



Wharton American Legion William J. Hocking Post 91

90 North Main Street ★ Wharton, NJ 07885-1606 ★ 973-366-2458 ★ whartonlegion@msn.com



Volume 3 Issue 1



April 2012



"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together....."



Commander's Message

My Fellow Legionnaires,

Well here we are. Spring is here and Summer is just around the corner.

We certainly can't complain about this past winter. But I am sure that everyone is looking forward to vacations and the Wildwood convention. I know I am.

Speaking of something to look forward to....I would like to remind everyone that again we will be looking for help with building & grounds maintenance and upkeep of the Post. What we are looking for is members to donate time and if possible funds to help keep our home in shape. We will have to raise much more in the upcoming months to do part of the repairs our home needs. One of our members went the extra mile by donated \$500 anonymously. This is only one fortieth of what we need to pay for the roof and HVAC repairs (\$20,000).

I would like to thank the Legion, Post 91 Roof and HVAC committee for working so hard to get needed repairs accomplished and doing it in a cost effective and efficient manner. I also want to thank all the legion family for everything they do and how professionally they do it.

Our family is strong, committed, enthusiastic and provides services and assistance to our community at every opportunity we have. So if you've ever thought of getting involved and becoming an active part of this group jump on in the water is fine.

While I am on the topic of volunteerism I would like to bring up several things. There are groups of Post members who do an outstanding job of volunteering and helping with our functions. We just could not do it without them. A big THANK YOU to each and every one of you. But we still need more members getting involved and volunteer. If you're not sure about what you could do, stop by and talk with us during any event or meeting. Come to the Post meetings and see what's happening. Ask about helping with our programs and the Post. You just might find the perfect fit for you and your abilities.

Post 91 now has its own Legion Riders. The Riders have been approved by the post executive committee as our newest program. The Riders had their first event a couple of weeks ago and the spaghetti and meatballs dinner was a success. The Legion Riders are a program for all Legion members with bikes 350cc and up. Join Now!!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their support. The position of Commander is challenging and our Legion Family is what makes it rewarding. I have enjoyed this year very much. Again, thank you for your support. We have a great Post and a great group of Legionnaires

Thank you all for our help and support.

For God and Country,

JB Smith

Post Commander

liberator345@hotmail.com

(973)714-6174





Officers and Executive Board

OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Commander*: James B. Smith | Sr Vice Cmdr*: William G. Tomphson | Jr Vice Cmdr*: Charles Jandik |
| Adjutant*: Dennis W. Miller | Asst. Adjutant*: Brian F. Wolfinger | Finance Officer*: Walter E. Ward |
| Chaplin: Joseph M. Krieg | Sgt-At-Arms: John M. Ruppell | Service Officer: Charles J. miller |
| Judge Advocate: Albert N. Porphy | Historian: Daniel Zullo | |

* Regular Member of Executive Board

Executive Board

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Member-At-Large: Edward M. Brice | Member-At-Large: Paul L. Hartle | Member-At-Large: Charles J. Miller |
| Member-At-Large: Albert N. Porphy | Member-At-Large: John M. Ruppell | |

Newsletter

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Frank Dulfer : fwdulfer@verizon.net | Daniel Zullo: danzullo@optonline.net |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Auxiliary Unit 91 Officers

Carol Bone..... President
 Pat Jafraty.....1st Vice
 Sheila Adams.....2nd Vice
 Juli Jandik.....Secretary
 Ana Craig.....Historian
 Sandra Scarneo.....Treasurer
 Ivette Rivera.....Chaplain
 Dara Vanderhoof.....Sgt at Arms

SAL Squadron 91 Officers

Troy Vanderhoof.....Commander
 Joe Jafraty.....Sr Vice
 Lew Fico.....Jr Vice
 Kevin Scully.....Adjutant
 John Craven.....Finance
 Rick Adams.....Historian
 Bob Dorr.....Sgt at Arms

Wounded Warrior Programs

Some members have asked about the various Wounded Warrior programs that are helping our wounded veterans in trying to get back to as normal a life as possible. Commander JB Smith has provided, for your information, the annual report from one of these organizations, Wounded EOD Warrior Foundation. There are many more programs out there that may deserve your support. More information will be published in future newsletters.

DD-214 Available Online

DD-214 discharge papers are now online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his/her DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.



QUARTERLY CALENDAR

| APRIL | | MAY | | JUNE | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Sunday | | 1 - Tuesday | | 1 - Friday | |
| 2 - Monday | | 2 - Wednesday | | 2 - Saturday | |
| 3 - Tuesday | | 3 - Thursday | | 3 - Sunday | |
| 4 - Wednesday | | 4 - Friday | | 4 - Monday | |
| 5 - Thursday | | 5 - Saturday | Cinco de Mayo Party | 5 - Tuesday | |
| 6 - Friday | | 6 - Sunday | Mother's Day | 6 - Wednesday | |
| 7 - Saturday | | 7 - Monday | | 7 - Thursday | Legion Convention |
| 8 - Sunday | All You Can Eat Breakfast | 8 - Tuesday | | 8 - Friday | Legion Convention |
| 9 - Monday | | 9 - Wednesday | SAL Meeting 7:30 PM | 9 - Saturday | Legion Convention |
| 10 - Tuesday | | 10 - Thursday | | 10 - Sunday | Legion Convention |
| 11 - Wednesday | SAL Meeting 7:30 PM | 11 - Friday | | 11 - Monday | |
| 12 - Thursday | | 12 - Saturday | | 12 - Tuesday | |
| 13 - Friday | | 13 - Sunday | All You Can Eat Breakfast | 13 - Wednesday | SAL Meeting 7:30 PM |
| 14 - Saturday | Aux Dinner Dance | 14 - Monday | | 14 - Thursday | Flag Day |
| 15 - Sunday | | 15 - Tuesday | | 15 - Friday | |
| 16 - Monday | | 16 - Wednesday | County Aux Convention | 16 - Saturday | Legion Barbecue |
| 17 - Tuesday | | 17 - Thursday | | 17 - Sunday | Father's Day |
| 18 - Wednesday | | 18 - Friday | | 18 - Monday | |
| 19 - Thursday | | 19 - Saturday | | 19 - Tuesday | |
| 20 - Friday | | 20 - Sunday | St John's Memorial Mass | 20 - Wednesday | |
| 21 - Saturday | | 21 - Monday | | 21 - Thursday | |
| 22 - Sunday | | 22 - Tuesday | | 22 - Friday | |
| 23 - Monday | | 23 - Wednesday | Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM | 23 - Saturday | |
| 24 - Tuesday | | 24 - Thursday | Post 91 Meeting 7:00 PM | 24 - Sunday | |
| 25 - Wednesday | Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM | 25 - Friday | | 25 - Monday | |
| 26 - Thursday | Post 91 Meeting 7:00 PM | 26 - Saturday | | 26 - Tuesday | |
| 27 - Friday | | 27 - Sunday | | 27 - Wednesday | Auxiliary Meeting 7:30 PM |
| 28 - Saturday | SAL Comedy Night | 28 - Monday | Memorial Day | 28 - Thursday | Post 91 Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 29 - Sunday | | 29 - Tuesday | | 29 - Friday | |
| 30 - Monday | | 30 - Wednesday | | 30 - Saturday | |
| | | 31 - Thursday | | | |

Retiring The Flag Of Our Country

Submitted by Ed Brice

There are several ways in which you may give your American flag the proper retirement without showing disgrace to this great country. If you would like to dispose of the flag yourself then the most fitting way is to hold your own, private ceremony. The U.S. Flag Code states, "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." After your flag has been burned, the ashes should be buried. Although burning is the preferred method, it is also acceptable to seal your old flag in a box or bag and bury it. The most important factor is showing respect to the flag during its disposal.

Note: The Wharton American Legion provides a secure "Drop Box" in front of the Post home, where flags can be left until a proper retirement ceremony, for all flags collected, can be scheduled.

If you cannot burn and bury the flag yourself, then there are several organizations that will retire your flag in a proper and respectful ceremony. Among them are:

- American Legion @ legion.org
- VFW @ vfw.org
- Boy Scouts of America @ scouting.org
- Girl Scouts of America @ girlscouts.org
- Marine Corps League @ mcleague.com



Post Member Receives Medal



Post 91 member Amery Vasso (R) was one of dozens of veterans who recently received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs ceremony at the Rockaway Mall. The medal was presented on behalf of The Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard by BG (Ret) Frank Dulfer, also a Post 91 member.

VA Electronic Health Record

My HealthVet is the VA's Personal Health Record. It was designed for Veterans, active duty Servicemembers, their dependents and caregivers. My HealthVet helps you partner with your health care team. It provides you opportunities and tools to make informed decisions. More info at www.myhealth.va.gov or contact Charlie Miller, the Post Service Officer .

Viet Nam History

Submitted by Dennis Miller

The link below will get you to a web page that lists all of the helicopter pilots and crew members killed during the Viet Nam War. the information includes names, dates, tail numbers and incident details.

www.flyarmy.org/KIAINDEX.HTM

Department Service Officers

Veterans are often forced to wage war against the paperwork and bureaucracy of government in order to get medical care or benefits, but they need not be alone in their battles. Here's some good news: American Legion department service officers (DSOs) offer free advice and guidance for veterans who need to deal with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Direct all correspondence to the DSO.

Documents that may help support a VA disability claim

If possible, have the following ready when you make your call:

- DD Form 214 (Issued at separation) ***
- Service medical records (outpatient), dental records, entrance and separation examination reports
- Inpatient hospitalization records (private or military)
- Private outpatient medical records (if applicable)
- Personnel file
- Line of Duty (LOD) investigation reports
- Overseas or temporary duty (travel) orders

Separating personnel should ensure that all of the information (including awards, overseas time, campaigns, RE code, etc.) on the DD 214 is correct before signing. Uncorrected errors may cause problems in the future when applying for VA and other benefits.

FOR CLAIMS:

KENNETH G CONNORS
VARO
20 WASHINGTON PL
NEWARK, NJ 07102
PHONE: 973-623-6298
FAX: 973-504-8709
EMAIL: kenneth.connors@va.gov

FOR POLICY:

JOHN D BAKER
135 W HANOVER ST
TRENTON, NJ 08618
PHONE: 609-695-5418
FAX: 609-394-1532
EMAIL: john@njamericanlegion.org

TAPS Rest In Place



Frank "Twink" Yaros, Sr.

Eugene S. Bosinski

Gerald Hvas

Thomas Puzio

Robert J. Thern