The Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 September 2020

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

POW/MIA visit Pages 14-16



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Notes from Commanders
Commission Reports,
Auxiliary

Trivia and so much more.

A DETERMINED NATION

NATIONAL

* POW/MIA *

RECOGNITION DAY



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

This article includes the activities of your 2nd Vice Commander and his role as Department Membership Chair.

Listed in the July issue was The Wall of Fame for the 2019-2020 campaign. 27 Posts reached 100% or better. Congratulations on your hard work,

The Final Revision to the Department Membership Plan is complete and in the hands of all Dept. Officers, The Membership Commission, the District Commanders, and all Past Dept. Commanders.

We have to make more progress in closing out the 2019-2020 membership year. We finished at #32 with 90.91%. That closes 12./31/2020.

I have recently looked at the past three weeks of Weekly Membership Reports. I find that most Districts have at least 50% of their Posts with no or little progress since

7/21/2020. Please, let's shake the tree and harvest the fruit.

I know this last item will be like preaching to the choir. You all have heard the old comment - *What Do I Get for My Dues*. The value of your dues is measured in your commitment to the Post and Community. The programs the Legion offers are paid for out of those dues and generally fall under the **Four Pillars**.

Veterans

Employment and Business Veteran Education VA Support Board of Veteran Appeals Discharge Review Helping Homeless

Veterans National Security

Operation Comfort Warrior Military Quality of Life Support for Tricare Disaster Preparedness
The National Emergency

Fund

POW/MIA Accounting

Americanism

Making a difference in your local community

AL Baseball

Boys State and Nation

Jr. Shooting Sports

Oratorical Scouts BSA Youth Law Cadets

Educational Assistance and

Scholarships

Children and Youth

Supporting the Family Unit Supporting Organizations

that help Children needs

The Temporary Financial Aid

Program

Child Welfare Foundation Family Support Network

So, in the end, it is incredible how far your dues dollar stretches. As this article is published, we will be close to the 50% Target of which I am confident we will reach, and we are presently at 445.38% with 6833 members.

Now that the Post goals are on the Weekly Membership Report, we were able to go back to 7/1/2020 and tabulate our status with regard to Department Incentives:

WE HAVE GREAT NEWS, ALL OF THE GOAL INCENTIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MET.

The first Post at 100% at 109.09% goes to Post 50 Williams, A Red Voyager Jacket to Commander and Adjutant.

The first Post to reach 50% of Goal Post 2 Forest Grove.

The first Post to reach 55% of Goal Post 129 Central Point

The first Post to reach 65% of Goal Post 129

The first Post to reach 75% of Goal Post 129

The first Post to reach 80% of Goal Post 129

The first Post to reach 85% of Goal Post 129

The first Post to reach 90% of Goal Post 129

The first Post to reach 95% of Goal Post 50 Williams

Each Post reaching the above Goals receives \$75.00 for each Goal passed.

A majority vote approved our Proposed Department of Oregon Budget of our Posts. This vote was the first time we did a mail-in ballot, approved by Resolution #2. Thank you to the Posts that participated. These are unusual times, without a Department Convention this year; for our member's safety, we have had to develop new ways to support our Constitution and By-Laws to continue our great work. We are now in our two-month Supplemental Budget, August, and September 2020. This will be our short reporting year, August, and September 2020. We will then be in our new 2020-2021 Budget Year, October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. Over the next couple of months, we will be working on our Financial Reporting Systems to support all our new changes.



I hope many of you were able to attend the Virtual National Membership Workshop Training. PDC, Bob Huff The workshops were open to all members and very well presented and informative. The last work- Department Finance shop on Thursday was mylegion.org, excellent. If not able to attend/virtual and not using mylegion.org, the information is available on the National Website at membership@legion.org. If you need help and training to use the system, we are here to help. Posts should be processing all renewals and new members in the mylegion.org system. It is less work using the mylegion.org system than sending the cards to the Department, and you receive immediate credit for your submittal.

We continue to work from home, attend virtual meetings, in my case I wear other hats and am also an essential volunteer as the American Legion VAVS Representative at the VA SORCC and have a regular work schedule. Our American Legion commitment and mission continue.

Calendar of Events

September

07 Labor Day Dept & National Closed

12 District 1 Meeting

26 District 3 Meeting

26 District 9 Meeting

29 District 2 Meeting

October

03-04 Fall DEC

10 District 4 Zoom Mtg

10 District 7 Meeting

31 Happy Halloween

November

11 Veterans Day (Closed)14 District 3 Meeting14 District 10 Meeting26-27 Thanksgiving (Closed)





National American Legion College Rescheduled



PDC, ANDY MILLAR
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEEMAN

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions now and in the next few months, it was necessary to reevaluate all American

Legion activities and meetings in the coming months.

The National American Legion College is rescheduled from November 1-6, 2020, to March 20-26, 2021. By changing the dates, this will serve two purposes; a 2020 class can still be convened, and the pandemic restrictions may ease up to allow a better class experience.

Accordingly, the application deadline has been extended to October 1, 2020.

If you have wondered about the experience of National American Legion College, contact any of the Legion College alumni: Charlie Smith, Betty Fish-Ferguson, Cory Brockman, or Tom Harris, some of our recent alumni. They will surely attest to the experience of a lifetime!



Most boat owners Name their boats. What is the most popular boat name re-

quested? Obsession





As 1919 rolled into the uproarious twenties, this man held the most powerful position in the United States. Who was president when the decade started?

A. Calvin Coolidge

B. Woodrow Wilson

C. Warren Harding

D. William Howard

Interesting things to make you say Hmmm....



It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's

father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink.

Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month.

Which we know today as the honeymoon.



Eagle Scout Project for the Department Headquarters



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT. ADJUTANT

Gavin
DeVincenzi
of Boy Scout
Troop 396 in
Wilsonville
was looking for an
Eagle Scout
project. Our
own Lynn

Newton, a bookkeeper in the office, reached out

to her son's troop and found Gavin. Gavin called, and I proposed the idea of putting in a sprinkler system for the headquarters lawn, which turns brown every year at this time. He liked the idea and talked it over with his parents Chris and Stephanie.



Gavin, a Wilsonville High School student, came in with his parents Chris and Stephanie, to watch his presentation. I had invited Larry Wittmayer, the Department Scouting Chairman, to attend and be available for any questions that might arise.

Gavin was very thorough and did an excellent presentation. I signed off on the first step. Gavin will now take the project to his Scout Master and Scout Council for approval.

We wish Gavin well on his project, and we will stay tuned for project updates.





Lou Neubecker

District 1 Commander

Well, I believe that our meeting in two weeks will be a "GO TO MEET-ING".

So, our District meeting will be on the computer on September

12th at 10AM. Should last about an hour.

As I mentioned before the state has designated Highway 26 POW/MIA Hwy. A dedication ceremony for the highway signs that will be installed on September 18th in Seaside at the American Legion in the EAST parking lot. Social distancing and MASKS will be maintained. There will be several ceremonies being held that day. The Seaside ceremony with begin at noon.

Post adjutants please continue working on our membership goals. We are doing good.

Deadline

for the October issue of the Oregon Legionnaire is September 5th, 2020



PDC, Kevin Owens
District 9 Commander

I happy to report that District 9 is off to a great start on renewals and has been provided the 114 & 99 lists to help increase their membership and the opportunity to get that special member that could help them with another program or work on a post-project.

Not unlike other Districts, the COVID-29 virus continues to be an issue we have two Posts who had their meeting locations closed by their local government as they are public buildings. My visitations have started, and by the time you read this article, I will have attended six post meetings.

The goals for the District are simple, have a 95% retention rate, participate in at least one youth program, and have at least one person attend District Meetings. District 9 has always started strong in membership over the years and faded as the year goes on. We hope to change that pattern and be strong throughout the year.

Our first District Meeting is set for the 26th of September at Bandon Post 26, 12 pm lunch and meeting at 1 pm. We will have the honor of having our Department Commander in attendance. Stay safe and District 9 Strong.



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

Scouting

This committee continues to encourage our Posts to charter (sponsor) Scouting Units. In the past few years that sponsorship has grown from 19 to 37.

The Pandemic has curtailed "in-person" Scouting quite hard. No formal summer camps are operating, although some Councils are encouraging Family Camping at their facilities.

The Department Adjutant is working with an Eagle Candidate on his project, which will be a sprinkler system for the Headquarters front lawn.





Editors Notes

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Members Daniel Burks
David Applegate
Mick Wilson

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Jack Labox Legislative Commission Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Hello Legion Family,



I hope everyone staying safe. It's been a while since I have put anything about legislative issues.

The legislature has not been in regular session. The next full session starts second Monday in January. I have no legislative news from National.

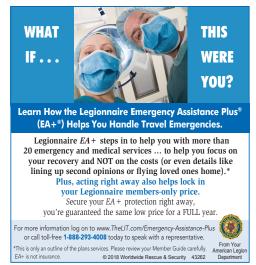
"For God and Country"



Department Officers

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





Need to Know Dates

Portland VA Gift Shop Opening Sat. Nov. 28th @ 10 am

Oregon Veterans Home Gift Shop Opening Sat. Dec. 5th @ 10 am

Lebanon Veterans Home Gift Shop

> Roseburg VA Gift Shop Opening Sun. Nov. 29th

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, **EDUCATION** and **HOMELESSNESS COMMISSION**

Our Commissions mission and goals are in a holding pattern with current social distancing and no-large group rules for our members, family, and participants' safety. The Veterans Employment and Education Commission task with Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness is focusing on alternative methods



PDC, Bob Huff

to assist our Veterans community. Until a new direction VE&E CHAIRPERSON is given on meeting in large groups, we have had to cancel all our upcoming events, the safety of our members, veterans, and participants remain our focus.

One small change, actually it's big, we are now able to have military honors at our National Cemeteries and twenty-five attendees, all must wear face masks. We are continuing strategy meetings, phone, zoom, and some in person for when our National Guard Troops come home and Veterans unemployment and homelessness. We have a dialog with our DVOPS from Oregon Employment and other community groups on what-ifs for Virtual Employment Events. We are working with one group in Douglas County on providing housing for homeless veterans currently. Coordinating with VA and agencies when most are working from home is one of our biggest challenges. Just another opportunity to overcome. We cannot lock in dates or locations with the uncertainty and changes that are taking place daily. We faced many different challenges in the past and have overcome them, and this is another new challenge. We are looking at and entertaining new ways of holding events to support Veterans Employment, Education, and Homeless activity in our areas of our Department. As we can start up again, we will broadcast by email to all Posts, Legionnaire, and Webpage and Department email.



Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

Their Birth Place!



TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS





True Compass Designs is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer.

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Cave Junction Post #70

ROBERT SORIA Post Commander

Honoring WW2 Army Veteran Jay E. Hays for his 75 years of membership with American Legion Post 70 in Cave Junction.

His father signed him up in 1945 while he was still serving in Europe. This member of the world's greatest generation was presented his achievement award by Commander Robert.











CORY BROCKMANN ORATORICAL CHAIR

THE AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop more in-depth knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States among high school students. The Department of Oregon conducts its oratorical program to further support the development of leadership qualities, the

ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship, within our youth.

Preparations are already underway in support of the 2021 Oratorical program! While the 2020 National contest was canceled due to the on-going pandemic, the national leadership has stated there will be a 2021 national contest. Discussions with Bill Mignin, National Youth Program Manager, Oratorical, and Junior Shooting Sports, divulged that his staff is working to develop parameters and procedures for conducting a virtual contest, should the pandemic still be impacting the country. Outcomes of these efforts would further extend to assisting departments that may find a need to conduct virtual Oratorical contests. And, departments may be conducting both in-person and virtual Oratorical contests depending upon state and local restrictions at that time.

Within the Department of Oregon, contact has already been made with districts. The National program details have been shared with them for use with posts throughout their Districts, respectively. Now is the time to be establishing contacts with schools and teachers, and developing the relationships needed to have a robust and successful 2021 oratorical program!

Efforts are also underway to get the department website updated with the latest 2021 contest details. Until that occurs, oratorical program information is readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and may be accessed by visiting https://www.legion.org/ora-readily available and some and the second some and the second some and the second some and the second some are also some and the second some are also some a torical.

Significant changes were made last year to the Department of Oregon's oratorical program format and scholarship awards, and we strive to build increased participation this year from those changes. The format consists of oratorical contests at the post-level with winners competing at the district-level, and district winners competing at the department-level, where a department winner will be declared. The department winner will then have travel and lodging expenses paid for the opportunity to compete at the national oratorical final in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Scholarships within the Department of Oregon will be awarded to the top four finalists at the department contest final as follows: 1st place: \$5,000; 2nd place: \$3,500; 3rd place: \$2,500; and, 4th place: \$2,000. For the national contest scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the final round as follows: 1st place: \$25,000; 2nd place: \$22,500; 3rd place: \$20,000.

Your department oratorical committee members are Steve Bergadine, Richard Ramey, and PNC Charles Schmidt. A vacancy on the committee does exist, and if you are interested in serving in this capacity, please reach out to any of the Oratorical committee members or myself with any questions you may have.

Veteran-Friendly Apartments Planned in Lebanon

Alex Paul Albany Democrat-Herald April 20, 2019 updated April 21, 2019

LEBANON — James Lutz's family has a long history of military service and serving veterans.

His great-grandfather, Edward C. Allworth of Corvallis, was a World War I hero who became the director of the Oregon State University Memorial Union for decades and housed returning veterans after World War II. The veteran's home in Lebanon is named in his honor.

That's why Lutz and his partners are planning Applegate Landing Apartments, a 48-apartment complex ranging from studio units to three bedrooms off Strawberry Lane and Airport Road. Although open to all applicants, preference will be given to veterans, who will also benefit from programs provided to them by government and private organizations.

"Twelve units will be designated specifically for veterans and the remaining 36 will be veteran preference," Lutz said.

The ground-floor apartments will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and upper units will be ADA-adaptable, Lutz said.

Lutz, 47, said rents will be based on a sliding scale.

Lutz said the project is driven by escalating rents in the mid-valley and the issue of homelessness among veterans. The complex will be familyfriendly, Lutz said, welcoming residents of all ages.

"Depending on income levels, the studio units may rent for as little as \$300 per month on up to \$900 per month for the three-bedroom units," Lutz

The apartments will range in size from 550 square feet to 1,100 square feet.

Continued on Page 9

Veteran-Friendly Apartments Planned in Lebanon

Continued from Page 8

Units will include hookups for washers and dryers, although there also will be a laundry area in a clubhouse, which will also have an exercise room and recreation room with pool tables and other amenities. Each unit will have a small outside storage area and balcony, Lutz said.

"Near the clubhouse there will be a fire pit area with picnic tables and a nice patio," Lutz said.

The key to the project is if it can secure Low Income Housing Tax Credits to help subsidize the \$12 million cost.

Daniel Bullock, senior development manager with CASA of Oregon (Community and Shelter Assistance Corp.), said the low-income tax credit program is "extremely competitive" especially in rural communities. (CASA of Oregon, a statewide nonprofit organization, works to develop housing and to assist in improving the quality of life for farmworkers and their families.)

Bullock has been helping the sponsors determine where the project might fit in terms of funding programs, as well as how to submit applications.

"We provided input about where to build, who they want to serve, how mixed-income developments work and other considerations, such as how they might deliver community services to their residents," Bullock said. "James has experience in construction and his partners are experienced in real estate, but none of them had done this type of project before." Bullock said applications for the Low Income Housing Tax Credits were due in January. He said awards

The project has received letters of support from the Linn County Board of Commissioners, the city of Lebanon and numerous veterans groups such as the American Legion.

may be made in July.

"The work of Crossroads Communities in conjunction with Applegate Landing Veterans Housing would be a valuable answer to some of the problems surrounding our veterans and their families," noted County Commissioner John Lindsey in a letter of support. "Crossroads Communities is not just another affordable housing contractor; they are needed to help serve those who have served us. As a longtime elected representative of the citizens of Linn County and as a wartime veteran, I fully support this much needed project."

Veteran-Friendly Apartments



These are some of the pictures of the best days as a Legionnaire I have had. thirty years in and I have done some great things like getting an ear implant for a young man. Helping Rolling Thunder for six years but today we broke ground on a 48-unit housing complex for Veterans needing



Dale Jenkins Legionnaire

help from boarding to mental health and drug and alcohol rehab. I have

worked on this for over two years, but it has been going for over 3 years. I am now working on getting one for my hometown. Jim Willis was heavily involved as well.















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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/13/59

Every Task Is Important by Rabbi Robert I. Kahn, D.H.L. National Chaplain, The American Legion

So often people ask in despair: "What can I do? In a world facing such immense problems, in which the voice of the little man is drowned out by the tumult and the shouting, what can I do to help my country, to fight communism, to promote the cause of a just peace?"

Whenever I hear that question, I think of an incident in the Philippines.

Our Sixth Division was fighting its way across the central mountain range of Luzon, east of Manila. Most of the headquarters and aid stations were in hillside caves. It was outside one such station that we held worship services one noon. The men had come in from company headquarters and the battlefield itself, not in "go-to-meeting" clothes, but in battle dress. After the prayer service was over, some of the men sat around for a few minutes waiting for transportation back to their outfits, and I happened to overhear a conversation between two GI's. They were both company cooks, and they were exchanging recipes for white cake! One of them said to the other: "I always put frosting on my cakes. I don't care how much trouble it takes. If my buddies are out there getting shot at, the least I can do is give them a good dessert."

I have never forgotten that conversation. It was a real lesson for life. The great tasks of humankind, the gigantic problems we face, mostly break down into little cake-baking jobs.

Perhaps the pilot has the glamour, but without the mechanics he cannot get off the ground. Perhaps the machine-gunner seems to make a bigger noice, but someone has to cook his food.

And not only in war. The homes in which we live, The American Legion Posts to which we belong, the governments which protect us, even the peace on earth and goodwill to men that we seek, are ultimately the result of little people doing their best at baking a cake.

NOTE TO EDITORS: This is the second in a regular series of articles by our national chaplain. Mats of Chaplain Kahn for use with the publication of these articles are available in both half-column and one-column widths. To obtain them, just write: National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, P. O. Box 1055, Indianapolis 6, Ind.

CAN



KATHI KARNOWSKI DEPT PRESIDENT

Auxiliary first meeting with new President and Officers

We had the Department Executive Committee or voting DEC members at Headquarters for training, Saturday, August 8th. Welcome new officers Gregoria Hernandez as District 2 President and her VP – Glena Smith. Louise Carter stepped up as District 5 President, and we still need a District President for #7 (let us know if you are willing to serve). We thank all others who have remained in place that will be serving another year. Thank you all for coming to learn and take info back to the units in your district and that you Engaged with questions and ideas. Every time we think we have things figured out or a plan, something happens to change it. Please be patient and be willing to accept changes all year. Anyone willing to serve on a committee or be a chairman for next year, we want to work with you now to serve next year.

Discussions on EIN's, 990s, Restricted & General funds, as well as having two signers on unit accounts and updating Constitution & By-Laws along with Standing Rules. Units need to start having meetings, whether they are in person or by Zoom or teleconference. It is that time of year that all Units should have their budgets to present at either this month's meeting or at the least September. Budgets are presented one month and voted on at the next meeting.

It is a given that donations will be down from last year, but try to remember our Veterans still need our help and do everything you can. I know my unit has a rainy-day reserve, so we will be able to donate to our normal programs, just not as much. Behind the scenes, we have met with the Roseburg VA to find a way to have a gift shop there. The date is set, the room is reserved, and we will be working with VA Volunteer services to see if we can make it a reality. Gift Shops don't just happen, and there is a lot of work done by a few volunteers. If you would like to be a part of The Dalles, Portland, or Roseburg Gift Shops, let us know, and we will put you in contact with the chairman.

Our Department follows the Constitution & By-Laws of National, so we are required to have three DEC's and a Convention in a year. Usually, Districts will have their meeting a week or two after a DEC, although, some have it before. Please make plans to attend a District meeting to get more involved by learning or sharing info. We need more members to "take action"! Start recruiting members and especially, start mentoring members to take over in your unit. Don't we pass along cooking skills to our children and grandchildren? Don't we plan a future for them for the time when we are no longer here? Make Plans Now. Units are a lifeline for our Veterans' future, so we need to ensure they are taken care of.

"There was excitement in the air to start the new year even though we don't know where the COVID will take us all." Says Cindy Hillyard Auxiliary Department Office Staff. She has received positive feedback from the meeting already.







We made good use of the Legion's new conference table and thanked them for sharing the office.

Above is PDP, Gea Clausier getting her temperature taken before the meeting by PDP, Linda Liebenow. The Auxiliary ladies all had their temps taken and signed the COVID Log.

tiv

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The month of September brings several Public Relations opportunities for Posts to be proactive and visible through services in their respective community.

September is National Disaster Preparedness Month. As the hurricane, tornado, and wild-

PNC, PDC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT PR CHAIR

fire seasons are still in full swing, The American Legion Family assists those in need, during a catastrophic event, and in the aftermath. The key is being prepared. September 11 is Patriots Day. May we never forget that day in 2001 of the hundreds of Americans lost that day and the hundreds saved by First Responders. September 16 is American Legion Day. That is a great opportunity for Legionnaires to commemorate Congress chartering the American Legion

in 1919. What better way to observed Constitution Day on September 17 than to start promoting The American Legion Oratorical program? Also, on September 17 is Citizenship Day. Providing assistance and instruction to those following the legal path to citizenship has been a longstanding and proud American Legion tradition almost since the organization's founding by Posts, Districts, and Department. Approximately 81,000 wartime US service members are still unaccounted for. September 18 is National POW/MIA Day, which is an opportunity for Posts to lead community ceremonies reminding us never to forget those who have yet to come home or are fully accounted for. Several ceremonies across Oregon on September 18 will dedicate Oregon's US Highway 26, 471 miles from Seaside to Nyssa, as POW/MIA Memorial Highway. September 18 is the birthday of the United States Air Force that became a separate military service with the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947. The last Sunday in September each year is Gold Star Mothers Day. This year Gold Star Mother's Day falls on September 27 when we will honor the mothers who lost sons and daughters in the line of duty of the US Armed Force.

As you can see, the month of September offers many opportunities for The American Legion to serve America's communities. It is also an opportunity for Posts to connect with their publics through local media resources available to share information of a Post's contributions within the local community. In Public Relations terms, publics' can be a Post's membership, organizations in the community, veterans, businesses, churches, and schools, to name a few.

On a final note, CONGRATULATIONS to all 116 American Legion Posts in Oregon for helping Department achieve a 100% participation rate for Post Consolidated Report (CPR) reporting to National. Great job by all.

88

Carl Pawlik
SAL Commander

can

SAL Commander Comments

Let me thank all those who have been working hard to maintain their Squadrons and Post Families. It is a very trying time. We have seen disruptions in every aspect of our lives, be it family, job, community, and our Post Families. We have been forced to rethink how we approach everything in our lives.

The closures of our Posts, elimination of events, reopening, and the questions concerning how to move forward safely, every Squadron and Post are different but also share the same goals, helping Veterans, children, and our communities.

I understand that some Squadrons are hurting, membership down, difficulties just having meetings, events canceled, to name a few. Other Squadrons have been recovering more quickly, rethinking how to run events, reaching out to their membership and communities, helping where they

We need to look at this not as a problem but as an opportunity. I know that sounds simplistic, but that is the way I have run my life. I am proud of what my Home Squadron has done with this opportunity but also understand every Squadron is different due to size, location, and community. We need to pool our ideas, ask for help, rely on our SAL Family, and use this opportunity to grow.

In closing, please stay safe, use common sense, reach out to our membership, and believe that we will be stronger as Squadrons, more closely tied to and an integral part of our communities. When this is over, we can look back and know the SAL did its part.

The American Legion: 'Vets Need Reliable Postal Service'

(INDIANAPOLIS—August 18, 2020) – The American Legion issued the following statement today highlighting its commitment to veterans who rely on timely mail delivery to receive prescriptions:

"Millions of our nations' veterans depend on a strong U.S. Postal Service for critical needs such as prescription refills. The Department of Veterans Affairs fills over half a million prescriptions each day through the Consolidated Mail Output Pharmacy system. The vast majority of these prescriptions are mailed to veterans through the USPS.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced availability of in-person services at VA facilities, including access to the pharmacy, places veterans in larger reliance on mail-ordered prescriptions and a strong USPS. If our leaders in Washington, D.C. choose not to fund the post office by the end of September, The American Legion is concerned it could have dire consequences for the millions of veterans who rely on the mail every day to deliver life-saving medication. The postal service often plays a pivotal role in the delivery of paperwork needed to process claims for veterans who have been disabled in the service of their country.

"The American Legion has spoken out in favor of a strong USPS before with the passage of a <u>resolution at our national convention in 2016</u>. The American Legion implores Congress to address this issue impacting our nation's veterans in an expedited manner so they can continue to receive the critical services they need during these difficult times."

The American Legion, <u>www.legion.org</u>, is the nation's largest veterans service organization and was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national defense, the care and wellbeing of U.S. military veterans, patriotic youth programs and Americanism.

Media contacts: Indianapolis: John Raughter (317) 630-1350, <u>jraughter@legion.org</u>; Washington: Paul Harris (202) 263-2991, <u>pharris@legion.org</u>

Are you moving?

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

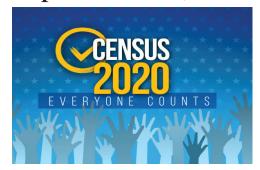
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730







POW/MIA Recognition Day September 18th, 2020



My name is Joshua Carper and I am a response coordinator for the 2020 census. The census is currently being taken in the U.S.A. And we are trying to get the word out and encourage people to fill out their forms. I was hoping you would put a notice in your newsletter encouraging your members to do this and let them know that they can fill out their forms online or wait for the form to arrive in the mail. the form can be found at 2020census.

I can be reached either via email at <u>Joshua.l.carper@2020census.gov</u> or by phone at 541-905-4135, I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely, Joshua Carper

P.S. We are still hiring census takers and veterans receive preference when it comes to selections. They can apply at 2020census.gov/jobs to apply, or if they simply want to fill out their forms then they can do that at 2020census.gov

4 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



A member of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) holds an American flag as he stands next to the POW/MIA flag before a service for U.S. Army Cpl. Robert E. Meyers, of Greencastle, Pa., a soldier from the Korean War who's remains have been identified. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Military.com

You Are Not Forgotten – that's the central phrase behind the POW/MIA remembrance movement which honors America's prisoners of war, those who are still missing in action and their families.

Many of our service members suffered as prisoners of war during several decades of varying conflicts. While some of them made it home, tens of thousands more never did.

Here are four things to know about how this important movement got started, what it means and how you can help recognize it.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

<u>POW/MIA Recognition Day</u> is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. In 1979, Congress and the president passed resolutions making it official after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability.

During the first POW/MIA Recognition Day commemoration, a ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., while the 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the missing man formation. Most ceremonies since then have been held at the Pentagon, and many smaller observances have cropped up across the nation and around the world on military installations.

Related: A Missing ID Card Spent 50 Years in Vietnam. Now It's Coming Home

The point of POW/MIA Recognition Day is to ensure that American remembers to stand behind those who serve continued on page 15

and to make sure we do everything we can to account for those who have never returned.

POW/MIA Numbers

In order to comprehend the importance of this movement, all you need to do is look at the sheer number of Americans who have been listed as POW/MIAs.

According to a <u>Congressional Research Service report</u> on POWs:

- 130,201 World War II service members were imprisoned; 14,072 them died
- 7,140 Korean War service members were imprisoned; 2,701 of them died
- 725 Vietnam War service members were imprisoned; 64 of them died
- 37 service members were imprisoned during conflicts since 1991, including both Gulf wars; none are still in captivity

According to the <u>Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency</u>, 83,114 Americans who fought in those wars are still missing, including:

- 73,515 from World War II (an approximate number due to limited or conflicting data)
- 7,841 from the Korean War
- 1,626 from Vietnam
- 126 from the Cold War
- 6 from conflicts since 1991

The DPAA said about 75 percent of those missing Americans are somewhere in the Asia-Pacific. More than 41,000 have been presumed lost at sea.

Efforts to find those men, identify them and bring them home are constant. For example, the DPAA said that in the past year it has accounted for 41 men missing during the Korean War: 10 had been previously buried as unknowns, 26 were from remains turned over by North Korea in the 1990s, one was from a recovery operation, and four were combinations of remains and recovery operations.

The POW/MIA Flag

The traditional <u>POW/MIA flag</u> that's well-known across America was actually created many years before the remembrance day became official.

In 1971, a woman named Mary Hoff contacted a flag company near her home to see if a flag reminding people of POWs and the missing could be made. She was one of the many waiting to see if her husband, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, would ever return home after his plane had been shot down over Laos.

World War II pilot Newt Heisley designed the now-famous flag, which was made in black and white to represent the sorrow, anxiety and hope symbolized by the image of the gaunt man featured on it.

For every POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982, the flag has flown just below the stars and stripes at the White House – the only other flag to ever do so. In 1998, Congress ordered it to also be displayed on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

Bracelets Help Continue the Support

POW/MIA

Continued from page 15

While the POW/MIA flag reminds us to never forget our prisoners of war and missing in action, bracelets also became a popular personal form of remembrance in the 1970s. They're still worn and purchased by families and veterans, who are also wearing bracelets for those who were killed in action in more recent wars.

If you don't feel the need to buy a flag or bracelet, it's still important to remember the extreme sacrifices of our POW/MIAs and America's pact to them: That we will take care of them and, no matter how much time has passed, they will make it back home.

THANK YOU

Greetings, Chaplain Terry (and also Chaplain Jerry and Commander Mick):

First, let me apologize for my delay in sending this note of THANKS for your help with a service we completed last week for Mr. David Binschus there at your Willamette National Cemetery. I sincerely appreciate the diligence and prompt replies from our sister American Legion there in / near Portland when I reached out for assistance. It really means a lot to me, personally, that our organizations work together when we can for the good of our members, and you all certainly did NOT disappoint. I was emotional on more than one occasion that day as our 'combined efforts' offered Mr. Binschus a beautiful service. full of Honor, as he so well deserves. I cannot say it enough how proud I was to be a part of the entourage that came from Oak Harbor (with two separate Patriot Guard Riders group escorting us) to rendezvous with the Oregon Chapter and you, Chaplain Terry, there at the staging area and shelter. What a tremendous Honor it was, and how proud we all were to be helping.





Betty was born in Akron, Ohio on August 21,1916 to Ralph & Bertha (née Williams) Cooper. She graduated from East High School in Akron in 1935; and was a Technical Sergeant in the US Marine Corp, Aviation Woman's Reserve Squadron #7 from 1943 to 1946, doing Instrument Flight Training and Link Trainer Operator at the Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro, California. She was discharged as a GySgt. Betty worked for Bell Telephone before and after her military service in Ohio, California and the Pacific NW. After living in

Akron, Ohio and Santa Monica, California she moved to Milwaukie, Oregon in 1946. She married, Donald Ray Thompson on December 17, 1946 in Portland, Oregon. In 1967 she went to work for Omark Industries and in 1973 she went to work for Omark Federal Credit Union until 1980 when she found her career with Presbytery of the Cascades, where she retired from in 2009. Betty took various courses over her lifetime at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

She enjoyed singing and sang with the Akron Civic Chorus, Milwaukie Clef Club, Portland Symphonic Choir, Portland Chorale, Milwaukie Presbyterian Church and the Handbell Choir. She also enjoyed sewing, quilting, painting, calligraphy, reading, traveling and attending The Oregon Symphony.

Betty passed away July 31, 2020, surrounded by her family. Being just shy of her 104th birthday, she had lived independently until January of 2020. She is survived by her sons, Jerry Lee, Jeff Howard and Don Roy Thompson; her daughters-in-law, Kathryn, Susan and Lynn; sister, Marjorie; thirteen grand-children; and ten greatgrandchildren. Her husband Donald preceded her in death in 2005.

A private cemetery service was held with Military Honors on 12 Aug at Willamette National Cemetery.

Provided by: Stehn Family Chapels Milwaukie Tribute Center, Milwaukie, Oregon



It was truly touching. Also: Chaplain Terry, a word of KUDOS to you for your thoughtful planning and organizational skills. Mrs. Binschus was VERY pleased to have taken your phone call prior to our service and spoke very highly of you and your efforts to get to know her and Mr. Binschus during your initial phone appointment. She was impressed at your ability to gather information and communicate effectively, as was I. During the service, I was touched at

the poignant (and time-conscious) presentation you made to the family, your eloquence was not lost on me. The rose, and the patches you offered were super sweet gestures – that represented your Legion's Post so well. Many blessings to the sweet ladies who prepared those for you to be able to hand out.

Thanks again 'Team Oregon Legionnaires' for helping me with this service. I was worried / concerned about how well it would go when I first reached out,

Continued on page 17

Contined from page 16

but should not have been. I will surely be saving your contact information for 'next time' and will reach out again in the future when I am required to be in your area again for services. I appreciate being able to call on your assistance for Honoring another one of our HEROes.

Many blessings, Kelly M Davidson Wallin Funeral Home & Cremation, LLC

1811 NE 16th Ave. # A, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Youngest Medal of Honor recipient ever!



It's hard to imagine a 14 yr old would have the guts to make a move like this American hero. Step away from your daily frustrations and read about Jacklyn Lucas, a certified bad ass. This is the story of one of the youngest MOH recipient in US history.



By the age of 14, Jack already looked much older. Relatively tall for his age (5'8") and brawny at 180 pounds, Jack

IN MEMORIAM

had no trouble convincing the Marine Corps recruiters that he was 17 when he enlisted in August of 1942. Notably, to enlist at age 17 (as opposed to 18), Jack needed a parent signature – so he forged his mother's.



Jack did his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina and qualified as both a rifle sharpshooter and a heavy machine gun crewman. In November 1943, he was assigned to the 6th Base Depot of the V Amphibious Corps at Camp Catlin in Oahu, Hawaii. There he achieved the rank of Private First Class in January of 1944. However, after reviewing a letter Jack had written to his girlfriend, military censors realized he was only 15 years old. He was then removed from his combat unit, but rather than sent home (something he argued heavily against), he was assigned to truck driving.



Of course, being "in the rear with the gear" was not Jack's idea of military service. Angry, he got into so many fights that he was ultimately courtmartialed and spent 5 months breaking rocks and consuming mostly bread and water.



Released from the stockade by January 1945 and still determined to see combat, Jack walked away from his post that month and stowed away on the USS Deuel, a transport ship heading toward fighting in the Pacific. Because he left his assignment, he was declared a deserter and reduced in rank to Private. Now closer to the action, after hiding for about a month, Jack finally turned himself in on February 8, 1945, once again volunteering to fight. On February 14, he turned 17. By February 20, he got his wish and was fighting on the island of Iwo Jima.



During the battle on February 20, 1945, Jack and his comrades were advancing toward a Japanese airstrip near Mount Suribachi (Some reports say Jack made his initial advance without a rifle). Taking cover in a trench under heavy fire, Jack realized they were only feet away from enemy soldiers in a neighboring trench. He managed to shoot two of the soldiers before two live grenades landed in his trench.



Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

Thinking quickly, Jack threw himself on the first grenade, shoving it into volcanic ash and used his body and rifle to shield the others with him from the pending blast. When another grenade appeared directly after the first, he reached out and pulled it under himself as well. His body took the brunt of the blasts and the massive amount of shrapnel. His companions were all saved, but his injuries were so serious they thought he had died. Only after a second company moved through did anyone realize he was somehow still alive.



Jack endured nearly two dozen surgeries and extensive therapy and convalescence. Despite the surgeries, over 200 pieces of shrapnel remained in his body for the rest of his life.



Shortly after his act of heroism, on February 26, 1945, the deserter classification was removed and he was restored to the rank of Private First Class. Ultimately all 17 of his military convictions were also cleared. Nonetheless, he was unfit for duty and discharged from the Marines on September 18, 1945.

IN MEMORIAM



On October 5, 1945 President Harry S Truman awarded Jack, and 13 other recipients at that ceremony, the Medal of Honor. Notably, however, at 17 he was the youngest there and the youngest to ever receive the award For his bravery and service, Jack also received the Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and a Purple Heart.



So what happened after? Besides graduating high school and earning a business degree, at the age of 31, he enlisted as a First Lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. During his first training jump, according to his team leader, "Jack was the last one out of the plane and the first one on the ground." You see, neither of his parachutes opened. Despite this and an approximately 3,500 foot fall, he miraculously survived with only minor injuries. Two weeks later, he was back jumping out of planes.



Once he returned to civilian life four years later, he opened a chain of beef selling businesses in Washington, D.C., married a few times (including one wife who tried to have him killed), and later, with the help of D.K. Drum, published an autobiography aptly titled, Indestructible.



On June 5, 2008 Jack passed at 80 yrs old at a hospital in Hattiesburg, Mississippi from leukemia with family and friends by his side.



Thank you for your sacrifice Jack Lucas. Your story will continue to inspire generations!

AWFRICANISM



Todd Russell and Layne Teague Forest Grove #2 (District 1)



John Staub, D1 Vice Cmdr, #104 Todd Russell, #2 Layne Teague, 1st Vice Cmdr, #2 Cory Brockmann, #104



Ian Gerstal, Commander, Newberg #57 (District 2)



Matthew Jensen, Fire Fighter, Portland FD
Spencer Gehring, Fire Fighter, Portland FD
Ed Resch, Lieutenant, Portland FD
Christopher Foster, Fire Fighter,

Portland FD

CORY BROCKMANN

AMERICANISM CHAIR



Carla Staub, Chaplain, Unit 104 John Staub, D1 Vice Cmdr/Chaplain #104



Members of the Portland Fire Department brought to ladder trucks and

Displayed the US flag in support of the return of Oregon National Guard Troops on Aug 13, 2020.





Answer:

B. Woodrow Wilson

• Wilson was president until 1921, when Harding came into office. A couple of interesting facts about Harding for you to ponder; even though prohibition was in full force, Harding secretly stocked the White House with illegal bootleg liquor. He was also an avid poker player. He would often hold poker games at the White House and even gambled away a complete set of White House china.

SUBMITTED BY The Clacka-MICK WILSON mas County POST 180 COMMANDER Commissioners set aside \$250,000 each fiscal year to provide small grants to organizations that provide financial assistance to county residents in need.

Post 180 has applied for and received a small grant for the past two years. Our grant for 2019-2020 (ended 7/15/20) was \$5,000.

This grant enabled our Post to assist several veterans and their families who needed financial assistance due to losing income because of the virus pandemic.

We have helped them with rent assistance, preventing eviction, and buying groceries.

We could not have helped them without the grant.

We want to thank the county commissioners for providing the means for our Post to assist our county veteran neighbors!

We have applied for a 2020-2021 small grant.

Scott Southard, Post Service Officer, 503-998-3305



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Mailing Address	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(ZIP)	DUES RECEIPT
			☐ Male ☐ Female		(Please Print)
	(Phone)	(Email)	(Gender)	(Post #) (Dues)	 :
☐ I certify that I se	erved at least one day of active mil	itary duty since December 7, 1941 a	and was honorably discharged or am still servin	g honorably.	Date
Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:					Date
Global War on T	Terror 🔲 U.S. Army	nd branch of service below			Received From
☐ Gulf War ☐ Panama	☐ U.S. Navy ☐ U.S. Air Force				• \$ for 20 Dues
Lebanon/GrenadVietnam	da U.S. Marines U.S. Coast Guard				
☐ Korea	Merchant Marines				Recruiter's Name
☐ WWII ☐ Other Conflicts					
					Recruiter's Signature
Signature of Applicant		Date	Name of Recruiter		
Mail completed applic	ation to The American Legi	on National Headquarters, At	tn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must	accompany completed application. A	Recruiter's Phone #
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OR (b) Above is a deceased veleran who served honorably from to to					Received From
(c) Relationship of Applican	nt 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					Squadron No.
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