



Post Scripts

The American Legion – Post 176
6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield Virginia 22150

Volume 54, Issue 2

MAY JUN 2009

Commander's Call

Members, 26 April 2009

On the occasion of celebrating The American Legion's Birthday (17 – 19 March 1919), I considered the many birthdays the leaders of The American Legion (at the Post to the National Level) have observed since our founding. Just recently we lost the oldest veteran of WWI, the war era that provided our leadership during our infancy. We're losing members of the "greatest generation" at the rate of 1,000 per day. Of these WWII era veterans who are still serving our organization, we need to say a "thanks" by letting them retire from their leadership position with us bestowing the title "Emeritus" on them. Our Korean War Veterans are in their mid seventies and the Vietnam veterans who are currently performing in many of The American Legion leadership positions are no spring chickens- 66 years old or older! But these leaders should be transitioning into retirement while providing continuity to those stepping up to fill our (think nationally) leadership positions. We deserve time to travel, enjoy the grandchildren and great grandchildren and the freedom of not going to work and no longer being part of the one-tenth of our organization doing all of the work and filling all of the leadership positions. Unfortunately, we continue to make men and women eligible to join The American Legion because we continue to send them into wars and conflicts around the world – Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, and the Gulf War. August 2009 starts the twentieth year service men and women earn eligibility for serving during the Gulf War. In comparison, Vietnam's eligibility period was 14 years! We, as an organization, must recruit this huge segment of our veteran population to join us, believe in our four visions, and gradually have them serve in our leadership positions. "Gradually" means get them to a meeting and then to a second one, guiding them to learn at least a little of our history and values, allowing them time to meet us and our members and accepting their request to serve on a committee or to help at breakfast without making them the committee chair! The youngest Lebanon/Grenada prospec-

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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

The Department of Virginia hosted a seminar on Social Security benefits on 7 March 09. Mr. Edwin Sledge of the Social Security Administration gave an overview of Social Security benefits and related hot topics.

The Social Security Administration has been providing benefits since 1935, to include food stamps, unemployment, and supplemental security income based on financial need. Social Security benefits also apply to wounded warriors (i.e. soldiers injured on active duty from 1 Oct 2001 or later). Survivor benefits are paid to spouses of deceased beneficiaries, meaning that an individual has worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. In addition, Medicare part D offers prescription drug coverage for eligible beneficiaries for a \$28 a month premium. President Obama's economic stimulus package provides a \$250 payment to adult beneficiaries.

On-line services are available at www.socialsecurity.gov. The website provides benefit calculators and benefit estimators for retirement, disability, and survivor benefits; however, an application must be completed with the claims representative (phone: 800-772-1213). Claims consist of two parts: the application, and the medical report with release forms. The disability claims are meant to replace income lost due to physical or mental incapacitation. The amount of entitlement is based on the level of severity and the ability to be re-trained. By law, Social Security has a very strict definition to be considered disabled. The medical record (I3368) can be completed on-line (in multiple sessions if necessary).

Full retirement age for Social Security is 66 for people born between 1946 and 1954. The early retirement age is 62 with a reduced benefit of 75%. An eligible beneficiary can have any amount of unearned income, i.e. disability insurance and VA benefits: However, Social Security payments may cause VA benefits to be reduced. There is also an offset to Social Security payments for beneficiaries collecting civil service retirement. Additional information is available by talking with a claims representative (phone: 800-772-1213) or visiting your local Social Security office.

Ali Nikolai, Service Officer, Springfield Post 176

The American Legion Post 176 Officers

Commander.....	Lew Lipscomb	703-866-4919
1st Vice.....	Jeff Harrison	703-642-0150
2nd Vice.....	JP Forry	571-332-7323
3rd Vice.....	Bob Smith	703-314-5080
Finance Officer.....	William Hurd	703-455-7231
Chaplain.....	Charlie Buettner	703-868-0580 (c)
Sgt-At-Arms.....	Shannon Vanwart	703-864-4758
Adjutant.....	Rex Buckley	703-830-7063
Judge Advocate.....	VACANT	
Service Officer.....	Ali Nikolai	301-266-4933
Historian.....	Darrel Khan	703-978-8153
Committeeman 1yr.....	Ken Hanson	703-971-4040
Committeeman 2yr.....	Mike Siwik	703-451-5254
Committeeman 3yr.....	Jim Brado	703-569-1305

Corporate Board

President 1yr.....	Rod Carlone	703-899-1000
Member 2yr.....	Bob Cable	703-944-1333
Member 3yr.....	Tom Bixby	703-606-2732
Secretary.....	Brad Gagnon	dbgva@hotmail

Squadron 176 Officers

Commander.....	Chip Byers	703-256-2276
Vice Commander.....	Bill Hall	703-912-6162
Chaplain.....	Art Childers	703-560-5416
Adjutant.....	Ted Byers	703-256-2276
Sgt-At-Arms.....	Tim Dioquino	703-644-0184
Finance Officer.....	Bill Swaner	
Membership.....	Terry Breyman	703-644-1179

Unit 176 Officers

President.....	Jere Vatter	703-971-3698
Vice President.....	Floy Lipscomb	703-866-4919
Secretary.....	Debra Weimer	703-256-0978
Treasurer.....	Coleen Austin	703-451-9367
Chaplain.....	Marty McGrail	703-451-9150
Historian.....	Mable Sanderson	703-451-3055
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Raheleh Fazollah	703-823-1067

Post email: vapost176@cox.net

Web Site: www.vapost176.org

Post Scripts is a bi-monthly publication of The American Legion, Post 176, Springfield VA 22150.

Membership:

Although the membership renewals have slowed considerably the past several months, the 2009 Post membership roles continue to make positive strides toward our 2009 annual goal of 1591. As of April 22 (today), our membership roles have reached 1528 (96.04%). Of this total, 163 are Paid-Up-For-Life members, 60 are new members, and 1305 have renewed from last year. In relative terms to last year's final count, we currently have 5 fewer PUFL members than last year, we have recruited one (1) less "new" member than last year, but most importantly - we have 137 members who have not renewed their membership for 2009...that's almost 9%! We can do better!!!

So let me reiterate ONE MORE TIME - this is not the time to relax as we only have a few months to achieve our 100% goal...even though we missed the April 1st deadline for the purposes of the 100% trophy! So please pester your friends, neighbors, and those Legionnaires who have not renewed to get their renewals...or new member applications...in immediately! We do not know what the future holds but I can confidently say that there are many current veterans in our society, and more arriving every day, who rely upon the programs that your American Legion fights for, both on Capitol Hill and within your state/district, to ensure that the needs of you as Veterans are in place, or are being fought for in the legislative seat of power. So please do your part and find just one new member to be part of the largest Veterans organization in the world! Once again...our 100% goal for this year is 1591.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

IAW Article IX, "Amendments", section 2 of the Constitution and By Laws dated Feb 2002 for Springfield Post 176, the vote on the Post 176/Monument Realty, Inc. sale will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 4 June 2009 in the large dining room of the Post Home. Auxiliary and S.A.L. may attend the meeting without voice and vote. A final power point presentation will be presented at the June General Membership Meeting on 2 June 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

The recent Blood Drive collected 34 good units of blood. Thank you to all those who came out. Our next drive is on June 16th (Tuesday) from 2 PM until 7 PM. Please contact Blood Drive Chairman Joe Finch <seppl1552@aol.com> to schedule your appointment.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL - Post 176

April 15, 2009

--SEASON ABOUT TO BEGIN--

As you read this baseball update, the start of the 2009 season will be a few weeks away. This year play begins on May 30. I want to take this opportunity to invite the membership, families, and friends to come and see your Post 176 baseball team in action! It promises to be another great season. If you haven't had an opportunity in the past to see our games, you have no idea of the entertainment and competitive level of baseball that you are missing. Treat yourself to some relaxation, attend a game, and watch your Post 176 baseball team. We believe that we will, once again, be in the championship hunt. So come on out to a game--We welcome your attendance and support!

Our upcoming schedule is not yet available; however, it will be posted soon to our post web site. 17th District baseball information can also be found on the league web site at <http://mysite.verizon.net/jglassman/nvalb/index.html>

Each year we recruit 18 Springfield-area players who possess the talent, high personal traits, and hard-work ethic to play for the Post baseball team. This year we return nine players and are in the process of recruiting other talented players. Also, we are always on the lookout for and would like to hear about talented players and coaches that would like to be considered for our Legion team. Give me a call if you know of anyone.

If you would like to help support our 2009 baseball team and Post with a **tax-deductible donation** (to offset the season's operating cost) please take the time now, make your check payable to "**American Legion Post 176- Baseball**" and send it to:

American Legion Post 176-Baseball
C/O Al Vaxmonsky
7375 Beechwood Drive
Springfield, VA 22153-2336

Thank you in advance for your generosity, and for being a supporter of our team and the American Legion Baseball program. See you at the ballpark!

Al Vaxmonsky, Team Manager, (703) 866-4863

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tive members are now 45 years old and like Gulf War eligible service members still work and have families and feel they're too busy to join us. But if we convince them that just their membership is important and extend to them invites to our family oriented events: cookouts, observances of patriotic holidays, community events and children and youth activities, we may succeed at getting a new member who'll hopefully help recruit members like him/herself. **RECRUITMENT IS EVERYONES JOB! AND IN TIME RECRUITS BECOME VOLUNTEERS!**

With the exception of The American Legion's Adjutant position (Post to National Level), virtually all positions are filled by unpaid volunteers. And if an organization is lucky, more than 10% of its members give of their time and energy to perform various functions for their organization. I am constantly trying to recruit you as a volunteer, but I am not being successful either at getting the "jack of all trades" or the skilled expert, such as the professional and the tradesman. Who are our plumbers, electricians, HVAC experts, lawyers, financial advisers, etc. that may repair, advise, consult, etc. on a pro bono basis during these especially bad economic times? Please call the Post at 703.440.0335 and leave your name and number with the Lounge Manager or with the General Manager or ask for me. I'll get back to you and talk about how you can help make a difference by mitigating the impact of this recession on the Post. **HELP ME TO BRING NEW LIFE IN VOLUNTEERISM AT THE POST HOME!**

I don't always "catch our current volunteers in the act" but when I do I try to say thanks and when it is time to prepare Post Scripts, I try to thank them by name. Candidate for First Vice Commander, Bob Eidsvoog, recently repaired some stools and chairs in the lounge. Bob Smith, incumbent and candidate for Third Vice Commander, is as I type this outside mowing the grass. Members of our Scout Troop 1344 and Mike O'Neil were a great help at the Monthly Breakfasts as was Connor's father who jumped in as a last minute replacement and cooked omelets. Connor is one of the Scouts. Other people have been thanked in the below summaries of Post activities over the past two months. The activities follow:

General Membership Meeting, 3/3: With the Auxiliary in attendance, we celebrated The American Legion's 90th Birthday. Minutes of the GMM will be posted when completed..

Post Scripts Assembly, 3/6: Tom Bixby got another day of OJT and had 13 or so volunteers assist in collating, folding and labeling 1800 plus newsletters. Tom then took them to the Post Office. A weekend and a snow day were partially to blame for the late mailing.

Friday Night Dinner, 3/6: Sukie served a seafood combo and had steak in the event someone hadn't given it up for Lent. As usual the meal was reasonable and enjoyed by the few who came out. My thanks to Bob Smith, Miss Lou and J.P Forry for volunteering their time to cook, serve the food and cleanup afterwards and to Floy for taking orders and collecting the money. Ed entertained Janet Forrey, J.P.'s mother, in the lounge with "scads" of music for the jukebox while J.P.

worked in the kitchen. Coming up to the lounge while Floy did some computer work with Auxiliary membership, I met Bob and Wanda Fleming (Bob's a new member). Because it was Jukebox Night I was able to talk with them and we could hear each other.

Monthly Breakfast, 3/8: Forty-three enjoyed our breakfast which still is the most economical meal in this terrible economy. My thanks to all the volunteers, to include several from Boy Scout Troop 1144, who helped. We again lacked enough volunteers.

17th District Meeting, 3/8: Post 176 hosted subject meeting and had 9 members in attendance and watched Jimmy Jones and Les Grizzard receive their VAVS Service Pins. Bob Smith and J.P. Forrey, assisted Sukie get the buffet line set up (Bar-B-Q chicken and pulled pork w/beans and cold slaw, etc.) while Diane assisted voluntarily in the kitchen and Dr. Lynn prepared three delicious cakes (gratis) and sent them in for dessert. Many district members did not stay for the meal thinking it was going to cost them the outlandish sum of \$6. There was no charge because a Post 176 member contributed one-half of the cost.

Inter Service Club Council of Springfield, 3/9: I hosted the group at the Post and we had 14 service organizations in attendance.

S.A.L. Meeting, 3/10: As a dual member I attend when possible. Our squadron is at 83% of their membership goal (it leads the State). The S.A.L. voted to send four boys and four girls to Liberty University and Longwood College for week of instruction on the working of Virginia's State Government.

NARFE Meeting, 3/11: Subject is held at Post Home monthly. Due to absence of GM and due to recent staff cuts, I filled in to provide necessary support and was able to hear the guest speaker, Laura Balun, Director of the Voluntary Service Office for the Department of VA. She spoke about the various volunteer opportunities within and outside of the VA Hospitals. Many volunteer jobs exist that do not require a TB Test and consultation with nurse staff (some call this a 'physical'). If you've been reluctant to sign on as a hospital volunteer but have time to give please call me and let help get you volunteering.

"Jo" Harbert's Legion Service, 3/15: Chaplain Buettner and I, with Comrade Tony Esteve posting the Colors, performed The American Legion Funeral Service IHO of Comrade Josephine Agnes Harbert who passed away peacefully with her three daughters by her side. She was a WWII veteran.

Department Spring Conference, 3/19-22: I attended and participated in all meetings and events. National Commander Dave Rehbein of Iowa was our guest for the weekend.

Ex Com Meeting, 3/24: Minutes posted when prepared.

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Visit to Post 186, 4/4: This is a 850+ member Post in Little River, SC having similar problems to us: (1) how to increase revenue for the Post and (2) how to pay off notes members purchased six years earlier to construct their new building. The difference though to us: Members acted like veterans and grown men and calmly discussed the issues w/o the commander having to raise his voice and/or the Sgt-at-Arms having to get involved. If you're in the North Myrtle Beach area drop by for a visit. Floy and I had an excellent lunch on the 2nd before I attended the GMM on the 4th.

Corporate Board Meeting, 4/8: The FO and I attended in our ex officio capacity. An update on the Monument Issue and ways to reduce costs were the two main topics discussed.

Monthly Breakfast, 4/12: On Easter we had our breakfast on schedule. My thanks to the forty patrons who enjoyed it and a huge thanks to the volunteers who prepared the hall and cooked.

ISCCS Meeting, 4/13: Our Post Home is the permanent host for this meeting until the Byrd Library's renovations are completed. Our speaker was Pam York from the Springfield Days Committee who talked about the four day event happening 28 thru 31 May. Post 176 is hosting the Bar-B-Q cookout on Friday night, 29 May from 6 to 8 p.m. There'll be no Friday Night Dinner this night. Come out and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans and all the things that accompany them.

17th District Meeting, 4/14: Post 180 hosted this nomination of officers for the '09 - '10 American Legion year. Nominees include for Commander Ray Lockett, for Senior Vice Commander Phil Dunn and for the three Vice Commander (VC) positions Gordon Holsinger and Ed Dockery. Another nomination is needed to fill the third VC vacancy. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the 17th District Convention on 7 June at 12:30 p.m. at Post 180 (Vienna) prior to the elections being conducted.

Eagle Scout Project, 4/15: Life Scout Jake Moffet, accompanied by his father, met with me to get guidance to assist him

to conduct his project for the highest Boy Scout Rank - Eagle. He'll perform a Flag Retirement Ceremony. In addition to giving him the American Legion's scrip and diagrams for conducting the ceremony, I offered him the use of our ceremonial area and to help publicize his ceremony, tentatively scheduled for 17 May at a site TBD.

Honorary Life Committee (HLC) Meeting, 4/17: At Dick Vatter's request I held the meeting in April rather than May (per the C & BL dated Feb 2002). The three local members recommended one new member and voted against recommending one member. The person not voted on favorably had credentials that far exceeded those of the one recommended and even better credentials for membership than two of the three members voting. I accused the HLC of letting petty jealousies and trivial personalities influence their deliberations and that I would do all within my power to stop letting them not induct deserving Legionnaires into the element of our Post where members who have demonstrated "conspicuous meritorious service" are honored. And before I was finished I reminded them that it wasn't just their little club for their friends (clique). As Commander I've picked my battles carefully, passing on more than I've fought, but this one must be fought because a small group of Past Commanders cannot continue to be part of the problem. They must be part of the solution or be neutralized and that will not happen until members and Post Officers stopped being apathetic and help me take a stand.

Veteran's Request for Assistance, 4/17: Member Monika Stoy called from Fort Myers, FL requesting assistance from a local Florida Post to assist with a burial of a veteran in Fort Myers on Saturday, 18 April 2009. Getting to talk with no live person at Florida's Department Headquarters at 2:30 p.m. (they do have a wonderful voice mail/answering system, however) I called info and got the Post phone and local address of Post 274, the local American Legion Post in Fort Myers and talked with them and called Monika with the phone number. She and Post 274 then started coordinating the action required.

Blood Drive, 4/21: We received 33 good units of blood. Joe Finch and I thank Maudie Price, Chip Byers, Ted and Kathy

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Errett "Sonny" Thomas, 30-year member of Springfield American Legion Post 176- is a Sales and Leasing Consultant with Safford Dodge Jeep of Springfield. He invites you to come see him and have a look at the great selection of Dodge & Jeep Vehicles. A donation of \$100 will be made in the name of any American Legion Post 176 member, Auxiliary Member or Sons of the American Legion for every new or used vehicle purchased from Sonny. Please bring in your current membership card with you. Call Sonny at (703)-866-1700 (Office) or (703)-629-4513 (Cell)



Sons of The American Legion

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next two meetings will be on May 12th and June 9th.

Also, the State convention will be on July 11th at the Sheraton Richmond West. Please come out and support your Squadron and Commander!

2009-2010 Elections:

The elections for Officers for the 2009-2010 year will take place at the May 13th meeting with Installation to take place at the installation dinner in June (see separate article).

The Nominations committee has presented the following nominations:

Commander: Ted Byers

First Vice-Commander: Tim Dioquino

Second Vice-Commander: Gary Wotring

Adjutant: Chip Byers

Chaplain: Art Childers

Finance Officer-Bill Swaner

Sgt at Arms: Bill Chapman

Historian (nobody as usual!!)

Membership-Terry Breyman

Our presumed incoming commander has suggested that we need more participation from our younger members. If you are a Son up to and including the age of 20 and you might be interested in meetings and activities just for you, please contact the current commander at chipbyers@verizon.net or at 703-256-2276.

There are a lot of things going on at the Post these days and communication of updates is very crucial. We are now in the 21st Century. It would be great if all Sons members were on the e-mail list at the post. If you want to receive information between issues of Postscripts, please send us your e-mail address. Send it to: chipbyers@verizon.net

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Oliver and Mary Lucas and all of you who came out to give. Please mark 16 June on your calendar and come out and give the “gift of life” again. Recruit a friend and/or neighbor to give also.

Friday Night Dinner, 4/17 & 24: Doris Cortez and Floy Lipscomb continue to help Sukie, J.P. Forry and Bob Smith serve approximately forty diners who enjoy our Friday Night Dinners.

Springfield Days Meeting, 4/27: Subject Committee met and finalized the activities for Springfield’s annual celebration scheduled for Thursday, 29 May through Sunday, 31 May with events here (Friday night Bar-B-Q from 6-8 p.m with Cloggers and Accordion players on our stage) Springfield Mall (for rides, a pet fest, a Taste of Springfield and an Art Show), South Run Recreation Center for 1.5 mile fun run, free exercise classes and free admittance to the pool and fitness facility and Lake Accotink for movie “Marley and Me” on Saturday evening and the famous annual cardboard regatta on Sunday afternoon.

(Please see Flyers and Posters are around the Post Home for additional details.)

May and June will be busy months. Please come out for the Election on 5 May at 7:30 p.m. Come for our Monthly Breakfast on Mothers’ Day (10 May) between 9 and 11 a.m. and for our Bar-B-Q for Springfield Days on the 29th of May between 6 and 8 p.m. May 25th at 11 a.m. we’ll observe Memorial Day with our VFW comrades. June 2nd at our GMM at 7:30 p.m. we’ll hear the last extensive brief re the Monument Real Estate Negotiations prior to meeting on the 4th of June to vote on the project. This meeting will also be at 7:30 p.m. There’s a 17th District Convention at Post 180 at 1 p.m. on 7 June and our Post Awards and Recognition and Installation Banquet will be held on 19 June 2009. Our S.A.L. and Scout Troop 1344 will conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Flag Day, 14 June.. (Watch for flyers which announce the time!)

The recession, the new President, Post activities to include nominees for election, have distracted me recently from giving our service personnel still in harm’s way enough of my thoughts and prayers. I’m going to change that. Please join me and do the same. Pray for our Fighting Warriors, our Wounded Warriors and for the families who gave the ultimate sacrifice, a son or daughter, to the war.

For God and Country,

Lewis M. “Lew” Lipscomb
Commander

Your Club by: Sukie Knarr, GM

Team 176, Sorry for the short article in this issue, but due to computer crashes I’m a hostage of technology. So here’s a short blast of info! Due to the economic crunch, we have had to operate without a duty/day cook, and it has been very difficult—but—we made it through. I would like to give a big thanks to Diane, Helen, Lynn for their stellar efforts to sling hash and tend bar, washing dishes during their daily shifts. Way to go ladies! I would also like to thank JP Forry and Bob Smith for diving in to help make Friday night dinners work and be successful. And a special thanks to James O’Shea for stepping up to the task when I really needed the help in covering several areas. James really busted his butt and I’m proud of him and appreciated his dedicated effort! James has joined the US Marines. Best wishes and good luck!

I would like to welcome our new member and Chef—Steve Moore. Wow. What a resume: 23+ years US Navy with assignments to USS Camden, Secretary of Defense Mess, White House Staff Mess—been a chef most of his life. To continue with the good news, Steve is planning on opening is own restaurant & catering business in Rosslyn— but—Has agreed to cook Friday Night Dinners—and—To assist in our catering and support our special events.

- **The Bryce Mountain Get-a-Way (July 10-17, 2009)** – Tickets are on sale in the Lounge. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5-tickets for \$20.00 – everyone who has won this Get-a-Way has had a BALL – remember – if you win and wish to contribute the prize to a deserving injured VET – we can arrange for this to happen..... All proceeds go to pay the Condo Fee and Post’s Programs.

- **Booze Lockers** – are available for \$18.00 (lg) and \$16.00 (sm)... also – if you currently have a locker – your fee’s are due.....

- On the good news front—our hall rentals for the months of May and June are booked out. Great!

- Well, sorry again for the short article and any format changes you may note here as well as dinner menu & entertainment schedule. Now, it’s off to the computer guru to recover all my data and rejoin the world of automation.

Have a Great Spring!

THANK YOU ! – Sukie

- LUNCH SPECIALS -
Carry out service is available
11 am – 2 pm

- Hot Dog*
- Hamburger / Cheese Burger
- Chicken Wings
- Pizza
- French Fries
- Chicken Tenders
- Chef Salad

-- Items Available Daily --
 ((other items may be added as warranted))
Enjoy!

Friday Night Entertainment - In the Club

-- MAY --

- 05/01 - Juke Box Night
- 05/08 - Karaoke w/Joe Clay
- 05/15 - Karaoke with Barb
- 05/22 - Karaoke w/Joe Clay
- 05/29 - Karaoke w/ Barb

-- April --

- 06/05 - Juke Box Night
 - 06/12 - Karaoke w/Joe Clay
 - 06/19 - Karaoke with Barb
 - 06/26 - Karaoke w/Joe Clay
- (Suggestions are always Welcome!)*
ENJOY!

- Friday Night Dinner Menu -
...for MAY/JUN 2009
...5:30 – 8:30...

**Our house Steaks are always available!*
**All dinners include: Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Tea (hot/iced), and assorted desserts.*

--- MAY ---

- 05/01 - No Friday Night Dinner
- 05/08 - **Pork Loin** with mango margarita sauce, wild rice pilaf \$11.00
- 05/15 - **Chicken Marengo w/ pasta**, chicken breast in marinara sauce w/ peppers, onions and black olives over pasta \$11.00
- 05/22 - Sorry—**Holiday weekend—No Friday Night Dinner**
- 05/29 - Sorry—**Springfield Days—No Friday Night Dinner**
Hamburger, Hot Dog, much more...Please come out and Enjoy!

--- June ---

- 06/05 - **Italian dinner by JP:** buffet all you can eat \$12.00
- 06/12 - **Beef Stroganoff with egg noodles.** \$11.00
- 06/19 - **Installation dinner—No Friday Night Dinner**
- 06/26 - **Pasta Jambalaya—**Chicken, Ham, Shrimp, sausage w/ penne pasta with tomatoes, peppers and onions served over penne pasta **\$13.00**

--- Steak Features ---

- 6 oz Tender Sirloin (bacon wrapped) \$9.00
- 12oz NY Steak \$12.00

>>> *New Menu Items* <<<<
Kid's Menu (avail to Sr Kids too)

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Hamburger w/ff | \$4.00 | Pizza | \$5.00 |
| Cheese Burger w/ff | \$5.00 | Hot Dog w/ff | \$4.00 |
| Chicken Tenders w/ff | \$4.00 | Wing Dings w/ ff | \$4.00 |

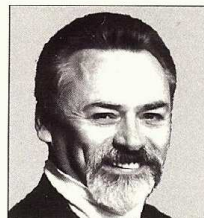
Remember – guest chefs are welcome to share their special menu items!!!
Join in on the fun and dining pleasure....

Enjoy!

If you have suggestions for our dinner selections – please – feel free to share your ideas – Thanks
 – Sukie

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				MAY 2009	1	2
3	4	5 GMM 1930hrs	6 Bridge	7 Cribbage	8 V-E Day Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	9
10 Mothers Day Breakfast 9-11 am	11	12 S.A.L. 7:30pm	13 NARFE 12-3pm	14 Cribbage	15 Karaoke with Barb	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19 EXCOM 1930hrs	20 Bridge	21 Cribbage	22 Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	23
24	25 AL176 & VFW Memorial Day	26	27	28 Cribbage	29 Karaoke with Barb Springfield Days	30 Memorial Day (actual)
31	1 JUNE 2009	2 GMM 7:30pm	3 Bridge	4 Cribbage	5	6 D-Day
7	8	9 S.A.L. 7:30pm	10	11 Cribbage	12 Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	13
14 FLAG DAY Breakfast 9-11 am	15	16	17 Bridge	18 Cribbage	19 Installation & Recognition 1800hrs Karaoke with Barb	20
21 Fathers Day	22	23	24	25 Cribbage	26 Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	27
28	29	30				

Annually the Post holds a banquet to recognize all of the Legion Family members' longevity with Springfield Post 176. Have you been a member for 5, 10, 15, 20, ... etc. consecutive years? If so, would you like to receive an American Legion pin which denotes this milestone? Please plan to attend our Awards and Recognition Night Banquet on June 19, 2009.

Please complete the application below and submit it with your check to the Post. (Note: Continuous Years is indicated on the right side of your membership card) (Auxiliary members will be contacted by the Auxiliary President). Additionally, we invite our Charter and Life Members as well as Past Commanders and Past Presidents to be our guests.

I respectfully request that you notify the Post if you plan to attend and the number of guests that you'll be paying for.

Friday June 19, 2009	
Post 176 Main Ballroom	
Cocktails and Appetizers	6:00 p.m.
Installation Ceremony	6:30 p.m.
Awards & Recognition	7:15 p.m.
Dinner	7:45 p.m.

Price: \$15 per person

MENU
Roast Beef and Chicken

=====

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION NIGHT
(APPLICATION)

I (name) _____
will be attending at a cost of \$15.
I will be bringing _____ guests at \$15 per guest. (includes pin)
My check for \$_____ is enclosed. Please make check payable to Post 176 and mail to:

P.O. Box 689,
Springfield, VA 22153.
Signature _____

Consecutive Years Pin _____

NOMINEES FOR 2009 – 2010 EXECUTIVE Committee (EXCOM)

COMMANDER:
Lew lipscomb
Ray Stone

1st VICE CDR:
Bob Eidsvoog

2nd VICE CDR:
J P Forry
Justine Godell

3rd VICE CDR:
Bob Smith
C Kuemel

Finance Officer:
Bill Hurd
Eugene Biagi

Chaplain:
Charles Buettner

SGT-AT-ARMS:
Savo Micic
Ron Phillips

Committeeman:
Shannon Praylow (Vanwart)
George Tesla



Auxiliary News



President Corner -

By: Jere Vatter, Phone: 703-971-3698

This will be my last newsletter as President, Unit 176 – my tenure will end 30 May when a new President will be installed. It has been my pleasure to serve you and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Attendance at our membership meetings has been less than stellar. With a membership of 272 we could only muster seven or eight members at each meeting, thus some of our Auxiliary programs suffered. We must have better attendance if we are to support our programs.

In spite of this low attendance I would like to recognize the performance of several programs and individuals. First, the VA&R program was a great success. Mary Siwick, Chair, VA&R, spent nearly 1,300 hours crocheting 129 afghans. Mary also obtained new and used clothing, books, etc., valued over \$25,000 for the Veteran Affairs Medical Centers. And don't forget, our young Mabel Sanderson, who served as Unit President 1964-65. Mabel got busy with her sewing machine and made 53 comfort bags for our female veterans. This item was a big hit and the DCVAMC has requested she continue this effort.

Next I want to thank all of the members that made the Children and Youth Program such a success. The parties were terrific, Bob Brown's Puppet Show was, as usual, terrific with the parents of the children enjoying the show as much as the children. In addition, a young girl received winter clothing she desperately needed and the children of St. Jude Hospital were delighted to receive the face cards. Floy, Marty, Mary, and Legionnaires Mike Siwick and Dick Vatter receive my deepest appreciation for their assistance with our programs.

Finally, I would like to thank Vice President Floy Lipscomb for doing a sterling job in membership. Last year, the Unit lost over 40 members for reasons beyond our control. Floy tackled this task and we are now on our way to recovering. Your help is needed. If you haven't paid your 2009 dues, please do so today.

On a happy note, the Unit has selected Floy Lipscomb as our Lady of the Year. She will receive her honors at the Department Convention in July.

One final note, installation of officers will be held

May 30th. Please plan to attend.

I wish you all a healthy, happy, fun filled summer. See you around the Post. Volunteerism is contagious, get contagious – volunteer!

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Floy Lipscomb

703-866-4919

Welcome to our newest members: *Janice McWhorter* and *Cheri Hahn*. We hope you will join us at our monthly meetings at the Post on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM. We hope more of our members will come to the meetings!

Membership renewals have slowed to a snail's pace; at this rate, we will be nowhere near Department's goal of 100% by May 15th. As of this date we have only 80.5% of our membership paid up for 2009, so I'm hoping you will soon send in your renewals for 2009. Keep your membership active, we need all of you. Annual dues are \$20 for seniors and \$10 for juniors. Your help and dues support our programs and our veterans. Pay your dues by check to American Legion Auxiliary Springfield Unit 176, send to 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150

If you can't remember if you renewed, here is a list of those who renewed for last year (2008) but not yet for this year (2009): Rebecca Abel, Ruth Azzara, Beth Babington, Lisa Bache, Kelly Batte, Elaine Baugh, Marsha Belvis, Rita Bourgois, Tracy Camel, Linda Campbell, Neva Cejka, Elaine Chrisley, Carlene Collins, Patricia Cooney, Barbara Divers, Bernice Doerflein, Audrey Dorfman, Mary Embrey, Joyce Engel, Julie Farina, W Ann Gary, Isabel Grummons, Lorri Helberg, Jessica Helberg, Allison Hooper, Tera Jackson, Dona Kessler, Joan Klotz, Paula Lavinder, Shirley Lekang, Sandra Mauro, Elaine, McConnell, Ellen Messing, Barbara Mittelbach, Karen Moore, Barbara Mullen, Stacy O'Donnell, Audrey O'Hara, Ruth Parks, Mollie Perry, Cindy Ramirez, Joyce Rodriguez, M L Shegogue, Mary Steel, Rose Thiebaut, June Thies, Sanaz Vahid, Venoos Vahid, Patricia Westberg, Judith White, Patricia Williams. We hope all of you continue for 2009! If you have transferred, please notify me by e-mail at fal-lml@juno.com or call at 703-866-4919.

Our Poppy Drive is 15-16th May. Sign up sheets are on the board outside of the bar area. Please volunteer for an hour or two to help raise funds for the veterans. We will be at four locations, Springfield, Kingstowne, Huntsman, Cardinal Forest at the Giant and/or Safeway.

Chaplain's Report

By Charlie Buettner

Matthew 5:14 reminds us, "You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

As my year as Chaplain draws to a close, I would like to thank the ExCom and Corporate Board for their time and effort as volunteers, presiding over the wellbeing of this Post. They made the decision to put their light "upon a candlestick" and use their God given talents for the good of the Legion. Unfortunately, this is but a handful of comrades out of sixteen hundred members.

We have some major issues confronting us and our Post that will require your input very soon. Won't you consider marking your calendar and plan to attend the General Membership Meeting on **Tuesday, May 5** beginning at **7:30PM** to vote for the new Post Officers? Do you have some time and talent to donate to help our Post in its outreach programs? Do you have some God given talents that would be helpful in the day to day operation of the facility? As a Legionnaire, will this be the year that you remove your light from under a bushel basket and "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven?"

If you would like to be notified of Comrades who have died or are ill, please call me or put your name on the list posted on the bulletin board.

Ever wonder where your comrades find American Legion information, official caps or other items specifically tailored to the American Legion? The information is available on-line at the American Legion Emblem Sales website www.emblem.legion.org, or you can call 1-888-453-4466 to order a catalog.

RECENTLY DEPARTED NOTICE

Comrade Josephine "Jo" Harbert, a World War 2 veteran and five year member, passed away peacefully with her three daughters by her side. She was 88 years old.

Jo was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois on March 8, 1921. On September 1, 1943, at the age of 22, she enlisted in the Army. After attending Basic Training

at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, she went to Administration School in Rustin, Louisiana. From there, she was assigned to the 6670th WAC HQTRS Company in the Mediterranean Theater during World War 2. She spent time in Algiers, Casablanca and Naples and was rendered 40% disabled as a result of a neck injury.

During her period of enlistment, she received the European/African/Middle East Theater Ribbon with Bronze Battle Star, the WAC Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Plaque with Gold Star and the Good Conduct Ribbon. On October 12, 1945, Sgt Harbert was discharged.

Following her discharge, Jo returned to Chicago where she worked for the Department of the Army and met her future husband, Robert. They were married on February 8, 1947.

The family traveled to many interesting places around the world until Lt Col Harbert retired. From Chicago, they moved to Fort Story, Virginia; Yokohama, Japan; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Bonholder, Germany; Heidelberg, Germany and then in 1965 to the house on Amherst Avenue in Springfield, Virginia.

Jo started and ran her own business out of her house. It was called Harbert's Engraving and was what we know of today as a bridal consultant. She was an avid gardener who took pride in her yard and flowers. She also loved to play bridge and belonged to many groups.

Jo had a stroke in July 2005 and as a result was paralyzed on one side and couldn't walk. Jo had been in and out of rehab before returning home last year. She is survived by her three daughters and their families: Carol Carroll and her husband David who reside in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and their children Amanda Barnes and Austin Carroll; Patricia Brooks and her husband Chip who reside in Alexandria and children Justin Brooks, Kristin Loch head, Tracy Shepherd and Kyle Brooks; Roberta Herman and her husband John who reside in Prattville, Alabama, and their son Lt. Jonathan Herman who is attending the Explosives Ordinance Disposal School at Eglin Air Force Base. Additionally, Jo has 4 great-grandchildren.

Jo was a parishioner at St Bernadette's Catholic Church. An American Legion Memorial Service was conducted on March 15, 2009. Comrade Harbert was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on April 14, 2009.

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-Comrade George J. Novak, jr., a World War 2 veteran and eleven year member, passed away on March 29, 2009 in Port St Lucie, Florida. He was 88 years old. Lt. Novak served as an Army Air Force navigator from October 1942 to November 1945. Based in Morocco, he flew missions over Italy and received the Purple Heart after being shot down over the Mediterranean Sea. He continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves for 10 years.

George worked for Capitol Airlines which became United Airlines as a Ground Service Instructor. He and his wife of 58 years, Margaret, lived in Springfield for 45 years until they moved to Florida four years ago to be close to their sons.

Comrade Novak is survived by 2 sons, Mark and Joseph, their spouses and 3 grandchildren.

-The following comrades passed away recently but we didn't become aware of this information until only recently: Martin Archer, a World War 2 veteran and 18 year member; Richard Baldwin, a Vietnam veteran and 24 year member; Gene Cocke, a Vietnam veteran and 28 year member.

-The father of Comrade Monika Stoy, and her husband Comrade Tim Stoy's father-in-law, passed away on February 3, 2009. Mr. Kyung Jin Choi was born on March 9, 1928 in Korea. During the Korean War, Mr. Choi served with the United States Partisan Unit 8240 from 1950 to 1953. In 1973, Mr. Choi left Korea, moved to the United States and became a proud and loyal American. He instilled in his children the ideals of pride of country, decency, diligence, honesty and the notion that hard work yields its own rewards. In the final months of his life, he recanted stories to Monika that she had never heard which gave her new insight into her father.

In this age of the entitlement mentality, it is easy for our children to think the world owes them something. Do them a favor and spend some time sharing your life story with your children and grandchildren, so they understand that everyday freedoms we enjoy come at a cost. While our Creator has endowed us with unalienable rights like life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it is the individuals responsibility to follow their own quest to attain these goals. Take a few moments and share your quests, both the failures and accomplishments

with your families so they better understand your life and how you made the world a better place for them so they can continue the legacy.

When you see members of our deceased Comrades' family, please extend your condolences to them at this sad time.

SICK CALL

Comrade Joe Finch was absent at the Blood Drive that he organizes and oversees for our Post because of medical testing. Comrade Joe has had his share of tragedies these past few months. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Joe and we ask God to oversee your health concerns.

-Comrade Paul Schwarze had surgery to correct a pinched nerve in his back last month and is up to walking a mile. He will begin therapy soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his wife Ellie as he enters the rehabilitation stage and we hope he can make it to the Post soon.

-Comrade Joseph Murphy, a World War 2 veteran, is suffering from hydrocephalus. He is unable to walk but is able to eat and recognize his family. He tires easily and spends a lot of time in bed. He likes to have Scripture read to him. If you have a few minutes to visit, Comrade Murphy, please do so at the Sunrise Nursing Home on Holland Road, next to the Mount Vernon Hospital off Route 1.

-Comrade Paul Sureff, a World War 2 veteran, is very ill at home and receiving dialysis on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. He is under the care of Hospice but still, with the help of his longtime partner Diane, cares for his grandchild a few times a week. Paul and Diane can use your prayers and visits.

-Sons of the American Legion Chaplain, Art Childers, has been going through a rough time with a number of ailments. He was hospitalized for a week in early April. His wife reported that Art was still weak but improving steadily. Our prayers are with you Art for a steady recovery.

-Kay Byrd, wife of Comrade Malcolm Byrd, was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer. Kay, Malcolm and their family can use our prayers at this critical time.

I want to let you know that our Comrades are appre-

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

ciative of the cards they received and our prayers. I encourage you to pick up the phone and give them a call to see if there is anything they need.

Please remember to pray for our sick and deceased Comrades, Veterans, Military personnel and their families. I also ask that you continue to pray for the safe return of the following individuals from our post that are deployed or will be deployed: SGM Richard Magnum and Lt. Col. Dale Benedict, who are on deployment. Continue to petition the Lord to intervene in their world to keep them safe, successful in their mission and bring them spiritual peace.

May 30th is Memorial Day, a day that the Nation has set aside to remember our comrades who have laid down their lives in the service of our Country, from the days of the Revolutionary War to the present. May they rest in peace and may we never fail to remember the awesome cost paid for the freedom that we enjoy. I hope that you can join us for our annual Memorial Day Remembrance service at the Post on that day.

"It is good for us to have sometimes troubles and adversities: for they make a man enter into himself, that he may know that he is in a state of banishment, and may not place his hopes in anything of this world. It is good that we sometimes suffer contradictions and that men have an evil or imperfect opinion of us when we do and intend well. These things are often helps to humility and defend us from vainglory. For then we better run to God, our inward witness, when outwardly we are despised by men and little credit is given to us."

It has been my pleasure to serve you as Chaplain this past year. I thank you for your encouraging words. Please feel free to contact me if you or someone from our Legion family is ill. 703-455-5067.

For God and Country
Charlie Buettner

FOR YOUR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Lee District Nights, Summer 2009 Concerts will again be held at the Lee District Park Amphitheater every Wednesday beginning 3 June and continuing thru 26 August at 7:30 p.m.

June:

- 3 The U.S. Navy Band 'Cruisers'**
- 10 Chinese Dance and Music**
- 17 Bill Emerson and Sweet Dixie (Traditional Bluegrass)**
- 24 The U.S. Navy Band Country Courant (Bluegrass)**

July:

- 1 Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys (Delta Blues)**
- 8 King Teddy (Swing)**
- 15 The Alexandria Klezmer (Klezmer)**
- 22 The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Summer Band (Classic)**
- 29 The Nighthawks (Rockabilly)**

August:

- 5 The United States Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble" (Jazz)**
- 12 Pietasters (Ska)**
- 19 John McCutcheon (Folk)**
- 26 The Irish Breakfast Band (Irish)**

CORPORATE BOARD REPORT: A FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

COMRADES, this will be the last article written by me as the President of our Corporate Board. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the state of business affairs when I was elected to be board president in June of 2006 and where we stand today as I leave office this June. 2006 proved to be a year of crisis in our post; through our external audit we discovered that our worst fear of miss management was, in fact, a reality. Our Commander resigned and later was removed from our post. There were no financial or management records. In short, the entire management system had to be built from scratch.

Today, 3 years later I can report to you that we have restored all financial accounting and invoicing, we look forward to an audit that will complete the recommendations made from Goodman and Assoc, the auditing firm. We stopped all the midnight parties that only served to run our property down. We restored affordable services to our veterans and brought back dinners and lounge services that have brought back members who had stopped coming into our post. We made many long neglected building and ground repairs, many of them were of an emergency nature because of the state of disrepair that existed.

All of this was accomplished as a result of the hard work of people in this post. At this time, I would like to acknowledge and thank some of the key people who turned this post around. I wish to thank Pat Peterson and Ray Stone who were my inspiration to serve as an officer of this post. They were the genesis of the business reform efforts. A person who will always have a special place in the history of this post is the man who stood with me with character and integrity, our current Legionnaire of the Year, Rich Tiner. Rich passed away this past November, but so much of his work lives on today in our post. We could never have been successful without Rich. We all miss him. I would be remiss not to mention some of my fellow directors over the past three years, Dennis Stokowski, Bob Cable, and Pat Peterson. They exhibited sound judgment at all times for our post.

I wish to thank every person who made the commitment and had the courage to serve as an officer in all three of our post family organizations. I know how challenging it can be to take on a leadership position.

There are two people in particular that have earned my highest respect and have been indispensable in the running of this post, our General Manager Sukie Knarr and our Commander Lew Lipscomb. Sukie Knarr took the General Manager's job knowing that she would have to totally rebuild our financial reporting system and at the same time establish affordable services to our members with little staff support. She has been absolutely tireless in her efforts to provide the best for our members. She has been very efficient with our money and has cut costs in almost every category. She cares so much for the people of this post. Finally, a special thanks for Commander Lew Lipscomb. This post was in a leadership crisis as a result of our previous three commanders, when no one else would step up and provide the leadership we needed to get our

programs going again, Lew did! He has led the Excom and has been of great service to our board, and has brought dignity and credibility back to the Commanders position in this post. I have worked closely with our commander the past several years and admire his commitment to the ideals of the American Legion. This June all of us will be making a decision on what may be the biggest vote in the history of this post. We are in a unique position to eliminate all debts on this post even though we are in bad economic times. I believe that by accepting this offer, this post will be poised to take its place as the premier post in America. When our money problems are solved, everyone will rally together. We are close to total financial freedom. It is your vote that will make it a reality. For me, the past three years have been challenging, intense, fun and interesting. I wish you all the best!

Rod Carlone, Corporate board President

9 JUNE 2009 SPECIAL MEETING INFORMATION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPRINGFIELD PLANNED RE-DEVELOPMENT, MONUMENT REALTY HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING OFFER OF LAND PURCHASE TO OUR POST:

OFFER TO PURCHASE A MAXIMUM OF 92,000 SQ FT: THIS LAND INCLUDES A PORTION OF CURRENT PARKING LOT, BUFFER ZONE AND UNUSED GRASS LAND. THE POST BUILDING FACILITY, FLAG GROUND LAND, AND REQUIRED PARKING WILL BE RETAINED BY OUR POST.

PRICE OFFER: 3,708,120 DOLLARS BASED ON NEW REZONING, MINUS COVERED PARKING COST OF 800,000DOLLARS; YIELD WILL BE 2,908,120.

MINIMUM PRICE OFFER: WITHOUT NEW REZONING, 2,750,000 DOLLARS IS MINIMUM SALES PRICE FOR THIS LAND.

CURRENT APPRAISED VALUE OF LAND TO BE PURCHASED: 1,390,545 DOLLARS

FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- 1. PAY OFF 500,000 DOLLAR MORTGAGE BALLOON PAYMENT DUE 1 JAN 2010**
- 2. REPAIR AND REMODEL POST BUILDING FACILITY, EST. COST 200,000 DOLLARS**
- 3. ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND FOR FUTURE POST PROGRAMS AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

A FULL BRIEF WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED WILL BE PRESENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.

The American Legion
Springfield Post 176
P.O. Box 689
Springfield, VA 22150

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MAY/JUN 2009

KEY DATES IN MAY and JUNE

MAY

1 - Law Day
7 - Unconditional surrender of All German Forces (1945)
8 - V-E Day Declared (1945) / Military Spouses Day
10 - Mothers Day
15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day (US Flag at half staff)
16 - Armed Forces Day
22 - National Maritime Day
25 - Memorial Day (observed) (US Flag at half staff)
30 - Memorial Day (actual)

JUNE

6 - D-Day: Allied Invasion
14 - Flag Day / Army Birthday (1775)
21 - Fathers Day / Summer Begins
22 - Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress
GI Bill Signed in Law (1944)
25 - Korean War Began (1950)

Please forward any address change to the Legion. Returned copies cost the Post full Postage. If you do not wish to receive POST SCRIPTS, or you leave mail at the Post Office, it will be returned to us at full Postage cost.

Our address is 6520 Amherst Ave., PO Box 689, Springfield, VA 22150; Tel. (703)440-0335 The Post website is www.vapost176.org. The Post email address is vapost176@cox.net.