

# Roanoke Valley Veterans Center News

## Contents: Page

Wreaths Across America -	1
Civil Air Patrol -	2
February Calendar	2
Veteran of the Month	3
Veteran's Organizations	4



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On December 12, 2009, several dozen participants braved the winter elements to witness a moving ceremony. Held at Cedarwood Cemetery in Roanoke Rapids, in what has become an annual event across the country, Wreaths Across America brought together both young and old to honor our Nation's veterans. Butch Clopton of the Civil Air Patrol was the Master of Ceremonies while the members of the Patrol participated in the ceremony.



Wreaths Across America ceremony held at Cedarwood Cemetery 12/12/09.

Photo courtesy of Russell Evans

Wreaths across America began in 2006 as an offshoot of the Arlington National Cemetery wreath project, which was started in 1992 with the annual placement of wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath Co. Today, it is a monumental initiative, with partners like Civil Air Patrol, and other veterans' groups participating,

not to mention the tens of thousands of private citizens who sponsor wreaths for the wreath-laying ceremonies.

### Founders Corner – Dallas Jones

I have stepped down as President and CEO of the RVVC but I leave it in good hands. As of 1/1/2010, Ellen Heaton is the Chairperson of the Board, George Willis is the President / CEO, Eugene Bryant is the Chief Operations Officer, John Moeur is Communications Relations Director, Carol Heaton/Jim Hyatt will be Treasurer and Budget Director, Butch Clopton will be Secretary, Bob Caudle will be Attorney in Fact, Reverend Bob Bowser will continue to be Chaplain and the Reverend Charles Harris will be the Facilities Chairman.

I have absolute trust that the RVVC is in good hands and I will be around to assist in any way I can. I have asked the board to make me an honorary member as President/CEO Emeritus. I ask each of you to continue to support the center as you have in the past by helping monetarily and working at the center.

I thank each of you for all you have done for the Veterans of the Roanoke Valley. It has been the most satisfying project of my lifetime and I truly thank you all.

## Focus On: The Civil Air Patrol

Civil Air Patrol is a Congressionally chartered, federally supported, non-profit corporation that serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. CAP is a volunteer organization with an aviation-minded membership that includes people from all backgrounds..

Formed in December 1941 by the Director of the Office of Civilian Defense, Fiorello H. LaGuardia, the CAP, during WWII, was seen as a way to use America's civilian aviation resources to aid the war effort instead of grounding them. The organization assumed many missions including anti-submarine patrol and warfare, border patrols, and courier services. CAP pilots sighted 173 enemy U-boats and sank two.

After WWII, CAP became the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and its incorporating charter declared that it would never again be involved in direct combat activities. Since its incorporation charter, CAP has maintained its relationship with the USAF, and has continued its three congressionally-mandated missions.

The three congressionally assigned key missions include: emergency services, which includes search and rescue and disaster relief operations; aerospace education for youth and the general public; and cadet programs for teenage youth. In addition, CAP has recently been tasked with homeland security and courier service missions. CAP also performs non-auxiliary missions for various governmental and private agencies, such as local law enforcement and the American Red Cross. While CAP is sponsored by the USAF, it is not an operating reserve component under the Air Force or the federal government. Since CAP is not a reserve component of a uniformed service of the military and its membership is made up of volunteer



civilians, CAP members are not subject to the laws governed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Membership in the organization consists of cadets ranging from 12 to 20 years of age, and senior members 18 years of age and up. These two groups each have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of pursuits; the Cadet program contributes to the development of the former group with a structured syllabus and an organization based upon United States Air Force ranks and pay grades, while the older members serve as instructors, supervisors, and operators. All members wear uniforms while performing their duties.

Nationwide, CAP is a major operator of single-engine general aviation aircraft, used in the execution of its various missions, including orientation flights for cadets and the provision of significant emergency services capabilities. Because of these extensive flying opportunities, many CAP members become licensed pilots.

## Calendar for February/March

2/1	Veteran of the Month Ceremony at the RVVC 10:00 AM
2/17	NVHAI Interviews at the RVVC 9:00 AM
3/1	Veteran of the Month Ceremony at the RVVC 10:00 AM
3/17	NVHAI Interviews at the RVVC 9:00 AM



### Veteran of the Month for January

#### **Staff Sgt. Jack Pittman – US Army**

Sgt. Pittman was inducted into the Army by the Selective Service Board in January of 1941. Slated to be discharged in January of 1942, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, cancelled his discharge and extended his enlistment until six months after the war ended.

Jack served as an instructor at Fort Jackson, SC until he was sent overseas to England where he participated in the Normandy landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Continuing his march through France after D-Day, Sgt. Pittman saw action in the Battle of the Bulge. He received three Purple Hearts for wounds received in different engagements.

**At 10:00 AM on the first Monday of every month, the Roanoke Valley Veteran's Center honors a veteran and recognizes that individual as being the Roanoke Valley's Veteran of the Month. Recent honorees include:**

*January – Jack Pittman - US Army*

*February - Wilber Harris – Corporal – US Army*

### A Soldiers Prayer

**God our Father,**  
Help me to remain  
true to my ideals  
during my service to  
my country.

Help me be what is  
in America,  
the land of the free.  
May I realize that I  
represent

what our country  
stands for.

My uniform is a  
symbol of duty and  
valor  
both in peace and in  
war.

I take up arms to  
defend what all  
Americans hold dear:  
life, liberty, and the  
pursuit of happiness.

Grant me the  
strength to live  
according to these  
ideals,  
the courage of my  
convictions, and the  
resolve to endure  
whatever dangers  
threaten.

With you at our side  
I fear no evil  
and resist every  
enemy,  
secure in the  
knowledge  
that you hold me in  
the palm of your  
hand.  
Amen.

**Roanoke Valley Veterans Center**  
1620 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

**Phone** 252-535-2514  
**E-mail** dallaspy@yahoo.com

Newsletter contact email is:  
Myricktom@yahoo.com



### Veteran's Agencies

Veterans Service Officer for  
Halifax County is at

10N. King Street, Halifax, NC  
27839

252-583-3601

Veterans Service Officer for  
Northampton County is at

102 W. Jefferson St.  
Jackson, NC 27845

252-583-2621

## RVVC...Mission Statement

- To honor all Veterans past and present who have, regardless of branch of service, has honorably served our country, at anytime or any place.
- To educate the citizens of the community and instill in them a sense of patriotism and sensitivity to the sacrifices veterans and their families have contributed to the cause of freedom.
- To provide a place for veterans to record their stories and display their memorabilia and medals.
- To outreach to veterans and their families; to provide them with information on veteran's benefits of which they may not be aware.
- To provide support to currently serving veterans and their families
- Provide a military library with resources to record veterans' stories on DVD to be stored in the library of Congress.

Please note that, on the third Wednesday of every month, the *National Veterans History Archival Institute* visits the RVVC to interview any veteran who would like to tell their story and have it preserved, possibly forever. The filmed interview is saved in DVD format, where one copy is to become part of the records library at the Library of Congress and a second copy is made available to the veteran. If you wish to take part in this program, please contact a volunteer at the RVVC to reserve an upcoming day and time. The next interview day is Wednesday, February 17th.

### **Veterans Organizations of the Greater Roanoke Valley....**

**VFW Post 3702**  
Corner of Zoo Road and W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Roanoke Rapids, NC  
<http://www.vfwwebcom.org/nc/post3702>

**Amvets Post 101**  
PO Box 1879  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 535-1917

**American Legion Shaw-May Post 38**  
717 American Legion Road  
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870  
(252) 537-0161

**American Legion Post 308**  
207 Mitchell Street  
Littleton, NC  
(252) 586-5320

**American Legion Post 425**  
2685 Weavers Chapel Road  
Littleton, NC  
(252) 586-4046

**American Legion**  
Edwin Haynes Gregory Post 98  
Halifax, NC

**American Legion Post 407**  
**PO Box 84**  
**Garysburg, NC**

**American Legion Post 325**  
**115 Whitfield St.**  
**Enfield, NC**

**Disabled American Veterans**  
Roanoke Valley Chapter 15  
Roanoke Rapids, NC

**MOAA**  
First in Freedom Chapter  
922 Pine Tree Drive  
Henrico, NC  
**(252) 586-9646**

To add a Post or Chapter to this list or if there needs to be corrections, please contact  
[myricktom@yahoo.com](mailto:myricktom@yahoo.com)