in honoring our veterans and celebrating their service to our country.

Our General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will start around 6:00pm and we will have Potluck. Go to <https://1drv.ms/x/s!ArcYbKL0l2Vu3hgZo4KbYsopmsjG?e=N7gcU1> to sign up to bring a dish. Please come and enjoy time with your fellow Legionnaires. I will be at the Post around 4:30pm – 5:00pm to set the Post up for our dinner and meeting. If you have time, please come help.

During the meeting we will hold an Initiation Ceremony. We have nine Legionnaires that will be Initiated. I would like to thank Past Department Commander, Frank Stancil, and Chaplain Marie Faulkner for their help in planning the ceremony.

I also want to say a big thank you to Curtis Leary for all the work he does on our Post Home. He does many jobs for the Post. Too many to mention here, but it includes electrical work, such as replacing switches and outlets. His work saves the Post a lot of money.

The driveway and parking area will be upgraded at the end of the month. There will be some days that we will have to park across the street if we want to go to the Post Home. I will let you know as soon as I know when this effort will start.

As I stated in last month's Howler, we need to be thinking about who will volunteer to be next year's leaders of Cary American Legion Post 67. If you would like to become a member of the Post Executive Committee next year July 2024 – June 2025, please let me know. We can discuss which positions will be open and the responsibilities of each position.

It is with a sad heart to let you know that John Hatcher, a longtime member of Post 67 and a Past Post 67 Commander, around 40 years ago, has gone to Post Everlasting on January 3, 2024. Funeral service will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Monday, January 8 at 2 PM. No other information is available at the present time. Legionnaires should attend, if possible, especially since John was our Past Post 67 Commander.

Thank you for letting me be your Commander!

Happy New Year!

Commander, Dennis Tackett



## **ADJUTANT'S CALL**

### **Membership report**

As of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Post 67 has 89.22% retained members. If you have not renewed your membership yet, remember you can do this online at MyLeagion.org or send a check for \$45.00 to the post.

I will bring the membership cards to the General Meeting.

If you have a question about membership and renewals or a problem, please let me know at [adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com).

Adjutant, Richard Spyrison

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

I want to share an article with you that I believe has some helpful and healthy information. Please use the following link to go to the article:

[Forget the New Year's Diet and Embrace Healthy Eating \(constantcontact.com\)](https://constantcontact.com)

God Bless!

Chaplain, Marie Faulkner

## **1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Buddy checks will start at the end of January or early February. I am looking for volunteers to help call post members. If you have a phone, you can help check on your fellow legionnaires. If you would like to help, please reach out to me directly at 919-319-9062 or [mleazer32@gmail.com](mailto:mleazer32@gmail.com).

Happy New Year!

Thank you,

First Vice Commander, M. Wayne Leazer

## **AMERICANISM, 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

The Post 67 Oratorical Contest for 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the post facility. The contest staff plus the contestant, Arjun Kamineni, will be asked to arrive by 2 pm to prepare for the contest, which will begin at 3 pm. The audience must be seated by 3 pm

when the single-entry door will be closed to further entry. The subsequent district contest must be held before February 11. Arjun, from Green Level High School, was our runner-up at the state level last year. He will compete as a senior this year. All district winners competing in the division contest (February 12-26) will be awarded a \$200 scholarship check. The state finals will be held in March at a yet undetermined date.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, David Christensen

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

I completed installation of a new receptacle for the ice maker and space heater in the attached shed and removed all extension cords. Now both units will not trip a breaker from a 15-amp overload. I installed a new motion detector light switch in the restroom area by the wash sink. If you enter, the light will come on automatically and go off after a set time.

The Cary Chamber will be having a Business Expo on February 29th 12:00-5:00pm at Prestonwood Country Club. Come see what Cary businesses has to offer. This event is free.

On January 24th, 0730 to 0900, join us at Prestonwood Country Club as we hear Mayor Harold Weinbrecht recap the previous year's happenings in the Town of Cary, as well as what 2024 holds for Cary. Register today at the Cary Chamber of Commerce web site.; Cost is \$35.

Please be sure to join us on January 18 from 5:00-7:00pm for Business After Hours at 2900 Regency Parkway, Cary sponsored by Sonesta ES Suites Raleigh Cary. Enjoy some appetizers and beverages while networking with other professionals from around the area! Free.

Remember John Hatcher's funeral service at First United Church, Cary on Monday at 2 PM. Wear your Legion uniform.

The Department Mid-Winter Conference is tentatively scheduled for February 15-17, 2024 will be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills. Conference registration fees are not paid by Post 67. You are encouraged to attend.

I found the property survey irons by using an iron finder and metal detector, marked the irons with pink plastic tape used by surveyors so the reworking of the parking lots and driveways can be completed as the Post members voted on.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander, Curtis Leary

## SGT-AT-ARMS

All are invited to attend the 27th Hero Home key ceremony on January 20th. at 10 am in Fuquay-Varina. This Hero Home was built for the Gold Star Family of KIA Army SSGT. Juantrea Bradley and his family will be presented with the key to their new home as during this moving ceremony.

Please see the flyer below for more details and the address.

Please contact me with questions as needed.

Sgt-At-Arms, Bruce Dale

919-692-7393

**Celebrating A Special**  
**KEY**  
**CEREMONY**

**Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**10:00am**  
229 Sneed Lane, Fuquay-Varina NC

at Hero Home #27  
*In honor of*  
*Fallen US Army SSG*  
*Juantrea "Trea" Bradley*

**OPERATION: Coming Home**  
15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**GARMAN HOMES** | **Whelan Advisory** | **HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF RALEIGH - WAKE COUNTY** | **GREENFIELD COMMUNITIES**

[www.OperationComingHome.com](http://www.OperationComingHome.com)

## HISTORY WITH JOSH QUACKENBUSH

Happy New Years everyone! The following is from interviews I conducted many years ago. Someday I may clean it up and write a book but here it is rough for you to read now. If I get enough of you liking it, I'll keep going.

80 years ago the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) sent their new recruits to Italy to serve in noncombat support roles. Harriet Daniel from Missouri remembers her overseas training before being shipped out to Caserta, Italy:

I had orders and they sent me to Daytona Beach, Florida and that's where I took my overseas training. That's where we did pushups and we had to do karate and we did all the drilling, going through the gas chamber. We would go in after putting on our gas masks and then they make you take it off to come out; of course it was tear gas. It was pretty rough. We did long marches and we had to carry our packs and then all of a sudden they'd whistle and that was an air raid and you'd have to crawl. It was pretty rough training. We learned how to come down the side of the ship on ropes. We couldn't write home and tell our parents, nobody knew that we were going overseas. Our parents did not know, all they knew was that we were in training, but they didn't know what for. . . . We went to Newport News, Virginia and that's where we sailed out of. As we were marching along there were GI's alongside of the road. They were whistling and carrying on you know and one of them said, "They look like soldiers, they march like soldiers, they don't smell like soldiers."

There were rumors that the women were being sent overseas just to service the guys. The reason we went over there, we released the men to go into combat. We replaced the men that were in the rear echelon. Caserta was Mediterranean Allied Air Force Headquarters. That's where all the Generals and the Fifth Army girls, WACs were still there. We were going to work in the Palace of Caserta which was never finished. It still was an impressive place, but it was cold. They wanted to billet us in the palace and our company commander said no way, the fifth army girls were living in tents and she said "My girls aren't living in tents and they aren't living in that cold old palace." So she got the chamber of commerce building which was named Villa Rosa and that's where we were billeted. It was a two story building with a large skylight. So we got together and picked who we wanted to room with. We had a choice of going around to the rooms and we went to this one room, it was a good size room and one of the girls walked in and she said, 'Oh my gosh, looks like Sherman's been through here.' So we became Sherman's platoon. There were 10 of us who lived in this one room and we had five bunks that were made out of two by fours. We had mattress covers, a quilt, and an army blanket—no sheets, no pillows, ha, ha, no, no, no.

Although Harriett Reed was far from the front lines of the battlefield she found out soon it could be dangerous serving in the so called rear echelon:

When we first arrived in Italy, you see the Germans were only but 15 miles from us. There was only one battalion between us and the Germans. You could hear the artillery and see the flashes. . . . We also of course, had air raids, because you see the German air force was still bombing Naples and we were a secondary target. . . . In fact one night, I was working at the palace and the air-raid sirens went off. Of course all the windows were blacked, no light. No

lights, everything's blacked out, I mean on the outside. When you went out through the little town of Caserta, it was as dark as pitch. The air raid sirens went off and of course, we were all curious and went running to the shutters and pull them open to the palace to look out. We were up on the fifth floor. All of a sudden it was just like daylight, just like the sun came up! Of course the Germans dropped those flares. It's amazing! It just goes from dark to just like it is right now! So then the anti-aircraft batteries they had around started going off and this captain came and grabbed us and made us go down to the bottom floor. We used to sit up on top of the hill and watch them bomb Naples and you could see, every fifth bullet was a tracer and it's just like fireworks.

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The rocky hilltop of Monte Cassino is home to a historic monastery dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Being built and rebuilt, the abbey overlooking the town of Cassino had already seen its share of conflict and natural disaster. The Germans at Monte Cassino faced divisions from France, Britain, America, India, New Zealand, and Poland in some of the most intense series of battles fought during World War II. The beginning phases of the operation were led by the French Expeditionary Corp, British X Corp, and the U.S. II Corp. On 20 January 1944, the U.S. 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was ordered to attack the Germans across the Rapido River. Private Robert Doby from North Carolina recalls his experience as a new replacement when being assigned to the Rapido River near Monte Cassino:

These guys were seasoned veterans by then. They had come all the way up from Salerno up to Rapido and had seen a lot of action between there. Most of them at that point were Texans. The Texas National Guard had been mobilized and federalized into an army division. This was reality, I'd been playing war during maneuvers and basic training and all this, but when I reached the staging area where my division was it became reality. They had all my tools laid out in a neat little pile, my weapons and everything, the playing war was over with, this was reality. It was really the biggest display of firepower that I saw really during the whole war. A lot of it was at night time when they tried to cross the river. Our intelligence had told us that the Germans didn't have any armor, no big guns, and they weren't very well prepared to meet us at the river. That's what our intelligence said, but they were dead wrong. That's right where the Gustav line came through right before Cassino there and they were well prepared and ready for us. Well the first two regiments, the 141<sup>st</sup> and the 143<sup>rd</sup> had tried to make night crossings. I was in the 142<sup>nd</sup> of course and when we entered that area we went in at night and all this was going on. You could see the machine gun tracers and hear the Screaming Meemies. Oh, it was the most demoralizing sound you'll ever hear! And they had them in force at the Rapido; all night long they went on. Of course, they had the artillery and the tanks. Everything was zeroed in on the river. The Rapido River at that time was swollen by the winter rains. . . . The water was swift and it was up to about 12 feet deep. The Germans had removed all the trees, the bushes, anything

that would give you cover or concealment. They had an open field of fire and they had stopped up the river and flooded the whole area. It just became a quagmire and then they mined it. So, you know, we didn't really have a chance. It was not militarily feasible to cross that river. . . . All in all we lost about [2,100] men, either killed, wounded, or captured. [Exact numbers were-2,019 with 934 wounded, 770 prisoners with only 64 Germans killed and 179 wounded]. We were in reserve at the river and the time came for us to make our crossing. It was sometime in the early morning hours. Listening to the display of firepower that was going on, we knew it was bad. We knew that we had lost a lot of men. And we were on our way down to the river to make the next crossing when they called it off. They finally woke up and realized what the situation was.

The British faced less hardship to the south by crossing the shallower waters of the Garigliano River. "We saw a lot of British troops," says Doby. "They were trained in a different way than we were. They would build fires at night; we weren't allowed to even strike a match. The British would say, 'The Jerries know where we are anyway.' They would stop a convoy and make their tea. They really did that. 'Stop the war; I've got to have my tea.' They were a good bunch of guys, but you know, they did things a little differently than we did."

The successful British river crossing forced the Germans to send in reinforcements who were in reserve near Rome. This diverted the enemy and helped contribute to the success of an Allied coastal invasion at a place called Anzio. *The objective is to draw the Germans away from Casino and make it possible for the Allies to breakthrough to Rome.* The coastal town of Anzio, south of Rome, was a hotspot for affluent Italians dating back to the time of the Great Roman Empire. Called Antium in ancient times; Anzio was the birthplace of Nero, the Roman emperor accused of playing his fiddle while Rome burned. The towns of Nettuno and Anzio lying along the seacoast were in close proximity to each other. In the early morning hours of January 22<sup>nd</sup> American and British forces invaded Anzio and Nettuno. With the enemy being taken completely by surprise, the Allies faced little resistance in securing the beachhead. The days and months that would follow would prove otherwise.

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**Joshua Quackenbush**

Licensed Insurance Agent NC =Licensed Insurance Producer

License # 18877394





## INFORMATION FOR NEW POST MEMBERS

To all new Post 67 members, thank you for joining. We encourage you to purchase Legion hats and shirts from Emblem Sales so when we are at Legion meetings or taking part in a community activity, you will be in uniform. For Color Guard, Rifle Detail, funerals, and other more formal activities, the uniform will be your Legion hat, gray pants, white shirt, and blue jacket with tie, black shoes, and socks. At other times the Legion hat, a polo or golf type shirt with the Legion emblem is usually worn by most Legionnaires. This may be called Business Casual dress. **Emblem Sales:** <https://www.legion.org/promos/230360/shop-online> If you need help, contact a PEC member.

### POST 67 MEETINGS

We hold the monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at the Post. Usually, we have dinner at 6:00 pm before the monthly meeting.

The Post Executive Committee (PEC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Post Home. We encourage members to come and speak of any concerns or recommendations concerning Post business at that time.

We may need to hold Post meetings using virtual meet from time to time, due to the viruses and guidelines, so be on the lookout for announcements via email. If you need assistance in setting up your computer or tablet for Zoom meetings, please contact a PEC member.

### POST 67 HOME INFORMATION

8523 Chapel Hill Rd., Cary, NC 27513

Post Home Phone: 919-481-4811

Post Home Web & Facebook Page:

<https://www.alncpost67.org> Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/alncpost67.org>

## A FEW PICTURES FROM 2023





## CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 OFFICERS 2023-2024

POSITION	NAME	PHONE#	EMAIL
Commander	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	<a href="mailto:commander.alncpost67@gmail.com">commander.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Richard Spyrison	919-441-8295	<a href="mailto:adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com">adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Wayne Leazer	919-319-9062	<a href="mailto:mleazer32@gmail.com">mleazer32@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	David Christiansen	919-650-3848	<a href="mailto:dchristi7@gmail.com">dchristi7@gmail.com</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Curtis Leary	919-270-2136	<a href="mailto:gssi36@earthlink.net">gssi36@earthlink.net</a>
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell	919-302-2518	<a href="mailto:finance.alncpost67@gmail.com">finance.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
Service Officer	Lee Wood	843-301-9663	<a href="mailto:LWoodhhi@aol.com">LWoodhhi@aol.com</a>
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner	919-851-9838	<a href="mailto:calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net">calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net</a>
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando	919-469-5214	<a href="mailto:anna81mill@yahoo.com">anna81mill@yahoo.com</a>
Sgt-At-Arms	Bruce Dale	919-602-7393	<a href="mailto:advracin@hotmail.com">advracin@hotmail.com</a>
Historian	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	<a href="mailto:historian.alncpost67@gmail.com">historian.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
At-Large	Joe Veilleux	919-454-3348	<a href="mailto:joeveilleux@gmail.com">joeveilleux@gmail.com</a>
At-Large			





# Wake County Veterans Services

## Need help navigating the complex world of veteran's services?

Wake County's Veterans Service Division can assist eligible veterans, dependents and/or surviving spouses, children of deceased veterans, members of the Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty service members in two major ways:

- ✓ Veteran homelessness, prevention and housing support
- ✓ Assistance applying for benefits and services from the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are highly trained and accredited. VSOs can assist with:

- Disability and compensation benefits
- VA healthcare enrollment
- Survivor and dependent benefits
- VA home loans
- DMV tags
- Employment
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Discharge upgrades
- DD-214/military records request
- And more!



### Wake County Veterans Service Division

4401 Bland Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609



919-212-8356



wake.gov/veterans



Walk-ins welcome but appointments are strongly encouraged.

## Are you experiencing a housing crisis?

Contact the Raleigh/Wake Partnership Access Hub to get connected to services such as emergency shelter, street outreach and financial assistance programs to prevent homelessness.



919-443-0096



AH@partnershipwake.org



Any additional questions related to veteran housing services can contact 919-856-5250.

## Important Dates

**Jan 8, 2:00pm Funeral for Past Post Commander John Hatcher, First United Methodist Church**

**Jan 9, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting**

**Feb 6, 6:30pm PEC meeting**

**Feb 13, 6:00pm First Responder's Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting**

## **Purpose and Mission of The American Legion**

**As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is devoted to mutual helpfulness, and is committed to:**

- mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities,**
  - advocating patriotism and honor,**
  - promoting strong national security,**
- continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.**

### Mission

**"To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."**

### **Vision**

**Veterans Strengthening America**

