



# Post Scripts

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

Volume 54, Issue 1

JAN-FEB 2009

## Commander's Call

Happy 2009 to All,  
I want to thank all who expressed condolences to Floy and me due to the death of her father, Floyd H. Dennis, a WWII veteran and former member of The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and one of the finest Christen men I've ever known. We're back in Springfield (12/28) and I'm hustling to get the first issue of Post Scripts out this week. Before my hasty departure on 12/15, I and your Chaplain, Charles Buettner, had started preparations for Comrade Eddie Dentz's funeral service and burial at Quantico National Cemetery scheduled for 18 December 2008. To have The American Legion conduct the service was at the family's request. Many others were involved that I'd like to mention here. Les Grizzard was by Evey's side almost constantly and he also had Eddie's permission to sift through personal papers (please see kudo elsewhere re: Comrade Grizzard). Dick Vatter prepared a eulogy for Post Scripts and one to send to the newspapers for the obituary. Kurt Lauer acted as Color Guard Commander and secured volunteers to assist in that endeavor. First Vice Commander Jeff Harrison ably acted in my place. Dr. David Russell, past National Chaplain and long time Department Chaplain, performed the service with prayers and scripture given by Chaplain Buettner. Many Department Officers presented eulogies about Comrade Dentz. I'll contact them and thank them personally. Thank you all for your wonderful work!

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate on January the 11<sup>th</sup> in our Post Oratorical Contest by volunteering to score, keep time, or by just attending and on the 21<sup>st</sup> participate in The American Legion, Department of Virginia's Day on the Hill and on 1 February at 10 a.m. at Post 139 please attend the Four Chaplains Service. Also in February on the 16<sup>th</sup> is the George Washington Parade in Alexandria and on the 15<sup>th</sup> Post 176 is hosting the Oratorical Contest for the Northern Region.

As is my way, below are briefs of our major activities for the preceding two months. Major activities of Vice Commanders and Committeemen are not included as I've asked them to report their activities to you via the Post Scripts just as I do.

**ECHO Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, 11/2:** The Ecumenical Council Helping Others honored its many volunteers by host-

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Children and Youth

By: Mary Siwik, Phone: 703-451-5254

Santa came to town on December 7th and made promises that many parents may be skeptical about. Approximately 40 believers got to tell Santa their Christmas wishes after being fascinated by Bob Brown, the Puppet Master, and his many interesting "friends". It was an afternoon of magic for all the little ones. Donations from Unit 176 and the S.A.L. helped provide gift bags of goodies for all our little wide-eyed guests.

Many thanks to all of Santa's Helpers who decorated, provided kid food, and cleaned up after the fun time was over - Suki & Cassidy, Jere & Jake, Raheleh, Floy, Janet, Marty, and the "hot dog lady" herself, Maudie. A special "Thank You" to Tanya, Karina & Vera who always say yes to my "special requests" and to Santa & Mrs. Claus for taking time out of their busy schedule to pay us a visit.

Unit 176 "adopted" an 8-year-old at a local school at the request of her teacher. The child had been coming to school in 40 degree weather in shorts and t-shirts. The teacher contacted Marty McGrail who immediately bought the child a new warm winter coat while the Unit contributed \$100 toward the purchase of a cold weather wardrobe. An Auxiliary member added another \$30 in clothing.

Details of the next C&Y activity will be advertised in the March/April Post Scripts.

**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 703-719-7647  
 Judge Advocate.....Pat Peterson 202-297-4688(c)  
 Service Officer.....Ali Nikolai 301-266-4933  
 Historian.....Darrel Khan 703-978-8153  
 Committeeman 1yr.....Ken Hanson 703-971-4040  
 Committeeman 2yr.....Jim Brado 703-569-1305  
 Committeeman 3yr.....Mike Siwik 703-451-5254

**Corporate Board**

President 1yr.....Rod Carlone 703-899-1000  
 Member 2yr.....Bob Cable 703-944-1333  
 Member 3yr.....Tom Bixby 703-606-2732  
 Secretary.....Felipe Mendoza 202-360-0102

**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](mailto:vapost176@cox.net)

Web Site: [www.vapost176.org](http://www.vapost176.org)

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

**CHANGE OF FEBRUARY'S MEETING DATE**

IAW C & BL, Feb 2002, February's General Membership Meeting will be held on 10 February 2009 at 7:30 p.m. due to Fairfax County's Election scheduled for 3 February 2009.

**Blood Drive Report**

**BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS:** We had another successful drive in December 08 collecting 46 good units of blood.

**THANK YOU** to all who came out to donate the gift of life.

Your donations could have a positive impact on 138 lives after your blood donation is processed. Three of our donors participated in the Double Red process during the drive. This is a process that removes and saves the red blood cells in your blood. 44 other donors completed the whole blood process. We only lost 4 donors to low iron and blood pressure problems.

Our next drive is scheduled for 17 February 2009 at the Post Home. If you have any questions about our program or if you would like to schedule an appointment for the February Drive, please call me at 703-569-1552 or send me an email to [Seppl1552@aol.com](mailto:Seppl1552@aol.com).

Thank you all for your continued support and a big thank you to the Legion/Auxiliary Volunteers who help to make the program a success.

Joe Finch, Blood Drive Program

**MEMBERSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY**

<b>ORG</b>	<b>Strength</b>	<b>% Goal</b>	<b># NEEDED</b>
<b>AUXILIARY</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>71 %</b>	<b>78 MORE</b>
<b>S.A.L.</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>61 %</b>	<b>48 MORE</b>
<b>LEGION</b>	<b>1352</b>	<b>85 %</b>	<b>239 MORE</b>

**Please help our entire family reach our 100 per cent goal. Don't depend on someone else to do it, just ask friends, neighbors, family and even strangers if they'd join the largest and most active service organizations in the nation.**

## FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Tax laws are more complicated each year and can be a challenging task to complete. You don't have to struggle with them yourself. Neither do you have to pay to have them done by a professional preparer.

I am a volunteer with the AARP Tax Assistance program. This AARP program is the nation's largest **tax-free** assistance and preparation service for individuals with low to moderate incomes. I work at the Sherwood Regional Library on Sherwood Hall Lane (off Route 1 by the Mt. Vernon Hospital). This facility is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM as well as Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM to assist taxpayers with tax preparation service.

Service is provided on a walk-in basis. There is no requirement to call ahead for an appointment. With the exception of active duty military and people with rental income, everyone is welcome. Because the counselors are not trained to complete returns for active duty military, these service personnel must use the assistance of Ft. Belvoir. People with rental income should use a paid-preparer service.

**There is no fee.** No donation is solicited. You do not (**NOT**) have to be an AARP member. There is no age restriction although the focus is on people 60 and older and low to moderate income earners. But no one is turned away.

### Please bring the following items:

- Photo ID.
- Social Security cards and birthdates for the taxpayer, spouse, and dependents.
- If married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present.
- Wage and earnings statements: W-2, W-2G, 1099-R.
- Unemployment compensation, Form 1099G and Gambling Winnings, Form 1099-G.
- Interest and dividend statements, Forms 1099-INT and 1099-DIV.
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns including economic stimulus check total.
- A check or deposit slip if you want direct deposit

Each year, regardless of how long one has been a counselor, all counselors must pass both an IRS Tax exam and a Virginia Tax exam before the IRS will certify them qualified to work on an individual's return. Every return is double checked by a Quality Review person to ensure accuracy and completeness of the return.

The program uses an electronic filing (efile) method, which combined with a direct deposit to one's bank ensures any refunds are in the taxpayer's bank account about a week after they file.

There are other sites similar to the Sherwood Hall site. One is at the Mason District Government Center on Columbia Pike; another is at the Centreville Regional Library. Reston has an AARP tax assistance program located at the Reston Community Center. Woodbridge has a site at the Woodbridge Senior Center on Longview Drive which uses an appointment-only system. For more information, one can call 888-AARPNOW (888-227-7669) or visit their web site at [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

For those folks who are truly shut-ins, there is a 'traveling team' which will come to a "shut-in's" residence to provide the assistance.

ing a great evening meal in our large hall. If you'd like to get involved please call 703.569.9160.

**Department Fall Conference, 10/31 – 11/2:** Subject was held in Hampton, VA. The Vatter's, Chip Byers and my wife and I attended from Post 176.

**Presidential Election, 11/4:** The C & BL was changed in Feb '02 to have our GMM on the second Tuesday of November each year in order to accommodate members of the Post Family who helped the County's Electoral Board conduct the election. "Get Out the Vote" is a program of the American Legion and this year your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and I ran two separate precincts and each of us earned about 35 community service hours for our efforts. If any others of you worked please tell me and I'll report your hours in May on our Consolidated Report to Department.

**Funeral Service for Jim Gathercoal, 11/7:** The Chaplain and I conducted this service in our large ballroom and it was followed by a reception. On Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Chaplain officiated at the graveside service and presented our nation's Flag to Big Jim's family.

**Monthly Breakfast 11/9:** Approximately 65 people enjoyed our "all you care to eat breakfast". I appreciate all of the volunteers who helped. Come out for January's breakfast on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are always welcomed.

**BPOE Veterans' Day Ceremony, 11/9:** Several Legionnaires who are also Elks invited me to their ceremony and I was awfully glad I attended.

Veterans' Day Ceremony, 11/11: At 11 a.m. 180 legionnaires, comrades, ladies and family members renewed their vow to honor all veterans at least once a year and vowed to keep the day alive by continuing to educate those who have lost sight as to why Veterans are honored on 11/11 at 11 a.m. We were especially honored to have as our guest speaker, Kevin Hymel, and to have our VFW Post 7327 Comrades and Sisters join us.

**Greenspring Veterans Day Ceremony, 11/11:** At 2 p.m. our neighbors and members at Greenspring conducted a musical ceremony for residents and guests. Our Post provided a Flag Bearer to post the Colors. I thank you, Bill Harris, for doing this job. Eck Muessig, a resident, gave a stirring and thought provoking talk between musical selections. I was glad that I was able to attend following our ceremony at the Post.

**Ex Com Meeting, 11/25:** Another spirited meeting was conducted for two hours. Minutes are posted for everyone to read.

Richard F. Tiner's Funeral, 12/1: Chaplain Buettner and I performed Dick's funeral at Demaine Funeral Home and his interment at Quantico. Following these a reception was held at the Post Home. I appreciate those of the Legion Family who paid their respects IHO Dick and to his family. (Please see obituary elsewhere.)

**General Membership Meeting, 12/2:** Minutes are posted on bulletin board and web site. Tom Bixby was

elected Corporate Board Director filling Dennis Stokowski's term. Welcome Tom and congratulations.

**Passing of Edwin Dentz, 12/5:** The sad news was received that founder and charter member Eddie Dentz had died following a short illness. (Please see obituary elsewhere.)

**Pearl Harbor 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 12/7:** In honor Flags were at half-staff at the Post and nationwide.

**Children and Youth Christmas Party, 12/7:** Approximately twenty children came out from 1 to 3 p.m. and enjoyed meeting Santa, watching a puppet show and eating refreshments. An equal number of adults showed up to help. Of special note are the helpers – Mike & Mary Siwik with their daughter and two granddaughters, Floy Lipscomb, Janet Buckley and Windy Medlin – who showed up at 1030 a.m. to help Sukie decorate. Please see Mike Siwik's article elsewhere.

**S.A.L. Meeting, 12/9:** Dual member Forry joined me for the meeting. The Sons need fifty more members to reach 100%. Dues are \$15 annually for Legionnaires who also join the Sons. Please help them obtain their membership goal.

**Veteran Ralph Payne's Interment, 12/11:** Arlington National Cemetery provided full military honors for 1LT Payne who distinguished himself during WWII by earning the Silver Star for conducting a successful operation behind enemy lines for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Ralph is brother to Jack, whom many of you know, and one of five brothers who served during WWII at the same time making their mother a five, blue star mother. I appreciate Tony Dzieriski attending the service with me.

**Monthly Breakfast, 12/14:** Only 30 people came out. Again some of the paying guests helped with last minute preparations due to a shortage of Post volunteers.

Six months remain on this Legion year and I renew to you my pledge to continue to run our programs, do nothing which isn't in the best interest of the Post and its members and continue to lead by example in an effort to demonstrate the "Legion Way" and show how veterans should be treating one another.

Please continue your thoughts and prayers for our military men and women serving in harm's way.

For God and Country,

Lewis M. "Lew" Lipscomb  
Commander  
Springfield Post 176

"Dear Honor Flight Network Volunteers, Staff and Supporters,

Last Wednesday, 10 December, Jeff Miller and myself received the second highest honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian, the Presidential Citizens Medal. Now we both know what the WWII Veterans feel like when they tour their Memorial. Their thoughts are filled with all their friends that served beside them, sacrificed so much for a common goal, and committed to something greater than themselves. The WWII Veterans accept the acknowledgement and gratitude of the American public on behalf of all their buddies that couldn't be there. We both felt the very same way. Each and every one of you is the reason why the Honor Flight Network is so successful and so honored by the President, on behalf of the United States. Every one of you that formed a hub, that pushed a wheelchair, that worked long hours, or delivered your WWII Veteran safely home to their family, is the reason why our national network is so successful. Our hearts go out to Dave Cameron's family. Dave passed away this year, pursuing his passion as the leader of Honor Flight Michigan. There are countless others across America that have sacrificed so much for our veterans and this effort. The two of us physically received the award, however, you all were in our thoughts and in our hearts while we stood there and received the acknowledgement and gratitude of a grateful nation."

Earl Morse, Captain, USAF Retired  
Founder and President  
Honor Flight, Inc.  
300 E. Auburn Ave  
Springfield, OH 45505

To all Post 176 Members who assisted rain or shine those many Saturdays and several Wednesdays over three years: Thank You! Like me you probably received all of the thanks you needed from the WWII Veterans you assisted and spoke to at the Memorial. Their gratitude and thanks were in their faces, if not words from their mouths.

It's nice that President Bush recognized the effort being put forth and all of us who helped with the Honor Flights can be proud that we had a part in earning the award. I'll see you back at the WWII Memorial again assisting in March 2009. Thanks Again, Lew



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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

## MEETINGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

We look forward to seeing everybody at 7:30 PM on January 13th and February 10th. These meetings are very important as they are when the Squadron discusses important business and spending for the year.

## 2009 MEMBERSHIP :

The 2009 membership year is half over and as of December 14 on target, but we can do better. We are now at 75 members which equates to 61%. If you have not renewed your membership by the time you read this several unfortunate things will occur. First, the cost of membership has gone up due to added costs from the Department of Virginia. The membership rates now are as follows: \$25 for regular membership, \$15 for dual membership, and \$10 for junior membership (the \$10 is the actual cost of the Squadron for each junior member). Second, you will have lost your ability to use the Lounge and to receive Post Scripts. Finally and most importantly, you have lost the comradeship of your fellow members and your support of the many programs that support our veterans and youth. So please take a few moments and renew your membership because we need your energy, time, and yes a little of your money to carry on the many great programs we support in the Legion family, especially the Children and Youth Program and various Veteran's Programs. While your at it, don't forget to ask all your friends who qualify to come join us!!!!

## CANS IN THE LOUNGE

You may have noticed some little blue cans on the bar in the Social Quarters. They are for donations (pocket change is very much appreciated) for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

This foundation gives grants to assist Children around our great nation. Last year, the Detachment of Virginia gave over \$18,000 and we want to improve that number. (By the way, the \$18,000 was an "impossible" amount.

Let's do the even more impossible!!!)

Chip Byers,  
Commander Squadron 176



**Your Club** by: Suki Knarr, GM

**Team 176**, I trust this New Year greeted you with peace and brightness for the future. In a few weeks, we'll have a new President and hopefully, positive changes will be delivered as promised.

With the change of years, and all the events and experiences of the last few months, my article is going to be a short one – only because I'm tired – not to worry – I still love you all.....

**Our Post 176 Christmas Party** was absolutely wonderful – a great success – many came – many stayed and everyone had a ball... If you missed this party, you missed a real goodie.

**Our Christmas Day Orphan's Party** was a wonderful success, too! Dotie and Liz organized another good show and from all reports – a good time and feed was had by all. I really hope 'Savo' could feel all the good vibrations.... This event means a lot to many of our members – so - we're going to do our best to keep it going....

**-- MARK YOUR CALENDARS --**

**Valentines Day Dinner/Dance** is scheduled for Saturday evening – February 14, 2009 – 6pm Cocktails, 7pm Dinner w/ Dancing and Live Band from 8-Midnight. I'm still working on some of the details for this event – so – more info will be posted in the lounge and around the post.

**Queen of Hearts** is coming back – March 2009, more details to follow....

**Taco Night** – every Saturday 5:30 – til we run out. Tacos @ 1 - \$0.75, 3 - \$2.00, Taco Salad \$3.00 (mucho cheapo).....

**-- Other Business --**

**Booze Locker Fees** are due for 2009....

Large Locker:	\$18.00/cal yr
Small Locker:	\$16.00/cal yr

**PARKING PASSES** – Starting Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm – come see me. (*You will need to bring your Registration / Proof of Insurance and your current 2009 membership card in good standing.*)

**-- SUPER BOWL PARTY --**

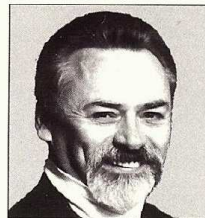
**R-U-READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL** and to close out the season in style?! Well....., does *Your Post* have a deal for you!!! Pat Peterson and the Tailgate Pep Team are doing it again for the last big game of the season.... They've been saving up for this event but I think favorite dishes would be appreciated, too! Come out – enjoy – and root your team on to victory.....

**COME OUT AND ENJOY YOUR POST AND CLUB FACILITIES.**

*THANK YOU ! – Suki*

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2009</b>				<b>1</b> New Years Day	<b>2</b>  Bring your Favor- ite CD	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  GMM 7:30 PM	<b>7</b>  Bridge	<b>8</b>  Cribbage	<b>9</b>  Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Breakfast 9-11 am  Oratorical 1pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  S.A.L. 7:30pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Cribbage	<b>16</b>  Karaoke with Barb	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> M. L. King Jr Day	<b>20</b> Inauguration Day	<b>21</b> Day on the Hill 6:30 am  Bridge	<b>22</b>  Cribbage	<b>23</b>  Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Vietnam Peace Accord ExCom 1930hrs	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Cribbage	<b>30</b>  Karaoke with Barb	<b>31</b>
<b>February 2009</b>						
<b>1</b> Four Chaplains Service 10:30 am Post 139	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Bridge	<b>5</b>  Cribbage	<b>6</b>  Bring your Favor- ite CD	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Breakfast 9-11 am Boy Scouts Founded 1910	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  GMM S.A.L. 7:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln B'day  Cribbage	<b>13</b>  Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day  Dinner/Dance
<b>15</b> Northern Re- gional Oratori- cal Contest 1pm	<b>16</b> Presidents Day  George Wash- ington Parade	<b>17</b>  Blood Drive 2-7pm	<b>18</b>  Bridge	<b>19</b>  Cribbage	<b>20</b>  Karaoke with Barb	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Mardi Gras  ExCom 7:30pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Cribbage	<b>27</b>  Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay	<b>28</b>

## Auxiliary VA & R Report

By: Mary Siwik, VA&R Chair, 703-451-5254

Unit 176, along with some very special folks, has done much to be proud of the past couple of months. We were able to supply 36 afghans, 72 phone cards and bags of personal items to the women veterans at McGuire, Salem and Hampton Hospitals.

Thanks in great part to Tom & Scott at T-Mac and other very generous donors, the DC Hospital was supplied with caps, sweaters, jackets, sweat suits, golf shirts, dress shirts, sport coats (even a ladies 2-piece suit!). Also, sent new greeting cards, paperbacks, etc. Post 176 provided funds for a small refrigerator for the Diabetic Clinic and Unit 176 will make a monthly donation that will be made to keep it stocked with appropriate drinks and snacks.

We have adopted 4 military families at Ft. Belvoir for the holiday season and will be supplying them with \$75 gift certificates for the Commissary. We also collected toys and books for the 2 families who have children.

Donations were made for \$500 to the Winterhaven project and \$120 to the DC Medical Center for purchase of patient necessities.

Tillis Medical Center in Iraq continues to have "Summer Camp Tuesdays" with the supplies we sent in November. Pictures have been posted on the Auxiliary bulletin board. The Maryland contingent will be returning home in mid January (Hooray!), but we will try to continue support of the remainder of the on site personnel.

Ongoing projects: \$26,000 in coupons were sent to overseas bases and 1,800 canceled stamps were forwarded to the Tucson Veterans Affairs Stamp & Coin Club. Thanks to those members who have helped out by dropping donations into the collection box in the lobby. Every pair of drawers help! We look forward to continuing a successful year with the continued support of Post 176 members.



## Kudos to a Fellow Legionnaire

By: Past Commander Dick Vatter

As I reflect on the recent death of Eddie Dentz I began thinking about the Preamble to The American Legion. As you know, the Preamble of The American Legion is the foundation that has guided the Legion family for over nine decades. It was built on ten principles that are as viable today as they were when first penned

The tenth principle in our Preamble reads, "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." During the illness and subsequent death of Eddie, one of our Legionnaires stood tall and on his own became a conduit providing updates on Eddie's illness, monitoring visits as requested by Eddie, notifying personnel at the Department and 17<sup>th</sup> District as to his status, as well as providing comfort to both Eddie and his wife Evey. He worked with the lawyers and the survivors to prepare an obituary, to make arrangements for the funeral, and to help wherever and in any capacity he was needed. He never looked for honors or "Thanks" he did it out of friendship and respect, and he did it in an outstanding manner.

This Legionnaire carried the tenth principle to the highest level and we are proud to call Les Grizzard our friend and a fellow Legionnaire. Now that Les has accomplished this Herculean task, he deserves your thanks, kudos, or Bravo Zulu, whichever you prefer.



# Auxiliary News



## President Corner -

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

As we say good bye to 2008, and welcome the new challenges of 2009, we must be aware that many people need our assistance. The first six months of our Auxiliary year have proven that Unit 176 can serve our veterans and the community. My thanks to the few members of Unit 176 that attended our meetings and then step forward whenever assistance is needed.

The Christmas party after the regular December membership meeting was very nice although attended by only a few members. When will you attend a meeting? This is your organization, you can make a difference.

I would like to thank all the individuals from the Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L. that worked the Poppy Program in November. Our donations totaled \$3,618.85, which will be used for our VA &R program

Stay safe and I'll see you at the meetings.

## AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

Floy Lipscomb (703) 866-4919

Our Membership Safari is going well thanks to all of you who have sent in your 2009 dues. With the dues received early December, 70% of our members have renewed. We need just 14 more members to renew to meet Department's goal of 75% by 20 January.

Your dues along with donations help us help the Veterans over seas and at home and in our VA hospitals. If you have not yet renewed your membership, don't wait, do it now. Senior dues are \$20 and Junior's are \$10. Pay your dues by check to American Legion Auxiliary Springfield Unit 176 6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield, Virginia 22150.

If you have changed your name or your address please let me know, call the number above or e-mail me at [flml@juno.com](mailto:flml@juno.com).

Invite an eligible friend to join and to come with you to our meetings. Membership applications are available on line at [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org)

We welcome our new members elected at our December meeting: *Grace Eidsvoog, Shirley Hull, Sallie Miller Best, and Terri Lynn Gonzales*. We hope to see you at our meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at our Post home.

I hope everyone had a pleasant Holiday and I wish you all a *Happy New Year!*

## CORPORATE BOARD REPORT:

Greetings everyone! First let me say that I hope everyone enjoyed a great holiday season. This article will be short but the work of the Corporate board is about to intensify as go into the New Year. I wish to thank all of our wonderful employees who worked so hard and gave us such great service this past year. It is a great team that stayed together, no one left us, and showed great loyalty to us.

Monument update: All considerations to make an informed vote on this offer are about to be complete by the end of January. Once the land appraisal is done we can do the following:

1. Evaluate our land dollar value
2. Evaluate our financial need in accordance with our debt
3. Evaluate if our approval actually helps the Springfield community
4. Evaluate if the sale keeps us solvent and prosperous indefinitely

The board will be sure you have all the info you need to make the right vote for you. This is our job.

In closing, we want to say congratulations to Tom Bixby who has been elected to the corporate board. He is ready to jump in and help the team. I believe that 2009 is the year that will determine the future and very survival of our post for the rest of this century. God Bless and stay tuned.

Rod Carlone, Corporate Board President

## Chaplain's Report

By Charlie Buettner

As our new President is sworn in to "faithfully execute the Office of the President" and "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States", let us continually ask Almighty God to guide him with Divine wisdom, to assist him in the discharge of his duties and to bless him in the administration of his office. May a spiritual presence continue to remain with the office of the new President and may he be reminded that, "God is king over all the earth", "God rules over the nations", and "the rulers of the earth belong to God, who is enthroned on high." (Psalm 47)

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.

February is Americanism Month. If you have the time, you might want to consider presenting a program to school children. I had great time delivering a Veteran's Day Program to my Grandson's class in November. The children and teachers were very appreciative of hearing about veterans and my personal adventure spent in the US Air Force.

Information and handouts can be found on the American Legion Emblem Sales website [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org), American Legion: Books/Pamphlets/Education. It is a great grassroots way of demonstrating to our youth that our American heritage and ideals are important for all citizens to know.

### **RECENTLY DEPARTED NOTICE**

-Comrade Robert J. Kozman, a World War 2 veteran and 13 year member of our Post, passed away on February 19, 2007. He was a retired USN Commander and Intelligence Specialist.

-Comrade Malcolm A. Slagle, a World War 2 veteran and 20 year member of our post passed away earlier this year.

-Comrade Ralph Maughan, a member of the Post for 23 years, passed away on April 18, 2008.

-Comrade Isaac Barbre, a member of the Post for 21 years, passed away on May 23, 2008.

-Comrade James "Big Jim" Gathercoal, who recently transferred to our post, passed away on October 22, 2008. He was relocating to Nevada when he suffered a heart attack. Jim served in the Army and Marines. At the family's request, an American Legion Ceremony was held at the Post on the evening of November 7. Members of the Post, Bob Smith, JP Forry, Savo and Dr. Lynn coordinated the ceremony and reception with Jim's minister and family. The speakers at the ceremony revealed the true Jim, a compassionate and fun loving person. The Post auditorium was filled to capacity and the minister and speakers paid a heartfelt tribute to our comrade. His ashes were returned to our area by his girlfriend. Bob Smith, JP

Forry and I gathered with the family on the following day to perform a graveside religious service at the cemetery where Jim's mother was buried. His ashes were mingled with the fallen leaves on a beautiful autumn day. Because Jim was so young when he died, we were reminded of how fragile our own existence is.

-Comrade Richard Tiner, surrounded by his family, passed away on November 18, 2008.

Richard proudly served his country as an electrician aboard a US Navy Destroyer during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. Rich retired as Chief, Product Quality Division, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Production Assurance and Testing; Hdqtrs, US Army Material Command. He received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and Best Manager of the Year award.

Rich was a devoted member of the American Legion for 30 years. He served on the Springfield Post 176 Corporate Board from 2006 to 2008 and volunteered to fix and oversee most of the major maintenance projects at the Post.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Jasmine; his daughter, Janine Handwork and husband Randy, daughter, Dana Plummer and husband Edward; and grandchildren, Mathew Harter and Alyssa Handwork.

Burial with military honors followed his Funeral Service at the Quantico National Cemetery.

-Past Commander Edwin "Eddie" Dentz passed away December 5, 2008 at Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge, Va.. He was one of Post 176's Founding Fathers and the first Commander. Eddie served during World War 2 with the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. His division was sent to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division on the Siegfried Line in the Ardennes and was soon involved in the Battle of the Bulge. His unit was part of 162 members of the 443<sup>rd</sup> Regiment who escaped from the encirclement by the Seventh Panzer Division. Eddie was awarded the Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge for his actions in combat.

Eddie dedicated his life to helping veterans and youth through his activism in the American Legion and inspired our comrades to donate of their time, talents and money "for the good of the Legion". At Eddie's Funeral Service, he was eulogized for his dedication to all aspects of the American Legion at all levels of the organization by our past National Chaplain and present Dept. Chaplain, Dr. David Russell, Dept. National Exec. Committeeman George Lussier, Past Cmdr. and former Dept. Adjutant Connie O'Neill, , past Dept. Cmdr. who served with Eddie in Boy's State, Roger Messier, Dept. Adjutant Dale Chapman, POW/MIA Rep. Tony Scerbo, Dept. Cmdr. Les Clevinger and Executive Director of American Legion, Washington, DC Office John Sommers. Dick Vatter was recognized for his work in researching and preparing Eddie's lengthy and noteworthy obituary. Les Grizzard was recognized for his devotion to the Dentz family before, during and following Eddie's death. Burial with military honors followed Eddie's Funeral Service at the Quantico National Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Evelyn (Evey) Rickey. Eddie is preceded in death by a brother, Robert. Eddie is survived by Robert's wife, Marjorie, and their three daughters: Barbara (Timm) Riley, Susan (Bill) Heron and

Carol (Mike) Glennie.

-Comrade Anthony Joseph Goodheart, 94 years old, passed away December 6, 2008. His wife, Marilyn Audrey Richardson Goodheart followed him into life everlasting on December, 2008, also after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was a member of our Post for 11 years.

Anthony served his country for four years during World War 2 as a Navy submariner aboard the submarine USS Gunnel. He was a Radarman 3<sup>rd</sup> class. Mark Goodheart and the men who served aboard the USS Gunnel were volunteers and the cream of the fleet, professionally competent, dedicated and courageous. He and his mates were responsible for sinking nine Japanese freighters or destroyers.

Mark worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He retired from NOAA as the Director of the Rockville Science Center. He was also active with the Franconia Fire Department, driving the ambulance and was also a founding member of the Franconia/Springfield Lions Club.

Mark and Marilyn leave behind their four children, Sharon Cerick, Steven Goodheart, Linda Casey and Donna Cunningham as well as numerous grand and great-grand children.

-Floyd H. Dennis, father of Floy Lipscomb, Commander Lipscomb's wife, died December 15, 2008. He was 98 years old. He was an Army veteran of World War II and was retired from the S.C. National Guard after 27 years of service. Besides Floy and Lew, he is survived by a sister, Blanche Felker, a nephew and a number of nieces.

-Comrade Walter "Butch" Welc passed way December 20, 2008, in Annandale, VA. Walter was a member of Post 176 and the American Legion for 41 years, the Polish Falcons Club, and St. Michael Catholic Church. He was a long-time physical education teacher and coach as well.

Walter is survived by his loving daughter, Gina Welc and her partner, Jeff Leese; grandsons, Andrew and Patrick Goodman; sisters, Bridget, Margaret, Josephine, and Elizabeth; brothers Stanley, Chet, Donald, and Robert and a large extended family.

-Comrade Jesse Tilton, a member of our post for 42 years, died on December 25, 2008. The family anticipates his burial at Arlington National Cemetery on February 9, 2009 but nothing has been finalized yet. We will keep you posted on their desires and our support.

-Morris "Ozzie" Eidsvoog, father of Robert "Col. Bob" Eidsvoog, passed away on December 29, 2008 in Minnesota after a long struggle with cancer. He was 77 years old. Ozzie was a veteran of the Korean War serving in the US Navy. Bob and his wife, Grace, have gone to Minnesota to attend the funeral.

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

## SICK CALL

-Comrade Josephine Harbert returned home from the nursing center following a stroke and is recovering slowly.

-Comrade Dave Jacobson is not doing well. Your prayers for him are welcomed.

-Comrade Ralph Nichols had an abdominal hernia and heart blockage repaired and is back in good form. He and Clara attended the Dentz Funeral and reception at the Post. Feel free to call them at 703-797-3919.

-Comrade "Big" Mike Siwik, had to have emergency surgery in mid-December to address a lung ailment which was causing serious health complications. He is cooperating, recuperating and improving steadily at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. His prognosis is good and so is his attitude. The doctor's have not established a release date. He is not up to phone calls or visits at this point. Mike and Mary want you to know that they appreciate your well wishes, cards and prayers so keep them coming.

Mike and Mary have done so much for the children of this area, leading "back to school supplies" drives, parties during the year and clothing drives. The effects of their efforts will be felt by generations to come.

-Eleanor Williams, long time member and supporter of the dinners and dances, cracked a couple of vertebrae in her back. She was in Burke Rehab for a few weeks and has now been released to the care of her niece in Ashburn. Best wishes for a speedy recovery and return to the Post dance floor.

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: SGM Richard Magnum, LT. Col Dale Benedict, Lt. Col. Tim Story and Post 176 Sgt-at-Arms SPC Shannon Vanwart, 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.

"Keep thyself first in peace and then thou wilt be able to bring others to peace. A peaceful man does more good than one that is very learned."

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

The following letter was received from our Post member (CSM Magnum) who is currently serving in Afghanistan.

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I hope this letter finds you all well. Just a little note to let you know that things here are fine. I am currently at about 7,000'. It gets a little chilly here at times. As you may or may not know, I am embedded with an Afghan National Army (ANA) infantry battalion (kandak). Without getting into mission specifics, what I can tell you is that we are in the east not far from the Pakistan border which keeps it interesting. Many people have asked what do the soldiers need? I will supply a list. My team is currently composed of 9 American (we are at 50% strength) and 7 interpreters.

The Afghan soldiers/people for the most part want us here. The ones that don't are mostly fearful of the Taliban. The thing that most amazes me is the lack of resources. Things that we take for granted are like gold to the Afghans. I threw away a cardboard box that I had granola bars in. Later in the day, I saw a soldier using it to write on. It is amazing! Paper, pens, carbon paper (no copy machines), I can't remember the last time I saw carbon paper!

Please pass the list on to anyone you know looking to support troops.

Things that we would send a 5th grade child to school with is what they need most. So, that being said, although we will never turn down protein bars the Afghans we are supporting need more than us. Here is a list of things that we (ANA and US) could use:

Propel singles (for our water bottles)  
Sun block  
Unscented skin lotion  
Snap links, D-rings, carabiners (for securing gear)  
coffee (ground) (dunkin donuts)  
large cone style filters  
carbon paper  
lined pads of paper  
steno pads  
ink stamp pads  
toy soldiers (Army men) and toy army trucks (matchbox style) I use these for sand tables prior to operations  
rite in the rain note books (green, 7x4 1/2)  
rite in rain pens  
staples/staplers  
protein bars  
perfect push up/pull up (for working out)

Mailing address:  
SGM Rich Magnum  
3/3 203 Corps  
ARSIC-E-ETT  
FOB Lightning  
APO, AE 09354

Again, this is just a list of things we could use. Nothing other than your support for our soldiers is necessary.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Magnum  
SGM, USA  
CSM Mentor  
3/3, 203 Corps  
ARSIC-E

FORTES FORTUNA ADIUVAT

## EDWIN J. DENTZ, 1924 - 2008

It is our sad duty to report that on December 5, 2008, Past Department Commander Edwin J. Dentz was called from our midst, and has gone to report to the Commander of us all.

Eddie, born April 2, 1924, was a nationally known member of The American Legion and recipient of The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal.

While attending George Washington University, he attempted to join the Naval Air Corps but his eyesight prevented his acceptance. He stayed in school through the Army Specialized Training Program, entering the program with thirteen weeks of Infantry Basic Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Eddie was sent to Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now known as Auburn University, to study engineering. Graduates of the ASTP program would then go to Officer Candidate School; however, D-Day changed Eddie's career path and he was shipped to the newly-formed 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, and subsequently shipped to England. The 106<sup>th</sup> then moved to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, on the Siegfried Line in the Ardennes, and soon became involved in the Battle of the Bulge. His platoon found a way through the Seventh Panzer Division and escaped to Liege, Belgium. His unit was part of only 162 members of the 443<sup>rd</sup> Regiment who escaped from the encirclement. Eddie was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge for his actions in combat.

He resumed his studies at GWU where he received a law degree. Eddie was employed as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. He served as an Executive, Presidential Appeal Board of the Selective Service System; Virginia Department of Mental Health; and the Alexandria Department of Mental Health.

In 1955, Eddie, along with eleven veterans of WWII, formed the Springfield American Legion Post 176. He served as its first commander and over the next fifty-four years served in most elected and appointed positions of the Post. The members of Springfield Post 176 selected him as Legionnaire of the Year, and in 1960 awarded him an Honorary Life Membership. Springfield Post 176 is now the largest American Legion Post in Virginia.

Eddie continued to serve The American Legion and over the years served as 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander. He served in many Department level positions including Commander, Department of Virginia. He went on to serve on The American Legion National Executive Committee, known as the Congress of The American Legion. He also served as the Chairman of the National Legislative Council.

Eddie's pride and joy was working more than twenty-five years with the American Legion Boys State Program. In 2000, Eddie was inducted in the Virginia Boys State Hall of Fame. The citation cited him "for his outstanding humanistic qualities, career accomplishments and his local and national achievements".

He was a member of VFW Post 1503 and the Loyal Order of Moose. He was also a member of Bull Run Voiture 380, La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (40 & 8) where he served as Chef de Gare of Voiture 380 in 1989-90, and was awarded an Honorary Life Membership.

Eddie volunteered as a Member, Fairfax Community Mental Health Services Board; Vice Chairman, State Substance Abuse Advertising Council; and as Chairman Alexandria ASAP Policy Advisory Board for 13 years. He also served as Past Treasurer and Past President, Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield which named him I-SCC Springfield Person of the Year 1990

Eddie is survived by his wife of fifty-nine years, Evelyn (Evey) Rickey. Eddie met Evey while both were enrolled at GWU. Eddie often said that Evey was pursuing a Degree in Education and he was pursuing his future wife, and happened to earn a Juris Doctor Degree.

Eddie is preceded in death by a brother, Robert. Eddie is survived by Robert's wife, Marjorie and their three daughters; Barbara (Timm) Riley, Susan (Bill) Herron and Carol (Mike) Glennie.

And now Eddie's wars are done. The struggle and agony of his final weeks' battle are over. His life is complete. The son, brother, husband, soldier, Legionnaire and friend, has taken his leave.

Eddie Dentz fought for peace, lived in peace and now is at peace. The eerie silence we hear is the sound of emptiness. The Good Soldier has gone home. Eddie, we salute you. Farewell, to our friend, Legionnaire and comrade.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that contributions be made to Virginia Boys State and sent to The American Legion, Springfield Post 176, Box 689, Springfield, VA 22150.



Edwin J. Dentz, 1924 - 2008

(Compiled by Past Commander Dick Vatter)

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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Jan/Feb 2009**

**Important Dates in January**

**1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day**  
**6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting**  
**19<sup>th</sup> - M.L. King Jr. Day**  
**20<sup>th</sup> - Inauguration Day**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Day on the Hill**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord**

**Important Dates in February**

**Black History Month**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Boy Scouts Founded (1910)**  
**10<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> - Lincoln's Birthday**  
**14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day**  
**16<sup>th</sup> - Presidents' Day (George Washington  
Parade in Alex, VA**  
**17<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive—Post 176**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> - George Washington's Birthday**

Please forward any address change to the Legion. Returned copies cost the Post full Postage. If you do not wish to received 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](http://www.vapost176.org). The Post email address is [vapost176@cox.net](mailto:vapost176@cox.net).