

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 *December 2019*



USS Oregon Commissioning



USS Oregon (SSN 793) was christened on 5 October 2019 by the ship/boat sponsor Dana Richardson, an Oregon native and wife of former/just retired CNO ADM John Richardson at General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton Ct.

The Boat/Ship should be commissioned in the late fall/winter of 2020/2021 at General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton Ct.

Be part of History by Supporting of the Crew during the commissioning process. Many functions, events, and traditions are not funded by the Navy and funds need to be raised in support. Being an initial/commissioning crew member is a life long experience. As a "Plank Owner" in Naval traditions, each crew member is entitled to one

Cont. on pg 31



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Honoring Our Veterans,

Trivia and so much more...



PDC, GENE HELICKSON

Don't Be This Person

This article from 1921 is as appropriate today as it was in 1921. Let's not find ourselves in this position. We are

making great strides in our membership and we will make our goals if we do a little work to make our posts the "Best In The West."

THE AMERICAN LEGION WEEKLY

March 18, 1921

Ten Ways to Kill a Post

Wide circulation has been given to a set of rules entitled "Ten Ways to Kill a Post," which now is appearing in scores of Legion publications. The "ten ways" are as follows:

1. Don't go to the meetings.
2. If you do go, go late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going.
4. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and members.
5. Never accept office as it is easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, do not attend committee meetings.
7. If asked by the chairman to give your opinion on some matter tell him, you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when members use their ability to help matters along, howl that the post is run by a clique.
9. Hold back your dues or don't pay at all.
10. Don't bother about getting new members. "Let George do it."

There are always questions that Adjutants, Commanders, and legionnaires helping with membership, and transfers have. Some are; what the heck are the letters AD, DMS, and encumbered, unencumber mean. So I ask Michele.

Clarification on a few items, please. Can you explain the difference between ENCUMBERED and UNENCUMBERED? When does the transferred member count as a member of the Post? And finally, some of the people on our listing in the holding Post have 114 and others 114AD, what is the difference?

Michele Steinmetz, the Member Engagement Coordinator at National, has answered some of these:

"I know it seems confusing, but once you understand it, it isn't."

DMS means direct mail solicitation, **Encumbered** means all monies stay at national. When they join, first renewal and second renewal, if they are not transferred into a local post, all the dues collected remain with national. Once they are either transferred into a local post or after they renew for the second time (where all dues stay at national), they become **unencumbered**.

Only if you transfer 2020 DMS AD (encumbered) members into a local post will that transfer count for membership goals. If it's a regular HQ 114 member, they will only count when they renew for the next year. HQ 114 transfers will show up in the post's membership totals but won't count for the department or national goal purposes. Only traditional renewals or new starts and 2020 DMS AD transfers will count for membership goals on the membership report.

114 AD means "Administrative" or

encumbered (\$\$ stay at National until they have transferred into a local post). I hope this helps. You might need to read this a few times to absorb.

Michele

Still Serving America

Michele Steinmetz, Member Engagement Coordinator Internal Affairs & Membership Division



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

Department Officers

Commander	Steve Adams
Imed. Past Cmdr	Tom Harris
1st Vice Cmdr	Don Weber
2nd Vice Cmdr	Larry Wittmayer
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Andy Millar
Alt NECman	Jim Willis
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Floyd Bacon
Historian	Judith Johnston
Judge Advocate	Gerald Shorey
Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Steven Mays
Aide to Cmdr	Larry Williams
Aide to Cmdr	William "Bud" Stutheit



AWESOME: ABOUT THE MILITARY - TREY GOWDY

Trey Gowdy, Former South Carolina US Congressman, recently responded to a reporter about the military in response to a question from a CNN reporter about the DOD ban of transgenders from joining the U.S. armed forces. As Trey typically does so very well, he nailed it rather succinctly.

Question: *How can President Trump claim to represent all U.S citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, when he banned transgenders from joining the military? Isn't that discrimination?*

Trey Gowdy's Response:

Nobody has a right to serve in the Military. Nobody. What makes people think the Military is an equal opportunity employer? It is very far from it....and for good reasons--let me cite a few.

The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining for being too old or too young, too fat or too skinny, too tall or too short. Citizens are denied for having flat feet, or for missing or additional fingers.

Clearly annoyed by the reporter's attempt to trap him with the question....he went on to explain: "By the way, poor eyesight will disqualify you, as well as bad teeth. Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ? Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms? Hear voices in your head? Self-identification as a Unicorn? Need a special access ramp for your wheelchair?

Can't run the required course in the required time? Can't do the required number of push-ups? Not really a morning person? and refuse to get out

of bed before noon? All can be legitimate reasons for denial."

"The Military has one job: Winning War. Anything else is a distraction and a liability. Did someone just scream? That isn't Fair?? War is **VERY** unfair, there are no exceptions made for being special or challenged or socially wonderful.

YOU must change yourself to meet Military standards....Not the other way around.

I say again: You don't change the Military.. you must change yourself. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues. The Military needs to Win Wars....and keep our Country safe....**PERIOD!**

If any of your personal issues are a liability that detract from readiness or lethality... Thank you for applying and good luck in future endeavors.

....any other questions?"



What was the first US State to tax gasoline?

- A) Florida
- B) Montana
- C) Oregon
- D) Alaska



PDC, ANDY MILLAR
NECMEN



It's that time of year we try and figure out what we need to purchase for gifts for our family and friends. Most people get this task done in a timely manner while some wait to

the last minute, usually in a panic, and the item they pick is out of stock or not in the right size. Is your Post one that plans for financial stability or one that waits until you're in dire straits? Please take this thought to heart as more often than not, it seems to be the norm; not asking for the assistance that may prevent a Post from becoming non-functioning. We can't make miracles happen, but it's the little things, such as making sure you get a financial report at each meeting and the report posted for you to ask questions. The Post, District, and Department money belongs to the membership, not a select few. We all share in the worth but also suffer from the loss when we don't pay attention to what goes on at our Post's, District and Department. A couple of things I have learned over the years is that complacency leads to failure and it starts with us, and the inability to do anything about it. Please make sure to look for the best place to invest your money and never be afraid to ask for help. This Commission is always willing to get you started in the right direction.



PDC, KEVIN OWENS
PERMANENT FINANCE



CORY BROCKMANN
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Greetings
Comrades,
“We also recognize that our obligation to our military men and women does not end after their time in uniform. We are a nation that leaves no American behind, and that includes our veterans and their family members.” – President Donald J. Trump.

As one veteran to another, and to the families that love and support us, I hope you set aside a small portion of time this November to reflect upon your selfless service and, in some small way, honor yourself. You deserve it. Thank you for your service.

NALPA / NALMA DISSOLUTIONS

Organizational issues continue to compound and cause confusion among members of the former National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) and the recently formed, and now under dissolution, National American Legion Media Association (NALMA), as to what the future will hold. Most recently, NALMA received a certified letter from The American Legion national adjutant invoking its right to rescind the use of the trademark license agreement.

District 1 does have members who have press/media credentials and held membership in these organizations, and it remains unclear as to the reasoning behind the latest dissolution action. In moving forward at this time I have shared among select Department leadership consideration in forming our own departmental press/media association. Several departments within American Legion already maintain a department-level press association, so it wouldn't be a

completely new endeavor. Stay tuned.

80th ANNUAL ALA PORTLAND VA CHRISTMAS SHOP

A heartfelt “thank you” to our American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) for their unending support in conducting the 80th annual Portland VA Christmas Shop! Their unselfish giving, to provide for our veterans and support of their family members, through this endeavor clearly demonstrates the commitment to their mission – to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families.

Support for this endeavor comes from ALA units and American Legion posts from across the entire Department of Oregon. Thank you to every single one that contributed, be it gifts, cash donations, time, or prayers – well done.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

A ‘shout out’ to John Kalmbach #90 and Seaside #99, both whom have submitted CPR updates online. Good job! Again, submitting online allows posts to update and save their entries throughout the remainder of the year.

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

Please continue to work your school leadership and encourage participation in the oratorical program. This program is a fabulous growth opportunity for our youth – educating them on the Constitution and principles of democracy; developing good characteristics in leadership; and, to earn valuable scholarship funds, in return for their efforts. Like most everything we accomplish, it will take effort to achieve results. You have been provided a school contacts list to help jumpstart your outreach efforts; however, please do not rule out engaging teacher associations and parent-teacher

associations, as well.

District Oratorical Contest: 2:00 PM on Jan 19, 2020 at Washington #2, Forest Grove, Ore.

POC: Randall Butler, chair, District Oratorical Committee, Email: thepdxwinebutler@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

The latest data shows a district-wide membership of 2,352 (67.6%) – thank you for your continued efforts. We have less than three weeks to secure 259 new or renewed memberships to make our goal. We can do it! Please make sure you are sending in your transmittals weekly and ensure you have the next target date circled on your calendar so that you can submit transmittals in time to be counted by that date! Attached is the TARGET DATE: 75% by 11 Dec 2019 POC: Tom Harris, chair, District Membership Committee, Email: taharris56@gmail.com

NATIONAL SECURITY

In a previous email you were sent the applications and instructions for submitting your nominations for Firefighter of the year and Law Enforcement officer of the year. Please review that email and help support your local law enforcement and fire-fighting agencies.

DUE DATE: 31 Dec 2019

POST VISITS

Visits were completed this month to Hillsboro #6, Argonne #56, Seaside #99 and Cannon Beach #168.

DISTRICT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE

7-Dec-2019 Hillsboro #6, Hillsboro
(Ample parking located 1/2-block east of Post #6)

7-Mar-2020 Clatsop #12, Astoria

2-May-2020 Aloha #104, Aloha

Each of you make a difference – thank you for all you do to support our veterans and the communities in which they live. *For God and Country*



DAVID APPLGATE
DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER

run of all these meetings I have attended since 2011. Thank you, Mary Laudon and other Department staff, for the great info binder and all your work. Several of our members have read through it and given positive praise.

District 4 held its Fall DEC at Grants Pass (Post 28) on October 19th, 2019. Six Posts were in attendance, so we had a quorum.

Our District 4 Junior Shooting Sports Chair and Department Junior Shooting Sports Committee member, Raul Salem of Post 15, reported that his teams are in early season warm-up. They held their First Shoot Count recently firing .22 caliber weapons. New in Jackson County, District 4 Junior Shooting Sports team has been given and is now training with six new Model 850 Daisy Air Rifles. The team has some good shooters and looks forward to participating in all future events.

Post 8, Klamath Falls: Jim Whitlock, Post Commander:

In August, the Post held its Annual American Legion picnic at Ward Park, hosting about 80 members and guests. It was a potluck affair with them providing hamburgers and hot dogs incorporating membership interest. On August 17th, four members, including our Commander, attended the annual August District 4

Seven members from District 4 attended the Fall Department DEC in Lebanon (Post 51) on October 4th & 5th, 2019.

This DEC was the best organized and

DEC picnic and meeting sponsored by Post 84 in Malin.

Post 14, Ashland: Jean Dooms, Commander:

The July meeting was held with Patrick Plourd, Jackson County Veterans Service Officer, providing a wealth of information. In October, the members discussed plans for the annual Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast for November 11th. The breakfast was held at Pioneer Hall and included a bake sale. The November meeting will include completing final plans for the Veterans Pancake breakfast.

Post 15, Medford: Robert Axe, Commander:

Adjutant Tom Fitzgerald reported that as of August 31, 2019, the Post has relinquished their building lease and is now meeting at the VFW meeting hall in Medford. A decision will be made in November if the Post will continue to hold meetings in this hall. The transition from a bar Post to a Post without a bar and no building is concerning. Currently the board is determining direction of the Post. At present, the fluidity of moving from a bar Post to a community service Post is worrisome. Membership is moving forward, and it appears this will be an issue this year as many members had heard that the Post was closing. It is not the intention of the Board of General Membership to close this Post. The Post's Sons of the American Legion Squadron 15 has lost its Commander to cancer. In addition to this, several SAL members have been either moved into assisted living communities or in hospice care. With the Squadron struggling with membership for the past several years, the time has come to make some serious decisions about continuing the SAL program in this Post.

Post 28, Grants Pass: John David,

Commander:

Membership paid to date: 166/278 = 60%. Eleven new/transferring members. Our uniform display is a work in progress. We have furnished our Boy Scout Troop 23 with American Legion patches for their uniforms. We also donated \$100 to the Troop for their summer camping trip. Several members have established gatherings: Saturday- College Football at the Post, Wednesdays- Dominion Challenge. The Ladies Yarn still meets, and the Elks now meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The Post provides dinners at the General Meetings. The Post also held a VA Community Town Hall in October and will be holding a Veterans Day Open House with refreshments and a free Thanksgiving Dinner on November 28th.

Post 50, Williams: Tim Sakrait, Commander:

In September, the Post held their first picnic, which included a great bar-b-que and many conversations enjoyed by all. Members participated in the dedication of the new building at the Williams Fire Station. The Post is currently over 80% of the membership goal, with 30 paid members.

Post 70, Cave Junction: Bob Soria, Commander:

Post membership stands at 21. The Post earned money from participating in the Post Running Bingo, a three-day Labor Day celebration in Cave Junction. The Cave Junction Lyons Club is losing its normal meeting room and has asked the Post to consider them using the Post. They have held several meetings here, but are undecided at the moment. The Post lost member George Nadow recently to cancer. The canceled October meeting was because only two members were able to attend, this was because many were out because of medical reasons.

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Post 84, Malin: Steve Mckinley, Commander:

In September, provided the Color Guard for the Butte Valley/Tulelake Fair Parade and in October provided the Color Guard for the Kamath Basin Potato Festival Parade in Merrill. In November the Post will be providing the Honor Guard at the Malin Veterans Park and providing the Honor Guard at the Tulelake Veterans Park.

Post 129, Central Point: Phil Cardinal, Commander:

The Post is ever working on membership. Sick-Call: a few members are ailing. American Legion Baseball was successful, and we are already looking forward to next year. Have a member teacher working on oratorical, Boys State and Girls State. Working on Holiday baskets.

Post 192, White City: Bob Huff, Commander:

The Post did with the VA; a well attended the Southern Oregon Women Veterans Event. I have done four VA Town Halls on the new mission-act with the VA. Attended and member participation in the 186 Infantry NG Town Halls and in supporting the families during the deployment of the 186 Infantry NG. Provide information tables at the Medford Armory for the soldiers deploying and their families on August 19th. Members supported and were working with the family at the return of the remains of PFC Ross, a WWII veteran, on September 5th at the Medford Airport and on September 7th at the Cemetery. Setting up the Eagle Point Veterans Day Parade and making Veterans Day speeches in the community.

Merry Christmas

Since 1919
The Voices of Oregon Veterans
The Oregon Legionnaire

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The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

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Editors Notes

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**Leader's
Prestige
Responsibility**

Congratulations! You've just been elected as a leader of your organization and you've gained the prestige of "Commander" (or First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander). You're in an elite group to have achieved such success. You now have the helm to start initiatives you've dreamed about the organization needing. And you're right, you are now in a position to help steer the Post, District, or Department to achieve greater and better things



RICHARD RAMEY
IA COMMISSION CHAIR

You also have **RESPONSIBILITY!**

And this applies to every person who accepts a position in The American Legion (or any other organization), whether it is Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, or Sergeant-at-Arms. You now are seen by your peers as representing our fine organization. When you speak, you speak for the organization. So, yes, we all have the right to speak up about issues and concerns we have, but we also have the responsibility to represent our organization fairly when we speak. And, guess what, even after you no longer hold that prestigious title, people around you remember that you did — so the weight of responsibility is not entirely lifted from your shoulders. They still remember that you were an officer and you are a member of The American Legion and your opinion, to some degree, also is reflected in their eyes as that of The American Legion.

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That may see unfair, that you can't just speak your mind anytime you feel like it, because others might interpret your message as that of The American Legion. But it is the truth. From now on you will need to weigh everything you say and do, with the concept that your words and actions will be perceived through the lens that you are a representative of The American Legion.

We all join our great organization because we believe in the good things that The American Legion does. We are proud of how we help veterans. We are delighted when a local student wins the High School Oratorical Contest, or a School Achievement Award. We feel good when people see one of our members carrying the American Flag in a parade. We have a sense of accomplishment when we serve on a Committee or at an event to help those in our community.

Now we need to reflect on how we act at other times. As an officer, is what we said truly the will of our post membership? Will our actions continue to portray our fine organization in the best light with other members and our community? I sincerely hope so!

So, as we conduct The American Legion programs in our community, think about how you are representing The American Legion in your actions. Be proud of our organization! Hold that flag steady! Welcome that new member. Thank a veteran for his/her service. Help your neighbor. Make people think of The American Legion as a vital part of continuing to make the United States a great nation.

Our Actions, many times, speak louder than our words!

“to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism”

I was given this task to write about Americanism, which I thought was a no brainer and I should have just sat down and written about what Americanism is to me. But no, I decided to do some research which for me was a huge mistake. My brain is condition to be closed-minded; I like it that way which why as I don't particularly appreciate getting political, especially in this day and age.

I have my beliefs that I believe are right, and I am sure that some of you would find them wrong, as with the Right believes just as strongly as the Left does, and we know the other is wrong. I took the cowards way out, and I will use our Americanism pamphlet as a guide, and I believe it is a great guide.

We will start with: “The Four Pillars of THE AMERICAN LEGION; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.” Our organization founded in 1919 and these Four pillars are just as relevant today as they were in 1919. You will note that Americanism is one of the four pillars. Americanism is the love of America. The willingness to defend our Flag and country against enemies domestic and foreign and best we can secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness.

It is as outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States unqualified loyalty to the ideals of government. It is religion without bigotry, freedom without license, obedience, and respect for duly constituted authority for the laws of the land.

One of our major activities is to help our communities, make a better place to live. We all do community service, may it be at the schools for crosswalk crossing, helping with fairs, potlucks for special occasions, or just a get-together. Marching in the Parades, and handing out flags, putting on Memorials, Helping Veterans, or anyone in a crisis, cheering at a baseball game, counseling during Halloween on safety issues. Boys State, Oratorical Contests, teaching self-confidence and leadership. Visiting our Veteran's homes, putting up ramps for easier access to one's house, all these things are little pieces of Americanism. Continue what you're doing; be proud of yourselves. There is so much more to Americanism, that will come in a future article.



VANDEE MAUSER
DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER
ORATORICAL CHAIR
PR COMMITTEE

Deadline

for the February issue
of the
Oregon Legionnaire
is January 5th, 2020



Answer:

C. Oregon

Taxed at .01 Cent per gallon

Christmas Gifts Shop Openings



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Oregon Veterans Home
700 Veterans Dr
The Dalles, OR 97058

Opening Saturday December 7th
At 10 am

&

Monday December 9th
At 10 am



Calendar of Events

December

01 District 2 Mtg
02-05 VA Gift Shop
06-10 Roseburg VMAC
07 Pearl Harbor Rember
07 OVH The Dalles
Gift Shop
07 District 1 Mtg
11 Lebanon Veterans Home
17 District 8 Mtg
23-25 National Closed
25 Christmas (Closed)
31 National Closed

January

01 National Closed
01 New Years (Closed)
04 District 9 Mtg
08 District 4 Mtg
08 District 6 Mtg
18 District 7 Mtg
20 National Closed
20 MLK Day (Closed)

February

01 District 10 Mtg
02 District 2 Mtg
17 National Closed
17 Presidents Day (Closed)
18 District 8 Mtg

Are you moving?

We hate to have you miss the next Legionnaire Newsletter!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Effective Date: _____

PhoneNumber: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org

Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon

Attn: Adjutant

P.O. Box 1730

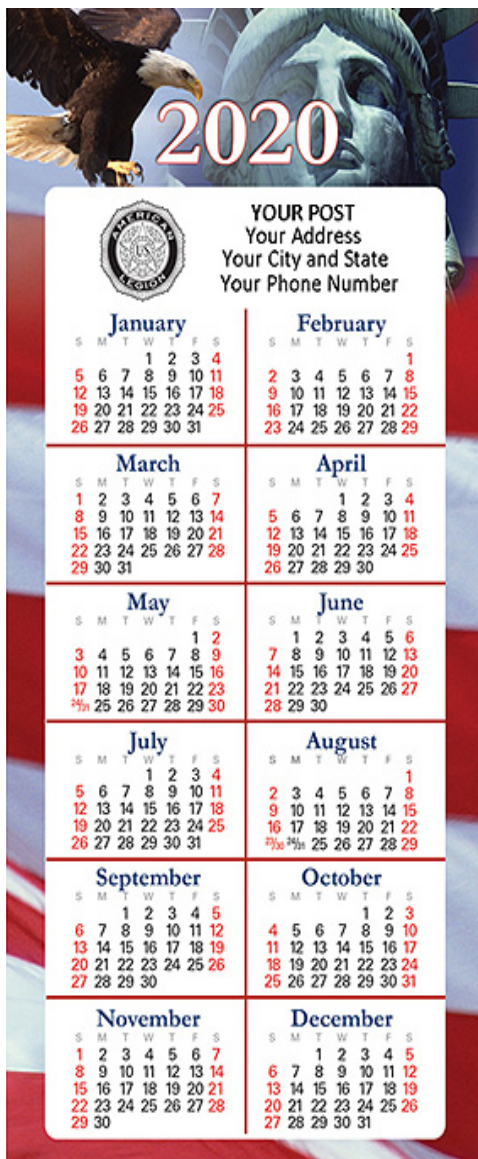
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

Support & Promote Your Post All Year!

2020 Post Fundraising Calendars



Wall



Magnet

FLAG REWARDS

Car Dealers Love Flags

Many car dealers fly multiple American flags on their lots. Consider approaching these dealers and asking them to support your Post with their flag purchases. You will likely save them money on their flag replacement budget.



Success Stories

Congratulations! The following Posts have earned big credit in 2019 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2020:

Over \$400 earned:

1. Bay City, MI Post 18
2. Ankeny, IA Post 42
3. Lake Linden, MI Post 90
4. Bismarck, ND Post 1
5. Lily Dale, NY Post 1280

Over \$300 earned:

6. Douds, IA Post 494
7. Lawrenceburg, IN Post 239
8. Newburgh, IN Post 44
9. Caruthersville, MO Post 88
10. Des Plaines, IL Post 36

Over \$200 earned:

25 Posts have earned

Over \$150 earned:

25 Posts have earned

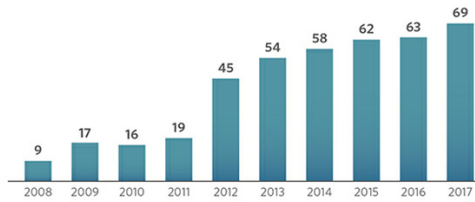
Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION

TOPIC 1: ECONOMY

10-YEAR COMPARISON OF HOUSING MARKET CONDITIONS

Seasonally Adjusted Housing Market Index, November, 2008-2018



The U.S. housing market is a significant indicator of the strength of the economy. When the economy is secure, and people are confident about the future, they are more inclined to buy houses, upgrade their current homes, or buy more substantial dwellings.

When they are more concerned about the economy, new home construction, remodeling, median prices, and housing sales are all depressed. For years, real estate was considered a reliable way to increase personal wealth because the cost of property and housing consistently increased over time.

However, the housing bubble of 2006 that led to a steep decline in housing prices was the primary cause of the Great Recession in the U.S., destroying the credit of millions of people who were suddenly underwater in their mortgages and impacting the housing market for the greater part of a decade.

Government regulations have since tightened mortgage requirements for many buyers, and they have significantly impacted the subprime mortgage industry that collapsed during the Great Recession.

U.S. mortgage rates turned down this week, lowering the cost of purchasing a home and supporting the housing market.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate for a 30-year fixed mortgage fell to 3.66%

this week from 3.75% last week. The average 15-year rate declined to 3.15% from 3.2%.

Rates have fallen sharply in the past year. The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that home sales in October rose 4.6% from a year ago. The construction of new homes and apartments jumped nearly 4% in October.

The 30-year rate has dropped from 3.81% last year, while the 15-year rate was nearly 4.25% a year ago. Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country between Monday and Wednesday each week to compile its mortgage rate figures.

HOUSEHOLD DATA Table A-5.

Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted
[Numbers in thousands]

Employment status, veteran status, and period of service

	Total		Men		Women	
	OCT 2018	OCT 2019	OCT 2018	OCT 2019	OCT 2018	OCT 2019
Unemployed	105	121	91	74	14	47
Unemployment rate	3.1	3.5	3.2	2.5	2.7	9.5

The national unemployment rate is 3.6 percent (October 2019). Gulf War II veterans' unemployment rate is 3.5 percent.i Currently, the unemployment rate for Gulf War II women veterans is 9.5 percent (up from 7.0 percent in October).

TOPIC 2: MEETINGS

On Monday, November 18, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division gave an interview to GI Jobs about the state of military credentialing. VE&E staff highlighted the work of DoD in launching the new "MILGEARS" platform for identifying credentialing opportunities

based on military education.

On Monday, November 18, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division conducted an AAR donors first Credentialing Roundtable meeting with Roundtable co-chairs and Project Manager Liz Belcaster. The next Credentialing Roundtable meeting has been scheduled for January 19th.

On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division Attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Legislative Committee of the National Association of State Approving Agencies to ensure their continued support of HR 4635 Protect the GI Bill Act. SAAs are concerned about the additional requirements found within the bill, though they are strongly supportive of the new risk-based survey oversight specified therein.

On Thursday, November 21, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division attended a Career Fair hosted by JobZoneOnline. The event was catered to transitioning servicemembers, reservist, veterans, and their spouses held at "The Club", Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

On Thursday, November 21, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division have a virtual briefing on the Legions education priorities to the National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services.

On Thursday, November 21, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division Discussed with VES leadership approaches to ensure further Republican support for 90-10 in the Senate. With Senator Lamar Alexander's support in addition to Lankford and Cassidy, we expect other Republican Senators to sponsor or support as well. Cont. on page 11

Cont. from page 10

On Friday, November 22nd, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division attended a Rural Veterans and Military Spouses Entrepreneurship Summit. The VE&E division staff met with the VA Office of Transition and Economic Development team to present recommendations and gain input from leadership and stakeholders regarding SBA's proposed approach to the Rural Veterans and Military Spouses Entrepreneurship Summit meeting held at The American Legion Headquarters located in Washington, DC. The purpose of the summit which will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico sometime in early Spring is to increase awareness of federal government programs that support entrepreneurship among Veterans (including Service-Disabled Veterans, Women Veterans, and Native American Veterans), Transitioning Service Members, Military Spouses and Reserve and National Guard members in rural areas. A strategy was set to collaborate with local resources, in targeted area, to provide streaming capabilities, furnish education content and invite veterans, service-disabled veterans, reserve and National Guard component members and military spouses. The plan also involves engaging with local entrepreneurs to discuss their journey to start and develop a business and how federal programs helped them. Lastly, SBA and The American Legion will work with other Federal Agencies to develop content that directly addresses the challenges faced by this market.

On Friday, November 22, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division participated in a Veterans Service Organization roundtable hosted by Family Employment and Transition Program Analyst, Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC). Discussed Transition issues that directly affects the service-members and their spouses.

On Friday, November 22, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with the Senate Small Business Committee to work on getting the Veterans Advantage Guaranty Loan fee-waiver back in place to avoid a programmatic gap.

On Friday, November 22, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with staff from Congressman Andre Carson office to discuss the Legion opposition for a compromise that would protect the jobs of disabled persons at the cost of undermining the Vets First Program at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

On Friday, November 22, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division attended the taping and reception of The Table: Veterans In High Growth Jobs hosted by NBC, Working Nation and Howard University.

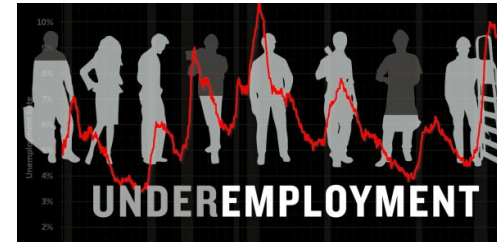
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On Friday, November 22, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division Conversation with Julian Purdy on HR 4625 and the groundwork provided for further education quality study and initiative. Also, conversation with VACO leadership and Jeffrey Montague, head of VA Office on Advisory Committees, on the importance of American Legion presence on the VA Committee on Education.

TOPIC 3: EMPLOYMENT

The American Legion has consistently advocated for improvements to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). While we are encouraged in the steps taken to improve TAP, we now find ourselves confronting another issue that is increasingly affecting our veterans, underemployment.



As the rate of veteran employment has improved, the issue of underemployment has become a substantial barrier to a meaningful post-service career. We believed that this might have something to do with the perception that experience in the military is less relevant in corporate environments.

Younger veterans are more likely than previous generations of service-members to report problems adjusting to civilian life, with about 1 in 6 calling the transition very difficult, according to a new survey released by the Pew Research Center.

The survey, which includes responses from 1,284 veterans collected in May and June, also found that one-third of veterans reported they had trouble paying their bills in the first few years after leaving the military. About 40 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans believed their deployment had a negative effect on their mental health.

Iraq and Afghanistan era veterans have seen historic low unemployment rates in recent years, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates. But their jobless figures have also remained above the rate for all veterans, indicating extra employment difficulties for younger veterans compared to their elder peers.

About 47 percent of the post-9/11 veterans surveyed by the center said

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that readjustment to civilian life from the military was difficult, compared to 21 percent for older generations. About 35 percent of the post-9/11 veterans said they had sought professional help for “emotional issues,” compared to just 10 percent for the older crowd.

According to LinkedIn’s data, more than half (55%) of veterans expressed an interest in switching to a different career, and so they’re more likely to take a step down to be hired.

But vets face several other barriers to full employment based on hiring biases. For instance, civilian hiring managers don’t always know what’s behind a military job title or what their responsibilities were. And according to LinkedIn, veterans’ professional networks are often closed, meaning that they have plenty of connections among military personnel but few outsiders. Data shows that the more open the network to all kinds of professionals in varied industries, the higher the chance of getting job opportunities.

TOPIC 4: CAREER FAIRS

This week, work continued on The American Legion’s upcoming hiring events to be staged in Fort Carson (CO), Aurora (CO), JBLM (WA), King George (VA), Fort Meade (MD), Dalgren (MD) The National Staff attended two Career Fairs at Lexington Park, MD and Andrews Air Force Base,

MD. Where the staff was able to assist Transitioning Servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses with obtaining suitable and meaningful employment. Additionally, staff provided job seekers with other information regarding the program and services The American Legion offers, to include membership.

The mission of The American Legion’s National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is to take actions

that affect the economic wellbeing of veterans, including issues relating to veterans’ education, employment, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, homelessness, and small business.

TOPIC 5: VETERAN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

The American Legion has consistently supported all programs geared toward helping our homeless and at-risk veterans. A recent article by the United States Air Force highlights how their Airmen are helping our veterans.



Approximately 30 Schriever Airmen volunteered to help military veterans during the 21st annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down at the Colorado Springs City Auditorium, Colorado, Oct. 15.

Lt. Col. Michael Schriever, 2nd Space Operations Squadron director of operations and military assistance coordinator for El Paso County Homeless Veteran Coalition, said Schriever Air Force Base has supported the coalition since 2008.

According to EPCHVC, they execute their mission through three primary programs: transitional housing initiative, homeless veteran stand down, and ongoing homelessness community prevention efforts.

“There are multiple things our coalition works toward,” Schriever said. “Throughout the year, we offer outreach to homeless veterans or support for veterans who may be headed for homelessness. We receive a couple of grants, and we receive assistance requests from other organizations.”

During the event, veterans can get hot meals, haircuts, and dental work,

according to Schriever. “There was also an Army veterinarian available to take care of pets, winter clothing was supplied, and they can get registered up in the [Department of Veterans Affairs] database to provided further assistance,” he said.

Schriever said they gained access through the VA to the government’s surplus system of items this year. “Our team here ordered \$25,000 worth of boots, coats, and winter clothing from the government surplus system and were handed out to the veterans at this year’s stand down,” he said.

Maj. Robyn Burrell, 310th Operations Group Standardization and Evaluation flight chief of standardization, and the first-time volunteer said she thinks it is crucial to show veterans in the community that Front Range service members care.

“My experience volunteering has been great,” she said. “I got to work with a veteran named Oscar, and it’s interesting to hear his take on life.”

Events such as this provide local service members a chance to connect with their local community. “Having the footprint of our Airmen at the event shows our willingness to be in the community and show how much we care,” he said. “Service to your country is honorable, and a great thing to do, but service to your fellow person is just as honorable and important.”

In addition to providing service, Airmen also had a chance to talk with the veterans about their military experience. Volunteers from Fort Carson, Peterson AFB, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command were also on-site to support.

“These military veterans have knowledge and experiences to share,” Schriever said. “The difference is, they are people who need a helping hand, and at some point, we all may need someone to help us out, listen, or con-

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nect with us. This program makes that possible.

TOPIC 6: SMALL BUSINESS

As we honor and celebrate the men and women, who have served in our nation's armed forces. But to truly recognize our obligation to America's veterans, we must continue to fight to ensure they have access to the opportunities they have earned.

Unfortunately, millions of veterans remain stuck behind the digital divide without access to broadband internet. This digital divide can impact nearly every aspect of life for veterans. A lack of connectivity can prevent veterans from taking advantage of telehealth solutions, reduce the educational and career opportunities available to them, and place veteran small business owners and innovators at a substantial disadvantage.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 2.7 million veterans who live in rural areas, and nearly half of them, 42 percent, do not have broadband access at home. As the largest non-profit trade association in the country representing veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses in the federal marketplace, the National Veterans Small Business Coalition (NVSBC) believes Washington must act to eliminate the digital divide.

Veteran small business owners and innovators should not be held back from economic and federal contracting opportunities because of a lack of broadband connectivity where they live. The nation as a whole benefit from veterans continuing to serve their country through enterprises and selling goods to the federal government — and we must support their ability to conduct that business.

That is why the NVSBC recently joined a coalition called Connect Americans Now (CAN). The coalition, which represents over 200 mem-

bers from a wide array of backgrounds, advocates for a mixed-technology approach to eliminating the rural broadband gap that we agree must include innovative solutions like TV white space (TVWS) technology.



CONNECT AMERICANS NOW

This wireless solution that uses empty television channels to transmit broadband service can travel great distances and penetrate barriers like mountains and dense forests — making it particularly well-suited to deployments in rural areas.

Mixed-technology deployments that leverage traditional technologies alongside innovative solutions have the potential to eliminate the digital divide in rural America quickly and at a fraction of the cost of relying on conventional technologies alone.

An analysis conducted by Boston Consulting Group found an all-of-the-above approach can reduce the cost of bridging the broadband gap by roughly 80 percent. This kind of innovation is already helping America's veterans get connected.

Microsoft recently announced a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs that will leverage mixed-technology networks through the company's Airband Initiative to bring broadband access and telehealth solutions to currently unserved veterans. But to eliminate the digital divide and ensure America's veteran-owned small businesses have the connectivity they need to compete, we need Washington to act.

The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Pai's leadership has already taken substantial steps

in the right direction to support innovation and tackle the digital divide. The FCC can keep the momentum going by clearing the remaining regulatory barriers to technologies like TV white space. By continuing to support innovative solutions to bridging the digital divide, the FCC can do its part to honor and support America's veterans — and empower them to build and expand businesses that give back to our nation and create opportunities in their communities.

TOPIC 7: EDUCATION

In a significant move this week, Senate Education Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) is backing bipartisan legislation that would limit the revenue for-profit colleges can receive from enrolling veterans.

Alexander's decision, which comes after years of opposition on his part, arrives a week after Sens. Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) introduced legislation to close a loophole in the 90/10 rule, which prohibits for-profit colleges from getting more than 90 percent of their operating revenue from federal student aid funding.

Military and veterans' education benefits do not count toward that threshold despite being federal aid. As a result, some veterans groups say for-profit colleges aggressively recruit military members. About 30 percent of GI Bill tuition benefits went to for-profit schools in 2017, according to the Government Accountability Office.

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The legislation, dubbed the Protect VETS Act, would end the exemption and impose penalties for violating the revenue rule. Schools that flout the caps for a year would be barred from enrolling new military students using Department of Defense education benefits, while those who break the law for three years could lose access to all federal financial-aid funding.

"I appreciate the work Senators Carper, Cassidy, Lankford, and Tester have done to take a highly partisan issue and create a bipartisan solution," Alexander said in a statement. "This is a responsible and reasonable step to ensure that all of our military and veteran students are attending quality institutions worth their time and money."

Although veteran's issues usually garner bipartisan support in Congress, Republicans have remained on the sidelines in efforts to treat military education benefits the same as federal student aid under the revenue rule. Many have questioned the fairness of the 90/10 rule because it applies only to for-profit colleges.

Congress first capped the number of taxpayer dollars for-profit colleges could receive at 85 percent in 1992 to crack down on fly-by-night schools making money from student aid programs. The government figured a for-profit school with quality programs should have no trouble deriving at least 15 percent of its revenue from students willing to put up their own money. The for-profit industry fought the rule, which was relaxed six years later as the cap was raised to 90 percent, and military education benefits were exempted.

In a paper released last year, Alexander wrote that the rule was neither a good accountability measure nor a measure of the quality of education provided by colleges. "If an institution produces valuable outcomes for its students," he said, "then concerns

over the volume of taxpayer dollars as a percentage of revenue becomes less meaningful as an accountability measure."

Advocates for the revenue rule say that too many for-profit colleges fail to graduate students and leave them with high debt loads that many borrowers struggle to repay. Imposing restrictions on the federal dollars going to such schools, they say, is necessary to protect students and taxpayers.

The issue has become partisan, with Democratic bills to close the funding loophole since 2012 failing to gain enough support to pass. The new legislation marks the first time any attempt to close the loophole has received bipartisan support in the Senate.

"For years, I have worked to protect our military and veteran students by closing the 90/10 loophole. Chairman Alexander's support for common sense, bipartisan legislation makes doing so a possibility this Congress," said Carper, a 23-year veteran of the Navy and Navy Reserves.

Veterans groups say Alexander's support is a significant win that could yield results as Congress updates the federal law governing higher education. The chairman of the Senate Education Committee said he would include the bill in legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act.

"Chairman Alexander's support for closing the 90/10 loophole is a game-changer," said Carrie Wofford, president of Veterans Education Success, an advocacy group. It "means Congress can and will remove the recruiting target from the backs of veterans and military-connected students."

The aggressive recruiting practices of some for-profit colleges have been well-documented. A 2012 Senate investigation found evidence of schools deploying teams at veteran's hospitals and wounded-warrior centers to enroll students. Some recruiters misled or lied to veterans in telling them their

military benefits cover the full cost of tuition.

"The time for equivocation on 90-10 is over," National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford said. "We are thrilled to see partisanship set aside to do the right thing for our nation's veterans. Sen.

Alexander's leadership and guidance in pushing this matter forward is a pivotal step toward securing access to quality education for the veterans of today and for generations to come. The American Legion looks forward to working with Sen. Alexander's office to secure a Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that is in the best interest of our nation's veterans and their families."

Protect the GI Bill Act (HR 4625)

The American Legion joins other VSOs and advocates in supporting the new legislation, Protect the GI Bill Act (HR 4625), which passed the House of Representatives on the day after Veterans Day, November 12, 2019. Introduced by Chairman Mike Levin of the House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, this bipartisan legislation ensures that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more. The bill empowers State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements.

Levin's legislation contains several other protections, including a ban on schools misrepresenting themselves while marketing, recruiting, and enrolling students. Dr. Joseph Wescott, AL Higher Education Consultant worked with Committee Staff (both Democrat and Republican) early on to ensure safeguards for veterans education and training benefits were the result of meaningful oversight by the

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State approving agencies and the bill incorporated new and more stringent requirements while not proving overly burdensome to educational institutions.



The Protect the GI Bill Act provides for increased transparency and accountability by ensuring that educational programs which do not continue to meet federal and state requirements or which run afoul of certain financial or quality indicators, such as being placed on the Department of Education's "heightened cash monitoring" list, will receive a risk based survey visit from an SAA. These new compliance visits will look at such critical areas as veteran's enrollment, program accreditation, graduation and retention rates and other measures of success. The National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) and the VA will begin working together next month, with funding provided by Lumina Foundation, to develop a national model for risk-based oversight. The American Legion will be a part of the National Advisory Board overseeing this program.

Basically, the bill will enact into the law most of the Principles of Excellence executive order. In addition, measures within the bill provide for suspension or withdrawal of approval of educational programs which engage in false or erroneous advertising, such as publishing that educational

credits will transfer freely to other institutions, when in fact that will not. Though the law provides for funding these new requirements with existing federal appropriations, it also provides that the VA should use the \$3 million-dollar discretionary funding to adequately fund SAAs.

The American Legion will work closely with Senators and their staff to support the passage of this important legislation to protect our Veterans and the GI Bill.

*Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr., Director
Veterans Employment
& Education Division*



*Lest we forget
Pearl Harbor
December 7th, 1941*

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2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

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2020**

RANK	NAME	SERVICE	UNIT	LOST	LOCATION	ANNOUNCED	FUNERAL DATE	FUNERAL LOCATION
Pfc.	Dale W. Ross	U.S. Army	Company E, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division	1/14/1943	Solomon Islands	4/17/2019	9/7/2019	Medford, Oregon
Mr.	Edward J. Weissenback	Civilian	Air America Incorporated	12/27/1971	Laos	12/20/2018	7/5/2020	Eagle Point, Oregon
Seaman 2nd Class	David B. Edmonston	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	9/20/2018	7/27/2019	Portland, Oregon
Electrician's Mate 3rd Class	Merle A. Smith	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	9/20/2018	6/12/2019	Portland, Oregon
Gunnery's Mate 3rd Class	Marvin B. Adkins	U.S. Navy	USS Oklahoma	12/7/1941	Pearl Harbor	4/11/2018	4/4/2019	Portland, Oregon
Cpl	Norvin D. Brockett	U.S. Army	7th Infantry Division	12/6/1950	N. Korea	8/6/2019	next year	Arlington Ntl Cem
Pfc.	Lyle E. Charpillouz	USMC	Second Marine Division	11/20/1943	Tarawa	11/29/2017	5/5/2018	Salem

Extend Buddy Checks beyond twice a year



FROM THE DESK OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL ORGANIZATION As American Legion Posts prepare to conduct Buddy Checks during the week of Veterans Day, it's also important to remember that we should be checking on our fellow brothers and sisters 52 weeks a year.

In the inaugural Buddy Checks last March, Legionnaires found many veterans who needed assistance. Post 101 in Connecticut learned of members who were in poor health, needed assistance with VA benefits, and wanted to attend meetings but had no means of transportation. Some of these members were home bound, lonely and could use a visit for camaraderie.

These members learned about many needs of their members by making phone calls for one week. Imagine the many ways all of us can learn about how to help our fellow veteran in

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Buddy Check – A Holiday Gift

Bill's wife had died and he had not been seen at the Legion Post from some months. While a number of Legionnaires had talked among themselves about Bill, no one had called him or gone by his house to see him.

John decided to check on Bill and he was really glad he did. In going to Bill's house he learned that all of Bill's remaining family lived out of state and he really had no one to talk to or that he felt cared about him.

John noticed that a few holiday decorations were up in Bill's home and it reminded him that the Holiday season can be a lonely time for anyone who has no one close to talk to.

Because the Legion is a family, John arraigned to take Bill to the Post for lunch. While eating lunch, a number of fellow Legionnaires came by the table to catch up with Bill and to wish him well during the Holidays.

On the drive back to Bill's house, John noticed that Bill seemed to be in a much better mood and in fact Bill asked John to drive him to the next Post meeting.

Here in the Department of Oregon, it occurred to me that if even half of our current membership would do just one Buddy Check during this Holiday season, we would reach over 5,000 of our fellow members and/or veterans.

There can be no greater gift during this season than reaching out to our fellow members. Make that call!



PDC, JIM WILLIS
VA & R CHAIRMAN
ALT NECMAN



Cont. from page 17

need, especially as the holidays approach, by making calls weekly.

By reaching out to our fellow veterans, we can share about the many American Legion programs that can provide assistance to them and their family. Whether that's The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program if they have young children in the home and are facing a financial hardship; Operation Comfort Warrior program to aide wounded veterans with recovery; Legion service officer assistance to help with VA claims and benefits; or youth scholarship and programs.

The list goes on with the beneficial ways The American Legion can provide support. But if we don't make phone calls or home visits, those members who have let their membership lapse or who don't attend post meetings or events will never know what The American Legion can offer. And you will not know if they are in need.

And for those who conduct a post or district revitalization, these too can serve as a Buddy Check because you are making phone calls to former, expired or headquarters post members, as well as going door-to-door to bring back expired members. These phone calls and door-to-door visits is a way you are checking on your fellow veteran.

For Department of Arizona Commander Ken Queen, that's what the department's recent revitalization effort was able to accomplish. In addition to transferring more than 160 headquarters post members into local American Legion posts, the effort also provided an opportunity to check on current and former members.

"It says to them that we care about them as individuals, not just as members," said Queen, a former department membership director. "It's a good thing to share that feeling with them. They deserve our support in

any way we can give it to them. It's almost like a Buddy Check – just reaching out to them to see how they're doing. "Calling them like this ... is a good opportunity for us to reach out and touch them and see what they're concerns are and help them out."

For more information on how to conduct a post or district revitalization, visit www.legion.org/membership.

With the holiday season upon us, it's easy to find ourselves busy. So I challenge you to continue Buddy Checks in the weeks beyond this Veterans Day and call on members in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas to hear what needs they may have.

Share your results by uploading your successes on the Legiontown website at visit www.legiontown.org.



(L-R) Monty Gladden, Air Force Veteran and wife Carolyn Gladden ALA Portland Unit 1

Need to Know Dates

Boys State – TBD

Girls State – June 14-20, 2020

State Convention
June 24-28, 2020



WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU?

Membership in the ALA is different for

each person; some work every event - some work a few, some donate money - some donate baked goods, some go to every meeting - some go to none, some are married to a Veteran - some are a child of a Veteran, some have only been a member for a few years and some have been a member almost their entire lives - like Carolyn Gladden Miller.

Carolyn was born in 1934 and her mother (Vivian Gladden) joined her as a junior member in 1937. Her mother, Vivian, joined Unit #1 Portland in 1933 and remained an active member until she passed away in 1986. Carolyn has been a member of Unit #1 Portland for her entire 83 years of membership and left the area in 1952, as her husband Monty, served in the Navy and Air Force. This family clearly is Patriotic and has served our Country well. Monty served aboard the USS Boxer, then in the Air Force they moved to; Mt. Hebo-OR, McChord AFB, Tacoma-WA, Shepherd AFB - Reno, NV and Eielson AFB - Fairbanks, AK. After 27 years in Anchorage, Alaska, they now make their home in Centralia, WA. Two grandsons have retired from the Army and another is currently in the Army Reserve besides being a Montana State Highway Patrol Officer.

We honor and thank Carolyn for her continuous membership of 83 years and for your service along side of your husband. We all know our service people need someone at home to take care of the household and family. We hope you heal fast from your shoulder surgery and congratulate you and Monty on 66 years of marriage.

Honoring our Veterans in Forest Grove



Brookdale, Forest Grove OR had a great program to honor our Veterans. Met some good people!

Don't forget to contact me to make reservations for December 8 on your calendar for a beautiful dinner setting to benefit several of the Elks Club charities, including a battered women's home in our area. We'll be sending a separate email soon!

The calendar is constantly changing. Take a look and see if you'd like to join us!

- December 6** Cascadian Nurseries Christmas Party,
Beaverton, OR Private event
- December 8** Elks Club Benefit Dinner, Happy Valley, OR 6PM
- December 11** Cornell Landing Portland, OR 3:30 PM
- December 13** The Springs, Tanasbourne, OR 3 PM
- December 13** Fastly, Inc Holiday party Nordic Northwest Center
Portland, OR 7 PM
- December 17** Rosewood Park, Hillsboro, OR 2PM

Would you like to come out? Questions? **Call Freddie at 661-433-1052, 6**

freddieprez@gmail.com or facebook.com/freddieprez
<http://freddieprez.wixsite.com/violin>

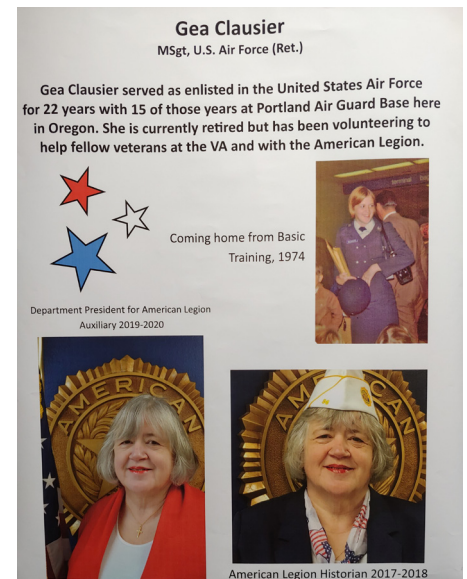


Veterans recognized at special breakfast in Tualatin

Mark Miller

Friday, November 08, 2019

This year's speakers at the Juanita Pohl Center were Gea Clausier, Bill Manderfeld and Dave DeHart.



PMG PHOTO: JAIME VALDEZ - Wesley Williams, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, stood with a hearty 'ooh-rah' as veterans from different service branches were recognized Friday, Nov. 8, at the Juanita Pohl Center in Tualatin. Williams says he is homeless.

Tualatin-area veterans and their families got a good meal and a sharp salute Friday, Nov. 8, at the Juanita Pohl Center.

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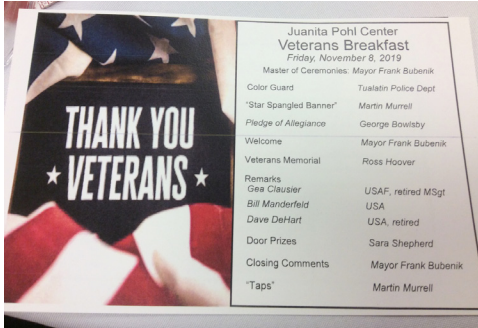
Veterans recognized at special breakfast in Tualatin

Mark Miller

Friday, November 08, 2019

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The center annually hosts a Veterans Recognition Breakfast on the Friday before Veterans Day, inviting former and current members of the military for a free homestyle breakfast, a raffle and a series of speakers.



Tualatin has some obvious military connections. Its mayor, Frank Bubenik, is a U.S. Army veteran who served in the military police. Tualatin declared itself a "Purple Heart City" in 2015, and it hosts Purple Heart Trail and Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway signs along Interstate 5. One of the oldest buildings in the city is the home of Cpl. Matthew R. Lembke Hall, named in honor of a Tualatin High School graduate who was fatally wounded by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Tualatin also witnessed one of the worst military aviation accidents in Oregon's history in 1952, when a B-29 Superfortress collided with an F-94 Starfire during a training exercise, crashing just south of town and killing 11 airmen.

Friday's speakers all served, and all of them had different experiences.

Retired Master Sgt. Gea Clausier enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1974, to the surprise and dismay of her parents, who didn't understand why their daughter would want to serve in the military.

"I wanted to do my part," Clausier said.

She described some of the obstacles she had to overcome in her career, including restrictions in what jobs women were allowed to hold in the military and sexist attitudes about women's abilities.

At one point, Clausier said, she finally managed to convince her superiors to put her in charge of the armory at the Oregon Air National Guard base, but she had to learn to fire a gun. As it happened, though, Clausier had been shooting since she was a girl, and she astonished the men at the base when she stepped up to the gun range and put her rounds into the bullseye of the target.

"Don't tell me I can't do something, because I'm going to do even more to prove you wrong," Clausier said, to knowing nods and smiles from many of the women in the room.

The other two speakers, Bill Manderfeld and Dave DeHart, both served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Their experiences weren't at all the same, however.

Manderfeld entered the infantry in 1968 and ended up serving with the Army Rangers. He was wounded in action by shrapnel on his first mission with the Rangers, but he carried out 14 more Long Range Patrol missions before he was sent home.

By the time he was sent to Vietnam, DeHart had been in the Army for more than a decade. He had been stationed in South Korea in the years after the armistice, and he had experience in counter-intelligence and special operations. He went to Vietnam in 1969 as a special operations case officer.

Manderfeld was lucky, he told attendees — not only did he survive Vietnam, but he was treated well when he returned home. Although he came back home to find a society that



had been changed irrevocably by the war, he said, he didn't encounter the hate and judgment that greeted many returning veterans in that era.

But for all of his years of service and special training, DeHart said he came back from Vietnam in 1970 to anything but a hero's welcome.

"We landed at the McChord Air Force Base, next to Fort Lewis, and got off that plane, and we were all so happy — we were shouting, we were joyful for being home," DeHart said. "And we go into this room, and the first thing this lieutenant says is, 'All right, if you've got any drugs on you, throw 'em in the butt can under your seat, and shut up.' I thought, 'Where's the welcome home part of all this?' And it never came."

As he drove out of the base, DeHart added, a crowd of people had gathered to throw things at the returning service members' cars.

To this day, DeHart said, he likes to greet every veteran he meets with the words "welcome home," because many of them, like him, were never told that when they got back from whichever war they fought in.

The Tualatin Veterans Recognition Breakfast is hosted by the city of Tualatin, which operates the Juanita Pohl Center, in conjunction with the Meals on Wheels People, the Tualatin Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and

Cont. on pg 21

Cont. from pg 20

local Scouting troops, among other sponsors.

By longstanding tradition, the breakfast honors not only the men and women in the room, but also the “missing man,” who is recognized with a table set for one and decorated with symbols of service and sacrifice for those who were killed in action.



PMG PHOTO: JAIME VALDEZ - Many of the veterans in attendance Friday, Nov. 8, at the Tualatin Veterans Recognition Breakfast served during the Vietnam War era.

By Mark Miller

Washington County Editor

mmiller@pamplinmedia.com

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**LEGIONNAIRE
INSURANCE TRUST**

**VALUE, TRUST AND SERVICE FOR
LEGION FAMILIES SINCE 1966**

Dear Oregon Legionnaires,
We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor all those who have served our nation so honorably in the past and those who continue to do so.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

J. Christopher Burke, FLMI

Benefits Officer

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program



Mostly Forgotten—Someone to Remember... In his own words...

“I had fought through the World War and got a couple of wounds. At a place called Vaux I caught some shell fire and, in the St. Mihiel, drove some machine gun slugs. On Nov. 11, 1918, we crossed the Meuse River before orders came to cease firing. I went into Germany with the Army of Occupation and returning to the United States the following August. “An orphan, I felt at loose ends back home, so I enlisted again and was shipped back to Germany.

Strangely, that was the land of my parent’s birth. Army life ran along easily – until the morning of October 23, 1921, when I received orders to report to my commanding officer.” “You are to go to Coblenz, where you will meet five other soldiers from different outfits, the CO told me. Together you will serve as pallbearers for the Unknown Soldier.

I was a bit startled but took it all in a day’s work. When the six of us were assembled, we were lined up and quizzed as to our battle experience. Then came the bombshell” “One of you,” said the Major in charge, “will be chosen tomorrow to select the body of the Unknown Soldier. After that you will be pallbearers until the body is taken over by the Navy for shipment.” “Every man of us slept badly that night, each disturbed by the fear that the choosing might fall to him. But morning came, and we were lined up.” “Sergeant Younger”, snapped the Major. I saluted. “You will take these flowers, proceed to the chapel and place the bouquet on one of the four caskets resting there. Each holds the remains of a soldier who died on a major field of battle. The one you select will be the Unknown Soldier.”

“An unreasonable fear gripped me for a second. Going over the top again would have been a far easier assignment. Then I realized I had a duty to perform. I came to attention, took the bouquet, and advanced through a line of French troops to that little improvised chapel in the city hall of Chalons-sur-Marne.” “Dim rays filtering through tiny windows gave the only light. The door closed behind me. I was alone with the dead.” “Instinctively I knelt in prayer on the petal strewn floor.” “Then I began to walk slowly around the caskets, over each of which lay a beautiful American flag. Touching each box, I tried to picture the battles the boy who slept within it had been through, and I reflected whether I might have fought with him or known him.” “I was still far from a choice when gradually, something began to draw me to the casket second on my right as I had entered. As I moved toward it, the mysterious pull grew irresistible. I could not have turned back now had I tried. This, I murmured, ‘is the one’.

“Saluting, I raised the bouquet, and it seemed as if God Himself guided my hand as I placed the flowers on the coffin.” “I knelt beside the Bier (casket) for a moment, and as I arose, a great weight seemed to slip from me. Marching briskly through the doorway, I saluted my superior officers, and reported the task completed.” “A French band struck up the “Death March” from “Saul” by Edvard Grieg. But Sgt. Younger said, “Even the dolorous music could not dampen my strange exultation.”*** Note: Sergeant Edward F. Younger had chosen to keep from his wife until 6 years after their wedding and from his fellow workers at the post office for 10 years – of his service to his nation.

From The Rotarian, November 1945, a personal interview by William F. McDermott

Subject: World of Speed Tour

Good morning,

My name is Paige and I’m the Admin at World of Speed Motorsports Museum in Wilsonville. I wanted to reach out and see if the American Legion Department of Oregon had a group of Veterans who would be interested in a guided tour of our museum for a discounted rate!

Our new featured exhibit just opened up and highlights Mustangs through the decades from 1964 ½ up to 2018! We even have a 2005 Mustang that pays tribute to all American heroes, honoring their service through the patriotic customizations of the car. I would love to know what a group from the American Legion thinks of the exhibit! We can also give your group a behind-the-scenes tour of our automotive education shop where we teach students from nine local high schools auto shop classes.

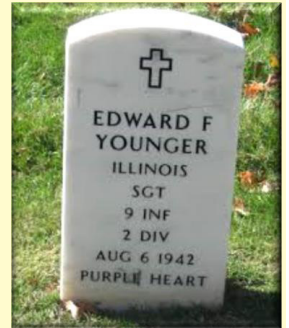
Here’s a little more info on the exhibit:

<https://www.worldofspeed.org/events/2019/11/9/exhibit-opening-mustang>

Please let me know if this is something a group would be interested in and we can get something scheduled!

Thanks so much - talk soon,
Paige

Paige Zizzi
Administrative Assistant // World of Speed®
503-563-6439
paige@worldofspeed.org // worldofspeed.org
27490 SW 95th Ave, Wilsonville, OR 97070



IN MEMORIAM



Captain
Bradford
Donald
Smith, USNR

McMinnville - Brad Smith passed away peacefully at home Wednesday,

September 25, 2019, after a courageous 18-year battle with cardiac disease. His wife, Stephanie and Hospice Nurse John Steinman were by his side.

Brad was born in Denver, Colorado on May 17, 1940 to Irene Wiggins Smith and Harold Smith. His Dad owned newspapers, and the family relocated often. Brad lived his high school years in Blackfoot, Idaho graduating from Blackfoot High School.

After graduation, Senator Frank Church, (known as the Environmental Senator from Idaho) selected Brad to enter the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. In 1962 just prior to Graduation from The Naval Academy, Brad was selected by Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the "Father of the Nuclear Navy," to join the Navy's nuclear operations and attend Nuclear Power School, then serving for nine years on nuclear submarines.

Brad joined the Navy Reserves in 1971 serving 20 years. Brad also completed a Harvard University MBA in

1973. Brad served as a National Maritime Historical Society Board of Trustee. Brad loved sea history and supported education of students on the value of the Sea and its story.

Brad is retired from Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Though he had many accomplishments, Brad entertained family and friends with his quick wit and clever sense of humor. Brad had a special place in his heart for Brandy, the little abused cocker spaniel he rescued and restored to good health and peace. They were a love duo.

Surviving are his wife, Stephanie Begley-Smith, from his first marriage a devoted son, Robert Bradford Smith; brothers: Spencer Smith (Cherri) and Barry Smith (Judy); Niece Natalie Smith and Nephews: Toby and Adam Smith (Chelsea); loving stepchildren Mary Patricia McGovern, Frank J. Cuccia (Kathy) and Cathryn Mary Northern (Chris) and five step grandchildren Joseph Patrick, Robert James, Sarah Elizabeth (Travis), Holly Marie, and Shannon Eileen.

The family would like to thank Oregon Health & Science University Cardiology Congestive Heart Failure Team; the OHSU Personal Care Physicians Internist and OHSU Anti-Coagulant Clinic for providing medical excellence.

We are also very grateful to the Providence Newberg Hospice Team for their dedication and assistance by extending loving and invaluable comfort care and medical advice for Brad's end of life. Providence Hospital Hospice chose Brad to be the Veteran of the Month and held a party in his home on Sept. 20, 2019.

Attending was the coordinator of the Band of Brothers, friends, Providence Hospice Nurses, Social Worker, a photographer and reporter noting the event, and Acting Executive Director of Brookdale / Hillside, Stacey Trunecek. Also, the Vietnam Motorcycle Riders presented Brad with a Challenge Coin and Certificate.

If you wish donations in Brad's name can be made to either of these institutions.

Plans for a celebration of life at St. James Catholic Church, McMinnville, Oregon, will be announced. Arrangements are being made for Brad's interment at the Naval Academy Cemetery and Columbarium, Annapolis, Maryland.

Sadly, this Navy Capt was in the Administrative Post 114 and did not get transferred into local post 21. His wife came into the Post to let them know he passed away. I hope he had a chance to see what a great Post McMinnville 21 is.

IN MEMORIAM

Danny Joe Mendenhall
July 11, 1957 - Oct. 1, 2019

Danny Mendenhall served in the United States Navy. Danny passed away in Portland with no family to claim him.

The public was encouraged to attend a graveside service, with full military honors at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 in Willamette National Cemetery. A reception followed in Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

Arrangements are in the care of the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veteran Burial Program through Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits

Douglas Ray Walls
April 24, 1955 - Sept. 30, 2019

Douglas Walls served in the United States Marine Corps. Douglas passed away in Portland with no family to claim him.

The public was encouraged to attend a graveside service, with full military honors at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 in Willamette National Cemetery. A reception followed in Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

Arrangements are in the care of the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veteran Burial Program through Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

Please sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits

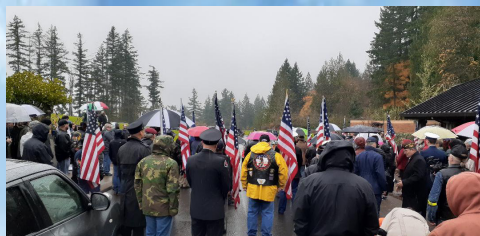
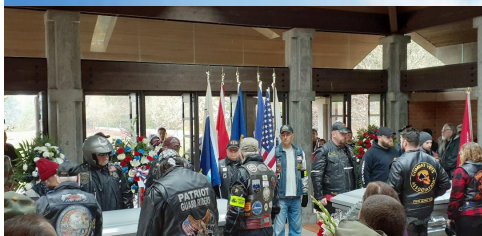
Legionnaires,

I attended the funeral of U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Douglas Ray Walls, and U.S. Navy veteran, Danny Joe Mendenhall today.

It was an amazing ceremony with several hundred people in attendance. I just wanted to show you the respect and support that came out to honor these unclaimed veterans.

Respectfully,

Jim



VR-57 Conquistadors

By Joe Dominguez

You may not know it but often flying above in the beautiful Oregon skies is an Oregon born Navy Officer Commander Joe Dominguez. His crew often find themselves enjoying the great Oregon views from an eagle's perspective while transporting Navy and Marine Corps assets to places worldwide. Commander Dominguez is the Son of Retired Army Sergeant First Class Rick Dominguez of Brownsville, Oregon. They are both Paid Up For Life Members of The American Legion Albany Post #10.

Joe and his crews have found themselves flying missions in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia, helping advance the interests of our nation worldwide. Some examples of the type of missions include transporting Navy F/A-18 squadron crews and maintainers, Navy Seals, Marine Security Forces, Ship's company personnel during ship crew swaps overseas, governmental delegations for important overseas negotiations, and one of Joe's favorite mission sets involve humanitarian efforts.

Joe described that one of his proudest moments flying the C-40 occurred during 2017 Hurricane season. Joe's squadron asked for reserve volunteers to answer the call. When Joe volunteered, his Commanding Officer declared him the Officer-In-Charge and assigned him one C-40 and one crew. His CO ordered him to fly to Norfolk Naval Station and await higher authority orders to execute hurricane disaster relief efforts and be available for an undetermined amount of time. The hurricane season proved to be one for the records requiring Joe's crew to fly humanitarian supplies in response to three different hurricanes; Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Hurricane



Personnel in the photo:
LCDR Joe Dominguez,
LCDR James Doherty, Petty Officer's,
Kemper Baum, Kelsey Levy, Bruce
Anderson, and Daniel Harrell

Harvey proved to be very disastrous for the Houston area and required helicopter assets to rescue civilians from flood-ravaged Communities. Joe and his crew started by flying in Navy helicopter crews and maintainers from places like Whidbey Island, Washington, and staging them in Texas. Following Harvey, Joe and his crew were assigned to fly in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts down in Key West Florida.

They flew back to Norfolk Naval Station to pick up their assigned relief supplies. It was quite a surprise that the mission would be to lift as many porta-potties as possible from Norfolk to Key West and in some cases, fly Porta-Johns twice a day to help Key West stay as clean and sanitary due to a lack of running water, was followed up by multiple missions of water and Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MREs). Hurricane Maria proved to be disastrous for Puerto Rico. Joe was then assigned to pick up unused supplies from Key

West and bring them back to Norfolk Naval Station, where the supplies were loaded onto ships sent to provide relief for Puerto Rico. Other C-40 squadrons also flew supplies directly to Puerto Rico as soon as the airfields were declared clear of debris.

While flying in support of our local communities, Joe also enjoys flying our active and retired military members and their families. Navy C-40s are a part of the Space Available program (Space-A). In accordance with regulations, active and retired members can take advantage of flights from military installations were C-40s fly. Joe loves to meet the retired members and their families who take advantage of the Space-A program.

Joe's squadron, VR-57 Conquistadors, is located at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, CA. In the photos, Joe and his crew had the opportunity to fly over Oregon and enjoy an amazing view of Crater Lake. During this mission, they were assigned to fly F-18 Growler crews and maintainers returning home to Whidbey Island, Washington, following important pre-deployment training in Nevada. The United States Navy Reserve squadrons operate the C-40 aircraft. While there are pilots, crewmembers, and maintainers that are full-time active duty, most personnel in the C-40 squadrons are made up by Navy Reservists. Reservists from all backgrounds and occupations form the backbone of VR-57 and many other military reserve units.



**Merry Christmas
from
Department Staff**

(L-R) Mary, Cindy, Lynn
and S. Flynn

Marine Dog is honored for Combat Valor, along with Posthumous awards for three other Dogs, two Pigeons and a Horse



Bass, a MARSOC working dog, stands with his Medal of Bravery on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.,

By STEVE BEYNON | STARS AND STRIPES Published: November 15, 2019

WASHINGTON – Bass, a Belgian Malinois, served more than six years in Marine Corps special operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia. During his time in Iraq, Bass conducted more than 350 explosive detections with his handler, Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell.

On Thursday, Bass was awarded the Medal of Bravery on Capitol Hill for his work with the Marines. The award, the first of its kind, was issued by Angels Without Wings, a nonprofit aiming to formally acknowledge valor of working animals at home and abroad. The Medal of Bravery was inspired by the Dickin Medal, a British award introduced in WWII to honor brave animals who served in combat.

The efforts of dogs in the military has received greater attention in recent weeks since Conan, another Belgian Malinois, helped hunt down Islamic State leader Abū Bakr al-Baghdadi -- the most wanted terrorist in the world. But Bass and Conan are two of many military working dogs who sniff out bombs, track down bad guys and assist troops on a wide range of missions overseas. Dogs and other animals have always supported troops in combat.

Bass was joined Thursday by Bucca, a dog that served with the New York City Fire Department. Bucca also received the Medal of Bravery and six posthumous medals were awarded to Cher Ami, a pigeon [WWI]; Chips, a dog, and GI Joe, a pigeon [WWII]; Sgt. Reckless, a horse [Korean War]; Stormy, a dog [Vietnam War], and Lucca, a dog [Iraq and Afghanistan wars].



Staff Sgt. Alex Schnell kneels next to Bass, after the dog was awarded the Medal of Bravery for valor in combat.

In Somalia, Bass was involved in at least a dozen operations for high-value targets. Special operations units relied heavily on Bass to detect explosives. In Afghanistan, Bass was used to conduct 34 raids for high-profile individuals and lead troops during dangerous building clearings. Through Bass' four deployments across three countries, there were no Marine fatalities on his missions, according to the dog's award citation.

When special operators clear a building, the dog can be the first one through the door to attack and make

it safer for troops to enter quickly to kill or detain enemies.

"The dog is often used like a flash-bang," Schnell said. "The dog will enter first because a lot of times it'll distract the enemy. Especially if it's dark, it's hard for them [the enemy] to pick up on the dog. It gives you those seconds that are really valuable in that dangerous situation."

Beyond attacking terrorists, Bass has also routed out enemy fighters from hiding spots.

"His nose isn't just for finding stuff [explosives, drugs], it's for finding personnel," Schnell said. "They [enemies] have hiding holes and tunnels in these buildings. It's an awesome capability."

Bass retired from active duty in October and was adopted by Schnell. However, bringing a military working dog home isn't for everyone, and Belgian Malinois is a tough high energy breed that Schnell doesn't recommend as a family pet.

"They are definitely not chihuahuas," he said. "They are not for your average homeowners, especially for those that don't know anything about dog training. If you're going to buy one of these animals definitely research fully trained ones and that you know a bit about dog training yourself, or these dogs will control your whole life and possibly lead you to euthanize or get rid of them. That isn't good for anyone or the dog."

Here are some of the efforts of the military animals who received awards other than dogs:

- During World War I, hundreds of American troops were trapped behind enemy lines without food or ammunition and were beginning to re-

Cont. on pg 26



*Happy 244th Birthday
TO THE U.S. NAVY*

Fellow Navy Leaguers,

For 244 years, the strength of the U.S. Navy has been the American Sailor. It is their unbelievable courage in the face of adversity and passion for our fellow man that makes our Navy so very special and the most powerful maritime force in the world. No matter the equipment or technology, it will always be our Sailors that provide us with the competitive advantage. It is no secret that every nation strives to emulate the U.S. Navy – more so they strive to be like our Sailors.

Today, we celebrate not only the 244th birthday of the strongest naval force in the world, but the men and women behind the force who willingly commit to serve the people of the United States. These brave Sailors are modern-day heroes — protecting, strengthening and serving our nation.

We are proud of the men and women of the U.S. Navy. The Navy League will always be there and always support you.

Happy 244th Birthday to the United States Navy!

Bill Stevenson
National President
Navy League of the United States

Navy League of the United States
2300 Wilson Blvd
Suite 200 Arlington VA 22201
Phone: 703-528-1775

Cont. from pg 25

ceive friendly fire from artillery units that didn't know their location. A pigeon named Cher Ami was able to carry a message to stop the artillery despite being shot by German troops. The bird was blinded in one eye and lost a leg.

- During World War II, another pigeon known as GI Joe carried a message that prevented a potentially devastating friendly fire tragedy. Allied forces planned a bombing campaign on an Italian town. However, it was occupied by British troops. GI Joe flew 20 miles in about 20 minutes to relay the message friendly forces occupied the town just before bombing planes took off.

- Staff Sgt. Reckless, a pack horse for Marines during the Korean War, quickly became as well treated as the troops. She roamed freely around camp and would even sleep in tents with Marines on cold nights. In one battle, the horse made 51 solo trips, covering more than 30 miles, to resupply front-line units with ammunition. Reckless was wounded twice by shrapnel.

Beynon.Steven@Stripes.com

Twitter: @StevenBeynon



Hello Commander Wrinkle and Adjutant Campos.

Many thanks for attending Governor Brown's Sept. 16 ceremonial signing of HB 3452 designating the 471 mile U.S. Highway 26 as POW/MIA Memorial Highway. Attached is a group photo at the ceremony courtesy of S. Flynn Phillips, Adjutant/Historian, American Legion Department of Oregon.

Attached is a fact sheet describing this highway honoring 1800 Oregon veterans who became POW and MIA since WWI.

Also attached are the names of 7 veterans (WWII, Korea, Laos) whose remains were returned to Oregon families during the last 2 years.

I have requested the Oregon Legislature to issue legislation next year recognizing MIAs who have finally been "Accounted For" – remains returned to families.

I hope you will spread the good news to VFW Posts and Districts during your travels across Oregon.

Also, could this story be told in the Department newsletter?

VR,

Dick Tobiason

Chairman, Bend Heroes Foundation
Life Member, VFW Post 4108

Pearl Harbor
December 7th, 1941

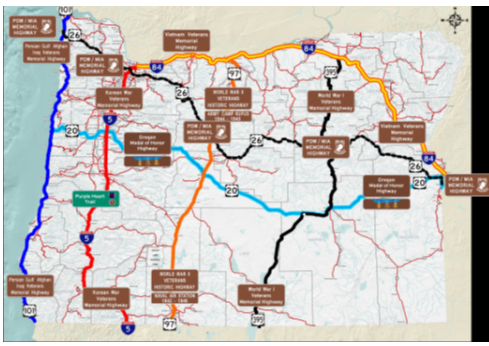
Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

LEARN MORE

Money to help pay YOUR
portion of hospital bills or
you can use your cash
benefits however you see fit!



OREGON'S VETERANS HIGHWAYS

OREGON POW/MIA MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ON U.S. HIGHWAY 26 FACT SHEET

On Memorial Day, 2019, the non-profit Bend Heroes Foundation requested Central Oregon's state legislators to sponsor legislation designating U.S. Highway 26 as **"POW/MIA Memorial Highway"**. At 471 miles in length, U.S. Hwy 26 is the second longest highway in Oregon and stretches from the Oregon coast near Seaside to the Oregon/Idaho border at Nyssa. The House and Senate voted unanimously in favor of House Bill 3452 during June. Governor Kate Brown signed HB 3452 into law on July 23 with a ceremonial signing on Sept. 16. The law will become effective on January 1, 2020. The law requires ODOT to install **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** signs paid for by veterans.

The purpose of the **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** is to honor Oregon's over 600 former WWI and WWII Prisoners of War (POWs), almost 200 POWs who died in captivity during WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Wars and 1,000 Oregonians who still remain Missing in Action (MIA) or "Unaccounted-For" from WWI to the Vietnam War, educate the traveling public and let the families of POWs and MIAs know Oregon supports their hopes and prayers for the return of their loved one's remains. The 1,000 MIAs are: WWI/21, WWII/887, Korean War/57, Cold War/2 and Vietnam War/33.



HALF SCALE POW/MIA MEMORIAL HIGHWAY SIGN WITH GOV.
BROWN SIGNING HB 3452 SEPT. 16, 2019

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is earnestly searching for the remains of our nation's 86,500 MIAs/Unaccounted-For. About half were lost or buried at sea. DPAA lists the names of MIAs ("Unaccounted-For") by war (WWII to present) and state on its web site: <https://www.dpaa.mil/> DPAA also lists names of "Accounted-For". The names of our nation's 4,422 WWI MIAs also listed by state are found here: <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/doughboy-mia-database-1917-1920.html>

The **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** is the 8th border to border veterans' highway initiated by Bend Heroes Foundation since 2008. It is believed to be the first border to border **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** in our nation. It intersects all 5 of Oregon's "War" highways, **Purple Heart Trail** and **Oregon Medal of Honor Highway**. There are POWs and MIAs associated with all of those highways except the **Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans Memorial Highway**. Below is a map of the 8 veterans' highways with the 471 mile east – west **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** marked in black. At the Foundation's request, Idaho plans to designate its 400 mile U.S. Hwy 26 as POW/MIA

Memorial Highway next year.

Bend Heroes Foundation will raise \$33,000 to pay Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to fabricate and install 12 signs on the newly designated **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** beginning in early 2020. Below is an image of the ODOT - approved 4 ft. x 8 ft. **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** sign. Note the familiar POW*MIA logo on the sign.

With the installation of 12 signs on the **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** in 2020, the 8 veterans' highways will then display 91 honorific signs on 2,969 miles of scenic border to border highways in Oregon honoring almost one-half million Oregon veterans who served, died, became wounded, received the Medal of Honor or became POW or MIA during war since the Civil War. **They will never be forgotten in Oregon.**

Bend Heroes Foundation is deeply grateful for the outstanding support from the Oregon Legislature, Oregon's Governors, Oregon Department of Transportation, veterans' groups and the many donors over the last 11 years.

Tax deductible donations funding the **POW/MIA Memorial Highway** signs (\$2,800 per installed sign) can

Cont on Pg 28

Cont from Pg 27

be sent to Bend Heroes Foundation:
1900 NE 3rd St., Ste 106, #205, Bend,
OR 97701. Bend Heroes Foundation
is a nonprofit organization dedicated
to honoring and assisting veterans
and first responders – Tax ID 27-207
1808. Contact: Dick Tobiason, Chair-
man, Bend Heroes Foundation and
Project Manager, Oregon Veterans'
Highways: dtobiason@bendcable.com
541-390-9932, Website: bendheroes.org 11-17-19

Post 10 December Happenings

Good morning everyone. Attached
is the latest edition of Task Force 10.
Hope you enjoy it.

December is a busy month at the
Post. Hope you can join in on the
fun (and/or be a volunteer)!

Important December Dates

Sunday, 1st - 1000 - Toy Run starting
at Walmart in Albany

Monday, 2nd - 1700 - House Com-
mittee meeting

Monday, 2nd - 1900 - Post Executive
meeting

Saturday, 7th - 0800 Pearl Harbor
Remembrance

Saturday, 7th - about 1230 - ALR
meeting

Monday, 9th - 5 PM SAL meeting

Monday, 9th - 6 PM Post meeting
(no Auxiliary meeting this month)

Saturday, 14th - 1700 Chef's Choice
- Pot Roast tonight.

Monday, 16th - 6 PM AMVETS Post
1919

Saturday, 21st - Noon Kids Christ-
mas Party

Wednesday, 25th - 1400 Christmas
Dinner

Happy Holidays and hope to see you
at the Post! Thanks. //Bill, Editor

The American Legion Welcomes President's Signing of POW/MIA Flag Act



(WASHINGTON, November 8, 2019) -- The head of the nation's largest veteran's organization thanked President Trump for signing a bipartisan act which will require certain prominent federal properties to display the POW/MIA Flag every day with the U.S. Flag.

"Yesterday I was humbled to stand with my fellow veterans inside the Oval Office and watch the president of the United States sign this symbolic but important legislation," said American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford. "It is important that Americans never forget that there are still more than 82,000 men and women who were taken prisoner or never had a full accounting. The American Legion reveres their memory and will continue to honor them at all of our meetings. I plan to visit the headquarters of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency later this month to observe their work firsthand. DPAA does a remarkable job of identifying and repatriating so many

heroes who paid the ultimate price for freedom. The American Legion is eager to explore additional ways to lend our support."

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans' affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America's veterans. The American Legion, www.legion.org, will be celebrating its centennial through Veterans Day.

Media contacts: Indianapolis: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350; / cell (317) 441-8847 / Washington, D.C.: Mackenzie Wolf, mwolf@legion.org, (760) 889-0307.





VANDEE MAUSER
DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER

What a busy time of the year and at times it looks like there is no end in sight. We have had parades, pot-lucks, provided dinners, raised money, taught safety in schools, working on our programs and helping our communities in so many different ways, and we still have the busy months of December and January. I want to thank you all for the hard work that you have been doing and that you continue to do. There is nothing better in my eyes than our American Legion Family. I am so proud of every last one of you.

I want to remind everyone of the Christmas Shopping experience for our Veterans and cookies galore December 7th at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles. I always try to get there by 9:30 am so I don't miss anything.

There will be a District 5 meeting on January 18th, 2020 at Redmond Post 44. Looking for a short meeting as we have scheduled District 5 Oratorical Contest to follow meeting at 2:30pm. The wonderful Unit 44 Auxiliary will provide us lunch at 12 noon, want to thank them for being there as there is no formal Auxiliary meeting that day. District 5 meeting will start at 1300 hrs.

This is the great time of the year to be doing the Buddy Checks. A nice time to reconnect with folks you haven't heard from in a while, to make sure they are doing well and to talk about Legion membership if needed.

Please have a safe and joyful holiday season. Remember above all to take care of yourselves first.



Blood Drive **American Legion Hall**

Main Meeting Room
2146 SE Monroe St.
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Saturday, December 14, 2019
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: to schedule an appointment.



Make an Appointment Today!



SAVE THE DATE

40th National Veterans
Wheelchair Games

July 3-8, 2020
Oregon Convention Center

For Information: www.wheelchairgames.org

To Volunteer, email NVWG2020Volunteer@va.gov

**Jan. 16, 1930: USS Lexington
furnishes electricity to Tacoma, WA**

USS Lexington (CV-2) completes a 30-day period in which she furnishes electricity to Tacoma, Wash., in an emergency arising from a drought that causes a water shortage and hydro-electric power is not available in the Puget Sound area. The electricity supplied by the carrier totals 4,251,160 kilowatt-hours.

This "Lexington (CV2)" was sunk during WW2 in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The new USS Lexington (CV16) was originally named the USS Cabot. It was renamed the Lexington after the loss of the first USS Lexington (CV-2) in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The USS LEXINGTON (CV16) nicknamed "The Blue Ghost" (By the Japanese) and "Lady Lex" (By her crew) has an amazing history.

By WYATT OLSON | STARS AND STRIPES Published: March 5, 2018

Searchers have found the wreckage of the USS Lexington, the aircraft carrier sunk 76 years ago near Australia during the world's first carrier-versus-carrier battle. The Lexington was critically damaged by Japanese forces during the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 8, 1942, and the U.S. Navy was forced to scuttle it.

The ship's wreck was located Sunday by the research vessel Petrel, which is owned by billionaire explorer Paul Allen. The wreck rested about 500 miles off the eastern coast of Australia and about two miles below the water's surface.

Images released by the searchers show a wreck with stunningly intact features, including a 5-inch gun with the rifling still visible inside the barrel. The ship's name remains visible on several areas, and an intact fighter plane is still emblazoned with U.S. star emblems. <https://www.stripes.com/news/uss-lexington-first-aircraft-carrier-sunk-in-wwii-found-near-australia-1.515140>



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Post 180

All children are invited to a Christmas Party hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary on Saturday, December 21st at the American Legion hall located at 2146 SE Monroe St. Milwaukie, OR (503-659-1300). Santa will attend and there will be games, Christmas Carols, gifts, and plenty of refreshments and fun for all the children. Party is from 1-3 PM and everyone is invited to attend. Merry Christmas from the American Legion.

1249th Engineer Battalion Presents
**HALL OF HONOR and
REGIMENTAL DINNER**

Fun • Music • Dinner • Awards • Dance • Holiday Lights

Oregon Garden Resort

895 W. Main St., Silverton, OR 97381

December 6th, 2019 • 5:00pm-10:00pm

Contact: CPT Ian Beaty • Call: (503) 970-5849

onsite childcare provided at no cost

For more information visit:

[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) search "1249 engineer" RSVP Registration opens OCT 1 2019



1249TH
ENGINEER BATTALION



1249th Engineer Battalion

The 1249th Engineer Battalion is holding a formal dining out and awards banquet the Oregon Gardens on Friday, December 6th in Silverton. The intent is to bring the entire battalion and their spouses together in one event (something not done in about 10 years!), and be off site in a venue that can accommodate everyone. We will have dinner, drinks, the Army Band, awards, and dancing.

We plan to have about 500 attendees, including about 275 Soldiers from all of the Pacific Northwest, their guests, and many retirees of the engineer regiment from the Oregon Army National Guard.

We are making this free to any E1-E4 and their spouse/guest, therefore charging a premium on our senior ranks to help offset the cost.

All together with the venue and catering, this event will be close to \$20,000. We have been fundraising since January 2019, and look to be about \$1,500 short of our goal.

If the Post 124 American Legion, or any other group, is able to offer a grant or even sponsor a few Soldiers for this event, that would be awesome.

Checks could be made out to: "1249 Officer Fund" and mailed to me at:

Ian Beaty
13820 SW Bonnie Brae Court
Beaverton, OR 97005

Thanks again.

CPT Ian Beaty
Second Officer/S1
HHC/1249 EN Commander
1249 Engineer Battalion
ian.r.beaty.mil@mail.mil
503-584-2863 Office X2863
503-970-5849 Cell



Sir,

Captain Ian Beaty is a member of Beaverton Post #124. Post #124 has contributed to this dinner and awards event to help pay for the E1 through E4 invitees. Beaverton Post #124 respectfully asks the Department support this just cause as well and distribute CPT Beaty's email to all Oregon Posts giving them the opportunity to contribute also.

Thank you,

Fred Meyer, Adjutant
Beaverton Post #124
adjutant124@gmeil.com

December 1919 Trivia

What is the origin of the word "trivia?"

It was common practice in ancient Rome to post news at intersections of three roads. Thus: tri = 3 and via = road.

William B Follett of Eugene elected chosen as one of five national vice commanders. Dow V. Walker was elected Oregon state representative on the national executive committee.

Leaving Portland in October 1917, Colonel White was overseas by December of that year and saw service in France for a year and a half, during which time he served in numerous engagements at the front and won a decoration from the French government. Following the armistice, he was assigned to the general headquarters at Paris.

THE campaign for securing enlistments in the Civilian Reserve, an organization for preservation of law, order and government cooperation with the constituted civil authorities, formed the outstanding feature of activities of the Portland post of the Legion during the month.

Under the leadership of James W. Crawford and with the active support of the state and city authorities of the Legion the campaign was highly successful. An organization of sufficient

Cont. from Cover

plank of decking of the ship and in modern time it is represented by a "Plank Owners Plaque." The plaque and other items are part of why funds are needed to be raised.

The Commissioning Committee is a non-profit organization the is parented by the Portland Council Navy League of the United States.

Any support would be greatly appreciated and can be donated through the USS Oregon web site at" <https://www.ussoregonssn793.org>

Thank You;

*Arlo V. Gatchel, Co-Chairman,
USS Oregon (SSN793) Commissioning
Committee*

size to combat lawlessness in any shape was formed. The trouble with the I. W. W. at Cen-tralia resulted in a rapid speeding up of re-cruiting, many apparently taking the attitude that if there was to be anything of that char-acter in Portland they wished to be in on it.

EX-SERVICE men of Clackamas county have organized a post of The American Legion at Oregon City, the Willamette Falls Post No. 5, and are now carrying on a campaign for new members. The organization has a mem-bership of about 190.

IN order to get the organization of The Amer-ican Legion under way in Grant county, C. P. Flegal of Prairie City has secured the nec-essary papers for the organization American Legion posts throughout the state will be notified this week that department and national dues of \$1.50 are payable at once at headquarters in the Morgan building, it was decided, for the fiscal year from January 1 to December 31. National dues of one dollar include subscription to the American Legion Weekly. They must be paid as soon as possible but the 50 cents due state headquarter may be deferred as late as May 1

The Pacific Legion 1919, pg. 25

The Pacific Legion December 1919, pg. 25

Combat controller from Cannon AFB gets Silver Star for 2018 actions in Afghanistan

By SCOTT TURNER | Albuquerque Journal, N.M. | Published: November 23, 2019

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (Tribune News Service) — Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cody Smith was hit by enemy fire in October 2018 during an ambush by a 600-member Taliban force in Afghanistan.

The attack on his convoy of U.S. special operations forces and Afghan allies included close mortar fire and roads lined with improvised explosive devices.

But his wounds didn't stop him from leaving cover to save the lives of his fellow soldiers, or from assisting with civilians who were wounded or killed in the firefight.

The airman from Iowa, who is stationed at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, has been awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Oct. 14, 2018. He received the medal Friday during a ceremony at Cannon.

Smith said he was just doing his job.

"It's unreal and humbling," Smith said during a phone interview this week. "Amongst my peers, I don't feel remarkable or special."

Smith is a combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, based at Cannon. He was deployed with a special operations forces team during Operation Freedom's Sentinel in support of the Resolute Support Mission during Afghanistan's national parliamentary elections.

According to the Air Force Times, which named Smith the 2019 Airman



Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, presents a Silver Star Medal to Tech. Sgt. Cody Smith, a Special Tactics combat controller with the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, during a ceremony at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, Nov. 22, 2019.

RACHEL WILLIAMS
U.S. AIR FORCE

of the Year, Smith took part in a series of battles over a two-week period during the operation, including an intense eight- to 10-hour firefight on Oct. 7, 2018.

"I think the biggest thing for me was knowing that the team was relying on me and I was relying on the team to carry out their responsibilities in the same manner," the 28-year-old said. "... I would not be here today without my teammates."

His team consisted of 12 Green Berets, Smith, a pararescue man, five Army infantry drivers, and an intelligence personnel. They also had 65 Afghan troops as allies.

The most intense fighting took place Oct. 14, when Smith helped prevent enemy forces from overrunning his team's positions in Faryab province.

"I was just focusing on doing my job to the best of my ability," Smith said of the attack on his team's convoy. "I was

trying to utilize every asset (the force had at its disposal)."

He said he was focused on "breaking the gunfire," which rained down during a constant mortar barrage.

"I don't feel I did any more than my job on the battlefield," Smith said. Though hit by hostile fire and with mortar shells impacting as close as two meters away, Smith exposed himself to danger while controlling air strikes and assisting dozens of civilians injured and killed during the ambush, the Air Force said.

He coordinated attacks from F-16 Fighting Falcons and AH-64 Apache helicopters, which used 500-pound guided bombs as close as 90 meters away.

Although he suffered a concussion, Smith continued to control air strikes to neutralize remaining threats.

"I knew that having the ability to communicate with our aircraft and to deliver airstrikes was paramount ... in our ability to maneuver through this ambush," he said.

He also remained with his team for the 14-hour vehicle movement back to friendly lines to ensure their safety. Smith said he was thankful he was able to help keep his fellow soldiers safe "and helped them return home."

Yet, Smith dismissed his actions as nothing more than actions other members of his team had done.

"I know there have been so many people before me and around me, and teammates who do incredible things

Cont. on pg 33

Cont. from pg 32

each and every time they step outside the wire,” he said.

A veteran of multiple deployments in the Middle East, he has attended ceremonies when others have been awarded the Silver Star.

“Those are people that I’ve looked up to and try to emulate,” he said, adding that he hoped to be a model for others.

He also said that, as an active airman, he recognizes his days of deployment may not be over.

Smith said he is grateful for the support his church and community have shown his family since he has been stationed in eastern New Mexico. He has been at Cannon since August 2016.

“They’ve allowed me to do what I do,” he said.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, officiated the ceremony.

Special Tactics is the Air Force’s ground special operations force that leads global access, precision strike, personnel recovery and battlefield surgical operations.

Since 9/11, Special Tactics airmen have received one Medal of Honor, 11 Air Force Crosses and 48 Silver Star medals.

According to a Department of Defense website, the Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the U.S. armed forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action.

buquerque, N.M.)

Visit the Albuquerque Journal at www.abqjournal.com

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The American Legion teams up with Stars and Stripes

Century-old allies renew vow to connect deployed troops with nation’s largest veterans service organization.

A relationship that began over a century ago between The American Legion and Stars and Stripes is refreshed this year through a new media-sharing agreement.

Members of The American Legion can receive 50 percent discounts on annual subscriptions to the Stars and Stripes digital platform of exclusive military news, topics of interest to veterans, special features, photos and other content, including the daily e-newspaper, job listings and history. American Legion members can subscribe for \$19.99 a year by visiting legion.stripes.com and using the coupon code LEGIONSTRONG when filling out the online form.

The American Legion, in return, will be able to publish stories, social media messages and provide information about programs and services in Stars and Stripes throughout the next year in editorial, social media and advertising spaces. Stars and Stripes has a daily audience of over of 1 million worldwide.

On March 7, 1919, Stars and Stripes announced in its Europe editions plans for a “Liberty League” meeting in Paris among veterans of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed there after World War I. The



meeting, March 15-17 that year, would become known as the Paris Caucus, which created The American Legion. Assigned to cover the gathering for Stars and Stripes was Pvt. Harold W. Ross, who would find himself serving on the Legion’s original Committee on Constitution. Ross later worked as an editor for The American Legion Magazine before co-founding The New Yorker magazine in 1925, where he was editor-in-chief for the rest of his life.

“The American Legion has had a long and historic relationship with Stars and Stripes over the years,” American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman Walter Ivie said. “This renewed relationship represents a confluence of long-trusted brands that offer much for each other’s media audiences. We look forward to sharing our stories of service with foreign-deployed troops. We also certainly look forward to having the kind of top-quality journalism Stars and Stripes has been producing since the Civil War in our digital and social media platforms. Stars and Stripes is, and always has been, the gold standard of fair and accurate military coverage.”

The American Legion, with nearly 2 million members worldwide, is the nation’s largest veterans service organization.

Media contacts: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350

Airman who called in airstrikes while under fire receives Silver Star



Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, pins the Silver Star medal onto Chief Master Sgt. Chris Grove during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., Nov. 15, 2019.

RACHEL WILLIAMS
U.S. AIR FORCE



Chief Master Sgt. Chris Grove, a combat controller assigned to the 720th Special Tactics Group, faces the crowd after receiving a Silver Star Medal during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Fla., on Nov. 15, 2019.

RACHEL WILLIAMS
U.S. AIR FORCE

By JOHN VANDIVER | STARS AND STRIPES Published: November 19, 2019

An airman who stepped into the line of fire in Afghanistan to call in airstrikes after his unit was ambushed by the Taliban 12 years ago has been awarded the Silver Star, America's third-highest medal for valor.

Then-Tech Sgt. Chris Grove and his special operations teammates were on patrol in Afghanistan in November 2007 when the Taliban ambushed them with mortars, grenades and machine guns.

With the men heavily outnumbered and the enemy closing in, Grove set up an observation post while under fire and called in airstrikes.

"While under continuous, accurate fire from the enemy, Grove valiantly controlled airstrikes from F-15 Strike Eagles, coordinating multiple 25mm strafes and six 500-pound bombs,

decimating advancing enemy forces," a statement by the 24th Special Operations Wing said.

At one point during the battle, Grove's ground force commander was trapped inside a building of the compound as insurgents advanced. The "chances of being overrun were rising by the minute," the statement said.

Grove called in a "complex danger-close airstrike," which enabled his team to battle back against an enemy that had moved to within 65 feet of their isolated position, and allowed the ground force commander to escape, the statement said.

Grove's efforts also allowed his team to recover a fallen teammate so that no troops were left behind.

Grove was "the right airman at the right place, at the right time, who rose to the occasion brilliantly," U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Com-

mand, was quoted as saying as he awarded the medal to Grove in a ceremony Friday, at Air Force Special Operations Command headquarters at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

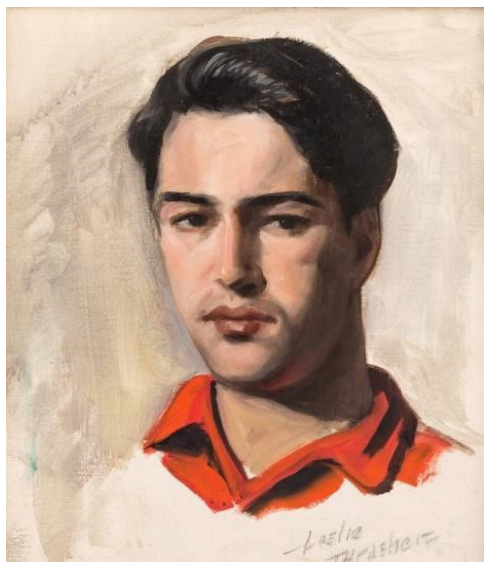
"Thanks for being our example of the embodiment of the American airman and a testament to the proud Special Tactics wing," Slife said.

Now a special tactics combat controller serving as the 720th Special Tactics Group superintendent, Grove downplayed his uniqueness, giving credit to fellow service members in harm's way.

"It's not about me ... There are hundreds of valorous acts, both in the last 18 years and to this day," Grove said in a statement. Grove had previously received the Bronze Star, but it was upgraded as part of a military review into valor awards.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: [@john_vandiver](https://twitter.com/john_vandiver)

MINCO Music & Arts Heritage Festival May 16th & 17th, 2020



The MINCO (Mineral County) Music & Arts Heritage Festival 2020 will be celebrating Leslie Thrasher, Piedmont native and famous Liberty Magazine illustrator. We are looking for sponsors, monetary donations, and items for our Leslie Thrasher window displays in the downtown Keyser businesses during our MINCO Music & Arts Heritage Festival in May 2020. The idea is to have New York style window displays of scenes in the style of his artwork that were on the covers of Liberty Magazine and have his artwork in the background during the month of May. The Mineral County Museum will also have a display of Thrasher. We are also creating art events with regional artists to painting/drawing/photography in the style of Thrasher. An art display of local artists inspired by Thrasher's style will be displayed at The Indie on Main during the month of May 2020. It will be a juried exhibit with prizes. The two-day festival will also have music performers, car shows, games and competitions, arts and crafts, unique items, workshops, and other events.

About Leslie Thrasher: Born in Piedmont West Virginia, Thrasher was well known as an illustrator for Liberty Magazine. As teenager, Thrasher studied art at the Pennsylvania Acad-

emy of Fine Art and earned a scholarship to Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris. When Thrasher returned to the United States, he became a student of Howard Pyle. In 1912, Thrasher sold his first cover painting to the Saturday Evening Post. His illustrations were known for their light-hearted, humorous reflections of everyday American life, with colorfully animated characters set against a white background. He ultimately completed 23 covers for the Post, as well as covers for Everybody's, Collier's, Red Book, Popular Magazine, and many other publications. He produced advertisement illustrations for such companies as Chesterfield Cigarettes, Cream of Wheat, DuPont, and Fisk Tire.

During World War I, Thrasher served in the Army and was assigned to a camouflage unit in France, where he suffered lung damage from poison gas. After the war he returned to Wilmington, married, and moved to New York City.

In 1926, against the advice of fellow artist Norman Rockwell, he agreed to complete a cover a week for Liberty Magazine over a six-year period. He was paid \$1,000 a cover, the equivalent of over \$13,500 a week today. This series was titled "For The Love o' Lil" and became a favorite among readers. The series followed the lives of an average middle-class couple, Lil Morse and Sanford Jenkins. Thrasher used his own features for those of the husband/father in the series.

The series became so popular it was later made into a movie by Columbia Pictures and is famous, it was a considered the prototype for today's soap operas. While the series made him challenge to come up with so many original cover ideas at a backbreaking pace. Liberty invited readers to contribute ideas and each issue had a



page-long article related to the cover's illustration.

Norman Rockwell, a friend of Leslie Thrasher, wrote

in his autobiography that Thrasher "painted one of the most famous Post covers ever published. I still get letters from people who think I did it. It depicts a lady and a butcher standing on either side of a scale in which lay a chicken. The lady was pushing up on the scale; the butcher was pushing down. The cover appeared on 3 October, 1936."

That same year, 1936, the 47-year-old was rescued from his burning summer home on Long Island only to die a few days later of pneumonia caused by smoke inhalation. Leslie Thrasher completed as many as three hundred sixty magazine covers during his short career. Many feel, that if he had not died at an early age, his work could have surpassed Rockwell's.

The MINCO Music & Arts Heritage Festival delivers regionally inspired entertainment to promote interest and investment in Keyser's downtown local businesses.

For more information on how to get involved with the Thrasher downtown displays or the art show, please call Jill Baldinger at 304-788-1461 or email at mijill@frontier.com.

MINCO Music & Arts
Heritage Festival
Highland Arts Unlimited
PO Box 63, Keyser, WV 26726



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____
 _____ (Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues) _____
 (Gender)

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____
 Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____
 Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
 Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____
 Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
 OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
 (c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____
 Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____
 I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and
 Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues
 Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____
 _____ / _____ / _____ ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over
 Date of Birth (Required)
 Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)
 Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____
 _____ / _____ / _____
 Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____
 If Living: _____ American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____
☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)
Veteran Served:
☐ WWII (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)
☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):
☐ Global War on Terror ☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ WWII
☐ Gulf War ☐ Vietnam ☐ Other Conflicts
☐ Panama ☐ Korea
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:
☐ Male Spouse ☐ Female Spouse ☐ Mother
☐ Grandmother ☐ Sister ☐ Self
☐ Direct Female Descendant (daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, etc.)

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer
 I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From
\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #