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**VETERANS**  
OF  
ALL WARS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
COPELAND-DAVIDSON, POST 56  
MAY 28, 2007

*Service and Sacrifice*

**The Clinton Chronicle**

November 20, 2024

# “There’s a bond among veterans that most people cannot understand”

Amid the celebration of dedicating its first countywide monument to veterans and members of the nation’s military service, the featured speaker mentioned a somber note.

District 42 State Representative Doug Gilliam, an Army and combat veteran, remembered “my soldiers” who struggled upon returning home from service and combat.

“Three of my soldiers within 45 days took their own life. It crushed me. There were a lot of prayers,” Gilliam said. “I went to every piece of training the Army could send me to, to identify those that needed help, people struggling with those issues. Veterans are a Family and I hope, one day, our whole nation will get to that point.” \*

Gilliam said now that his active duty has ended - and he is no longer director of the JROTC at Union High School - his job continues as the state legislature’s Military Caucus Chair. “You take care of veterans as if they are our soldiers. I treasure that,” he said. “Freedom doesn’t come free, and veterans out here know that. Wherever you see a veteran, tell them, ‘Thank you for your service’; they have earned it.”

Following a 45-minute Veterans Day, Nov. 11 ceremony on the grounds of the Laurens Public Library to dedicate the new monument, Taps was played at 11 a.m. and a moment of silence was observed.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of

the 11th month is observed as the end of World War I. In 1954, this was a designated as Veterans Day to honor all who have served in uniform.

Laurens County constructed this monument of granite pillars, benches, flagpoles for the flags of the military services, and a walking path with funds from the Capital Projects Sales Tax, approved by a majority of Laurens County voters in the November 2020 general election. The monument was dedicated 6 days after the 2024 general election.

“This monument represents a historic moment for Laurens County,” said Laurens Mayor Nathan Senn.

He observed that monuments dedicated in the past recognize those who have served in particular conflicts. He said the Laurens City Fountain - restored and working for the first time in 30 years - was dedicated in 1976; however, it was a gift from “our veterans to our city.”

“This is the first countywide recognition of our veterans’ service and, personally, I think that recognition is long over due. This is not a city monument. This is a county monument.”

It is a place, Senn said, where everyone can come together, reflect, and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

A large group gathered for the dedication was reminded that 15,800,000 people have served or are continuing to serve in the United States Military. The Colors were presented, and State Representative-elected Luke Rankin gifted the audience with The National Anthem.

County Council Chairman Brown Patterson said the monument, located at the library, will be a visual reminder to schoolchildren of the nation’s heritage of service and sacrifice. “I urge you to walk around and observe the individual monuments,” he said.

Patterson thanked in particular Marine Veteran Andy Howard and his County Parks and Recreation staff for their dedication to preparing the monument site. Former County Administrator Ernie Segars, himself a veteran, introduced the monument advisory committee and special tribute was paid to the late King Dixon who, as a veteran and community leader, long championed the idea of the Laurens County Veterans Memorial.

Segars said the first time he came to



this site - just a couple blocks from his house - was in 1988 when ground was broken for the Laurens County Public Library.

“It was so hot we couldn’t break ground with shovels. The library has served the community well, and this is a great addition. This location is a gateway to our county seat. I want to thank the craftsmen who built this monument. This was a muddy field, and they have built a beautiful monument.”

“As a young person, I did not realize the debt we owe to veterans. The health and welfare of our nation is due to veterans. ... We say to all veterans here, God bless you and thank you.”

State Senator Danny Verdin said to the veterans in attendance, “You are loved and you are appreciated, and this gathering shows it. What a witness to our children!”

Gathering stones to commemorate ancestors and events is a Christian tradition going back 3,500 years and 6,300 east of Laurens, Verdin said, as chronicled in The Bible.

“This is a chance to give testimony to God’s goodness,” he said. “Let our prayer be, when answered, ‘Thanks be to God.’”

Gilliam, who represents Union and

Clinton in the General Assembly, described his personal journey into military service.

“I needed that structure in my life when I was young. I needed that discipline in my life,” he said. After 4 years in the Army National Guard, he transitioned into the Army, learning the lesson that “the mission of our military is to fight and win wars - all veterans have that in common.” Veterans’ families also provide heroic service, Gilliam said, and everyone should realize that in the words of John 15:13, the men and women of the military are willing to lay down their lives for the nation’s values, liberties, and freedom.

“They all are a hero to me,” Gilliam said. “When people see that uniform, they respect it, and they still do today.”

\* “According to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide was the 10th leading cause of death across all ages in 2016, claiming the lives of nearly 45,000 people. It is estimated that Veteran suicides represent approximately 22 percent of all suicide deaths in the U.S.” - Source: National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide 2018-2028

This special section is proudly presented by The Clinton Chronicle - Your Hometown News Source since 1900.

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## Distribution

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November 20, 2024

# The Laurens County Hall of Heroes 2024 Induction

The 2024 LAURENS COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HALL OF HEROES ceremony that was held on Sunday, the 13th of October at Presbyterian College.

Please see the below names of Inductees for the 2024 Laurens County Veterans Affairs Hall of Heroes, US ARMY Recruiting Command Greenville Company Awards, Great American Awards, and State of South Carolina The Order of the Silver Cresent Award:

2024 LAURENS COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HALL OF HEROES:

SGT CHARLIE AUSTIN US ARMY  
 CPL THOMAS J. BATES US MARINE CORPS – VIETNAM  
 TEC 5 WILLIAM D. BISHOP US ARMY – WWII  
 SP4 THOMAS L. BURCH US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 SP4 LOUIS W. BUTLER III US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 SSG RETIRED LEROY CALHOUN US ARMY & SCARNG  
 SP4 GEORGE COLLINS US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RETIRED KENNETH COWLES US NAVY – WWII, KOREAN & VIETNAM  
 SGT LEONARD G. CRAINE US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 SP4 DEAN CRAMER US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 SGT DANIEL A. DUCKETT SCARNG – IRAQ &

KOSOVO  
 CSM RETIRED MANUEL EUGENE DUCKETT SCARNG  
 SSG RETIRED AUBARY E. FARMER US ARMY & US AIR FORCE – WWII & KOREAN  
 SP4 RUDOLPH FIELDER US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 1SG RETIRED BARRY FISHER US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 CHIEF MASTER SGT RETIRED ROSSIE B. HANNA US AIR FORCE  
 SSG RETIRED HENRY JONES US ARMY RESERVE  
 SP4 SOCRATES B. LEDDA US ARMY – DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM  
 SFC RETIRED WILLIAM LONG US AIR FORCE & SCARNG – VIETNAM  
 SGT DAVID MASSEY JR. US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 CPL MELVIN MCDOWELL SR. US ARMY  
 PVT STOVE MILLS US ARMY – WWI  
 1ST SGT RETIRED WILLIAM EARL MILLS US ARMY – VIETNAM & IRAQ  
 SSG RETIRED JOSEPH D. PRICE SCARNG  
 SSG RETIRED DANNY K. SHANNON US ARMY  
 MSG RETIRED WILLIE SMITH US ARMY RESERVE – VIETNAM  
 SP4 RAYMOND SUBER US ARMY  
 SGT LEE ROY TAYLOR US ARMY – VIETNAM  
 QUARTERMASTER SN JAMES HOWARD WALKER US NAVY – VIETNAM

SGT PATRICK WALKER SCARNG – IRAQ & AGHANISTAN  
 SP4 JOSEPH E. WOOD SCARNG  
 SGT PHILIP D. WYATT US ARMY – DESERT SHIELD / DESERT STORM

US ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND GREENVILLE COMPANY:

CAPTAIN DESMOND EDWARDS PRESENTED THE AWARDS TO THE FOLLOWING:

SFC CARPENTER, JONATHAN – MEDICAL RETIRED  
 SFC ROGERS, RYAN- 20-YEAR RETIREMENT  
 SFC BURCHETTE, MICHAEL- 20-YEAR RETIREMENT  
 SFC LADNER, MARCUS- FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE THIS FY  
 1SG CHADWICK, KREGG- 20 YEAR RETIREMENT

GREAT AMERICAN AWARDS:  
 CHAIRMAN BROWN PATTERSON  
 COUNCILMAN LUKE RANKIN  
 WAYNE HIPPI  
 JEANETTE SAIN  
 KEVIN MYER --- NEXT PAGE

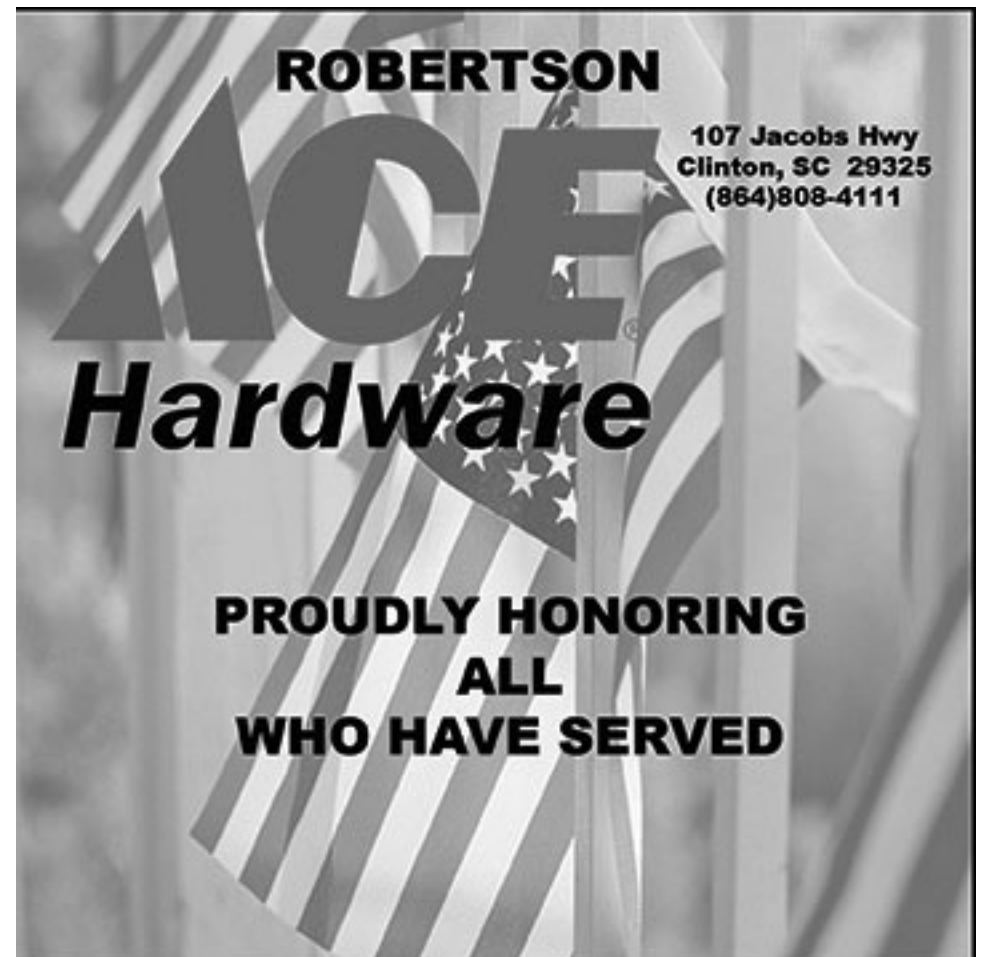


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PREVIOUS PAGE

DONNA KING

GUEST SPEAKER:  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBIN B. STILWELL  
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF SC ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA THE ORDER OF THE SILVER CRESENT:  
2ND HIGHEST AWARD FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
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To support the Laurens County Veterans Affairs Hall of Heroes Program, all donations can be sent to PO Box 193, Laurens, SC 29360 or in-person at 105 Bolt Drive, Suite B, Laurens.

#### FIRST RESPONDERS

Also, the Hall of Heroes announced its 2nd Annual First Responders Heroes. In addition to Clinton Fireman the late Michael "Mike Mike" Vinson, the following were recognized at event: Lt. Ronald Keith "KB" Barrett, Lt. Willie Brown, Clinton Police Department Dispatcher and Detention Officer Betty Campbell Wallenzine, Station Chief John Holmgreen, EMT Tony F. Osborne Sr., Paramedic Mike Threatt, Chief James Barrett, Captain Joe Robert Koon Jr., Captain Paul Mode, Asst. Chief Wilgus Fortney, Chief Carl Bernard "Buddy" Swanson Jr. and Asst. Chief Donny Ward. "We've been doing Hall of Heroes for 19 years and a couple of years ago, we decided to branch out to add first responders. October 28 was National First Responder Day, so we held the ceremony in conjunction with that," said Morris Madden, Chairman of the Hall of Heroes Board told golarens.com. "We do three from law enforcement, three from fire, three from dispatch and three from EMS. We also recognize those killed in the line of duty, so this year we honored 13, the 12 plus [Clinton firefighter] Michael Vinson."



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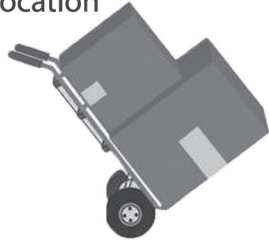
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# PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE ALUMNI DR. STANLEY '74 AND PATRICIA '74 REID ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF COACHING LEGEND KEITH RICHARDSON

November 4, 2024

Dr. Stan Reid '74 understands the power of belief. As a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church, faith and belief are foundational to his calling and day-to-day work.

But Reid, a former medical doctor who played football for the Blue Hose and served in the United States military, also understands the importance of being surrounded by those who believe in you—in your potential and your future. Reid understands because the people who believed in him as a young man were essential to his development—from student to soldier, from healer to pastor.

That is why Reid and his wife, Patricia '74, established the Coach Keith Richardson (pictured right) '64 Scholarship for male PC student-athletes, preferably those who play football or are from the town of Woodruff, where he grew up. Richardson, best known locally as the legendary former head football coach at Clinton High School, served as an assistant coach to the equally legendary coach Willie Varner from 1964-69 when Reid was a student there.

Reid said Coach Varner likely served as a father-figure for him. But Coach Richardson was Reid's line coach and perceptive enough to see that something was going on.

"Things weren't very good at home, and I was thinking seriously of quitting school, leaving town, lying about my age, and joining the military," Reid said. "I had not figured out exactly how to pull it off, but Coach Richardson pulled me aside one evening after practice and related some of his experiences while at Chester High School. He told me that if I stayed with it and kept working, football would be my ticket to get what I wanted in life. He told me that if I worked hard and stayed in school and 'toughed it out,' I could play college ball and go a lot further in life. That really caught my attention, and of course he was absolutely right!"

Reid also recalled Richardson's academic support as a history teacher at Woodruff.

"He was always really encouraging," Reid said, "and I liked him because he was probably one of the best teachers that we had at the school, as well. Even after he left to coach at Clinton and I had graduated from Woodruff High School, he stayed in touch while I was at PC and later as fellow alumni. I know from conversations that he offered a lot of support for his players and the community throughout his long career coaching at Clinton High School. I just had an immense respect for him as a person,



as someone who was a positive influence, not just a role model, but a positive influence as a coach and for the students that he encountered."

Reid also followed in Richardson's footsteps to play football for the Blue Hose at PC. But that is where their professional journeys – but not their friendship – parted ways. Reid earned a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and later trained to become an orthopedic surgeon, leaving service as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps after 13 years of active service.

After retiring from his surgical practice in 2007, Reid answered a second calling to earn a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and is now a stated supply pastor in Foothills Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and just completed three terms on PC's Board of Trustees.

Inspired in 2008 to establish the Keith Richardson Scholarship, Reid said he wants to help young people the same way Coach Richardson and many others helped him in college – with kindness and support for academic success.

Brandon Jacoby, a sophomore business major from Myrtle Beach, is the inaugural beneficiary of the Richardson Scholarship and a member of the college's men's wrestling team. Like his benefactor, Jacoby uses his athletic skills to earn a college degree. Also, like Reid, Jacoby understands firsthand the struggle of meeting tuition costs and expectations.

"At one point, my life felt like it was crumbling apart, and losing one scholarship raised the cost of my tuition to an unfathomable amount," he said. "It seemed like all hope was lost, and I couldn't attend this school anymore. At the very last moment, I was awarded the Keith Richardson Scholarship, which gave me reassurance and peace of mind that God is in control, and everything will be okay. It didn't just help me with cost, but kept me on a good path that I wanted to go down."

Thanks to Reid, one act of generosity changed the course of a young life.

"When I was first told I would be given this scholarship, I started tearing up," Jacoby said. "It was life-altering. If I hadn't been awarded this scholarship, I would've had to move out of my house and start living independently. Which you can imagine as a student athlete in college, it would be difficult to get my feet up and running. I'm truly grateful to be awarded this scholarship and to be able to continue furthering my education and my skills in wrestling."

Jacoby, the son of Jennifer and James Kondravy of Myrtle Beach, said he is also grateful for the community he has found at PC.

"No other college I went to had the environment quite like PC has," he said. "On my visit to PC, everyone that I talked to was kind and respectful. There was no feeling of awkwardness with anyone. Also, people on the campus didn't seem judgmental or give any weird looks. People just accepted me like I was their friend for a couple of years!"

## 47.0% of South Carolina Service Members Are Struggling With Expenses, 10th Worst in the U.S.

The financial challenges facing U.S. military households are a significant concern throughout the year. Holidays such as Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, or Veterans Day highlight the ongoing struggles that service members face, particularly amid rising costs for everyday essentials. Recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey shows a troubling trend: Military personnel and their families are finding it more difficult to cover basic household expenses such as food, housing, and transportation than the average American.

This analysis examines how service members are faring in today's economy compared to civilian households, highlighting the states where military families report the greatest challenges in managing their finances.

According to recent Household Pulse Survey data, members of the armed services are experiencing financial strain at higher rates than the general U.S. population. Over 40% of service members report difficulty covering their usual household expenses, compared to 36.6% of all U.S. adults.

The data also shows heightened anxiety among service members regarding rising prices. Nearly 80% of military personnel express stress about recent price increases, significantly higher than the 71.8% of all U.S.

adults who share similar feelings. Furthermore, 81.8% of service members are concerned about future price hikes, reflecting widespread uncertainty about inflation's long-term impact on household budgets.

Across the U.S., the financial burden on service members varies significantly from state to state, primarily influenced by local economic conditions. According to the most recent data, Utah leads with 53.7% of service members reporting difficulty covering basic household expenses, closely followed by Louisiana (52.9%) and Alaska (52.8%). Other states where over half of service members are struggling include Indiana (52.0%), Tennessee (51.2%), New York (50.8%), and Florida (50.3%).

A key issue service members frequently raise is that their Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) has not kept pace with the rapidly rising cost of housing. In states where service members face the greatest financial difficulties, such as Utah, Indiana, Tennessee, and Florida, home price increases have far exceeded the national average, exacerbating the strain on household budgets.

Another critical factor affecting military families is the employment challenges military spouses face. According to the Department of Defense, the military spouse unemployment rate was 21% in 2023, compared to a national rate of 4.3% that year.

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# COL. (RET.) JAMES F. CHASTAIN, JR. '96 INDUCTED INTO THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE ROTC HALL OF FAME

October 19, 2024

PHOTO: Presbyterian College ROTC Hall of Fame inductee Col. (Ret.) James F. Chastain, Jr., is pictured with PC president Dr. Anita Gustafson (left) and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) John Gentry.



Retired U.S. Army colonel James F. Chastain, Jr., a 1996 graduate of Presbyterian College, was inducted Friday into his alma mater's Reserve Officer Training Corps Hall of Fame.

Chastain, who retired from service in 2023 after 27 years of military service, played linebacker for the Blue Hose, was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and was the Wysor Saber winner as cadet commander of the Highlander Battalion at PC.

Chastain's long military career took him around the world to serve various duties, including a tour as commander of the U.S. Forces Korea's Ground Component Command Combined Analysis Center at Camp Humphreys in South Korea. After two tours there, he joined the faculty at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he served as an assistant professor and an assistant football coach.

After serving at West Point, Chastain earned a master's degree in strategic intelligence from the National Intelligence University, which earned him a role as strategic intelligence advisor to U.S. ambassadors Karl Eikenberry and Ryan Crocker in Kabul, Afghanistan. Following his fifth tour in Afghanistan and several other high-level intelligence posts, he was selected to attend the National War College in Washington, D.C., where he earned another master's degree in national security strategy.

After graduation, Chastain served as deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Europe Eurasia Regional Center before taking on his final leadership position as deputy director for analytical operations at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. His storied career has earned Chastain numerous awards and

medals, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.

According to Col. (Ret.) Jamerson Moses '97, a classmate, teammate, fraternity brother, and soldier, there is much more to Chastain than medals and achievements.

"The bio talks about James's achievements and impact," Moses said. "Going a little deeper, it implies character and values. It speaks to inspiration and influence. It implies family. It implies resilience. It is woven throughout his service. James's story serves as a reminder to us all of the power of loyalty, integrity, and genuine connection – values we strive to uphold, whether in uniform or not. His induction into the Hall of Fame celebrates not just his rank but the man behind the service, the leader, and the friend we all admire."

Moses recalled his "brother by choice" as a leader, a student-athlete who prioritized scholarship, a faithful friend with a sharp sense of humor, and an exemplary soldier from a family of soldiers.

Moses said Chastain connected deeply with people at PC and in the military.

"James is a man who builds real relationships – not for show but because he genuinely cares," Moses said. "Even today, he's the first to reach out. Every day, we have a text thread with several of our

fraternity brothers that are here today. He's the first to get that connection going every day. The first to share a laugh or the first to lend a hand, to reach out and check in.

"His loyalty runs deep, and it's a loyalty that has shaped so many lives, so many of you here today. For those of us who know him, we've seen that success isn't about individual achievement. It's not about all those things we read in his bio. It's about the bonds you build along the way. And James' commitment to those he cares about has made a lasting impact on everyone around him, on all of us here. And showing that true success comes through the connections we build and nurture."

Chastain's career is still to be commended, Moses said.

"It's a career marked by purpose," he said. "James' career speaks for itself, filled with achievements that reflect his selfless service and dedication. James has taken on some of the toughest roles with grace and grit. But beyond the impressive titles and accolades, all those things that we read in the bio, it's the impact that James has had on the lives of others that stands out most."

At West Point, for example, Chastain did more than teach, Moses noted.

"James didn't just teach military geography or global cultures," he said. "He mentored cadets. He taught them. He coached them. He guided them with integrity and care. I believe, James, that's one of the things that you're most proud of in your service."

Moses said Chastain is a man who lives his values without apology.

"Integrity isn't just a concept to him,

it's who he is," Moses said. "In every role he's held, serving as a linebacker on the football team, an officer in Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity, in student government, in the military, leading military teams to being a strategic advisor to the ambassadors, James has remained true to himself and to what's right."

Chastain thanked the college's Army ROTC Alumni Council for the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame. He also thanked his alma mater for providing him with a "transformational" education that served him well throughout his years of service in the military.

"Wherever I was, I was able to bring out topics to situations to relate them to the human condition and to geopolitical interests of the United States, and often bringing back Thucydides and many others as we understand what it takes to live this life and provide security," he said.

Chastain thanked his former classmates, coaches, professors, and family, including his wife, Ami, a 1993 PC graduate, for their support throughout his life and service.

He closed with advice for PC's newest cadets in the Highlander Battalion.

"What you learn every day is going to matter in how you protect your soldiers and how you further the interest of the United States," he said. "When I was here doing PT every morning, I thought about it, but when I was actually there on the DMZ of North Korea, across the border in Estonia on the Russia-Estonia line, when I was in Afghanistan looking into the Hindu Kush, and in Beijing talking and studying the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army, I had no idea the opportunities that were going to come to me, and I'm very thankful for those opportunities and whatever impact I was able to help with for the country. That's your future. Take it. It means a lot that you are taking that up for us."

Chastain owns Chastain Analysis Strategy and Training and works with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He and Ami reside in D.C.

Many military bases are located in rural or remote areas, limiting job opportunities for spouses, particularly in specialized fields. Additionally, frequent relocations make it difficult for spouses to sustain long-term careers, especially for those in professions requiring state-specific occupational licenses that can be difficult to transfer.

Service members are also more likely to report financial struggles in states with higher-than-average unemployment rates, such as Louisiana, Alaska, and New York. Conversely,

the state unemployment rate is below average in 9 of the 10 states where service members report the least financial difficulty. This suggests that strong local employment opportunities, particularly for spouses, significantly ease the financial burden on military households.

Here is a summary of the data for South Carolina:

- Share of service members finding it difficult to cover expenses: 47.0%
- Share of service members stressed about price increases: 82.1%
- Share of service members

- concerned about future price increases: 83.5%
- Home price growth (2019–2024): 56.4%
- Unemployment rate (2023): 4.3%

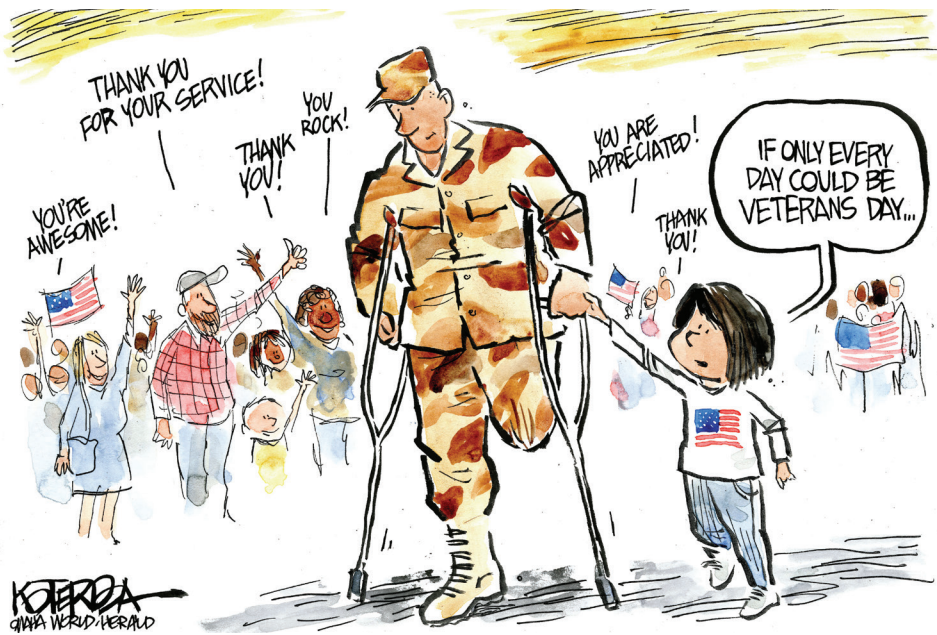
For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

- Share of service members finding it difficult to cover expenses: 40.2%
- Share of service members stressed about price increases: 79.8%
- Share of service members concerned about future price increases: 81.8%

- Home price growth (2019–2024): 48.4%
- Unemployment rate (2023): 4.3%

**Methodology**  
Upgraded Points conducted the analysis using the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey Phase 4.0–4.2, covering the period from January 9, 2024, to September 16, 2024. Service members were defined as adults currently serving in the U.S. armed forces (Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard) and their spouses.

# Our New Monument







Dedication of the Veterans Monument on the grounds of the Laurens Public Library, West Main Street, at 10 am on Monday, Nov. 11, 2024 - Chronicle Photos by Vic MacDonald - Editor - oldest son of William Thomas MacDonald, WWII Navy, Greensboro, N.C.



## Veterans service to the greater community

LAURENS - Laurens County [SC] Chamber of Commerce posted: "Congratulations to the American Legion Post 25 Laurens, SC on your beautiful new outdoor pavilion! We're grateful for all you do in Laurens County and had a great time celebrating with an official Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting!" -- Above

Post 25's Boots Brigade at the Nov. 8 & 9 Squealin' on the Square in downtown Laurens. - Right

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## “Remember Everyone Deployed” (RED)

For Walmart Fulfillment Center #2076 in Laurens, honoring veterans and active-duty service members is a year-round commitment. Through the “Remember Everyone Deployed” (RED) initiative, employees show their support for deployed service members every Friday—not just once a year, but as an ongoing tradition of gratitude.

Led by HR Manager Twanna Broughton, a Marine Corps veteran, and General Manager Tim Hickman, an Air Force veteran, Fulfillment Center #2076 began observing RED shirt Fridays as a way to show support, recognition, and gratitude for veterans and their families. Each Friday, the center’s 35 veteran employees wear special red shirts designed to honor their service, while their colleagues join in by purchasing and wearing similar red “Remember Everyone Deployed” shirts to honor all who are deployed. The proceeds from these shirt sales go directly toward supporting military families, creating a powerful community tradition that



pays tribute to the sacrifices of our service members.

Twanna explains the personal meaning behind the initiative: “I want those service members that are deployed to know their service is not in vain and the sacrifices they are making don’t go unnoticed. We support them, knowing what they do for us in defending our country.”

Under Twanna and Tim’s leadership, the national RED initiative has grown into a powerful tradition at Walmart Fulfillment Center #2076, fostering a year-round culture of solidarity and community..

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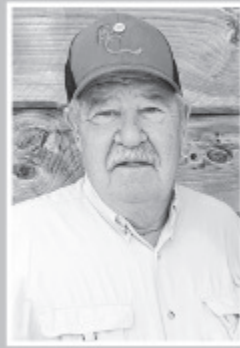
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## LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Laurens County Sheriff

Eugene Johnson, second from left -- October 30

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame held an induction ceremony to recognize seven officers for their exemplary service to the law enforcement profession in South Carolina.

This ceremony recognizes individuals in law enforcement who have a proven record of excellence with a meritorious achievement award and recognition in the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

In addition to an exemplary record, nominees must also have a minimum of 25 years of law enforcement service. The nominees cannot currently be employed by a law enforcement agency or have been employed in the past five years. They may also be nominated posthumously.

Robert G. Woods IV, Director of the SC Department of Public Safety and chair of the SC Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame Advisory Committee addressed the attendees at today's event.

"It is a privilege to be a witness here today as we honor these incredible law enforcement professionals who have dedicated their lives to the service of others," said Woods. "Their induction into the Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame will ensure their sacrifices will be remembered for generations to come."

Representatives from the respective South Carolina law enforcement agencies presented the nominations of the inductees at the ceremony.

This year's inductees include:

Colonel Anna J. Amos

South Carolina State Transport Police

Chief Wendell Davis

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Horace P. "Hoss" Horton Jr.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Lieutenant M.B. "Sonny" Huggins III

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Sheriff R. Eugene Johnson

Laurens County Sheriff's Office

This is Sheriff Johnson's obituary from Kennedy Mortuary: Ralph Eugene Johnson, 97, of 103 Blakely Avenue, husband of Shirley Babb Allen Johnson, passed away Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at the Hospice House of Laurens County. Born in Newberry County,

he was a son of the late James Edward and Eunice Brehmer Johnson. He was a US Army Veteran of WWII and member of Little River Dominick Presbyterian Church for 85 years where he was an elder and Clerk of the Session. Mr. Johnson was Magistrate of Hunter Township for 14 years before becoming the Laurens County Sheriff. He served as Sheriff for 28 years and was awarded the SC Sheriff of the Year, was the Past President of the SC Sheriff Association, and member of the SC Law Enforcement Association. He was also a member of Kiwanis, American Legion, and the VFW, a Shriner, and Mason and member of Palmetto Lodge 19. Surviving in addition to his wife are two sons, Gary Allen and wife Wanda and Randy Allen and wife Gail all of Laurens; one brother, George Randolph Johnson of Kinards; four grandchildren, Brooke Nabors and husband Chad, Burton Allen and wife Jennifer, Bryson Allen, and Brittney Allen; and four great grandchildren, five nephews, and two nieces. He was predeceased by one brother, James Earl Johnson, and two sisters, Ella Mae Werts and Blanche Boyd. Funeral services will be 11:00 am, Friday, November 5, 2010, at Little River Dominick Presbyterian Church conducted by Rev. Lawrence Peebles and Dr. Bev T Kennedy, Jr. with burial in the church cemetery with Military Honors. The family will be at the residence and will receive friends Thursday at The Kennedy Mortuary from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Little River Dominick Presbyterian Church, Cemetery Trust Fund, c/o Randolph Johnson, 4235 Highway 560, Kinards, SC 29355.

Chief William C. "Bill" Mobley  
York Police Department  
Director Alvin A. Taylor  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The first ceremony recognizing officers for meritorious service was held in October 2017. Since then, 56 officers have been inducted into the SC Hall of Fame for excellence in law enforcement, including this year's honorees.

## STATE GUARD

SCETV and the South Carolina State Guard collaborate to showcase South Carolina's military legacy

COLUMBIA – South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is proud to announce a new partnership with the South Carolina State Guard to bring the rich military history

of South Carolina into classrooms across the state. Through this collaboration, SCETV and the South Carolina State Guard will develop educational resources, including digital content and classroom tools, to share the stories of South Carolina's military heroes and the contributions they've made to the nation.

Since its founding in 1670, the South Carolina State Guard has stood as a steadfast protector of the state, from Revolutionary War battles under figures such as Francis Marion and Thomas Sumter, to its service during recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, with SCETV's expertise in producing high-quality educational programming, this history will be made accessible to students and adults across the state.

Resources will be made available through KnowItAll.org, SCETV's award-winning educational website for teachers and educators. With curated content around the topic of

South Carolina military history, educators will be able to access these resources to use in the classroom. Additionally, SCETV will integrate military history themes into existing programs such as History in a Nutshell and share information via the sctv.org website and SCETV social media platforms.

## QUOTES

"Through this partnership we bring our state's compelling military history into classrooms across South Carolina! These valuable resources will be available to students free of charge, offering an engaging way to explore and learn about the contributions and sacrifices made by our state's military. This collaboration is an opportunity to ensure that future generations have access to important stories and lessons from our past. We're excited to see these educational tools in action!" –SCETV Chief Learning Officer Dr. Sandra Bowman

# SENATOR DANNY VERDIN

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Laurens, Greenville &  
Union Counties*

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VERDIN**  
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# South Carolina Army National Guardsmen to deploy to Southwest border to support Customs and Border Protection

Story by Maj. Karla Evans  
South Carolina National Guard

EASTOVER, S.C. – A company of approximately 120 South Carolina Army National Guardsmen assigned to the 1055th Transportation Company, 59th Troop Command, headquartered in Laurens, will deploy at the end of October for approximately 12 months supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection as part of the federal Southwest Border Mission. A departure ceremony was held in their honor on Sunday, October 27, McCrady Training Center in Eastover. Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general of South Carolina, was joined by family, friends, service members, well-wishers, and other South Carolina National Guard Leadership to wish the service members well.

“Less than 1 percent of all Americans do what you do,” said Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, “To the families, I thank you for providing support and allowing your soldiers to do what they do.”

Under the direction of U.S. Northern Command and Joint Task Force North, the soldiers of the 1055th will deploy in support of the SWB mission in a federally funded, Title 10 status.

“I challenge you to be patient with your Soldier. Soldiers, be patient with your families. Be patient with one another,” offered Col. Denton Smith, commander, 59th Troop Command. “Thank you, families, for your continued support.”

Teaming with Guardsmen from other states, the South Carolina Guardsmen will provide mission-enhancing support to CBP’s border security operations.

“This uniform represents one of the most trusted agencies in this country,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Griggs, commander, 1050th Transportation Battalion “Continue to earn the respect of your state and country with each and every action that you do.”

The Department of Defense has supported the Department of Homeland Security’s border security mission in 19 of the last 23 years. The mission enables CBP to address security challenges and conducts its mission more efficiently along the Southwest border.

“I am so proud of you,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Randle Ballenger. “2,000 miles is a lot to cover for one agency, it is our job to assist and support Customs and Border Protection. Seize the opportunity!”



CLINTON — Clinton’s Copeland-Davidson Post 56 was looking good and feeling proud at the 2024 Annual American Legion Conference in Columbia. The post received the Department’s Annual Children and Youth Citation for Outstanding Achievement and a Special Category 1 for Dedicated Service Award. State Adjutant Michael D. Strauss noted from the podium that Post 56 had already achieved 130% of its membership goals for the year, causing an audible surprised response from the ballroom participants. Photo ID (L-R): State Commander Bruce Donegan, Adjutant Lynn Boyd, State Adjutant Michael D. Strauss (podium), Vice-Commander Eric Valiante, Legionnaire Dean Cramer, District 10 Commander Wayne Hipp, and State Children and Youth Committee Chairwoman Suzy Spurgeon. - Photo by Post 56 Legionnaire Burt Harter

<https://www.scguard.ng.mil>

“Greater  
love hath  
no man  
than this,  
that a man  
lay down  
his life for  
his friends.”

- John 15:13

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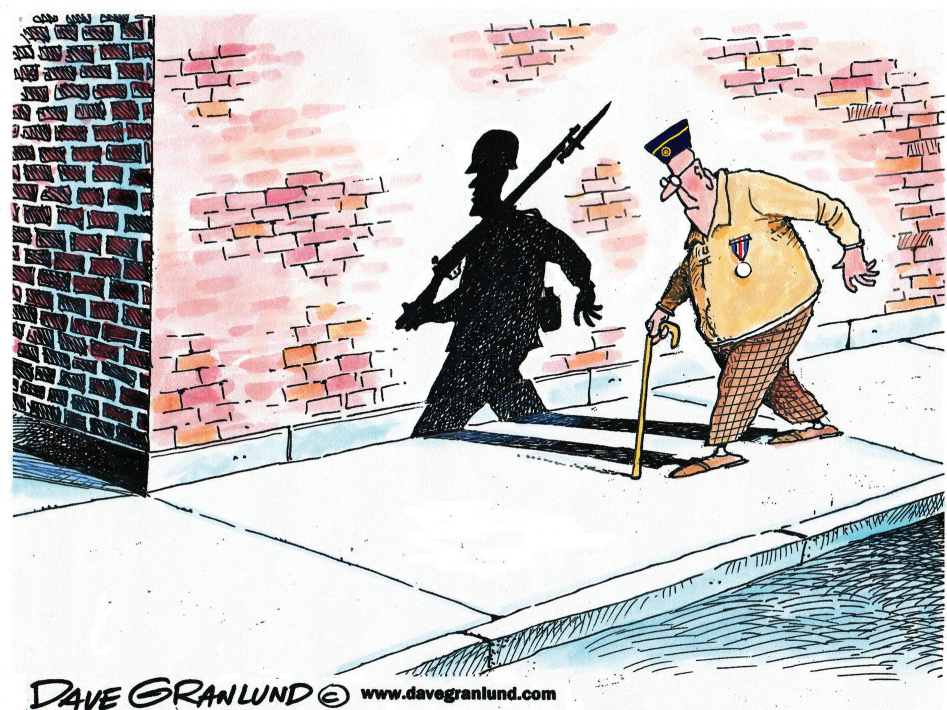
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Proverbs 22:6 New King James Version (NKJV)  
Train up a child in the way he should go, And  
when he is old he will not depart from it.

## Our Schools Say, "Thank You"



These Chronicle Photos are from schools' celebrations of Veterans Day. See more in a gallery at: [MyClintonNews.com](http://MyClintonNews.com) and on the District 56 Facebook page.

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