



American Legion Post 177 Fairfax, Virginia

LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

AUG-SEP 2011

NEW MEMBERS

June - July

David R Black
Woodruff Crandall
Sean G. Flynn
Lowell J Holloway
George C. Klein
Bob L. Palmer
Michael G. Prowitt
Patrick J. Quinn
Kevin G. Rousseau
Bryan W. Siltanen
Michael T. Verrett
Jeffrey A. Wolfhope

2011 MEMBERS 984

2010 MEMBERS 1023

PUFL MEMBERS 98

HONORARY

LIFE MEMBERS

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

Post 177 Takes Red Ribbon for Fourth of July Float



Past Commanders Tony Osborne and Lehman Young settle in to ride in the front of Post 177's Float while Past Commander, and current Sergeant-at-Arms, John Price rests before leading the Honor Guard.

Post 177 won second place for our float in the City of Fairfax Independence Day Parade. Thanks to Dan Marks for heading up the float committee, as he has done for many years now. Thanks also to all the volunteers from the post family who came out for "float decoration day" to assemble and decorate the float. We are lucky to have so many willing folks with talent and tools!

The Post 177 contingent was led by the Honor Guard with a total of five flag bearers, two rifle bearers, and a drummer who helped them stay in step. Right behind them and marching and calling cadence was the Civil Air Patrol detail with a second American Flag and their unit colors. Then came our

award winning float, pictured above. Miss Poppy followed the float riding in style and waving to the crowd from atop a convertible. After Miss Poppy came the Legion Riders with their bikes decked out patriotically. Finally Boy Scout Troop 1887 completed the Post 177 line-up, with both leaders and scouts marching and carrying a banner.

Many of the parade participants then joined other Post members in the social quarters watching the parade on the big screens.

If you missed the parade, or just want to watch it again, go to the Fairfax City website: www.fairfaxva.gov/index.asp and navigate to the archived video page. You will find the parade under "special events".

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Jeffrey R. White
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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

Ken E. Self, Commander
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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

Here we are in the middle of Summer and for those Post members who do not visit the social quarters I want to catch you up on our Post news. Our Post Independence Day float took second place and Dan Marks deserves a special "thank you" for his leadership and work in making our float a success. The Post Honor Guard under the leadership of John Price looked very sharp representing our Post in the parade. Thanks to all who helped with the float and those who participated in the parade activities.

Our American Legion baseball team is getting ready for the District playoff, which will determine the representative to the state tournament. Under the leadership of our coach, George Priftis, our record is 12 – 10 and we are in third place in the 17th District. I want to thank SAL member Rad Smith, our Post athletic director, for getting our team organized for this year's play.

The three vacant Executive Committee positions are now filled. John Bagg volunteered for the Member-at-Large position. Tom Devaney our former Judge Advocate volunteered for the Judge Advocate position and Charter Wells has volunteered for the Finance Officer position. Thanks to all for stepping forward and serving your Post.

Our third vice commander, John Gluffling has stepped down from the third vice commander position due to health reasons. John is replaced by our former Judge Advocate Richard "Sully" Sullivan. John says he will be back in the near future. Thank you John Gluffling for your work in making the social quarters a better place, the help you provide to the Challenger Baseball Program and your

support to the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.

American Legion membership was down in the state of Virginia and many posts did not make their 100 percent goal. Our Post was about 38 members short of achieving 100 percent of our goal of 1022 members. Brad Watkins, First Vice Commander is leading the recruitment initiative this year and requests every member to sign up a new member which will ensure we make this year's goal. This year members have the option of renewing online or the traditional way using the mail.

Our Sons of the American Legion squadron are congratulated on making 108 percent of their membership goal. Our squadron has about 160 members and is the fifth largest squadron in the state. Thanks for all you do for our Post.

Last, I want to comment on the improvements we are making to our Post home. Through the efforts of our Building and Grounds Committee we have sealed and remarked the parking area adding a couple of new handicapped parking spaces; a drainage issue was corrected on the South side of the building; dead trees were removed near the ball field along Oak street; the lighting in the building has been replaced with energy efficient lights which will lower our electric bill and the down stairs ladies restroom is being refurbished.

Don't forget the family picnic is August 28 and the Jim Salus memorial golf outing is August 29.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
ROBERT L. PARLI JR
COMMANDER

A piece of spaghetti or a military unit can only be led from the front end.

-George S. Patton

Third Vice Commander Report

As many of you already know, on 6 July I was privileged to be nominated and elected, by the Executive Committee, to be your new Third Vice Commander. Before I do anything else, I want to tip my hat to John Glufing, our very outstanding previous Third Vice! John experienced a minor health issue, and his Doc forced him to step down temporarily. But as soon as he gets his Doc's approval, John will advise me, and I will step-aside and request the ExCom to re-appoint him as Third Vice. I hope and trust that that will be in the very near future! In the meantime, I will be your Third Vice, but you have my word that under no circumstances, will I ever run for election to be Third Vice if John is running for that position.

My fellow Legionnaires, I have an *agenda* – but it is not a “hidden” agenda. It is an utterly transparent agenda. My agenda is this: I want the Executive Committee to again assume overall direct responsibility for running the Club. Not the Club Manager, nor the Commander alone – but the Executive Committee. The Club Manager reports to the Third Vice, who reports to the Executive Committee, which reports to YOU, the Members. That is my mission.

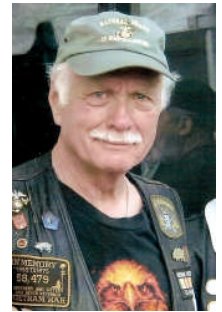
Cleanliness is my other mission.

I also want you to know that I am not now qualified to be your Third Vice – but I promise to do my best to change that

within a very few months. Time, study and hard work. I learn slowly, but I learn – so give me some time. You can expect to see me around the Club more than you ever have in the past.

Finally, I have a favor to ask of you: If your beer is cold and your food is hot, please thank Doug Wilson. But if your beer is hot, or your food is cold – blame me! In other words, my brothers and sisters ... as good soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, I am asking you to follow the “chain of command”. I am asking you to bring your complaints to me, rather than to Doug or to a bartender. I will sort them out with Doug, and he will sort them out with his staff. I cannot promise that I will always agree with you, but I do promise to listen carefully to your complaint, look into it, rectify it if it needs rectifying – and most of all, to get back to you, promptly, with a result.

Remember: Praise to Doug – complaints to me (my home phone number and personal email address are on page 2 of this Newsletter). Please ...



Semper Fidelis,
dick “sully” sullivan

Membership

The 2012 membership renewal notices have gone out, you probably already have yours. At the January 2011 general membership meeting, the membership voted to increase the annual dues from \$35 to \$40 starting in 2012. National had raised the dues paid by posts 3 years ago but we did not raise our dues at that time.

When you pay your \$40 the Post keeps \$16.00 and the Department of Virginia gets \$10.50 and National gets \$13.50. You also then have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping support this great organization in it's work of advocating for veterans and their families at the local, state, and national levels and you may take pride in that.

Did you hear about online renewal? Just go to www.legion.org/renew and follow the prompts. Have your renewal notice or you membership card with you because you will need to enter your membership number.

Do you know someone who is eligible to join the Legion but hasn't yet? Probably, but you won't know for sure unless you ask. When you meet the new neighbor, or co-worker, ask if he or she is a veteran and if they are then invite them to join the post. Tell them why you joined and what we do. Veterans Day ceremonies, hosting wounded warriors for various events, Boys State, Oratorical Contest, Baseball, Rolling Thunder, Honor Guard. Give them a copy of the newsletter.

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, OEF, OIF)

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



Greetings,

Summer is here and that's the beginning of the 2011-2012 American Legion Year. I want to thank everyone for a very successful 4th of July. Our Post 177 Honor Guard carried our flags with great pride and respect, our veterans along with the auxiliary rode on the float. We too felt the respect and pride the citizens along the parade route displayed toward the day. Miss Poppy, Maya White rode in her convertible, the CAP and our Boy Scout Troop made the Division One complete. Thanks to everyone who worked on the float, I thought it was one of the nicest our post has displayed.

Saturday, July 30th the American Legion Auxiliary will serve International Dinner. We have decided to make it Italian night. We will possibly have a special treat for all who attend. Dinner at 5:30pm till 7:30pm. Cost is \$10.00 for all you can eat. So plan on joining us. Remember anything you contribute to us helps with our Veterans Programs.

The auxiliary will be collecting school supplies again this year. We have a lot of needy children in our commu-

nity. We ask that you help us purchase 5 subject notebooks, thin lined notebook paper, report covers, pencils, pens, glue sticks, erasers, scissors, and if you don't wish to shop you can donate money to the auxiliary and I will shop for you. Thank You! We will be buying for Daniels Run Elementary, Providence Elementary, Sidney Lanier Middle, and Fairfax High Schools.

Watch for more information on the Annual Picnic.

Remember July starts our membership drive for the new year. Our dues are \$20.00 for senior members and \$4.00 for junior members.

Join the many members at the post during the summer vacation. Remember the Friday Night Dinners, Queen of Hearts on Saturdays or just come by and see what's going on.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Sandra K. Price
UNIT PRESIDENT



Sons of the American Legion



Labor disgraces no man; unfortunately, you occasionally find men who disgrace labor.

Ulysses S. Grant

As the summer progresses that is always a welcoming sign for two things; the American Legion Post 177 Family Day Picnic and Labor Day!

As usual the Sons of the American legion will have a strong showing at the Family Day picnic that is scheduled on Sunday, August 28, 2011. This is always a great time to come together as a Legion Family and reconnect with the bonds and friendships that have brought us all together.

Labor Day is a reflection of our economic strength and notes the rewards of those who labor to create a foundation of wealth that our country retains. It is from that wealth that we have invested in our national defense. It is application of American industry, the development of American technology and the creation of American education to protect the American dream, and defend American freedom. So as you are enjoying the long weekend and the Labor Day celebrations, take a moment this holiday to remember the service men who work hard every day in defending our freedoms that make the likes of La-

bor Day a reality for all of us.

The new Legion Membership year has started. The SAL had a stellar membership year under the lead of last year's 1st Vice Rad Smith. This has been one of the strongest years we have had in recent history and one that I hope is the start of a new trend. Our new 1st Vice Jerry Miller is eager and ready to help us continue this momentum for the coming year. It is never too early to renew your membership for next year and as usual we always welcome the new members year round!

This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the September 11th attacks. Please take a moment this year to remember the heroes from this day. They died because – in words of justification offered by their attackers – they were Americans. Let the unity that existed after these attacks grow forever stronger 10 years later so that we will never forget.

For God and Country
Ken Self
SAL Commander



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

by Barbara Miskimmin

Are you interested in learning something new? Ever thought about going back to college? Here is your chance without all the tests! The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at GM provides intellectual and cultural experience for retired active people. OLLI

has three locations: Fairfax, Loudon and Lake Anne. No homework, no exams, no required college degree, no credits-just learning for pure joy. Classes are held between 9:30 and 3:30. One annual fee and you enroll in as many classes you wish. Visit their website for more information: www.oli.gmu.edu

BSA TROOP 1887 GOES BACKPACKING IN SNP

On Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, 26th 2011, Boy Scout Troop 1887 chartered by American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax embarked on an overnight backpacking trip in the Shenandoah National Park (SNP) along the Thornton River Trail in the Northern District of the Park near Milepost 25. Carter Russ (1st Class) planned and lead the expedition. Scouts Ian Pimenta (2nd Class), Meyer Jeffers (1st Class), Carter Russ, and veteran backpacker, Stephen Kool (Life) participated along with adults: Jan Kool, Roy DeLauder, Tony Pimenta, and Howell Russ. In preparation for this activity during prior weeks, the Scouts con-

ducted several orientation and planning meetings to educate the less experienced backpackers in our group what to expect and bring. Cliti Shafer, Alan Rizek, Claudia Jeffers, and Annie Peterson worked with Carter to select an appropriate hike and register this trek with BSA and the Park in time for our trip as well as medical form administration. Stephen Kool demonstrated the necessary gear, why we needed it, and how to pack it. As usual, Andrew Oman had us prepared in advance with travel permits for all the participants. *We thank everyone who helped make this trek a great success.*

Request for WWII Bombardier Classbooks or Photos

The Hell from Heaven Men - Bombardiers of World War II, is requesting donations of classbooks and photos from the various Army Air Force (AAF) Bombardier Schools. If you wish to keep your classbook or photos we can make arrangements with you to safely and securely make electronic copies and return the book to you at no cost. This organization and the web site are dedicated to the 53,000+ men who were trained as bombardiers during WWII. We are a not-for-profit volunteer organization and sponsor and maintain the Hell from Heaven Men - Bombardiers of World War II website:

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hfhm/index.html>

This free website provides Bombardier information on the history, training, equipment, photos, aircraft, etc. and most importantly a database on the 53,000+ men who earned their Bombardier Wings and took "The Bombardiers Oath." *We are dedicated to helping preserve and spread the history of WWII Bombardiers and providing free assistance*

in searches for information about them by family, friends and historical researchers. One of our most requested items is for a copy of a Bombardiers photo from his AAF Bombardier School classbook. We provide these photos free of charge, if we have access to the specific classbook. This is especially important to the family, friends, and future generations of those who were killed in the line of duty and never returned home. We hope you will be able to help us in our efforts to expand our database and collection of WWII Bombardier classbooks and photos to continue providing these free volunteer services.

For detailed information please contact:

Gary T. Staffo

6226 Garden Road

Springfield, VA 22152-1504

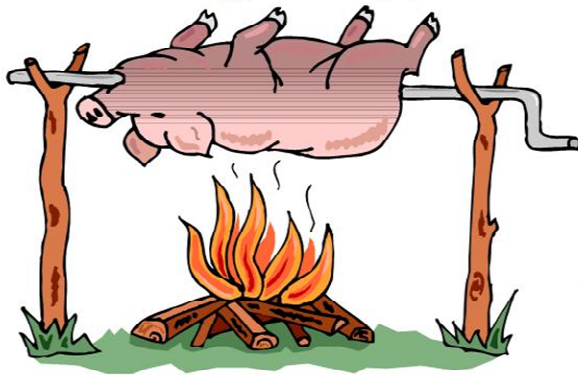
Email: GStaffo@verizon.net

Daytime Phone: 202-586-9577



Post 177 Annual
Summer Picnic
August 28, 2011

2nd Annual James Salus
Memorial Golf
Tournament
August 29, 2011



LUAU/PIG
ROAST
October 1, 2011

Post Everlasting

Since the last newsletter none of our members have transferred to Post Everlasting.



VA Burial Benefits

Many Retirees and their families may qualify for burial benefits through Veterans Affairs (VA), but must understand what those benefits are and how to request them.

The VA, as a rule does not pay funeral, cremation and cemetery expenses for all veterans. In truth, payment of burial benefits is very limited and restrictions apply. In addition, caskets are not provided free of charge by the VA, or the services unless the veteran dies in active duty.

For more information go to www.cem.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

For God and Country
John Kushner
Service Officer

The Never Forget Series

The never Forget Series at George Mason University is an event designed for students, faculty, and the surrounding community to connect to the veterans of WWII. The organizers are looking for Veterans of the Pacific theatre to sit on a panel discussion in the fall of 2011 at George Mason University. Please consider participating in this and passing on to the next generation the important history that you were part of. For more information contact David Baldino at dbaldino@masonlive.gmu.edu

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00 PM Ex. Comm. Meeting 	4	5 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	6
7	8 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	9	10 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	11	12 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	13
14 Buffet Breakfast by Legionnaires 9:30 - 11:00 	15 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	16	17	18	19 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	20
21	22 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	23	24	25	26 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	27
28 Legion Family Picnic 12 to 4	29 2nd Annual Salus Memorial Golf tournament Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	30	31	1	2 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	3

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 LABOR DAY	6 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	7 7:00 PM: Exec. Comm. meeting 	8	9 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	10
11 Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 9:30 - 11:00 PATRIOT DAY 	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
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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

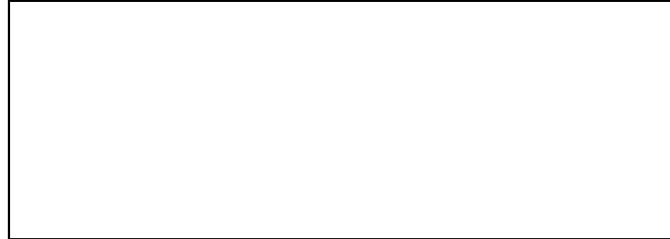
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For God and Country

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY

