



THE SANDHILL

The Official Newsletter Of Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722

VOLUME I
ISSUE 4
01 – 30
JUN 2025

VFW Post 6722 Auxiliary Conducts Young American Patriot Art Contest

By Beverly McBrien, VFW 6722 Auxiliary

The Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722 Auxiliary conducted the American Patriot Art Contest in March/April of this year. This contest gives local schoolchildren an opportunity to show off their artistic talents and a chance to win scholarship money for higher education. The contest involves several phases where schoolchildren have their artwork judged at the local, state, and national level. Post 6722 Auxiliary began the local selection process on 1 April 2025.

The Post and Auxiliary worked together as a team and formed a joint committee to judge the received artwork. Artists had to submit their work by 31 March 2025 to the committee. The young artists from Harnett County schools submitted their artwork to the committee and the selection committee was quite impressed with the artistic talent displayed by the schoolchildren.

Jodi Hardy, the president of the VFW 6722 Auxiliary commented, "We have some really artistic and talented students in our area. In the hearts of these students, these pieces of artwork are priceless to them. They were proud to submit their work to be judged by the committee."

This patriotic themed art contest challenged the students' artistic abilities. The local contest consisted of three school grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There are State and National awards for first, second, and third place in each grade division. The VFW 6722 Auxiliary received entries for school grade categories 3-5 and 6-8. On April 1, the committee judged the artwork in each grade category. The Auxiliary mailed the first place artwork to VFW State for judging on April 2.



In the 3-5 grade group, **Collin Trombello** of Lillington Shawtown Elementary School took first place with his rendition of an Army Chinook helicopter on a mission.



Mykah Castile of Lillington Shawtown Elementary School took second place with his rendition of a Blackhawk helicopter and colorful American eagle.



Finally, **Alexandria Toting** of Lillington Shawtown Elementary School took third place with her rendition of a soldier in front of the American flag.

The first place entry received a \$30 gift card from VFW 6722 Auxiliary and a chance to compete at the state level.



In the 6-8 grade group, **Mia Pagano** from Harnett Central Middle School took first place for her rendition of an American eagle in flight.



Charlotte Smirnov of Harnett Central Middle School took second place with her rendition of an American flag over a sunset.

Finally, **Ziyare Everette Betha** of



Star Academy took third place with this rendition of cartoon school kids.

First place winner received a gift card of \$50.

In July/August, winners at the national level will be announced at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY US ARMY! 14 JUNE 2025

VFW 6722 Auxiliary thanks Post 6722 for the gift cards.



The Commander's Corner

Hello again, Comrades! We have had so much happening since our last newsletter and I appreciate Comrade Heinz for leading the charge and collecting articles for publishing. Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722 had the distinct honor of being the first organization to place flags on veterans' graves ahead of Memorial Day at Westview Memorial Gardens on May 17th. With the help of Auxiliary President Jodi Hardy and students from Harnett Central Middle School and the Junior Beta Club, we placed over 170 flags and were able to reach our younger generations through community service to show we are all "Still Serving." It was an honor to pay respects to our fallen comrades from every conflict from World War I to the Global War on Terror and help shine a light for our younger generations to follow in providing for our veteran community.

I am excited to share the news passed down to us at our last district meeting. For the first time in the 80-year history of Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722, **WE ARE AN ALL AMERICAN POST!** It is official. We have also been named a North Carolina Honor Post, and I could not be prouder of our members and auxiliary who have worked tirelessly to make these milestones possible. With that being said, **THIS IS OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR!** We should make this year the absolute best ever and celebrate what our charter members began after returning home from World War II. Bring ideas for events or gatherings that correlate with upcoming notable dates and holidays that can bridge

the gap between our veteran community and our local community.

Thank you again for all that you do!!!! Thank you all for the honor of allowing me to serve alongside you as your Commander. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Tuesday, 10 June!



The Chaplain's Corner

Dear Comrades,

As June arrives, we take a moment to reflect on a powerful symbol that has followed each of us through our service—the American flag. On June 14th, we observe Flag Day, a time to honor the adoption of the Stars and Stripes and the values it represents: liberty, unity, and sacrifice.

To us at Post 6722, the flag is more than a national emblem, it's personal. We've saluted it at dawn and at dusk, raised it in celebration, and lowered it in remembrance. For many, the flag is forever tied to brothers and sisters in arms, to battles fought, and to the high price of freedom paid by too many.

Each time the wind catches those colors, it reminds us that we are part of something greater, a nation built on ideals worth defending. The flag stands as a promise that we will not forget our fallen, that we will care for our veterans, and that we will stand ready to serve our communities.

This month, I encourage all of us to take time to share the story of the flag with our families, our neighbors, and especially the next generation. Show them what it means, not just by displaying it proudly, but also by living the values it represents: service, honor, and country.

As we lead into summer and prepare to celebrate Independence Day, let us renew

our commitment to our country, to our Post, and to one another.

May God bless each of you, and may God bless the United States of America.

In Service and Faith,

Greg Kinney

Chaplain, VFW Post 6722



Cioppino

The Real San Francisco Treat!


Ingredients

- ¾ cup butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans stewed tomatoes
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1 ½ cups white wine
- 1 cup water
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 ½ pounds cod fillets, cubed
- 1 ½ pounds large shrimp - peeled and deveined
- 1 ½ pounds bay scallops
- 18 small clams
- 18 mussels, cleaned and debearded
- 1 ½ cups crabmeat

Directions

1. Melt butter in a large stockpot over medium-low heat. Add onions, parsley, and garlic. Cook and stir until onions are softened, 3 to 4 minutes.
2. Add tomatoes to the pot (break them into chunks as you add them). Stir in chicken broth, wine, water, bay leaves, basil, thyme, and oregano. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Stir in cod, shrimp, scallops, clams, mussels, and crabmeat. Bring to boil; lower heat, cover, and simmer until clams open up, 5 to 7 minutes. Ladle soup into bowls and serve.
4. Enjoy!

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Canteen Closed	2 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	3 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Heinekin	4 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	5 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Corona Premier	6 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM Bucket Night (6) \$10 Bush Light \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported	7 Canteen Closed
8 Canteen Closed	9 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	10 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Heinekin Monthly Meeting 6:30 PM	11 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	12 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Corona Premier	13 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM Bucket Night (6) \$10 Bush Light \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported	14 
15 Canteen Closed	16 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	17 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Heinekin	18 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	19 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Corona Premier	20 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM Bucket Night (6) \$10 Bush Light \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported	21 Canteen Closed
22 Canteen Closed	23 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite	24 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Heinekin	25 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Michelob Ultra	26 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Corona Premier	27 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM Bucket Night (6) \$10 Bush Light \$15 Domestic \$18 Imported STEAK NIGHT 06:00 – 8:00	28 Canteen Closed
29 Canteen Closed	30 Canteen Open 5:00 – 7:30 PM \$2 Miller Lite					