



John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683

All American Post 2021 -2022

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



WOMEN'S HISTORY Month



Remember
Freedom has a price

...A Poppy, in tribute to all the brave veterans who risked their lives in past and present, so we might have a future.



—RENT OUT—
VFW POST 6683
FOR YOUR
NEXT EVENT

Call 334-475-2010
More details on page

20 - 21

VFW Post 6683 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm
2615 Country Road 537, Enterprise, AL





**FROM THE
COMMANDER**
Robert Schmidbauer

Greetings Comrades,

We just concluded our March Post Meeting, and it was great to see so many Comrades in attendance once again. I am amazed at how hard our members, committee chairs, appointed and elected officers have worked this past year to make our Post the Post it is today. Everywhere I go whether as a representative of the post or simply out with the wife or my friends, I hear the praises from the community on what our Post has done and continues to do. It has truly been an honor to represent you this past year and I hope to have the opportunity to represent you going forward next year.



I write this note after returning home from our post where I was fortunate to work with not only comrades from our post but several Girl Scouts and their families on this Community Day of Service. It is amazing to see the community service spirit within our youth, it gives me great confidence that the next generation will continue to honor and serve.

On March 25th, the Poppy Committee will be manning a VFW tent downtown and handing out Buddy Poppies and recruiting new members, if you are at the festival, stop by say hello, and if available lend them a hand. To give you a little

history of why we give out Buddy Poppies and what the donations we receive are used for this month's VFW 101 is on the History of the Buddy Poppy.

On April 5th at 1730, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting Breakfast for Dinner, this event is open to the community, please spread the word to your family and friends and join us for a great meal, fellowship and esprit de corps.

April 11th is our next post meeting; at this meeting we will hold our post elections. The District Commander Brandon Bagwell will be present and swear in our newly elected officers upon conclusion of our elections.

April 22nd from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm, our post will be hosting its next Fundraising event. It is a Crawfish Boil, Crawfish Plates will consist of 2 lbs of crawfish, Cajun sausage, potatoes and corn. The cost of each plate will be \$20.00, and tickets will be available via presale only so be sure to go on our post Facebook or webpage and pre-purchase those tickets. There will be hotdogs, hamburgers available the day of the event for those family members who are not a fan of the crawfish. Cool bus Ice-cream will be onsite for this event as well.



**Call 475-2010 or visit VFW6683.org
Scan QR Code**



As always, remember that this is your Post, I as well as the other elected leaders are simply your representatives. Make sure you come support your Post, express your ideas, participate in our community, and enjoy the comradery of your fellow members. Our Post is only as good as we make it together and we can always get better.

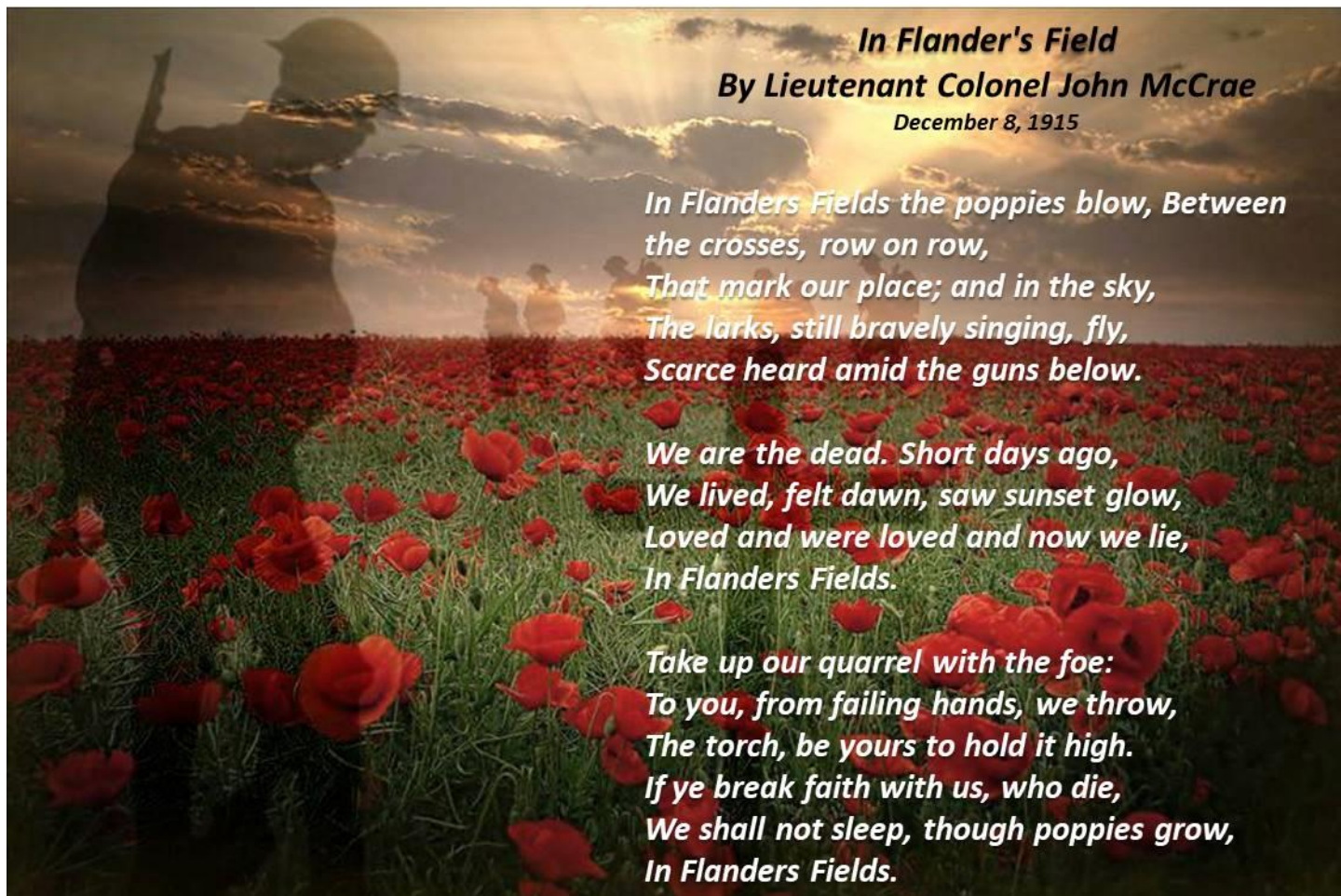


John Wiley Brock **VFW Post 6683**
All American Post 2021-2022 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



VFW 101

HISTORY OF THE BUDDY POPPY



In Flanders Field

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

December 8, 1915

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

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

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

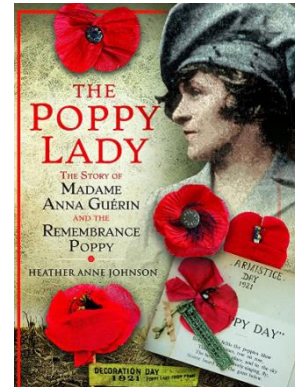
From its inception, the Buddy Poppy Program has helped the VFW live up to its motto, "to honor the dead by helping the living." The Buddy Poppy - small red flower symbolic of the blood shed in World War I by millions of Allied soldiers in defense of freedom - was originally sold to provide relief for the people of war-devastated France. Later, its sale directly benefited thousands of disabled and down-and-out American veterans.

The poppy program actually got its start on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. Shortly after World War I, Madame E. Guerin, founder of the American and French

Children's League, became concerned that the free world was "forgetting too soon those sleeping in Flanders Fields." Inspired by Colonel John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Field," which spoke of poppies growing in an Allied graveyard "between the crosses, row on row," Guerin decided on the poppy as the most appropriate memorial flower. She began attending the conventions of any serviceman's organization that would allow her to speak. Her request was always the same - to enact the following resolution: "Be it resolved that every member, if possible, and his or her family shall wear a silk red poppy."

The poppy program was quickly embraced by the people of France, and also secured the sponsorship of the Prince of Wales, the Governors General of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and the President of Cuba. In each of these countries, veteran's organizations and their auxiliaries agreed to sell memorial poppies for the benefit of the children of France.

In April 1919, the "Poppy Lady," as Madame Guerin was now known, arrived in the United States. She came to speak in support of the "Victory Loan" - financial assistance to help France's homeless and jobless get back on their feet. While stateside, she asked the newly formed American Legion to sponsor the poppy program in the United States. At their second national convention in Cleveland in September 1920, the American Legion passed a resolution making the poppy their official flower. At the next year's convention, however, the delegates repudiated the poppy and instead adopted the daisy as the organization's official flower. Subsequently, Madame Guerin reported that her "deception was great on the 23rd of January [1922] to hear that the American Legion Auxiliary had taken the Idea to sponsor FOR THEMSELVES the Poppy Day of the U.S."



When the Poppy Lady turned to the VFW for help, the organization readily agreed to take over from the American Legion. In May 1922, the VFW conducted the first nationwide distribution of poppies in the United States. Then, at its National Encampment in Seattle in August 1922, the organization adopted the poppy as the official memorial flower of the VFW. Following the success of the VFW's first poppy sale, the American Legion had second thoughts about its withdrawal from the program.

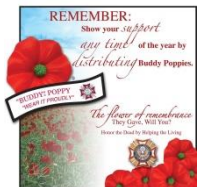
A disgruntled American Legion was not the only problem to plague the VFW's poppy program in the early years. The American and French Children's League (sometimes referred to as the Franco-American Children's League) had been dissolved shortly before the VFW's 1922 poppy sale. Much of the poppy supply went with it. Consequently, the VFW had great difficulty obtaining enough poppies for the 1923 sale.

From the frustrations of the 1923 sales year evolved a plan to pay disabled and needy American veterans to make the poppies. This plan was presented to the 1923 National Encampment for approval. Immediately following the plan's adoption, a VFW poppy factory was set up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All veterans who would be manufacturing poppies for the 1924 sale were sent to a training workshop by the U.S. Veterans Bureau regional manager in Pittsburgh.



It was from these early disabled poppy makers that the name which would be the flower's trademark came. The name just "grew" out of the poppy makers' remembrances of their buddies who never came back from war. Undoubtedly, because it expressed so simply the deepest significance of the Poppy Plan, the name stuck. All over the country, the little red flower became known as the "Buddy Poppy."

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. On May 20, 1924, a certificate was issued granting the VFW, under the classification of artificial flowers, all trademark rights to the name of "Buddy." No other organization, firm, or individual can use the name "Buddy Poppy." The VFW has made this trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are the work of bona fide disabled and needy veterans.



After the 1924 sale, some of the larger state departments of the VFW suggested that it might improve local sales if the poppies used were made by hospitalized veterans from their own area. The delegates at the 1924 National Encampment agreed. They ruled that poppies would now be made throughout the U.S. by disabled veterans in

government hospitals and by needy veterans in workshops supervised by the VFW. Currently the little red flowers of silk-like fabric are assembled in eleven different locations. The VA Facilities in which they are made are located in: Leavenworth and Topeka, Kansas; Biloxi, Mississippi; Temple, Texas; Martinsburg, West Virginia; Hampton, Virginia; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Dayton, Ohio; and White City and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

From the start of the VFW's poppy program, the U.S. Veterans Bureau, the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies have supported the Buddy Poppy. And beginning with Warren G. Harding, U.S. presidents have also been staunch supporters of the program. Each year, a Poppy Girl or Poppy Boy selected from the National Home's residents starts the annual campaign by presenting the first poppy to the president of the United States.

Today, there are strict rules governing how profits from Buddy Poppy sales are to be used at different levels within the organization. The National organization assesses a tax of three and one-half cents on every poppy sold to a state department. This tax is added to the cost of manufacturing and distributing the poppy. Tax revenues are allotted as follows: one and one-half cents to the service fund of the department that purchased the poppy, one cent to the VFW National Home, and one cent to the Veterans Service fund of the National Headquarters.

At the department level, an additional tax is normally added to the cost of the poppies it sells to the posts in its jurisdiction. This profit is used to fund department service work or other programs for the relief or well-being of VFW members.

Posts receive their profits from direct sale of the poppies to the public. National by-laws require that the profits from these sales be placed in the post's Relief Fund to be used only for the following purposes:

- For the aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.
- For the maintenance and expansion of the VFW
- National Home and other facilities devoted exclusively to the benefit and welfare of the dependents, widows, and orphans of disabled, needy, or deceased veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
- For necessary expenses in providing entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces.
- For veterans' rehabilitation, welfare, and service work.
- To perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and to comfort survivors.

With help from the VFW, the "Little Red Flower" continues to benefit the needy just as the Poppy Lady believed it was capable of so many years ago. In 1989, for example, 17,894,684 poppies were sold for an average donation of 55 cents. To date, the VFW has sold over three quarters of a billion Buddy Poppies. As long as Americans continue to spill their blood in defense of freedom, sales of these blood-red poppies will undoubtedly continue strong.



DAY OF SERVICE

Big props to BMI for the \$300-500 donation of services to the post and GS Troop 9048 for the four hours of service to fill the dumpster from our shed.

BIG THANK YOU!!

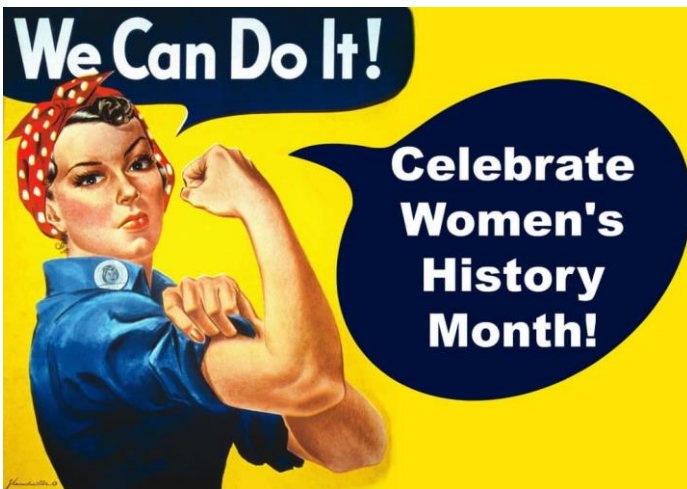




**FROM THE
SR VICE COMMANDER**
Pamela Y. Smith

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month."



Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields.

The colors of Women's History Month are purple, green, and white. Each of these colors has its roots in the United Kingdom's women's suffrage movement that began in the mid-19th century but continues to have meaning today. Purple is recognized as the international color of women and gender equality. It symbolizes dignity, honor, justice, and visionary thinking. Green represents hope, growth, and new beginnings. White signifies equality, freedom, purity, and truth.



During Women's History Month, we celebrate the countless women who have fought tirelessly and courageously for equality, justice, and opportunity in our Nation. We also reaffirm our commitment to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls in the United States and around the world. We are mindful that we are building on the legacy of both recognized trailblazers and unsung heroines who have guided the course of American history and continue to shape its future.

The full participation of women is a foundational tenet of democracy. Women — often women of color — have been on the frontlines, fighting for and securing equal rights and opportunity throughout our country's history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists, and labor activists. Women continue to lead as advocates for reproductive rights, champions of racial

justice, and LGBTQI+ equality. Throughout history, these women have opened the doors of opportunity for subsequent generations of dreamers and doers. As community leaders, educators, doctors, scientists, childcare providers, and more, women power our economy and lead our Nation. As first responders and service members, they stand watch over our lives and liberties. As innovators, entrepreneurs, and essential workers in every industry, they represent the very best of America.

But despite significant progress, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to full and equal participation in our economy and society. Last year, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, stripping away a constitutional right from the American people and the ability of millions of women to make decisions about their own bodies, putting their health and lives at risk. Disparities persist in economic security, health care, and caregiving responsibilities, especially for women and girls of color. Those who perform critical work, including those who care for our children and our families, are too often overlooked, underpaid, and undervalued.



Judith Cutchin, RN, NYSNA Board Member and President, NYSNA NYC H+H/Mayorals Executive Council. Women's History Month empowers young girls around the nation with courage, self-esteem, and willpower to walk in our ancestors' footsteps. Our history will also inspire current and future generations to emulate the women who laid the framework for us to succeed, be treated equitably and be recognized in society.



Patricia Booker is a communications professor at UNF and has been teaching at UNF for almost 20 years. She wants people to not only think about the accomplishments when celebrating Women's History Month but also bring awareness to the oppression women face today.

***Thank you all for what you do for Veterans, the community, and our VFW Post.
I salute you all!***



**FROM THE
JR VICE COMMANDER
*Clarence L. Carroll III***

It was great seeing everyone at our March meeting. If you didn't have a bowl of stew, you REALLY missed out. Thank you to all of those who prepared the meal, as well as set the conditions for our Commander to have such great attendance and focus on the business at hand.

Admittedly I am a little sad as I pen my last newsletter comments as your Junior Vice Commander. It has been an incredible year as our post has progressed and become even more relevant in our community. It was my honor to serve and I look forward to serving again in the future.

If you were NOT in our March meeting we heard nominations for the following Offices:

**COMMANDER
SENIOR VICE
JUNIOR VICE
QUATERMASTER
TRUSTEE 3 YEAR**

**ROBERT SCHMIDBAUER
PAM SMITH
WILL CLARK
JIM STEDDUM
MALCOM WISE**

Remember nominations remain open until we vote at our next meeting on April 11th. Also we are still trying to find a person to step up and fill the Post Board of Management 1 YR position. As I mentioned last month, there is no better way to know what's going on in Post 6683 then to be a part of the leadership. Best of all, no experience is necessary! By nature of your military service you already have the expertise to help move our post into the future. Remember it's not about you/us as much as it is about those we serve.

As always, I remain grateful for the leadership and especially the volunteers of John Wiley Brock Post 6683. THANK YOU for who you are and what you do! Your service matters! I will greatly miss being your Junior Vice Commander. Thank You for a great year!

At Your Service,





**FROM THE
SERVICE OFFICER
Mike Sutterfield**

Need help with filing VA Claims
PLEASE CONTACT OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER FOR ASSISTANCE.
Mike Sutterfield
334-400-6133
michael.sutterfield@gmail.com

HURRICANE DISATER PREPAREDNESS

Happy Spring, Comrades! I believe we have moved out of any real further ‘cold-spells’ with the passing of the front this past weekend. However, that means that hurricane season is approaching in the next few months; officially beginning on 1 June.

With this, we should all think about the effects a hurricane, or similar weather event, could have on our day-to-day lives and how to prepare for them. While September is the official Disaster Preparedness Month, I wanted to take a few moments and discuss a few things we as Veterans, and our Families, should understand in our specific area.

This year (2023), forecasts are calling for 14-18 named storms, 7-9 of these hurricanes, and 2-4 resulting in major hurricanes. While this doesn’t mean we here in the Wiregrass will be directly impacted, our friends and families in other areas may. We most likely will see some sort of tropical activity from the panhandle up through the Wiregrass, however.

First off, wind events are prevalent in our geographical are. Whether that be hurricanes, tornadoes, or just significant thunderstorms, we are susceptible to wind events all year round here in the Wiregrass. As such, many of us make a point to watch at least one weather forecaster on an almost daily basis. You probably have an app on your phone that also warns you of an impending weather event. That’s GREAT! You know a storm is coming. Now what?

As Veterans, many of us planned for contingencies during our time in the military, or were given plans to execute in case of a certain contingency. I suggest you take a few minutes and visit some of the websites provided below and develop some contingency plans of your own using the tools and advice they provide. If you don’t want to view the websites, I will provide some limited ‘guidance’ to assist you in producing a hasty plan that covers most of our needs.

FIRST - THE PLAN.

1. **Determine Your Risk** - Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. impacts from wind and water can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur regardless of the storm’s strength. Know if you live in an area prone to flooding and if you’re safe to remain in your home.



2. **Develop an Evacuation Plan** - You may need to leave if you live in a flood prone area or in a mobile home. Now is the time to begin planning where you would go and how you would get there. You do not need to travel hundreds of miles. Your destination could be a friend or relative who lives in a well built home outside flood prone areas. Remember, your safest place may be to remain home. Be sure to account for your pets in your plan.



3. **Assemble Supplies** - Whether you're evacuating or sheltering-in-place, you're going to need supplies not just to get through the storm but for the potentially lengthy and unpleasant aftermath. Have enough non-perishable food, water and medicine to last each person in your family a minimum of 3 days (store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). Electricity and water could be out for at least that long. You'll need extra cash, a battery-powered radio and flashlights. You may need a portable crank or solar-powered USB charger for your cell phones.



(I'll provide more in depth information on a disaster kit later in the article).

4. **Check Your Insurance** - Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough insurance to repair or even replace your home and/or belongings. Remember, home and renters insurance doesn't cover flooding, so you'll need a separate policy for it. Also, flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.



You may also want to take pictures and/or videos of your home and valuables for evidence. I suggest putting these on a thumb drive and/or a CD-ROM that is incorporated into your Bug-Out-Bag or any another safe place besides just on your phone or computer.

5. **Prepare Your Home** - Whether you're evacuating, or planning to ride out the storm in your home, make sure it is in good repair and up to local hurricane building code specifications to withstand wind impacts. Many retrofits are not as costly or time consuming as you may think.



Have the proper plywood, steel or aluminum panels to board up the windows and doors. Remember, the garage door is the most vulnerable part of the home, so it must be able to withstand the winds.

If you're a renter, work with your landlord now to prepare your home for a storm.

If you have large trees around your home, it may be worth having a professional determine the health of the trees to determine if there are any possible issues prior to a storm. Many professional businesses will provide you with this service free of charge.

6. **Neighbors?** - Many people rely on their neighbors before and after a disaster, and there are many ways you can help them. Learn about all the different actions you and your neighbors can take to prepare and recover from the hazards associated with hurricanes.



7. **Written Plan.** - The time to prepare for a hurricane is before the season begins, when you have the time and are not under pressure. If you wait until a hurricane is on your doorstep, the odds are that you will be under duress and will make the wrong decisions.



Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan. Know who issues evacuation orders for your area, determine locations on where you will ride out the storm, and start to get your supplies now. Being prepared before a hurricane threatens makes you resilient to the hurricane impacts of wind and water. It will mean the difference between being a hurricane victim or a hurricane survivor.

Step 1: Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Create a Family Emergency Plan

Write down your plan. When complete email your plan to yourself and family members. This will assist everyone in the event you have to execute your plan as well as inform those family members or close friends what your steps will be if they are unable to contact you during the initial phases of an emergency.

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household

Walk through, or rehearse, your plan to ensure you didn't miss anything. You can utilize your plan for your next weekend getaway to determine any gaps or areas that you didn't think about.

NEXT - THE 'BUG-OUT' KIT.

Having the proper supplies on hand is key to being prepared during this year's hurricane season, which lasts through the end of November. Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency-preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

At a minimum, you should have these basic supplies:

- ✓ Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
- ✓ Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home).
- ✓ Flashlight.
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible).
- ✓ Extra batteries.
- ✓ First aid kit.
- ✓ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items.
- ✓ Multi-purpose tool, like a Swiss Army knife.
- ✓ Sanitation and personal hygiene items.
- ✓ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies).
- ✓ Cell phone with charger.
- ✓ Family and emergency contact information.
- ✓ Extra cash (ATMs might be inoperable).
- ✓ Extra fuel for generator and car.
- ✓ Depending on your family's requirements, you may need to include: medical-care items, baby supplies, pet supplies and other things, such as extra car and house keys.
- ✓ Additional supplies might include towels, plastic sheeting, duct tape, scissors and work gloves.

You can also print the graphic below to assist in building your personal kit.



Hurricane Supply Checklist

- Water and non-perishable food — at least a 3-day supply
- Flashlights
- Battery-powered portable radio
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) & any other necessary medical items
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents:
 - Medication list and pertinent medical information
 - Proof of address
 - Deed/lease to home
 - Passports
 - Birth certificates
 - Insurance policies (auto, homeowners, health)
- List of emergency contacts
- Mobile phones with chargers
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- Tools/supplies for securing your home
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Rain gear
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Printed recent photos of your family members, including pets

Source: <https://www.safesmartliving.com/hurricane-preparedness-checklist/>

LASTLY - YOUR 'PACE' COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

Primary: Your main means of communications with family (in person, telephone).

Alternate: When phone lines are down or overburdened, texts can sometimes make it through.

Contingency: Leaving a note at home or an email that will go through whenever connectivity is re-established.

Emergency: While smoke signals and carrier pigeons are no longer used, you may have to resort to more archaic methods to communicate if the disaster timeline extends or the area is significant (SOS in the sand type method). Ensure you have means to charge your communication devices in the event power is unavailable for an extended period of time.

Comrades, you, your family's, and your friend's safety are a priority to each and every one of you. A few moments of your time preparing for the possibility far outweighs a possible long period of suffering due to the lack of preparation.

Please visit the sites below, or do your own search for information, to assist you in preparing for a potential weather event this season:

[National Hurricane Preparedness | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(noaa.gov\)](#)

[Hurricane Preparedness Checklist \(2023, Printable\): Prepare Today, Be Safe Tomorrow \(safesmartliving.com\)](#)

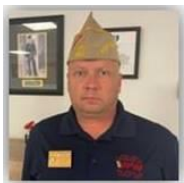
[10 Items to Include in Your Emergency Kit | FEMA.gov](#)

[2023 Hurricane Season Forecast \(wesh.com\)](#)

[US First Aid and Preparedness](#)

Comrades, I take great pride in serving and advocating for the Veterans in our community and I look forward to continuing to do so with each and every one of you!





**FROM THE
 QUARTERMASTER/ADJUTANT
 James Steddum**

LEADING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service to our Nation and community is our past, present, and future. Our Post and comrade in the Post are here to serve each other, our families, and our surrounding communities. Please remember to record your service for the posterity of our Post! Look at the VMIS section of the VFW6683.org website. Or call me if you need to learn how to register in the Army Family Web Portal.

Veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in 1899. Today, the organization has over 1.5 million members in the United States alone dedicated to **servi**ng veterans and their families through various programs.

John Wiley Brock Post 6683, VFW of Enterprise, Alabama, has a rich history of **service** that dates back over 70 years. The Veterans of Foreign Wars chartered the post in honor of John Wiley Brock. John Wiley Brock was a Coffee County, Alabama, Sailor killed in action during World War II. He was born on August 15, 1914, in New Brockton, Alabama. Brock joined the United States Navy in 1936. After beginning flight training in 1939, the Navy commissioned him as an ensign in May of 1942 and gave him the permanent grade of Pilot First Class.



While serving aboard the USS Enterprise Torpedo Squadron Six, he was lost over the Pacific while valiantly attacking Japanese carriers steaming toward Midway in June of 1942.

After the war, John Wiley Brock's family and friends worked to ensure no one would forget his **service** and **sacrifice**. His mother sponsored the commissioning of the USS Brock, ADP-93, a Navy Destroyer in 1945.



The USS Brock also served valiantly in World War II; it decommissioned in 1947 after receiving a battle star for its service in the Pacific. In 1951, the Post 6683, VFW, of Enterprise, Alabama, was named in Brock's honor. Today, John Wiley Brock Post 6683, VFW of Enterprise, continues to honor Brock's legacy by leading the community's sustained **service** to veterans and their families.

In the early years, John Wiley Brock Post 6683 was active in community outreach, sponsoring youth sports teams and participating in local parades and festivals. The post also provided financial assistance to veterans and scholarships to local students. As the years went on, John Wiley Brock Post 6683 continued to **serve** as a vital resource for local veterans. Members of the post have been active in advocating for veterans' rights and supporting veterans' causes at the state and national levels. The post has also provided **services** and camaraderie to veterans of all ages and backgrounds, offering a sense of community that can be hard to find in military service.

Today, John Wiley Brock Post 6683 stands as a testament to the **sacrifice** and **service** of John Wiley Brock and all the men and women who have **served** our country in times of war and peace. As we honor their **service** and **sacrifice**, we must also remember to **serve** them in return, both as individuals and as a community. The history of John Wiley Brock Post 6683 is a reminder that even in challenging times, we can come together to **serve** one another and build a

better future for ourselves, our families, and the surrounding communities.

John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Sponsors



Sam Boswell **Honda**
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**FROM THE
POST CHAPLIN
Myroan Brown**



TIME TO LOVE

So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

We must love the ones whom we care about. We must love the ones whom we hate the most. It's our job to do what Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior wants to do. He wants to follow Him. Now, we must walk and talk like Him in every single day of our lives.

The ones who have lost love ones and the ones who are not able to get out. We need to reach them and love them. Our job is to reach and love them in our community, our city, and our county.

Pray for the following comrades:

Sam Boswell and his wife

Pete Hill and his family

Homeless veterans

Other veterans in time of need

All those that are deployed and serving

The VFW's National Home for Children and Families





**FROM THE
EDITOR/PUBLISHER**
Angel S. de la Cruz, Jr.



Second term for Commissioner Davis for the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA).

Retired Rear Admiral W. Kent Davis was recently re-appointed by the State Board of Veterans Affairs (SBVA) for a second term as Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA). His second four-year term begins Feb. 16.

Admiral Davis has earned the respect of Alabama veterans at every corner of the State. The board's unanimous decision to appoint him for another term is a reflection of his dedication to his job and our hometown heroes. He has proven to be a true professional, demonstrates daily his care and compassion for taking care of our veterans.

Since being first appointed to the ADVA, Admiral Davis has focused on building external relationships and partnerships, improving business and personnel efficiency within the department, and taking the lead on enhancing Alabama veterans' well-being.

Admiral Davis' first term highlights include establishing the Office of Outreach and Engagement, which expanded the department's community engagement and public outreach with Alabama's nearly 400,000 veterans. He spearheaded the effort to create Alabama's Challenge, a collaboration between numerous state, federal, and community partners, to address the state's high veteran suicide rate. In 2022, the initiative held six veterans' well-being town halls across the state, as well as a statewide public awareness campaign.

Admiral Davis said, "It is an honor to serve Alabama's veterans from the moment they take off the uniform for the final time through eternity," Davis said. "We have accomplished great tasks over the last four years, and I look forward to continuing to serve the heroes who call the great state of Alabama home. I am blessed to work with an exceptional staff of over 1,000 state employees and contract employees in 71 of our facilities around Alabama—and now many external partners—who work diligently to assist those veterans."

To begin his second term, Davis will continue leading several major infrastructure projects. The ADVA is currently expanding the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Spanish Fort and held a groundbreaking on Feb. 11. In February the department will also roll out a new web-based application system for its GI Dependent Scholarship program, which serves approximately 16,000 students in the state. That new system will replace an outdated, decades-old paper application process. The department is also thrilled with the continued progress of the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home, which is being built in Enterprise and expected to open in 2024.



City of Enterprise, Alabama



City of Enterprise, Ala.

March 16 at 10:47 AM · 🌐

Check it out: Milestone complete at the Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home.

[Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

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Rabren General Contractors

March 16 at 8:44 AM · 🌐

MILESTONE COMPLETE: In Enterprise, AL, the project team reached a big milestone this week by completing the final SOG pour! Job well done by RGC's self-perform team and our trade partners pouring 2,941 yards of concrete over 187,400 SF!



EVENT RENTAL SPACE

VFW Post 6683
2615 County Road 537
Enterprise, AL
334-475-2010



VFW6683.org





Pricing:

There is a flat fee of \$300 per day (8am-11pm) with substantial discount for Veterans and VFW Members.

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- Indoor seating for 50
- Full kitchen to include large counter space, stove and oven, refrigerator and freezer, sink and utensils
- ADA accessible restrooms
- 2 large web enabled TV's
- Free WiFi
- Decorative freedom
- Large outdoor pavilion (seats 50)
- Firepit
- Hiking trail
- Plenty of parking on site
- Fenced in property on 14 acres of land



Please call 334-475-2010



John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683

All American Post 2021-2022 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



Official Public and Private Web and Facebook sites.

Comrades, in an effort to keep members aware of the upcoming events of our organization, we have recently established new Web and Facebook sites for our organization. The original Facebook site has been linked to <https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683/> and titled **Enterprise VWF – Post 6683**.

All post events for John Wiley Brock Post 6683 will be posted on the events tab of the Facebook site mentioned above as well as the Post Google Calendar, the Google calendar will also post other veterans' organization and community organization events of interest to veterans. If you would like access to the google calendar, please send an email to: post.6683.vfw@gmail.com

SCAN QR Code to access site.

Official John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Public Website
<https://vfw6683.org>



Official John Wiley Brock VFW Post 6683 Public Facebook Site
<https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683>



Official John Wiley Brock VFW 6683 Private Group Facebook Site
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John Wiley Brock **VFW Post 6683**

All American Post 2021-2022 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS ENTERPRISE, ALABAMA



<https://www.facebook.com/VFW6683>



2022-2023 Leadership

Elected Officers

Post Commander	Robert Schmidbauer	518-423-3390	robert.schmidbauer@yahoo.com
Sr. Vice Commander	Pamela Smith	808-561-6149	pysmith.pb@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Clarence Carroll III	910-584-8773	abnavnltc@yahoo.com
Quartermaster/Adjutant	James Steddum	907-854-1320	jagsted@gmail.com
Chaplain	Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Trustee 3 year	Jeffrey Osler	678-372-5235	oslerj@hotmail.com
Trustee 2 year	Russel Smith	334-489-4197	russell8765@twc.com
Trustee 1 year	Malcolm Wise	912-271-2816	malcolmwise@hotmail.com
Post Board of Management 3 year	Thomas Grandinetti	520-249-0711	tcgrandin@gmail.com
Post Board of Management 2 year	Pete Hill	610-389-1041	petehill1956b@gmail.com
Post Board of Management 1 year	Larry Jones	334-447-9841	larry.jonescw5@gmail.com

Appointed Officers

Judge Advocate	Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com
Service Officer	Mike Sutterfield	334-400-6133	michael.sutterfield@gmail.com
Surgeon	Bob Cooper	334-477-7076	bobbcooper@gmail.com
Officer of the Day/Sergeant of Arms	JT Coleman	334-494-0329	dianegrey62@yahoo.com

Permanent Committees

Chair, Post Board of Management	Randy Black	334-389-0738	gblack11265@roadrunner.com
Chair, Membership Committee	Ken Donahue	321-332-2902	rmeav8er@aol.com
Chair, Youth Activities Committee	Sam Baker	334-494-2599	gruntwithwings@yahoo.com
Chair, Poppy Committee	Pete Hill	610-389-1041	petehill1956b@gmail.com >
Chair, Fellowship and Fundraising Committee	Chris Wood	334-447-3790	cwwoodie@yahoo.com

Special Committees

Chair, Memorial Day Committee	Myroan Brown	334-389-7359	myroan.brown4@gmail.com
Chair, Christmas Laurel Committee	Vacant		
Chair, Veterans Day Committee	Vacant		
Chair, Bylaw Committee	Brett Feinstein	334-470-6804	bgoodmug@gmail.com

Editor/Publisher

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