



# Post Scripts

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

Volume 53, Issue 5

JUL-AUG 2008

## Commander's Call

Dear Legionnaires, Ladies and Sons

21 June 2008

Floy and I want to express our appreciation to our Post Chaplain, Charles Buettner for the beautiful red, white and blue floral spray he had delivered in honor of and with condolences for my mother. He, with his lovely wife Deloris' assistance, "got it done" in less than 24 hours with no info from me to start with. The florist, who I saw entering the room, brought the arrangement in on Sunday morning during the family's private time to say goodbye and I, seeing the patriotic colors, knew immediately where the spray came from and couldn't contain myself. In addition to the spray, many of you spoke words of condolence personally while others sent cards and e-mails and donations to mother's church. Floy and I received comfort knowing we were in your thoughts and prayers.

While away from the Post the remainder of your Executive Committee carried on admirably and I want to thank them especially since most had only been in their positions for twelve days and are also "young in Legion experience" if not in age.

At the 1 June 17<sup>th</sup> District Meeting, which I missed, Post 176 walked away with all of the awards for the American Legion Programs in the large Post category with the exception of Membership and Children and Youth. We are still short 75 member renewals to reach 100% in Membership. We'll get Children and Youth in 2009, with or without a partner! I'll not go over all of the details here but suffice it to say we were 17<sup>th</sup> District's Large Post of the Year, won the Liberty Bell for having the best Americanism Program of all the 17<sup>th</sup> District categories of Posts (small, medium and large) and we won the top prize for large category Posts for Americanism and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R). Returning to Springfield and learning this also brought tears to my eyes. Because programs are what the Legion is all about, they are my focus. They can be accomplished without even having a Post Home much less a multimillion dollar Post Home. Programs are accomplished through the hard work of members of our entire Family who volunteer to work bingo, coach baseball, run the membership office, produce Post Scripts, audit finances, attend Day on the Hill, get articles to the newspaper, work the tailgate parties, honcho the Blood Drive bimonthly, get the best qualified rising H.S. seniors and send them to Boys' State, conduct the Post Oratorical Contest, coordinate with the leaders of two Scout Troops, conduct quarterly highway cleanups, work with the Auxiliary to host three C & Y Parties, work four JROTC programs and give

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## Paradigm Shift in the Military Will Help Reduce Suicide Rate

Stigma surrounding mental illness has long prevented soldiers and veterans from seeking mental health services. Recent alarming reports demonstrate the need for more comprehensive mental health services and treatment.

CrisisLink saves lives and prevents tragedies. We give vital support to those facing life crises, trauma and suicide, and provide information and education to empower people to help themselves.

Last month, Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced that service members would no longer have to report whether they had sought treatment for mental health problems related to combat stress in order to gain security clearance for national security positions. This policy change marks a shift in thinking within the Department of Defense.

Seed funding from Azalea Charities, Inc. and Prince Leopold d'Arenberg of Europe is allowing CrisisLink to provide suicide and crisis prevention training for the staff of the U.S. Army's Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline (WSFH). CrisisLink is also working to establish a Vet-2-Vet Peer Hotline to allow veterans in crisis to speak with other veterans volunteering as Hotline Listeners. The Army's WSFH transfers serious, suicide-related calls to CrisisLink's highly trained Hotline Listeners and CrisisLink has been formally designated as a back-up center for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Veteran's Affairs Hotline. The men and women serving our country deserve the best care possible and we're glad we can be of assistance.

If you are a veteran or currently serving in our armed forces please join our Hotlines as volunteer Hotline Listeners. To learn more about becoming a Hotline Listener please contact Lindsay Paulette-Chapman at 703-527-6016 or visit us at [www.crisislink.org](http://www.crisislink.org)



Virginia Department of Veterans Services

### The American Legion Post 176 Officers

Commander.....	Lew Lipscomb	703-866-4919
1st Vice.....	Jeff Harrison	703-407-1962
2nd Vice.....	JP Forry	703-922-9396
3rd Vice.....	Bob Smith	703-314-5080
Finance Officer.....	William Hurd	703-944-1333
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.....	Ralph Nichols	703-960-1880

#### Executive Committee

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.....		
Member 3yr.....		
Secretary.....		

#### 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

PSAT Chairman.....Tony Dzierski 703-451-5591

Send update information to [AL176PS@earthlink.net](mailto:AL176PS@earthlink.net)

Post email: [vapost176@cox.net](mailto:vapost176@cox.net)

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

Post Scripts: [AL176PS@earthlink.net](mailto:AL176PS@earthlink.net)

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

## Welcome to our new and transfer members!

APR/MAY/JUN 2008

- Stephen I. Hunt
- Charles C. Lane
- Douglas E. Osborn
- W. Keith Scott
- Sam Horton
- Dennis M. Gehley
- Robert R. Klotz
- Richard W. Elliott
- J D Leverett
- James B. Gathercoal
- James G. Hopkins
- Frank Szymanski
- John W. Siegel
- Thomas Tyra
- Albert J. Kuemper
- Paul M. Delaney Jr.
- Philip J. Hickok
- Kelly Jones
- J D Leverett
- Patrick M. Hudgens

### Finance

As Comrade Carlone states in his article we are now refining our internal accounting process so that we can make better use of our financial information in planning and administrating the Post's activities and programs. I will keep the membership informed as this evolves.

Bill Hurd

### Bingo

Post 176 Bingo program continues to operate in the black and attendance has increased over the last 4 weeks. Volunteers are always welcome and needed to support the program.

## Boy Scout Troop 1344 Report

April/May/June 2008

By: Joe Hall, Troop 1344 Historian

Things are still moving at the speed of light for all the guys in our Troop. April was a windy, rainy, cold month but we still had fun and accomplished a lot. We had two really exciting events in April. First, the Troop got together and voted on our first ever candidates for Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow (OA) is a national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. It uses American Indian traditions and ceremonies to recognize Scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. Our Troop voted Michael Dioquino, Reid Hartman, Patrick Rose, Sam Hellier and Ben LeDoux as our first nominees for OA.

We had our annual Patriot District Camporee in April. The storms were awful but we all managed to survive. At the big campfire on Saturday night our five scouts, along with the scouts nominated from other troops in the District, were honored in an OA Call Out Ceremony. The next step in the path to become a part of the OA brotherhood was for each of the nominated scouts to attend their OA ordeal. The Ordeal is intended to emphasize service and self-sacrifice; candidates maintain complete silence (no easy thing for some of our candidates), sleep alone overnight, receive small amounts of food and perform camp work projects. Candidates will then be welcomed as Ordeal members in a formal induction ceremony. The first Ordeal weekend (Spring Ordeal) was held 6-8 June and three of our scouts attended were able to attend, the others will attend their Ordeal in the fall. Ordeal members may seal their membership and become full members after ten months by demonstrating their knowledge of the traditions and obligations of the OA. They will then participate in an induction ceremony and become Brotherhood members.

Spring Ordeal wasn't the only thing happening in June. On the 14<sup>th</sup> 30 of our scouts and adult leaders attended a Patrol Challenge at Hemlock Park. What an exciting day of Team Challenges it was! The weather was just about perfect and we didn't get rained on until we were on the way home. When we arrived at Hemlock we broke down into three patrols and the game was on. Each patrol tried to complete the challenges that the instructors gave to them. It taught us all a lot about teamwork and communication.

We had to work together to build things, balance things, climb things, get across things and stuff like that. We worked together to solve the problems presented. It was a lot of fun. The one thing that was the most fun for everyone was the Zip line. It was awesome. Unfortunately for the Wolf Patrol we lost our esteemed Patrol leader to the peanut butter pit. Yuck!

At the end of June we head off to Summer Camp! This year we are going to Olmstead at Goshen Scout Reservation. It should be a great time. We'll have the chance to work on merit badges (go motor boating!) and advancement. Hopefully when we return from camp a bunch of the newer scouts will be ready to advance in rank.

Until next time, this is Joe Hall, Historian for BSA Troop 1344, saying, "the afternoon knows what the morning never suspected!"

- Swedish Proverb

### Veterans welcomed with info in D.C.

The Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center acted as a one-stop shop for hundreds of newly discharged U.S. service members on June 14. The Welcome Home Celebration is an outreach and education program aimed at providing returning troops a head start as they transition into the civilian world.

The celebration offered enrollment and eligibility services, health and mental-health screenings, benefits advice and a variety of other services for military personnel and veterans living in the D.C. metropolitan area who recently served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and other actions in the global war on terrorism.

The American Legion was one of dozens of veterans service organizations and service agencies specializing in employment and housing assistance, vocational training, spiritual support, family counseling and recreation. During the course of the day, the Legion signed up 30 prospective volunteers at VA medical facilities.

One attendee, a 14-year Marine Corps veteran who has spent the past two years as an Army National Guard sergeant serving in the war, was overwhelmed by the services offered.

"It's information," he said. "It cuts the guesswork out. The rumors, talking to your buddies - 'You should do this, you should do that.' You get everything straight from the horse's mouth. I was in the Marines for 14 years and the Guard for two. That's 16 years, and never have I seen anything like this. I've had to find out about my benefits through reading, going online, word of mouth, trial and error. This is awesome. It should be done nationwide on the same day."

**(Continued from page 1)**

awards at Edison High School, host and participate in many Community Service Activities, provide our Color Guard to participate at funerals and parades, visit and make donations to veterans and their families at the DCVAMC and WRAMC, both in Washington, D.C. And I left out a bunch of programs that your Post conducts. If you saw anything that "made a light come on" please volunteer to work with that program(s). If you can't volunteer your time, please consider sending a check to support your favorite program or spend your money to support the lounge, Friday Night Dinners/Sunday Breakfasts and/or Bingo. Except for singling out individuals at the July GMM that helped us be successful last year, I'll move on with our 2008 – 2009 American Legion Year.

Post 176 started its new year on 18 May with the installation of officers for 2008 – 2009. I want to thank all who "ran" for an office and pledge my support to you. In American Legion years you're young and inexperienced. And that isn't necessarily a bad thing. You'll bring youth and new ideas to the table which I'm going to be open minded enough to listen to and implement where practical and feasible. We jammed a great deal into Installation Night so I told the audience they could expect the same leadership from me that I exhibited my three previous years as the commander. As your commander I'll work harmoniously with the Corporate Board, Auxiliary and the S.A.L. and of course the General Manager. We must work as a team and support each other's programs. We came a long way last year in doing what we needed to do to be the most respected Post in the 17<sup>th</sup> District and we'll gain even more ground this coming year. I pledge to you that I'll, for another year, "meet myself coming and going" in order to attend all of the meetings, functions and conferences in the Community, District and Department while I lead the Post Executive Committee to accomplish our many programs and activities. As I've demonstrated in the past I'll lead by example and am always accessible to the Post leadership and to you, the Post member. Finally, every action taken will be with the Post and its membership in mind and I'll do nothing for personal gain while your commander. In return I

ask that you volunteer to help where and when you can and always conduct yourself as a member of our proud family- as ladies and gentlemen!

Preparing the Annual Consolidated Report is key to receiving an award so in addition to desiring to keep you informed of what your Post accomplishes, Post Scripts acts as a record that I may use at the end of the Legion Year (June) to insure nothing is forgotten while preparing the Consolidated Report.

**PSAT, 4/28:** May/June issue of Post Scripts is delivered to the printer who returns it on 4/30 and which the volunteers assemble and mail on May 1, 2008. (unfortunately a 4-day process.)

**VFW Installation, 5/4:** Our large hall was the site for VFW Post 7327's Installation and Awards Ceremony which Sukie catered with a great meal.

**Honor Flight, 5/3:** Late on the 2<sup>nd</sup> I was asked to handle 17<sup>th</sup> District's commitment to meet the Honor Flights on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. So the day started about 6 a.m. to complete the logistics (ice and water and flag cases) to arrive at the WWII Memorial by 8:30 a.m. Maudie Price, two Legion Riders ("Doc" Shaw and Jon) and a friend (Tony also a rider) and Denise (all from Post 177) joined to help out for the day where we welcomed about eleven flights of WWII Veterans to the Monument and made sure they stayed hydrated throughout their visit.

**Ennis, Texas Honor Flight, 5/7:** At the request of Dodie Myer, an Auxiliary member, in April I coordinated for our Post to meet the Honor Flight from Ennis, Texas, her hometown. So about ten members of the Post Family met the Post 361 Commander-Elect and over sixty WWII veterans and sponsors with water, wheelchairs and kindness and tried to make them feel welcome. We ate lunch with them and assisted them back on the busses to continue their trip to the Nation's Capital. (FYI: Honor Flight participants generally stay over a night or two in order to visit other monuments and memorials.)

**Viewing for Robert Jones, 5/7:** Quite a number of legionnaires paid their respects and offered their condolences to Jimmy and Nita Jones at the Jefferson Funeral Chapel on 6 and 7 May while others attended the funeral the next day.

**General Membership Meeting, 5/6:** The GMM was held with fifty or so members in attendance. Minutes are

posted on the bulletin board.

**Monthly Breakfast, 5/11:** A large number enjoyed breakfast at the Post Home this Mother's Day. My thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the breakfast!

**ISCC of Springfield, 5/12:** I hosted this meeting at the Post between 7:30 and 9 a.m. The Club heard an excellent presentation from the Potomac Nationals GM. Donuts were provided by our new Dunkin' Donuts on Backlick Road which is managed by Jeff King. Jeff is also providing gift baskets which have been awarded at bingo and in the lounge. Please see Jeff's card elsewhere in this issue.

**JROTC Awards Ceremony, 5/15:** I presented six medals- bronze, silver and gold- for outstanding achievement in two categories: academics and leadership.

**Consolidated Report Preparation, 5/14-17:** Many hours during this period were spent preparing subject report to meet the 17<sup>th</sup> District deadline of 18 May.

**Poppy Drive, 5/15-17:** Floy and I gave four hours each at two separate locations on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of Marty McGrail, Auxiliary President at the time, I want to thank all who gave a few hours to this Auxiliary Program. I hope that in this issue we learn how successful, in donations received, our efforts were.

**Past Commanders and Past Presidents Dinner, 5/17:** Floy and I attended this annual dinner to honor all of the District's Past Commanders and Unit Presidents. Post 180 in Vienna hosted this dinner.

**Report Judging, 5/18 & 19:** 17<sup>th</sup> District judged the Consolidated Reports in order to determine Posts deserving of awards. (Post 176 awards mentioned above)

**Installation & Awards and Recognition, 5/18:** A banquet was held to install the Post Leadership for the 2008 – 2009 American Legion Year. Richard F. Tiner received the Post's Legionnaire of the Year Award.

**Springfield Days Committee, 5/19:** In the morning the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized this committee (I represented the Post) during the Government Center Meeting and issued a Proclamation for Springfield Days.

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## Blood Drive Report

### Blood Drive Program

The American Legion administrative year runs from 1 May through 30 April. Our Blood Drive efforts since 1 May 2000 have resulted in the collection of 1426 units of blood. During this same period, we have donated 2448 hours and 1883 miles in support of the drives.

**The annual figures are as follows:**

Legion Year	Units Collected	Donated	
		Hours	Miles
May 2000 - April 2001	145	581	121
May 2001 - April 2002	182	349	290
May 2002 - April 2003	115	285	230
May 2003 - April 2004	167	317	228
May 2004 - April 2005	200	236	221
May 2005 - April 2006	176	258	282
May 2006 - April 2007	209	227	253
May 2007 - April 2008	232	195	258
Totals	1426	2448	1883

The American Red Cross (ARC) states that each unit of blood can help as many as three people. Therefore, we have helped a potential of 4,278 people since 1 May 2000. The working hours donated in support of each drive came from members of Post 176, Squadron 176, and the Auxiliary Unit 176. Thank you to all who have supported this worthy effort.

The data indicated that we have a consistent increase in the units collected. We also reflect a decrease in the donated hours thanks to the use of email. We rely on email to notify and remind donors about each drive.

Overall, we have a very successful program in conjunction with the ARC and the community and we provide a very vital community service. Our last blood drive, held 17 June 2008, resulted in the collection of 34 units of whole blood. We also had two members donating red blood cells, as well as three first time donors. Mr. Wayne Smith, a member of the Springfield community, won the drawing for a dinner for two.

Our next blood drive is scheduled for 19 August 2008. If you would like to participate in the program, please contact Joe Finch at (703) 569-1552 or you can email him at Sepp11552@aol.com.

Again, thank you for your support and dedication throughout the years.

Joe Finch  
Blood Drive Chairman

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Between noon and 2 p.m. the committee held its final meeting prior to the event and enjoyed lunch provided by the Silver Diner located vicinity Springfield Mall.

**Executive Committee Meeting, 5/20:** First meeting of new ExCom was conducted and was very productive. In addition to the regular business, a great of information was imparted to the members re: their duties and responsibilities. The House Committee brought an action to the ExCom which resulted in a member being banned from the social quarters due to conduct unbecoming of a legionnaire. ExCom minutes are posted as they're prepared.

**VFW Poppy Drive, 5/22-24:** Many members of the VFW and American Legion Post 176 joined Floy and me to collect donations. I hope the VFW Commander and Auxiliary are proud enough of their success that they don't mind me telling your efforts resulted in \$5000 plus for the relief fund of both units. Great job to all who participated!

**Rolling Thunder, 5/24 - 26:** The Post hosted an impromptu gathering for riders (some Legion and some not) in the lounge on Saturday evening and some members attended weekend events on the Mall as well as helping 17<sup>th</sup> District "man" their tent on the Mall.

**Memorial Day Ceremony, 5/26:** Over 100 attended a wonderful program put on by VFW Post 7327 and enjoyed a Bar-B-Q lunch catered by Famous Dave's. You may have seen the picture of the VFW's Department of Virginia Color Guard who participated in the 'Springfield Connection' newspaper.

**Adopt-a-Highway, 5/29:** please see 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander's report.

**Springfield Days, 5/29-1 June:** This four day celebration found the Post hosting an indoor cookout for the community on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup>. Well over 150 people came to our large hall and enjoyed three different entertainment groups and ate everything in the kitchen. And on Saturday morning our Post Color Guard (CG), wearing Vietnam era uniforms, led the annual parade. And a large group of Legionnaires marched behind the Colors of our Country and our Post. Thanks to Les Albers, CG Commander, and all of you others who participated.

**17<sup>th</sup> District Convention, 6/1:** Post 176 was well represented with Bill Hurd being the only current (or at least most senior) Post Officer. Bill picked up our awards. I thank all of you who attended and represented the Post so ably.

**General Membership Meeting, 6/3:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jeff Harrison was too modest to admit it but others told me he and the rest of the officers conducted an excellent meeting which included giving their first reports of the year.

**Monthly Breakfast, 6/8:** A substitute volunteer crew put on this breakfast. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Forry and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Smith led the effort. I understand Rod Carlone prepares a delicious omelet. Thank you volunteers!

**Election Day, 6/10:** "Get Out the Vote" is an American Legion program so I must advise that your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Jeff Harrison and I worked the Democratic Primary as Precinct Chiefs from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. To do it we missed playing in our NVSS's Military Tournament that day. If any of you others helped as volunteers during this election or during any

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# Sons of The American Legion

As is our usual practice, there will be no meetings of the Squadron in July or August. Our next meeting will be on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Also, the State convention will be on July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott off of Rte 50 in Falls Church. Please come out and support your squadron and commander!! For more information about the convention you can either contact the commander (703-256-2276) or go to the website of the convention:

<http://www.deptvirginiaconvention08.net/>

## 2008-2009 SAL Elections:

The elections for SAL Officers for the 2009-2009 took place at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The officers for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Commander: Chip Byers  
 Vice-Commander: Bill Hall  
 Finance Officer: Bill Swaner  
 Adjutant: Theodore Byers  
 Sgt. At Arms: Tim Dioquino  
 Chaplain: Art Childers  
 Membership Chairman: Terry Breyman

## Membership:

For the Legion Year of 2007-2008, Squadron 176 met and exceeded our membership goal of 120 members. We ended up with 122 members which is 101.67% of the goal. Thank you to all of you!!!

## Flag Day:

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Squadron held the annual Flag Day ceremony and flag disposal ceremony. We were ably assisted by 6 Scouts and Two Scoutmasters from Troop 1344. Thanks guys!!! Due to the very rainy weather, we did a "symbolic" burning of the flags. They will be properly retired at a future date.

On a more serious note, prior to the evening of the ceremony, your commander and your adjutant took over 25 full trash bags of flags down to the Quantico National Cemetery for disposal. They took them but they were not happy that we had so many. These were the flags which we had received since last July or so. While we are more than happy and willing to assist in the disposal of flags

brought by members of the public as well as members of the Legion Family, a number of the flags were obviously of Commercial and even Military size. We just do not have the storage capacity or disposal capacity to handle flags from business or governmental sources. So, please bring in your flags and those of your friends or neighbors, but please DO NOT BRING flags from your company, government agency or Military Installation (one flag last year was from a ship!)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Chip Byers  
 S.A.L. Commander

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election let me know so your hours may be included in the Annual Consolidated Report which will be submitted in mid May 2009.

**Flag Day, 6/14:** At 10 a.m. I represented the Post and dedicated and raised for the first time the Springfield Community Flag. The project was a Springfield Chamber of Commerce one led by President Jon Pellegrin. Several legionnaires and a larger group from the community attended and watch a Cub Scout and Boy Scout raise the flag that was designed by a local teen who received a \$1000 for his efforts.

**Flag Retirement Ceremony, 6/14:** Our S.A.L. Squadron conducted this ceremony. Please see Commander Byers article for additional information.

**VA Hospital Visit, 6/17:** Chaplain Buettner and Deloris joined ten others of us who are both VFW and American Legion members for the quarterly visit to provide "goody" bags to and play bingo with the patients who live on the Nursing and Rehabilitation Wing. It was great to see Dave Jacobson looking and doing so well.

**Friday Night Dinner, 6/20:** Floy and I did not get to attend but maybe one other Friday Night Dinner during the reporting period but I want to single this one out. Sukie and her staff had a seafood dinner of breaded and fried catfish, flounder or tilapia with cold slaw and freedom fries and deserts and beverages. I left so miserable (ate way too much) I didn't even feel like going upstairs where Babs was on with her karaoke system. Had Floy and I gotten up to the lounge we would have witnessed Sam Ritchie win the 7-day stay at our Bryce Mountain Timeshare.

This is a very lengthy article necessitated by us going to a bi-monthly schedule for the Post Scripts. Publishing bi-monthly

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## Your Club

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

**Team 176**, WOW, for the first time in a long time, we actually had a Spring! Wasn't it great and hopefully, we'll have a beautiful and moderate Virginia Summer.....

Many great things continue to happen and one of the nicest things I enjoy from day to day is seeing so many of our old friends and members returning to the Post. You have been missed and the many nice things you have had to say about the Post and all the changes that have brought you home to 176, is music to my ears.

I am very happy to announce that we are **COOL** at Springfield Post 176 – finally! Our permanent A/C unit is ordered and being build. In the meantime though, we do have Air Conditioning! Our winning contract bidder installed a temporary unit to make our lounge and upstairs comfortable. And yes, when the new unit is installed, it will not only keep us cool, it will also keep us toasty in the Winter.

**WE have a Winner....!** Sam Ritchie is this year's winner of the Vacation Getaway at the Post's time share property. CONGRATS Sam, you are a great supporter of the Post and you are a winner in more than one way.....

**Springfield Days** netted a wonderful turn out, along with many inquiries about memberships and Post activities. We were literally wall-2-wall with people and entertainers. People came, stayed, enjoyed themselves – and OH-MY, did they ever eat - just about every-thing in the house. Next year, we'll do an even better job. We received so many nice comments and complements from our visiting public – but – one of the nicest observations that was repeated by so many of our visitors was the fact that people had heard so many nice things about the Post and wanted to check it out and in addition to all those wonderful comments – people came to our doors because they felt safe, compared to events being held at Springfield Mall. All the goodies we had available at very reasonable process, only made their outing all the better and I'm sure we'll net several new members and associates for our efforts, in the near future.

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### MILITARY FUNERALS

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-Please Note: Changes – per your request-

**- LUNCH SPECIALS -**  
**Carry out service is available**  
**11 am – 2 pm**  
**(only \$4.00)**

**Mon – Chef's/Tuna/Chicken/Ham Salads**  
**Tues – Grilled Cheese w/home made soup**  
**Wed – Meat Loaf w/mashed taters**  
**Thur – Butterfly Shrimp w/FF's**  
**Fri – Beer Battered Cat Fish or Flounder w/ FF's**  
**- available daily -**

– New Daily Item –  
**Sam's Salad (Chef's Salad)**

**Your Regular Menu Favorites Too!**

Enjoy!

### Friday Night Entertainment - In the Club

(2000hrs–2400hrs)

-- July --

**07/04 – Jeff the DJ**  
**07/11 – Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay**  
**07/18 – Karaoke with Barb**  
**07/25 – Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay**

-- August --

**08/01 – Jeff the DJ**  
**08/08 – Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay**  
**08/15 – Karaoke with Barb**  
**08/22 – Karaoke and (??) w/Joe Clay**  
**08/29 – Karaoke with Barb**

(Suggestions are always Welcome!)  
**ENJOY!**

**Line Dancing/Lessons:** Monday nights  
8pm~9:30pm, \$4.00 per person, Dining Room, Info:  
Call Curt Lauer 703-455-6912. **Dancers wanted!**

**Bingo:** Monday's, doors open 5:00pm, games start  
7pm. **Volunteers welcome!**

**Cribbage:** Thursday's, 7pm.

**Bridge:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 2008</b>		1  <b>General Membership Meeting 1930hrs</b>	2  Bridge	3  Cribbage	4 <b>Independence Day</b>  <b>Ceremony 1130hrs</b>  Jeff the DJ 2000hrs	5
	6	7  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	8	9	10  Cribbage	11  Karaoke w/Joe 2000hrs
13  POST 176 Breakfast 9-11 am (\$7.00)	14  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	15	16  Bridge	17  Cribbage	18  Karaoke w/ Babs 2000hrs	19
20	21  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	22  <b>ExCOM Meeting 1930hrs</b>	23	24  Corp Board  Cribbage	25  Karaoke w/Joe 2000hrs	26  Honor Flight (0900hrs)
27  <b>Korean War Ceremony (0900hrs)</b>	28  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	29	30	31  Cribbage		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>August 2008</b>					1  Jeff the DJ 2000hrs	2
3	4	5  <b>General Membership Meeting</b> 1930hrs	6  Bridge	7	8  Karaoke w/Joe 2000hrs	9
10  POST 176 Breakfast 9-11 am (\$7.00)	11  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	12	13	14  Cribbage	15  Karaoke w/ Barb 2000hrs	16
17	18  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	19  <b>Blood Drive</b>  <b>ExCOM Meeting</b> <b>1930hrs</b>	20  Bridge	21  Cribbage	22  Karaoke w/Joe 2000hrs	23  <b>(22 - 29th AUG, Nat'l Convention Phoenix, AZ)</b>
24	25  Bingo Doors open 5:00pm  Line Dance 8pm	26  <b>Veterans Bridge Walk</b>	27  DAV	28  Cribbage	29  Karaoke w/ Barb 2000hrs	30

## Your Club cont...

(Continued from page 7)

**Rentals** – continue to do well and hopefully, we will be able to expand our services in this area, in the near future as facility improvements allow.

**Yummy, smell something cooking...?** Yep, seems we have a bunch of Visiting Chefs that are ready to prepare their specialties for your Friday Night enjoyment along with Chef Ali's tasty treats. So to all you budding Chefs, willing to throw your spatulas into the pot, *come on down!* We have had a lot of fun and experienced some fantastic taste sensations with this activity in the past – so – come out and enjoy!

**Just a few more announcements** and I will have finally managed to issue a short article: -> **Happy Hour** snacks and finger foods is back; Monday thru Thursday; 5:30 - ?

->**Taco Night (Saturdays 5:30 to 7:00)** is returning by Popular Requests. Unfortunately for the many honest patrons we have – we had to discontinue the program due to Free-Grazing and Portion abuse and 'take out' liberties exercised by a few. Because so many of you really enjoyed this service – we're going to give it another try....

-Tacos are .75 cents each or 3 for \$2.00  
 -Taco Salad \$3.00

With all this said – let's have a great Summer and safe vacation season!

*To our wonderful members, thank you for all your continued support and to our many new members, welcome aboard, come out, enjoy Your Post and all the entertainment it offers - and - most important of all – thank you FOR BEING and GETTING INVOLVED!*

THANK YOU ! – Sukie

*Oops – Don't forget to check out the Lunch Menu changes and new additions to the Friday Night Dinner Steak options.*

### - Friday Night Dinner Menu -

...for July / August 2008

...5:30 – 8:30...

*\*Our house Steaks are always available!*

*(NY @ \$12.00 & Filet Mignon @ \$16.00)*

*\*All dinners include: Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Tea (hot/iced), and assorted desserts.*

#### --- July ---

**07/04 – Sorry – no dinner tonight** – Post indoor picnic in the lounge – BBQ, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Pot & Mac Salads, etc.....  
*Happy 4<sup>th</sup>!*

**07/11 – 'Porky Our Favorite Pig'** - Pork Loin w/mashed taters & green beans \$10.00

**07/18 – 'South of the Border'** - Mexican Dinner Buffet by Searia \$12.00

**07/25 – 'Kick back and relax'** – BBQ Chicken w/ potato salad, baked beans, corn on the cob \$10.00

#### --- August ---

**08/01 – 'Rage'n Cajun'** – Jamblaya etc.. \$11.00

**08/08 – 'Play it again Sam...'** - Moroccan Night – Lamb, Beef, Chicken Kabobs and goodies by Ali \$13.00

**08/15 – 'Mamma Mia'** – Italian Night by JP \$12.00

**08/22 – 'You asked for it'** – Cat Fish or Flounder w/potato salad & hush puppies \$12.00

**08/29 – Sorry, no dinner tonight** – Holiday Weekend – Happy Hour Food will be available in the lounge

#### --- September ---

**09/05 – 'Southern Delite'** – Pulled Pork BBQ w/ baked beans, slaw, corn bread \$12.00

#### --- New Steak Features ---

-6 oz Tender Loin (bacon wrapped) \$9.00

-6 oz NY Steak \$9.00

-8oz NY Steak \$12.00

*( like all our meals – all the fix'n's are included )*

**Remember – guest chefs are welcome to share their special menu items!!!**

**Join in on the fun and dining pleasure....**

If you have suggestions for our dinner selections – you would like to see featured – please – feel free to share your ideas – *Thanks – Sukie*

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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)

## Auxiliary Unit 176 News

Greetings from your newly elected Unit President! Congratulations to all the officers that have been elected to serve this year. The names of these officers are listed on page 2, of this Post Script, along with the names of the newly elected Post and SAL Officers. We congratulate them and wish them well.

Ladies our first goal must be to increase membership. Over the past several years our membership has declined considerably through transfers, deaths and members dropping out because we have not made the Auxiliary interesting. We once stood as the largest Unit in Virginia. We can reclaim that title with extra effort on your part. Renew early and bring a qualified prospective member to our meetings.

Secondly, we must make our monthly meetings interesting and fun. I'll try to arrange speakers that will tell us about the programs of the Auxiliary, and, along the way maybe we can do a few fun things. Ladies, it's up to you. Your attendance at our monthly meetings is essential in moving our Unit forward.

Third, and by no means last, are our programs. I'm asking you to step-up and volunteer to work on the programs – tell me what you can and can't do and we, together, will work out a compromise to ensure our programs are working.

As outlined in our Constitution and By-Laws, we will not be conducting our regular meetings over the summer months. The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 7:30 PM. I hope all of our members have a safe, fun-filled summer and until then be thinking about making our Unit the largest, best, and fun filled Unit in Virginia.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Jere Vatter  
Unit President

## Ladies of the Auxiliary,

We are starting a new year with a new Vice President who is new at this job of membership, so I need your help - pay your dues early so I can get lots of practice.

Lets all try to have the largest early renewals ever! If you know someone eligible, please ask them to join us.

Floy A. Lipscomb  
Vice President

### SPECIAL NEWS:

It is my pleasure to report to you on the status on one of our former employees, now Lance Corporal Curtis Thompson, United States Marine Corp. Curtis made LCP on 1 April 2008 and shortly thereafter was designated as THE MARINE OF THE QUARTER for his company. As a result look for him to be promoted by mid July to Corporal. As Carol and Jet are proud of Curtis, so are all of us here at Post 176. We wish him God Sped and all success as he defends America and freedom.

### FYSA

1. In the last issue we gave you the dates and performing artists for the Lee District Nights Summer Concerts held at the Lee District Park Amphitheater which are held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m., June – August.

Remaining concerts are:

- July 16: The United States Army Band "Blues Jazz Ensemble"
- July 23: The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra "Summer Band"
- July 30: Peruvian Dance and Music
- Aug 6: Citizen (Folk and Rock Music)
- Aug 13: Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian Music)
- Aug 20: Jennifer Cutting's Ocean Orchestra (Irish Music)
- Aug 27: Sol Y Rumba (Latin Dance Music)

2. An agreement has finally been signed to complete the final two-mile portion of the Fairfax County Parkway through the Engineer Proving Ground (EPG) where dirt is being moved and concrete is being poured for the National-Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's new East Headquarters scheduled to open o/a 12 Sept 2011.

3. Farmers' Markets are located vicinity Post 176 at (1) Mason District Park in Annandale (6621 Columbia Pike) on Thursdays open between 8 a.m. and noon and at (2) Kingstowne (near Sunoco Station) on Fridays open between 4 and 7 p.m. For additional info please go to

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmmkt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmmkt.htm)

4. The POW Accounting Command is still searching for the remains of unaccounted for POW/MIA's as evidenced by the recent discovery of two Virginia men who were KIA while serving in the Army during the Korean War.

5. Korean War Ceremony 27 July 2008, Washington DC, 0900-1100hrs at the Korean War Memorial.

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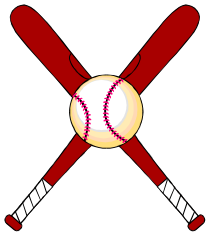
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## Springfield American Legion Post 176



After the first week of play Post 176 is 2 – 0. The first victory (3-2) was a rain shortened win against Falls Church Post 130. Returning player and Co-Captain, Josh Brown (West Springfield HS - grad) carried the offense going 3 for 3, scoring 2 runs and had 1 RBI. Additional standout, Isaac Barnett (Edison HS – rising senior) pitched superbly only giving up 1 earned run and striking out 8.

The second win (14-4) was against last year’s District 17 Champions, Vienna Post 180. The offense was led by new player John Ponton, a rising senior from Robert E. Lee High School. He had 4 plate appearances, 2 singles, 1 double and also reached by getting hit by a pitch. A patient offense and disciplined hitting were instrumental in the high scoring game. Springfield Post 176 brought 43 batters to the plate and 28 reached first base for an impressive On Base Percentage (OBP) of .651. Post 176 pitching was spearheaded by returning player and Co-Captain Andrew Sanders (Lee HS – grad). Sanders gave up only 1 earned run through 5 innings. The soaring temperature, 99 degrees, and elevated pitch count forced Springfield to bring in first year player Mike Olerta (Lee HS – senior). His mastery of off speed pitches proved too much for Post 180 as Post 176 walked away with a “ten run rule” win over the reigning champs.

After one week of play and four rainout games to be rescheduled, Springfield American Legion Post 176 has a 2-0 record. For the latest standings and schedule updates go to the American Legion District 17 web page at <http://mysite.verizon.net/jglassman/nvalb/index.html> or check he Post web site for our schedule of games.

If you would like to support our baseball team and Post with a donation (to offset the season’s operating cost) *please*, make your check payable to "**American Legion Post 176- Baseball**" and send to:

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

Hope to see you at the ballpark!

Former Post 176 American Legion Team member, Joe Saunders, is pitching great for the Los Angeles Angels. Lefty Joe Saunders is a product of West Springfield High School and Virginia Tech. He “stuck” with the Angels the last two months of last season is having a great year with them this season. Get more info by following his career in the sports pages. UPDATE: On 21 June he won his eleventh game thing him for the major league lead in wins with an 11-3 won-loss record. <http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/players/stats?playerId=6383>

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## **CORPORATE BOARD REPORT:**

### **Equipment Purchased, accounts updated.**

There is so much information to pass that it is best to write two separate articles this month. This article will deal with general business matters and the other article in this post scripts will deal exclusively with the Monument proposal update.

As you remember, we had the building inspected for defects about six months ago, and it appears that some of the deficiencies in our A/C units are now becoming total failures. The primary A/C unit for our upper level totally failed in early June just as it got hot. Anticipating from our earlier inspection that this could happen, we had already put the replacement job out to bid. After reviewing several bids, in a Corporate Board emergency session, it was decided that we would contract a local company, AIRPLUS, to do the replacement. Actually Airplus is a neighbor of our post located on Old Keene Mill Rd. The Owner, Mr. Kim has taken personal interest as a result and offered us an excellent purchase with maintenance package that will not only replace this unit but the others as they need replacement. Mr. Kim quickly installed a temporary A/C unit on the upper level awaiting delivery of the much bigger permanent unit. These are the type of business relationships that the post should make.

Also, the post has retained two lawyers for two separate issues that are at hand for us. One is for our response to a lawsuit brought against the post by Lori Shepard concerning payment for services rendered in 2004 and 2005. This has not gone to a hearing as of this article. The other attorney is for the legal review of the Monument offer. This will be presented in the Monument article in this issue.

On the Financial side of matters, our Finance Officer Mr. Bill Hurd has been hard at work reviewing and updating our Chart of Accounts that we use for accounting. This is done to ensure that all items where there is an income or expense are broken down separately so we can more clearly see each dollar goes to rather than just a grouping. He has completed this project and the implementation in reporting is now happening. That is it for the business report except for one thing.

Rod Carlone, President; Corporate Board

## **MONUMENT REALTY PROPOSAL UPDATE**

### **Pricing and Parking Issues**

This article deals solely with the property purchase proposal from Monument. First, let me thank all of you who have shown interest in this proposal and have made input. Your comments spur good discussion. Also, I would like to thank publicly my fellow board members who had the wisdom to screen and hire a quality attorney to review this proposal for us. **THIS DECISION HAS PROVEN TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE THUS FAR!** I say this because our attorney, Mr. John McBride, has clarified some of the proposal that previously may have been misinterpreted.

#### **ISSUE ONE: PRICING**

Monuments price offering has turned out to be a floating one. I say this because the price of 8.5 million (minus parking) is based on the county awarding a FAR of 2.0. The fact is that the county may not award an FAR of 2.0. The county has informed me in general discussion that the Far could come in at 1.7 to 1.8. What does that do to the price? I have calculated the numbers and will now list the difference in dollars:

FAR 2.0= 8,541,616

FAR 1.80= 7,648,704

FAR 1.70= 7,202,248

As you can see, as the FAR comes down so does the price, dramatically. Also, these numbers do not reflect the 500,000 dollars to be deducted for parking.

Our attorney, in conjunction with post officers, will seek to change this situation to one where we will have a lock down minimum FAR or bottom line dollar price before we present this offer to you. The Commander is fully engaged in this process and we will not be forced into a time limit to resolve this price issue. The county has assured us that at the July 28 land use meeting we do not have to come in with our decision. We can have more time. We will work on this issue on a regular basis. Stand by.

#### **ISSUE TWO: PARKING**

Currently, we have been offered 30 permanent parking spaces full time and unlimited nights and weekends. However, our Attorney discovered that under zoning laws we are required to maintain 1 parking space per 3 members, as a private organization. In accordance with the amount of land we would be retaining in the sale, we would need to keep at least 53 parking spaces. We may be able to get a change to requirement with the re-zoning but again, it must be settled before we go to a final contract. Mr. McBride has shown great expertise in the area of land contracts. He will be coming to the post to brief first the Officers, then the members before any voting is done. He has also stated to me that this is a good opportunity but as always, the devil is in the details. I know there will be many questions; we will answer all questions before any meeting is held on this issue of property sale. Thank You for diligence on this issue.

For God and Country, Rod Carlone, Corporate Board President

## Chaplain's Report

Ephesians 6: 18 tells us, "With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit." What we do for God is not as important as our communication with Him. If you are not in the habit of praying or don't have a dedicated time for talking to God, you are missing out on talking to the one person who can help you in all areas of your life. Use the opportunities that present themselves daily for a chat with God. This can be while you are in traffic, standing in the check-out line, fueling your car or enjoying some peace and quiet at home. The Lord is waiting to hear from you!

I have posted a Phone Tree Notification Sheet on the Post Bulletin Board. If you would like to be notified of Comrades who have died or are ill, please put your name on the list.

As the school year ends, our children and grandchildren will be looking for something to do. What better way to keep them busy one week, for a few hours a day, then to enroll them in one of the numerous Vacation Bible Schools that are being hosted by churches throughout the area. If you have the time, you may also want to volunteer your time and talent to help out at the church while spreading the word of God to our youngest generation.

### RECENTLY DEPARTED NOTICE

Mrs. Margaret Shealy Lipscomb of Newberry, South Carolina, mother of Commander Lew Lipscomb, passed away on May 30. She was 86 years old and had been hospitalized for broken bones after a fall. She succumbed due to complications from her injuries. Commander Lipscomb and his wife, Floy, wish to thank the Post Members, the ExCom and Corporate Board, the Post Auxiliary and the S.A.L. for the beautiful flower arrangement and expressions of sympathy.

Comrade Vincent R. Lauria, a 47 year member, passed away on March 3. He was 77 years old. He is survived by his wife, who shared with us that they both enjoyed going to their "getaway" condo in Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Robert L. Woodard, father of Comrade Elizabeth Woodard, passed away suddenly during the week of June 8. He was a longtime member of the Ancient and Sacred Order of Quiet Birdmen and the Stone City VFW Post 2199, Joliet, IL. Comrade Liz has asked that any donations be sent to the VFW.

Comrade Billy L. Stone, a member for 29 years, passed away on June 13. He had suffered a stroke three years ago and never fully recovered. He was in a coma for a week before he passed away. He is survived by his wife and son. His wife has requested that we conduct a Funeral Ceremony for Billy and will let us know the details when she has worked them out.

Comrade Nicanor S. Zalamia, a member for 16 years, passed away on June 19. He is survived by his widow and a large family. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's for the past year but still remembered his family and friends. He celebrated Fa-

ther's Day surrounded by his family. He became very ill the following day but appeared to be fine on Tuesday and Wednesday. He passed away suddenly on Thursday, June 19.

When you see Commander Lipscomb and Floy, Comrade Liz and members of Comrades' Lauria, Stone, and Zalamia family, please extend your condolences to them during this sad time.

### SICK CALL

-Comrade Josephine Harbert was a resident at Woodbine Nursing Center in Alexandria. Doris Cortez and I visited her in May. We brought her some fresh strawberries and chocolate which she enjoyed immensely. She has returned home and is still recuperating slowly.

-Comrade George Panagakos tells me that he is doing "fair" for 96 years young. He said that he is blessed with a son who lives in the area and treats him like every day is Father's Day.

-Dave Jacobson is undergoing radiation and chemo at the VA Hospital in Washington during the week and returning to his home on the weekend. He is anxious to get this treatment finished to be sure that he is cancer free. He says that the staff is excellent and caring. From our visit on June 17, we can confirm this. Dave would welcome a call at the VA Hospital and can be reached there at 202-518-4439.

-Jim Gathercoal was hospitalized in the VA Hospital in Washington. He has been released from the hospital and he has been by the lounge to say HI!

-Rich Tiner completed a treatment but developed kidney problems. He was hospitalized for ten days and is back home. He is still feeling poorly. Please give him a call just to touch base at 703-451-6556.

-Chaplain Al Cockrell has been sick and is on the mend. I borrowed this Post Scripts format from Al. Thank you Al.

-Art LeClair has been having lung problems, is not doing well and could use your prayers.

I want to let you know that our Comrades are appreciative of the cards they received and our prayers.

Please remember to pray for our sick and deceased Comrades, Veterans, Servicemen, Servicewomen and their families. Continue to petition the Lord to intervene in their world to keep them safe, successful in their mission and bring them spiritual peace. Also, in your prayers, please remember those families suffering from the floods in Iowa.

I am new to the position of Chaplain and will try to provide more information on our ailing Comrades as I receive it. Please feel free to contact me if you or someone from our Legion family is ill. 703-455-5067.

For God and Country

## The Stoy's on the Move Again

If you haven't met Monika and Tim Stoy yet it's their fault! Members of Post 176 since January, they are two busy veterans helping veterans. Monika, a retired Army Captain and President of Outpost Europe of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and Tim, an Army LTC still on active duty and serving as Historian for the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, give graciously of their time and money by working tirelessly for the Society of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army.

They have recently returned from Germany where they and WWII US Army veterans on the site during WWII, raised a 48-star U.S. Flag and placed a plaque to recognize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division's entry into Berchtesgaden on 4 May 1945, the first Allied unit to enter the city, and the flag raising ceremony on the Obersalzberg the morning of 5 May 1945.

Monika gave the keynote address in English while husband Tim served as master of ceremonies and delivered Monika's speech in German (Tim studied German at West Point). Credit for liberating Berchtesgaden was erroneously given in a book "Band of Brothers" written by Stephen Ambrose to the 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment. An HBO mini-series carried the inaccuracy to the American public. The record has been set straight!

I met the Stoy's during an Honor Flight at the WWII Memorial July last year, prior to 27 July when I narrated the POW/MIA Ceremony for the anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Monika was running that show! No she's not 73 years old-she didn't serve in the conflict. She's a mover and shaker who gets things done. She served two tours in Korea, 1978 to 1979 and 1986 to 1987. This month is our first anniversary and it has been my (and Floy's) pleasure to know them and work with them (French Delegation) and to break bread together- a delicious dinner she prepared for which I've been waiting to formally thank her and Tim for when they returned from their travels. The Stoy's are a unique couple; introduce yourself if they have time to attend another meeting.

## VA & R

On May 21 2008 ground was broken for a Fisher House to be constructed on the grounds of the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (DCVAMC) in Washington DC. Fisher Houses (about 50 around the country) provide free or low cost lodging to families receiving treatment at VA and Military Hospitals. Comrades Jones, Grizzard and Dyrezski represented Post 176.

On June 17, 2008 the Post Commander, Chaplain, Auxilliary Vice President and Auxiliary member (Deloris Buetlener) visited the Nursing and Rehabilitation Wing at the DCVAMC. The group assisted the patients play bingo and tried to personally talk with Jim Gathercoal, a member, who was hospitalized in ICU. The group did get to see Dave Jacobson, an 18 year member, of the Post who recently had major surgery to remove cancer from his jaw. Dave has made a remarkable recovery - he 'looks' his old self and his speech is clear. My thanks to all who took several hours out of their busy day to bring cheer to these 100 or so hospitalized veterans.

The DCVAMC is growing, changing and improving. Of course this refers to construction going on at the Washington D.C. facility. Visitors and patients will be inconvenienced in the name of progress. To name a few of the projects: a future Fisher House, a planned Domiciliary, a four story administrative building, large polytrauma and radiology suits and a three level parking garage. Also the hospital's canteen, retail store and chapel will be completely updated.. Go to: [WWW.washingtondc.va.gov](http://WWW.washingtondc.va.gov) for details

### **(Continued from page 6)**

is doing what I said that it would: save us half of the costs to print it and work volunteers half as often. The disadvantages include having such a large number of pages when we do publish and not being able to project two months out everything that will be happening. Annually VALPA (Virginia American Legion Press Association) judges Post newsletters. We entered the required three issues and have a good chance of receiving an award from 17<sup>th</sup> District if District judges can let content/substance outweigh glossy print and color pictures. Fairfax Post 177 won the National Award last year and I applauded them but will put ours up against theirs in every aspect except cost of production-ours cost less per issue! Good luck this year Post 177!

We honored all who have died in service to our country in May. Let's try to slow down and take a moment everyday to give thought to and pray for all service men and women everywhere.

For God and Country,

Lewis "Lew" M. Lipscomb  
Commander, Springfield Post 176  
The American Legion

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## JUL/AUG 2008

### July 2008

- 1 - General Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m.**
- 4 - Independence Day Ceremony 1130 a.m.**
- 10 - 13 Department Convention (Vienna)**
- 13 - Breakfast, 9 - 11 a.m.**
- 22 - ExCom Mtg, 7:30 p.m.**

### August 2008

- 5 - General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
- 10 - Breakfast, 9 - 11 a.m.**
- 19 - ExCom, 7:30 p.m.**
- 22-29 National Convention (Phoenix)**
- 26 - Veterans Bridge Walk**
- 27 - Korean War Ceremony (0900-1100hrs)**

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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).