



SALUTE

to Service

The Clinton Chronicle

May 20, 2020



The Laurens County Hall of Heroes has honored the military service of local men and women for a decade, having inductions at Laurens District High School and Clinton High School. Parade for the inductees and their families also have been conducted in Laurens and Clinton. The service now is being conducted at Lander University, combining the Greenwood and Laurens County Halls of Heroes into one induction event of 21 veterans for each county. Plaques honoring the Laurens County inductees are displayed at the Hillcrest Square Judicial Center in Laurens (which will re-open soon after the Coronavirus threat). The 2020 Hall of Heroes induction has been cancelled, because COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, poses a threat to the inductees and their families; however, a 2021 induction will be in the works as soon as Lander University returns from its Coronavirus hiatus. Rosalind Burke is the Veterans Affairs Officer for Greenwood County, and the position is pending appointment in Laurens County (as long-time VA Officer Carey Bolt retires). Chronicle Photo

No Hall of Heroes in 2020; look for 2021 to have big celebrations

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

All Veterans are eligible for induction into the Laurens County and Greenwood County Hall of Heroes and, now, there will be a year to prepare.

There will be no induction in 2020, because of the COVID-19 - Coronavirus threat, according to Rosalind Burke, Veterans Affairs Officer for Greenwood County. She made the announcement in conjunction with Carey Bolt, VA Officer for Laurens County, who is retiring from his position. Bolt and others are directly involved in an effort to build an Armed Services and Veterans Tribute Monument in downtown Laurens.

Hall of Heroes is a massive undertaking, requiring months of planning. Organizers want to have 21 inductees each from Laurens and Greenwood Counties. Much of the planning involves the venue, Lander University, which is closed. When the university re-opens this summer, contacts will be made for the 2021 Hall of Heroes planning. Laurens County used to have its own event, organized by Bolt, Burke and others, alternating between Clinton and Laurens. The 2019 event combined Laurens and Greenwood counties' inductees; a

2020 event could not be planned with sufficient anti-virus safeguards.

"Our primary concern," Burke said, "is the welfare of the Veterans and their families." Hall of Heroes can attract upwards of 500 people to see more than 40 loved ones and neighbors go through the induction process; families compile shadowboxes, and schools, veterans and community groups are actively involved in the induction, which features a guest speaker.

Burke said she is committed to bringing back the induction process in 2021. She said there is just too much uncertainty for this fall - will there be a "second wave" of the virus, will social distancing guidelines remain in place and, most of all, is it safe for everyone?

Meanwhile, planning is getting started for an April 2020 event - Veterans' Appreciation Day. It attracted about 600 people last year in Greenwood.

"The Veterans, and everyone, had a blast," Burke said.

Laurens County businesses will be sought for active participation in Veterans' Appreciation Day. Businesses and groups can have tables, but with a catch.

Burke said, "They have to bring something for prizes."

A new prize-winner is announced every 10 minutes during the day - and, there is food - lots and lots of food. Faith

Home brought hot dogs and all the fixings for a crowd of 600 last year, Burke said.

There were popcorn machines going, and gift bags available for Veterans and their families. It is a family-friendly event, and the public is welcome, in Greenwood. Attorney General Alan Wilson's VALOR group was there to assist with any legal issues that Veterans might have.

"The Veterans will see a lot of changes that they will enjoy and like," Burke said. "Even if a person is no longer in the military, the support for our Nation by Veterans is very important and very strong."

Veterans are used to meeting challenges and conquering them, head-on -- a trait much-needed in today's world. Burke stressed that the Laurens and Greenwood Hall of Heroes induction is available to any honorably discharged veteran.

The induction faces the challenge of the loss of WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans every day - organizers want the Desert Storm - Desert Shield, Afghanistan, and Iraq veterans to feel welcome for Hall of Heroes induction. Also, Peacetime Veterans are welcome as they, too, served their country.

"We want to honor all our heroes who fought, and are still fighting, for our nation," Burke said. They are accepting Hall of Heroes applications in the Greenwood VA Office.



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Veteran Salute: Wallace “Wally” Riddle

The Clinton Presbyterian Community assisted The Clinton Chronicle with this profile of a local veteran, Wallace “Wally” Riddle, who grew up in the Wattsville community and attended Ford High School.

Mr. Riddle joined the United States Air Force going into his senior year, 1951. Interesting fact: The Air Force has been in existence just 3 years when he joined.

Reflecting on basic training in Texas, where it was hot and he learned to follow orders and salute, Mr. Riddle says,

“The drill sergeant’s language was foul and so was his breath! You didn’t miss with the drill sergeant because he was an ex base-boxing champion!”

After basic, he went to heavy equipment school in Wyoming and then got on a boat. “I went to England by ship and it was 9 days of sickness.”

While he was stationed in England, he met his wife, Thelma.

Prior to their marriage, Mr. Riddle went to France, where he was at a different base every day. They married February, 1955, after he returned to England. The couple was sent back to the States - Mr. Riddle settled in at the Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville, SC, and he completed high school in 1957. Then, the Riddles went to Japan.

Mr. Riddle reflects, “We sailed for 21 days but the water in the Pacific is much calmer than the Atlantic.” Thelma followed after he found a house; and while in Japan, they played extras in films, one of which starred Don Ho, a singer and actor. Mr. Riddle’s job was to meet and greet everyone coming onto the base.

Then came Nebraska, 1960.

“The missiles came to Nebraska and we were the first squad to haul missiles by air.”

Fifteen generals were there; and one of the generals, a General Powell, sought to write an atomic bomb book, but was not allowed to write it. Once he retired, the general wrote his book - and it became a NY Times #1 best-seller.

Mr. Riddle was in Okinawa for 2 years. However, his wife’s father became ill, and he was transferred to England and then to the CIA, for a year and a half.

From there, “I was sent to the garden spot of the universe, Vietnam. I was there for 1 year and didn’t fight but it was all around. It was not a good place to stand around talking!”

Mr. Riddle was sent to Delaware, and retired with a little over 20 years of service as a E6 in 1971. “I wanted to stay longer, but they were losing their discipline.”

Some Random Tales from Mr. Riddle’s service:



Wallace “Wally” Riddle holds a portrait of himself in uniform as he reflects on his military service to the nation. Going into his senior year of high school, Mr. Riddle joined the United States Air Force, which had been in existence just three years at that time. He remembers, “You didn’t mess with the drill sergeant because he was an ex-base-boxing champion.” Clinton Presbyterian Community Photo

“In Tokyo we lived in Green Park, it was military housing and it was the largest housing area in the world. You only had to leave to get gas because everything else was there. There were 3000 people under one roof.”

“When going into Vietnamese bars, you had to be careful not to pick up a cigarette lighter lying on a table, they were often rigged and one blew off the side of the face of a major.”

“Vietnam was an odd kind a war because we could go to town or anywhere else you wanted to go.”

“There were Vietnamese Cowboys. For \$5 they would kill an American and for \$10 they would kill an American on the base. They

placed no value on life.”

“Two of my friends were walking down the street one day and one went to kick a can, and the other one pushed him out of the way and kicked the can. The can had been booby trapped and it blew the airmen’s leg off.”

“I had a great military career. My wife did a lot of volunteer service. She worked in family services and helped wives adjust to living in a foreign country. She loved helping people.”

“We saw a plane smoking one day as it was landing, Everyone got out except one. The sergeant went in after the one, the plane exploded and one side of the sergeant’s face was perfect and the other side looked as if it had been in a

meat grinder.”

“You get so close to your buddies and when one dies or is transferred, it’s like losing a family member.”

After retirement, he and Thelma moved to California, but he couldn’t find work. They came to Goose Creek, and he found work the first week at a German company. They later moved to England to be nearer Thelma’s family, but couldn’t find work. They moved to Charleston – he joined the North Charleston police force. “I worked until I got into a gun fight, and it wasn’t worth it for \$90 a week!”

Mr. Riddle had many other jobs – Orkin, General Medical, Budget Rent-A-Car, postal carrier from 1980 to 1990 – outstanding letter carrier award four times - security at the Navy Hospital and later at North Charleston Coliseum. He retired after that in 2004 at the age of 71. Thelma worked at the Charleston International Airport and taught security procedures. Together they enjoyed sightseeing, events, tombstone and manhole rubbings, and just meeting people. Thelma passed away 3 months prior to their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Riddle said, “You never get over it, you just adjust.”

He moved to The Clinton Presbyterian Community in August of 2019. “It was my 51st move.” He is enjoying all the people at the community and the amenities offered.

“I have had a great life and have traveled around the world, but I am now content at 86 years old in Clinton living nearer my family” - nephew, Steve Cline in Clinton, niece, Susan Burns in Laurens, and niece, Kay Lumpkin in Simpsonville.

His spiritual and church life are very important to him. He became a deacon in 1991; and since moving to Clinton he has joined Davidson Street Baptist Church in Clinton. He enjoys the preaching and his church family.

“The Lord’s guidance is the right guidance. We need to listen with our hearts to Him and not just with our brains.”

Wally Riddle has daily devotions twice daily.

He was inducted into the Hall of Heroes in October, 2019. He received many awards and medals while in service – many of them centered around good conduct, outstanding service, going above and beyond, personal responsibility and daily efforts. He attended many schools from special vehicle operator, supervisory functions and responsibility, leadership and management, etc. and he is a multiple disabled veteran.

Thanks to Dina Hair, marketing and communications director, the Clinton Presbyterian Community, for conducting this interview.



"I have had a great life and have traveled around the world, but I am now content at 86 years old in Clinton living nearer my family," says Wallace "Wally" Riddle, a resident of the Clinton Presbyterian Community, and shown with mementoes in his apartment. His spiritual and church life are very important to Mr. Riddle. He became a deacon in 1991; and since moving to Clinton he has joined Davidson Street Baptist Church in Clinton. He enjoys the preaching and his church family. Wally Riddle has daily devotions twice daily. "The Lord's guidance is the right guidance," he says. "We need to listen with our hearts to Him and not just with our brains." CPC Photo

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Mike Reeves,
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served, and to those
who continue to serve
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The Wingards - National Guard and U.S. Army

Barry Wingard, of Florence, responded to The Chronicle's call (April 17) for information about Veterans, because we would be restricted from doing in-person interviews due to the COVID-19 - Coronavirus threat. He responded with information about Barringer F. Wingard Sr., a WWII and Korean War veteran, and himself Barringer F. Wingard Jr., Col (R), USA.

The elder Mr. Wingard lived in Clinton from 1930 until he passed away in 1969. Barry Wingard lived here until graduation from Clinton High School in 1965.

Barry wrote, "My dad was retired from the SC Army National Guard and served in both World War II and the Korean War."

In the 1950s, The Chronicle published articles about Mr. Wingard. One regarded his receiving The Bronze Star Medal for Korean service, Nov. 4, 1952. Also published was a photo of Mr. Wingard with BG Ansel Godfrey - standing by the Welcome to Clinton sign with a caption reading "Small Town, Big Men." Mr. Wingard's obituary was published following his death on January 15, 1969.

The newspaper wrote about Barry's service 10-12 years ago, and The Clinton Museum had some of Barry's items that were donated and/or loaned prior to the museum closing.

The Wingards entered the Laurens County Hall of Heroes in 2011 - the photos with this article are of their induction



shadowboxes.

Mr. Wingard served in the National Guard from 1930 to 1966, and saw active duty. He served three additional years as a retired officer. He graduated from Clemson College in 1928.

Barry Wingard served 37 years in the National Guard and the United States Army - with 22 and 1/2 years active duty in the Army. He served a tour in Afghanistan.

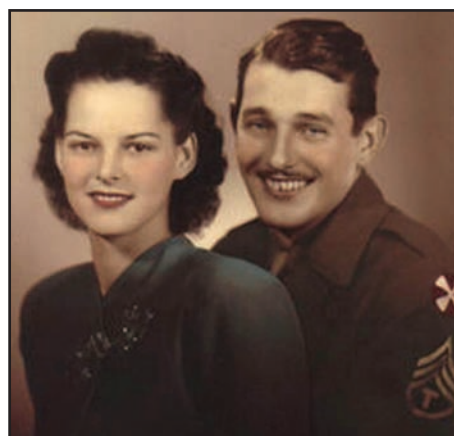
He wrote, "Thank you for recognizing our veterans and their families. Respectfully, Barry."



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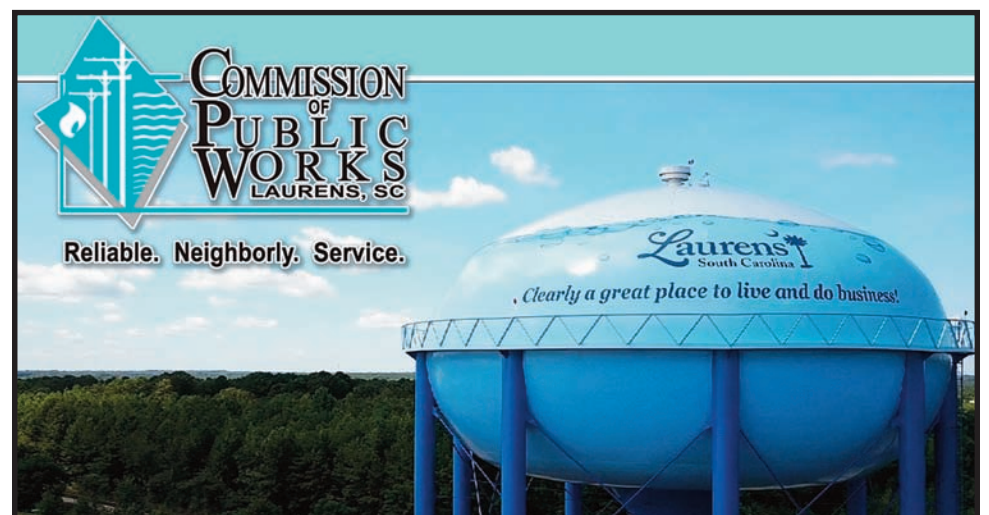
The wars have effected everyone from the east to the west coast, some more than others. For some, it gave life long friends and comrades. For others, it caused parents to lose their children. For me, it caused the introduction of my grandparents. While stationed in New Guinea during World War 2, my grandma, Hazel Hopke, was a nurse at the army hospital. My grandpa, Lander Clegg, was a Military Police for this hospital. While they flirted during their times at work, there was never an official "dating" placed on the relationship. Once my grandparents stay in New Guinea had finished, Lander returned to Seattle, Washington for discharge with intentions to find Miss Hazel in Walla Walla, Washington. When Lander knocked on Mr. Hopke's door on Christmas Eve, he was offered to stay in the barn where previous hobo's had stayed. Instead, Lander said, "No sir, I'm here to marry your daughter. Less than two weeks later, they were married and



eventually moved back to Lander's home in Greenwood, SC due to sick family. Without the war, great stories like this would have never happened. Thank you to all of the veterans who graciously served our country and stood up when it was easy to sit down. We salute you.

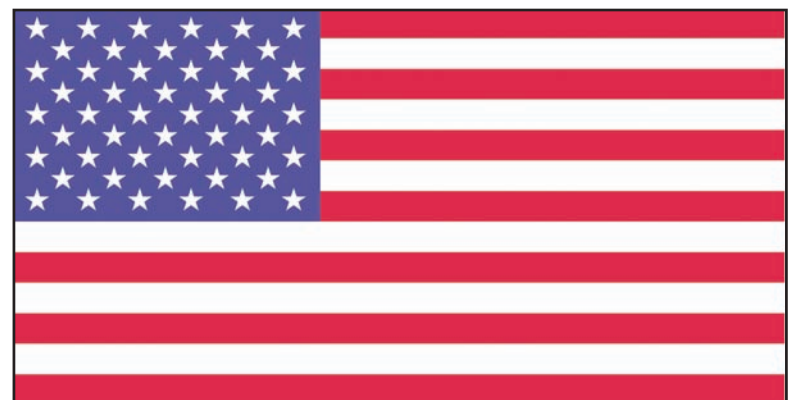
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Honoring Veterans: Laurens County Council seeks vets to be Pledge of Allegiance leaders

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

Published: 6-19-19

It has become so routine it is taken for granted.

Recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America is done at most government meetings, along with an invocation. For Laurens County Council, the prayer moves among the council members for the twice-a-month meetings. Council Chairman Dr. David Pitts normally starts The Pledge, with a familiar “ready, salute, pledge.”

The County Council broke that tradition June 11.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by former Marine Sgt. Andy Howard, now the county’s recreation director. The county wants a veteran to lead The Pledge at every meeting, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, at 5:30 p.m., in council chambers, second floor of the historic courthouse in downtown Laurens.

An outside lift is available for those who don’t want to climb stairs.

Applications (very short to fill out) are available in the Administration Office of the Hillcrest Square Center, Laurens, and in the Veterans Affairs Office, ground floor of the historic courthouse. The county is especially interested in having WWII and Korean Conflict veterans lead The Pledge in future meetings.

In 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that



348 American World War II veterans died every day, nationwide.

Veterans Affairs Officer for Laurens and Greenwood Counties Carey Bolt, and his staff, have more information. The application will be used as an introduction for the veteran leading The Pledge at each Laurens County Council meeting.

“We want any veteran, especially older veterans - World War II and Korea,” Bolt told the council. Chairman Dr. David Pitts called the effort to honor veterans “a new tradition”.

Bolt also has instituted and organized the annual Hall of Heroes inductions for Laurens and Greenwood Counties, for living veterans and posthumous inductees.

The application asks: Name, Address, Telephone #, Date, Type of Discharge, and Veteran’s Military History. In Howard’s case, he was an active duty Marine from 1996 to 2004, serving at Cherry Point, N.C., and overseas in peacekeeping missions. He later became a recruiter working the Columbia area. He was promoted to sergeant in 2008. In 2001, Howard and his unit were stationed in Greece, and were part of a Mediterranean response to the Attacks on America, Sept. 11th.


(Info: Laurens office; 864-942-8531, Greenwood office; mail: Laurens County Veterans Affairs Office, PO Box 193, Laurens, SC 29360; e-mail: cbolt@co.laurens.sc.us)

Phil Hasty, ET1, E-6, Electronics Tech., Navy	Sonny Ledda, Sgt., Army
John Chris Ward, E3 Lance Corporal, Marines	Ryan Mercer, Corporal, Marines
Stephen Brown, E-2 Private, Navy	Jim Watkins, Staff Sergeant, Army NG
Boyd Dink Johnson, Cpl., E4, Army Airborne	Charlie Campbell, Sergeant, Air Force, Army NG, State Guard
Justin Stroud, Sergeant., Army	Will Sickles, Specialist, Army NG
Michael Addison, Sergeant Army NG	Mayor Bob McLean, Captain, Army Reserve
Derric Gandee, Specialist, Army Reserve	Council Member Ronnie Roth, Captain, Army NG
Alonzo Gary, Specialist, Army/Army NG	Jimmy Young, Lt. Colonel, Army

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Kimberly Nicole Hampton

Kimberly Nicole Hampton (August 18, 1976 – January 2, 2004, a graduate of Presbyterian College in Clinton) was a Captain in the United States Army and the first female military pilot in United States history to be shot down and killed as a result of hostile fire. She was also the first woman from South Carolina to die in the Iraq War.

Battles/wars: Iraq War

Awards: Bronze Star Medal; Air Medal; Purple Heart

Died: January 2, 2004 (aged 27); Fallujah, Iraq

Born: August 18, 1976; Greenville, South Carolina.

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In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.


We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD was a Canadian poet, physician, author, artist and soldier during World War I, and a surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres, in Belgium. He is best known for writing the famous war memorial poem "In Flanders Fields." Born: November 30, 1872, Guelph, Canada; Died: January 28, 1918, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. Participated: World War I; Buried in the Wimereux Cemetery.

"In Flanders Fields" memorializes the April 1915 battle in Belgium's Ypres salient, where for 17 days, McCrae tended those injured in battle. Written after the death of a close friend, it was first published in Punch magazine and led to the adoption of the poppy as the Flower of Remembrance for the British and Commonwealth war dead.

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Laurens County Sheriff's Office
Don Reynolds, Sheriff

National Military Appreciation Month is a time to honor America's many heroes

By **Chrisanne Gordon, MD**

May is National Military Appreciation Month, since 1999 an annual opportunity for Americans to honor veterans and active-duty members of our military services. But this month-long observance takes on special meaning in 2020, a year so disrupted by COVID-19, because so many men and women on the front lines of this pandemic are also active-duty military or veterans now protecting us on a very different kind of battlefield.

Perhaps thousands now serving their nation so heroically as medical caregivers and first responders honed their skills in military service, sometimes under the stress of combat conditions.

Today, they are gallantly applying their compassion and skills in a no-less stressful battle against COVID-19.

Recent months have also seen active-duty military called to assist in the pandemic, for example the physicians and nurses on military hospital ships in New York City and Los Angeles harbors, and the soldiers who set up temporary hospitals in stadiums, convention halls and New York's Central Park. In my own state of Ohio, National Guard troops helped communities deliver food, while others with medical backgrounds stepped in to care for the sick in an overwhelmed federal prison. Other examples abound.

As we use National Military Appreciation Month to salute these heroes – and indeed all the men and women serving our country today and veterans who served in years past – we must not forget thousands of veterans who continue to struggle with service-related injuries, including traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which

is a form of brain injury.

In fact, nearly 450,000 combat veterans have returned from their tours of duty in either Iraq or Afghanistan with TBI sustained from an improvised explosive device (IED) blast, the explosion of a rocket-propelled grenade or the concussive force of heavy artillery. All are struggling with a potentially devastating, yet outwardly invisible consequence of service to our nation.

Because these veterans had great difficulty receiving medical assistance for these wounds of war, I founded the Resurrecting Lives Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to seeing that combat veterans with TBI receive expert medical care, rehabilitation and community support services they need for a successful return to civilian life. Our goal, put another way, is to keep our former military service members in “service” to their families and communities by collaborating for their brain health.

As a rehabilitation physician and as someone who has worked to recover from a serious, though not service-related, brain injury of my own, I empathize with these injured veterans and their families. Their injuries are greater; their resources are limited. But from my dual perspective of having treated TBI patients while also having lived firsthand with those dark days of depression, I know just how challenging it can be to summon up the motivation and courage to find a new normal – to “turn the lights back on” in a world grown dark.

This May, as we pause to honor all who have worn America's uniform, we as a nation cannot overlook the “invisible” wounds of war and must commit to providing the best reha-

ilitative and psychological long-term support for our injured service members, upon and after their return.

If you or someone you know is a veteran who is experiencing one or more signs of traumatic brain injury – headache, blurred vision, difficulty with bright light, ringing in the ears, excessive tiredness, memory loss or poor concentration – seek medical help for yourself or your loved one as early as possible. The good news is that TBI is treatable and its symptoms are manageable with proper treatment.

National Military Appreciation Month is our opportunity – one I believe is an absolute obligation – to honor past and present members of the military. This year, it is a particular occasion to salute those past and present military members who are serving us now in the fight against COVID-19. But it is also our responsibility to speak out on the debt we owe to those who returned home struggling to overcome injuries sustained while serving us.

No one is more deserving of the expert medical care, rehabilitation services and community support that are needed for their successful return to civilian life. Those who get involved in serving our returning heroes, no matter how small a gesture that work may be, will be a saving grace in the eyes of an injured veteran. For those struggling with TBI, you must be the light they are searching for.

Dr. Chrisanne Gordon, author of Turn the Lights On! is a physician who has personally struggled to recover from a brain injury, an experience that inspired her to create the national Resurrecting Lives Foundation, to help military veterans recover from TBI.

Honoring All Who Serve

Thank you for serving our country
and protecting our freedoms!



Mark N. Willis

House Representative District 16



SC House of Representatives
326-B Blatt Bldg. Columbia, 29201
Phone: (803) 212-6882



Laurens County Supports Its Veterans: Clockwise from above, the Veterans Monument in uptown Clinton, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary; CeramTec's Tank, a front lobby display honoring the company employees' service; and a pup tent and Army field display on Apple Orchard Road, near Clinton. Our community's military heritage is sustained by The American Legion and Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, the New Highlander Battalion Army ROTC of Presbyterian College, and the Army JROTC of Clinton High School and Navy JROTC of Laurens District High School. Chronicle Photos



Thank You Veterans!

Thank you and your families for your service and sacrifice. Your selfless service has continued to provide the freedom this nation so graciously enjoys.

Your love for our country is second to none. The sacrifices that our Soldiers and families make are the reason we live in the greatest nation in the world. Freedom does not come free. You have paid that price with your selfless service, loyalty and love for this country. As a combat veteran, I am very thankful to all who have served.

I firmly believe the quote "To maintain peace, we must prepare for War." Our veterans maintain peace!

Our military families serve alongside our Soldiers and each family has made tremendous sacrifices for our nations freedom. Thanks to the families of our Veterans!

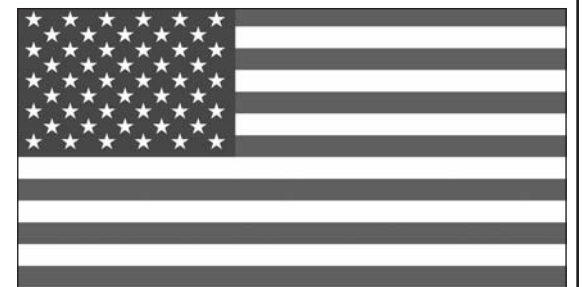
CSM (R) Doug Gilliam



Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice.

We honor all who sacrifice for our freedom

Laurens Park and Recreation
 Address: 319 Exchange Rd., Laurens, SC 29360
 Phone Number: (864)681-7275
 Email Address: Laurensprd@yahoo.com



Marine recruits to stage at The Citadel for observation prior to Parris Island

CHARLESTON — New Marine recruits scheduled to head to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island near Beaufort, South Carolina — the service's East Coast training base — will first report to The Citadel in Charleston for two weeks of observation.

The arrangement was made to enable the Marines to observe recruits to detect possible cases of COVID-19 prior to them entering the base on Parris Island.

“The Secretary of Defense charged each military service to develop strategies to maintain basic training, and The Citadel is proud to be part of the solution for the Marine Corps,” said Gen. Glenn M. Walters, USMC (Ret.), president of The Citadel. “Since The Citadel campus is currently

closed due to the pandemic, the college is positioned to quickly assist as a mission-capable site in this effort that supports national security.”

A tent city staging area set up at Parris Island for observation of recruits will not meet the needs of the operation as hurricane season approaches in June. The Marines reached out to The Citadel to explore the potential for temporary support.

“The Citadel has always been a vital resource to the state and our nation,” Walters said. “As we’ve set conditions to support the Marines, what’s been especially inspiring is the immediate and overwhelmingly positive support from our state’s leadership.”

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster readily supported the partnership. “South Carolina has a longstanding tradition of being the most military-friendly state in the nation, and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and The Citadel are critical components of that reputation. This innovative collaboration between the Marine Corps and The Citadel provides the perfect solution.”

Walters also wants to recognize Senator Finance Chair Hugh Leatherman, Mayor John Tecklenburg, Senate President Harvey Peeler, House Speaker Jay Lucas, Ways and Means Chair Murrell Smith, House Majority Leader Gary Simrill and their associated staffs for their cooperation in facilitating this initiative.

New book describes the transformation of a 17-year-old rural boy into a 20-year Navy Veteran

Author Bud Hunton marks his publishing comeback with the release of ‘Navy Blue’

HUBER HEIGHTS, Ohio — Having shown how one can succeed in life even without a support system in his autobiography titled “Leaving Home,” author Bud Hunton now returns to the publishing stage with a book that will show readers how traveling broadens one’s perspective and enhances maturity.

“Navy Blue” is a story about a 17-year-old boy from

Ohio who traveled the globe experiencing things that he would have never seen from his rural community of Wapakoneta, Ohio. In the 1950s, there was a military draft underway that would provide this young man with mature friends and get him started on the road to life — and what would eventually become a military career. Not only would he “join the Navy and see the world,” he would also meet an interesting assortment of friends.

“Traveling the globe can enhance your perspective on how the various cultures on this planet interact with each other,” Hunton shares. “Growing up with mature individ-

uals by your side can improve your intellect and understanding of life.”

Based on actual real life incidents, “Navy Blue” takes readers to many interesting places in the world, exploring historical events and unusual situations as seen through the eyes of a teenager who gradually matures into a world traveler. This young man’s story is a reminder for everyone to live a life of learning by maximizing their life experiences.

“Navy Blue”
By Bud Hunton



*We don't know them all, but we owe them all.
Thank you to all who sacrifice for our freedom.*



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June 9, 2020

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South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and its partners - area landowners, the Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund, VFW Post 5932, Georgia Pacific, Nomad, Clinton High School, volunteers, wildlife staff and DNR law enforcement - a mobility assisted hunting program for the 25th year. Event kickoff was a luncheon at Clinton's National Guard Armory. Landowners volunteer to set up veterans who are mobility challenged on their land Friday afternoon, and on Saturday if the veterans choose to hunt, for hunting and deer harvesting. The veterans abide by all landowners' rules and best-practices are observed while hunting - reminders were on the video screen along with a "Good Luck" message. DNR's website has a link to disabled individuals' hunting and fishing licenses, in addition to many other wildlife and fishing management documents. DNR reminds everyone, "Life's Better OUTDOORS." - The Clinton Chronicle, Nov. 6, 2019, 25 Years of Hunting Opportunities

They supported our freedom. Now we support theirs.
 Blessings to our veterans, active duty military
 and their families who have served our country.

Freddy Harrison, Army Veteran



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Hall of Heroes honors those who guard the Bill of Rights

By Vic MacDonald

Editor

Originally published: 2017

Someone has to protect The Bill of Rights. A Laurens County lawmaker knows who that is, and isn't.

"The Constitution that every member of the military swears allegiance to protect separates us from every other country. It is won, it is kept, it is protected by a lineage of soldiers," State Rep. Mike Pitts said. "It is not protected by a thug getting paid a million dollars a year to play a children's game."

During Saturday's 13th Annual Laurens County Hall of Heroes induction, Pitts paid tribute to the men and women who volunteer to go into harm's way. He said they protect Americans' rights to be secure in their own homes, the right to assemble, the "right to govern ourselves, and our ability to protect ourselves," all encompassed in The Bill of Rights.

The 2017 inductees for Laurens County Hall of Heroes are Michael Albert Carboneau, James R. Smith, Sam Waddell, John Michael Reeder. Maxie Leonard Reeder, Larry David Jones, Lowell Evert Bartley, Larry E. Lawson, Paul Alvin Nichols, James L. Templeton, Charles Franklin Roland, Ronnie Lee Hall, Johnson W. Mathis and Lonnie Owens Jr.

Laurens and Greenwood Veterans Officer Carey Bolt



also called forth law enforcement and first response officials to pin a special honor on the officers attending Saturday's ceremony in the Clinton High School Auditorium. The CHS Army JROTC conducted a sabre salute for the Hall of Heroes inductees. A 9-11-2001 video, President Ronald Reagan speech, POW/MIA Table ceremony, and special music also were part of the induction ceremony.

"None of us would be here without the opportunity (veterans and soldiers) have given us," Laurens County Sheriff Don Reynolds said. "There are several generations of service members here, and many are in the same family. Since 9-11, we have been at war. ... It takes a special per-

son to go into harm's way for others for little or no recognition."

Clinton Department of Public Safety Major Scott Shiflet said in the local department, nine of the people in 36 sworn positions "have served or are serving, we have one officer who has been deployed three times."

"We are so thankful for the veterans," Laurens Police Chief Sonny Ledda said. "We are very privileged to be in the same room with these veterans and families."

In closing remarks, Bolt called to the stage Pitts, State Rep. Mark Willis, CHS Principal Maureen Tiller and the cadets and staff of the Clinton High School JROTC. "What you see here is the future," Bolt said of the cadets, while expressing appreciation to Clinton High School for hosting the annual observance.

Shadowboxes reflecting the 2017 inductees' service will be in the Laurens County Judicial-Service-Administration Center, at Hillcrest Drive, Laurens, for one year. The Hall of Heroes plaques given to inductees, and families of posthumous inductees, are financed by an annual Christmas Tree lights sale. Bolt stressed the Hall of Heroes – Greenwood County has one, too – is a local project not required or funded by the federal Veterans Administration. Anyone interested in nominating a Laurens County veteran, or active duty soldier of any of the five branches of U.S. military service, can contact the VA Office in the historic courthouse in downtown Laurens. Inductions are conducted each fall, and have been held at Clinton and Laurens high schools.

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The Hall of Heroes is a military service event for people in Laurens and Greenwood Counties.



The Hall of Heroes is a military service event for people in Laurens and Greenwood Counties. For the local community and the nation, the next observance is Memorial Day -- an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2020 occurs on Monday, May 25. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. Did you know? Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

Greenwood County Office

Veterans Service Director for Greenwood County: Rosalind Burke
 106 Main Street N, Greenwood, SC 29646
 Phone: (864) 450-9268

Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday

Laurens County Office

Veterans Affairs Service Officer for Laurens County: Carey D. Bolt
 200 Public Square, Laurens, SC 29360
 (Historical Courthouse, bottom floor)
 Phone: (864) 984-4041

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