



The Dispatch

John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 – Leland, NC

PO Box 521 Leland, NC 28451 www.ncpost68.org & Facebook

2020 - 2021

Post Officers

Commander:
John Hacker

1st Vice Commander:
Dan Fortini

2nd Vice Commander
Jamie Becker

Adjutant:
Daniel Dodge

Finance Officer:
Jim Zelenski

Chaplain:
Lou Tranzillo

Service Officer:
Lane Adrian

Sergeant at Arms:
Bill Smith

Logistics Officer:
John Marone

Public Relations:
Richard Fry

Membership:
Herb Moore

Members @ Large:
Dale Todd
Elliott Koppel

Monthly Meetings:

Third Thursday of month
Blossoms Restaurant
Magnolia Greens
1800 Tommy Jacobs Dr
Leland, NC 28451

Meet 'n Greet: 5:30pm
Meeting @ 6pm

Publication of:
John E. Jacobs
American Legion Post 68
Leland, NC

607-237-4630
Adjutant@ncpost68.org
www.ncpost68.org



Serving Those who have served

Opening back up. Not letting COVID slow us down or stop us!

When COVID-19 first hit us, we closed down our Post along with many other organizations. Members and our leadership team heeded advice from the CDC and our own higher HQ. Since then, we have learned how to deal with this pandemic and how to safely work in and around it. Our Post has put on or participated in multiple events since last summer. We have run fund raisers, we have celebrated and honored veterans along with providing needed assistance. Our programs to support our youth have succeeded and we have been a positive influence in the Town of Leland. With restrictions being lifted and more and more of our members getting vaccinated, we can now restart in-person meetings. COVID-19 may have slowed us down at first but we rose up to the challenge and persevered coming out stronger than ever! More events are scheduled for this Spring and Summer. Your involvement and support are critical for the success of these events and for the success of John E. Jacobs AL Post 68!



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Post 68 STATUS: October 2020 Meeting

We all join service organizations for a variety of reasons. Sometimes its comradery, the need to “give back”, make new friendships, the need to “belong”, self-enrichment or just wanting to be part of an organization that is bigger than ourselves. And maybe we are retired and need something to do that is worthwhile. In any event, an organization needs participation by it’s members to support events and initiatives. Our newly minted 2nd Vice Commander is working to build an events coordination team. This is a great way to get involved with the Post.

As 2nd Vice Cdr, I have formed an Events Committee that would help create, plan and execute some successful community support events, as well as Post fund raising activities for this year. I invite anyone interested in thinking outside the box and getting involved with this committee, to feel free to contact me at: jbecker2@ec.rr.com.

Respectfully, Jamie Becker
2nd Vice Commander, Post 68



Guest Speakers:

We are holding off on guest speakers until after elections.

Website News:

Eric Terashima is our new webmaster and has jumped right in to provide great support for our site. We can now collect donations and payments via PayPal and credit card via our site.

Check our website regularly for important news, events, information, and updates.

[HTTP://ncpost68.org](http://ncpost68.org)

Need a Mask?

We still have masks for sale @ \$5 each. See Jim Zelenski @ afblueberet7494@gmail.com. We will also have masks for sale at the BSL Market and at any of our other events.

Did you know?

The Senate passed the SAVE LIVES bill this March to allow all veterans, regardless of whether or not they are in the VA system to receive a COVID-19 vaccination along with their spouses and caregivers. The bill has been sent to the House for their vote.

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAanta/ge>



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68

Veterans serving Veterans!

SERVICE OFFICER-Lane Adrian: COVID-19 has reduced a lot of our support efforts, especially with the Leland Sr. Center. This Winter and Spring we have been able to provide follow-up assistance by checking in on 4 veterans/widows who received wheelchair ramps from WARM. We also provided a local veteran with meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We worked with other Brunswick County AL Posts to secure housing for a homeless veteran. Finally, the Post Service Officer along with our Post Chaplain participated in the annual search for the homeless.

POST COLOR GUARD: Our Color Guard is evolving, and we need new blood and volunteers to fill out our color guard team. Please contact Commander Hacker @ jhacker131@outlook.com to sign up. We need you. This is a rewarding opportunity to rekindle all that D&C you did on active duty!

PUBLIC AFFAIRS-Richard Fry: With all the events Post 68 has been putting on, we have gotten a lot of exposure in the local media. Both from submitting press releases and from local reporter coverage. The Brunswick Beacon, Star News, WWAY, WECT have all reported on our activities.

LOGISTICS OFFICER: John Marone

Shirts and Post hats are available with our new name: John E. Jacobs. Golf Shirts: \$25.00, T-Shirts \$15.00, Hats \$15.00. Older items without "John E. Jacobs" are still available at a discount.

ADJUTANT: Dan Dodge MyLegion.org has just rolled out a newly designed website and user interface which will provide enhanced membership benefits and tools to members, post and district officers. New improvements include: Individual administrative privileges and single profile for officers. Individual members will have a single sign-on to all MyLegion.org resources including discounts, member information, ability to print your ID card and more. IF YOU WERE ALREADY REGISTERED on MyLegion.org, YOU WILL NEED TO RE-REGISTER! This site went live on 1 April. They have some growing pains but it is a much improved website for American Legion members. Please go to: MyLegion.org and click on REGISTER top right of screen. There is a lot of HELP documentation available.

Post 68 Happenings: *COMPLETED EVENTS*

Veterans Day Nov 11th, 2020: Post 68 partnered with Leland VFW Post 12196 to sponsor a Veterans Day celebration. The event was scheduled to be held at the Town of Leland municipal park but was rained out. Event was then moved to Blossoms. Guest Speakers were Col Steven Baker and General Dan Allyn. VFW Commander Gerald Decker was the MC with AL Post 68 Commander John Hacker delivering closing remarks. Several Leland Town council members were in attendance. Event was broadcast over Zoom with video hosted on YouTube. Many thanks to Blossoms for accommodating us on short notice.



Left: Guest Speakers Col Baker and Gen Allyn

Right: VFW CDR Gerald Decker, General Allyn, American Legion CDR John Hacker

Wreaths Across America fund raiser: December 19, 2020, marked the 13th anniversary of Wreaths Across America (WAA). This annual wreath -laying ceremony at the graves of our veterans strives to fulfill WAA's values: *Remember* the fallen, *Honor* those who serve and have served and their families and *Teach* future generations about the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms - values shared by the American Legion and other veterans organizations.

This year, the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, NC, partnered with Wreaths Across America to support the procurement/sponsorship of wreaths for delivery to Wilmington National Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony on December 19, 2020. Post 68's promotion efforts resulted in 500 wreaths being sponsored for the ceremony. A portion of the wreath sponsorship will benefit John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68's programs to aid local veteran and their families in need.

Nearly 3,900 sponsored wreaths were delivered to the cemetery - well short of the 5,172 wreaths needed to honor all the interred veterans. On December 19, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, volunteers solemnly placed wreaths at the graves. Each person recited the veteran's name and information inscribed on the headstone before laying their wreath. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on outdoor gatherings, only 50 volunteers were allowed into the cemetery at predetermined time slots. Post 68 was well represented at the 10:30 am wreath-laying with 22 members and spouses attending. Several members of Leland Boy Scout Troop 747 and Post 68's American Legion Riders Chapter also participated. Wreaths Across America would not succeed without the help of volunteers, active organizations, and the trucking industry's generosity, which offer in-valuable support to WAA's mission. **MANY THANKS** to Rob Penwell for running this op, **GREAT JOB!**

BELOW: Post members who participated in this year's event. Wreaths on graves



MEMBERSHIP:

Post membership continues to grow! We have picked up several brand-new members who we talked with at one of our many events. We have also grown by transferring existing Legion members who have moved into our area. New members are participating in Post activities and functions.



Membership Stats:

Members Assigned: 227
 Percent renewed: 89%
 Percent towards goal: 188%

Membership Cards:

Adjutant still has many 2021 ID cards. Contact Dan Dodge if you need your card:
 Adjutant@ncpost68.org

Post 68 Military Branch breakdown:

US Army: 46%
 US Marines: 10%
 Navy: 20%
 Air Force: 22%
 Coast Guard: 2%

Membership Stats:

ERA Breakdown for Post 68:

War on Terror:	5%
Korea Veterans:	4%
Lebanon/Grenada:	5%
Other:	2%
Panama:	1%
Persian Gulf:	14%
Vietnam:	66%
WWII:	1%

Post Elections:

Elections for our Post leadership Committee (PEC) will be held during our MAY 2021 meeting. We currently have a full slate of candidates for all elected positions. If you would like to self nominate, please contact Adjutant Dodge @ adjutant@ncpost688.org

Post membership will review the slate during our APRIL meeting at which time the ballot will be frozen.

Officers will be installed during our JUNE 2021 meeting.

Together We Served:

Have you heard of this website? It is an interesting place where you can register and tell "your story" of service. Check it out!

Togetherweserved.com

Post 68 Happenings: *COMPLETED EVENTS (2)*

Post 68, Leland Presents Donation to WARM: On Thursday, December 17, 2020 Officers of the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post presented a \$500.00 donation to the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc (WARM). Between March and September 2020, Post 68's Service Officer, Lane Adrian, assisted three Leland area Veteran's widows with applying to WARM for home repairs and mobility improvements. Over the Spring and Summer WARM volunteers built wheelchair ramps and, for one widow, installed new roof shingles.

The Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) began in 1996 in response to hurricanes Bertha and Fran. Its mission is to repair, rebuild, and make homes accessible; and to inspire service, generosity, and hope. From its headquarters on Wrightsville Avenue in Wilmington, WARM provides homeowner services to eligible residents of Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow, and Pender Counties. Volunteers from local churches, businesses, and civic clubs fill the WARM calendar week after week. Every summer, hundreds of youth and adults, come to our region on their church mission trips, fill the ranks of WARM volunteers. WARM has improved the living conditions of more than 1,500 families in our community.

Accepting the donation were WARM Executive Director Ms. JC Lyle, Deputy Director Andy Jones, MDIV, and staff members Mses. Beth Ann Scisco, Sarah Dodgers, and Kim Gore.



Blood Drive Feb 4th – FULL HOUSE! Post 68 sponsored a blood drive in coordination with the American Red Cross and WWAY of Leland. There was short notice of this blood drive and our PAO Richard Fry worked hard to get the word out to local media outlets. Well it worked! All time slots were quickly filled to capacity! 12 Post members were in attendance to support the event. Post flags were placed around the WWAY parking lot.

L: Commander Hacker donating. C: Post Member who participated R: John Marone in pose...



Post 68 Happenings: *COMPLETED EVENTS (3)*

BSL art fair: Post had booth in Dec and March: Vice Commander Jamie Becker has sponsored a booth for our Post at the Boiling Spring Lakes monthly market. These public tables have allowed us to show the public our Post and what the American Legion is all about. We have sold raffle tickets, event tickets AND brought in new members! Thank you Jamie! Current plans are to have a table setup each month. See Jamie Becker for more info: jbecker2@ec.rr.com



Fish Fry March 27th – A huge success! Dan Fortini: What a great Leland community!!! On behalf of John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, I am extending a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out Saturday for our Fish Fry. The weather was perfect, and your support was over the top. Between Fish Fry sales, Easter Basket Raffle ticket sales, and donations we far surpassed our goals. With COVID-19 restrictions this year, it has been very difficult to raise funds while ensuring everyone's safety. Your generosity will go a long way in helping Post 68 fulfil its mission to aid local veterans and their families in need and support our student programs. We also want to give special shout outs to Dean Rathburn at Dean's Performance and Automotive for allowing us to use his property for the event and John Cook and his crew for their generosity and cooking expertise.

Thanks to Eric Terashima for setting up tables at Piggly Wiggly to sell tickets, hats, masks, raffle tickets along with fish fry tickets. He also collected quite a few dollars in donations.



EASTER BASKET RAFFLE WINNER!

Thanks to our 2nd Vice Commander, we have begun selling basket raffle tickets at our events. Our first basket was an Easter theme created at a cost of \$94. Jamie and fellow members sold tickets during a variety of events. The winner of this basket was selected during our fish fry event and was won by Ms. Jody Kimball of Brunswick Forest. Our next basket is being put together and will be a golf theme. See Jamie Becker for more info.

Jim Zelenski presenting Ms. Kimball with the winning Easter Basket during our fish fry on March 27th



CAPE FEAR VOICES
Community & Military
news section

The local non-profit newspaper Cape Fear Voices and the Teen Scene have a section in their monthly newspaper for Community & Military news. This section is NOW ONLINE on their website at Capefearvoices.org Look under "Lets Explore | Articles | Your Community". Submit YOUR OWN STORY to CFV using their online form! "Lets Explore | Articles | Submit"



Save a Vet Now

Veteran Suicide Awareness and Prevention. Saveavetnow.org

Post 68 Happenings: COMPLETED EVENTS (4)

Vietnam Vets day March 29th: John Hacker, Post Commander - It was a great day to honor our Vietnam Veterans and to Honor John E. Jacobs and family. Very emotional for me to give the family their pins. Thank you Dale Todd for helping. Several of our members were there to receive their pins. John Marone did a great job working double duty for VFW and American legion. I made contact with the Humana people who were there handing out goodie bags & over the counter health care items. The lead person said he was moved to learn about the John E. Jacobs Presentation and told me if we were having future events, they would like to help in some way. (maybe suntan lotion, sunscreen, aspirins, golf towels, tees?) **Thanks to all!** The Jacobs family was very appreciative and Martha Jacobs wants to talk further about our post and connections with Brunswick Community College. Many thanks also to Leland VFW Post 12196 and their Commander Gerald Decker for sponsoring this event at the Town of Belville Veterans Memorial Park.



CDR Hacker & Dale Todd pose with Jacobs Family members honoring John E. Jacobs



Commander Hacker and Dale Todd giving speech describing John E. Jacobs story



Members of VFW Post 12196 and American Legion Post 68



Eric Terashima and Dan Fortini sell fish fry and basket raffle tickets at Piggly Wiggly in Leland. Great job guys!

Post 68 Happenings: *YOUTH PROGRAMS*

Membership Stats:

ERA Breakdown for Post 68:

War on Terror:	5%
Korea Veterans:	4%
Lebanon/Grenada:	5%
Other:	2%
Panama:	1%
Persian Gulf:	14%
Vietnam:	66%
WWII:	1%

Post 68 and local community volunteers support NBHS JROTC Rifle

Team: Volunteers helped NBHC JROTC to build a scoring table support rifle team. BF Wood Workers club + Post members. Post provided funds to purchase materials. The group is now working on 2 other requests. One for rifle racks and another for benches. The JROTC at NBHS has a brand-new rifle range with automated scoring. Todd says it is quite impressive.



John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland, Presents Donation to Navassa's Lincoln Elementary School:

On Friday, March 19, John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 Commander John Hacker and Post 68 Historian Brian Danielson presented Lincoln Elementary School Principal Pamela Biggs with a check for \$200.00. This donation was in addition to the Post's \$100.00 donation earlier this year. The donations are intended to support Lincoln Elementary School's STEM initiative, curricula to enhance student learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. STEM Schools focus on these subjects to help our nation's youth gain the skills required to succeed in today's challenging world. This includes the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and drive advancements in science and technology. Post 68 donations also support programs to provide school supplies and other essentials for needy students.



Post 68 Commander John Hacker and Post Historian Brian Danielson present donation to Lincoln Elementary School Principal Pamela Biggs. 19 March 2021

Jan 9th: Post 68 sponsors NBHS students in annual Oratorical Contest: Madilyn Smith, a sophomore at North Brunswick High School (NBHS), placed first in the John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68, Leland's Oratorical Contest – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" - held Saturday, January 9 at the Magnolia Greens Club Room. Kaitlyn Shields, also a NBHS sophomore and a JROTC Cadet, placed second in the competition. Both contestants delivered an original eight-to-ten-minute prepared oration on aspects of the U.S. Constitution, with emphasis on the duties and obligations of American citizens with Ms. Smith focusing on the Bill of Rights and Ms. Shields focusing specifically on the First Amendment's Free Speech clause. Each also delivered a 3-to-5-minute extemporaneous discourse on the assigned topic of Article III, Section 1 regarding the establishment of the Supreme Court. Post 68 Past Commander Dale Todd presented Madilyn with the first-place medal, certificate of distinction, and a check for \$500.00. Kaitlyn received the second-place medal, certificate of distinction, and a check for \$300.00.



Left: Madilyn Smith is presented her first place award from Commander Hacker

Right: Kaitlyn Shields receives her award from Commander Hacker



Post 68 Events:

Your Post PEC team has done much work planning events for this calendar year. Fund raisers, public service events, support for youth, etc. Many events have had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 virus. However, once travel and movement restrictions are lifted, the PEC will again get back to work planning events for the remainder of the year.

WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND HELP LEAD!

Upcoming Events:

Battleship Flag raising and color guard: Our Color Guard will raise and fold US flags. April 10th. POC is John Hacker

BSL Market April 17th. POC is Jamie Becker

Unserviceable Flag Collection: April 24th – POC: Dan Fortini. To be held in Brunswick Forest at the Commons

BSL Market May 15th. POC is Jamie Becker

Poppy Day May 21. POC is John Hacker/Jim Zelenski

Blood Drive with American Red Cross at WWAY in Leland. POC = Dan Fortini May 28th

Cemetery flag placement May 29th. POC is Jim Zelenski

Flag retirement Ceremony Flag Day June 12th – POC: Dan Fortini. To be held in Brunswick Forest at the Commons

VEAC in August @ South Brunswick HS – POC's: Lane Adrian and Dale Todd. Yes, we will be asking for members to step up and volunteer to support this major event. August timeframe.

Post 68 Legion Riders news: *Lane Adrian-Commander*



Due to COVID-19, the Riders have been dormant.

If you know of a Veteran shut-In and would like them to receive a Christmas Box... Go to: <http://www.operationnorthstate.com/> and sign them up. The NC Department has received notice from several Chapters expressing their desire to help in the distribution of these boxes. Join in on this great program and lend a hand delivering boxes to OUR local Veterans unable to get out.

Lane Adrian Ride safe, keep your "social distance" by riding STAGGARD!

COMMANDERS CORNER:

Happy 2021, Finally! Certainly 2020 hurt a lot of us from Covid and other issues, it will be remembered as the year that compelled us to find new ways of doing business. But with that said, the challenge was to stay the course to serve our post, our members, by checking in on one another, and assisting our community. WE knew we had to reinvent new tools to complete our task of service. We are resilient group, we have been in battles, we know how to survive and protect our brothers and sisters, we know how to fight the enemy. The enemy has been the pandemic, the economy slow down, and the air of hate in our country. We created new ways to do fund raising through our efforts of Wreaths Across America. We helped our community with the recent Point in Time Homeless Count, and we helped our young high school students with Oratorical Contest. Through them, our future looks good after all. Utilizing new technology tools that helped us raise monies for our Veteran Services. We have moved forward with new plans for 2021. Our annual Fish Fry, Supporting the REDCROSS with 3 Blood Drives this year. Flag collections with the help of our local Boy Scouts. Memorial Day celebration, Veterans Day and of course the 20th Anniversary of 911. We have embraced ZOOM meetings. Hope that will end soon, stand by for more updates on our new Web site design, and check in on our Facebook.