



Wikipedia says, "The Pony Express was a mail service delivering messages, newspapers, mail, and small packages from St. Joseph, Missouri, across the Great Plains, over the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada to Sacramento, California, by horseback, using a series of relay stations. During its 19 months of operation, it reduced the time for messages to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to about 10 days. From April 3, 1860 to October 1861, it became the West's most direct means of east–west communication before the telegraph was established and was vital for tying the new state of California with the rest of the United States." Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pony Express ride hopes to revive this service connecting east and west in more ways than one.

Our Pony Express will be operating from March 30 through April 2, 2017 and our objective is to collect Legion, Auxiliary and SAL membership (renewals and transfers) as well as Veteran's Service Fund and USS North Carolina contributions. We will be joined on our 747.5-mile route by our National Vice-Commander, Fae Casper, from The Department of Georgia. Dedicated American Legion Riders (ALR) will deliver membership to collection points and provide a motorcycle escort for Commander David Shore by either riding all or a portion of the route. We do this, because we love to ride, but we also want to provide a rallying call for Posts, Districts and Divisions to make a push to increase membership and submit their VSF/USS NC funds between now and the 95% target date on April 11, 2017.

**YOU** may participate by encouraging Posts, Auxiliary Units, and SAL Squadrons under your command to collect renewals, sign up new members, transfer DMS members and submit their VSF/USS NC Funds by placing them in a sealed envelope with a summary of the contents written on the outside. We will tally up our totals and a plaque will be awarded to the District collecting the most membership and a plaque will be awarded to the ALR Chapter delivering the most membership. Pony Express pins (or rockers) will be provided to participating riders; however, free pins/rockers are limited to the number of membership turned in by the chapter and additional pins/rockers will be provided at cost. Plaques, pins and rockers will be distributed at our Annual Convention.

Collection points along the route include Concord Post 51, Lexington Post 8, Asheboro Post 45, Sanford Post 382, Fayetteville Post 32, Dunn Post 59, Selma Post 141, Raleigh Post 1, Department Headquarters, Wilson Post 13, Greenville Post 39, Hertford Post 126, Coinjock Post 288 and The Wright Brothers National Monument. We will also be participating in the POW/MIA Ceremony on the grounds of the old State Capital Building. (See attached route with timeline.) We are very appreciative of these locations for providing their hospitality and support of this year's Pony Express Ride.

With the support of our National Headquarters, we will be providing rosters of non-renewed members by Post and DMS members by zip code prior to the event, so Posts, Districts and Divisions will have more than enough members to work; however, this entire project is dependent upon the ALR having membership and VSF/USS NC funds to deliver. Please, **LET'S GET'R DONE** and make this Pony Express the best that we have ever had and show the Southeastern National Vice-Commander not only how the Department of North Carolina works together, but that we know how to have a good time!!

For God and Country,

RORA M. KELLIS  
Department of North Carolina  
Membership Chairman