



POST SCRIPTS

The American Legion
6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield Virginia 22150

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2007

COMMANDER'S CALL

Comrades,
Sisters and Sons,

Before reporting what has been done in the way of Post Programs and Projects, I must get three issues off my chest. Recently a female legionnaire sent in her refusal to renew. Why? She felt she had been snubbed by several members of our family at our July 4th cookout held in the Club Area. I called and talked with her, not to change her mind, even though that would be nice, but to apologize to her. We probably talked for 30 or so minutes during which time I learned a great deal about her, her military service and about her deceased husband who also loved and

served the American Legion. She did not imagine the rudeness. It happened and it should never happen to a member or guest again. Please respect, meet and converse with all that we call comrades, sisters and sons. For my part I'm going to invite people who are new to the Post or infrequent visitors to the Post the opportunity to introduce themselves every time we meet for whatever purpose. This leads nicely to the second thing I want to get off of my chest.

Women who have and are currently serving in the military are veterans just as much as us guys. Women have played vital

roles in our military since Day One and some of us need to improve our attitudes about them and their service to our nation. We can start improving by inviting them into our male dominated organizations and then showing them that their contributions were no less important than ours.

At the moment we are 1600 plus strong. Approximately 100 of us are working for the other 1500 of you. I can't stop asking you to call and volunteer to help do something. Approximately 350 of you could do a small thing to help alleviate the need for some volunteer work.

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DECEMBER'S KEY DATES

(In History and Otherwise)

- 2nd – First Sunday of Advent and the Signing of the Monroe Doctrine
- 5th – First Day of Hanukkah
- 7th – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 8th – US Declared War on Japan
- 10th – War with Spain Ended (1898) and Human Rights Day
- 11th – Germany and Italy Declared War on U.S.
- 12th – Wireless Telegraph Across the Atlantic (1901)
- 14th – Death of George Washington (1799)
- 15th – Bill of Rights Day
- 22nd – First Day of Winter
- 24th – War of 1812 Ends (1814)
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 26th – Kwanzaa
- 31st – Official End of WWII in 1946 and New Years Eve

American Legion Emblem Sales

Last month there was an article about the American Legion Cap. The article mentioned everything about the cap except how to get one. The cap comes in various materials/fabrics and various styles (cap

crowns). Since the catalogue has all of the info needed to order a cap, call 1-888-453-4466 or 1-888-4LEGION and ask for a catalogue be mailed to you. After your initial order from the catalogue you'll receive a new

catalogue automatically each year for the next two years.



Post 176 Officers

Commander.....Lew Lipscomb
1st Vice.....Ray Stone
2nd Vice.....George Tesla
3rd Vice.....Stu Bailey
Finance Officer.....Robert Cable
Chaplain.....Vacant
Sgt-At-Arms.....Ron Phillips
Adjutant.....Rex Buckley
Service Officer.....Ali Nikolai
Historian.....Ralph Nichols
(phone #'s will return next month)

Executive Committee

Committeeman 1yr. William Hurd
Committeeman 2yr.....Jim Brado
Committeeman 3yr....Ken Hanson

Corporate Board

President 1yr.....Rod Carlone
Member 2yr.....Rich Tiner
Member 3yr.....Dennis Stokowski
Secretary.....Phil Mendoza

Unit 176 Officers

President.....Marty McGrail
Vice President.....Vacant
Secretary.....Debra Weimer
Treasurer.....Andrea Sutherland
Chaplain.....Jere Vatter
Historian.....Mable Sanderson
Sgt-At-Arms.....Raheleh Faziollah
Asst. Sgt-At Arms.....Hazel Babler

Squadron 176 Officers

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

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AUXILIARY NEWS

your help and support, we could not do as much.

We want to send out our special thanks for the work of one group. Our Boy Scout Troop 1344 raised over \$800. in their efforts to support our veterans. Our Scout troop 1344 should be especially commended for their part in the day!

All the money we raise goes towards our veterans programs in the Auxiliary and allows us to supply the hospitalized veterans with many needs they have. This also includes the veterans in Iraq, Afghanistan and Germany hospitals.

The Auxiliary sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner for families of Fort Belvoir. We have been gathering up food for these families and the supplies was warmly received. They were very Grateful!

Annual Children's Christmas Party December 9th, 12:30 to 3:30 Open to the public.

Please donate a package of socks and/or cash donations. Lite lunch and snacks will be served. Bob Brown and the Puppeteers will present Penguin's Playground. Please come! Your neighbors and friends are welcome.

We have an Angel

tree at the Post Home. You can pick a child or an adult's name to purchase a present for Christmas. On the other hand, you can make a donation and we will shop for you! If you care to make a donation. Please send to Marty McGrail 5620 Flag Run Drive Springfield, Va. 22151 please mark you donation "Angels".

The Malone House is having a dinner for 150 vets and their families who *cannot* go home this Christmas. We are supplying some presents for the Vets and their families. In addition to this, we are also making packages for our vets in the hospitals.

We have 5,000 wounded vets at Walter Reed right now. They need your help! If any members of our Post are able to make a monetary donations to the Christmas events or donations of new items. The Auxiliary would greatly appreciate anything you are able to do.

I would like to "Thank" everyone for supporting us and attending our functions! We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday. God Bless!

For God and Country,
Marty McGrail,
President Unit 176

CORPORATE BOARD REPORT: A NEW BEGINNING

For those of you who missed the last members meeting, you missed something very special. For the first time ever, a full briefing of the post Management process was presented to the members. Many new procedures have been implemented in our Post, the recommendation of our audit report have been addressed, we have full record keeping and CPA certified verification. I wish to thank and congratulate Director Den-

nis Stokowski who made a very professional and in-depth presentation to all members present. He identified past problems, all the corrections made, and future management challenges that lie ahead for our Post. As a result of all our efforts to put us back on track. I believe we are now poised to tackle a serious challenge for our Post, namely the repair of our property today and the reduction of substantial debt in the fu-

ture.

You can continue to trust in our efforts. We call upon all members to tally behind us as we go forward to improve our Post for the long term. The Commander in with us in these efforts and we shall continue to conduct business with full disclosure, integrity, and professionalism.

For God and Country
Rod Carlone, President

BLOOD DRIVE:

by Joe Finch

Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, 18 December 2007, in the main ballroom of the Post. We will start at 2:00PM and end at 7:00PM. The last appointment block will start at 6:45PM.

Please come out and support this worthy program. Call Joe Finch at 703-569-1552 to schedule an appointment. You can also contact Joe using email to the following address: SEPPL1552@AOL.COM.

Our last drive held in October was a good one. We collected 33 units of blood. Thank you to ALL who came out and helped to make the drive a success. A BIG thank you to our team of volunteers from the Post and the Auxiliary who are always there to insure that we have the best operating Blood Drive in the Northern Virginia area.

The American Red Cross is will be having a raffle. Details will be available at the drive. Post 176 will have a drawing for a Dinner for Two at the end of the drive. Come out

And share the Christmas Spirit as well as your BLOOD. Thank you.

Don't be a victim.....

Popular item being stolen from vehicles.

A new gadget that is gaining popularity with drivers is the portable Global Positioning System (GPS) for vehicles..... a small unit that is mounted to the windshield of a car with a suction cup. The driver types an address into the unit and an audible computerized voice provides directions. With the increased purchase of these systems there is also an increase in them being stolen from cars. If you own a GPS unit, here are some ways to prevent it from being stolen from your car:

Always take the GPS unit and the suction cup off the windshield when you get out of your car.

Don't hide the unit in the glove compartment or under a seat; take it with you into your house or work or lock it in the trunk.

Wipe the suction cup mark from the windshield; this is a sign that you have the unit and may target your car for a break in.

Write down the serial number of your unit and keep it in a safe place in your house.

Should your unit be stolen, that number is very important to police and can ultimately help them in recovering it.

Always lock your car when you are not in it. This will prevent someone going through it and taking things they find, like a GPS unit.



Sons Of The American Legion

Come out to the meetings!:

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:30 PM. We will be discussing the budget and spending for the next S.A.L. year as well. While it is nice to see the same faces each month, it would be even better if we had a few new faces!!

Get Involved

In addition to more folks coming out to the meetings (which your commander would really like to see happen), members of the Squadron have other opportunities to get involved. Recently, various members of the Squadron have been involved in serving Veterans and others in the community. Chaplain Childers has been going, with the Elks, to the Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg West Virginia. Vice Commander Hall has been doing great work at Bingo, the Monthly breakfast and **ORNAMENT SALES!!** Sgt at Arms DioQuino has been working hard with the Scouts. Adjutant Byers assisted in a

recent "lounge clean up." Your Commander has also been involved with Bingo, Honor Flight and other activities. Many members (including a large number of the Boy Scout Troop) helped in collecting funds during the Poppy Drive and, of course, the Boy Scouts did a wonderful job providing the Flag Detail on Veterans' Day. Thank you very much Scouts!! We have people involved, but we need more. Your commander often gets tired of defending the Sons against the accusation that we are primarily interested in the social quarters. Let's make it obvious that we are a full fledged partner in the Legion Family. Let us continue to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

2008 MEMBERSHIP :

The new membership year is underway, and we are doing very well. We are over 50% of our Goal and are at the top of the district standings. (only one post-Post 85 in Arlington which is at 107% is ahead of us.) . It would be great if we can get to (or close to) 100% by the end of the year. So let us hear from you with your renewals or bring in a new mem-

ber. Dues are \$25 for Senior Members, \$10 for Junior Members and \$15 for Dual Legion/SAL members. Let's all work to exceed 100% this year. (Legionnaires: If you are reading this please consider joining as a Dual Member if you qualify. If your Father or any ancestor is a legion member or died subsequent to service which would have qualified him or her to join the Legion, you qualify as do any of your sons, Grandsons, or Stepsons.)

White House Ornaments

The 2007 ornaments are for sale and now is a good time to get them in preparation for the Holiday season. See any SAL member or ABC Manager in the lounge. They are the same price as last year (\$17.00) and they make great presents for friends and family. See form on bottom of page. Again these are most exquisite and make fine gifts and collectors items.

Chip Byers,
SAL Commander

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Number requested: _____
\$17.00 ea. for a Total of _____



You're Invited!

COME HONOR OUR TROOPS!

Join nasa astronauts FOR A Magnificent Tribute To Our WOUNDED Soldiers

FREE EVENT. First come first served.

- astronauts will present a stunning audiovisual show
- message of thanks from astronaut currently in the space station who will speak to the wounded soldiers *from space!*
- spectacular astronaut home movies of earth orbit and the space station
- audio communications between the astronauts and mission control
- exciting updates on future space exploration missions
- photo opportunities with the astronauts and autographs

Live music provided by Barbara Wyatt-Huff courtesy of Paths of Patriots, Inc.

WHERE: AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

8663 Colesville Road , Silver Spring, Maryland

WHEN: Monday, December 10, 2007 6:30-9 pm

DIRECTIONS:

The AFI Silver Theatre is located at 8633 Colesville Rd -at the intersection of Colesville Road and Georgia Ave-in the heart of the new downtown Silver Spring . By Metro: The AFI Silver Theatre is located on Colesville Road , just two blocks north of Metro's Red Line station in Silver Spring . By Ride-On Bus: The Silver Spring station is served by routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 28. By Metro-bus: The Silver Spring station is served by routes 70, 71, J5, F4, F6, JH1, J2, J3, J4, Q2, S2, S4, Y8, Z5. By Car: AFI Silver Theatre is less than two miles south of Beltway exit 30 (Colesville Road) and exit 31 (Georgia Avenue). The theatre is also convenient to the Bethesda area via East-West Highway and from downtown Washington via 16th St, NW .

PARKING:

---The Wayne Avenue garage is located between Georgia Ave. and Fenton St.

FREE PARKING after 6:00 p.m. weekdays

---Behind the Lee Building at the corner of Colesville Rd and Georgia Ave (\$3.00 for

the entire evening). Enter lot from either Georgia Ave or Fenton St.

---Parking garage on Ellsworth Drive with free parking after 6pm.

---Gateway Plaza after 6:00pm (facing shopping center at corner of Georgia and Colesville).

---Public parking deck one-and-a-half blocks from the theatre at Colesville Road

and Spring Street. Metered rates of 50¢ per hour weekdays.

---The Town Square garage located on the corner of Ellsworth Dr and Fenton St .

MEET EARL SHIFLETT

2008 is my 10th Legion Year and I pride myself on knowing Legion Programs and members of the Legion Family but it took nine years for me to learn we had a celebrity in the house. I recently met Earl Shiflett. Perhaps only 25 year members were around to hear Earl and the Hi-Liters appear on stage at our Post home (6538 Backlick Rd) circa 1985 when they performed for VFW Post 7327 and Legion Post 176 to celebrate July the 4th. Earl at the time had dark black hair and was the leader of the Hi-Liters, a country and western group. Earl grew up in Springfield and in the 70's and 80's appeared on local television, at the Grand Ole Opry and with nationally known country and western stars such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Ray Price, and George Jones as well as others. During the Lyndon Johnson administration Earl performed at the White House. He also has cut several records in Nashville. Number 60 on the lounge juke box has "Earl Shiflett Selections".

“Commander’s Call”
continued

How? Send in your “doggone” \$30 to renew for 2008. I’ve got lists of about 250 of you who live in the area and can’t find one, much less 10 or so people to call you and ask that you renew. Your support for our activities, such as attending our breakfasts, Friday night dinners, and social functions such as our 8 December Party when you’ll get a great meal (steamship round) and have the chance to listen and/or dance to the music provided by 2-4-U. Yes, I’m frustrated! I jokingly say I didn’t learn from my two previous years as your commander but this time I knew what I was getting into but I believed too many of you who promised your support while convincing me to lead again.

They’re off my chest. November was a busy month. Per my desire to keep you informed of what I doing my activities follow:

Department Fall Conference thru 10/28: The Dentz’s, Buckley’s, the Lipscomb’s and Les Grizzard attended subject in Hampton, VA. We all attended meetings related to all of the Legion’s programs and attended a banquet on Saturday night where the food was delicious and the camaraderie was abundant.

Final Post Script Preparation 10/28 thru 10/30: November’s issue was finalized and proofed and dropped off at the printer.

Legion Service for Roy E. Billet 11/1: “Murph” died on 29 October. S.A.L. Chaplain Art Childers and I performed our final tribute at 6:30 p.m. at Demaine’s. The Vatter’s, Jeannine Hazard and Curtis Ross received my thanks for attending.

Post Script Production 11/2: Early Friday morning Tony Dzierski’s crack team sorted, folded, stapled and labeled 1800 copies and they were mailed that p.m. When you see Doris Cortez and her daughter Rose De Lorenzo or Marie Sharps, Al Cockrell, Mike Siwik, “Red” White, Ron Shinton, Dale Smith, Ken Hanson, George Tesla, Janet Buckley and me, say thanks.

Billet Family’s Reception 11/2: Following the funeral service for Comrade Roy E. Billet at Demaine, Roy’s widow, Anong, and her family hosted a reception to honor Roy’s life. Many of the Legion Family were in attendance.

Poppy Distribution 11/1 thru 11/3: The Post Family joined forces to distribute poppies and to receive donations which are used to aid veterans. Floy and I tried to lead the way by donating 5 hours each at two locations. I was glad to see new faces from our

Legion Family contributing time and effort. Too many people helped to name them all but my special thanks to Marge Harrelson for leading this excellent Auxiliary program and also to Janet Buckley for being her able assistant. Thank You to all who helped!

Honor Flight IV 11/3: Jimmy Jones, SAL Commander Chip Byers and I were on the Mall most of this Saturday assisting WWII veterans who’d come on flights from all over to visit their memorial. Reportedly this is the last Honor Flight for 2007. Post 176 supported all four August through November. Thanks to those who helped.

Friday Night Dinners, November: Floy and I attended most and on several occasions were able to help Sukie in some way, most often collecting the fee. In particular I remember the chicken and roast beef buffet and me eating “all I cared to eat”. Many of you have become “regulars” and that’s great for the Post and as a way of fostering friendships and camaraderie. If you haven’t tried the Friday Night Dinner, please come over and try one. Bring your friends and neighbors.

Tailgate Party 11/4: Did we beat the Jets? I think that was the Skins last win and it was the only tailgate party I was able to attend.

The few I’ve made this season have been “winners”, no not the Skins but the food, fun and fellowship. Come out and enjoy one. Your ticket is a dish to share or a contribution of at least a “fiver” for the great food you’ll enjoy.

Highway Cleanup 11/5: Teachers had a workday (like they don’t work when teaching the kids!) so the kids were off from school so our JROTC students came out and completed their third cleanup over the last nine months. For their efforts we feed them with a cookout-they can put away some food. Tony Dzierski, Bill Hurd, Janet Buckley, my wife, Floy and I enjoyed the half day with the young people. Kurt Berry, LTC, USA (Ret) and the senior instructor and his cadre were all out supervising too! Thanks to the entire Edison H.S. JROTC Eagles Battalion for your great work.

Election Day 11/6: Voter turnout was low but I hope the Legion Family turned out in force. Several new politicians were elected in our greater Springfield-Burke-Annandale-Alexandria Community. As I do every year I did my civic duty by performing as Precinct Chief-a twenty hour day.

Greenspring Village TV Appearance 11/7: Sleep deprived (see above),



I at 10 a.m., went live over Greenspring's closed circuit TV system with a message about us-Springfield Post 176 and our programs for the veterans, youth and community. During the presentation I said "WIMS" members could join our Auxiliary – true but a huge misstatement! First they may take their place in our Legionnaire membership; then if they want to be a dual member they'll join the Auxiliary. Curtis Ross, a Post member and our liaison legionnaire with Greenspring, participated and I thank you for that Curt. But as soon as we got to his and Louise's apartment, the phone was ringing off its cradle. A female veteran corrected my "misstatement". I bit the bullet and apologized. Then again I apologized at our Veterans' Day Ceremony. Curt and I are on the schedule to make another presentation on 23 January 2008. If I missed getting anyone's attention on the 7th I have another chance. Oh! WIMS stands for Women in Military Service.

The Wall 25th Anniversary 11/10: Can you believe it's been 25 years since the Vietnam Memorial opened? Since it's the most visited monument in the District and that is my war, I went down to get a flavor of the day long activities. Although our Auxiliary didn't participate, Department of Vir-

ginia and perhaps the National Auxiliary had a display of American Flags on the Monument grounds west of the Washington Monument That was a sight to behold.

Commander's Visit

11/10: Department Commander Andy Robertson visited the 17th District and attended a dinner hosted by Vienna Post 180. Having a previously scheduled commitment at our Post.

I attended the social hour and had a drink with and welcomed Commander Robertson to our area. The Dentz's and Les Grizzard represented Post 176 for the dinner.

Fall Fling w/VFW 7327

11/10: For months we had this party on the calendar and for at least two months had mentioned it in the Post Scripts. Twenty-two people attended-18 after subtracting the Commander and wife of each organization-which made a nice cozy party for us if we two commanders could stop thinking of the financial hosing we were taking. Fortunately our GM, Sukie Knarr, is resourceful. Is it the sermon on the mountain that talks of fish being broken and feeding the masses? Sukie had leftovers to feed the masses the next day at the Veterans' Day Ceremony.

Joint Veterans' Day

Ceremony 11/11: At 11 a.m. we had what many of you have told me was our best ever ceremony. Com-

ments like that make me proud to be your commander. The National Sojourners "Built the Flag"- which by using red and white stripes and a blue field and white stars gave us an interesting history of our nation's growth from the first state's secession from the union to the last territory to be declared a state. Then Donald P. Loren, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret), gave a just as interesting speech about veterans' service to our country. For example, the Greatest Generation of Veterans is embodied in the WWII Memorial and the veterans of my war (Vietnam, remember?) is symbolized by The Wall. Virtually every large monument/memorial in our Nation's Capital was described. I want to thank all participants of the VFW and Post 176, all attendees and especially the National Sojourners, Mr. Loren and our 2nd Vice Commander, George Tesla who was in charge of the program.

Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield 11/12:

At this 7:30 a.m. meeting we talked of ways to get additional Springfield service organizations to participate by at a minimum attending the meetings.

Springfield Days Committee 11/12:

Remember Post 176 is going to provide food on Friday night the 30th of May. Twenty or so organizations are meeting monthly to plan all of the activities for the

four day event in Springfield. I'll keep you advised!

Central Springfield Planning and Development Committee 11/12:

Another committee made up of Springfield Community business and civic organizations meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. I plan to attend or be represented at these meetings as a leader of one of the many organizations that makeup Springfield. At this meeting a Fairfax Transportation Official and a member of the Fairfax Zoning Board gave a very interesting talk which allowed discussion from the audience. The only direct topic about the Post property that came up was the question to me What is the Legion planning to do in the redevelopment? I responded that we had what some have referred to as the showcase of Springfield and we plan to remain an American Legion Post in our current building. Almost nothing was mentioned about the property south of Old Keene Mill Road (our side of it) except that Circuit City had been purchased and that Monument Realty had not submitted paperwork requesting an "out of turn plan amendment" which is a comprehensive

continued on next page

request to change current zoning. December's meeting topic will focus on the changes planned for Springfield Mall. I'll have to listen to a great deal of info to get the bits and pieces that affect us but if that's what it takes, we'll attend these meetings.

General Membership

Meeting 11/13: Most regular business was suspended for this meeting so the Corporate Board could present its Business Management Brief. Director Dennis Stokowski gave an excellent overview of the property to include finances and building and grounds. The membership with a few exceptions grasped the concept that restrictive funds to do maintenance annually had never been set aside so now that our sixteen year old building is showing wear our expenses are more than our revenues. This is as deep as I am going to get into the Corporate Board's business in this

article. As it has done always the Corporate Board will keep us informed and I'll be involved in all transactions. As promised at the 13 Nov GMM the Corporate Board will give us periodic updates Re The Business Management Brief.

Bingo 11/26: I called this night which is a 5.5 hour commitment. Bluntly speaking I do my share of volunteering around the Post. Are you willing to commit to calling bingo once or no more than twice a month? Call Tony Dzierski 703.451.5591 or me.

ExCom Meeting 11/27: Minutes should be available on the Bulletin Board soon. The ExCom approved a temporary change to the House Rules in that for six months beginning 28 November and ending 27 May 2008, the policy prohibiting kids from playing pool and shuffleboard will be lifted providing parents assume the financial responsibility of paying for any damage caused

to the equipment. This is a test. The House Committee must "restudy" the issue at the end of the trial period.

Inurnment of Terry D.

Johnson 11/28: About 25 of the Legion/VFW Family attended this service at Arlington National Cemetery and then returned to the Post Home where we celebrated Terry's life over lunch with his mother, an aunt and a cousin, all who had flown in from Iowa. My thanks to VFW Post 7327 for participating, to Marty McGrail for providing overnight accommodations, to Alice Merrill for providing transportation to our guests and to Sukie Knarr and her staff for the fine lunch.

Memorial Mass for Dan

Quaid 11/30: Saint Bernadettes was the site for Dan's friends to offer condolences to his family. A funeral service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a date yet to be determined.

Inurnment of Roy E. Bil-

let 11/30: A funeral with standard military honors and followed by inurnment at the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery was our last opportunity to honor Roy E. "Murph" Billet.

Gifts for Veterans and

Kids: The cardboard box clearly marked as the repository for items for veterans has been moved to the Club Area. A Christmas Tree with cards which indicate items and sizes of needy children is also in the Club Area. Please be generous and bring your items in so we can distribute them prior to the holiday.

Men and women will be serving all over the world during the Holidays. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and if you can do more to make their holidays happier please do it.

For God and Country,
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Lewis "Lew" Lipscomb
Commander



CHRISTMAS PARTY & DANCE

Saturday, December 8, 2007 5:30 P.M. Until ...

Cocktail Set up (BYOB) 5:30-6:30pm, Dinner & Party 7:00pm-till

Menu: Steamship Round, pasta primavera, baked ziti w/ meat sauce, roll, mixed baked chicken, salad bar, followed by dessert.

Band: 2-4-U for your dancing pleasure.

Tickets: \$20 in Advance purchase at bar, and \$25 at the Door.



Chaplain's Report

by Commander

Due to position's vacancy you'll have to put up with my prose again. This report is, in my opinion, one of the most important in each issue and consequently should be the most informative. Four legionnaires that we've heard about are ill and in need of our thoughts and blessings. Seth "Boo" Butler, a WWII veteran and 50 plus year member is at the Fountains at Washington at 5100 Filmore Street in Alexandria. His phone number is 703.845.5121 (since personally seeing him on the 12th I haven't been able to get him at this number but am told it is correct.) With

her best friend away, Jean Tabler is probably stressing more than normal too. Send them your cards at 114 Jasper Place, Alexandria, VA 22304. Forty-seven year member, WWII veteran and in his mid nineties, George Panagakos is being cared for at the Leewood Nursing Home, 7120 Braddock Rd, Annandale, VA 22003. Rich Tiner and Curtis Ross, two very active members at the Post are "under the weather". Give them a call at 451.6556 and 451-4449. Rich attended the Corporate Board meeting last night but I could tell he wasn't up to it. And Curtis when I talked to Louise on Tuesday was running a high fever.

Daniel L. Quaid, Jr.,

our friend and comrade for a quarter of a century died on Monday, 25 November. Dan visited the Post Home virtually every day he was well enough to drive over except Saturdays when he socialized with friends and comrades known as The Brew Crew at Springfield's VFW Post 7327. Dan was a veteran of Korea and over the held various roles, most recently as my liaison officer with the VFW Post across I-95. Since Monday a day hasn't passed that someone in the lounge hasn't told a "Quaidism". Dan is missed. For the Post I expressed our condolences, attended his Memorial Mass and authorized a donation be sent to Capital Hospice.

In October I wrote of the Farewell Party the VFW and American Legion Posts in Springfield gave to honor Terry D. Johnson and his friend Beverly Edmonds before they departed the area for Florida. Terry died on 27 October 2007. My thanks to Dick Vatter for preparing and submitting an obituary for this issue Of Post Scripts. Other information is in my Commander's Call.

With me, please pray that our sick recover fully and quickly and pray that the families of our departed comrades get over their tremendous loss as soon as possible.



Are you an Army veteran, or do you know one? Would you like to help formally recognize them for their service to our country? Freedom Team Salute is an official Secretary of the Army recognition program with two missions:

1. To honor all Army veterans for their service and dedication to the Army
2. To help Soldiers formally thank those who support them in their service

You can help the Army achieve its vital missions by honoring any Army veterans you know with a Commendation package.

Recognizing the powerful impact that a simple "thank you" can have, the Army started Freedom Team Salute in May of 2005. Now the selfless service, loyalty, and sacrifice of Army veterans, as well as those who support today's Soldiers – parents, spouses, and employers – can be formally recognized.

By honoring someone with a Freedom Team Salute Commendation package, you are helping to strengthen the Army community and recognize those who have given so much to our Army.

Those honored will receive an official Army Freedom Team Salute commendation package, which includes a certificate of appreciation, a personalized letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff and an Army lapel pin. All material is provided at no cost to either the nominator or the recipient.

For more details, to request materials for your event or to submit names to be honored, contact Freedom Team Salute online at www.freedomteamsalute.com, via email at ftsambassador@hqda.army.mil or on 703.602.4303.

Veterans Day comes and goes without promised funding for VA

By Marty Conatser

Members of Congress returned to their home states and districts throughout America last weekend to pay tribute to the men and women who have served our nation in uniform. They stood among aging veterans whose blood was spilled across the shores of Iwo Jima and Omaha Beach. They looked into the eyes of men who nearly froze to death at the Chosin Reservoir. They stood behind podiums at war memorials across the land and addressed crowds of men and women - some in wheelchairs, some with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury - who left part of themselves forever in the jungles and deserts of places like Vietnam, Grenada, Beirut, Afghanistan and Iraq.

These top elected officials brought good news to the veterans they represent. But the news came with a catch.

First, the good news. Both houses of Congress overwhelmingly passed the greatest budget increase in history for the Department of Veterans Affairs last summer. The Senate vote was 92-1. The House vote was 409-2. The appropriations committees in both houses gave the budget a green light, and President Bush said he would sign it, even though the \$87.7 billion total commitment exceeded his own request for VA by \$3.6 billion. Congress did pass a continuing resolution that allows VA to operate on the 2007 budget and they did add \$2.9 billion. This is good news, however, a clean appropriations bill would have been the right thing to do.

The 2008 fiscal budget year began Oct. 1, and this historic VA budget was still tangled up in Washington, not yet signed, by Veterans Day. A top congressional leader personally promised me that the funding measure would be passed by then. But it wasn't. And so, as elected officials spoke of their legislative accomplishments before hometown veteran constituents, VA doctors, nurses and administrators everywhere were once again trying to figure out how to treat a growing number of patients with a stagnant amount of resources.

Long-awaited construction projects at VA hospitals remain tabled. Waiting times for appointments continue to expand. VA hospitals in over-burdened communities are turning away veterans and sending them elsewhere. Greatly needed mental-health counselors are not yet hired. Undecided VA benefits claims continue to balloon, to nearly half a million. This is all because of the failure of Congress to pass the 2008 budget.

What's holding it up? Honestly, that's what The American Legion and veterans across this country would like to know. Since the VA budget breezed through Congress last summer, with a promise of support from the White House, there have been efforts to latch other, unrelated spending measures to it, creating one big omnibus bill. Why an omnibus bill? Because while Congress added the much-needed \$3.6 billion, the administration has said that the money needs to be offset from another appropriations bill.

In this questionable strategy, America's sick, disabled and benefits-deserving veterans - from the "greatest generation" of World War II to the "newest greatest generation" of the global war on terrorism - would be asked to carry on their backs the financial burdens of other federal programs that have nothing to do with the ongoing cost of war, or with the debt a grateful nation owes to those who put their lives on the line for it.

This holdup must end now. The past-due VA appropriations bill for 2008 must be dislodged immediately, on its own, with nothing more clinging to its back than appreciation, respect and dignity for the men and women our nation honors on Veterans Day.

Marty Conatser of Champaign, Ill., is national commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans organization. A high definition photo is available at www.legion.org.

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|----------|--|---|
| <i>December</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Bingo Line Dancing- Q's: Kurt Lauer 703-455-6912 | 4 Membership Meeting 7:30 pm | 5 Bridge | 6 | 7 Pork Chop VA Hospital Tree Lighting 2:00 pm Jeff the DJ | 8 Christmas Party-Great Hall 6:00 pm |
| 9 C & Y Christmas Party | 10 Gift Stuffing at VA Hospital Bingo Line Dancing- Q's: Kurt Lauer 703-455-6912 | 11 SAL Meeting 7:30 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 Steamed Crab Legs Karaoke w/Joe 8:00 pm | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Gift Dist at VA Hospital Bingo Line Dancing- Q's: Kurt Lauer 703-455-6912 | 18 Executive Meeting 7:30 pm | 19 Bridge Corporate Board Mtg. 7:30 pm | 20 | 21 Honey Baked Ham Karaoke w/ Babs 8:00 pm | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Line Dancing- Q's: Kurt Lauer 703-455-6912 | 25 Post Closed Christmas Day | 26 | 27 | 28 Country Fried Steak Karaoke w/Joe 8:00 pm | 29 |
| 30 | 31 New Years Party-Lounge w/DJ | Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! | | | | |

BINGO AND POST SCRIPTS ASSEMBLY TEAMS

It is time to recognize and give thanks to the dedicated Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members who work the Bingo and Post Scripts assembly programs. Even though many of them are fully employed, they still find the time to help out in these programs.

The following Bingo teams are made up as follows:

| Team 1 | Team2 | Team3 | Team4 |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Bill Hall | David Kapinos | Stu Bailey | Coleen Austin |
| Mary Williams | Marge Haralson | George Tesla | Mary Lucas |
| Dodie Meyer | Eileen Ratel | Janet Bukley | Elsa Lewis |
| Chip Byers | Lou Crescioli | Betty Lowdenmilk | Doris Cortez |
| Darnell Hendrickson | Joe Finch | Don Lowdenmilk | Hazel Babler |
| Ken Hanson | Ken Hanson | Floyd Bingham | Cindy Ramirez |
| Ray Stone | Lew Lipscomb | | |

In addition to the team workers, we have the following members as backups in the event a regular team worker is unable to meet the assigned date:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bob Beebe* | Benard Landry |
| Tom Bixby* | Jerry Mittelbach |
| Rod Carlone-Caller | Pat Peterson-Caller |
| Bill Durham | Maudie Price |
| Walt Ferony | Joe Ratel |
| | John Sawyer |
| | Bobbi Sheppard |



*Recent Volunteers and in Training

We can always use additional workers, especially as callers and cashiers. Give me a Call.

Now, lets go to the Post Scripts assembly team volunteers. Here is another team that works hard to accomplish the Mission. They are:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Angelo & Marianne Anelli | Les Grizzard* | Dick Schacker |
| Jim Burns*** | Marge Haralson | Rom Shinton |
| Chip Byers & Father Ted | Darnell Hendrickson** | Mike & Mary Siwik |
| Doris Cortez & Daughter Rosa | Doug & Margo Kindall*** | Dale Smith |
| Irene Donnelly | Herb Marker**** | Harold "Red" White |
| Bill Durham | Corky Monson*** | Paul & Ellie Schwarze*** |
| Tony Esteve | Maudie Price | Marie Sharpe*** |



*Back up for Labels **Regular Label Preparer ***Recent Volunteers ****Sick

My sincere thanks to you wonderful Volunteers for continued outstanding work. May the wonders of Christmas bring you and Family happiness and that friendship prevails in our wonderful Post home!

For God and Country
Tony Dzerski
703-451-5591

Your Club by: Sukie Knarr, GM

Team 176, well, the holidays are upon us and guess what else???, **Happy Anniversary**, yep, it's been a year – already!!! – since I came aboard and entrusted with the responsibility of rebuilding the business structure of Your Club, American Legion Post 176. We've tried hard, worked hard and have many successes to be proud of, and in the process, we have built a quality staff and welcomed many new members to our ranks. It has not been the smoothest ride by any stretch of the imagination but as we all know, success can be a bumpy road – but those bumps are getting fixed. I feel blessed to have a Commander and Corporate Board that really care, understand the issues at hand and have worked and supported me in the many efforts to bring Post 176 back to the status it justly deserves. And of course, none of these good things would have happened, without YOU, your involvement and your support.

NOW, let's get back to business!

Mark your calendar – December 8th – Post 176 Christmas Party. It's coming with all the things you like and have asked for (see the fliers around the Post and in this News Letter). Tickets / reservations are on sale now and available in the Lounge..... **New Years Eve, December 31st**, bring yourself, bring a date, bring a friend, bring a snack dish – I'm working on getting a DJ to replace the band that pooped out – don't worry – we will make something happen! Now that we have a cook, we'll probably put out a continental breakfast. And yes, we will have champagne for the traditional toasting of 2007/2008.

Dinner Theater, musical evenings and other like activities have been suggested by our membership through recent surveys. This is a wonderful idea and worthy of our support and a way for our local kids to showcase their talents and our Post's Community Support efforts. It will also give our local students a chance to gain financial support for their school's activities. Edison H.S. Drama Department has offered a production for the evening of January 26th 2008. More information will follow, as to menu and what the title of the production will be. Again, every effort will be made to make events costs effective to you. Chris will be coordinating these activities with our local schools and various Arts departments. If you would like to get involved in this program, please, say the word, **WE WANT YOU!**

Parking Permits for 2008. The Post will have 13 daily commuter parking slots available for our Post Member's. **Permits will be issued on justified need.** If we have more than 13 applicants, a lottery will be conducted. You need to be a current member in good standing, proof of insurance, local address & registration, name / place of employment and day time / emergency contact and telephone information. Please see me for an application.

Let's have a GREAT December and let it snow somewhere else!

From my American Legion Family to you and all of our wonderful members and our service members around the world and especially those away from family and loved ones during this holiday season, A Very Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and above all, a SAFE and SANE Holiday Season! - THANK YOU! - Sukie

- Friday Night Dinner Menu - ...for December

**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.*

12/07 – Pork Chop w/roasted or mashed potatoes & veggie \$10.00

12/14 – Steamed Crab Legs – 1lb @ \$10.00 / ½ lb @ \$6.00 –or- **Steamed Shrimp** – 1lb @ \$9.00 / ½ lb @ 5.00 – entrees will be served with melted butter, veggie & choice of potato

12/21 – Honey Baked Ham w/ sweet or baked potato & steamed mixed veggies \$10.00

12/28 – Country Fried Steak @ \$11.00 –or- **Country Fried Chicken** @ \$9.00 w/ mashed potatoes-n-gravy & steamed broccoli and carrots

(It's always GREAT to serve the greatest - YOU!)

Enjoy!



Friday Night Entertainment - in the Club

12/07 – Jeff the DJ

12/14 – Karaoke w/Joe Clay

12/21 - Karaoke with Barb

12/28 - Karaoke w/Joe Clay

Special - 12/31 – *Party in the Lounge*

(Suggestions are always Welcome!)

ENJOY !

A Different Christmas Poem

*The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.*

*The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know. Then the
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.*

*My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.*

*A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my
child.*

*"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your
sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"*

*For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right ,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night. "
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December, "
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always
remembers. "
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her
smile.*

*Then he bent and he carefully pulled from
his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my
home.*

*I can stand at my post through the rain and
the sleet,*

*I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and
brother..*

*Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not
fall. "*

*"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right. "
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a
feast?*

*It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son. "
Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,*

*"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while
we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or
dead,
To know you remember we fought and we
bled.*

*Is payment enough, and with that we will
trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to
us. "*

PLEASE, Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.

Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN
30th Naval Construction Regiment
OIC, Logistics Cell One
Al Taqqadum , Iraq.

DANIEL L. QUAID, JR.

Dan Quaid, a twenty-five year member of our Post, passed away peacefully at home in Springfield on Monday, 26 November 2007 after a brief illness. Dan was local, having been born in Washington, D.C. in 1931. Dan is survived by his loving wife of 53 years Erika and their daughter Evelyn Reiman of Cary, N. C. Also surviving are two sisters and a brother. Two other brothers predeceased Dan.

Dan was a proud graduate of Gonzaga High School and of

Southeastern University. While serving in the Army in Heidelberg he met Erika with whom he enjoyed all but 23 years of his adult life. His Army service took him into the Vietnam War qualifying him for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a Life Member of Springfield Post 7327 with whom he enjoyed a Saturday morning veterans' group referred to as the Brew Crew. With American Legion Post 176, Dan had volunteered to act as the liaison officer between the two veterans' organizations and did a wonderful

job until struck by illness.

In addition to his brief military service in Germany and Vietnam, Dan, after leaving the Army, was a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. He retired in 1986 after 35 years service. With the State, Dan received several prestigious awards and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business for specialized knowledge required for his job.

Our friend and comrade was a longtime member of St. Bernadette Parish in Spring-

field and was a member of the Knights of Columbus including service as Faithful Master of the 4th Degree. His K of C Chapter performed admirably during the Memorial Mass on 30 November. Many of the VFW, American Legion and K of C members joined an equal number of family and friends at this mass.

The family asked that donations be made to Capital Hospice, 6565 Arlington Blvd., Suite 501, Falls Church, VA. 22042. Cards may be sent to the family at 7704 Martel Pl, Springfield, VA 22152.

MEMBERSHIP

Last month the Post was 338 short of our goal. It was mentioned that getting the last of the renewals was like "pulling eye teeth." How true! We're still 300 short. And the Membership Chair has been in California for at least six weeks with little prospect for returning to Springfield anytime soon. We hope that Ray Stone's father and step-mother's health improves so they may again have a great quality of life. In another article you were asked to send in your renewal without being called or otherwise solicited in another manner.

Perhaps many of you do not realize the information the Post receives from the simple act of you renewing. If you renew in person we have a chance to meet you, get your service affiliation (see Freedom Team Salute), your phone number, birth date and address. Yes we have to talk with you but we'd enjoy that. Renewal by mail gives us an opportunity to verify that we have a correct address for your newsletter. Speaking of the newsletter: We pay \$.18 to \$.21 per issue to mail it to you and another \$.41 when it is returned for an incorrect address and the \$.35 worth of paper has been wasted. Please keep us informed of your correct mailing address!

Reference the Army Team Salute article on page 9: Without taking any action, 500+ of you will be receiving the official U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute Commendation thanking you for your service. I took it upon myself to order the commendation for everyone we had identified as "Army" in the membership data base. I submitted the names after pulling them off of the computer. I believe there are still several hundred of you for whom we do not have service affiliation. I hope that soon (during December) we receive our packets so then we can order the Commendation Package for the rest of you. But when that day arrives the only way the Post may assist you is to know you were or are Army. The Army with its Freedom Team Salute has committed to reaching and thanking each and every soldier who has ever worn the uniform throughout all generations. The referenced article on page 9 provides a web site for your direct response but such direct response could be a duplication of what Post 176 submitted. -Commander-

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

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December

DECEMBER & JANUARY 2008 ACTIVITIES

| | |
|--|--|
| 4 th – General Membership Meeting | 1 st - New Year's Day |
| 8 th – Christmas Party | 8 th —GMM at 7:30 p.m. |
| 9 th – Monthly Breakfast 9-11 a.m. | 13 th - Sunday Breakfast |
| 18 th – Executive Meeting 7:30 p.m. | 16 th - Day on the Hill in Richmond |
| 25 th – Merry Christmas (Post Closed) | 29 th - ExCom Meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| 31 st – New Years' Eve Party | |

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

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