



Post Scripts

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

Volume 54, Issue 4

JUL AUG 2009

Commander's Call

Comrades, Ladies and Sons,

24 June 2009

May and June were awfully busy months, but within this Commander's Call I am just going to cover the major activities and accomplishments. On 5 May at our General Membership Meeting we had 103 members in attendance to elect the Post officers for the 2009 – 2010 American Legion Year. With the exception of one office, the Nominating Committee's slate was elected. Please see the list of 2009 – 2010 Post officers elsewhere in this issue.

On Memorial Day, observed the 25th, Post 176 and VFW Post 7327 held our joint service to honor all who made the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's Wars and conflicts. Our VFW comrades hosted and served an excellent meal to all in attendance. Kevin Hymel, a historian gave an excellent and interesting talk about a WWII soldier's release from active duty following the end of the war.

On 2 June at the General Membership Meeting, the Post witnessed another large crowd to hear the Corporation Board's last briefing regarding our negotiations with Monument Realty to sell a portion of the parking lot and be a part of the redevelopment of Springfield. It was at this meeting that I witnessed for the first time in my American Legion career the invocation of Robert's Rules to eject a member from the meeting (motion, a second and a majority vote from the membership). If we do not get more civility and decorum during meetings more ejections will occur in the future.

On 4 June, 98 members attended the Special Meeting to vote on the Engagement/LOI with Monument Realty. The vote was 60 to 38 or 6 votes short of the required two-thirds majority. It is in the best interest of the Post to continue to negotiate with Monument Realty regarding the amount of land they desire to purchase. These three meetings showed me that we have a large group who'll attend meetings when we need them to, so I have hope that if we do not tolerate the antics of our vocal minority and get decorum back in the meetings, we can regain the membership's attendance at our monthly meetings.

May and June found the Post heavily involved in getting the American Legion Baseball and the Boys' State programs running. Al Vaxmonsky, our baseball coach for years, took care of that program as he has so ably done in the past. Thank you again, Al! With Eddie Dentz passing in December a huge void was left to fill in the Boys' State Program. Since no one volunteered to fill Eddie's huge shoes, I did the work required. From our four local high schools - Edison, Lake Braddock, Lee and West Springfield - the counselors and I had 24 rising seniors selected as primary and alternate candidates. Fifteen of these young men knew in early May that they would attend Boys' State at Liberty University 21 - 27 June. But from mid May until after three bus loads carrying 112 boys departed for Lynchburg on Sunday morning, the 21st, I was finding space for our nine alternates. All but two of the alternates were advised prior to 12 June that they too were going to attend. When the buses departed Post 177 in Fairfax there were six "no shows" - none from Post 176 but from other Posts in 17th District. I immediately got on the phone and got permission to send our last two alternates at the "twelfth" hour to Lynchburg. One of the two boys was thrilled to get to go even if his family had to take him down to Lynchburg. The other alternate had already committed to something else so he declined to go, but all 24 of our boys were given the opportunity! Over May and into June criticism got back to me that we shouldn't spend the money to allow young men to play baseball and attend Boys' State while the economy experienced a recession and Post revenues were down. Without generous donations from local civic and service organizations and donations from members of the Post, we may have been caught short to "foot" the \$12K needed for these programs. We have ten months now to come up with how we'll fund American Legion Baseball and Boys' State next April and May. These two programs and many others are the reasons our founding servicemen organized this great institution and they are the lifeblood of The American Legion. We will continue to operate under the philosophy of "where there's a will, there's a way" when it comes to our programs!

On 14 June the S.A.L. and Boy Scout Troop 1344 honored the Army's Birthday and Flag Day by conducting a Flag Retirement Ceremony (erroneously referred to as Flag Destruction at times) in the Post parking lot. Thanks to Scout

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The American Legion Post 176 Officers

Commander.....	Lew Lipscomb	703-866-4919
1st Vice.....	Bob Eidsvoog	
2nd Vice.....	JP Forry	571-332-7323
3rd Vice.....	Bob Smith	703-314-5080
Finance Officer.....	Gene Biagi	
Chaplain.....	Charlie Buettner	703-868-0580 (c)
Sgt-At-Arms.....	Savo Micic	
Adjutant.....	VACANT	
Judge Advocate.....	Bill Hurd	703-455-7231
Service Officer.....	Ali Nikolai	301-266-4933
Historian.....	Darrel Khan	703-978-8153
Committeeman 1yr.....	Ken Hanson	703-971-4040
Committeeman 2yr.....	Vacant	
Committeeman 3yr.....	Shannon Vanwart	703-864-4758

Corporate Board

Member 1yr.....	Vacant	
Member 2yr.(President).....	Bob Cable	703-944-1333
Member 3yr.....	Stu Bailey	
Secretary.....	Brad Gagnon	

Squadron 176 Officers

Commander.....	Ted Byers	703-256-2276
1ST Vice Commander.....	Tim Dioquino	703-644-0184
2ND Vice Commander	Gary Wotring	
Chaplain.....	Art Childers	703-560-5416
Adjutant.....	Chip Byers	703-256-2276
Sgt-At-Arms.....	Bill Chapman	
Finance Officer.....	Bill Swaner	
Membership.....	Terry Breyman	703-644-1179

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

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

IAW the C&BL, dated Feb 2002, Article IX, Section 2 a twenty-day (20) notice is hereby given to the membership that an election to fill the Committeeman position will be conducted on 4 August 2009 at the 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

IAW the C&BL, dated Feb 2002, Article IX, Section 2 a twenty-day (20) notice is hereby given to the membership that elections to fill the Corporate Board Director position will be conducted on 4 August 2009 at the 7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting.

Blood Drive Results

Greetings to all: We had a good drive on the 16th of June. We collected 33 good units of blood. We had 55 appointments and 39 donors signed in. We lost 6 donors mainly to low iron test results. Overall, 33 units is great and I want to thank everyone who came in and gave the gift of life. Thank you all for your support.

The ARC Team did well and things moved along real good. We will make every effort to maintain control throughout the drive to prevent over crowding, especially at the start of the drive. The important point is to keep your appointed time and NOT just all walk in at the start. I want to welcome Ms. Sharon Masek and Mr Dave Pell to the Support Team and Thank you both for your support. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Leslie Gallagher won the Dinner for Two drawing that we held at the end of the Blood Drive. CONGRATULATIONS. I will send you an email explaining the program.

Our next drive is scheduled for 18 August 2009. I inadvertently cited the 16th on the sign up sheet. Please check your calendar and circle the 18th of August. Thank you very much for a great drive and for your support.

Joe Finch

JON MICHAEL SIWIK “MIKE”

It is our sad duty to report that on June 5, 2009, Executive Committeeman Mike Siwik was called from our midst, and has gone to report to the Commander of us all.

Born January 6, 1944, in Rutherfordton, NC, the son of Post 176 Legionnaire Edmund Jon Siwik and the late Margaret (Trexler) Siwik. Mike's childhood was spent as the son of a military officer.

Mike received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina in 1965 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Three weeks after accepting his commission he was called to active duty.

On his first active duty assignment and not knowing any of the staff he was told to have a report typed. Mike, as only Mike could do it, ran down the hall requesting help. Soon a lady named Mary offered to help. He told her he would Love her forever and ever – and he did, she became his wife.

He spent the next eleven years on active duty, including three tours of duty in Thailand during the Viet Nam war where he was awarded three Purple Hearts. Mike transferred to the Air Force Reserve retiring in 1985.

During Mike's distinguished military career, in addition to 3 Purple Hearts, he earned 2 Bronze Star Medals, one with Oak Leaf Cluster for SOG Vietnam Ops, The Air Force Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, The Air Force Outstanding Unit Citation Award with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and numerous campaign medals.

After leaving active duty, Mike worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency until finally retiring in 1994 and devoting his retirement years volunteering in community projects and assisting disabled veterans.

Mike was a nine-year member of Springfield American Legion Post 176 where he served as a member of the Executive Board. He was active in the VA&R program and the Children and Youth Program.

Mike loved children. He especially loved playing Santa Claus, which prompted his daughter, Missy, to say, “He loved playing Santa Claus, regardless of the season.” Mike treated the back-to-school drive, where we provided school supplies to four local schools as if it were Christmas in September.

Because of his interest in assisting the veteran programs and the children and youth program, Mike was awarded an Honorary Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary, Springfield Unit 176.

He was a member of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (40 & 8).

In addition to his Father, Edmund Jon Siwik, he is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary A Siwik; his daughters Missy Siwik and her husband, Hazem Arafa and Tanya Siwik; and son Jon Thomas Siwik and his wife, Martha; brother Franklin Alexander Siwik; and grandchildren Vera, Karina, Mirette, Brendan, Shane and Adam.

And now Mike's wars are done. His life is complete. The son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, soldier, Legionnaire and friend, has taken his leave. Mike Siwik fought for peace, lived in peace and now is at peace. The eerie silence we cannot hear is the sound of emptiness. The Good Soldier has gone home.

Let's lift our cups of Mickey D coke and drink to Mike - we salute you. Farewell, to our friend, Legionnaire and comrade.

(Compiled by Past Commander Dick Vatter)



(Continued from page 1)

Master Tim Dioquino and the four troop members for an outstanding ceremony.

On 16 June we had our bimonthly blood drive and collected 36 good units of blood. Joe Finch, our coordinator for a number of years, again organized it superbly. I was in and out in less than an hour and I get no special treatment. Our next drive is 18 August from 1:30 – 7 p.m. Make an appointment with Joe by calling 703.569.1552 or emailing him at seppi1552@aol.com. If you've been to one of the many prohibited countries or have medical issues that prevent your participation, pass the word to a friend or neighbor-maybe they'll contribute.

On the 19th of June we held our Installation and Awards and Recognition Night. New officers of our family's organization were installed for the 2009 – 2010 Year. The installations were followed by recognizing members who had earned pins for their longevity in the organization. Key were the Legion's fifty year pin awarded to Ralph Nichols. Additionally Ralph was named Historian Emeritus for his decades of work as the 17th District and Springfield Post 176 Historian. It was good to meet a large number of Ralph and Clara's family at the event. Clara received her 35 year pin from the Auxiliary also. The S.A.L. awarded Les Grizzard its' Monahan Plaque for his community service and the Legion awarded him an Honorary Life Membership for his volunteer time spent at the DCVAMC. The highlight of the evening was presenting The Legionnaire of the Year Award to Joseph A. Finch for his consistently outstanding work on the Post's Blood Drive and his volunteerism with Bingo. Steve Moore prepared a delicious meal for the occasion. I appreciate all of the work performed by many of you to help the event be a huge success.

Coming up in July will be the 4th of July or Independence Day Ceremony at 1130 hours under the Flags on the Ceremonial Grounds (indoors if inclement weather). Then we will enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers in the lounge. Please feel free to bring salads and/or desserts. And the Sunday breakfast will be held from 9 – 11 a.m. on 12 July. In August our monthly breakfast is on the ninth from 9 – 11 a.m. and the Annual Veterans Bridge Walk (from Kinko's to the Post Home) will be on the 25th of the month. We'll gather in front of Kinko's about 6:30 p.m. Perhaps in August but more likely in September, we'll have a joint picnic with our VFW friends. Please watch your emails and for flyers on the subject.

America's servicemen and women continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and face dangers everyday so please daily keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

For God and Country,

**Lewis M. "Lew" Lipscomb
Commander**

Subject: Cremation Rules for Virginia

In response to questions concerning burials in Arlington National Cemetery, Mike Siwik contributed the following information on cremation rules for Virginia:

If there is a surviving spouse, that spouse can elect to have the deceased either interred or cremated.

If there is no surviving spouse, then "all" children of the deceased must agree to any cremation. This requires a separate notarized document (usually provided by the funeral home) signed and witnessed for each child over the age of 18. This may cause delays in cremation burials if the children are scattered all over the country/ world.

If any child objects to such a cremation, then by Virginia statutes, the deceased must be buried in a traditional manner (Some special religious provisions are exempted – ask the local minister/priest, rabbi, or abbot for particulars).

It is strongly suggested that if you are in the situation of being the surviving parent, following burial of the deceased, you should designate one of children/siblings to obtain these authorized permission forms and have them signed, witnessed, and notarized in advance of any attempted cremation by all surviving children (over 18 years).

NOTE: A notarized document, as described above, is good forever, unless it is specifically rescinded.

Ali Nikolai, Service Officer, Springfield Post 176

About Heart Attacks

There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides the pain on the left arm.

One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these symptoms may also occur less frequently.

Note: There may be no pain in the chest during a heart attack: could be in the shoulder, neck, jaw.

The majority of people (about 60%) who had an heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep.

If that happens, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards

- phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by
- say "heart attack!"
- say that you have taken 2 aspirins.
- take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival
- and....
- ~ do NOT lie down ~



Sons of The American Legion

Commander: Ted Byers

Meetings: As is our usual practice, the Sons will not meet in July or August. Our next regular meeting will be on September 8th at 7:30 PM. Please plan on joining us as we begin the "new year."

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

Calling all Younger Sons: Our new 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. Also, we will be going through our records to "find" our younger members and possible members. So, don't be surprised if you get a note or e-mail from the squadron. "The Sons want you!!"

2010 Membership: Our 2010 Membership cards have arrived. If anyone wants to be among the "really early birds" then just send in your dues. They remain \$25.00 for regular members, \$10.00 for Junior members (up to age 18) and \$15.00 for Legion/Sons dual members.

Thank You Scouts!: We want to express the gratitude of the entire squadron to our Boy Scouts. They did a fantastic job at the Flag Retirement ceremony on Flag Day. Also, they have been helping around the post at the Monthly breakfasts and cleaning up around the post. It is wonderful to have such reliable VOLUNTEERS who are a fantastic asset to the Post.

Commander's Comments: It is said: "You can't go home again." Yes, you can! I recently returned to my home town in the much maligned (by the quasi-intellectuals) area of Appalachia. The experience was wonderful an example of which was the Memorial Day service held by the local Legion Post and the Legion Sponsored Boy Scout Troop. The service was reverent and respectful with appropriate remarks, rifle squad salute and taps echoing across the hills. Patriotism and love of our country is still alive in Appalachia, rivaling anything seen or heard in the metropolitan area. One special memory is what happened when the Flag kept blowing over (there was not enough sand in the base). Finally, a young scout came up and held onto the flagpole through the entire ceremony. He had a big grin on his face! Once again, the Scouts come through to "help" the Legion!!

(I should note that I had served many years ago as both Post Commander of that post and as Scoutmaster, so it was a "double pleasure" to be able to participate in their Memorial Day events.)

Upcoming event:

The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Virginia (Northern Region) are once again co-sponsors of a program to allow the attendance of wounded veterans from Walter Reed at a performance at the Kennedy Center. This performance consists of Traditional Chinese Music, Dance and Drama. It will be held at the Kennedy Center August 26th. When we co-sponsored this event in the Spring, we were able to bring in over 50 wounded soldiers (and airmen) along with some members of their families.

As a co-sponsor of this event, the Sons have been given a special opportunity. We will receive a portion of the revenues of any ticket sales for the entire "run" of the show which are made by our members and friends.

Performance Information is Below: When you call or go online, just type in the code "Legion" in the promotions box and the Sons will get "credit." It is the intention for any funds received to be donated to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Thank you,

Chip Byers, Squadron 176 and Vice-Commander Northern Region, Detachment of Virginia, Sons of the American Legion

For More information: <http://www.divineshows.com/dc> August 26-30, 2009 Kennedy Center Opera House With live orchestra!

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

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

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

Friday Night Entertainment - In the Club
Karaoke

- 07/03/09 **Juke Box Nite**
- 07/10/09 **Karaoke w/Joe Clay**
- 07/17/09 **Karaoke w/Babs**
- 07/24/09 **Karaoke w/Joe Clay**
- 07/31/09 **Karaoke w/Babs**

- Friday Night Dinner Menu -
...for JUL/AUG 2009
...5:30 – 8:30...

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

- July 3 Holiday – No Dinner
 - July 10 Talapia-\$10.00 ,4 shrimp & Steak-\$14.00,4 shrimp & fish-\$12.00, 8 shrimp-&10.00 , with FF or Baked Veggie.
 - July 17 Dodies Country Style BBQ Ribs-Baked Potato/Veggie-\$12.00.
 - July 24 Chicken Dijon/Rice-Green Beans.
 - July 31 Pasta Nite-Rigatoni w/Marinara Sauce.
 - Aug 7 Beef tips over pasta-veggie \$12.00.
 - Aug 14 Ham Steak Scalloped or Baked- veggie \$12.00.
 - Aug 21 Glazed Pork Loinmashed or baked-veggie-\$12.00.
 - Aug 28 Pot Roast w/carrots & potatoes-\$12.00.
- Steak any Friday
 12oz NY strip-\$12.00
 6oz Filet-\$9.00



National Capital Flag Co., Inc
 100 SOUTH QUAKER LANE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 1-800-368-3524 or 703-751-2411 F: 703-751-4874





www.saffordauto.com

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)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		JUL	1 Bridge	2 Cribbage	3	4
5	6	7 GMM 7:30pm	8	9 Cribbage	10 Karaoke w/Joe Clay	11
12 Breakfast 9-11 am	13	14	15 Bridge	16 Cribbage	17 Karaoke w/ Babs	18
19	20	21	22	23 Cribbage	24 Karaoke w/Joe Clay	25
26	27	28 EXCOM	29	30 Cribbage	31 Karaoke w/ Babs	1 AUG
2	3	4 GMM 7:30pm	5 Bridge	6 Cribbage	7	8
9 Breakfast 9-11 am	10	11	12	13 Cribbage	14 Karaoke w/Joe Clay	15
16	17	18 EXCOM	19 Bridge	20 Cribbage	21 Karaoke w/Babs	22
23	24	25 Bridge walk	26	27 Cribbage	28 Karaoke w/Joe Clay	29
30	31					



Auxiliary News



Final Comments from Past President Jere Vatter, 703-971-3698

I would like to say a few words about some special Auxiliary members. The past several years have been a trying time for our Auxiliary Unit. Because of preconceived ideas about the status of our Post Home, many members have transferred to other Units, while other members have simply stopped coming to our meetings. But, in spite of this, a group of dedicated members have stood fast and attended our meetings and supported our Auxiliary Programs. These members are: Vice President Floy Lipscomb, Treasurer Coleen Austin, Historian Mabel Sanderson, Chaplain Marty McGrail, Sgt-at-Arms Rabelleh Fazollah, Secretary Debbie Weimer, and VA&R Chairwoman Mary Siwick and they were the backbone of our organization this year. It was my privilege to present each of them with a Certification of Appreciation.

A Special Thank-you goes out to the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons members that assisted in the Poppy program especially Auxiliary member Marge Harralson and Sons member Timothy Diquino. They were presented a certificate that reads, "In recognition of your outstanding support of the American Legion Auxil-

iary Poppy Program on behalf of America's veterans." Marge served as the Poppy Chairman. Tim and Boys Scout Troop 1344 worked an entire day and collected over \$500.00 in donations. To each and every scout that worked that day, Thank-You.

At the May 2009 membership meeting, we voted that an Honorary Membership in Unit 176 should be given to Legionnaire Mike Siwik for his work in behalf of the Auxiliary. Mike was instrumental in organizing the Children Parties, including playing Santa Claus; organized the back to school supplies drive collecting over \$4,000.00 worth of supplies; and assisted in collecting items for the Washington, DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Mike was made aware of his selection but unfortunately Mike passed away before we could present him with his certificate and an Auxiliary pin. Mike's wife, Mary, accepted these items at our Installation.

Mrs Patricia Knight, National Committeewoman from Virginia and the leading contender for Southwestern Division National Vice President performed our installation of new officers. Mrs. Martha Hatter, 17th District President and Mrs Janet Reneer

My best wishes to our new President, Floy Lipscomb, and the new slate of officers for Auxiliary year 2009-2010. Remember, we must have "HOPE" (Honoring Our Promises Everyday).

FOR YOUR SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Priority 8 Enrollment Update: VA changed enrollment eligibility rules on June 15 to make it easier for more veterans to enroll in VA's health care system. Under this new provision, they expect about 266,000 more veterans to enroll this year and possibly 500,000 in the next four years. VA relaxed income restrictions on enrollment for health benefits. While this new provision does not remove consideration of income, it does increase income thresholds. A web-based calculator is available for veterans to enter personal data at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator/>. Veterans may also contact VA's health resource center at 1-877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility website at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>

Chaplain's Report

By Charlie Buettner

In Sirach 25:1, the ancient sage tells us, "With three things I am delighted, for they are pleasing to the LORD and to men: Harmony among brethren, friendship among neighbors, and the mutual love of husband and wife."

As the new year begins for our Post, we are faced with many challenges in keeping our facility and programs running. Our Post is more than just a lounge. It is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization formed to honor our comrades past and present deeds, celebrate our common bond of service to our Country and to help our community. Post 176 will not be able to move forward to accomplish great things unless we stop attacking each other and look for ways to establish Harmony and Friendship among us. I pray that each of you takes some time to search your soul and find a way to become "part of the solution."

In the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to present a Memorial Day and Flag Day program at my grandson's school. I always learn something when I assemble my materials to present. My biggest satisfaction came when I discovered that the children knew all about how we remember our fallen comrades and Old Glory. The children demonstrated how to salute the Flag and recited The Pledge of Allegiance. How refreshing to see that patriotism is still alive and well in our public school system.

While we are on the topic of uplifting thoughts, we celebrated the birth of two grandchildren this past month, Rebecca and Camryn.

At a previous General Membership Meeting, our membership expressed outrage at how the remains of our comrades were being handled before burial by Service Corporation International (SCI). A letter has been sent to the Ms. Hahn, Virginia Director of Embalmers and Funeral Homes with a copy to Senators' Webb, Warner and Delegate Albo expressing our concerns and request for information concerning the progress of the case. We will update you when we receive a response from Ms. Hahn.

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.

Please come to our monthly General Membership Meetings where you will be able to hear about our programs and where we need some help. If you are wondering about Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, check out this very informative website that provides four fundamental principles of common sense that help people make group decisions after a full, fair and free discussion.

www.wonderwheellaw.com/4rules.htm

RECENTLY DEPARTED NOTICE

- **Comrade Norman A. Hicks**, a retired Colonel and 17 year member of our Post, died at his residence in Massachusetts on March 26, 2009, following a courageous battle with ALS Disease. He is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 46 years, his daughters Susan Memoli and Heather DeMasi, their husbands and four grandchildren. A private family interment was held at Arlington National Cemetery.

- **Comrade George Fletcher**, a World War 2 veteran and 51 year member, died May 25, 2009 of heart failure. He was 92 years old.

George grew up in Ohio. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he moved to the Washington, DC area and took a job at the Belle Vue Gun Factory near Bowling AFB. He was drafted in 1945 and enlisted in the Navy as a Seabee. He received his training in Davidsonville, Rhode Island and was deployed to the island of Guam. He received the Victory Medal, Asiatic/Pacific Area Campaign Medal and the American Area Campaign Medal.

George returned from Guam and worked at the Washington Navy Yard Gun Factory as a Machinist Mate First Class until he was discharged. George spent his entire professional career working for the Department of the Navy as a civilian. When he retired in 1975, he was the Avionics Procurement Service Officer.

George is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dawn, their daughter Sandy, 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Comrade Fletcher's ashes will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on July 8, 2009 at 1PM. All guests are asked to meet at the Administration Building.

- **Comrade and 2nd Year Committeeman, Jon "Big Mike" Siwik** was assembled for his final roll-call on June 5, 2009. Mike was a Vietnam/SEA Veteran who had courageously fought for and earned an impressive collection of medals in service to his Country and comrades. An American Legion service was conducted by Chaplain Maudie Price and me on June 9, 2009. The Jefferson Funeral Chapel was packed with friends who came to say farewell. Since Comrade Dick Vatter has prepared an entry for the Post Scripts, I will limit my remarks.

Mike was a member of the American Legion for a number of years. About 7 years ago he became active with VA and R as well as helping with the Children and Youth Programs. Mike enjoyed and was dedicated to the programs that the American Legion sponsored and supported. He was also a member and officer of the 40 and 8.

While I have only known Comrade Siwik for a little over a year, I have enjoyed his welcoming way and genuine concern for his fellow man. You didn't have to worry about keeping up the conversation because whether he was in bed recuperating, at the Post lounge, at Post meetings or at the Post Scripts

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“putemtogether” meetings, he could keep everyone entertained with jokes and stories. He believed in Americanism and the values that The American Legion espoused. He didn't ask for money for his programs, he went out and got people to donate or it came out of his pocket. In the last year, I have been the recipient of a free oil change and a Dunkin Donut/box of Joe prize as part of Mike's fund raising schemes.

Mike was the Post's 2nd Year Committeeman for the past year. Mike was a master in quickly summarizing the problem, providing insight to problems and providing the rationale for studying problems in a businesslike fashion. He was a selfless comrade and a people person who was always concerned for everyone else's welfare.

Last fall, Comrade Mike suggested that after the ExCom meetings, we should all go to Kate's for some bonding time. I'm sorry I didn't take that opportunity to get to know Mike better. He was a fine man that we could all learn from and we will all surely miss him. As the Bible tells us, the most important virtues are faith, hope and love. Mike exemplified Love for Country and charity towards his fellow man. May we all take the opportunity to follow Comrade Siwik's lead and extend charity towards one another. It is our neighbors and friends that will be there for us in our time of need.

- **Comrade Louie S. Ramey**, a World War 2 veteran and American Legion Life Member, died on June 5, 2009, at the age of 89. Louie was buried on June 20, 2009 at the Baltimore National Cemetery with full military honors.

Comrade Ramey was a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy in New London, Connecticut and served in the Merchant Marines before and after World War 2. On December 7, 1941, Louie answered his country's call and entered the Coast Guard. He traded in his sextant to learn radar. He graduated September 18, 1942, from the US Maritime Service Training Station at Fort Trumble in the third class of perspective licensed officers.

Third Officer Ramey traveled the seven seas and received numerous decorations. He received the Atlantic War Zone Bar, the Pacific War Zone Bar, the Mediterranean/Middle East Zone Bar, the Combat Bar with Stars, the Defense Bar (1938 – 1941), and the Vietnam Service Bar. As of September 2004, he still qualified as “Third Officer of steam or motor vessels of any gross tons of any vessels.”

Comrade Louie lived in Springfield, Va. from 1960 until 1981. His port of call for most of his life was Baltimore and the family moved there in 1981. Louie's wife, June Lillian Ramey, passed on in 1982. Comrade Ramey is survived by his son, Robert S. Ramey and daughters Susan Skipper, Cynthia Romagnolo and Yvonne Brustein, eight grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Comrade Ramey's daughter, Yvonne, shared with me that her dad would recant stories of his war experiences from time to

time. Yvonne and her siblings just thought these stories were the ramblings of an old sailor until they happened upon his military service collection of decorations and papers. Please continue your legacy as a veteran and share your experiences with your family before it's too late.

Comrade Iver Lund, a World War 2 veteran and member of a New Hampshire Post, was laid to rest at Quantico on June 22, 2009. At the family's request for American Legion help in Virginia, Commander Lipscomb answered the call and conducted graveside prayers for our comrade in arms.

Dorothy Marsh, mother of Comrade Sam Marsh, passed away on May 28, 2009.

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

SICK CALL

- **Comrade Doris Cortez**, Legionnaire of the Year, active Post member, and vigorous supporter of the Post's programs and Grande Dame of our Post has been diagnosed with a very serious malignancy. Please give Doris a call to let her know that you are there to help her when needed. Would you please say a prayer for her recovery every day as well?

- **Past Commander Dick Vatter** was hospitalized with heart problems earlier this month. He has recovered and is back in action. Dick, we pray for your continued improvement.

- **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.

- **Comrade Benny Proffit** was hospitalized at the end of May for triple heart bypass surgery. He returned home around June 2, 2009. He is recuperating at home.

- **Comrade Harlin Matkins** was diagnosed with kidney cancer and was not doing well. He shared with me that knowing we were praying for him gave him a sense of peace when he was about to have his kidney removed. He now feels a lot better since his surgery and his prognosis is good. He reiterated his thanks for our thoughts and prayers for him. Harlin, we pray that you can get back to bowling soon.

- **Comrade Angelo Anelli** had surgery in mid-May. He was in

(Continued on page 11)

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and out of the hospital following the surgery and it has been quite an ordeal for him. He can use our prayers for his continued progress.

- **Comrade Bill Hafer** had hernia surgery in mid-May. Bill reports that he is doing pretty good and was actually cutting his hedge this week. Our prayers are with you and your wife for a rapid recovery from your health concerns.

- Sons of the American Legion Chaplain, **Art Childers**, is doing much better according to his wife and thank us for our prayers.

I want to let you know that our Comrades are appreciative 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: Lt. Col. Dale Benedict, who is deployed. Continue to petition the Lord to intervene in his world to keep him safe, successful in his mission and bring him spiritual peace.

LIBERTY BELL: "That old bell now is silent, And hushed its iron tongue, But the spirit it awakened, Still lives-forever young. And, while we greet the sunlight, On the fourth of each July, We'll ne'er forget the bellman, Who, 'twixt the earth and sky, Rung out, loudly, "Independence!" Which, please God, shall never die." ...
Author unknown

"With two wings a man is lifted up above earthly things: that is, with simplicity and purity. If thy heart were right, then every creature would be to thee a mirror of life and a book of holy doctrine" - St. Francis of Assisi

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 or you have something uplifting to share. 703-455-5067.

For God and Country
Charlie Buettner

Four Simple Rules of Parliamentary Procedure

By A. Gregory Wonderwheel, M.A., J.D.

Many people are intimidated by the words "parliamentary procedure" and by Robert's Rules of Order, both by the book's imposing number of pages and its complex cross referenced rules. Human beings are very complex too, but that doesn't prevent them from being our friends. Similarly, parliamentary rules should be the member's friend, and all the complexity of the rules should be made friendly by an understanding of their common sense relationships to each other. The purpose of parliamentary rules of order are to help people make group decisions after a full, fair, and free discussion. All the rules of parliamentary procedure may be traced to four fundamental principles of common sense, which I liken to the four legs holding up of the parliamentary table. If the member of the board, committee, or assembly holds these four basic rules in mind, all the other rules will fall into place and easily be put into perspective.

1. **One Speaker Speaks at a Time**
2. **One Question Is Decided at a Time.**
3. **The Speaker Must Be Respectful.**
4. **Everyone's Rights Are Protected by Balancing Them with Each Other.**

**The American Legion
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