EGION

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SONS RE MERICAN

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Space Camp Program Announcement Multi Year Membership Available Legion on YOUTH

THE POST

GEORGE LEE POST 532 inc



25 Riverside Circle HAYESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

GEORGE LEE POST #532 OFFICERS

COMMANDER	Robert Seibert
1ST VICE COMMANDER	
2ND VICE COMMANDER	Bill Christy
ADJUTANT/TRAINING OFC	Randy Fletcher
FINANCE OFFICER	•
CHAPLAIN	Carl Maxwell
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Dwight McClure
HISTORIAN	0
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Jack Greve
POST SERVICE OFFICER	Phil Cantley

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Ricky Breed, Tommy Hooper, Leon Parker

SUPPORTIVE STAFF

ORATORICAL CONTEST: BOYS STATE PROGRAM: POST SAL REP. & COMMANDER: PHIL CANTLEY JSSP: BILL CHRISTY POST CALENDAR/: JACK GREVE VET. MISS. COUNC. / ANNUAL VET. APPREC.: CARL MAXWELL HONOR GUARD COMMANDER: DWIGHT McCLURE ASST. ADJUTANT/ ASST. FINANCE OFC: MITCHELL SHIELDS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: RANDY FLETCHER SOCIAL COMMITTEE/ FUNDRAISER: MICHELLE STEGNER



Post 532 WEBSITE http://www.post532.org Patriot Pete, Webmaster

Robert Seibert, EDITOR/PUBLISHER of this newsletter for the Legionnaire community, solely non-profit. Email: patriotpete532@gmail.com or Ph: (cell): 828-644-8497 THIS IS A POST NEWSLETTER AND COMMENTS, ITEMS TO INCLUDE, ETC ARE WELCOME FROM MEMBERSHIP Contents of this newsletter may be used but would appreciate being informed of such.

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MEETING: LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00PM



<u>COMMANDER'S CORNER</u> Robert Seibert

Everybody take a breathe. We made it through another year. If it seems like we are

always busy, we are. Democracy must continually be preserved. Youth must continually be taught. Those in need must continually be cared for. Thankfully, by the grace of God and you volunteer spirit we make these things and more happen.

Our members are always thinking and looking for ways to make a difference in our post and community. Thanks to Gary Dempsey for the idea of sending a kid to Space Camp. (see ad in this newsletter)

Due to departmental changes we are in the process of redoing our constitution and by-laws. Thanks to Jack Greve for his hard work on this project. **G**reat Job goes to Michelle Stegner for the Post Christmas Party. It was great food, decorations and entertainment.

Mid-Winter conference is coming up. If you are interested in attending, please see Jack, Phil or myself.

Congratulations goes to JSSP staff for the great program they are running. If you haven't been down to see it or shot, talk with Bill and make a plan to.

Thanks to Gary, Mitchell, Rondal and Phil for the great work on fixing up the parade float. Its got a fresh patriotic look to it.

Let's renew our commitment to make a difference in Clay County.





Post Member of the Month Rondall Brown

STAFF SERGEANT DALE FIEDLER

He was a young lad, not even in his teens, but dreamed of soaring through the wild blue yonder. Fresh out of high school

and just 19, he launched onward and upward beginning to live his dreams. He left the snow and ice of Wisconsin and was off down Texas way to San Antonio. Dale completed boot camp at Lackland



aircraft developed by Fairchild Republic for the Air Force. The A -10 is named for the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt, but is commonly referred to as the "**Warthog"** or simply **"Hog"**. The A-10 was designed to provide close air

support (CAS) to friendly ground troops by attacking armored vehicles, tanks, and other enemy ground forces. Its secondary mission is to direct other aircraft in attacks on ground targets. These **WARTHOGS** laid

Air Force Base and then attended a technical school for Aircraft Armament at Lowry AFB, Colorado. Dale honed his skill and became a highly proficient Aircraft Armament Specialist, arming the A-10 Close Air Support aircraft.

The A-10 Thunderbolt II is a single-seat, twin-turbofan, straight-wing, subsonic attack

waste to best Russian T-72 tanks and armed personnel carries in the Iraqi arsenal during Desert Storm and later in the destruction of Saddam Hussein's regular army and the Republican Guard.

Dale's first duty station was in England at the twin Air bases of RAF Bentwaters & Woodbridge. Dale loaded munitions first at



RAF Bentwaters. While stationed at RAF Woodbridge, Dale transitioned to being an Aerial Gunner on the Sikorsky MH-531 Pave Low. The Sikorsky MH-53 Pave Low was a long-range special operations and combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter. Dale was stationed in England for a combined 6 years and during this time Dale was involved with Desert Storm, Desert Shield and Provide Comfort. Returning to the States after 6 years, Dale was stationed at Hurlburt Field. FL with the 20th Special **Operations Squadron (AFSOC).**

After 9 years of faithful service,

Dale was off to college where he earned a degree in Computer information systems and later a degree in Cyber Security. He and his wife, Kelley have two sons. They enjoy exploring the Western NC mountains and Dale is an avid hiker, reader and overall outdoor enthusiast.

Dale and Kelley, **A TREMENDOUS THANK YOU** for your service to God and Country. It is an honor to sever with you as you continue to care for veterans and their families. Thank you for continuing to **STAND THE WATCH** for God

and Country.

WHAT WILL DO FOR YOUR POST AND COUNTRY IN 2024?





Unaka Baptist Church

Cell: 828-361-6939

Email: pheasantrr77@gmail.com

Help send a Clay County Child

to

CARDS .

Your donation will help send local youth to Space Camp Make checks payable to: American Legion Post 532 mark for Space Camp Donations can be mailed to: PO Box 22 • Hayesville, NC 28904 Or dropped off at Prints Plus

For more information contact Robert @ 828-644-8497

PRINTS PLUS & Pack-N-Ship 828-389-7190 ppnc1124@gmail.com



Moss Memorial Baptist Church

Rev. Charles Shelton Pastor

828.389.4112

P.O. Box 1198 • Tusquittee Road • Hayesville, NC 28904



<u>Chaplains Corner</u> Carl Maxwell

Seasons greetings to all. Winter is officially here, but

the days will start getting longer. In our January meeting we will honor and remember those post members we lost in 2023. As of now those members are Bill Dailey, Kennith Woodard, and Jim Beatty. When February rolls around we will have our annual Four Chaplains Ceremony. After the first of the year, we will try to restart our visitations to our care centers. If anyone would like to help just let me know. During this holiday season, please take time to remember all the people who are alone. A visit or just a phone call can go a long way. God bless all of you and remember Jesus is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Carl



February Meeting - 4 Chaplains Ceremony





American Legion multiyear membership

Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a threevear membership by visiting legion.org/ renew or legion.org/join. A multiyear membership was approved by the National **Executive Committee of The** American Legion during the organization's Spring Meetings last May. Resolution 1: Purchase of Multiple Years of Membership approves "a fiveyear pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate."

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

is only available on the national American Legion website. Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a threeyear membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.

- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting <u>legion.org/renew</u>.

- Join now with a three-year membership by visiting <u>legion.org/join</u>.

- Legionnaires already renewed for 2024 will soon be able to renew under the multi-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.

- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.

- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.

- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not

- Multiyear membership sign-up



Carolina Christian Academy

259 Tusquittee St. Hayesville, NC receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Please note that the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is the what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. For example, if a member renews today (before national per-capita \$5 dues increase come July 1, 2024), National will receive \$18.50 for the next three years. Let's say the department's per capita is currently \$10 and is going to raise to \$15 come July 1, 2024. The department will receive the \$10 for the next three years. Once the member renews after the three year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.



Each month the newsletter has to be labeled and tabbed to be mailed. We mail over 200 newsletters. As you can tell this is a slow long process. Two different ladies volunteer their time. Ruth Jones, who is an auxiliary member, and Mary Cain, Robert's mother-in-law, deserve a thank you.





EGION

American Legion youth programs instill values, develop responsible citizens and inspire future U.S. leaders. Youth mentorship is one

prominent way former members of the U.S. Armed Forces in The American Legion live up to the motto, "Veterans Strengthening America." Around the world, they passionately provide structure, guidance, education and opportunity for young people to better understand their nation, contribute to

it and achieve their dreams.

Today, more than ever, donation - funded American Legion youth programs brighten the future by showing young men and women what

it means to live, compete, serve and lead in a free nation.

Your charitable gift will help The American Legion continue its mission, one community at a time, through youth programs that have made life-changing differences for nearly a century. No other organization has the same kind of impact for so many young Americans.

Boys State and Boys Nation

Each year, more than 16,000 young men learn firsthand how state and federal government function in a democracy.

YOUTH

Junior Shooting Sports

More than 2,300 American Legion clubs worldwide impart the values of discipline, gun safety and sportsmanship each year to nearly 12,000 competitors, who strive to be the very best and earn college scholarships.

18,547

American Legion School

Award medals presented in 2022-23 to students graduating from elementary school, junior high, high school or college who exemplify six qualities of character: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service.

Oratorical Contests

Nearly 2,500 teens a year learn the U.S. Constitution and how to speak fluently about it, with the opportunity to win hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships at the local, state and national levels.

\$6.42 million Amount in scholarships presented to 2,962

competitors in The American Legion National Oratorical Contest since its inception.

<u>1900hrs: OPENING</u> <u>CEREMONY</u> Commander Seibert

Advanced Colors: Sergeant of the Guard; Dwight McClure Opening Prayer: Chaplain Carl Maxwell

POW/MIA Chair Recognition – 1st Vice CMDR placed cover on chair.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Commander Robert Seibert Preamble to Our Constitution:

Commander Seibert led in reciting.

COMMANDER: Post 532

declared regularly convened. Adjutant: – Report on presence of Quorum. Motion made to accept minutes of last monthly meeting as printed in October Newsletter with any corrections. Motion seconded and approved. COMMANDER: first-time visitors and guests were recognized. Don Davis (PUFL Post Member), Wendell Farmer (US Army Vet newly recruited), Nash Farmer (Army National Guard, newly recruited).

COMMANDER COMMENTS:

Started sending a weekly email on Monday to update on activities. First Friday of each month <u>FREE COFFEE FOR</u> <u>VETs</u> at Black Stagg Coffee located in Veteran's Plaza, the old Fred's Pharmacy on HWY69.

- Many Spears is beginning a relationship with a nonprofit organization specializing in Military PTSD and is working on opening a center in North Georgia. The program is 6 -to-9-month camp, he will be updating us soon.
- December 9 Christmas Parid, the Post will have a float and we need riders. Contact Commander Seibert for more information.
- Post 532 received 1st Place in NC Department Year Book competition.
- At the Post EC meeting we decided we would to raise \$2,000.00 to send a youth to the 2024 Space Camp at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville Alabama. We are raising the money from individuals and businesses. Earmark for Space Camp. This is not a Legion program but will be reported to the Department and could become a Legion project.
- Our January Post meeting will be the last day for Mitchell Shields to be Post Adjutant. We need a

replacement, who will that be? (Comment Jack Greve) We will provide training for the individual.

POST BUSINESS FOR THE EVENING

1ST VICE CDR.,

Membership: – Mr. Gary Demsey: encouraged everyone to complete their renewals so "you don't continue to get calls". The Department goal is to have all members renewed by the end of October each year. We have 47 members who have not renewed.

2ND VICE CDR. JSSP: – Mr. Bill Christy: : Mr. Bill Christy; we completed our match against a JROTC unite in California this afternoon. We are 2nd in the league and are working to be in 1st Place.

FINANCE OFFICER: – Mr. Floyd Phillips: the Post finances are growing. Finance Officer reported on the total amount and the information is available to any Post member by contacting Floyd Phillips. (Comment Commander) The Post has a "Square" credit card reader and w is accepting cards. There is a small charge for using a credit card and the cost is added to the final amount the individual is paying.

- **POST CHAPLAIN:** Mr. Carl Maxwell:
- We have another deck and ramp to be built for a veteran's widow.

Welcome Home committee is meeting and the event will be in September 2024 back at the Western Carolina Airport. Will not have an airshow, will have displays. There will be drawings for door prizes.

POST SGT. AT ARMS: - Mr. Dwight McClure: nothing to report

POST HISTORIAN: - Mr. Dale Feidler: nothing to report

- POST SERVICE OFFICE: Mr. Phil Cantley: no report, out of town for funerial
- POST SAL SQUADRON COMMANDER: - Mr. Phil Cantley: no report, out of town for funeral
- POST JUDGE ADVOCATE: - Mr. Jack Greve: no report

STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT:

BOYS STATE: Mr. Phil Cantley is coordinating this and we have a couple of students who are interested. Looking for more.

- **ORATORICAL:** no update, needing a leader. Contact the Adjutant for information concerning responsibilities.
- POST FUNDER RAISER COORDINATOR: Mrs. Michelle Stegner; (Comment Commander) Michelle is stepping down from this responsibility.
- POST SOCIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR: Mrs. Michelle Stegner: updated on coming events.
- Christmas social December 2.
- Wreaths Across America, December 15 in Waynesville. Carpooling and if you would like to participate in or need/ want to share a ride contact Michelle.

OLD BUSINESS ANY OLD UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none NEW BUSINESS; none

FOR THE GOOD OF THE

LEGION: Leon Parker is stepping down as Member at Large for the EC. no further announcements

<u>NEXT EXECUTIVE</u> COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 16 0730 at the post.

NEXT POST MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled is January 30 2024 at the post. The January meeting will be POST EVERLASTING remembering those who were deceased during the year. No Post meeting in December. The meeting is chaired by the Post Commander who will start the meeting on or about 7 PM.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Closing prayer: by Past Commander Rondall Brown 1st VICE CMDR: recover the POW/MIA chair covering SGT at ARMS: retire the flag COMMANDER: American Legion Post 532 Department of North Carolina adjourned."



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<u>Legislative Corner</u> Jack Greve



The following is a synopsis of activities the Legion is pursuing on Capitol Hill from our office in Washington D.C. Should you want additional information on any of these activities or more additional activities the Legion is active in, please contact Jack Greve at Tele: 828-389-0263 or E-Mail: jgreve1338@aol.com

•Recently, three critical bills began picking up speed in the House of Representatives: The Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023 (H.R. 542), the HOME Act of 2023 (H.R. 3848), and the COPE Act (H.R. 3581) bill. If the Senate agrees to pass this Legion-backed legislation. Congress has an opportunity to provide indispensable support for Nation's our veterans and their family caregivers. If you would like to contact your representatives in support of H.R. 542, H.R. 3848, and H.R. 3581, you can visit our grassroots actions center to identify and email your elected official

•The Legion continues to advocate for the Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5641), which currently has 113 bipartisan cosponsors. With the government only narrowly

avoiding shutdown twice for fiscal year 2024, it is critical that we ensure our troops have peace of mind and timely pay regardless of when appropriations bills are finalized. The American Legion supports the Pay our Troops Act and encourages all Legionnaires to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the legislation. The Legion is giving its support to the Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act (S. 2999), which would ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are paid in the event of a government shutdown.

 Veteran suicide prevention is a long-standing priority for The American Legion, other veteran service organizations (VSOs), and the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. Because the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has not been able to decrease the suicide rate over the past two decades, VA and Congress are looking to community care partners to save the lives of service members. For your info contact VETERANS CRSIS LINE 1-800-273-8255 (press 1).

 On December 13th, after months of negotiation and division, the Senate overwhelmingly agreed to pass the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2024. The bill includes a 5.2% pay raise for servicemembers, makes critical improvements to basic allowance for housing (BAH), and ensures cost-ofliving allowances for servicemembers stationed in high-cost regions. On top of improvements to military quality of life, the bill makes critical authorizations to protect our allies and foreign interests. Before recessing until January of 2024, Congress passed the NDAA to secure defense funding through the coming fiscal year. The NDAA secured many of The American Legion's legislative priorities and helped bolster American national security. In late September both National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer and National Legislative Commission Chair Patricia Harris visited Washington, D.C. Commander Seehafer and Chair Harris visited with many Senators and Representatives to make sure The American Legion's voice is heard across Capitol Hill. •To help correct the inequitable disability assessment of the reserve components, GAO made 14 recommendations to

VA and DOD. These recommendations in part focused on providing reserve components with simple and easily accessible modes of reporting health conditions, as well as clear guidelines for disability compensation eligibility. The other key component of these recommendations was to ensure that VA claims processors should have access to reliable and holistic data on reserve component members' service and health status.

 Lawmakers on Capitol Hill cleared one hurdle of the ongoing appropriations debate on Tuesday, October 24th, successfully negotiating a bipartisan deal on amendments to three appropriations bills. The package of bills, known as minibus, includes Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA), Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Agriculture. If the Senate can pass the negotiated package in the coming week, the House of Representatives would be primed to act quickly on the bills. The Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) (pictured below) applauded the Senate's successful bipartisan negotiation, claiming that "you can actually get things done in a divided Congress."

January Post Calendar

1	New Years Day	Info Item	Info Item
16	SAL	Post Meeting Room 6:30 PM	Phil Cantley Commander/ Adjutant
27	Executive Meeting	0730-Post Meeting Room	Robert Seibert Commander
30	Post Meeting Post Everlasting Ceremony	Post Meeting Room 6 PM Dinner 7 PM Meeting	Robert Seibert Commander

January Meal provided by the Auxiliary





February Post Calendar

3	Four Chaplains Day	Info Item	Info Item
3	District 25 Meeting	Murphy Post 96 Lunch 12 Noon Meeting 1 PM	JD Baker District Commander
Day TBD	Four Chaplains Practice	Time and Location TBD	Carl Maxwell Chaplain
15-17	Dept Mid Winter Conf	Raleigh Hilton Raleigh NC	Robert Seibert Open to all post members
24	Executive Meeting	0730Post Meeting Room	Robert Seibert Commander
27	Post Meeting Four Chaplains Ceremony	Post Meeting Room 6 PM Dinner 7 PM Meeting	Robert Seibert Commander Carl Maxwell Chaplain

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

July officially started the next year membership renewal. Your dues are for Jan—Dec of 2024. Gary says pay now to avoid him pestering you later. Department wants to be done by October so lets get this done and out of the way. Dues are still only \$40. One night at Longhorn with your sweetie cost more than that. Our post is fast becoming the post to look to, let's make sure we are in regard to our renewals as well. Post Everlasting Ceremony January 30th

soldiersangels.org

"I know this was a long time ago. But in 2004 I received my first of many care packages from Soldiers' Angels. I continued to receive them through my next four deployments, the last in 2011. Thank you for your support. I am now a Volunteer in Dallas. with Soldiers' Angels at the VA serving coffee and donuts. Once a month I Volunteer at the Dallas Food Distribution Site. It is so wonderful to give back to those who gave so much. I am a proud retired Army veteran." - Micheal Hood, Army Veteran and once supported Service Member through Deployed Adoptions

Michael was deployed four times

as a cook in the Army and served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Home but still serving

It has been a long time since Michael served overseas, but his service hasn't stopped. As a 100% disabled Veteran, Michael spends his days in service to others through multiple volunteer support roles. He volunteers at our **Dallas Military & Veteran Food Distribution** every month, unloading the truck and organizing the pallets of food to help make the process more efficient. He also volunteers two Fridays a

month at the **VA Hospital** through Soldiers' Angels, serving coffee and donuts to Veterans.

<u>Commander Sergeant-at-arms</u> Dwight McClure



On December 3 the Honor Guard provided

military funeral rites for Navy veteran Robin Bryan at the Baptist/Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Hayesville, NC.

Sympathy is expressed to Post member, George Keyes, at the passing of his wife Phyllis, who is also an auxiliary member. George & Phyllis moved to Florida several years ago and the service will be held there.

Appreciate participation of Honor Guard members Phil Cantley, Floyd Phillips and Teresa McClure in the Dec. 9th Christmas Parade. Jack Greve rode the float helping distribute candy canes and Commander Seibert pulled the Post 532 float. The new "flag" facelift to the float looks great ! From our view, the 2023 parade seemed to be the largest yet for floats and onlookers. The Honor Guard will be needed to help in the upcoming annual Post Everlasting Service which will be held during the January post meeting. Currently, we have three deceased post members we will be remembering

We welcome and NEED new recruits. Please contact me for more information on serving in Post 532 Honor Guard.

Dwight McClure/Guard Commander 828 389-6120 "For God & Country"









Unit 532 AUXILIARY NEWS DEC 2023/JAN 2024

Meeting Date: NO meeting in December

Meetings are held in the Community Services Building

Upstairs Meeting Room 25 Riverside Circle Hayesville, NC

(brick building below the Hayesville Post Office)

January Food provided by the Auxiliary The National Executive Committee adopted the present Mission and Vision statements of the American Legion Auxiliary in March 2008.

Mission Statement The Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to serve veterans, their families and their communities.

Vision Statement The American Legion Auxiliary enriches the quality of life of those we serve and our members.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DUES (2024 Membership began July 1)

If you still have not paid your 2023 dues and need to catch up, you will need to pay two years in order to stay current, \$23 previous year + \$30 for 2024.

You can mail your 2024 \$30/Senior or \$10/Junior AUXILIARY dues to Treasurer, Donna Crowell, ALA Unit 532, P.O. Box 72, Hayesville, NC 28904 Members can also pay dues online. Go to https:// www.legion-aux.org/renew for instructions to pay online, or call National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570 with your member ID ready.

Note: National just sent out reminder notices to ALL members. Just disregard if you have paid for 2024 dues—just a timing issue between Dept and National.



Prayers & Concerns

Marie Leduc & husband, George, move to Colorado

Julie White's husband, Wayne, Health issues

> George Keyes & Family, passing of Phyllis

Mary Cook, Eye issues



January Birthdays

- 12 Paula Walters
- 15 Camille Brown

Dates to Remember . . .



* * * NO MEETING IN DECEMBER * * *

Tuesday, January 30 Annual Post Everlasting Service

The memorial service will be held during the regular post meeting. Auxiliary members will be participating with placing roses and lighting candles. The auxiliary will also be remembering three auxiliary members.

The auxiliary will also be providing the meal for the January meeting. An email will be sent out prior to the meeting as a reminder for the food dishes you signed-up for bringing.



GEORGE LEE AMERICAN LEGION HAYESVILLE, NC 28904 POST 532 inc. **PO BOX 22**



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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY—STILL SERVING PROUDLY THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS

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