



# THE SANDHILL

The Official Newsletter Of Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722

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## SPRING IS HERE!

*That means BBQ time!*

VFW Post 6722 will conduct its Spring BBQ on Friday, May 2, from 11AM to 6PM or until sold out, at 409 S. Main St. Lillington, NC. The menu includes pulled pork, buttered potatoes, roll, coleslaw, and dessert. BBQ plates are \$12. The money collected will go into the building fund to provide resources for repairs and improvements to the building and grounds.

Twice a year, the Post hosts BBQ sales for the building fund. Typically, the sales occur in December and May every year. These sales require an all-hands-on-deck effort to pull off the event. However, the Post is not alone in the effort. VFW 6722 Auxiliary is a key helper and the Lillington Shrine Club has lent a hand in past BBQs to make them a success. Campbell University veterans clubs contributed in the past, as well as active duty soldiers from Ft. Bragg. If organizations in Lillington want to help, the Post membership is happy to have them.

This spring we have some additional help from Ron's Barn who will cater the event for the Post. They will prepare the food for the sale. However, it still means post members and our friends from the community will build plates, deliver orders to businesses, and run orders to the drive through in the Post parking lot. It is a busy day and our hope is to have good weather for the occasion.

If you are in the area or driving through Lillington and desire a BBQ plate for lunch or dinner, we will have them ready to go for you. We welcome everyone in Lillington and Harnett County to come to the Post and make our BBQ a great success. See you there!



## Friday Night At the Canteen

By Gary Szafarski



Hi everyone! As you know by now, the Canteen is again open and we're slowly working our way back to that Grand Reopening. Though we haven't set a date for the Grand Reopening, the 21 February "soft opening" went very well, with no less than a dozen attendees. Not bad for a non-Steak Night Friday!

On 28 February, we tested out the Karaoke, or affectionately referred to as "Gary-Oke," and it was a huge success. In addition, the March Steak Night on 28 March saw a huge turnout for charbroiled steaks hot off our brand new char broiler, a brisk business at the bar, and overflow seating on the patio. On top of the great turnout, the musical stylings of Roger Hardy from the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association provided popular song and guitar renditions throughout the event for our guests.

Expect future events to include more acoustic guitar singer/song-writers, DJs to spin records, an Elvis impersonator, and a lineup of local bands.

Please continue to come out to support VFW 6722 and listen to some crazy and at times, good entertainment with your meal.



## The Commander's Corner

Hello again, Comrades! What a great month we have had! I am excited to announce a few upcoming events that we have organized and one we were invited to as guests of honor. We had a great turnout at the Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club at Shiner Park on 22 March, which VFW District 7, VFW Post 9103, and Ernest Simmons Post 6722 used as a recruitment event. We were able to gain the attention of quite a few veterans in the community and attendees expressed increased membership interest in the VFW. These events are excellent opportunities for us to show our face and recruit members for our ranks according to their most convenient post, whether posts are close to home or work. VFW planners design each recruiting event to place the VFW in the forefront of the veterans who attend. Planners attempt to align events with the posts closest to anticipated event attendees. Remember, I challenged the post membership last month to encourage everyone to bring at least two veterans they know, who are not members of our post, during the months of March and April. I would like to take it a step further and offer an incentive. Whoever is able to recruit the most members into Post 6722 (new or transfers), I will personally recognize in our May business meeting and provide something of value you will enjoy.

Our busiest season is upon us and there are so many events we have the honor to participate in. First, on the list is the

Shriners BBQ Plate Sale on 4 April. We need hands in the morning to chop BBQ and prepare food for plating before the lunchtime rush. If you are available, please come and show your support for a great organization. The Shriners have supported us in the past and are true champions for children across the world. Secondly, 4 April is also the Campbell University Military Appreciation Baseball Game and yours truly has been invited to throw out the first pitch! Campbell has invited Ernest Simmons VFW 6722 to attend and set up a tent to recruit. Tickets are free and the Campbell organizers will provide free food to Post members who attend!

May is another busy month as our Annual Day of Service begins on 4 May, and stretches throughout the month. The Post is planning multiple events to execute during the month of May in support and service to our community. On 17 May, our post will host the Junior Beta Club in support of our fallen veterans by placing flags on graves prior to the Memorial Day holiday. This community service event, along with a few more I am kicking around, will bring the month of May into focus as the month of service rather than just one day. If anyone has some other any ideas, please shoot them my way. The service day *must contain* some element of service to the community and not a fundraiser or event that does not include giving back. Community outreach and support of our veteran community is at the top of my agenda, as always.

Finally, I have to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to our Canteen Manager Ashley McCarthy, John McCarthy, Patrick Voyce, Kurt Heinz, Gary and Tina Szafarski, and anyone else I may have missed who changed the look of the kitchen over the weekend of 22 March. We now have a brand new steak charbroil grill and a “like-new” refrigerator to help us keep moving forward into the future. Without this type of forward momentum, spearheaded by a few, this would have been impossible to accomplish. Thank you all again!



## The Chaplain's Corner



Dear Comrades,

As we welcome the month of April, we are reminded that spring is a season of renewal and reflection. Nature awakens, the days grow longer, and we find ourselves looking forward to the warmth and light ahead. It is a time to shed the burdens of winter and embrace the promise of new beginnings.

For many of us, this season also serves as a reminder that no matter the struggles we have faced—whether in service or in life—there is always the opportunity to heal, to grow, and to support one another. We are not alone in our journeys. Our shared bond as veterans means that we stand together, not just in times of celebration, but also in moments of hardship.

As Easter approaches, for those who celebrate, it is a time of hope and resurrection. Regardless of our individual faiths, we can all take this opportunity to reflect on the values of sacrifice, renewal, and brotherhood.

I encourage each of you to keep an eye out for your fellow veterans. Some may be struggling in ways that aren't always visible. A simple check-in, a conversation, or an offer of support can make all the difference. Let's continue to uphold the principles of our service by being there for one another.

May we walk forward with strength, purpose, and gratitude—knowing that our service to one another never ends.

### In service and faith,

Greg Kinney  
Post 6722 Chaplain

#### Treat the Post as your home!

- Pick up trash and dispose.
- Return tables/chairs to their proper place
- Report broken equipment



## Homemade Currywurst

by Diony,

The Kitchen Maus

This is a quick and easy currywurst recipe that brings back memories of Germany! Smoky, spicy, and a little sweet - perfect over bratwurst.

Prep 5 minutes

Cook 15 minutes

### Ingredients:

Bratwursts

1 cup of Tomato Ketchup

1/4 teaspoon of Baking Soda

4 – 5 teaspoons of Mild Curry Powder

2 teaspoons of Smoked Paprika

1 teaspoon of Onion Powder

1/8 – 1/4 teaspoons of Cayenne Pepper

2 teaspoons of Worcestershire Sauce

4 tablespoons of Beef Broth

2 or more tablespoons of Water

### Instructions:

Put 1 cup of tomato ketchup in a small saucepan and heat on medium low. When ketchup is warmed through, add baking soda, and stir continuously until foaming subsides. Ketchup should look normal again.

Reduce heat to low. Add remaining ingredients, through to water and stir until combined. Let it simmer on the stove for 5 - 10 minutes to meld flavors.

Serve warm over sliced bratwurst with crusty bread or fries as a side.

### Recipe Notes:

- Sub the beef broth for veggie broth to make a vegetarian dish.
- Omit the cayenne pepper completely if you don't like a lot of spice.
- If you don't have smoked paprika, using liquid smoke and sweet paprika should work.

Bartenders Wanted!  
Contact Ashley McCarthy

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	2 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	3 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$.50 off shots	4 Canteen Open 5:00 – 11:00 PM Bucket Day (6) \$10 Bush Light \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported	5 Canteen Closed
6 Canteen Closed	7 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Budweiser	8 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	9 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	10 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$.50 off shots	11 Canteen Open 5:00 – 11:00 PM Bucket Day (6) \$10 Bush Lite \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported	12 Canteen Closed
13 Canteen Closed	14 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Budweiser	15 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite Monthly Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 PM	16 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	17 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$.50 off shots	18 Canteen Open 5:00 – 11:00 PM Bucket Day (6) \$10 Bush Lite \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported Spaghetti Night 6:00 – 8:00 PM	19 Canteen Closed
20 Canteen Closed	21 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Budweiser	22 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	23 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	24 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$.50 off shots	25 Canteen Open 5:00 – 11:00 PM Bucket Day (6) \$10 Bush Lite \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported Steak Night 5:00 – 8:30 PM	26 Canteen Closed
27 Canteen Closed	28 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Budweiser	29 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	30 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra			