



American Legion Post 177 Fairfax, Virginia

# LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

DEC '11 - JAN '12

## NEW MEMBERS

Oct - Nov 2011

- David A. Barnes
- Peter Bizon
- Jennifer B. Connors
- Sherry L. Davenport
- Michael R. Emery
- Robert B. Magruder
- Brian A. Morris
- Richard S. Parodi
- Christopher M. Roche
- Lisa M. Roti
- Bernard J. Schaefer
- Douglas Stewart
- Michael H. Torrey
- Michael E. Weyler

2011 MEMBERS = 984

2012 MEMBERS = 740

PUFL MEMBERS - 92

## HONORARY

### LIFE MEMBERS

- William J. Anderson
- Harold L. Cenedella
- Alvin W. Doehring
- Louis C. Frank
- Edward N. Heitchew
- George L. Lamborn
- Anthony F. Osborne
- John W. Price
- Robert B. Sussan
- Lehman H. Young Sr.

## WREATH LAYING AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



Wreaths Across America places wreaths on graves at cemeteries all over the nation and this year they are planning to place a wreath at every grave in Arlington National Cemetery. That is over 225,000 wreaths! It takes a lot of volunteers to accomplish this and your help is needed.

On Dec. 10, 2011, Participate with thousands of other volunteers to honor our

fallen service men and women during the Holidays. The bus to Arlington National Cemetery will leave the Post 177 parking lot at 7:45am to arrive at ANC for the 8:30am briefing. The bus is scheduled to return at 12:00 noon. Signup sheets available at the Social Quarter's Bar. Contact Elly Burton at [ellyb@cox.net](mailto:ellyb@cox.net) or 703-591-3848



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Post OfficersCommander

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Junior Past Commander

Robert B. Sussan  
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Executive Comm. Members-At-Large

John Bagg, Charles E. Camper,  
William F. Hendricks

Legionnaire of the Year

MICHAEL F. KIMLICK

Corporation Board

Charles E. Camper, Stanley L. King Jr.,  
Robert L. Parli Jr., Walter Potock,  
John W. Price, Blaise X. Schmidt,  
Kenneth J. Strafer, Jonathan C. Thacher

Building & Grounds Chairman

John W. Price

Sons of the American Legion

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Post 177 Legion Riders

Larry Strong, Director  
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Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra K. Price, President  
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## Commander's Corner

Are you ready for Christmas? Christmas is a holiday that I have always enjoyed. My family, aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins always came together to celebrate the birth of Christ, visit and enjoy the company of those that we see once a year. However, I remember the loneliest Christmas in my life. My Christmas of 1967 was spent on the DMZ in Vietnam. It was my first Christmas away from my family and one I will never forget. As we go through the holiday season let us remember our military and veterans. Many are away from their family and live in places that do not allow for their family to come together. If you know a military person or veteran that is alone, invite them to share Christmas with you and your family.

November and December are busy months for our American Legion Post. November saw our Honor Guard under the leadership of Sergeant-at-Arms John Price present the colors at several Veterans Day events at senior citizen homes, the Fairfax City Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony at the old Court House, and our Veterans Day Remembrance senior veterans luncheon and Flag Disposal ceremony are some of the Honor Guard activities. The Auxiliary, under the leadership of Sandy Price served lunch to senior veterans from local senior citizen homes, our Post veterans and guests. Guests included Fairfax Mayor Lederer; City Manager Sisson; Council members Silverthorne and Schmidt; and assistant Fire Chief Andy Vita. After lunch the Post conducted a flag disposal ceremony where we formally retire and dispose of American flags) deemed not fit for service. In attendance were Virginia American Legion Department Commander Doug Ramos and 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander Ed Dockery. Participation in the flag disposal ceremony included the Post Honor Guard, the Fairfax Police and Fire Department, the Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, the Legion Riders, the Post Boy Scout troop and guests. A special thanks to our former commander Bob Sussan for managing the flag disposal program. To all who participated in our Veterans Day Remembrance activities; THANK YOU! Be sure to check out the photos on page 5.

During December the Post will host several holiday activities that may be of interest so visit our website. Additionally, we will have our Early Bird dinner during the month of January. If you renewed you Legion membership early you will want to attend this activity.

### HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!

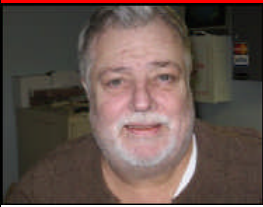
#### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Robert L. Parli Jr.

Commander

Flags folded and resting on table prior to the Flag retirement ceremony.





John Gluffing  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr

### SOCIAL QUARTERS REPORT

The holidays are upon us and we have lots of special events and hours scheduled. On December 18, the Annual Children’s Christmas Party for children 10 and under is taking place in the upstairs ballroom from 12 to 2 pm. Then an hour later at 3 pm, the Annual Challenger’s Baseball Christmas Party starts. See the Auxiliary Report on page 4 for more detail.



Doug Wilson  
General Manager

Moving on to the Christmas weekend - we will have Friday Night Dinner on 12/23 as usual. On Saturday 12/24, Christmas Eve, the Club will open and serve breakfast as usual, but will close early at 7pm. On Christmas Day, 12/25 the club will be open from 10am till 6pm, however there will not be any food service.

New years Eve weekend: NO Friday night dinner on 12/30. New years Eve, 12/31 the club will operate normal hours with a New Years Eve dinner/dance in the social quarters. Dinner starts at 6pm. For New Years Day the Club will be open from 10am till 9pm. Breakfast will be available until 1pm.

Of course you don’t need a special event to enjoy your social quarters, just drop in! The Queen of Hearts drawing is held on Saturdays at 7:30pm and the jackpot keeps growing. As they say “you can’t win if you don’t play”. And don’t forget the pool table and dart boards in the game room.

One more thing to remember. It’s your social quarters and it’s your responsibility to help keep it clean and neat. Remember to clean your table off, take your glassware back to the bar, and throw out your trash. Thanks for your support.

### 1st Vice Commander Report

Happy Birthday Marines! By the time you read this newsletter, those of you who are Marines will have celebrated your 236<sup>th</sup> birthday. Thank you for your service and thank you for your membership in the American Legion.

If you haven’t renewed your membership in Post 177, NOW is the time. We have selected a date for our Early Bird Dinner and it will be held on **January 14, 2012**. Anyone that renews their membership in Post 177 prior to December 31, 2011 will be eligible to attend the dinner for FREE. Simply provide your membership card with the red “early bird” stamp to get in free. All others are welcome to enjoy this year’s dinner and the entry fee will be nominal (to be determined). Watch out for the posters. We promise to make this year’s dinner a great one.

We are well on our way to meeting our Department goal for this year, having reached 75% of the goal as of

November 2. However, I have challenged the Post to attain a membership of 1500 by June 2012. We are half way there, but that goal can only be reached if YOU become involved. We all know a veteran who does not belong to The American Legion. With a little effort YOU can persuade that veteran to join. The American Legion depends on not only renewals but new members to continue its efforts to serve veterans and our communities.

The Holidays are fast approaching and membership renewal has a tendency to drop off slightly during this period. As you give thanks for our great country and celebrate Christmas and other religious holidays, don’t forget your American Legion.

Brad Watkins  
1st Vice Cmdr.

#### Membership Eligibility Dates

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918	(World War I)
December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946	(World War II)
June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955	(Korean War)
February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975	(Vietnam War)
August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984	(Lebanon/Grenada)
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990	(Operation Just Cause - Panama)
*August 2, 1990 to today	(Operation Desert Shield/Storm)

Membership applications are available at the Post Home, on the National website ([www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org)) or on our website – [www.FairfaxPost177.org](http://www.FairfaxPost177.org)



Greetings!

As this year approaches December it is hard to believe that 2011 is almost over. So that means we are starting a new year hoping to come up with new ideas, and programs for our veterans, community and children & youth.

After attending conference in Williamsburg, November 4th-6th; it was with great pride that I accepted the award for Junior member Claire Bubeck for the National Americanism Essay Contest. Congratulations Claire!

A BIG THANK YOU to all those members that donated items for the Christmas Shoe Box project. We were able to donate 23 boxes and thanks to the Sons of American Legion for paying the postage. We are collecting items for Toys for Tots this year. They need to be new toys and please do not wrap. The box will be placed in the social quarters. The Children's Christmas party will be December 18th, 2011; 12 noon till 2:00pm, the sign-up sheet will be in the entrance way of the social quarters. Ages infant to 10 years. Challenger's Christmas Party will be 3:00 till 5:00pm. This is a private party given by the Auxiliary. Some in the unit are doing children's Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army, if you wish to contribute, please do. You may purchase items or make a monetary donation.

The Auxiliary will be serving breakfast on December 11th, 2011. We will have a Christmas Bake Sale, so any-

one wishing to donate to the auxiliary make their favorite bake goods and bring them in.

At the Fall Conference it was brought to everyone's attention, that the dues of the Auxiliary will be increased by \$5.00 per member to the unit. The dues were increased by National \$4.00 and Department \$1.00. In order to offset this increase your membership voted at the November meeting to increase our dues by this amount, effective in July, 2012.

If you plan on attending our December meeting we will have a Christmas party after the regular meeting. Please bring a gift for \$20.00 and your favorite dessert.

A big thank you to the many members for their donation of time given to our veteran's during our Veteran's Day Luncheon. Our guests from Sunrise, Fair Lakes and Sunrise, George Mason had a great time. Thanks to Sara and her uncle for the nice entertainment they provided. We enjoyed the Flag Retirement Service and many thanks to the Legionnaires, Riders, and Sons of American Legion for their participation in making this a great day.

Wishing each and everyone a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!!!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
SANDRA K. PRICE  
UNIT PRESIDENT



## Sons of the American Legion



*Editor's note: Ken is recovering from illness and could not submit his usual fine article for this volume of the newsletter. We wish him continued and speedy recovery and look forward to his article for the next volume. Below is from [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).*

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, [American Legion Auxiliary](#) and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

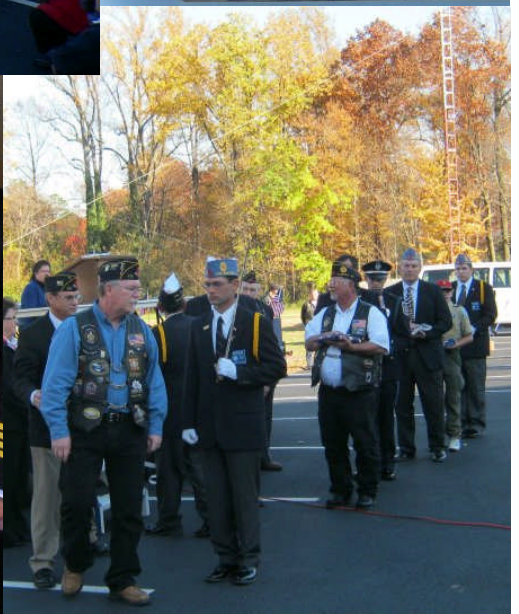
The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. How-

ever, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but must remember SAL's mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, squadrons' campaigns place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Since 1988, SAL has raised more than \$4 million for [The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#). SAL members have volunteered over 250,000 hours at veterans hospitals and raised over \$915,688 for VA hospitals and VA homes. The Sons also support the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition dedicated to protecting the U.S. flag from desecration through a constitutional amendment.



Photos from Veterans Day ceremonies, 12 November, 2011



## Post Everlasting

Since the last newsletter the following members have transferred to Post Everlasting. Gone from this life but not forgotten.

JAMES M. PRICE

Farewell our fellow Legionnaire

May he rest in peace



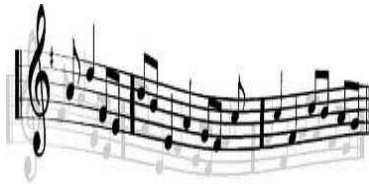
### James M. Price

James M. "Jim" Price, age 83, of St. Augustine, died on November 5, 2011, at the Ponce de Leon Care Center. Born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia, Jim served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was part of the occupying force in Japan and was the personal chauffeur for General Chase. He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in 1948 and then promoted to Captain, serving as C.O. at an Army Reserve Unit in S. Charleston, WV. After his release from military service, Jim spent most of his adult life working for the U.S. Postal Service, first in Charleston and in 1967 he

moved to Fairfax, Va., after being promoted to U.S. Post Office Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He retired in 1972 and became circulation manager for the Mirror Newspapers in Fairfax. Jim, and wife Jo, relocated to Temple Hills, Maryland, in 1975, where he worked in Security for many years at the Rosecroft Raceway and retired to St. Augustine in 2001. He was a member of Anastasia Baptist Church. He had also been a founding member of the First Coast 1st Cavalry Association, was a member of the VFW Post 2391, the American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA, was the PER of the Elks Lodge in Temple Hills, MD and a 32nd degree Mason.

## Fairfax Post 177 Band

Remember playing in band? Do you find yourself reflecting back on those good times, the camaraderie, the excitement of making great music?! Well, do we have news for you! We know we have quite a few players in our ranks,



and are considering starting a Post 177 band. The would-be conductor, Jan Siegfried, is a member of our own Honor Guard. Her music background includes 20 years AF Concert Band Solo Eb Clarinetist, and she is currently in her 7<sup>th</sup> year as PVI Instrumental Music Director and 10<sup>th</sup> year as St. Stephens Community Or-

chestra conductor. Initial commitments for our players would include rehearsals twice a month, and sit-down performances once every month or two at legion and/or local events. Medium-difficulty repertoire would include

pops selections, a few marches, and some WWII-era jazz. Don't have your own instrument anymore? Don't let that stop you – we can help! Let's all contact Jan Siegfried by **Dec. 5** so we can get this fun idea off the ground! [jsiegfried@paulvi.net](mailto:jsiegfried@paulvi.net), (703) 323- 8323 (h)



Veterans Day: Flag retirement ceremony



## December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12/4, 1200: Post 17 Oratorical Contest 12/10, 0745: Wreathes Across America 12/11, 0930: Breakfast by Auxiliary 12/18, 1200-1400: Children's Party 12/18, 1500-1700: Challenger's Party		12/24: Club closes at 1900 12/25: 1000 - 1800: Club open 12/31: 1800: New Years Eve Dinner/ Dance in social quarters		1	2 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	3
4 Post 177 Oratorical Contest	5 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	6 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	7 7:00 PM Ex. Comm. Meeting 	8	9 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	10 Wreathes Across America
11 Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 9:30 - 11:00 	12 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	13 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	14 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	15	16 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	17
18 Children's Christmas Party Challenger's Christmas Party	19 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	20 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	21 <i>Hanukkah</i>	22	23 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	24 Club closes at 7:00PM
25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	27 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	28	29	30 NO FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER	31 NEW YEARS EVE Dinner/Dance

## January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Happy New Year</b>	2	3 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	4 7:00 PM: Exec. Comm. meeting 	5	6 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	7
8 Buffet Breakfast by SAL 9:30 - 11:00 	9 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	10 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	11 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	12	13 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	14 <i>EARLY BIRD DINNER</i>
15	16 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	17 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	18	19	20 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	21
22 District 17 Oratorical Contest	23 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	24 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	25	26	27 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	28
29	30 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	31 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	1/1, 1000-1900: Club open 1/14, time TBA: Early Bird Dinner 1/22: District 17 Oratorical Contest			



Legion News is published bi-monthly and is the 1st Place Winner of the 2007 VALPA "Best Papers Award" and 1st Place in the Nation for Large Posts winning the 2007 Al Weinberg Publication Award.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS OF THE POST.**

Non-profit Organization

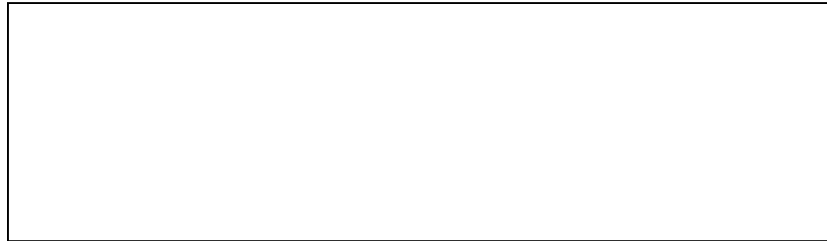
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**WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**FAMILY**

