

American Legion Post No. 48 Chesnee, SC

On June 9, 2011, Post #48 held its annual election of officers. The officers elected were: Post Commander Cliff Jones, Vice Commander Harold Turner, Adjutant Terry Brown, and Athletics Director Tommy Walker.



Swearing in of the officers was done by Region 8 Director Sam Cox.



Members watching the swearing in ceremony.



On August 14, 2011, Post Commander Cliff Jones, on behalf of the members, sent a letter to Spartanburg County Council recommending that the railroad bridge over Overhead Bridge Road be named for Lt. Col. Thomas W Bonner who had been a member of Post #48 for 65 years. The letter was requested by Post Member and Spartanburg County Councilman Oneal Mintz. The bridge was dedicated on October 17, 2011.

The following is a quote from the letter sent to County Council supporting this dedication, "Thomas Bonner attended N. C. State University for a brief period but had to drop out when the Great Depression began. He was able to attend Wofford College and graduated in 1935. He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps for approximately 8 months prior to entering the U. S. Army.

He entered the military in 1941 and upon commissioning, was assigned to the Third Air

Corps at Morris Field (now Douglas International Airport). In 1946, after achieving the rank of Captain, he left active duty. He remained in the Army Air Corps and then Air Force Reserve until retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after approximately 29 years of service.

Except for the period of attending N. C. State University and his service in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II, he was a life-long resident of this area. His family owned land along Overhead Bridge Road and he grew up in this area.”

Flora Bonner Powell is the only daughter of Col. Bonner. She is seen here with her husband Perrin and her sons prior to the dedication ceremony.



During the ceremony, the Powell family and members of Post #48 listened while County Councilman Oneal Mintz read the proclamation dedicating the bridge in Col. Bonner’s name. .



On November 5, 2011 a ceremony was held at the bridge. This was presided over by Post member and County Councilman O’Neal Mintz. In attendance were Col. Bonner’s daughter Floral Powell and her husband Perrin.



Also attending were member of Post #48, members of the Chesnee Fire Department, and guests.



In late October, Post #48 began the annual Turkey Shoot at the Post. This is an event that is attended by local folks interested in testing their shotgun skills. Cliff and Terry trying to keep up with the shooters.

