

POST 177

LEGION NEWS



Post 177 and VFW Post 8469 Conduct Joint Program for Veterans Day at City Hall

American Legion Post 177 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8469, together constituting the Veterans of Fairfax, ran a joint program to observe Veterans Day on the steps of Fairfax City Hall. This year's event saw a color guard composed of members of both organizations presenting the colors for the program. Representatives of our Federal, State, and Local governing bodies and members of the public were in attendance.

U.S Congressman Gerry Connolly was the first speaker, followed by State Senator Chap Peterson, and State Delegate David Bulova. Then Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid said a few words before City of Fairfax Mayor David Meyer came to the podium. Councilmembers So Lim and Sang Yi rounded out the comments from our elected leaders.

Commander White led the group in a moment of silence at the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in honor of the armistice in 1918 which ended World War I and ultimately became Veterans Day in the United States and is marked in various other ways in other countries.

Bonnie Hobbs of The Connection wrote a good article about the event. You can read it here: <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2019/112019/Fairfax.pdf>



**The American Legion
Post 177**

3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030-3725

(703) 273-2250
www.fairfaxpost177.org

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Winter 2019

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Post Officers

Post Commander

Jeffrey White
703-591-0298
JWhite@FairfaxPost177.org

1st Vice Commander

Gary Mesaris
mesaris@verizon.net

2nd Vice Commander

Rich Strauss
2ndvice@fairfaxpost177.org

3rd Vice Commander

John Skoglund
johnskog1@gmail.com

Adjutant

Brad Watkins

Finance Officer

Michael Kimlick

Chaplain

Joseph Boyle

Sergeant-At-Arms

John Price

Service Officer

Tony Poulin

Judge Advocate

Tony Osborne

Historian

Earl Seay

Executive Committee Members at Large

Russ Combs

Reid Griffith

Cal Salch

Legionnaire of the Year

Brad Watkins

Corporate Board

Rand Gaber

Jonathan Thatcher

Gary Welsenbach

Building and Grounds Chairman

Rand Gaber

Sons of the American Legion

Jerry Miller, Commander

American Legion Post 177

Riders

Bruce Merserau, Commander

American Legion Post 177

Auxiliary

Sandra Price, Commander

Marine Corps 244th Birthday Celebration

The post celebrated the Marine Corps' 244th Birthday with a small celebration in the post quarters on Sunday, September 10th. The ceremony began with a reading of General Lejeune's birthday message and patrons also viewed the annual birthday message from Gen Berger and SgtMaj Black. In addition, the bar partitioned a keg of beer for the celebration.

As is customary, attendees were also treated to the cake cutting ceremony. Per tradition, the oldest and youngest marines present have the honor of cutting the cake. This year's oldest Marine in attendance was Jim Brown (Maj, ret.), who also read Lejeune's message to open the proceedings. This year's youngest Marine in attendance was Capt. Brian Watkins (USMCR)

The post would like to thank all those who were able to attend the ceremony. There was a great turnout among the membership and it was truly a pleasure to celebrate the birth of one branch of our nation's fighting force.



Post 177 Holds Flag Retirement Ceremony

On November 9th, Post 177 held its annual Veterans Day observance and flag retirement ceremony. We had 7 barrels full of flags collected since our the retirement ceremony held last spring. Flags are brought to us by members of the community and we pick them up from the collection point in Fairfax County Government Center. City of Fairfax Mayor Meyer and Councilmembers Lim and Yi attended and addressed us with their thoughts about our nation's flag and their appreciation of our Veterans.

The flags having must now be transported to the Covanta energy facility in Lorton where they will be burned in accordance with US title 4, the Flag Code.





MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Happy Holidays! Hard to believe we are about to start a new year.

Our property development plans have entered the zoning phase and the first official presentation to City Council is on 7 January. This will be a work session of the city council. This type of meeting is open to the public to observe but not to comment. There will be public hearings later in the process. The meeting starts at 7 PM at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax 22030. It will be helpful for the council to see a large number of American Legion members in the audience supporting the development.

The configuration of the property has changed a bit from what we had back in the spring due to environmental controls we were not aware of at first, and a realization that the city would not want to be a partner with us in improving Pat Rodio Park. The arrangement of the Post and workforce housing buildings is improved and gives a more pleasing sightline from Oak Street. There will be an increased amount of underground parking. Chilcott field will be rebuilt in essentially the same place. We expected that the antenna field would be completely lost, however we have found a way to provide broadcast capability for the radio station with a single pole antenna to be located near left field.

We formed a group to inventory all of our property in the Post; plaques, decorations, chairs, tables, memorabilia, awards, etc. to prepare for moving to temporary quarters and then into the new Post. At this time we don't expect to be ready to move out of our current building until 2021. And then would expect the new post ready to move into in 2023. It's a long vision project and everyone's support is needed.

The first way you can show your support is to renew your membership. 2019 membership expires after December 31, only a few weeks away. Please go online to www.Legion.org/renew and follow the instructions. You can print your 2020 ID card and use it until we send you your new one. Gary and Gerry will appreciate you doing it online because it is less work for them. If online doesn't work you just drop it off at the post or in the mail and they will process it for you. Dues are still only \$40.00. The Post keeps \$11.00 and sends the rest to department and national. Also, if you get a renewal notice and you think you've already renewed, check your card. National sends out the renewals at regular intervals and may not have gotten their record updated, which is another reason to renew online. Doesn't matter how you do it, just do it! Thanks.

For God and Country,
Jeff White, Commander

New Members

Brian H Shorb
Philip (Red) Bradeen
William J Brininstool
John B Foley
Dwight L Hubbard
Malcom J Murray
Roger N Rosenberger
Enrique G Hernandez
Kerry D Kirk
Thomas D McKuin
Danny R Michael
Kevin N Moran
Barry Newman
Travis White
Frederick C Belen
Joseph J Draham
Jonathan G Duval
Daniel G Edmunson
Michael R Kneipp
Stuart J Williams
Kenneth Wire

AUXILLARY NEWS

Greetings,
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

It seems that the holidays is not waiting on anyone, so that means the auxiliary should be letting everyone know the plan of activities.

Wednesday December 4, 2019. Executive board meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday December 8, 2019. Auxiliary serves breakfast at 9:30am - 11:00am. At this breakfast we will be collecting TOYS for COPS to be delivered to the City of Fairfax Police Department for children less fortunate than we. This is the eleventh years for doing this project, so please GIVE.

Wednesday December 11, 2019 General membership meeting at 7:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm

Sunday December 22, 2019 at 1:00pm Children's Christmas Party, for the Challengers Baseball League and children of the legion family. Lunch is provided, entertainment and of course SANTA. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday December 25, 2019 MERRY CHRISTMAS

Wednesday January 1, 2020 Happy New Year!!

Tuesday January 7, 2020 Executive Board meeting

Wednesday January 8, 2020 Regular Membership meeting at 7:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm

Sunday January 12, 2020 Sons of the American Legion serves breakfast at 9:30am - 11:00am

Wednesday February 5, 2020 Executive Board meeting at 7:00pm

Sunday February 9, 2020 Legionnaires serves breakfast at 9:30am - 11:00am

Wednesday February 12, 2020 Regular Membership meeting at 7:00pm, dinner at 6:00pm

International dinners to be announced when the dates are voted on.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Sandra K. Price, Unit President

SOCIAL QUARTERS

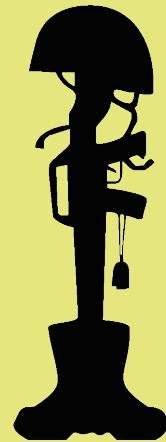
The Post's Social Quarters is very important part of our mission of outreach to Veterans, their families, and the community. All of our members, Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons, and members of other posts are welcome and should feel comfortable while enjoying the club's amenities.

In November and December the executive committee had to address a situation in which repeated expressions of partisan political viewpoints escalated into a physical altercation.

In order to maintain a comfortable atmosphere for everyone, patrons of the club should avoid discussions of partisan politics. The following is an excerpt from the Legion initiation ceremony: ***"We are composed of members of every race, religion, occupation, and political conviction. We maintain also strict neutrality on all questions concerning religion, politics, and industrial strife."*** This is not a question of political correctness, rather it is a courtesy so that all members and guests may enjoy the privilege of using the social quarters which comes with membership in the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion.

We all have a right to our own opinions and we also have a duty to respect others, especially our brothers and sisters in the American Legion Family.

Jeff White, Commander



Post Everlasting

Leo Enterline

Elly Burton

Honorary Life Members

William Anderson

Alvin Doehring

Edward Heitchew

Michael Kimlick

George Lamborn

Anthony Osborne

John Price

Robert Sussan



Announcements & Dates

- There is a cemetery plot available in Fairfax Cemetery available for purchase. Email info@fairfaxpost177.org
- The social quarters will close at 1900 on Christmas Eve and will remain closed for Christmas Day.
- The social quarters will open at 1000 on New Year's Day
- The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Dec 22nd from 1300-1600
 - 5 Jan., 1300: Post 177 Oratorical Contest
 - 12 Jan., 0930-1100: 2nd Sunday breakfast— SAL
 - 19 Jan., 1300: 17th District Oratorical Contest
 - 3 Feb., 1030: 17th District Four Chaplains service-Post 177
 - 9 Feb., 0930-1100: 2nd Sunday breakfast— Legionaires

NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

On May 8, 2019, we officially voted to amend our Constitution and By-Laws with a number of updates. One addressed requiring members to provide the First Vice Commander with an E:Mail address to which Pop-Up urgent messages could be sent and where messages could be sent notifying members when a new News Letter was available on the Post 177 website, or to where an abbreviated news letter could be sent as an e:mail message. This printed newsletter may become only 1 of probably 4 (perhaps less) to be printed each year, saving the Post about \$7,700.00 each year in postage and

handling. The members of the Executive Committee are keenly aware that one of their primary duties is to communicate with the membership and keep them informed as to activities around the Post. Therefore, if you have not already, or if your e:mail address has changed, please send a message to our First Vice Commander and provide him with your e:mail address. His email address is mesaris@verizon.net.

Regards,

Your Judge Advocate Emeritus

Anthony F. Osborne (Tony)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership for 2020. The Department of Virginia sets monthly goals for Posts to reach their 100% goal (Our 100% goal is 948). December's goal was 75% or 711 new and renewed members for 2020 and we had 713 as of 4 Dec. The next goal is 85% or 806 total by 8 January.

There are 245 Post 177 members who have not renewed for 2020 yet. Please check your wallet (I assume you carry your card with you all the time) and if it doesn't say 2020 go online to www.legion.org/renew and renew. It only takes a few minutes and you can print a temporary card right then. 1st Vice Gary Mesaris and Assistant Gerry Lemnah check the online renewals at least weekly and send out the official Post 177 cards. It saves them a lot of time if you renew online but if you prefer to renew at the post via mail or in person that's ok too. They check the mailbox a couple times a week also. If you run into either of them be sure to thank them for all their work.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- Dec 4: 1900 Executive Officer Committee
- Dec 8: 0930-1100 Second Sunday Breakfast - Auxillary
- Dec 11: 1900 General Membership Meeting
- Dec 17: 1800 Corporate Board Meeting
- Dec 22: 1300-1600 Children's Christmas Party
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve
- Dec 25: Christmas Day
- Dec 31: New Year's Eve

- Jan 1: New Year's Day
- Jan 7: 1900 Executive Officer Committee
- Jan 8: 1900 General Membership Meeting
- Jan 12: 0930-1100 Second Sunday Breakfast—SAR
- Jan 19: 1300 District 17 Oratorical Contest

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Feb 3: 1030 District 17 Four Chaplains Service @ Post 177
- Feb 5: 1900 Executive Committee Meeting
- Feb 9: 0930-1100 Second Sunday Breakfast—Legionnaires
- Feb 12: 1900 General Membership Meeting

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29




3939 Oak Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

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Legion News is published quarterly 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.

"The #1 Legion newsletter in the Nation!"

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FAIRFAX, VA
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WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY

