



American Legion Post 177 Fairfax, Virginia

LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

FEB - MAR 2011

NEW MEMBERS

Dec '10 - Jan '11

Machael H. Coppage
David M. Crabtree
Garry L. Dalton
Norman J. Damulis
Susan D. Hawkins
Hubert K. Kong
Charles F. Lusso
Colleen K. Mall
Elizabeth J. Mangler
Stephen W. Miller
Timothy C. Payne
Stuart E. Randlett Jr.
Juan D. Reynal
Janet J. Saunders
Randy L. Saunders
Andrew M. Smallwood
Michael J Wesseling
Jerry Wolf

2011 MEMBERS 881

2010 MEMBERS 1023

PUFL MEMBERS 82

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

William J. Anderson
Harold L Cenedella
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.

Opt Out of Mail Delivery to Save Postage

Our Post 177 newsletter is an important and valuable tool for keeping up with what is going on with our Legion family. In it, we see how many new members we have and what is coming up in the social quarters. We get a message from the Commander and news from the Auxiliary and from the Sons. Often there is an interesting piece from the Post Historian and usually something from the Service Officer. And, of course, Post Everlasting.

We publish and print the newsletter every 2 months at a cost of \$1000.00 for 1500 copies. It is a beautiful color print job at a very good price, about 67 cents per copy. The Auxiliary organizes a working party to apply mailing labels, sorted by zip code so we can get the best possible postage rates from USPS. For the closest zip codes the rate is

\$0.233 , the farthest is \$0.424.

In December, we mailed 1339 copies to our membership - Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons at a total postage cost of \$425.09. At an average of \$0.3175 per copy, if 100 of us opt out from mail delivery we will save the Post \$31.75 per mailing. For 6 newsletters, that is \$190.50 per year. That is about the cost of sending flowers to the family of 4 fallen comrades. It is about two thirds of the cost for sending a boy to Boys State.

If none of the alternative methods for getting the newsletter listed below work for you, don't worry, we will continue sending it to you via the USPS. Also, opting out of newsletter mailing will not affect your membership or any other kind of mailings that may come from Post 177.

So, when you give up mail delivery, how do you get your newsletter? Here's how.

1. Go to www.FairfaxPost177.org. Uploaded to the post website and available to read, download, and print at your home or office in the day it is sent to the printer. This is usually 5 business days before it is delivered to the Post, and 15 days before you would receive it via mail. Zero postage cost to the Post.
2. Go to www.MyLegion.org. Same as FairfaxPost177.org. MyLegion.org is the free social networking site for the Legion family set up by National. Go to www.MyLegion.org and follow instructions to set up your account.
3. Pick it up at Post 177. Available at the Post upon delivery from the printer. Pick one up when you come in to the Social Quarters. Zero postage cost to the Post.

How to opt out:

1. Go to www.FairfaxPost177.org and click on the "Contact Post 177" tab. Fill out the form and tell us you want to opt out of newsletter mailings.
2. Put a note in the 2nd vice's mailbox in the social quarters.
3. Email to jwhite@fairfaxpost177.org.

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Service Officer - p 6
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Robert B. Sussan

Executive Comm. Members-At-Large

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William F. Hendricks

Legionnaire of the Year

JOHN KUSHNER

Corporation Board

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

Building & Grounds Chairman

John W. Price

Sons of the American Legion

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Post 177 Legion Riders

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Sandra K. Price, President
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Commander's Corner

I want to personally thank everyone for the beautiful flowers the Post sent to the Parli family on the passing of my mother, Betty Parli. Thank you.

Time is "marching on" and our annual election of officers will be here before we know it. The election will be conducted during the May membership meeting and members will be allowed to vote all-day on the date of the election. Changes were made to our Constitution and By-Laws and approved by the membership to provide for members to vote at the Post home between the hours of 0730 and 1900 on the day of the May membership meeting. All day voting required changing the process for nomination of officers to "All officers shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee and from the floor at the regular April meeting each year, and elected on the day of the regular May meeting each year. No nomination for office shall be entered after the regular April meeting." A quorum of six (6) percent of members in good standing are required to vote on the day of the election for the election to be legal. So, if you have some time and you want to get involved, please consider running for office.

At the January membership meeting the members voted to raise the annual dues to \$40 dollars. This change will be effective for

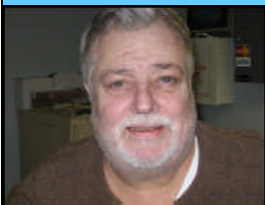
your 2012 dues. This increase will allow the Post to retain \$16 dollars of each paid membership. The Post membership pays for the annual family picnic, early bird dinner and the printing and mailing of the newsletter.

Those who frequent our social quarters know that we have a nice facility, good service provided by a great staff at reasonable prices. However, like the economy the social quarters goes through its ups and downs. The past several months we have been in a down cycle. Sales are down and that impacts our ability to generate the income necessary to support social quarters operations and the money we need to support our Legion programs. The Executive Committee is evaluating all aspects of the operation to ensure that we provide the membership with quality service at reasonable cost. Everyone is encouraged to use our club and bring your friends. Additionally, please share any suggestions for getting more members to use our social quarters.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Robert L. Parli Jr
Commander

I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it's marked by the blood of those who died defending it.

John Thune



John Gluffling
3rd Vice Cmdr

Third Vice and Club Managers Report

A new year has come to us already. Plan to attend the Super Bowl party on February 6th. We will be having a nice buffet for \$10, raffles, and of course the game on all TV'S. So come watch the commercials and the game on February 6th starting at 6pm. We are planning some future events in the upcoming months so



Doug Wilson
General Manager

check in on the website for those events.

We have new improvements going on in the social quarters, the post will be getting a new draft beer system installed which will provide a good cold draft and we are adding one more tap. Already installed are fountain soda guns which provide the club significant cost savings over the use of can soda.

The Queen of Hearts game has been back and the pot is growing! Come by every Saturday night at 7:30pm for the drawing. Remember you can buy tickets all week. In addition the Auxiliary is doing a Mexican dinner on February 5th and will be doing more dinners in the upcoming months on Saturdays.

Come down and join us for Friday Dinner as always.

Join us on Face Book at: <http://www.facebook.com/LegionPost177>



Fairfax Post 177 received it's permanent charter on 26 March 1945, making us 65 years old this year! Keep an eye on the website and in the social quarters for your opportunity to buy our 65th anniversary commemorative pin pictured here.

1st Vice Commander's Corner

It's the beginning of a new year, please check your membership card and see if you renewed for 2011. I would also like to ask all members for their help in recruiting new members. If you know someone who has served in the military or is now serving, and served during any of the eligible war eras listed below, will you let them know that they are eligible to become a Legionnaire!

You can tell them that we are veterans just like them, nearly 3 million strong, who care about America, veterans and their families, and our nation's youth. The American Legion is a powerful voice in Washington, dedicated to preserving the rights we've all earned - and were promised - by service to our nation in uniform.

We invite all veterans and their families to join us now. Post 177 is located in Fairfax City at 3939 Oak St., Fairfax, Va. 22030. If you do not live in the Fairfax area you may join any of the many posts located throughout the United States. Membership brings an impressive array of benefits. The American Legion is always there for you and your family - in Washington and nearly 15,000 local posts throughout America and abroad. Just like you, we're "Still Serving America!"



Jerry Whipple
First 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) or on our website – www.FairfaxPost177.org



Greetings,

As we start this New Year 2011, I want to say thank you to all the Post 177 Legionnaires, AL Riders, Sons of American Legion and especially all the Auxiliary members who made 2010 a great year.

The senior veterans that were served Christmas lunch really appreciated the afternoon. Special thanks to the Post 177 Honor Guard for the POW/MIA service. This service really means a great deal, and gives you a lot to think about. Also, special thanks to the AL Riders for assisting the seniors to and from their buses.

The Children's Christmas parties were a big hit. Special thanks to Santa for finding his way to the Post. As usual, he made the children very happy.

Thanks to the parents of the Challenger League for bringing their children to visit our post again. The elves did a fantastic job face painting. We had some great looking characters running around the post. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Thanks to all the members for the toys donated for the children. John Price, Jerry Miller and Bucky Weaver delivered them to the Fairfax City Police Department. Sgt. Hunter called and said that we made the local children very happy.

Here are some dates to remember: February 5th, 5:30 till

8:30 PM the auxiliary will be serving Mexican Dinner. Come by and join us, then stay for Queen of Hearts.

On Sunday February 6th at 10:00 AM Lorton Post 162, district will hold The Four Chaplain's Service. This is a special service, so plan on attending.

Wednesday the 9th Regular meeting night at 7:00 PM and dinner at 6:00pm.

On the 13th Legionnaires serve breakfast 9:30 till 11:00 AM. Come by and enjoy the best breakfast in Fairfax City.

March 11-13th, 2011 Spring Conference will be held in Va. Beach. The Auxiliary is accepting donations of craft items, baked goods, and items in good condition that can be sold at a bazaar. We will also carry items for the Buddy Baskets to donate to the homeless veterans. Bring items in by March 5th, so that I can take them with me when I go.

On a sad note we said good bye to a very dear member and friend from our unit. Jean Marie Podolny reached her final resting place. We will miss her, and our thoughts and prayers are with Walter and his family.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Sandra K. Price
UNIT PRESIDENT



American Legion Riders



Here we are at the end of the year already. Where did it go? We have had a busy year and we have done a lot of good this year. I want to thank the riders especially for all their hard work and volunteerism, pat yourself on the back you deserve it. I also want to thank the Post and the Aux and SALS for all they have done for the riders this year. We are so blessed to have such wonderful people at Post 177, that are willing to dig in their heels and help the veterans. The Riders are looking forward to a new exciting year for more rides, to help those that we can help, and to give of our time to

those that are in need. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, God bless all of you.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Cindy Wilson, ALR Director

Oratorical Contest

On 8 January 2011, Post 177 held it's Oratorical Contest in the Main Hall at the Post Home. This is the first of five steps for high school students, 9th through 12th grades, competing in the American Legion National Oratorical Scholarship Program. The 6 contestants, 2 from W. T. Woodson H. S. and 4 from Trinity Christian School, had to write a speech on some aspect of the Constitution of the United States, and then deliver that speech, unaided by notes or a podium, to an audience. The un-identified judges are interspersed in the audience so the contestants must speak to the whole group. After all have delivered their prepared oration, they must give a shorter talk on a subject chosen randomly from a list of four topics, with only 5 minutes to prepare. It is a rigorous competition. All of the students did well and we hop to see them again next year.

Charles Smith, of Trinity Christian School, won first place and advanced to the District 17 contest which was held at Post 270, McLean, on 16 January, where he placed first. He has now qualified for the Northern Zone contest, being held at Randolph Macon Academy in Front Royal on 12 February at 12 noon. Good Luck Charles!

Thank you to all who helped organize and run the contest. Jeff White and John Price for visiting five area high schools to meet with teachers, counselors, and students to promote the program. Jon Banks for helping on the front end organization, recruiting judges, and timing during the contest. Bob Parli for timing and general support. Our judges: Legionnaires Stan King and Richard Sullivan, SAL member George Freeman IV, US diplomat Rachel Wolfe, and Arlington teacher Judith Freeman. Post 177 Honor Guard John Price and Bill Anderson for posting the Colors. Debra Dornemann and Maya White for escorting the contestants to and from the hall. Last, but never least, Doug Wilson and the staff for making everyone feel welcome.

The Four Chaplains Remembered

Each year, the American Legion honors the memory of four Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others when their ship was sunk off the coast of Newfoundland. On Feb 3, 1943, the troop ship "Dorchester" was sunk by a German submarine. The four chaplains on the ship helped some of the soldiers to get into lifeboats. They gave away their own life vests, and perished when the ship went down. Of the 904 soldiers and crew on the ship, only 230 were rescued in the freezing waters. This year, the 17th District is honoring the four chaplains in a ceremony at American Legion Post 162, 8210 Legion Dr., Lorton, VA 22079, on 6 Feb at 10 AM.



Tom Hovis, Post Historian

Remembering Forgotten Veterans

Recently, there was a mass funeral for veterans at the Calverton Memorial Cemetery, Garden City, N.Y. The remains of these veterans had gone unclaimed for various reasons at area funeral homes. After the service with full military honors, the veterans were buried in their own individual graves. Members of the Gold Star Mothers, various veterans groups and officials from the Veterans Administration served as stand-in families for the veterans.

Tom Hovis, Post Historian

Sons of the American Legion



"There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction"

Winston Churchill



The SAL had a great start to 2011 with our January monthly breakfast. Even with the weather being bitterly cold, we were happy to see so many people come out to support us and to re-connect with friends after the busy holiday season. We hope that you will continue to show this support for us in the coming year as the SAL leads the way with various activities around the post home.

The SAL membership should have all received a letter from me at the beginning of January concerning the meeting that was to take place regarding amendments to our current by-laws. I want to thank the members who attended this meeting and showed their support. All the amendments passed unanimously and are now part of the Squadron's active by-laws.

The beginning of the year has proven to be a busy time already for our squadron. The SAL lost a very valued brother last year, when we lost Kimberly "Bear" Ricketts. The Squadron recently completed our project to honor his memory by planting a tree on the Post Property. I would like to thank Rad Smith and Mark Moeller for overseeing and executing this project.

I would like to thank the membership for their support

shown to the SAL for our recent TV and Blu-Ray package raffle that recently concluded in the social quarters. Our financial success of the Squadron is directly impacted by the support given to us by the membership. This allows the SAL to provide support to the various charities and programs to which the organization is committed.

Discussions have already started regarding Memorial Day activities at the Post this year. I hope everyone marks their calendars to come out and participate this year. Please look for additional details in future new letters

SAL SQUADRON 177 IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!! Show your support (the "LIKE" button) and stay connected with us in real time. Look for our page under "Sons of the American Legion Squadron 177, Fairfax VA". Be one of the first ones to find out what is going on and what events we have planned.

**For God and Country
Ken Self
SAL Commander**

Post Everlasting

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

- BEN BREWER
- HARRY KEMBLE
- WINSTON HARVEY
- JOHN G. TUTKO

Farewell our fellow Legionnaires

May they rest in peace



FROM THE SERVICE OFFICER

VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) BENEFITS

Headstones and Markers:

Veterans, active duty service, retired reservists, and National Guard members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery – national, state, veterans, or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. If the veteran dies after 1 Nov 1990 and the grave is already marked with a headstone, the VA may provide a government headstone.

Spouses and dependant children are eligible for a headstone only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery. Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after 1 Jan 2000, do not lose eligibility in a national cemetery if they remarry.

The funeral director or next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling office or the national cemetery in which burial is desired. Contact the web site www.cem.va.gov to determine if a cemetery is open for new burials.

Private Cemeteries:

A claim for a headstone for a private cemetery requires VA form 40-1330. Call 1-800-455-7143 to request the form, or go to <http://www4.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/va40-1330.pdf>. Mail the completed form and a copy of DD form 214 to Memorial Programs Service (41A1), Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903. Forms and supporting documents may also be faxed – toll free to 1-800-455-7143.

NOTE: Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure the government headstone will be accepted. All installation fees are the responsibility of the applicant.

Since burial and memorial procedures cover a full range of benefits, veterans and spouses with questions about Virginia national cemeteries should contact the local Veteran Claim officer, Christopher Evans, Dept. of Virginia, at 703-359-1210, or the Post Service Officer, John Kushner, at Post 177, 703-273-2250





John Kushner
Service Officer



The Challenger Baseball Christmas party



February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2/5, 5:30: Mexican Dinner by Auxiliary 2/6, 10AM: Four Chaplains Service @ Post 162 2/6: Super Bowl - SAL Party		1	2 7:00 PM Ex. Comm. Meeting 	3	4 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	5 Mexican Dinner by Auxiliary 5:30 - 8:30
6 Four Chaplains Service @ Post162 Lorton	7 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	8 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	9 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	10	11 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	12 Northern Zone Oratorical Contest
13 Buffet Breakfast By Legionnaires 9:30 - 11:00 	14 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM Valentine's Day	15 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	16	17	18 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	19
20	21 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	22 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	23	24	25 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	26
27	28 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	2/12: Northern Zone Oratorical - Front Royal 2/13: Sunday Breakfast 2/14: Valentines Day 3/5 & 6: Chocolate Lovers Festival - City of Fairfax www.chocolatefestival.net .		3/11-13: Dept. of Virginia Spring Conference 3/11: Dept. Oratorical Contest @ Conference 3/13: Sunday Breakfast		

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	2 7:00 PM: Exec. Comm. meeting 	3	4 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	5 Chocolate Lover's Festival - City of Fairfax
6 Chocolate Lover's Festival - City of Fairfax	7 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	8 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	9 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting	10	11 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">Department Spring Conference</div>	12
13 Dept. Conf. Buffet Breakfast by Auxiliary 9:30 - 11:00 	14 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	15 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	16	17	18 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	19
20	21 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	22 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	23	24	25 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	26 Post 177 Charter Anniversary
27	28 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	29	30	31		

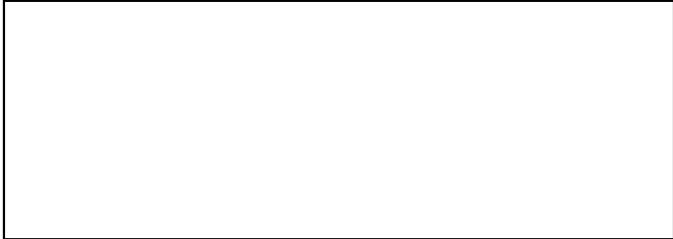


Legion News is published bi-monthly and is the 1st Place Winner of the 2007 VALPA "Best Papers Award" and 1st Place in the Nation for Large Posts winning the 2007 Al Weinberg Publication Award.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRODUCED BY VOLUNTEERS OF THE POST.

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The #1 Legion Newsletter in the Nation.



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For God and Country

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Dated Material

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WWW.FairfaxPost177.org

