



American Legion Post 177 Fairfax, Virginia

LEGION NEWS

For God and Country

3939 Oak Street

703-273-2250

OCT-NOV 2011

NEW MEMBERS

August - September

George A. Ashley

Alexander J. Balent

Cynthia Benovitz

Huet Landry

Michael J. Mau

Camara J. Minks

Richard Robertson

Steven Rosini

Donald A. Thompson

Michael F. Trevett

Scott W. Vollert

Henry J Waters

Jeffrey M. White

2011 MEMBERS 984

2012 MEMBERS 662

PUFL MEMBERS 93

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.



The American Legion Riders and The Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation co-sponsored a POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond on 17 September. Riders and others from around the State traveled to Richmond on a cool overcast day for the event designed to recognize and honor the sacrifices of POWs and to make sure we do not forget our MIAs. The combined American Legion Post 177 and 17th District Honor Guard, Legion Riders, and the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, America Division provided ceremonial honors for the event which included escorting dignitaries, posting and retiring of the colors, and the POW/MIA ceremony.

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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

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Auxiliary Unit 177

Sandra K. Price, President
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Commander's Corner

Did we have *summer* this year? It went by so fast I don't remember most of it or it could be a function of age and the fact the older I get the faster time flies. Although *summer* has come and gone our Post continues to pave a positive path forward. This time last year saw a Post struggling to pay the bills. However, this year we see a Post that is paying its bills while committing some of its earnings toward a "rainy day fund" that provides us with the resources to get through the lean times. How were we able to turn things around? Some may say luck. However, I believe much of the credit for the turn-around is due to the hard work of our Club Manager, Doug Wilson, our bartenders and staff; The Auxiliary; The Sons of the American Legion Squadron; The American Legion Riders Chapter and our Post Executive Committee and Corporate Board. Everyone working together made our Post a better place for all. Last, let me thank you the member for your support. By using our social quarters you, the member, provide for the ability for our existence. So, let us continue to work together to make our Post the best ever.

This *summer* saw the Post float win a second place ribbon in the Independence Day parade. Thank you Dan Marks for making it happen. Our Legion baseball team was runner-up in the 17th District and thanks to George Priftis for coaching our team and Rad Smith, Post Athletic Director, for doing all the administrative duties required to field a baseball team. Thanks, George and Rad for a great job. A special thanks to the membership for voting the funding of the baseball program using Corporate Board funds.

Thanks to Mike Stockenberg for his fund raising efforts that resulted in pro-

viding more than \$10000 which help fund veteran and youth programs. With Mike's help we are able to provide much more support than planned.

We were honored to host the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) when the team visited our Post in May and September. WWAST represent some of our nation's bravest and most determined heroes, soldiers and veterans. An inspiration to all of us!

While we were able to do some good things for veteran and youth actives, we were not as successful with the Post family picnic which was cancelled by hurricane Irene. Unfortunately, we do not have any date available to reschedule the picnic for this year. Therefore, the Executive Committee voted to cancel the picnic and is exploring other option for a family membership program between now and the end of the year. However, we did play the second annual Jim Salus memorial benefit golf outing and it was a great success. Rad Smith, the golf outing program chairman, presented a \$6200 dollar check to the Post at the September general membership meeting. Thanks to everyone who played and sponsored the event. A special thanks to Rad Smith for organizing and running this event. I believe this is the most successful event ever conducted by Post 177!

Looking forward, Veterans Day is our next major program for 2011. As done in past years we will serve lunch to WWII veterans hosted by the Auxiliary and conduct a flag disposal ceremony. Information and details will be provided soon on this special event.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
ROBERT L. PARLI JR
COMMANDER

Are you ready for some Football?

As if the comfortable atmosphere, classic breakfasts, great lunches, cold beverages, pool table and dart boards in the game room, Friday night dinners, Queen of Hearts game, and ticket games weren't enough reasons to come into the club, it is finally FOOTBALL SEASON! College ball on Saturdays and Pro on Sundays, Monday nights and sometimes Thursday nights. Your social quarters is a great place to watch the game.

The 2nd annual "Bear" Chili Bowl is coming up on Oct 30. For \$5.00 you get to taste the dif-

ferent chili recipes and then vote for your three favorites, or vote for your favorite three times. Good food, lots of fun, and - oh yeah - FOOTBALL!

As a member of Post 177 you can use the club for social and business events. We have free Wi-Fi so you can use your lap-top. For a small group just bring your guests for lunch or breakfast like any other restaurant. For a larger group, ask the club manager to reserve one of the two dining rooms downstairs.

It's your post. Take advantage of it and support it.

First Vice Commander's Membership Report

I can hardly believe that the summer is "over." We still have some great weather ahead of us before winter really sets in and Post 177 has some great upcoming events; all the more reason to promote membership. So far this year, we are way ahead of last year's membership numbers. But, sometimes winter brings a lull in membership renewal. We're at approximately 68% of our goal, which is set by the Department of Virginia. Thanks for all of your support in that effort.

Membership recruiting is extremely important if we are to maintain our ability to serve our fellow veterans and community. After all, that's what it's all about. The larger our membership is, the better our capacity is to serve as an organization.

The Department of Virginia has set a goal of slightly less than 1,000 members for Post 177 for the 2012 year; however, I think we are fully capable of attaining a membership of 1,500. That's not unrealistic, but it does require your participation. We simply cannot sit back and hope that people will come to the American Legion. Instead, we have to take

the American Legion to those who are eligible, but have not yet considered it. There are many, many veterans who are eligible to join the American Legion but simply have not done so, for various reasons. Sometimes that one reason might be that someone hasn't presented it as a good idea. In fact, it's a great idea!

So, I'm asking for you to get involved in recruiting. If only each one of us who are already members recruited one other person for membership, we would more than meet our goal for next year. There are many great veterans out there looking for someplace to do some good. The American Legion is a great place for them. Don't forget to visit the Post on the web at: <http://fairfaxpost177.org/>, or on Facebook, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LegionPost177>

Thanks for your help.

Brad Watkins
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, OEF, OIF)



Greetings,

With summer over and children back in school it is time for the Auxiliary to get busy with the many projects we have planned. A BIG THANK YOU to the many members and friends of the children in our community for donating over 1,100 items of school supplies to go to the city schools. Items were taken to Daniels Run Elementary, Providence Elementary, and Sidney Lanier Middle Schools.

Next we plan on donating items for the shoe box project for the Fairfax Baptist Church. We can purchase items to put in the boxes or you can fill a shoe box yourself. There will be a list of items to purchase at our September meeting. We will have copies of the list available for you if you want one. You can also make a donation and we will shop for you. These boxes are due to the church in early November.

We will be filling the Christmas stockings for The Salvation Army. We need items, toys for all age groups from baby to ten years of age. These need to be small items. A list will also be available for this project. We will be sponsoring five (5) families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If we start the projects

early we will not be in a rush when it gets closer to Christmas.

We have the White House Christmas Ornaments on sale for the purchase price of \$18.00. They will be available in the social quarters, so ask the bartenders.

Keep in mind our plans to serve lunch to our veterans on Saturday, November 5th, 2011; there will also be our very special flag disposal service. Many of the city dignitaries will be in attendance, so come by and join us.

Remember the Friday night dinners, and Queen of Hearts every Saturday night. I'm sure the manager will be coming up with some special menus for the Sunday football games.

Keep a watch for the special projects coming up within the month of October and November.

Congratulations to the unit for all the hard work for the year 2010-2011. We were awarded the Citation for Meritorious Service.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

**Sandra K. Price
UNIT PRESIDENT**



Sons of the American Legion



Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.

-Edward Sandford Martin

For the first time in many years, we were unable to have the Family Day picnic this year due to the weather; however, I hope that people will still find the time to come out and bond with their Legion Family. As the weather gets cooler, there is no better place to come inside to warm up and surround yourself with the friendship that your Post provides.

Cooler weather also means one thing; it is time again for the 2nd Annual Bear Chili Bowl at Post 177. As many of you remember, last year the SAL officially changed the name of our Annual Chili Cook-off to the "Bear Chili Bowl" in memory of our departed brother Kim "Bear" Ricketts. In standard SAL Tradition, we will be hosting this year's event on Sunday, October 30, 2011 as the Redskins take on the Buffalo Bills. This year we are adding a new twist to the game. As the Redskins are having the Buffalo Bills for Dinner on the field, the SAL will be selling a variety of Buffalo wings for you to enjoy while watching the game. We will have more details around the Post very soon.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared

Thanksgiving a national holiday. As the nation was being torn apart by Civil War, Lincoln was able to see the value of a day that celebrates our togetherness and invites us to think about the things we are thankful for. As many Americans gather together with family, many will have empty seats at their tables; seats that are the many in uniform fighting overseas. They are away from home and the ones they love for the greater good of our nation. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, let us remember the reason this holiday was formed so many years ago. Let us remember to be truly thankful for all that those men and women who will not be with their families this year that provide us with so many things to be thankful for each day.

The SAL will be hosting the monthly breakfast on Sunday, October 9, 2011. We hope to see you there!

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



AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN

On August 19, over 300 American Legion Riders joined together to begin this year's Legacy Run. The run is conducted every year to support and raise funds for the American Legion's Legacy Fund, which raises money for those children whose parents have been killed in military action since the attacks of 9/11/01. The run begins in Indianapolis (American Legion Headquarters) and ends up at wherever the Legion's national convention is; this year Minneapolis. The run began on August 30 and wound up through Michigan, across the Mackinac Bridge and into Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It continued through Manistique, MI, Duluth, MN, Brainerd, MN and on to Minneapolis. The run covered four states and nearly 1300 miles over five days. Along the way, riders

visited American Legion Posts where various ceremonies were held and donations offered to the Legacy Fund. One particular highlight involved visiting Camp American Legion, a camp for wounded and disabled veterans: http://wilegion.org/programs/veterans_affairs/camp_american_legion/ This year, the run was extremely successful and has accumulated, to date, over \$650,000.00 toward a goal of \$20,000,000.00. It's a pretty intense five days, but the cause and the experience have made it one of the American Legion's most successful efforts.

Brad Watkins,
Ride Captain,
American Legion Riders, Post 177, Fairfax, VA



left: Post 177/17th district Honor Guard at the Korean War Memorial supporting USS O'Brien Veterans Association reunion.



right: Supporting USS O'Brien reunion at the Vietnam War Memorial.

below left: Post 177/17th District Honor Guard with Naval Sea Cadets lined up to start the POW/MIA Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial



below right: Posting of the colors at the Virginia War Memorial at the beginning of the POW/MIA Recognition program.

below center: American Legion Riders' motorcycles parked outside the Virginia War Memorial.

center: Inside the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial. The names of fallen Virginians are engraved on the glass and stone walls. Go to www.vawarmemorial.org to learn more.

See more pictures at www.facebook.com/legionpost177



Post Everlasting

Since the last newsletter the following members have transferred to Post Everlasting.

David A. Rogers

Martin J. Mc Donough

Doug Herndon (SAL)



Commander **David A. Rogers**, USN (Ret.) passed away on June 11, 2011 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was an 11 year member of Post 177 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Fair winds and following seas shipmate.

Martin "Marty" Mc Donough passed on August 28, 2011. Marty served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War and was a 38 year member of the Post. Marty liked everyone and everyone liked Marty.

From Tom Hovis, Post 177 and 17th District Historian

Remembering September 11, 2011

The US Navy will have three ships that will be floating memorials to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The USS New York has part of her bow made from the steel taken from the World Trade Buildings. The USS Arlington was named after Arlington County to honor those who died at the Pentagon. To be built will be the USS Somerset to honor those who died on when the passengers of Flight. 93 wrested control of the aircraft from terrorists and crashed in a field in Somerset county Pennsylvania

WWII Anniversary --Sept. 2, 1945

On September 2, 1945, the Japanese officially signed the surrender papers. The surrender ceremony ended the war in the Pacific and WWII. Secret papers found after the war revealed that the Japanese Military Government decided to accept unconditional surrender when they thought the US was planning to drop a third Atomic Bomb. The Japanese had in the design stage their own Atomic bomb. The plans were discovered by OSS agents when they were searching through secret military records.

A History Page is being planned for Post's website. The page will be available for articles and photos submitted by the membership. Stories can be submitted to the Post Historian. For comments on the Post Facebook page, see the link on the Post website.

Challenger Baseball is Back

The Fairfax Challenger Little League sponsored by the Post will begin its Fall Season this Sunday, September 18. Challenger baseball is for boys and girls ages 5 – 21 that have any special needs that preclude them from participating in a mainstream Little League program. This year we will play our fourth fall season and will have four teams participating in the league. The season will start September 18 and finish October 23. Game are played at Chilcott Field every Sunday at 1:00 and 2:00. Come out and support our players.

HEADLINES FROM WWW.LEGION.ORG

Kinks need worked out in Caregiver program




The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health met recently to hear testimony from witnesses on how well the Department of Veterans Affairs is implementing benefits for its caregivers assistance program.

The subcommittee's chair, Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle of New York, said in her opening remarks that, at a hearing four months ago, "it was clear to me that VA must go back and address deficiencies with the department's initial implementation plan, particularly the strict eligibility requirement, and get this important program up and running."

Bill may extend Agent Orange presumption

Very soon, says Louisiana attorney John Wells, a New York senator will be introducing a short and simple bill into Congress that could have a large and far-reaching effect on tens of thousands of Vietnam War veterans and their families. The proposed law would extend the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange to certain servicemembers who served aboard vessels at sea - the so-called Blue Water Navy - during the Vietnam War. As the law now stands, only troops who served ashore "in country" or aboard river boats in Vietnam are entitled to compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for a number of ailments, including cancer, linked to exposure to the toxic herbicide

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays through 23 Oct, 1 PM & 2 PM: Challenger Baseball 1 Oct., 4 PM: LUAU 30 Oct., 12 PM: "Bear" Chili Bowl			5 Nov.: Post 177 Veterans day celebration 12 Nov., time tba: Early Bird Dinner		1 LUAU 	
2 Challenger Baseball	3 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	4	5 7:00 PM Ex. Comm Meeting 	6	7 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	8
9 Buffet Breakfast by S.A.L. 9:30 - 11:00 	10 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	11	12 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting 	13	14 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	15
16 Challenger Baseball	17 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	18	19	20	21 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	22
23 Challenger Baseball	24 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	25	26	27	28 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	29

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 2nd Annual "Bear Bowl" Chili Cook-off	31	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 Post 177 Veterans Day Celebrations
6	7 Civil Air Patrol Meeting 7:00PM	8 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	9 7:00 PM: General Membership meeting 	10	11 VETERANS DAY Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30	12 EARLY-BIRD DINNER
13 Buffet Breakfast by Legionnaires 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 Thanksgiving Day	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	29 Boy Scouts Meeting 7:30PM	30 7:00 PM: Exec. Comm. meeting	1	2 Friday Night Dinner 5:30-8:30 \$12.00 <i>Best Deal in Town</i>	3



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Non-profit Organization

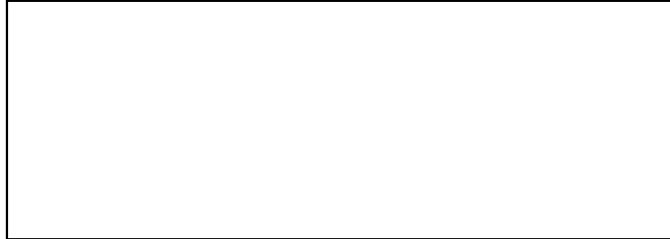
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FAMILY

