



American Legion Post 0048 – Chesnee, SC

**2016 Department Community Service Awards
Report**

June 10, 2017

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

P.O. Box 3309

Irmo, SC 29063

Phone: (803) 612-1171 – Fax (803) 213-9902

2016 DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS REPORT

REPORT COVERS PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

DUE DATE: June 15, 2017

Reports will not be returned

Post Name: Chesnee

Post No. 0048

District: 5

Post Location: Chesnee, SC

2016 POST MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 113

Check BOX	PROJECTS	CHECK BOX	PROJECTS
1. _____	Get out the vote	2. _____	Blood Donor Program
3. _____	Baskets for needy	4. <u> X </u>	Toys for Underprivileged
5. _____	School Recreation Equipment	6. _____	Accident Prevention/Safety
7. _____	Ambulance Service	8. _____	Rescue Unit Service
9. <u> X </u>	Observance Patriotic Holiday	10. <u> X </u>	Chaperone Service
11. <u> X </u>	Erection of Flag Poles/Memorials	12. _____	Care for Community Property
13. _____	Drug Abuse Prevention	14. _____	Immunization
15. _____	Health and Research	16. _____	Handicapped Children
17. <u> X </u>	Youth Activities	18. _____	Drum Corps
19. _____	Junior Bands	20. _____	Drill Teams
21. _____	Color Guards	22. _____	Sponsor Boy Scout Troop
23. <u> X </u>	Parties and Dances	24. <u> X </u>	School Awards
25. <u> X </u>	Oratorical Contest	26. <u> X </u>	Youth Recognition Day
27. _____	Emergency Shelter	28. _____	Para-medical Training
29. _____	Athletics	30. _____	Cancer Awareness

ALDSC-AWDS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 31. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of Legion Hut Home | 32. <input type="checkbox"/> Park Development |
| 33. <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Relief | 34. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flag Education |
| 35. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Projects | 36. <input type="checkbox"/> Sons of American Legion |
| 37. <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pools | 38. <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds |
| 39. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boys State | 40. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| 41. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local and V.A. Hospital Visitation | 42. <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt a Highway Program |
| 43. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Cadet | 44. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JROTC |
| 45. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Library Support | 46. <input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty Military Support |
| 47. <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Star Banner Program | 48. <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Research Volunteers |
| 49. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meals on Wheels Volunteers | 50. <input type="checkbox"/> Soup Kitchen |
| 51. <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Programs | 52. <input type="checkbox"/> Language Comprehension |
| 53. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Needs Assistance (financial)
Home repairs, lawn mowing, etc.) | 54. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation in local fund
raising projects (United Way, Easter
Seals, Cancer, etc) |
| 55. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep America Green (recycling programs) | |

List other Community Service Projects:

- 56. Maintained a Public Handgun Range
- 57. Conducted Public Handgun Competitions
- 58. Conducted Public Turkey Shoots
- 59. Maintained Former Military Equipment for Public Viewing
- 60. Post Veteran's Service Officer
- 61. Feed the Hungry Program
- 62. Palmetto Girls State
- 63. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 48
- 64. Wreaths Across America

NOTE: DESCRIBE BELOW THE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES CHECKED AND ANY OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS THE POST SPONSORED. IDENTIFY BY NUMBER.

SCRAPBOOKS ARE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE AS THEY REVIEW THE COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

Item # 4: Supported by monetary donation the local Chesnee Police 'Kops Kids' program providing toys, food and other items to area underprivileged children during the Christmas season. Post 48 members provided volunteers and leadership for the City of Chesnee Program including Post 48 members (Chief of Police Swofford and City Councilman Mahaffey) who helped coordinate the program.



Item # 9: Observed Veteran's Day by assisting with the planning and organization of the City of Chesnee Veteran's Day Parade and Veteran Recognition Ceremony held on Nov. 12th, 2016. Secured the services of the Parade Grand Marshall and featured guest speaker: American Legion Dept. of SC Commander Bob Scherer. Secured and coordinated the services of antique vehicles for use by Chesnee area WWII veterans in the parade. Secured the vocalist, bands and JROTC units to perform in and assist with the ceremony. Post 48 volunteers assisted with the parade line-up and the escort of aged veterans. Our members were honored to ride on our special Post 48 Parade float.



(Post 48 Parade Float)



(Post 48 members and WWII veterans: Bernard Cantrell, Billy Scruggs, Connell Scruggs and Wilford Willingham (all Post 48 members))



Chesnee High School JROTC and Marching Band



Parade Grand Marshall Bob Scherer (and wife); Post 48 members (Chaplain Curtis Daniel and City Councilman Bruce Mahaffey)



Post 48 member: Chesnee Mayor Max Cash and veterans in attendance



Dept of SC Commander Bob Scherer gives the keynote address; Chesnee High School Director of Chorus as featured vocalist.



Post 48 Member Mayor Max Cash and the ceremonial wreath placing); Raising the flag from half-mast

Item # 10: Provided free chaperone services including pick-up, transportation and return of elderly veterans for Post 48 meetings and other Post functions.

Item # 11: Displayed US flags (46 each) on each side of US Hwy 221 entering Chesnee (adjacent to Post 48's building and Egger's Funeral Home) for the following:

- A) Patriotic National Holidays: 4th of July, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, etc.
- B) During Visitation and Funeral Services for veteran's at Egger's Funeral Home
- C) During Visitation and Funeral Services for Post 48 Members



Item # 17: Sponsored and conducted a 'cook-out' for the JROTC Battalion from Chesnee High School on Nov. 10th with 60 in attendance.





Post 48 members prepared the meal and welcomed the JROTC unit from Chesnee High School. Cadet Hughes and SSG Salas thanked Post 48 for their continued support.

Item # 23: Conducted a Christmas Party for Post 48 members (and their families) complete with decorations, band and meal. Awarded our 2016 Post 48 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Jack Smith during the ceremony. Attended by local community leaders including Post 48 member: Chesnee Mayor Max Cash.



Item # 24 and 26: School Awards and Youth Recognition:

- A) Supplied American Legion medals, ribbon bars and certificates awarded to Chesnee High School's JROTC 'Military Excellence' and 'Scholastic Excellence' designees.



Cadet Shawn Peet receives the American Legion Military Excellence Award from Post 48 Commander Terry Brown; Cadet Michael Donnahoo received the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award from Post 48 Vice Commander Terry Brown (no photo).

- B) Awarded college scholarships and awards to graduating local high school seniors at Chesnee High Schools annual Academic Awards Ceremony.



JROTC Cadet Ethan Ezell receives Post 48's annual \$500 college Scholarship. JROTC Cadet Emily Jolly receives the Eagle Award and a \$500 college scholarship from an anonymous Post 48 donor. Both presented by Post 48's Sergeant-at Arms Jack Smith



JROTC Cadet Jonathan Phillips receives a \$250 College Scholarship donated from a business. Presented by Post 48's Sergeant-at Arms: Jack Smith

Item # 25: Post 48 (in conjunction with Post 200) conducted our 4th Annual American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest for high school youth with director, 3 judges, time keeper, score tabulators and contestant escorts. Our Committee visited 5 local high schools to explain the contest and solicit participants. Judges were recruited from the Spartanburg Toastmasters Club and the Sons of the American Revolution. Spartanburg Christian Academy was selected to host the competition. American Legion 1st Vice Commander Bob Scherer was the Master of Ceremonies. Monetary prizes were awarded. American Legion Certificates were given to the all participants. The winner advanced to Quadrant Competition and the State Finals.



The contest venue at Spartanburg Christian Academy; Judges briefing conducted by Post 48's Adjutant



Contestant briefing by Post 48's Adjutant; Introduction of contestants and contest placement by MC Bob Scherer

Item # 31: 2016 facility upgrades included installation handicap parking, restroom handicap grab bars, new curtains and interior painting. With these upgrades, community functions at our Post 48 facility increased in 2016 to include the following:

- A) Chesnee High School indoor Cheerleader practice and pre-game preparation.**



- B) Rental of Post 48 facility for community/member functions (parties, anniversaries and celebrations) with discounted rental rates for Post 48 members.
- C) Rental of Post 48 facility and handgun range for conducting Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) classes.
- D) Auxiliary Unit 48 utilizes the Post 48 facility for regular meetings and special activities.

SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT

MAY 14, 2016
5:30pm- 7:00pm

AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING
820 ALABAMA STREET
CHESNEE, SC

A FUN NIGHT WITH GREAT FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC & SONG BY TST (Terry, Steve, Thomas)

BUY YOUR TICKET IN ADVANCE FOR \$10 OR AT THE DOOR FOR \$12

CHILDREN: 3 YEARS & UNDER EAT FREE

CONTACT PAULA GOULET 508-728-9043

FUNDRAISER SPONSORED BY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 48

- E) Monthly Post 48 meeting for members and invited guests with guest speakers and a provided meal. American Legion Dist. 5 Commander (Jack Wright) and American Legion Dept. of SC Vice Commander Bob Scherer were typical of the invited speakers. Others included:



Retired Admiral Harry Rittenour gave an excellent presentation on the history and status of naval carrier based aviation



Spartanburg City Fire Chief and Chesnee native Fred Blackwell gave an excellent presentation regarding his career in Fire Protection throughout the USA.



Spartanburg School Dist. # 2 Superintendent Dr. Scott Mercer discussed and answered questions concerning the upcoming referendum for Dist. # 2 school construction. The staff at Egger's Funeral Home sponsored the meeting and provided the meal.

F) Hosted the American Legion District 5 meeting in September.

Item # 34: Flag Education: Allowed the use of Post 48's Small Arms Range for an official flag retirement ceremony conducted by the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. The Public was invited to attend, observe and respect. Post 48 members provided assistance.

Item # 35: Post 48 members assisted with Auxiliary Unit 48's presentation of a Christmas play at 'Southern Oaks' an assisted living home for the elderly in Greenville, SC.



The assisted living home audience and Post 48 members: Jack Smith, Skip Eklund and Clark Smith

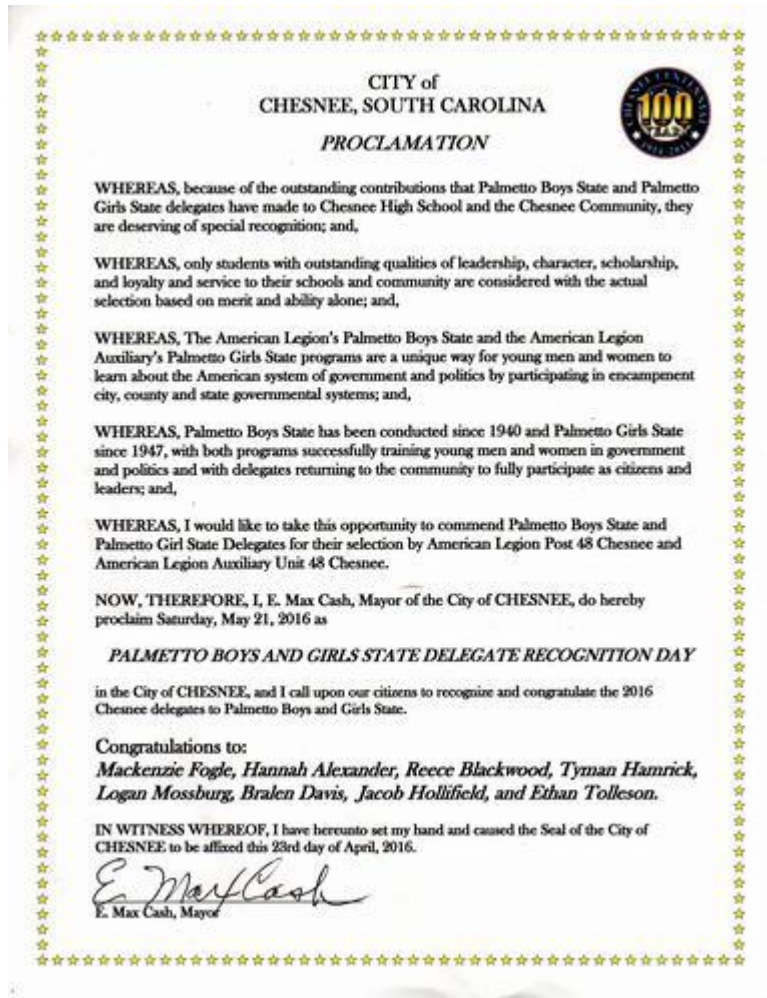
Item # 39: Boys State:

- A) Appointed a Palmetto Boys State Committee for promoting, fund raising, interview of candidates and selection of delegates. Post 48 provided full funding for 6 delegates at American Legion 2016 Palmetto Boys State.



**Ethan Tolleson (Parents: Kent and Shannon Tolleson);
Logan Mossburg (Parents: Albert and Suzanne Mossburg);
Bralen Davis (Parents: Berry and Barbara Davis);
Reece Blackwood (Parents: Richard and Susan Blackwood);
Tyman Hamrick (Parents: Tim and Jane Hamrick);
Jacob Hollifield (Parents: Keith and Lynn Hollifield).**

- B) Drafted a City of Chesnee Proclamation for designating a Recognition Day for Boys State and Girls State Attendees. Obtained approval and authorization from the City of Chesnee**



- C) Presented 'Good Citizenship' citations to all Boys State Attendees at our September meeting after their return from camp. Each delegate expressed their appreciation to Post 48 for the experience of attending Boys State.



Item # 40: Maintained a web site: www.americanlegionpost48chesnee.com and Facebook page: AmericanLegionPost48ChesneeSouthCarolina for dissemination of information to members and the Community at large. The web site has current information regarding past and future post activity as well as links to important veteran information, American Legion National and American Legion South Carolina sites. This web site is up to date, complete and an excellent source of information for our members and those following the Legion in our community. Visit the web site!

Item # 41: Post 48 member volunteers are available for transport of Chesnee area veterans to medical facilities. This has been advertised at our meetings and web site/Facebook page. Transported an elderly WWII veteran to the medical appointments multiple times in 2016.

Item # 43: Appointed a Law Cadet Academy Committee and reviewed qualifications of candidates. Provided full funding for 2 attendees at the American Legion 2016 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet Academy.



2016 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet Academy attendees from Post 48: Corrine Laughter and Austin Rodriguez.

Item # 44: Supported the local Chesnee High School JROTC Battalion including the following:

- A) Provided member volunteers and funded a cook-out at Post 48 for the entire JROTC Battalion. Cadets and Instructors briefed our members on their activities. Photos are at Item 17 above.
- B) Awarded two \$500 college scholarships to a graduating JROTC cadets (see item 24 and 26 response).
- C) See Item # 24/26 response for American Legion medals, ribbons and certificates awarded.

Item 49: Three members of Post 48 volunteer for Meals on Wheels and provide weekly transport of meals to those in the community in need.

Item 53: Post 48 came to the assistance of those in need in the community including the following:

- A) In August of 2016, Post 48 became aware of a local elderly disabled veteran (and his wife) unable to financially overcome recent incurred debt. Post 48's Chaplain visited the family and confirmed the situation. Post 48 and Unit 48 responded with financial aid.



The American Legion – Post 48 Chesnee
PO Box 323, Chesnee, SC 29323
www.americanlegionpost48chesnee.com

Sept. 14th, 2016
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Coggins

The American Legion and the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary appreciates Mr. Coggins service in the armed forces of the United States. In consideration of this, and in consideration of your present financial situation, American Legion Post 48 Chesnee and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 48 Chesnee, after reviewing your request for assistance, has awarded you the following grants (shared equally by both organizations):

Direct Insurance - Car Insurance	127.19 ✓
AT&T - Telephone	105.10
Liberty-Chesnee - Insurance Water	40.95 ✓
Duke Energy - Electricity	211.14 ✓
Dish Network - TV	97.32 ✓
Smith Animal Hospital - Pet Care	18.28
	<u> </u>
	TOTAL \$600.00


By signature below I acknowledge receipt of this grant.

Signed: Mrs. Blanche Coggins
Date: 9/14/16

For God and Country,


Clark A. Smith
Post 48 Adjutant, Telephone: 864/461-5594 (home); 864-415-9746 (cell)
email to: adjutant@americanlegionpost48chesnee.com

B) American Legion Post 48 and Auxiliary Unit 48 donated 3 truckloads of gently used household items (clothes, kitchen items, shoes, etc.) to Good Will Industries for distribution to those in need. These items were donated by members and from the community.

 Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
 115 Haywood Road Greenville, SC 29607 (877) LETSWRK (877) 538-7975 www.goodwillsc.org


#2

Goodwill, a 501(c)(3) organization, gratefully acknowledges a non-cash donation from: DATE: 9-6-16

DONOR NAME: AMERICAN LEGION Post 48 Ladies Aux. Unit 48 - Chesnee

ITEMS DONATED: Kitchen Items, Glassware, Household items } one Pick-up Load

Goodwill cannot establish or confirm the value of donated items. A guide to help in valuing your donation can be accessed at www.goodwillsc.org. No goods or services were provided to the donor by Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina in exchange for this donation.

 Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
 115 Haywood Road Greenville, SC 29607 (877) LETSWRK (877) 538-7975 www.goodwillsc.org

#3

Goodwill, a 501(c)(3) organization, gratefully acknowledges a non-cash donation from: DATE: 9-6-16

DONOR NAME: AMERICAN LEGION Post 48 Ladies Aux. Unit 48 - Chesnee, SC

ITEMS DONATED: Misc. Items, One Pick-up Load

Goodwill cannot establish or confirm the value of donated items. A guide to help in valuing your donation can be accessed at www.goodwillsc.org. No goods or services were provided to the donor by Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina in exchange for this donation.

CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY, FUEL OUR MISSION.



We accept old cars, boats and more — we'll even tow your used vehicle for free! Call 1.800.4DEDUCT or visit goodwillsc.org/donate/cars to learn more about our vehicle donation program.

We'd love to hear from you. Visit www.goodwillsc.org/donors to complete our donor survey.

CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY, FUEL OUR MISSION.



We accept old cars, boats and more — we'll even tow your used vehicle for free! Call 1.800.4DEDUCT or visit goodwillsc.org/donate/cars to learn more about our vehicle donation program.

We'd love to hear from you. Visit www.goodwillsc.org/donors to complete our donor survey.

 Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina
 115 Haywood Road Greenville, SC 29607 (877) LETSWRK (877) 538-7975 www.goodwillsc.org

#1


Goodwill, a 501(c)(3) organization, gratefully acknowledges a non-cash donation from: DATE: 9-6-16

DONOR NAME: AMERICAN LEGION Post 48 Ladies Aux. Unit 48 - Chesnee

ITEMS DONATED: Misc. Household items, One Pick-up Load

Goodwill cannot establish or confirm the value of donated items. A guide to help in valuing your donation can be accessed at www.goodwillsc.org. No goods or services were provided to the donor by Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina in exchange for this donation.

CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY, FUEL OUR MISSION.



We accept old cars, boats and more — we'll even tow your used vehicle for free! Call 1.800.4DEDUCT or visit goodwillsc.org/donate/cars to learn more about our vehicle donation program.

We'd love to hear from you. Visit www.goodwillsc.org/donors to complete our donor survey.

C) Post 48 donated to 'Welcome Home', a non-profit with a mission as described below: Welcome Home is a transitional home for displaced veterans living in Spartanburg County and is operated by Operation Restoration CDC. Welcome Home provides shelter and case management for our veterans.



Item 54: Local Fund Raising:

- A) Participated in local fund-raising for the Kops Kids Program (see response to Item # 4).**
- B) In 2015, Post 48 received approximately \$5,820 from solicited donations and various fund raisers (yard sales, raffles, etc.). This entire funding was expended on numerous assistance to veterans, children/youth programs and maintaining post operations.**



(Yard Sales in the Spring and Fall)

Item 56: Maintained a public Small Arms Range for use by members, guests and the public at large. Facilities include distance markers, assembly shelter, parking area and wire fencing for target mounting. In 2016, Post 48 expanded the range to add multiple firing positions.



(Gong Targets and barrier; fencing for normal paper targets)



(Range shelter with displayed rules and procedures)

Item 57: Sponsored, staffed with volunteers and conducted an 'Amateur Handgun Competition' for members, guests and the public in the spring of 2016. Awarded monetary prizes to the top finishers.



Paula Goulet was awarded 1st Place

Item 58: Staffed and conducted Post 48's annual 'Turkey Shoots' on Saturdays and Thanksgiving Day during the months of October, November and December of 2016. Invitational Turkey Shoots were held on selected Saturdays during the remainder of the year. Open to members and the public.





Item 59: Maintained and properly displayed the following former military property on the Post 48 facility grounds:

a. AH-1 Cobra Helicopter



b. WWII Era Navy Torpedo & depth charge



Item 60: Post 48's Post Service Officer (PSO) Sheila Smith is in her third year in this position to assist the veterans in our community and our members with veteran's benefits.

Item 61: Post 48 accepted the request of the Dept. of SC and established a non-perishable food collection point. In 2016, 280 pounds of food was donated to Mayo 1st Baptist Church's Food Pantry for the needy. This is the second annual contribution of non-perishable food to local food banks for the needy. Post 48 intends to continue this program annually.



FIRST BAPTIST MAYO

PASTOR: REV. DARYL TOLLESON

American Legion Post #48
PO Box 323
820 South Alabama St.
Chesnee SC 29323

21 April 2016

Dear Post 48,

I want to personally thank you on behalf of Mayo First Baptist for your donation of 280 pounds of food to Soulfull, our food pantry ministry. This was a generous gift to the church, and to those who visit our food pantry monthly. Please accept this letter as receipt of your donation for tax purposes.

Best Regards,

Jennifer E. Guy
Secretary

Post Office Box 37
190 Mayo Road
Mayo, South Carolina 29368
Phone: 864.461.8501

Item 62: Palmetto Girls State: In 2016, American Legion Post 48 donated \$375 to Auxiliary Unit 48 for assistance with funding of delegates to Palmetto Girls State. As funding availability permits, Post 48 intends to continue this assistance annually.



Mackenzie Fogle and Hannah Alexander

Item 63: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 48:

Post 48 fully supports and assists Auxiliary Unit 48 in performing their mission. Post 48 allows Unit 48 to use the Post 48 facility for meetings and activities. Post 48 collaborates with Unit 48 on numerous fund raisers and projects.



Item 64: Wreaths Across America: To ‘Remember’ the dedication and lives of deceased veterans, ‘Honor’ those who serve and ‘Teach’ our young the value and cost of service; Post 48 is committed to sponsoring a ‘Wreaths Across Ceremony’ annually. The 2016 ceremony and wreath laying was conducted at the Alverson Grove Baptist Church cemetery on December 16th. Post 200 assisted with posting of the colors, Taps and a military gun salute. Post 48 members and various youth organizations participated in placing memorial wreaths on all veteran graves in the cemetery. Post 48’s Commander and Vice Commander led the ceremony with speeches. Ms. Nora Fernanders was vocalist for the National Anthem and patriotic songs. Fund raising was initiated to purchase wreaths for all veteran graves at the cemetery and for all Post 48 members deceased in 2016.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

SPARTANBURG HERALD JOURNAL
12/18/16

Veterans remembered during ceremony



Claire Robinson, 7, of Boiling Springs, center, who attended the Wreaths Across America ceremony with her grandmother Kelly Garren, places a wreath and a flag at the grave of a veteran at Alverson Grove Baptist Church in Inman. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

By Allison M. Roberts
allison.roberts@shj.com

Eighteen veterans were remembered during a solemn service Saturday at Alverson Grove Baptist Church in Inman.

American Legion Post 48 sponsored its first Wreaths Across America ceremony, during which volunteers placed wreaths on the veterans' gravesites as their names were read aloud.

"We are not here today to simply decorate graves," said Terry Brown, commander of American Legion Post 48. "Today we show a united front of national unity all across the United States of America that we remember and honor those who served



by placing wreaths on their graves."

Brown said the ceremony is a way to honor the many veterans, active service members

and those who are either missing in action or held as prisoners of war. It's because of these people, Brown said, that Americans can enjoy the

freedoms they have.

"We thank those who served our country in uniform

The ceremony was organized by American Legion Post 48. Volunteers placed wreaths at the graves of 18 veterans at Alverson Grove Baptist Church and at two others at a different church.

SEE CEREMONY, B3

CEREMONY

Continued from B1

to keep us free and we shall not forget you," Brown said.

Wreaths Across America started in 1992 when the owner of a Maine-based wreath company had a surplus of wreaths near the end of the holiday season.

Morrill Worcester, the owner of the company, remembered how his childhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery affected him and wanted to honor the country's fallen service members. He made arrangements for the extra wreaths to be placed at graves in an older section of Arlington.

Sheila Smith, a member

of American Legion Post 48 and Auxiliary Post 48, said she heard about Wreaths Across America and mentioned it to other Post members.

Smith had to contact the national office and get permission to participate in the ceremony. She said they chose Alverson Grove Baptist Church because of the number of veterans buried there.

A total of 20 veterans were honored Saturday — 18 at Alverson Grove and two at another church, Smith said.

Smith is hopeful the Post will be able to hold the ceremony at another church next year and honor another group of veterans.

"It was an honor to do this and get it organized,"

Smith said. "We're actually looking at other churches to see where there are other veterans. We're going to try and do it again next year."

Kelly Garren of Boiling Springs attended Saturday's ceremony with her granddaughters. Garren said she volunteered to come and place wreaths on the graves because of the many veterans in her family.

Garren said it's important to remember and honor those who have served.

"It definitely gives us an appreciation of the sacrifice that not only total strangers but family have done for our nation and given us the freedoms we have today," Garren said.







(photos from the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Dec. 16th, 2016)

Finally, the most important aspect of community service is encouraging our membership to 'get involved'. Each year, as we try to improve our presence and impact in the community, more of our members desire to participate and assist. Doing more in the community also has a positive impact on recruiting new members who see what is being accomplished and want to 'continue to serve' through the American Legion. Visibility means membership! As a result, Post 48 has exceeded the Department of SC membership goal for the 7th consecutive year!

Post 48 is proud of our community service record for 2016 and do, hereby, submit this document for your consideration for Department Community Service Awards.

Submitted by:

Post Commander or Adjutant

Title

Post No. 0048

Post Location: Chesnee, SC