



For God And Country . . .

FREE STATE WARRIOR



VOLUME 48, NUMBER 2

BALTIMORE, MD.

SPRING 2012

Maryland Legionnaires Support National Commander Fang Wong

The American Legion Department of Maryland Supports National Commander Fang Wong from New York as the Maryland Regiment did at the Battle of Brooklyn in the American Revolutionary War. The Battle of Brooklyn the first major

engagement of the Continental Army after the Declaration of Independence and the largest battle of the entire war August 27, 1776. The Maryland Regiment had joined the Continental Army barely two weeks before the Battle of Brooklyn. Unlike most

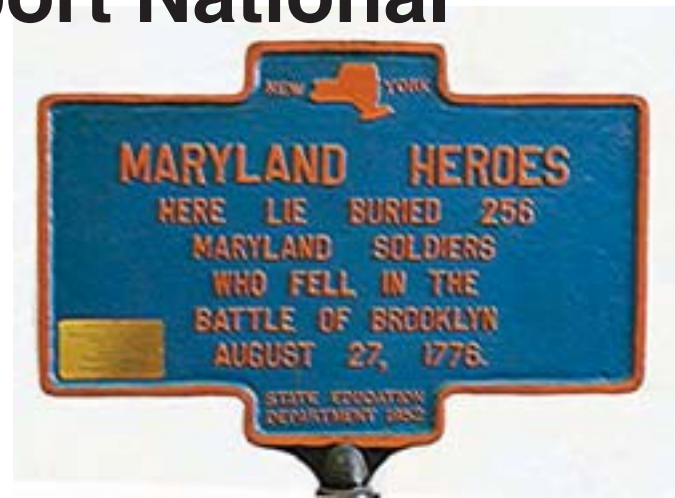
Commander's Message

Melvin Smullen, Commander, Department of Maryland

Happy New Year! The Christmas Holiday is behind us and I hope everyone had an enjoyable time. We have settled down to commence with the fulfillment of our goals that were established during the beginning of the year. Since the publishing of the last article in the *Free State Warrior*, many activities have taken place. The Veterans' Day Programs throughout the department were impressive, especially to me and I am sure that others felt the same. Once again, it showed our commitment to our veterans and their families. Several Posts extended that support to our service men and women deployed in arms way. Hugo, who is passionate about creating mobility products that improve your life, gave away thousands of folding canes throughout the State of Maryland to our Veterans. This initiative was to salute our veterans for their incredible contributions that they have made to our nation. These canes were distributed through our local Sam's Clubs. I was personally interviewed on ABC and CBS on the importance of supporting our veterans. If you missed this interview on television, I am disappointed because I represented The American Legion well as your Department Commander. I indeed was impressed with the Pearl Harbor Program Sponsored by the N.H.S & FR-National/Home-land Security & Foreign Relations Commission, under the Chairmanship of Dennis Duggan. The Department Christmas Party is back. It was organized by our Department Sgt-At-Arms Lew Trott. Good Job! The party was fantastic! It was unbelievable with the Christmas like Atmosphere, the food and the surprise arrival of Santa Clause and a Christmas gift for me as your Department Commander. The party was sponsored by Gold Star Post #191 at no cost to anyone. We thank the post for that. Guess What! All the Christmas Food was donated and prepared by Past Department Commander Doug Henley. He and his staff did an awesome job. Thank You Post #191 and Doug. Again, our Department Officers are still committed to visiting every post in this department and they are still on the move and doing an excellent job; but with the intention in helping and assisting with membership. The department is focusing on several Legislative Issues that are having an impact on our veterans' but be assured that the Department Legislative Committee under the guidance of Chairperson Gail Murdock is on top of every issue and working for our behalf. The Department Oratorical Contest will take place on March 4, 2012 at Towson State University under the leadership of Chairman, Jim Corkery. If you have ever witnessed one of our department's Oratorical Contest or met the Youth Champion that the American



Continued on Page 2



This picture is of a Duplicate of Marker at Burial Place – 3rd Ave. and 8th Street Brooklyn, New York – Courtesy of Kings County Chapter and Department of Maryland Catholic War Veterans of USA. The Duplicate Marker is at The War Memorial Building in Baltimore at the entrance to The American Legion Department of Maryland Headquarters.

of George Washington's Army, the Maryland contingent had been well drilled at home and was well equipped – they even had bayonets, a rarity for the Army – the Regiment was known at home as the Dandy Fifth, and to the rest of the Army as “macaronis”, the then current word for dandies. When the British under Cornwallis surprised the Americans by circling around their rear, Lord Stirling ordered all forces, other than the Marylanders, who were outside the fortified position on Brooklyn Heights to retreat across the Gowanus Creek. Then Stirling led the 400 Maryland men against Cornwallis' 2,000 British and hired Hessian soldiers who were massed around the Old Stone House, a thick-walled fieldstone and brick fortification near today's Fifth Avenue and 3rd Street that had been built in 1699 to withstand Indian raids. In fierce fighting, the Marylanders charged the British forces six times to give their comrades time to make their way to safety with the rest of Washington's army in the Heights. Twice they managed to drive the British from the house, but as more British reinforcements arrived and the Marylanders casualties mounted, they finally had to give up the assault and try to get to safety themselves.

Only Major Gist and nine others managed to reach the American lines. Of the others, 256 lay dead in front of the Old Stone House and more than 100 were wounded/and or captured. The bravery of the Maryland Regiment earned them the name “immortals”. The dead were buried in a farm field. The gravesite is located on what is now Third Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets. Until the widening of Third Avenue in 1910, the site was marked by a tablet that read: “Burial place of ye 256 Maryland soldiers who fell in ye combat at ye Cortelyou House on ye 27th day of August 1776.”, General George Washington relied heavily upon the Marylanders as one of the few reliable fighting units in the early Continental Army. For this reason, Maryland is sometimes known as “The Old Line State.” The lineage of this unit is perpetuated by the 175th Infantry Regiment, Maryland Army National Guard. General George Washington, viewing the particularly fierce fighting at the Old Stone House from his vantage point atop a hill near the west end of present-day Atlantic Avenue, was famously reported to have emotionally exclaimed: “What brave men I must this day lose!”

Reflections of an Adjutant

By Tom Davis

The holidays are over and spring is on the way, I hope. This article is devoted to you our member. The member, who believes they are a number. Well, believe me you are not a number, you really count. Here is how. By being a member you are contributing to the overall effectiveness of The American Legion programs. This cannot be demonstrated more than just yesterday we sent out two emails to our large email listing. To be sure, we would like to have sent these alert emails to more, but we just don't have their email addresses. This in particular brings up the thrust of this article. We, the Department really want to be in communications with our membership. We want to be able to alert you to those instances when your help and assistance can help us in getting in touch with our legislators to support a given initiative that is believed to be important to the veterans of Maryland. In support of this initiative we have placed a link on our website (www.mdlegion.org) home page entitled Register Your Email Address that will allow you to enter your email address. By doing this you will enable us to send you email regarding all sorts of issues, from veterans benefits to state and national legislative issues that are of importance to all of us. Those two emails I noted earlier went to approximately three hundred addressees. What do you think would happen to our state delegates and senators if they received a email from 50,000 members of The American Legion about legislation in which we may support or urge them to reject it. Don't you think it would drive them up the wall if they had emails coming in from our membership? By the time you read this, the Veterans Caucus will have been held. However, had we been able to notify you in advance that such a meeting was being held that we could have had more of an impact on legislation that directly affects you. Shortly, we will be setting the service up to get in touch with you directly. We do not plan to solicit you for anything but to open up an information channel to you our membership. Take five minutes and think about this effort.



Tom Davis
Department Adjutant

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By J. D. Larson, Membership Chairman

Several weeks ago, the Chairman of our Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee, Kathie Linkenhoker, received a plea for assistance from the Commander of Glen Burnie Post 40. Buddy George had recently taken the position of Commander and wanted to bolster their membership roles. Kathie visited the Post and together with several officers to outline a plan of action. She lead a team that together did computer searches for phone numbers and while others contacted those that they had located. In some cases, they had not been contacted for years. As a result of this day's efforts, 15 members of Post 40 renewed their dues.



I want to thank Buddy George and his officers for having the courage to contact our Committee for assistance. All too often, whether it be pride or some other issue, things get in the way of asking for help when help is needed. Kathie Linkenhoker is also commended for helping Post 40 in their membership efforts. They now have the information, experience, and resources to continue on their own. In short, it is a membership success story.

This is a great example of how the Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee can assist you and your Post in obtaining your membership goals. We will not do the work FOR you, but we will work side-by-side, providing information, organizing call lists, visits, or help out wherever we can.

Along these lines, the Committee has developed and distributed a brief questionnaire to help you determine if there are any areas in your Post that need attention. The purpose of the questionnaire is not to poke our nose into your business. There is no requirement to even share it with us. Rather it is for you to take a snapshot of how your Post is succeeding in terms of membership, activities, and other programs vital to a healthy post. After reviewing the questionnaire, you may feel, like Post 40, that you could use some assistance in an area or two. If that is the case, we recommend you contact a member of the Committee from your District, or any other member, and share that information with them. After some discussion, if you feel some assistance would be useful, we visit your Post, make an evaluation, develop a plan and sit down with you to determine how best to implement the plan. The rest is up to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you. Remember! One More Member!
For God and Country, I am

J. D. Larson, First Vice Commander
Department of Maryland, The American Legion

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You are eligible to belong to The American Legion if you served honorable in the Armed Forces of the United States during these periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 or August 2, 1990 to the cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Congress.

Commander's Message

Melvin Smullen, Commander, Department of Maryland

Continued from page 1

Legion honors every year at our National American Legion Convention, you know that the future is bright. Now membership! We are losing members in this department at an alarming rate each year. This is having a tremendous impact on post operations, financial support for the post and the future leadership of this department in general. I am as proud as you are to belong to this great organization. It will take men and women working side-by-side as a team to reverse this declining membership. As you know, each year we sponsor a National Commander's Banquet for our National Commander. The banquet is to honor our National Commander Fang Wong. Kent Island Post #278 has graciously agreed to sponsor it again this year. The post does such an excellent job and we do thank the post. Please attend this banquet and let us give Commander Fang Wong a warm greeting from the Department of Maryland. The American Legion will continue to influence this nation for many years to come because our causes are right and true. We should continue to live by the motto that transcends generations of American Warriors and cement the unique band of Military Service. Our American Legion is "Still Serving With Pride"

Melvin Smullen, Commander
Department of Maryland

NEC REPORT

Leroy E. Thornton, National Executive Committeeman

National Executive Committee Fall Meeting 12 - 13 October 2011

Listed below are resolutions approved by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held on the 12-13 October 2011. The resolutions have been condensed and will only show the Number, Title, and Resolved Clause. For more information you can contact the National Executive Committeeman in your Department.



Resolution No. 1

Title: National Defense Funding.

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage Congress and the Administration to cease all efforts to reduce the defense budget from its current level.

Resolution No. 2

Title: The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal.

Resolved, Sets out the specific expenses and costs covered for award recipients, plus outlines the look and cost of the award.

Resolution No. 3

Title: The American Legion National Recruiter of the year

Resolved, That The American Legion annually recognize during the National convention, a National Recruiter of the year with an appropriate award

Resolution No. 4

Title: The American Legion National Firefighter of the year

Resolved, That The American Legion annually recognize during National convention, an American Legion National Firefighter of the year with an appropriate award.

Resolution No. 12

Title: National Employment Service Award Recipients

Resolved, That The American Legion present three National Employment Service Award winners, which include the Employment Service Local Office, Local Veteran Employment Representative and Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist, a plaque at The American Legion Convention.

Resolution No. 13

Title: Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient

Resolved, That The American Legion Present the Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award winner, a plaque at The American Legion National Convention.

Resolution No. 14

Title: National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient

Resolved, That The American Legion present an Employer of Older Worker Award winner, a plaque at The American Legion National Convention.

Resolution No. 17

Title: 2012 Enhancements to National Headquarters Computing Environment

Resolved, That The American Legion National Headquarters acquire at a purchase price not to exceed \$749,000 (or enter into leases where it is determined more prudent to do so) the necessary hardware and installation services to improve reliability and meet the present and foreseeable capacity needs of the National Headquarters computer environment.

Resolution No. 18

Title: Need A Lift? Agreement

Resolved, That The American Legion enter into a one-year agreement with McGlinn & Associates, Nokesville, Virginia for the use of their resources in the research and development, content and editorial updating, CD production, and Website maintenance of the 62nd edition of The American legion's financial aid publication NEED-A-LIFT?

Resolution No. 19

Title: The American Legion Magazine Resolution to Extend Agreement with R.R. Donnelley & Sons.

Resolved, That the National Commander is directed to have a five-year contract (three years continuous, followed by two one-year contracts) for printing of The American Legion Magazine with R.R. Donnelley & Sons negotiated and prepared, which shall commence on January 1, 2012, and shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

Resolution No. 20

Title: Authorizing Withdrawal from Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust for Administrative Expenses

Resolved, That the National Treasurer is authorized to withdraw from the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Trust up to the amount of \$294,676, which is 1.5% of the principal as of August 31, 2011, the principal being the current market value of the assets of the Trust as reported by the trustee plus any cash receipts being held by National Headquarters on that date for transfer to the Trust on January 1, 2012.

Resolution No. 23

Title: The American Legion Spirit of Service Award

Resolved, That The American Legion shall provide each of the five Spirit of Service Award recipients of the year with one roundtrip coach airfare or vehicle mileage in accordance with its employee mileage reimbursement rates within the Continental United States to the National Convention and four nights lodging at a convention hotel.

Resolution No. 24

Title: Termination of The American Legion Relationship with Team Johnson Motorsports

Resolved, That the relationship with Team Johnson Motorsports be terminated on December 31, 2011, and a letter signed by the National Adjutant be sent informing of the action of this body.

Resolution No. 25

Title: Realignment of DMS Program

Resolved, That The American Legion's Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) program shall operate as follows: 1. The National Organization shall bear the full cost of DMS solicitations; 2. The National Organization will place newly acquired DMS member into each department's headquarters post, coded so that they can be readily identified by the National Organization as that year's DMS-acquired members but the contact information on coded DMS-acquired members shall not be available to departments until the member has been transferred to a traditional post or been renewed by the National Organization.

Resolution No. 27

Title: Repatriation of United States Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl

Resolved, That The American Legion calls on the Department of Defense to utilize all reasonable efforts for the safe repatriation of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl

Resolution No. 28

Title: Authorize Issuance of a Temporary Charter To A Foreign Post

Resolved, That the National Adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following Post to be affiliated with the named Department. Colonel "Ping" Paraan Post 125, located in Luna, La Union, Philippine Island, and affiliated with the Department of the Philippine.

Resolution No. 30

Title: Identifying National Interests before Committing Military Forces and Assets

Resolved, That The American Legion Support the War Powers of 1973 (50 U.S.C.1541-1548).

Resolution No. 31

Title: The Department Of Defense Military Retirement System

Resolved, That The American Legion oppose any changes to the current military retirement system which reduces the incentive for enlistment or re-enlistment.

Resolution No. 32

Title: Family Support Outreach Program / Adopt a Unit

Resolved, That The American Legion in keeping with one of its founding principles—a strong national security — reestablish a strong relationship with the Department of Defense (DoD) in order to enhance military readiness by increase support to currently serving personnel and their families.

Resolution No. 33

Title: Earned Military Benefits

Resolved, That The American Legion encourage Congress to ensure by law that any benefits in force at the time of initial enlistment cannot be reduced in value, and that benefit is to be valid through the entire career of a service member.

Resolution No. 34

Title: Department of Defense (DoD) Personnel Policy

Resolved, That The American Legion urge Congress to conduct and maintain continuous oversight of the current Department personnel policies to ensure satisfactory retention, recruitment, morale, health and effectiveness of the armed forces.

Resolution No. 35

Title: Immigration Reform To Enhance National Security

Resolved, That The American Legion urge Congress to adopt an immigration reform policy which emphasizes border security against those individuals attempting to enter this country illegally and internal tracking of all resident aliens and illegal immigrants.

Leroy E Thornton
National Executive Committeeman

Happy St.
Patrick's Day

Public Relations and The American Legion

This assignment is tough because there is so much entailed getting the message out. I have been searching every avenue looking for ways to communicate the Community/Legion Posts as a common thread working to help each other. We have the Oratorical Contest (which earns clout if you participate & want to apply for a college scholarship) not enough want to do the hard work; Boys State, another fabulous chance to experience a week (free to the Junior entering his Senior year) at camp (this year Washington College in Chestertown, Md. (the dates Sunday, June 17, '12 through June 23) all Posts have this info and this program gives an advantage in seeking a college edge. Our Safety Officers awards draw us into the community. Without going on, there is another opportunity the posts are in need to change.

I was watching the Food Channel waiting for the RAVENS game against the Patriots. The show has a chef (I think his name is Robert Irvine) looking for restaurants in financial trouble and they don't know why

and he is going to save the restaurant with a budget of \$10,000. Bringing in his staff & designer, they evaluate the problems. This particular show the elder parents ran a successful restaurant for years and then it started slipping into debt. The father turned ownership over to his son, but continued to work there. Every time the son had a suggestion, the father wouldn't listen (he knew better). This went on for five years, and the debt amassed to the point of closing. To the rescue (writing to the show and getting picked) the cavalry arrived. Step by step, the so called chefs were not qualified, the food greasy and unappealing, the father made the dough and when Irvine asked what profit he made. It came down to cents, bad business as was the cleanliness of the place, the deterioration of the interior, squabbles my family in front of the few customers they did attract. Long story short, the father had to concede authority to the younger generation, new cost effective menu, proper food staff and most of all organization techniques that allow an efficient operation. Most

American Legion Posts do rental and catering services to pay their debts. Unskilled amateurs are not helping, if you are in charge of rentals, pricing affairs, doing book keeping etc. get help to do it correctly (the library is a source), someone skilled in this position. Don't be afraid to ask advice. We are not that different from a community business, in fact, we are a business and to survive we must act like a business.

There are several Posts in the NCD that I think should take a bow (unaware of other Districts, because I don't hear from them). I like to think there are others worth mentioning, please be in touch. First — at Christmas time, Rosedale Post 180 (Cdr. Eric Warthen) joined with the community in celebrating the "Traditional Christmas Market". The huge white tent went up on the Post parking lot, inside were tables filled with crafts, cookies, local people including Priest & Pastor, outside were Food stands with bratwurst, Broody Vineyards with wassail, etc. It was a two day affair. I was there on Opening Ceremonies along with Dept. 1st Vice J. D. Larson, Dept. Treasurer Philip Dorsey, Politicians John Cluster Jr., Katherine Klausmeier, a third (I didn't get the name), Dundalk's Honor Guard, the Fire Department brought a lot of support. Cmdr. Warthen used this opportunity to honor & award the Safety Officers for the year. The speeches given (Cmdr. Ed Koehler — Hamilton Post 20 Community & Veteran Support) were concise but direct, the day was perfect. A good time enjoyed by all and the Riders did a great job directing traffic. Second — Jackson & Johnson Memorial Post 263, worked together with their Sons & Auxiliary where they collected baskets of food, toys to make less fortunate children's Christmas a lot merrier centering on the Catonsville community. It was quite a success, not a task, but a feel good deed. The local newspaper felt the same. Third — Perry Point Christmas Party — they so

look forward to this day after Christmas.

Linda Bishop lugs in the Karaoke equipment and the line forms to sing. The riders from several posts — Reisterstown Post 116 and as far away as Slate Ridge arrive bringing home made knee-lap blankets etc. Thanks to the busy fingers that knitted them.

Working very hard in the back, Parkville Post 183 putting together goodie bags (making sure those patients unable to attend had something to look forward to Santa Claus of course was present. Pat Holter did the food shopping and no one left hungry. Bill & Judy Ganz and all of Santa's helpers that assisted those that couldn't serve themselves. Many, many thanks same time next year.

I am just about finished reading "Washington" by Ron Chernow. It should be a must read (Students, Americans of all ages especially politicians on both sides of the aisle) to be able to understand why we are fortunate and have the opportunity to live in this country. Too many of our citizens take for granted our freedoms. Do some world travel (any continent), you will come home with a different view of America, one of gratitude for what is possible due to our military past & present. Have you noticed this is the first time it's politically correct to "thank you for your service". The newspapers seems to find the rotten apple (and they are in every nook & cranny of life's occupation) to write about (bad versus good, better or best). To our older veterans pass on the torch to keep The American Legion strong, knowledge, appearance and an open mind goes a long way.

Two last comments, a commander I mentioned above said "It's not about me, it's about the Legion" and every District needs to have a representative in Public Relations, getting the word out is a big task.

Pat Smith,
Public Relations Chair



For the last twenty years, executive board member Bob Snoeberger has been performing a perfect job as Santa. This is his last year in that significant role. Dottie Smith joins him here as the ideal Mrs. Claus. Not only do they thrill our members' children and grandchildren, they equally draw smiles from nursing home residents and others confined for health reasons. Our other members join them distributing bags laden with treats. We express our gratitude with this photo that clearly exhibits why we are so proud of Post 13 in Cumberland.

Bernie Lechman
Member Post 13

Keep a Good Thing Going! PUFL

Paid Up For Life!

Keep a good thing going — become a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member of The American Legion. Avoid the effects of inflation by never having to pay a dues increase. And if you carry American Legion Life Insurance, you'll never risk its lapsing because you forgot to pay your dues one year.

Cost is determined by your present age and the amount of your annual Post dues. You can pay on a payment plan, or charge your VISA® or MasterCard™. Makes a nice gift, too, and you will receive a monthly issue of The American Legion Magazine for as long as you live!

Get Paid Up For Life today. Return the coupon, and put life into your membership! To find out more, contact your Post Adjutant for details.

New Member Orientation

We've all heard the speeches about membership. It's spoken about when Department Officers visit our Posts or brought up at the County, District or Department level meetings. The majority of the time there's no real advice on how to reverse the decline in membership The American Legion is experiencing.

While attending The American Legion National College, we were divided into groups. One of the group assignments was developing a 20 minute training topic.

When I heard the presentation on New Member Orientation, I felt that it could be of help to Posts in our Department. It was simple and addressed an area that we need to focus on more. That being the retention of the members we already have.

In my opinion Posts have a grasp on how to sign up new members. However, a lot of our new members do not renew after the second or third year. This is where a New Mem-

ber Orientation Program can help. The program consists of an Initiation Ceremony and assignment of a sponsor/mentor to each new member a Post signs up, transfers or gets from the DMS Program. The Post Commander, Adjutant and Membership Chairman should be participants in the program. The basic ideals of the program are to make new members feel welcome and have them become active members of a Post.

Trust me when I say that this isn't the solution to all of our membership issues. It's just one step that can help a Post with its membership. Any Post interested in developing a New Member Orientation Program can contact me or any member of The Department Membership Committee. My phone number and e-mail address are listed in the Confidential Book.

David Johnson
Post 128
Past NCD Commander

Southeastern Shore District Presents Plaque to Nurses of Peninsula Regional Medical Center



The Legion members in the picture L-R: Anthony "John" Iwanski, Wicomico Post #64, Russell Franklin, SESD Chaplain and Ralph King from Worcester Post #67.

Southeastern Shore District of The American Legion members presented a plaque to the nurses of Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, thanking them for all they do for the community and its veterans. In February the District has a Four Chaplains Service by a beautiful Four Chap-

lains black granite monument at the historical St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1773) in Hebron, Maryland. They also hold Veterans Day service there where for the past few years the Department Commander has been the guest speaker.

Jameson-Harrison Post 238 Veterans Days Ceremony



L to R: Colonel Bristol, Paul Paradis, Don Fellows, Jean Braunbeck, Harold Gardiner, Joe Cross, Shirley Oppermann, Al Humphreys.

On November 11, 2011 at 11 AM American Legion Post 238 opened their Veterans Day Ceremony with the National Anthem and the Corsairs Sea Cadets parading and posting the American Flag.

The Post Chaplain, Joe Cross offered a prayer then Post Commander, Al Humphreys, gave the first of 6 patriotic readings by Post members.

All events to this point set the stage for the guest speaker, Colonel George H Bristol, USMC. Colonel Bristol, a highly decorated Marine Corps Parachutist, Combat Diver, Scout Sniper, and fully qualified Reconnaissance Marine, created the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program — an integrated close combat fighting system for all Marines.

To say his speech was memorable would be to minimize a most sincere and inspiring talk from an extremely dedicated and pro-

fessional warrior. This soft spoken Marine's-Marine had the audience on the edge of their seats. Many were drawn to tears as Colonel Bristol talked about his career and the experiences accumulated in over 60 months of combat.

His talk centered on his interaction with the men and women under his command. His devotion to the military and respect for those facing danger is chronicled in the book, "Bristol's Bastards," written by Nick Maurstad and Darwin Holmstrom. Maurstad served under Colonel Bristol in and around Fallujah, Iraq. Colonel Bristol spoke of the toll deployments have on military personnel returning from combat and the toll on the families during and after deployment. The ceremony was closed as the Sea Cadets retired the American Flag.

Al Humphreys, Commander, Post 238

3rd VICE COMMANDER

Carolyn Baker

I would like to thank the Posts in the State that I have been able to visit so far for their hospitality. As I have been traveling around the State I have been warmly welcomed by every Post and had an opportunity to see all the wonderful things they are doing in their communities and in the State of Maryland. Even though many Posts are struggling with decreased membership and funds they continue to support the American Legion programs and beliefs. Thank you all for your dedication to the four Pillars of the American Legion and continuing to put our Veter-



ans, their families and our communities first and representing the Department of Maryland in such an outstanding way.

I would also like to thank the County and District Commanders and Vice Commanders for all the work they have done on obtaining the Post Inspection Reports. I know there is a lot of work that goes into visiting the Posts and obtaining all the necessary information. During my review I have discovered that a lot of Posts either do not have documentation of coverage for Directors and Officers Liability with employment practice. Please review your policies and make sure you do have the recommended coverage.

For God and Country

Carolynn Baker, 3rd Vice Commander

Thank You to Stallings-Williams Post 206



The local American Legion, Stallings-Williams Post 206 invited the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department up for a "Fish and Chips" dinner during Fire Prevention month to recognize the members for their services they provide to the community.

Over 30 members attended the dinner and we spoke to many individuals that came over to the group to simply say "Thank

You".

The volunteers of North Beach VFD would like to say "Thank You" to the Legion staff for an awesome dinner. This is what "Brotherhood" is all about; two organizations working together in an effort to better the community.

**Chief Gibson
North Beach VFD**

The American Legion Department of Maryland Wm. C. Kesting Memorial Golf Outing **SPONSOR APPLICATION**

The American Legion, Department of Maryland, annual Wm. C. Kesting Memorial Golf Outing will be held Monday, July 9, 2012 at Deer Run in Berlin, Maryland. This is beginning of The American Legion, Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City, Maryland.

All players are paying their own golf fees to play. We are asking for "Hole Sponsors"

from American Legion Posts, Business Owners and Individuals. For a minimum of \$50.00, a sign acknowledging your donation will be placed on a "T" box the day of the Golf Outing include it in all publicity for players and guests at the golf outing. All Donations will go to American Legion Programs (i.e. Veterans, Children & Youth, etc.).

Checks should be made payable to: American Legion Department of Maryland

and mailed to: Faye Fraley
5215 Twelve Oaks Drive
Federalsburg, MD 21632.

Name as it should appear on sign:

Address or special message:

*** American Legion Posts donating should list the donation on their Post Consolidated Report under veteran's support or children and youth programs.

Wm. C. Kesting Memorial Golf Tournament

July 9, 2012

Deer Run Golf Course, Berlin, MD

Start: 8:00 a.m. – 4 hole in one prizes

Golf Tournament will be a Scramble
(Peoria Scoring)



1st and 2nd Gross

1st and 2nd Net

Also man & woman closest to pin &
longest drive, many prizes!!!!

Luncheon to be held at the Golf Course after the Tournament.

\$65.00 per player- \$260.00 per foursome.

Hole sponsors for a minimum of \$50.00 each. A sign acknowledging your donation will be placed on a "T" box the day of the Golf Outing. All Donations will go to American Legion Programs. (i.e. Veterans, Children & Youth, etc.)

American Legion Posts donations should list the donation on their post consolidated report under veterans support or children & youth.

**Make Check Payable to:
American Legion Department of MD**

Mail: Team fee, hole sponsor to:

**Faye Fraley
5215 Twelve Oaks Dr.
Federalsburg, MD 21632**

**ffraley@yahoo.com
(410) 754-8254**

Player: _____

Player: _____

Player: _____

Player: _____

Captain's Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Confirmation will be e-mailed and updates about the event.

Glen W. Eyler Post 282 Raises Funds For Veterans and Children & Youth Programs



Post 282 Commander Roger W. Butt and Salespersons Rick Major, Nicholas Weigner, Matthew Lewis of Fitzgeralds Auto Mall.

Community Businesses get involved by helping Glen W. Eyler Post 282, raise funds for their Veterans and Children and Youth Programs.

By supporting the Post's Golf Tournament. Fitzgeralds Auto Mall of Frederick is donating a 2012 vehicle and Fredericktown

Yamaha & Triumph is donating a Triumph Motorcycle, for "Holes in One" in Post 282's Golf Tournament. I want to thank all Businesses that support our Veterans. I have found that many businesses are willing to support Boys State and Legion baseball.



Commander Smullen, Guest Speaker at Glen W. Eyler Post 282's Veterans Day Celebration cuts cake, assisting him is Donna Butt, Unit 282 Auxiliary Membership Chairperson.

BOYS STATE

(For all students completing the 11th grade in June 2012)

Boys State will be held at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, June 17 through June 23, 2012. This year the cost to send a Student to Boys State will be \$300.00 per Student, (this charge to be paid by The American Legion Post sponsoring the Student). The Boys State program is characterized by self imposed duties, responsibilities, rules, regulations, practices and customs which are essential to the maintenance of an orderly society and government. A few objectives of Boys State are: To provide an opportunity to learn, understand and practice the basic principals underlying the representative form of government, to develop civic leadership and interest in government affairs, to arouse in young citizens the desire to maintain our form of government. Boys State has partnered with Clemson University and as part of this partnership, Clemson University is offering a

three (3) credit course for only \$270.00 (this cost is the responsibility of the Student). This rate was negotiated down to less than one tenth of the current rate for non-residents students for a three (3) hour course. The credit hours are transferable to most colleges. A course syllabus can be found at www.ed190.com. In order to register for the course access the above listed website or call (864) 884-7988. A student does not have to register for College Credit to attend Boys State. Applications to attend Boys State in June of 2012 have been sent to all Secondary Schools. The application for the (3) credit hours has also been sent. The Boys State Staff needs all Legionnaires to be supportive in seeking applicants to attend the 2012 American Legion Boys State Program.

Roger W. Butt
Director
Maryland Boys State

The American Legion Department of Maryland
Proudly Presents
NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET
In Honor Of
National Commander of The American Legion
FANG WONG



Saturday, March 10, 2012
Hosted by Kent Island American Legion Post 278
800 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, Maryland 21666
410-643-2728



Accommodations at the Hilton Garden Kent Island
Room Rate \$125 plus Tax
Free Shuttle from Hotel to Legion starting at 5 pm thru Midnight. Reservations open NOW. Cut Off Date — February 13, 2012.
Room Code: American Legion

SOCIAL HOUR
5:30 pm till 6:30 pm
DINNER
6:30 till 8:00 pm
PROGRAM
8:00 pm
(bar closed during program)
\$30 per person (Tables of 10 \$300)

BREAKFAST BUFFETT
Sunday March 11th
9:30 am at Post 278
\$8.00 per person

Contact the Legion for special dietary needs)

RSVP by February 24, 2012. Make Checks Payable to KIAL Post 278

DISTRICT DATA

NORTHERN CENTRAL DISTRICT

Serving Baltimore, Harford and Howard Counties

A greeting from the Northern Central District, I would like to compliment the posts that have been working the renewals and signing up new members this year. As I type this article, we are currently the #1 District in membership. I am very appreciative of the hard work so far, but let's keep mining those new members and renewing your membership. I'd look good in that jacket, as the #1 District Commander! To date, we have 1 post at 95%, 5 posts at 90%, 9 at 85% and 5 at 80% and 2 below 80% of goal. We all know that the hardest goal to reach is 100%, so maybe we should all be looking at that 10% that renew late or failed to renew last year. Spring is a time of renewal, so let's get them renewed!

At the half way mark in my tenure, I have enjoyed my term as your commander. Vice Commander Pat has done a great job in her duties, and I am sure with your support she will be an outstanding District Commander! The County Commanders have also been doing yeoman's work this year, they are vital in the operation of the District and I appreciate all their hard work and dedication. All my officers as well have worked together and you have a great team representing this District at Department.

Kudos goes out to the Baltimore County Council for another successful Perry Point Christmas Party this past January. There was great support from members of the Legion Family and from the Legion Riders. Good luck to our contestant in the Department Oratorical Contest and a big thank you to Bob Berlett for taking the committee this year. National Commander Fang Wong will visit the Department on March 10th; Kent Island Post is hosting a banquet to honor the Commanders visit that evening. Our district will hold its annual Reception to honor our Department Commander, Auxiliary President and SAL Commander on March 31st, 6 pm at Parkton Post 256 much thanks to Parkton for hosting and to past Commander Dave Johnson for chairing this event. We hope to have a great turnout to show our appreciation for our Department Legion Family leadership. Finally, I express my congratulations to the posts who received awards at the annual District Membership Rally held in February. I thank the many people who have made countless contributions to this event.

The next NCD Meeting is May 6 at 1PM and will be held at Edgewood Post 17. The District Caucus meeting will be held June 24 at 1 PM at Parkville 183. I hope to see you at these meetings; they are open meetings so you don't have to be a white hat to attend.

Until the next issue, keep safe, work your membership, and enjoy being a member of the greatest veterans' organization in the world. See you around the district!

Robert G. Manzo, Commander
Northern Central District



NORTH EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT

Serving Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties

Greetings: I now call upon all members of the North Eastern Shore District to help me to obtain a one hundred percent participation of all Posts in our District at our Third District meeting. I strongly encourage all elected Delegates or Alternates from each Post to attend all District and Caucus meetings. You have a say in all of the decisions, good or not so good, that we make and I am sure that your Post members want you to be involved in all decisions made by their District.

Membership!! Membership!! Membership!! Please contact all of your members who have not paid their 2012 dues. Remind them that dues for each Legion year are paid in advance. All dues for the 2012 Legion year should have been paid prior to October 20, 2011. We must make a special effort to renew all current members and recruit new members. I challenge all members to be more visible within your community. As you perform American Legion Programs make sure that you get media coverage. I also ask you to wear something, a jacket, shirt, cap or hat that has The American Legion Emblem on it. It is important to wear these items at meetings. It is also important that you wear them as you move throughout your communities. A Veteran might approach you and ask questions about The American Legion. (Use that opportunity to Sign Him or Her up)



I hope that everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and Happy New Year. Again, I thank all attendees at our Second District meeting for your outstanding participation and for making my second meeting enjoyable and productive. You can reach Adjutant James (Kenny) Camper by calling Post #77 at 410-822-4486 and leave a message or you can reach him on his cell 410-463-0396. Our next District meeting is February 26, 2012 at Post #70 in Easton, MD. (Lunch will be at 12 noon and the meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M.)

Willis B. Scott, Jr., Commander
North Eastern Shore

WESTERN MARYLAND DISTRICT

Serving Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties

An Enthusiastic Happy New Year to all Legionnaires and their families of the Western Maryland District and the Department of Maryland! January and February are filled with varied activities throughout the District. Our Oratorical Contests are being conducted through the Posts and Counties, culminating with the District contest on February 18th at Post 282 in Woodsboro. Chairperson Ethel Leffingwell and her committee are busy preparing for that contest.

That will be closely followed by the Winter Special Olympics that have moved from Garrett County to the White Tail Ski Resort outside of Clear Spring in Washington County. Department and District Chairman John Sweeney is finalizing our volunteer help and we hope to have a good turn out for the kids. The preliminaries are on February 12 with the finals on February 27.

On February 26, the 51st Western Maryland Wine Jug Contest will take place at Post 211 in Funkstown. This is an enjoyable time of comradeship and celebration for our membership efforts. I am pleased to report at the time of this writing that 15 of our 18 Posts have reached the Department membership goal! However, we all know that our work is never complete when it comes to membership, so keep contacting members behind in their dues and keep a membership application handy in order to sign up a new member if the opportunity presents itself.

As a reminder, I hope to see as many of you as possible on February 15 at the Martinsburg V.A. Medical Center as it celebrates its Salute to Hospitalized Veterans — Maryland Day. District Service Officer Harold De Lauter encourages us every year to attend this meaningful ceremony to recognize our hospitalized veterans and I hope to see you there.

In closing, keep up with all the good work you accomplish and God Bless America!

Hazel L. Morton, Commander
Western Maryland District



BALTIMORE DISTRICT

Serving Baltimore City

Happy New Year from the Baltimore District, to all of our veterans, families and friends. It's a new year to improve and renew those resolutions from last year; well maybe not. Do you remember the resolutions you made last year? We all can improve on many things in our lives. We can come up with a thousand reasons why we could not carry them out to completion. It takes a lot of time, commitment and hard work. Something a lot of us are not easily willing to give up. How much time do you give to your local Post programs and services? How much time do you take to visit veterans in the hospitals and rehabilitation centers? These are not examples of resolutions for the New Year, these are things that we as members of The American Legion should be doing all year, and every year for our fellow veterans. Save the resolutions for your personal endeavors.

The Baltimore District worked especially hard on our programs and services last year. We had a good response from our district, other veterans and friends. We still have two coming up in the near future. "The Four Chaplains" will be on Sunday, Feb 5, 2012 @ St. Alphonsus Church, Saratoga St. & Park Ave, Baltimore Md. @ 10:00 a.m. "Our Memorial Day Service" @ the National Veterans Cemetery, on 5501 Fredrick Rd. in Baltimore



DISTRICT DATA

Md., will begin at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are in a constant battle with our membership that seems to be on a rollercoaster, due to the loss of several of our Posts. We need more involvement of the Post members to keep the Post itself running. I'm asking all Post Commanders to stay in contact with its members, or have some type of communication. Keep members abreast of what is going on at your Post to keep them involved. Most of you know what works for your individual Post. Every member is a part of the membership team for your Post.

As part of the Baltimore District history, there was an Urn displayed at the Veterans Memorial in Baltimore that is located between Baltimore's baseball and football stadiums. This urn contained earth of the hallowed ground of United States military cemeteries throughout the world; and was first displayed at Memorial Stadium in 1954. The first dedication was a Pearl Harbor Service at Memorial Stadium in 1955 and continued through 1997. The Baltimore District continued these services at the War Memorial without the urn since the demolition of Memorial Stadium and the removal of the urn. This past Pearl Harbor Day we displayed a new "Urn" at the War Memorial that contains earth from Maryland Veterans Cemeteries, where U.S. soldiers are buried from previous wars. The names of the Maryland Veterans Cemeteries are as follows: Annapolis National; Cheltenham; Crownsville; Eastern Shore; Garrison Forest; Loudon Park; and Rocky Gap. "Time Will Not Dim The Glory of Their Deeds." (I would like to thank Vincent Dulys for this part of Baltimore District History, and making this once again a special part of our Pearl Harbor Service).

Respectfully Submitted,

Maxine Canty, Commander
Baltimore District

SOUTH EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT *Serving Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties*

Greetings from the Eastern Shore. Let's start by saying I'm proud of the membership for our district. Everybody is trying to get members and retaining members. We have one post in our district down but I believe they will come to the finish line a winner. Congratulations to two posts who accomplished over 100% of goal #16, #132, way to go guys. We now have a membership committee to help train posts in trouble to show how to get new members and also ways to help retain old members, you must ask for the help and they will send a team to you, please don't be too proud to ask. Now on a different note, our district reception will be coming up in April. I hope every post will be represented this year. I would love to see 15 Post Commanders and 4 County Commanders there from our district. Our next district meeting will be in Cambridge at Post 91, we will be discussing the plans for the district reception, please try to attend. So far our district meetings have had very good attendance with out meeting every month. Make sure your post has paid their district dues. County Commanders are on top of their reports, so please make an extra effort to fill out the form and mail it on time. My staff and I will be calling on you to see how you are making out. Again remember the troops in harms way and God Bless them and the United States.

Frank Fraley, Commander
South Eastern Shore District



SOUTHERN MARYLAND DISTRICT *Serving Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, Montgomery and St. Mary's Counties*



Spring is upon us, New Year's was a time for reflection, now is the time for action. Last December, I challenged every Legionnaire in SMD to give 2 hours a month to The American Legion, have you given any time? It doesn't have to be 2 hours. Volunteering with your Post helps the community in far too many ways to list here, just take a look at National's Consolidated Report. There are many ways to get involved supporting the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs.

To ensure our programs continue to thrive we have to have membership to support it. Recruiting events are important, but, membership starts at home; only YOU can make the difference. Every Legionnaire, Son and Auxiliary member is important. Recently while paying our last respects to Legionnaire, Voyager, Amvet and a member of many other organizations. I was talking with one of his friends, a Marine who served in Vietnam. I asked Frank if he was a member of The American Legion. I was stunned, he said, "NO." While he was a lifelong friend of the deceased he was never asked to join the American Legion. Here is the rhetorical question, "Why wouldn't you want to share the benefits of your membership in the American Legion with your family and friends, why have you not asked them to join? – Better yet, pay their dues for the first year as I have done, they will appreciate it."

Every one of us MUST support the Legions National Security - Legislative agenda. Our elected representatives at local, state and national levels listen to the weight of the mail. Even if you just send an email because it takes minutes to send that email indicating your support of a bill important to veterans. That is less time than it takes to forward that email that must be forwarded to 20 friends or you'll have bad luck. I never do and my luck is pretty good.

Americanism is still strong, especially among those who value it most. It is not just our Legion family and the 1% who serve in our Armed Forces, but by those who came to the US seeking a better life. The contestant in a few of the recent High School Oratorical Contests are 1st generation immigrants. One of the contestant's parents came from China seeking a better life; this contestant contacted me 4 days before the competition and if we had a little more time could have done much better than the 2nd place finish. Her motivation for participating was a love of the Constitution; she loves the subject and aspires to be a Constitutional Lawyer. She was truly surprised that there was prize money for participating. Later that night I had the occasion to go out to an Irish Pub in Alexandria. Displayed in cases over the bar were uniforms from all of the Armed Forces. Over the tables were signs for each service, truly a patriotic display. Around 10:30pm, the owner, Pat Troy, came out and had everyone in the bar stop what they were doing; he then asked all active duty to stand, then veterans, police officers, fire fighters, teachers and then everyone. When everyone was standing he then led a rousing rendition of God Bless America followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Pat has done this every Friday and Saturday for the past 32 years since he opened his bar.

To help our Posts grow, carry a certificate to present to homeowners to recognize them for flying the American flag. Stop by and present it, you never know they are probably a Veteran. With 24.5 million veterans out there and 2.4 million Legionnaires, there is a good chance they are not members.

Southern Maryland still has its work cut out for it. At the time I am writing this SMD is 2600 +/- members under our goal. Only 2 Posts, Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86 and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Post 295 reach 100% by the Oyster Bowl Cut-Off. The other Oyster Bowl Winners (1st/ 2nd) are: Cat 1: Post 126 / Post 235; Cat 2: Post 172 / Post 170; Cat 3: Post 295 / Post 221; Cat 4: Post 41 / Post 238; Cat 5: Post 86 / Post 276; Cat 6: Post 136. Congratulations. Let's close the gap. In the immortal words of Past Commander Murdock, Let's Git-R-Done.

For the Veteran!

Bob Ouellette, Commander
Southern Maryland District

Are Your Friends and Family . . .

When asking an eligible person to join The American Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL, remember to extend the offer to include their eligible friends and family members.

POST EVERLASTING AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012

NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #
<i>Guy Carleton Parlett Post 7, Annapolis</i>		<i>Farrady Post 24, Frostburg</i>		Frederick F Otto	42	James B Slezak	95	Elva L Blevins	136	<i>Slate Ridge Post 182, Whiteford</i>	
Henry Boudreau	7	Raymond E Atkinson	24	Ernest T Rice	42	Stanley J Zambrzycki	95	Lewis Clark	136	Raymond E Wheeler	182
Raymond E Carroll	7	Earl S Davis	24	Elmer R Smith	42	<i>Steadman-Keenan Post 96, Brunswick</i>		Peter A Del Grosso	136	<i>Parkville Post 183, Parkville</i>	
Glenn Lahman	7	Lester V Lewis	24	Stanley R Thier	42	David Crockett	96	William L Duffy	136	Donald R Burkhardt	183
Donald C Panning	7	Carl A Pressman	24	<i>Joseph L. Davis Post 47, Havre De Grace</i>		Paul H Holder	96	Charles A Fuchs	136	Marvin S Childs	183
Edmond J Power	7	Jack W Tharp	24	Robert L Baldwin	47	James F Roby	96	Ronald L Galemore	136	Preston J Daisey	183
David C Ryan	7	<i>Caroline Post 29, Denton</i>		Stanley J Cizewski	47	<i>Barber-Briggs Post 104, Gaithersburg</i>		Jerry C Jech	136	John L Dix	183
<i>Clopper-Michael Post 10, Boonsboro</i>		Emile L Bernier	29	Crawford L Ervin	47	David J Cherochak	104	Gary D Krot	136	George S Erlbeck	183
Daniel Beachley	10	Frank J Farina	29	H B Fasnacht	47	C V Macrina	104	Anthony J Mastradone	136	Richard A Evans	183
Robert D Campbell	10	Joseph H Heckrotte	29	Anthony J Gatto	47	<i>Dewey Lowman Post 109, Arbutus</i>		Vincent J Moylan	136	Anthony Iacarusso	183
Herbert C Darling	10	Eugene D Racz	29	J P Hargis	47	John P Bolton	109	Joseph E Russell	136	Charles E Jones	183
Ernest M Ferguson	10	<i>Carroll Post 31, Westminster</i>		Ralph Liberatore	47	Richard J Guerin	109	Thomas W Simpson	136	John J Kaufman	183
Nicholas C Parrish	10	Norman E Aldridge	31	Charles B Lowe	47	Milton H Harten	109	William M Story	136	Charles E Kinling	183
Carroll G Strailman	10	Francis M Arnold	31	Charles B Lowe	47	Charles V Kestler	109	Arthur W Von Essen	136	Charles F Klug	183
John R Wagner	10	Richard E Bentz	31	<i>Laurel Maryland Post 60, Laurel</i>		Russell A Laisure	109	<i>Morrell Park Post 137, Baltimore</i>		John B Macgibbon	183
<i>Francis Scott Key Post 11, Frederick</i>		Calvin W Brothers	31	Dwight D Anderson	60	John Pless	109	Robert E Lease	137	John A Manlove	183
Robert J Brady	11	Harry A Chew	31	Edward H Coldwell	60	Charles E Porter	109	Peter H Madera	137	Daniel J Michetti	183
Walter O Christ	11	Joseph W Humbert	31	Richard N Harmon	60	Robert P Quigley	109	<i>James C. Ludwig Post 139, Baltimore</i>		Jerome R Muffoletto	183
Virgil S Evans	11	George E Maloney	31	Brian Kaminski	60	Stanley R Rossman	109	Clair W Reichenbach	139	Melvin E Neff	183
Norman W Fox	11	Walter N Moreau	31	James Snyder	60	Harry F Schwab	109	<i>Cook-Pinkney Post 141, Annapolis</i>		H L Nolder	183
Ralph E Fry	11	Edward C Myers	31	<i>Wicomico Post 64, Salisbury</i>		James J Woomeer	109	James R Donnell	141	Pat Panaggio	183
Jean A Krantz	11	Dennis F Nebel	31	William E Donaway	64	<i>Upper Marlboro Post 115, Upper Marlboro</i>		Edwin M Becker	148	Gordon C Tegeler	183
Edward A Lehmann	11	Charles E Swinderman	31	Douglas L Feeney	64	William Bullock	115	Frank Gresdow	148	Robert H Trimble	183
Jack T Linton	11	<i>Frank M. Jarman Post 36, Chestertown</i>		Arthur J Gray	64	<i>Reisterstown Post 116, Reisterstown</i>		Chester J Jacynski	148	Herman P Wilcox	183
Rudell A Mullinix	11	Thomas R Elburn	36	John R Molenda	64	John Dipaolantonio	116	<i>Lithuanian Post 154, Baltimore</i>		Edward A Yodzis	183
Robert J Reed	11	Jack K Lieupo	36	Raymond L Sites	64	James R Higgins	116	Vaclavas Laukaitis	154	<i>Barton Post 189, Barton</i>	
Gerald H Smith	11	William B Spann	36	William B Spann	64	Richard A Petraska	116	<i>Victory Post 155, Westernport</i>		James C Crable	189
Charles J Zampino	11	Thomas H Townsend	36	Thomas H Townsend	64	<i>Hesson-Snyder Post 120, Emmitsburg</i>		Robert L Davy	155	William P Cuthbertson	189
<i>Fort Cumberland Post 13, Cumberland</i>		<i>Disney-Bell Post 66, Bowie</i>		John J Beagles	66	Ray E Fair	120	James F Simmons	155	<i>Gold Star Post 191, Mount Airy</i>	
James J Burns	13	John J Beagles	66	William J Danser	66	Thomas B Fogle	120	Paul J Tasker	155	Bruce Bratburd	191
Charles W Conway	13	William J Danser	66	Joseph W Dustin	66	George J Kreit	120	Harry F Warnick	155	Lacy H De Grange	191
George W Cowgill	13	Joseph W Dustin	66	Daniel R Moyer	66	<i>Liberty Post 122, Randallstown</i>		<i>Adams, Hanna, Moore Post 156, Ellicott City</i>		James J Mangan	191
Charles T Mower	13	Daniel R Moyer	66	Joseph G Washington	66	Herman M Hopwood	122	Alma V Lauriente	156	<i>Mannie Scott, Post 193, Denton</i>	
Donald E Palmer	13	Joseph G Washington	66	Henry D Wright	66	Vernon L Leaf	122	Earl G Taylor	156	Harry S Hutchins	193
William H Smith	13	Henry D Wright	66	<i>Norman Price Post 68, Sandy Spring</i>		Charles R McGill	122	Forrest Russell	193	Forrest Russell	193
James R Snider	13	Phillip D Keller	68	Phillip D Keller	68	Fredrick J Paff	122	<i>Synepuxent Post 166, Ocean City</i>		<i>Mason-Dixon Post 194, Rising Sun</i>	
Francis C Thom	13	Thomas V Mullings	68	Thomas V Mullings	68	Charles W Riddle	122	Wilfred L Blandford	166	Francis H Cloud	194
Gary L Valentine	13	Talbot Post 70, Easton		Talbot Post 70, Easton		Howard A Triplett	122	Howard E Cleaver	166	Robert W Cumm	194
James Ziler	13	Norris L Harrison	70	Norris L Harrison	70	Israel S Ungar	122	Stanley J Cygan	166	Reece A Goodman	194
<i>Stanley Cochrane Post 16, Crisfield</i>		James B Spears	70	James B Spears	70	<i>Bernard L. Tobin Post 128, Aberdeen</i>		John F De Huarte	166	Robert E Macdonald	194
Jerome F Ryan	16	<i>Proctor-Kildow, Inc.. Post 71, Oakland</i>		<i>Proctor-Kildow, Inc.. Post 71, Oakland</i>		James D Branner	128	James E Kopper	166	John M Weaver	194
Richard Seidenspinner	16	Larry G Crosco	71	Larry G Crosco	71	George E Hendricks	128	Ernest Rainey	166	<i>August J. Raveio Post 195, Baltimore</i>	
<i>Edgewood Service Post 17, Edgewood</i>		Fred Tichnell	71	Fred Tichnell	71	John L Jourdan	128	John J Smith	166	David L Clark	195
Danny W Hancock	17	Henry C Trickett	71	Henry C Trickett	71	Robert J Lewis	128	Robert W Steele	166	Melvin R Foster	195
Emery W Plummer	17	Max L White	71	Max L White	71	<i>Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130, Perry Hall</i>		James F Watts	166	Wilmer H France	195
Charles K Teryek	17	<i>Harry White Wilmer Post 82, LaPlata</i>		<i>Harry White Wilmer Post 82, LaPlata</i>		Albert R Anglin	130	Jack Wood	166	Donald R Owings	195
<i>Jeff Davis Post 18, Centreville</i>		Harry P Detwiler	82	Harry P Detwiler	82	Eugene A Biscoe	130	<i>Edwin C. Creeger, Jr Post 168, Thurmont</i>		John M Reed	195
Joseph A Jackson	18	William E Page	82	William E Page	82	Anthony A Grelli	130	Floyd C Martin	168	Leon K Reed	168
William L Morris	18	Howard G Schuyler	82	Howard G Schuyler	82	David C Kinnear	130	Leon K Reed	168	<i>Suitland Post 196, Forestville</i>	
James O Pippin	18	<i>Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86, Rockville</i>		<i>Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post 86, Rockville</i>		Joseph J Kudrna	130	<i>Damascus Post 171, Damascus</i>		James E Roscoe	196
John F Scully	18	Daniel L Barrett	86	Daniel L Barrett	86	Stanley A Makowski	130	James W Benson	171	<i>Hampstead Post 200, Hampstead</i>	
George R Taylor	18	<i>Corporal Herman Hughes Post 87, Cambridge</i>		<i>Corporal Herman Hughes Post 87, Cambridge</i>		Paul J Oliver	130	Charles B Hawkins	171	Gerald J Boerner	200
<i>Hamilton Post 20, Baltimore</i>		Robert H Johnson	87	Robert H Johnson	87	<i>Colmar Manor Post 131, Colmar Manor</i>		Nathan M Miller	171	Robert M Thompson	200
Joseph J Cucchiella	20	Gilbert T Sampson	87	Gilbert T Sampson	87	Arthur V Hillyard	131	<i>Beltway Post 172, Lanham</i>		<i>Potomac Post 202, Williamsport</i>	
George C Goemmer	20	Dorchester Post 91, Cambridge		Dorchester Post 91, Cambridge		Robert M Mutchler	131	Wilton Wallace	172	Emanuel T Apple	202
Walter T Leimbach	20	George M Baier	91	George M Baier	91	<i>Susquehanna Post 135, Perryville</i>		<i>Ensign C Markland Kelly Post 174, Timonium</i>		Harry Balducci	202
Robert T Schultz	20	Robert Kinnamon	91	Robert Kinnamon	91	Edwin G Allison	135	Edward M Hagy	174	George Botic	202
Robert T Woodworth	20	Osylee M Lewis	91	Osylee M Lewis	91	Richard R Dewitt	135	<i>Severna Park Post 175, Severna Park</i>		Clyde Gaylor	202
<i>Clarence E. Wilson Post 21, Centreville</i>		Robert B Wilson	91	Robert B Wilson	91	Eugene W Howell	135	Leon H Borowski	175	James A Grolton	202
James Hutchins	21	<i>Worcester Post 93, Pocomoke City</i>		<i>Worcester Post 93, Pocomoke City</i>		Charles E McCarthy	135	James E Freeland	175	Adie P Karpowicz	202
W Leon Taylor	21	Robert L Hawkins	93	Robert L Hawkins	93	Emmett J Patrick	135	James Kelly	175	Ralph C Myers	202
<i>Towson Post 22, Towson</i>		<i>Oliver T. Beauchamp, Jr Post 94, Princess Anne</i>		<i>Oliver T. Beauchamp, Jr Post 94, Princess Anne</i>		Frank Skillman	135	James H Pleasant	175	George R Shank	202
Frederick J Baber	22	Roger F Carroll	94	Roger F Carroll	94	<i>Greenbelt Post 136, Greenbelt</i>		James H Pleasant	175	Edward B Zimmerman	202
John B Baker	22	Raymond E Landing	94	Raymond E Landing	94	Kenneth C Allen	136	<i>Rosedale Post 180, Rosedale</i>		Stallings-Williams Post 206, Chesapeake Beach	
John J Dibattista	22	<i>General Joseph Haller Post 95, Baltimore</i>		<i>General Joseph Haller Post 95, Baltimore</i>		Donald K Hetz	95	Angelo J Ambrosetti	180	Oliver R Adams	206
Fred Ptaschek	22	Donald K Hetz	95	Donald K Hetz	95			Eugene M Collingsworth	180	Hammon H Hobbs	206
G W Sackerman	22							Austin B Davenport	180	Charles R Holesapple	206
Charles H Weber	22							Paul W Hahn	180	James C Rasmussen	206
								Raymond E Walls	180		

POST EVERLASTING

NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #	NAME	POST #
Carl S Udelhofen	206	<i>Antietam Post 236, Sharpsburg</i>		Lemuel W Cousins	275
Garland J White	206	Donald C Classen	236	Raymond J Crawford	275
<i>Accident Post 208, Accident</i>		<i>Spring Hill Post 237, Hebron</i>		Julius C Haley	275
Charles A Thatcher	208	Wallace G Catlin	237	Ned Jackson	275
<i>Dixon-Troxell Post 211, Funkstown</i>		<i>Jameson-Harrison Post 238, Hughesville</i>		David L Shanklin	275
Alvin L Atkins	211	Jens R Jacobsen	238	John Wimberly	275
Fred R Delazio	211	Francis J Nimmerrichter	238	<i>Howard L. Turner Post 276, Severn</i>	
Charles Flurie	211	<i>Cascade Post 239, Cascade</i>		Charles R Allen	276
William S Green	211	Frank W Bowders	239	Raymond D Patterson	276
Richard T Jackson	211	William L Dorsey	239	Harry R Robinson	276
Charles D Macdonald	211	<i>Hurlock Post 243, Hurlock</i>		<i>Pasadena Post 277, Riviera Beach</i>	
Ronie M Matthews	211	Scott W Murphy	243	Andrew Fleischmann	277
William E Moler	211	Ralph H Schulke	243	Allen K Moreau	277
Jack E Osborne	211	<i>C. Henry Price II Post 246, Betterton</i>		Paul H Wockenfuss	277
Roger L Reedy	211	Harry O Meeks	246	<i>Kent Island Post 278, Kent Island</i>	
<i>Postal Memorial Post 213, Baltimore</i>		<i>Oxon Hill Post 248, Temple Hill</i>		Charles E Birch	278
Thomas L Jefferson	213	William H Dixon	248	Peter L Guilday	278
<i>College Park Post 217, College Park</i>		<i>Robert, Richard Kirk Post 252, Pasadena</i>		George E Pollock	278
Frank R Cummings	217	Richard W Micklo	252	<i>Glen W. Eyler Post 282, Woodsboro</i>	
A F Rubino	217	<i>Ridge Post 255, Ridge</i>		Donald R Butler	282
Robert L White	217	Winfield L Clark	255	Herbert L Hovermale	282
<i>Dor-Wic Post 218, Sharptown</i>		Jesse A Denney	255	Louis Jacobs	282
Paul S Davis	218	<i>Parkton Post 256, Parkton</i>		Kenneth E King	282
Michael W Stricker	218	John G Bowman	256	Willard A Summers	282
<i>Joseph C. Herbert Post 222, Clear Spring</i>		<i>Clinton Post 259, Clinton</i>		David T West	282
Robert E Cobb	222	John J Baka	259	<i>Edwin Adams Post 293, Waldorf</i>	
David N Houser	222	Linwood P Coffey	259	Shaun P Blondin	293
<i>Sykesville Memorial Post 223, Sykesville</i>		Donald A Dodson	259	Frank R Shirer	293
Edward G Langmead	223	Howard E King	259	<i>Vietnam Veterans Mem. Post 295, Gaithersburg</i>	
Robert M Solomon	223	James J Manion	259	Raymond J Rebbholz	295
James E Wilson	223	Wayne I Mumbert	259	<i>Benedict A. Andrew Post 296, Queenstown</i>	
Cummings-Behlke Post 226, Mayo		Bertrand B Robbins	259	Charles J Knofski	296
Norman E Cummings	226	Carson H Tevault	259	<i>Holding Post 297</i>	
George E Fairall	226	Lewis A Wood	259	Albert Ballard	297
Anthony T Origlio	226	Seth Young	259	Harry R Behrmann	297
<i>Brandywine Post 227, Brandywine</i>		<i>Wheaton Post 268, Wheaton</i>		William E Cawood	297
Richard H Dobson	227	Lewis T Bruffy	268	Frank Claes	297
<i>Sgt. Preston Ashley Post 228, Rock Hall</i>		Arthur M Kaneko	268	George C Harris	297
Jane L Strong	228	John C Keeney	268	Joseph Hogan	297
<i>Duncan-Showell Post 231, Berlin</i>		Richard R Lyskawa	268	Edward J Kowalewski	297
Calvin E Dixon	231	Michael Ogurchak	268	James T McCandless	297
Donnie R Farmer	231	Marlon W Pickles	268	Douglas R McClean	297
Handy J Harris	231	Clark R Sherwood	268	John J Mooney	297
George T Snead	231	John E Stringer	268	Lawrence A Nix	297
<i>Jack R. Cross Memorial Post 233, Indian Head</i>		Russell L Toms	268	James P Rineholt	297
Woodie L Beavers	233	Robert G Xander	268	William R Schleicher	297
Charles Posey	233	<i>Arick L. Lore Post 274, Lusby</i>		John Watt	297
		Raymond Bluey	274	Omar Zen	297
		Edward J Duffy	274	George W Zimmerman	297
		Eugene M Smith	274	John F. McNulty Mem, Post 298	
		George H Walrod	274	Charlotte Hall	
		<i>Glenarden Post 275, Glenarden</i>		Hugh T Quigley	298
		Melvin Brummitt	275		

MEMORIAL BOOK INSCRIPTIONS

- In Memory of Martha Nelson, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of Alan M. Edick, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of James F. Roby, by The Western Maryland District.
- In Memory of Eileen J. "Penny" Sarles, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of Bernadine Benning, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of Evelyn Gnau, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of Norman Cummings, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of James F. Roby, by PDC Douglas W. Henley.
- In Memory of Martha "Marty" Jordan, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.
- In Memory of Lois "Sue" Garbart, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226
- In Memory of Past Post Commander 1976-77 William A. Kennedy, Sr., by Francis Scott Key Post #11 Past Commanders

DISTRICT RECEPTIONS

Honoring

**Department Commander Melvin G. Smullen
Department President Yvonne Rhone
Detachment Commander Edward "Buddy" Mastin
Honorary Junior President Katelyn Gunderson**

**Northern Central District
Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 6 pm
Parkton Post #256**

Tickets \$30. Contact: Carol Robinson 410-357-0376

**Western Maryland District
Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 5:30 pm
Webster B. Harrison Post #26**

Tickets \$22. Contact: Alice Eyler

**North Eastern Shore District
Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 4 pm
Frank M. Jarman Post #36**

Tickets \$25. Contact: Eva Browning 410-778-0908

**South Eastern Shore District
Saturday, April 28, 2012 at 5pm
Dorchester Post #91**

Tickets \$25. Contact: Faye Fraley 410-754-8254

**Baltimore District
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2-6 pm
Northeastern Post #285**

Donation \$20. Contact: Maxine Canty 443-438-9110

**Southern Maryland District
Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 4 pm
Stallings-Williams Post #206**

Tickets \$25. Contact: Kathie Linkenhoker 301-345-0136
katlink136@comcast.net

**Mountain District
Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 5 pm
Proctor Kildow Post #71**

Tickets \$30. Contact: Moses Miller 301-533-1029

S.A.L. Commander

This year is going by so quickly. I can not tell you how proud I am to be Detachment Commander as I see our members out there working so hard supporting and promoting all of the great programs of The American Legion



Family and "Serving America's Veterans Every Day". We all had a great time at the 16th Annual Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in January as The American Legion Family plunge team braved the cold waters of the Chesapeake as we raised money for Special Olympics. We also had a great time that weekend at the Detachment Travel Club Soiree in Ocean City. It was great to have Department Commander Smullen and Department President Rhone at the party, everyone had a great time.

I am very happy to see The American Legion Family working so hard supporting my Commander's Project this year as we try to buy a handicapped accessible bus for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home at a cost of \$67,000. As of our January S.A.L. DEC meeting we have raised over (drum roll please) \$55,000. Wow. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we work together as a team. I can not wait to see the look on their faces as we present the veterans with their new bus. Thank you to all the Posts, Units and Squadrons who have worked so hard raising money for the bus. Keep the donations coming because once we reach our goal the extra money will be used for upgrade to the bus such as better seating and dual air conditioning.

Please remember, membership is the lifeblood of our organization and without it we could not do the job we do supporting all the great programs of The American Legion Family. We need to have our membership keep growing so we can keep "Serving America's Veterans Every Day". Please pass it on to your Squadron Officers to get their members signed up or renewed and sent in as soon as possible. All Squadrons should



be at 80% membership by March 14th. You can check how your Squadron is doing in membership at <http://www.mdlegion.org/SALMBRSHP.pdf>

I would like to invite all Squadron Commanders and their Post Advisors to come to our Spring Detachment meeting on April 1, 2012 at 1PM at Damascus Post #171. Thank you for allowing me to serve this organization. If I can be of service to anyone of you, please let me know. Please visit and use our Detachment website www.mdsal.org and our new Detachment Facebook page to see what the Sons of The American Legion are doing. I am only a phone call or e-mail away if I can be of assistance. Let's get out there, roll up our sleeves and support the programs of The American Legion Family. God Bless our Troops and Veterans and God Bless America.

The Detachment of Maryland is putting together a cruise to raise money for our Candidate for National Commander 2013-14 Joe Gladden. The cruise will be going out of Baltimore on April 14th, 2013 for 7 days. All money raised will be to help our candidate over the next couple years to get to the high office of National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. If you would like more information, please check our website at www.salmd.org. We hope to see you travel the seas along with us.

Serving America's Veterans Every Day,
Edward 'Buddy' Mastin
 Detachment Commander

Have a Happy Memorial Day

The 16th Annual MSP Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point Park for Maryland Special Olympics



Above: Legion Family members taking the Plunge and those there to support them.
 Below: Legion Family in the cold Chesapeake Bay water.



**From The American Legion,
 Department of Maryland**

Department Sponsored Insurance Programs

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Maryland's sponsored member benefits program for 44 years and continues to fulfill our members needs while being the only such program to benefit our Department.

For more information on the products and services provided by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust,

Call: 1-855-297-2218

Or visit us on the web at: www.theLIT.com

American Legion Auxiliary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"I Believe in the American Flag, Faith, Love and God"

Hello Department of Maryland. It has been my pleasing duty to represent The Department of Maryland, American Legion Auxiliary as your Department President for the past seven months.



My life has been guided by God and followed through with appropriate action, no matter what confusion and uncertainty generated by those around me. I remained sensitive, loving and kindly. Divine guidance has led me in making a change or in standing fast in an attitude of faith.

The Department is as of December 2011 in 9th place in the nation with our membership, great job Ivy, keep up the good work. Now is the time or opportunity to wish all of you a very prosperous New Year and please stay healthy.

The American Legion, Sons of the Ameri-

can Legion and our marvelous Auxiliary members have taken a positive role in assisting our returning Veterans, some who have become homeless. We have several Homeless Shelters in Maryland one being down in Southeastern Shore (Forbes Hall for Homeless Veterans).

The Department of Veterans Affairs is a valuable resource guide for assisting homeless veterans.

Thanking you in advance, Commander Melvin Smullen, Detachment Commander Buddy Mastin, and the Legion Riders.

With Faith, Love and God

Yvonne Rhone
Department President

Disney-Bell Auxiliary Unit 66 Donates to Food Pantry



Community Service is one of the Outreach Programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. The intent of the program is to make our communities better places in which to live. It has been reported that the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry has had a 65% increase in the amount of food that it has distributed so far this past year. To support the needs of our Community, and assist the Pantry with its increased pressures to provide for the needy, The American Legion Auxiliary, Disney-Bell Post 66, chose to use an event, being hosted by them at the Post, to aid the Pantry.

On December 18th, The Southern Mary-

land District of the American Legion Auxiliary held their December business meeting, and District Christmas party, at Disney-Bell Post 66 in Bowie. Instead of traditional exchanging of gifts, the Auxiliary members brought canned and dry goods (and a few toys for the young) for donation to the Bowie Interfaith Pantry.

The American Legion Auxiliary of Disney-Bell Post 66 encourages all citizens of our community to remember our fellow neighbors who may not be so fortunate.

Susan M Beckwell
Unit 66 President
American Legion Auxiliary

Eight & Forty

La Boutique des Huit Chapeaux et Quarante Femmes Departemental de Maryland Salon #39

Bon Jour: Our year of iGeckos i working for our special children is well under way. Our Maryland Partners are just as committed to this cause today as they were when we were organized many years ago. Children suffering the ravages of lung and respiratory diseases continue to tug at our hearts. There are some innovative challenges in place this year to help raise much needed funds to support our cause. First — there is the GECKO COFFEE challenge — For the amount of one cup of coffee a day, you can send in to the Eight & Forty approx. \$300.00 a person a year. Next — The GECKO FAST FOOD challenge — Every time you eat at a fast food joint, put away the change you receive. Count it up and send it in to your Salon for the Eight & Forty Children & Youth Fund. And lastly, the GECKO PENNY challenge — Each day put a penny away — x the number of Partners in your Salon. The amount would be staggering if all of your Partners participated. These are certainly some attainable goals, even in these “challenging” economic times.

The next Pouvoir is being hosted by Unit 223 in Scaggsville on April 29th. Departemental Chapeau Diane Wood asks that there be representatives from all Salons

in attendance as many important decisions must be reached and the Children & Youth Cash raffle will be drawn at this meeting. Just a hint to be sure all the monies are in along with the ticket stubs. There will definitely be a winner, it could be you. If you would like more chances, just send your address labels in to Departemental (along with your check) and they will make sure the additional tickets will be placed in the drawing for you.

Chapeau Days are on the horizon — April 25 thru 29th. A great time for Partners from all across the United States to come together in Denver, hosted by National Jewish Health, to see how far we have come toward fulfilling our pledge to NJH and these special children who are served by them and all this while enjoying each other's company. A win-win situation.

Until we meet again, keep our Partners and our children in your prayers.

Ivy Christoffers, CDP, CNP
ichristoffers@verizon.net
301-595-5225



Veteran of War of 1812 Badly In Need Of Repair



In the South Eastern Shore District of Maryland is Camp ESPA a non-profit 501C3 charitable organization, manned by all volunteers, giving community service to under privileged, and at risk children. Interned on the camp grounds are the historic graves of U.S. Army War 1812 Veteran Colonel William Smith Harper, 11th Maryland Regiment, and his wife Nancy (Wheatley) Harper. Due to passing time, poor weather conditions and prior neglect for centuries the grave top slabs have broken into pieces (some missing) plus the carved inscriptions have greatly deteriorated and are difficult to read. The grave site is a sad lasting tribute to this War Veteran who distinguished himself by leading his troops at the very front of battles, sacrificing safety, injury or death when it was customary (at that time) for Command to position themselves at a observation vantage point out of the line of fire. Jack Lewis who is a Dual Member (Legion and SAL) of Hurlock Post 243 works with his community to restore the site and give dignity back to our fellow veteran. For more info you can contact Jack Lewis at 410-943-1066.

CALL FOR THE 94th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE

The Ninety-Fourth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc., is hereby called, and in conformity with the action of the Ninety-Third Annual Convention and the Department Executive Committee, will be held in Ocean City, Maryland, Tuesday, **July 10** through Friday, **July 13, 2012**.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, hearing and considering resolutions, and for the transaction of such other business as may be deemed necessary to come before the Convention.

REPRESENTATION

The Department Convention shall be comprised of representatives from each Post who shall be members in good standing of the Post by which they are elected, and all Past Department Commanders while in good standing in their respective Posts. Each Post having 15 members in good standing shall be entitled to two Delegates. Each Post having 26 members in good standing shall be entitled to three Delegates and to an additional Delegate for each additional fifty members after the first twenty-six. Each Post shall be entitled to an Alternate for each Delegate. Membership strength of the Post, for determining Delegate strength, shall be computed as of paid-up membership in Department Headquarters at the close of business on June 11th. All District Commanders and all Department and all National Officers listed in ARTICLE VI of the Department Constitution in the year in which they serve, and all Past Department Commanders, shall be Delegates-at-large to Department Convention, with right to vote thereat, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts.

Every Post shall file the name and number of the Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention at least twenty days prior to the convening of the Convention, (**no later than June 20th this year**), and at the same time pay the registration fee of \$15.00* for each and every Delegate, in the case of an Alternate taking the place of a Delegate such Alternate shall be required to pay the registration fee of \$15.00* which shall be done when the substitution takes place or sooner; unless and until such registration fees of the Delegates have been paid, the Delegation is disqualified to act for any purpose, and no individual Delegate will be allowed to vote, provided, however, that the mere non-payment of registration shall not deprive a Delegate otherwise duly qualified, of the right to vote in any District Caucus, on any matter (including election of officers) which thereafter is subject to ratification by the Department Convention. The forms are NOT duplicates. Use one for Delegates only; the other for Alternates only. Post Commanders are urgently requested to have at least one member of their Delegation on the Convention floor at all times.

**Cost of Delegates will be \$20.00 on or after June 22nd. As ratified by the DEC Meeting on 20 Nov. 2011.*

VOTING

ARTICLE V, Section 3 (a) On all matters of business except the election of Department Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention, and except amendments to this Constitution or the By-Laws, voting shall be by voice, and the decision of the chair thereon shall be final unless a vote by roll call be demanded; and upon demand of any person having proper voice such other manner of voting shall be employed.

(b) The election of all Department Officers, and National Officers, shall be by roll call except where in the case of individual offices, the necessity of a roll call is dispensed with by unanimous consent.

(c) The election of members of the Department Executive Committee and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be in accordance with such rule as may be adopted by the Caucus in and for the District from which such members, delegates and alternates are elected, but in no case shall any such rule prevent the nomination of any member from the floor of such Caucus by any person having proper voice thereat. Voting at Caucuses shall conform to the provisions of Subsection (d) hereof.

(d) In all voting, the vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which such Post may be entitled. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate who may be absent shall be cast by the delegate's alternate and the vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the present delegates from his/her post. An alternate whose delegate is present may nevertheless move into the place of an absent alternate whose delegate also is absent, and thereby acquire the right to vote provided he/she is the senior alternate present at the time. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, but may only vote as herein set forth; provided the alternates registration fee is paid.

At the conclusion of all roll calls voting, for each individual election required to be conducted by the Department Convention, the Department Officer conducting such elections shall ask if any Post desires to amend or change its vote; or ask does any Post, which has not cast its vote during the roll call vote, now wish to cast its vote. No Post shall be allowed to pass more than one time. After the Department Officer conducting the election has made the aforesaid announcement and taken due note of all change in voting and has recorded the vote of any Post which originally passed, then the conducting officer shall announce that the voting is closed and direct that the tally be taken, and the results announced.

(e) All Past Department Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall

be delegates for life to all Department Conventions with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts and to all District Caucuses at which any election provided for in this Constitution shall be held, and at which their respective Posts may be entitled to vote. The failure of such Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Past Department Commander of their right to vote, provided the Past Department Commander is properly registered as a delegate.

(f) All Department Officers as set forth in Article VI of this Constitution and National Officers of this Department shall be Delegates-at-large to Department Conventions, with the right to vote thereat, in the year in which they serve, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall give to any of such persons the right to more than one vote.

ELECTION

The following Officers are to be elected. A majority of the authorized vote of the Convention shall elect: (Per ARTICLE V, Section 4,

(a) The Department Convention shall elect a Department Commander, a Department First Vice-Commander, a Department Second-Vice Commander, a Department Third Vice-Commander, a Department Judge Advocate, a Department Treasurer, and a Department Sergeant-at-Arms, for the term of one year. A National Executive Committeeman and an Alternate National Executive Committeeman for a term of two years, and such other officers as may be authorized by the Department Convention for such terms appointed by the Department Convention.

Section 4 (b) The Officers listed in Section 4 (a) to be elected by the Department Convention shall be nominated and elected for office in the following order and sequence and for the term of office described in Section 4 (a)

1. An Alternante National Executive Committeeman — 2 Years
2. A National Executive Committeeman — 2 Years
3. A Department Sergeant-at-Arms — 1 year
4. A Department Treasurer — 1 year
5. A Department Judge Advocate — 1 year
6. A Department Third Vice Commander — 1 year
7. A Department Second Vice Commander — 1 year
8. A Department First Vice Commander — 1 year
9. A Department Commander — 1 year

DISTRICT CAUCUSES (ARTICLE V, Sections 7-8-9-10)

A Caucus shall be held by each District during or not more than twenty days prior to the convening of each Department Convention, at which caucus the election of the District Commander, District Vice Commanders, County/Area Commanders, such Department Executive Committeemen, and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention of The American Legion to which such District may be entitled by this Constitution shall be held. It shall be the responsibility of the District Commander in and for each District to see

that at least fifteen days prior notice of any District Caucus convened for the above purposes shall be given by mail to the Commander of each Post in the District, and no such Caucus shall be deemed legally convened in the absence of such notice; provided, however, that any District may caucus at any Department Convention upon three hours notice by announcement from the Rostrum, and all the purposes of this section may thereafter be fulfilled just as though prior written notice had been given. The action of such District Caucus as to the election of any of the officials named in this section shall not be final until ratified by the Department Convention.

Section 8. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention or at a District Caucus when one third of the Posts in the Department or District, as the case may be, are represented by duly elected Delegates or Alternates.

Section 9. Each District in Caucus not more than twenty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one delegate and one alternate delegate to the National Convention, this delegate and alternate delegate is to represent the first thousand members of their respective District; there shall also be elected a delegate and alternate delegate for each succeeding thousand members.

The five Department Delegates shall consist of the Department Commander, the Department Commander for the immediate prior year, the Department Adjutant, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman and the Department First Vice-Commander who hold office at the convening of the next succeeding National Convention. The alternates for these delegates shall be appointed by the Department Commander.

Any additional delegates and alternate delegates are to be elected by the District with the highest percentage of their previous year's membership as of the day that determines the Department Convention membership strength for the District.

Section 10. Each District in Caucus not more than twenty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one representative to the Department Executive Committee for each unit of 500 members or major fraction thereof in the said District. The membership strength of said District for this purpose shall be computed as paid up membership in the Department Headquarters at the close of business in the 30th day prior to the convening of the Department Convention or as of July 1st, in each year, which ever date shall first occur. In the event any District shall have less than its first and only unit of 500 members, it shall nevertheless be entitled to elect one representative to the Department Executive Committee. In the event that there are an equal number or more members representing the District, than there are counties or areas within that District, then there must be at least one representative from each County or Area elected to the Department Executive Committee, if the County or Area requests such representative.

The District shall submit the names of all elected as above for ratification to the Department Convention such ratification constituting election. At such Caucus each Post shall be en-

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND, INC.

titled to the same number of votes as for the Department Convention. No District Caucus for the purpose of such election shall be convened sooner than **June 20th, 2012**. The Ninety-Fourth Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Maryland, Inc., is hereby called, and in conformity with the action of the Ninety-Third Annual Convention and the Department Executive Committee, will be held in Ocean City, Maryland, Tuesday, **July 10** through Friday, **July 13, 2012**.

MEETINGS

The opening Joint Session will begin at 8:00 PM, Tuesday night, **July 10th**. All business sessions of The American Legion, Department of Maryland, will be held in the Upper Grand Ballroom and will start promptly at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, **July 11th**, Thursday, **July 12th** and Friday, **July 13th**, unless changed by the Convention. Business sessions of The American Legion Auxiliary will also be held at the Upper Convention Hall (B), Ocean City, Md. A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when one-third of the Posts in the Department are represented by a duly elected Delegate or Alternate.

CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATES

We are enclosing in the June mailing after the cut-off date Credentials Certificates for Delegates and Alternates. A check made out to The American Legion, Department of Maryland, at \$15.00* per Delegate, MUST accompany the Credentials Certificate. All Constitutional Delegates (ART. VI) and Past Department Commanders must also pay the \$15.00* Delegate Fee or they can not vote. It is extremely important that the certificates be forwarded to Department Headquarters immediately after Post elections. County Commanders should personally check each Post under their supervision to see that the above is complied with.

All Post Adjutants are charged with the responsibility of returning the Credentials Certificates to us at the earliest possible moment.

*\$20.00 on or after June 22nd. (As ratified by the DEC on 20 Nov, 2011).

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Department Constitution and By Laws must be submitted in typewritten form to Department Headquarters by **June 10th, 2012** in time for the Department Adjutant to forward copies to each Post in the Department at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Convention. These amendments require a two-thirds majority of votes of the representation at the Convention. However, the Constitution may be amended without notice by unanimous vote at any Department Convention. (ARTICLE XIII, Section 1).

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions shall be submitted typewritten, in triplicate, to the Resolutions Committee at the Convention, or prior to June 10th to Department Headquarters. By order of the Department Executive Committee, each resolution MUST have supporting documents and authority attached to each copy. Resolutions submitted to Department Headquarters prior to **June 10th** will receive

preferred attention. Those submitted after that date will be considered only if the Convention Resolution Committee considers them to be of paramount importance to the Legion.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The thirty-fourth Annual Department Convention, 1952, unanimously resolved no one should be allowed on the main portion of the Convention floor on election day except Officers, Delegates, Alternates and working press. (Ref: Resolution #13)

POST OFFICERS

ARTICLE VIII, Sec. 6 of the Department Constitution states that all Post Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected at least TWENTY days prior to the opening of the Department Convention and shall assume their duties as such within TWENTY days after the closing date. THIS MEANS THAT YOUR NEW POST OFFICERS MUST TAKE OFFICE DURING A FORTY-FOUR DAY PERIOD, TWENTY DAYS OF WHICH ARE PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE CONVENTION AND TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE. YOU MAY HOLD YOUR INSTALLATION PARTY ANY TIME YOU WISH; YOUR POST OFFICERS MUST TAKE OFFICE DURING THE TIME ABOVE STATED. THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THAT EACH POST FILE A PHOTOSTAT OF BOTH SIDES OF DISCHARGE FOR EACH POST COMMANDER WITH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. THE DISCHARGE WILL NOT BE RETURNED BUT RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT FILES.

REPORTS

1. You are urged to promptly file your Certificate of Elections of Post Officers which MUST be signed by both the Post Commander and Adjutant.

The Certificate on the bottom of this form means exactly what it says. You MUST EXAMINE the service record of each of your Post Officers to certify their eligibility.

2. Consolidated Post Report Form should be filed promptly.

3. All other Report Forms.

If you have lost or misplaced any of these report forms, send a postcard to Department Headquarters and ask for a duplicate.

REGISTRATION

For Tuesday the Registration Desk will be open at the Convention Hall beginning at 7:30 AM, **July 10th. DO NOT SHOW UP BEFORE THEN AND EXPECT US TO ACCOMMODATE YOU. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO OPEN EARLIER THAN 7:30 AM ON TUESDAY.** On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we will open at 7:30 AM. You are urged to pick up your Delegate's Credentials and badges as soon as possible in order to facilitate the business of the Convention. NO ONE EXCEPT A LISTED DELEGATE OR POST COMMANDER OR ADJUTANT MAY PICK UP CREDENTIALS FOR THEIR POST DELEGATION.

ARTICLE IX, Section 2 of the Department Constitution provides that the amount of annual

Department dues shall be determined by the Department Convention. Consequently, we hereby notify you that dues will be set and voted upon as usual by the Department Convention.

THOMAS L. DAVIS

Department Adjutant

MELVIN G. SMULLEN

Department Commander

NOTE: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS MUST HAVE THEIR WRITTEN REPORTS IN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1st OR THEY WILL NOT BE DUPLICATED FOR THE CONVENTION. REPORTS SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED.

BE SURE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF YOUR POST DELEGATION ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR AT ALL TIMES.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR LEGION CAP AT ALL TIMES IN OCEAN CITY SO EVERYONE KNOWS WE ARE THERE.

REMEMBER TO TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED YOURSELF. WE WANT TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON THE PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND THE THOUSANDS OF VISITORS.

EACH POST DELEGATION CHAIRMAN SHOULD LIST HIS OCEAN CITY ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AT THE DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION DESK IN THE OCEAN CITY CONVENTION HALL. PLEASE DO THIS AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVE IN OCEAN CITY, BUT NOT BEFORE 7:30 AM ON TUESDAY, JULY 10TH.

NO ONE BUT A REGISTERED DELEGATE, OR POST COMMANDER OR ADJUTANT MAY PICK UP THE DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES PACKET FOR THEIR POST. ALL DELEGATES MUST BE PAID.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE 2012-2013 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIS IS TO BE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION.

FEE INCREASE FOR LEGION COLLEGE

There was an increase in the fee for Legion College effective with the 2011 Department Convention. Fee per person if you register prior to June 10, 2012 will be \$3.00; if you register at Department Convention on July 10, 2012, the fee will be \$5.00 per person. Registration forms will be included in the End of Year Packet that will be mailed in April 2012 to all Post Adjutants.

Your Department Headquarters Staff



Commander Smullen and Adjutant Davis of The American Legion Department of Maryland along with the Department Staff wish all a Great 2012 Year. Some of us never get to meet the people that serve The American Legion Department of Maryland at the Headquarters in Baltimore or maybe some have just talked to them on the phone but have never put a face to the voice: Pictured front middle Adjutant Thomas Davis who has been doing a great job serving as Adjutant for the past 17 years. Pictured right to left Commander Melvin Smullen for the Legion Year 2011-2012, Service Officer Assistant Tina Cochran who has been serving for 5 years, Executive Secretary Linda Dorchack who has been with us for 15 years and makes sure the office runs smoothly, Kathy Reckline who handles membership for the SAL and Post 297 has been with us for 13 years, Gina Kolb who handles membership for the Department has been with us going on 4 years and Service Officer Valerie Cochran who has been serving our Veterans for 14 years. Not pictured Assistant Adjutant Steve Tatro who started in June of 2011.



Mr. Mark Zaruba, Morrell Park Post #137 plays Taps for Four Frenchmen's Service at St. Mary's Cemetery.



The District Color Guard marched in the Baltimore City Veterans Day Parade, along with members of several Posts. The day ended with our annual Veterans Day Program at North-eastern Post #285.

On Dec. 7th, 2011, the Baltimore District held its annual Pearl Harbor Day Service at the War Memorial Building. Left to right: Clarence Davis, Chairman of Baltimore City Veterans Affairs, District S.A.L. Commander, Fred Bennett, Guest Speaker, Tuskegee Airman, Dr. Cyril O. Byron, D.E.C. Reginald Jordan.



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who has worked very hard on membership since July 1, 2011. The Committee congratulates and commends you for your effort toward our goal of getting 100% membership this year. Please, keep up the good work and if you have already reached your 100% goal, again congratulations and don't stop there. We still have thousands of veterans in Maryland that are not members of the largest veteran's organization in the United States of America. Get to them and "JUST ASK".

For those Post who have not made the 100% the BIG incentive for the Post ends at the end of the 2012 membership year in June. If you are having trouble getting your post membership team back to work, contact the Membership Committee. We are here to help the Post continue the membership drive. Several Post and the Department of Maryland has reached each goal set by National and now it is time to continue with renewals and asking new members to join. Keep in mind our G.O.A.L. We are an organization of veterans serving veterans and their families to the best of our ability. We need to get out into the community and make them aware of our Legion programs and benefits. Many people may not realize they are eligible for Legion membership, or membership in the Sons of the American Legion or the Legion Auxiliary. Also, the U.S. military personnel, serving the U.S. anywhere in the world, and veterans who served in any of the eligible war eras, along with their families, are welcome to join a Legion organization. When we make con-

tact with veterans we should give them the opportunity of becoming members of The American Legion. This will give "Veterans helping Veterans" the ability to reap the many advantages available to them from their service to our country.

The Committee reminds Posts, if we as members do not get new members to replace those that have passed on to the post everlasting, those that have moved out of our area, or those that have left for other various reasons, we will eventually reduce our numbers to just a fraction of what we are today. We will lose our vital programs and aides to the veterans and their families. The priorities in the organization include veterans' affairs and rehabilitation along with national security and foreign relations; Americanism; and children and youth. We must make sure that we renew current members each year, and it is also vital to reenlist those that have left our posts or cannot afford the dues due to a hardship. If we as veterans do not help our own, who is going to? What we have to keep in our minds foremost is that we are "Veterans helping Veterans."

Again, THANK YOU for all your hard work for The American Legion and we are looking forward to seeing all the Post achieve their goal of 100%. We see all of your hard work for The American Legion. Let's all keep informed of what's going on in The American Legion family so we can intelligently answer questions about our organization.

Kathie Linkenhoker
Membership Committee Chair

The American Legion
Department of Maryland, Inc.
The War Memorial
Baltimore, MD 21202

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