



American Legion Post 0048 – Chesnee, SC

2015 Department Community Service Awards Report

June 10, 2016

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

P.O. Box 3309

Irmo, SC 29063

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2015 DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS REPORT

REPORT COVERS PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015**DUE DATE: June 15, 2016****Reports will not be returned**Post Name: ChesneePost No. 0048District: 5Post Location: Chesnee, SC2015 POST MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 98

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 29. <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics | 30. <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Awareness |
| 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 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. ☒ Designation of Law Enforcement and Fireman of the Year Awards

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 and other items to area underprivileged children during the Christmas season. Post 48 provided our Post building for use in assembling, sorting and packaging the toys for distribution. Post 48 members provided volunteers and leadership for the City of Chesnee Program including Post 48 member and Chief of Police Swofford who coordinated 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. 15th, 2014. Secured the services of the Parade Grand Marshall and featured guest speaker: CMDR Chris Dickerson (US Navy and responsible for recruiting in the Carolinas). Secured and coordinated the services of antique vehicles for use by Chesnee area WWII veterans in the parade. Secured the bands and JROTC units to perform 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: Cantrell, Scruggs and Scruggs; Chesnee High School JROTC)



(Post 48 member and city Council member: Bruce Mahaffey; Post 48 member and city mayor Max Cash; CMDR Dickerson; Post 48 Member and Chaplain Dr. Curtis Daniel at the Veteran Recognition Ceremony; Mayor Max Cash and the ceremonial wreath placing)



(Dept. of SC 1 Vice Cmdr: Bob Scherer; Cmdr. Dickerson giving his keynote speech honoring veterans; Chesnee Mayor and Post 48 member Max Cash seated)

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. 12th with 75 in attendance.





Item # 23: Conducted a Christmas Party for Post 48 members (and their families) complete with decorations, band and meal. Awarded our 2015 Post 48 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Dan Codespoti during the ceremony. Attended by community leaders to include the Mayor, Police Chief and City Council representative.





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 Zac Carter receives the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award from Post 48 Member Jack Smith; Cadet Erik Offenburger receives the American Legion Military Excellence Award from Post 48 Vice Commander Terry Brown)

B) Awarded a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating local high school senior.



(Congratulations to Chesnee High School senior Zac Carter who was awarded a \$500 college scholarship presented by A. L. Post 48. The presentation was made at the CHS Academic Awards ceremony held at Chesnee High School in May 2015.)

Item # 25: Post 48 conducted our 3rd Annual American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Contest for high school youth with director, 4 judges, time keeper, score tabulators and contestant escorts. Our Committee visited 2 local high schools and emailed 2 additional high schools to explain the contest and solicit participants. Judges were recruited from the Spartanburg Toastmasters Club, History Teachers and the Sons of the American Revolution. Post 48 distributed contest regulations to four local high schools and secured a central location (Chesnee High School Auditorium) to conduct the contest. Three contestants competed and monetary prizes were awarded. American Legion Certificates were given to the all participants. The winner advanced to Quadrant Competition and was escorted by a member of Post 48.



**(Jessica Rhymer, Eric Brislinger and Lauren Mossburg at the local Post 48 competition
Lauren Mossburg at the Quadrant Competition in Greenwood)**

Item # 31: 2014 facility upgrades included installation of a new lighting system with increased illumination yet reduced power consumption. A new hot water heater was installed to preplace the outdated inefficient model. With these upgrades, community functions at our Post 48 facility increased in 2015 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.**



(Auxiliary Unit 48 Craft Show)

- 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:



(Attorney Laura Filler advising our members on wills, estate planning, etc. Mrs. Jackie Blackwell was the daughter of an Army Officer stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. She spoke to our members of her experiences as a child enduring the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor)



(Spartanburg County Deputy Sgt. Tony Brown spoke to our members about identity theft; Command Sgt. Major John Witt (SC National Guard retired) addressed our meeting discussing the purpose and function of the Transition Assistance Program assisting veterans that are re-adjusting to civilian life.)

- F) Hosted the American Legion District 5 meeting in August with provided meal.



(Dept. of SC Commander Joe Lysaght and Dist. 5 Commander Jack Wright discussed issues at the state and district level)

Item # 34: Flag Education:

- A) 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.**

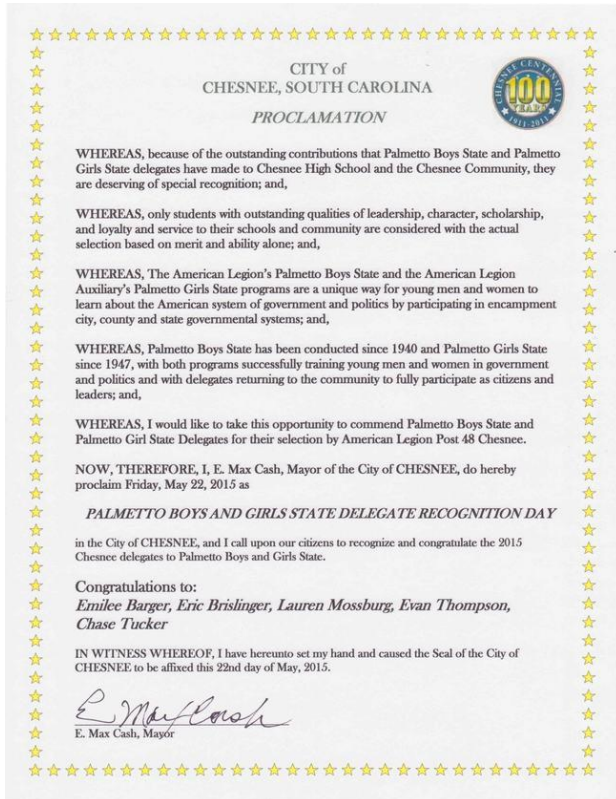


Item # 35: Arranged for a local attorney to speak to our members regarding legal issues related to senior citizens: wills, estate planning, power of attorney, etc. (see item # 31D)

Item # 39: Appointed a Palmetto Boys State Committee for promoting, fund raising, interview of candidates and selection of delegates. Post 48 provided full funding for 3 delegates at American Legion 2015 Palmetto Boys State.



(2015 Palmetto Boys State Delegates from Post 48: Chase Tucker, Evan Thompson and Eric Brislinger. Post 48 Commander Cliff Jones presenting American Legion 'Good Citizenship' citations to each at our September Meeting. Each Delegate expressed their appreciation to the American Legion for sponsoring their attendance.)



(City of Chesnee Proclamation of Palmetto Boys State and Palmetto Girls State Delegate Recognition Day and signed by Post 48 member and Mayor E. Max Cash.)

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 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 2015.

Item # 43: Appointed a Law Cadet Academy Committee and reviewed qualifications of candidates. Provided full funding for 1 attendee at the American Legion 2015 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet Academy.



(2015 Nathan Wolfe Law Cadet from Post 48: Justyn Rushton)

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 a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating JROTC cadet (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) Assisted financially with the funeral expense of a local veteran**
- B) At the beginning of the winter heating season, Post 48 became aware of a local elderly veteran in need of a home furnace repair or replacement. Procuring and contracting was cost prohibitive to this veteran. Post 48 investigated and agreed to provide full procurement of all parts and materials. A contractor (relative of a Post 48 member) graciously agreed to volunteer the necessary labor. The furnace was satisfactorily replaced just in time for the heating season. The letter below is an appreciation letter to the contractor and describes the project.**



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

Nov. 30th, 2015

Mr. Kenneth Turner

Recently, and at the beginning of the fall and winter season, Post 48 became aware of an elderly veteran in our community in need of a major home furnace repair. Procuring the necessary parts and normal contracting of the installation was cost prohibitive to this family. American Legion Post 48 researched the situation and agreed to provide funding for procurement of the necessary materials and parts. We then searched for someone qualified to inspect for requirements, secure the materials and repair the furnace.

Thank you! for stepping forward and volunteering to donate your time and effort for this worthwhile project. We understand that your inspection revealed that the furnace had to be replaced. You spent many days working on this project; determining what was needed, traveling to obtain the furnace and materials, removing the old furnace with duct transitions and installation of the new. Most of your time was spent in tight quarters in the crawl space. The project achieved satisfactory completion in time for the heating season.

Please accept the appreciation of the Officers and Members of American Legion Post 48 for a job well done. You have made a difference in the life of a military veteran who wore our Country's uniform when needed.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance to you in the future.

For God and Country,

Cliff Jones, SCPO, USN Retired
Post 48 Commander

- C) Post 48 became aware of a local paralyzed veteran in need of modifying his bathroom for handicapped access and use. Post 48 responded by seeking donations and funding all labor and materials. The Home Depot and their supplier 'Universal Tubs' donated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant 'walk-in' tub. Post 48 secured the services of a qualified contractor and Post 48 volunteers assisted with the work. The below 'Letter to the Editor' of the Spartanburg Herald Journal (June 9, 2015) expresses our appreciation to all involved.

county leaders to purchase the 39-plus-acre site that once housed Clifton Mill No. 2 on the Pacolet River for an east-side park. They envisioned the park as a catalyst for opening a "blueway" in our county. Hopefully, work will soon begin on this long overdue park.

These leaders provided a path for us to follow to see that their dreams — and ours — come to fruition. I hope each of you will view the Pacolet and other rivers with an eye to the future that they may open for our county in the areas of recreation and tourism.

Upstate Forever is currently involved in the "Reconnecting People to Upstate Rivers" initiative. We encourage you to join in the effort to get more residents to enjoy our rivers and appreciate their importance. This can be our thanks to Gerald and Elaine for their insight into the future.

NANCY RAINEY CROWLEY
Spartanburg

Reaching out to a veteran

A big thank you is in order to those individuals, organizations and companies responsible for improving the life of a military veteran facing medical and dis-

Letters must be 300 words or fewer and include your name, address and phone number. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
Herald-Journal
P.O. Box 1657
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304

Fax: (864) 594-6350
E-mail: opinion@shj.com
Phone: (864) 562-7267

ability challenges.

A Vietnam-era veteran in our community recently suffered a massive stroke, leaving him partially paralyzed, wheelchair bound and requiring assistance with everyday needs. His medical instructions include frequent bathtub soaks. His wife cannot manage moving him into and out of a conventional bathtub daily. Remodeling the bathroom was cost prohibitive to this family.

American Legion Post 48 in Chesnee became aware of the situation and orga-

nized an effort to make improvements. The Home Depot (East Main Street) and Universal Tubs (Miami) stepped up to donate in full an ADA-compliant "walk-in" tub. The following individuals and companies donated funding for procurement of the additional items needed, necessary demolition and installation: James Cooley (Strawberry Hill USA), Don Williams (Chesnee Hay Rack) and the Liberty-Chesnee-Fingerville Water District.

Post 48 secured a qualified contractor (Philip Carver) and assisted with the work. The Home Depot sent a representative during installation to observe and provide advice.

Thank you to Universal Tubs' Krystal Joseph, The Home Depot's Shane Howell, Steve Greene and Stephen Frady, Mr. Carver, the aforementioned monetary donors and all the members of American Legion Post 48 too numerous to mention. You have made a difference in the life of a disabled veteran who wore our country's uniform when needed!

CLARK SMITH
Adjutant, American Legion Post 48





(Demolition and Installation)

Item 54: Local Fund Raising:

- A) Participated in local fund-raising for the Kops Kids Program (see response to Item # 4).**
- B) Donated to the Dept. of SC's 'Project 94' (Operation Comfort Warriors) from funds received from various fund raisers.**

MARCH 11, 2015

CLIFFORD JONES, POST COMMANDER
AMERICAN LEGION POST 48
PO BOX 323
CHESNEE, SC 29323-0323

DEAR COMMANDER JONES:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR POST'S CONTRIBUTION OF \$100.00 TO THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S PROJECT 94.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NO GOODS OR
SERVICES WERE RECEIVED IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS GIFT. PLEASE KEEP THIS
CORRESPONDENCE FOR YOUR TAX RECORDS.

THE AMERICAN LEGION IS EXEMPT FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX UNDER SECTION 501(C) 19 OF THE
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND ITS PROGRAMS.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,


JAMES H. HOLLAND
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

JH/MM

CC: JACK WRIGHT, DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

- C) In 2015, Post 48 received approximately \$5,300 from solicited donations and various fund raisers (yard sales, raffles, etc.). This entire funding was expended on numerous assistance to veterans and children/youth programs.



(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 2015, Post 48 expanded the range to include an area set aside for 22 caliber rim fire.



(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 and fall of 2015. Awarded monetary prizes and certificates to the top finishers.



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 2015. 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 second 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 2015, 260 pounds of food was donated to the Buck Creek Baptist Church's Food Pantry for the needy.

Item 62: Palmetto Girls State: The Auxiliary Unit 48 was not fully organized at this time; Post 48 did not want the qualified girl students at our local high school to miss this important event. Post 48 formed a selection committee to interview candidates and make selections to attend 2015 Palmetto Girls State. Post 48 provided full funding for two students to attend Palmetto Girls State.



(Lauren Mossburg and Emilee Barger: Sponsored by Post 48 for 2015 Palmetto Girls State)

Item 63: Post 48 fully supported and assisted the organization and re-chartering of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 48. Unit 48 received their organization charter in July of 2015. Post 48 allows Unit 48 to use the Post 48 facility for meetings and activities.



Item 63: Law Enforcement and Fireman of the Year Awards (awarded on 4/9/15)

- A) Post 48 selected Police Officer Jerry T. Walker, Jr. for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for his actions above and beyond the call of duty in stopping a run-away vehicle prior to causing additional injury and damage. Post 48 submitted Officer Walker's application to the Dept. of SC for consideration as the Department's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.**



- B) Post 48 selected Fireman Todd Mason for Fireman of the Year for his dedication and devotion to his Fireman's duties; and his caring concern for the safety/well-being of the public. Mr. Mason is held in high regard by his supervisors, firemen under his supervision and the general public in our area. Post 48 submitted Fireman Mason's application to the Dept. of SC for consideration as the Department's Fireman of the Year.



Finally, the most important aspect of community service is encouraging our membership to 'get involved'. Each year, as we try to improve our presence in the community, more of our members want to participate and help out. 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. As a result, Post 48 has exceeded the Department of SC membership goal for the 6th consecutive year!

Post 48 is proud of our community service record for 2015 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