



For God and Country

The American Legion

Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 – 251 Maple Street – Manchester, NH 03103 - (603) 623-9145

POST 2 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

NO. 43

ISSUE: May 2010

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings to the Legion family,

I just want to thank everyone who participated in the April 27th installation of officers at the Post. What a great night it was. Now that I am being honored as the 2010-2011 Commander of the Post. I will do everything in my power to uphold your trust and confidence. As I have done before I want to thank my mentor Leo Cote; first for the outstanding job he did while in office as Commander and secondly for all the guidance and support he has given me over the past couple of years.

I have a great team of officers, executive board members and committee people to lead us forward. I am especially pleased about two members who have given their all in past years and are now returning once again to help out. George Smith is returning as Post Historian, a position he previously held and won awards for and Bill Roy as Service Officer, with his knowledge and dedication I know he will do an exemplary job. Hope to see you all at the Post soon.

Respectfully Yours,
Bill Whitmore

SR. VICE COMMANDER

During the past year, we have devoted our efforts to "going green." In conjunction with SCS Inc. A-1 Billiard Service, we have upgraded our pool table lights to become more energy efficient. Further, we have worked with PSNH, National Resource Management, and Atlantic Energy Solutions to reduce our energy cost by installing controls on our walk-in cooler and freezers. As a result, we already have saved \$100 per month on our electric bill. The lighting portion of the project is on order and should be completed soon, providing us with an additional savings of \$1,889.17 annually.

Another of our conservation-oriented projects has been recycling cans, which we have been doing for a very long time. Special thanks to Finance Officer Charlie LeVeille for his assistance on these projects and many others. I'd also like to thank Paul Indelicato, a member of the House Committee, for his tremendous help during the past year as well as Stan and Billy for all that they do.

We can use the help of all post members in our energy conservation efforts by turning out lights when they are not in use and by keeping the doors shut when the heating system or air conditioning unit is functioning.

Please remember that we are all responsible for protecting the environment and our communities.

My appreciation to Past Commander Leo Cote and Past Senior Vice Commander Bill Whitmore for their valuable guidance during the past year.

I look forward to serving our members as the new Senior Vice Commander.

Respectfully yours,
Dave Jobin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Auxiliary Report	Page 2
Chaplain's Comments	Page 2
Casey Heron Golf Tournament	Page 3
Reilly Golf Tournament	Page 3
Memorial Day Parade	Page 4
Entertainment Committee Report	Page 4
Time for Honoring the "Squares"	Page 5
Notice: Election Results	Page 6
Shelby Wins Legion World Series Bid	Page 6
Sweeney Post Baseball News	Page 7
2010 Dance Schedule	Page 8
Roll Call of the Greatest Generation	Page 8
The Power of the American Legion Family	Page 9
The American Legion Celebrates Families Relief Act	Page 10
National Military Appreciation Month	Page 10
Not Forgotten – A Poem	Page 11
Your Help Needed	Page 12

Nearly all man can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.
Abraham Lincoln

AUXILIARY REPORT

Auxiliary officers for the 2010-2011 term are Jan Michon, president; Eileen Byrne, first vice president, Melva O'Keefe, second vice president; Marilyn Cashin, treasurer; Carol Ducasse, sergeant at arms; Doris Oczkowski, chaplain; Sue Bisette, secretary, and Pat Bryan, historian.

Congratulations, ladies.

I look forward to serving with them as well as the new post commander, Bill Whitmore, and the new Sons of the American Legion commander, Greg Caron.

- We are planning another dinner dance with SAL. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 5. Dinner will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dancing will follow from 8:00 - 11:30 p.m. Tickets will be available in the near future at \$10 per person.

Once again, proceeds from the event will benefit the Easter Seal's "Veterans Count" program. Thanks to



Past SAL Commanders Brian Smith and Paul Indelicato as well as the new commander, Greg Caron for their untiring efforts on behalf of this project.

- We will hold a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 9 from 7:30-11 a.m. We will conduct our last breakfast of the season on Sunday, June 13. The breakfast series will resume in September.

I hope the members of the breakfast crew have an enjoyable summer. The meals and service they provided has been fantastic. Thanks to all.

- I appreciate our members' support of both the Auxiliary and American Legion programs.

Auxiliary members helped the Legion with raffles, the sale of souvenirs, and collected donations for the World War II Veterans Memorial. The memorial was a huge undertaking and Past Commander Leo Cote played a major role in its success.



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NOTE:
Just a little advance notice for some June Events:

- Monday June 14th is Flag Day and we will be having our flag retirement ceremony. It will start promptly at 6:00 PM in the Post parking lot.
- Once again the State Convention will be held in Woodstock, NH: Thursday June 24th thru Sunday June 27th.

Thanks to the Auxiliary members for the prompt payment of their dues.

The Auxiliary remains committed to supporting veteran-oriented projects and programs.

For God and Country,
Jan Michon - Unit 2 President

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS:

As I begin another year as post Chaplain I would like to express my thanks to those who took the time to come in and vote. I do have to admit disappointment regarding the low turnout. Less than 90 out of over 1,300 members is somewhat discouraging. I hope that we can make it more interesting next year and bring out the vote. The exception of course is if you are in Florida or other warm weather states in which case you can just

send me a box of fruit.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officials and good luck in the coming year!

There are many ways that you can support your post. You may want to attend one of the many great functions that the various hard working committees provide such as dinner/dances, monthly breakfasts, and karaoke nights. To the best of my knowledge we are the only veteran's organization that holds a Saturday dance every week throughout the whole year with live music. C'mon down!

The Henry J. Sweeney Post No.2 Family Newsletter is published May, September and December for the 2010 calendar year.

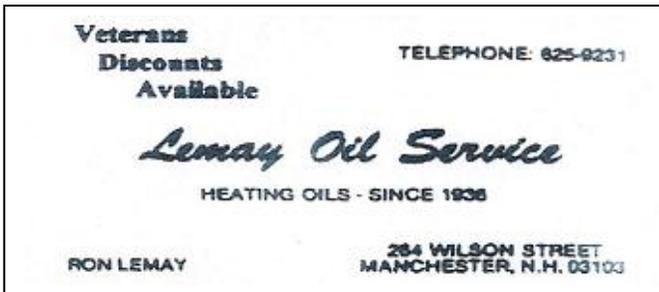
your post in your will? It has become a popular choice recently and is a convenient and painless way to contribute to your favorite organization. Think about it, talk about it with your family and check it out with your financial advisors. A great way to help assure that your post will continue with its

programs in the future. And you don't have to pick a specific date either! Don't like to think about dying? Pity the poor atheist when his time comes; all dressed up and no place to go!

Remember, all social events at the post are smoke free!

Thanks for your attention and look forward to seeing you all soon.

For God and Country - Al Heidenreich



Speaking of breakfasts, you don't want to miss the Mother's Day event on May 9th that is always a very special event. Treat your Mom, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, Mother-in-Law and Ladies in Waiting to this event. The breakfast is sponsored by the Auxiliary to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party. The last breakfast of the season will be on June 13th and will begin again in September. Serving time is 7:30 to 11:00 AM.

Don't miss list: Sunday, May 23rd a very special program is planned. We will be honoring one of our own at a gala homecoming testimonial for long time member Bill Roy; celebrating the completion of a successful term as State of New Hampshire Department Commander. The program is scheduled from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and will feature a prime rib dinner. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and are going fast so contact Mike Lopez today.

No one likes to think about passing on to the next world (at least not in the near future anyway) but have you ever thought about a remembrance to

Casey Heron Golf Tournament

When: Friday August 13th

Where: Derryfield Country Club.

How: A sign up list will be posted after the 4th of July on the bulletin board. If you're interested please register immediately after the posting date because the tournament field will fill up quickly.

Prizes will be awarded and a dinner will be served after the tournament at the Post.



REILLY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 11th annual John "Jumbo" Reilly Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Friday, June 4 at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester under the sponsorship of Henry J. Sweeney Post No.2.

A four-player scramble format will be in effect with a shot gun start scheduled for 8 a.m. The on-site registration session will be at 7 a.m.

The field will be limited to 120 golfers. Therefore, prospective players are encouraged to submit their registration forms as soon as possible.



Return the completed forms to:

11th Annual Sweeney Post Golf Tournament
 c/o L & B Construction Management, LLC
 171 Londonderry Turnpike
 Hooksett, NH 03106
 ATTN: Paul Lemire

Deadline for entering is May 31. The cost to enter is \$90 per player and \$360 per foursome, which covers greens fees, golf cart, and a post-tournament barbecue.

A variety of individual and team prizes will be awarded. A golfer will win the grand prize by scoring a hole-in-one on the third hole. Additionally, the golfer who records the longest drive on the 17th hole will earn a \$25 gift certificate to the DCC pro shop. Other individual awards include \$25 pro shop certificates to the competitors who are closest to the pin on the 8th and 12th holes.

The teams with the top three gross scores will receive the following awards: First prize, \$75 pro shop credit; second prize, \$50 pro shop credit, and third prize, \$25 pro shop credit.



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Business firms may sponsor a hole for \$100, which includes a sign promoting the company at the tee, or become a T-shirt sponsor for \$200.

The barbecue, featuring the awarding of prizes and a raffle, will begin at 1 p.m. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Sweeney Post baseball team.

Sweeney Post Athletic Officer George Smith and Paul Lemire are co-chairmen for the event. Additional information about the tournament may be obtained by calling Smith at (603) 623-9783. Lemire may be contacted at (603) 518-5638, or (603) 518-5668, or on his cell phone at (603) 234-1326.

MEMBERSHIP – MEMBERSHIP

Let's continue striving for 100% of renewals help by bringing in new members and we will achieve the 100% Goal.

Take pride in your post!

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Again this year we will have a float, provided by Bill Morin, for the Memorial Day parade. The parade kicks off at 2:00 PM and Bill will have the float at the Post between 12:00 and 1:00 PM for everyone who wants to ride to hop on board.

SPECIAL NOTE: We are looking for some volunteers to hand out programs to people attending the ceremony at Veterans Park after the parade. If you can help, contact Bill Whitmore at 669-4801.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The band, "Manchuka," will make its Sweeney Post debut on Saturday, Aug. 28. Its leader, Dominic, is the talented saxophone player in the Bert Scott Band. We look forward to dancing to the band's musical selections.

Now that our flock of "snow birds" has migrated north after nesting in warmer areas for the winter, we hope to boost attendance at the Saturday night dances.

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We encourage our regular attendees to bring guests with them to the dances. We all have family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers who enjoy dancing.

The cover charge and beverages are reasonably-priced, the live bands are extremely talented, the camaraderie abounds, and the wait-staff is friendly and eager to serve.

We have been decorating the post function hall, where the dances are held, in keeping with the various holiday celebrations. The snowflakes and ice lights



of New Year's Eve were replaced with a green motif for St. Patrick's Day.

The hall is currently decorated in a "Spring Is Here," theme featuring displays of silk flowers, wreaths, and wide-brim bonnets.

Beginning in May and continuing through early July, a red-white-and-blue decor will be featured in the hall as we pay a patriotic tribute to Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the Fourth of July.

We extend our appreciation to immediate Past Commander Leo Cote and his wife, Rita; Ruth

Morin, Joe Lacourse, and Linda Dugdale for their dedicated work in decorating the hall for the extended St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Once again, we urge members and their friends to join us at the dances for some outstanding musical entertainment and great fellowship as Sweeney Post marks its 63rd consecutive year of sponsoring live bands.



TIME FOR HONORING THE "SQUARES"

Ok folks, once again it is time for Sweeney Post members to do what they do best and that is honor our Manchester veterans who served in all the wars and are no longer with us.

We will be doing the "Squares" again this year. For those of you not familiar with this tradition:

- A very large contingent of Sweeney members in uniform, with the Post Honor Guard go to 20 plus sites in Manchester that have plaques or monuments in honor of our fallen comrades.
- A volley is fired and the playing of taps in tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters.
- We depart from the Post at 6:45 AM and return at approximately 12:00 Noon.

Once again we will have a 15-passenger van for Veterans who do not want to drive the route. As is the tradition, we will stop at Blake's restaurant on Main St. for breakfast around 8:15 AM; after we proceed to the Old St. Joseph cemetery for the 9:00 AM Mass, then finish doing the Squares by noon.

This is a very moving and gratifying experience and something you will always remember.

NH 800-426-0660

RICHARD C. MOQUIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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**SHELBY WINS LEGION
WORLD SERIES BID**

The American Legion - May 5, 2010
The countdown to see if Shelby, N.C., or Bartlesville, Okla., will permanently host The American Legion Baseball World Series is finally over. The National Executive Committee announced today during the Legion's Spring Meetings that Shelby won the bid.

"We are extremely excited and looking forward to being a partner with The American Legion statewide and locally," said Eddie Holbrook, co-chairman of Shelby's Baseball World Series Committee. "We look forward to putting on the best World Series the Legion's ever had, becoming a complementary partner with them and making the Legion proud that they selected us."

More than 100 people involved with Shelby's baseball committee traveled to Indianapolis by bus on May 1 to support their winning

NOTICE: ELECTION RESULTS

William Whitmore is our new commander, succeeding Leo Cote in that capacity.

Also elected to one-year terms in Post leadership positions during the March 23rd balloting were:

William Whitmore	Commander
David Jobin	Senior Vice Commander
Greg Hunt	Junior Vice Commander
Attorney David Nixon	Judge Advocate
Sharkey Madden	Sergeant at Arms
Charles LeVeille	Finance Officer
George Smith	Historian
Alan Heidenreich	Chaplain
Dennis Smith	Executive Committee
Mike Tenzar	Executive Committee
Joe Dutile	Executive Committee
Mike Lopez	Canteen Committee
Leo Cote	Canteen Committee
Sharkey Madden	Canteen Committee
John Cashin	Delegate State Convention
Richard Tremblay	Delegate State Convention
Gail Price	Delegate State Convention
Bill Morin	Delegate State Convention
Paul Porter	Delegate State Convention
Ron Lemay	Delegate State Convention
Dennis Smith	Delegate State Convention
Mike Tenzar	Delegate State Convention
Sharkey Madden	Delegate State Convention



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presentation, given to the Baseball Subcommittee, and show enthusiasm for the opportunity extended to them. The committee's presentation illustrated the immense community support, the large volunteer force of 300 people and the extensive plans for future growth.

"The baseball committee from Shelby had a real vision for the future, and I think that's one of the things that separated them from Oklahoma," American Legion Baseball Chairman Larry Price said. "They are not only looking at three to four years down the road, they are looking at forever."

The committee's immediate plans as the host city involves creating a new scoreboard and



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constructing a building specifically for World Series staff. The building will feature offices for game preparation purposes and seating that overlooks the playing field.



Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., will host the Legion Baseball World Series permanently starting in 2011

Additionally, Shelby's baseball committee members are in the process of representing Legion baseball in the best possible way. They are working with the town to build a new water tower where the base will be in the form of a bat and the tank will represent a baseball. More importantly, the water tower will read "Shelby, home of The American Legion Baseball World Series." Shelby will also provide additional World Series exposure throughout the United States with one of its local trucking companies that has more than 100 trailers traveling across the country daily. The sides of each trailer will read the same as the water tower.

Above all, staff from the Legion's National Headquarters foresees stronger sponsorship opportunities, game attendance and coverage now that the World Series will be in one location as of 2011.

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"The National Americanism Commission and Baseball Subcommittee view designating a single site for The American Legion Baseball World

Series as an exceptional opportunity with unlimited potential to boost recognition of the program across the country," National Americanism Chairman Joseph Caouette said. "This is a milestone in American Legion Baseball history."

SWEENEY POST BASEBALL NEWS

The Sweeney Post baseball team will play a 25-game schedule this summer, according to Post Athletic Officer George Smith.

It will begin the 2010 season with a doubleheader on Saturday, June 12 at Gill Stadium against a squad from the American Legion Post in Cranston, R.I. The opening contest on the twin bill is set for noon.

The remainder of the schedule follows:

Sunday	June 13	1:00 PM	Lynn, MA
Monday	June 14	5:15 PM	At Goffstown, NH
Tuesday	June 17	7:00 PM	Bedford, NH
Friday	June 18	7:00 PM	At Jutras Post Manchester, NH
Sunday	June 20	1:00 PM	Plymouth, NH
Tuesday	June 22	5:15 PM	At Derry, NH
Wednesday	June 23	5:00 PM	At Dover, NH
Friday	June 25	7:00 PM	Plaistow, NH
Sunday	June 27	7:00 PM	At Post 79 Manchester, NH
Tuesday	June 29	7:00 PM	Goffstown, NH
Wednesday	June 30	7:00 PM	At Rochester, NH
Thursday	July 1	7:00 PM	Alton, NH
Friday	June 2	5:00 PM	At Plymouth, NH
Monday	July 5	7:00 PM	Post 79 Manchester, NH
Wednesday	July 7	7:00 PM	At Concord, NH
Friday	July 9	7:00 PM	At Laconia, NH
Sunday	July 11	7:00 PM	Portsmouth, NH
Wednesday	July 14	7:00 PM	Laconia, NH
Friday	July 16	7:00 PM	Exeter, NH
Saturday	July 17	1:00 PM	Concord, NH
Sunday	July 18	7:00 PM	Derry, NH
Tuesday	July 20	7:00 PM	At Nashua, NH
Wednesday	July 21	6:30 PM	At Bedford, NH

Smith said a season pass to the Sweeney Post games may be obtained for a \$5 donation. The passes will be available at the bar in the post and at Gill Stadium.

No one, Eleanor Roosevelt said, can make you feel inferior without your consent. Never give it.



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ROLL CALL OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

The American Legion - May 6, 2010

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans is trying to muster as many veterans and homefront workers as possible for a special weekend of events and ceremonies June 5-6. The Second Annual "A Gathering of the Greatest Generation" is presented by Chevron.

2010 DANCE SCHEDULE

May	1st	Bushwhack
	8th	Jackie Lee Williams Band
	15th	Dinner - 8:00 The Revised Edition
	22nd	Bert Scott Band
June	29th	Triology
	5th	Dinner - 8:00 Bushwhack
	12th	Triology
	19th	Bert Scott Band
July	26th	Jackie Lee Williams Band
	3rd	The Visitors
	10th	The Revised Edition
	17th	Dinner - 8:00 Bert Scott Band
August	24th	Triology
	31st	Fred Manzi Trio
	7th	Jackie Lee Williams Band
	14th	Dinner - 8:00 Bert Scott Band
September	21st	The Visitors
	28th	Manchuka
	4th	Jackie Lee Williams Band
	11th	The Visitors
October	18th	Dinner - 8:00 Fred Manzi Trio
	25th	Bert SCott Band
	2nd	Triology
	9th	Bushwhack
November	16th	Bert Scott Band
	23rd	Early Bird Dinner - 8:00 Fred Manzi Trio
	30th	The Revised Edition
	6th	The Visitors
December	13th	Bushwhack
	20th	Bert Scott Band
	27th	Fred Manzi Trio
	4th	The Revised Edition
	11th	Jackie Lee Williams Band
	18th	Fred Manzi Trio
	25th	MERRY CHRISTMAS NO DANCE TONIGHT
	31st	NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE – 8:00 Bert Scott Band

"As this is an occasion to commemorate their service, I would particularly like to invite all World War II veterans and home-front workers from every state, along with your families, to attend and participate in the 'Roll Call of the Greatest Generation,'" Museum President and CEO Dr. Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller wrote in a letter of invitation to The American Legion. "The Roll Call is the highlight of the weekend and one of the ways we have found to express our thanks and price in the courage, determination and extraordinary drive toward freedom they exhibited on behalf of our country."

Last year, more than 300 World War II veterans from 30 different states participated in the first Roll Call event. As names are called from those who participated from each state, the museum's replica Normandy Liberty Bell is tolled. All registered World War II veterans and the families of deceased World War II veterans will receive commemorative certificates.

They will also be asked to participate in the museum's

oral-history project in order to tell their stories to future generations. Pre-registered attendees will also be able to attend the museum's exhibits free of charge.



THE POWER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

By Clarence Hill - May 1, 2010

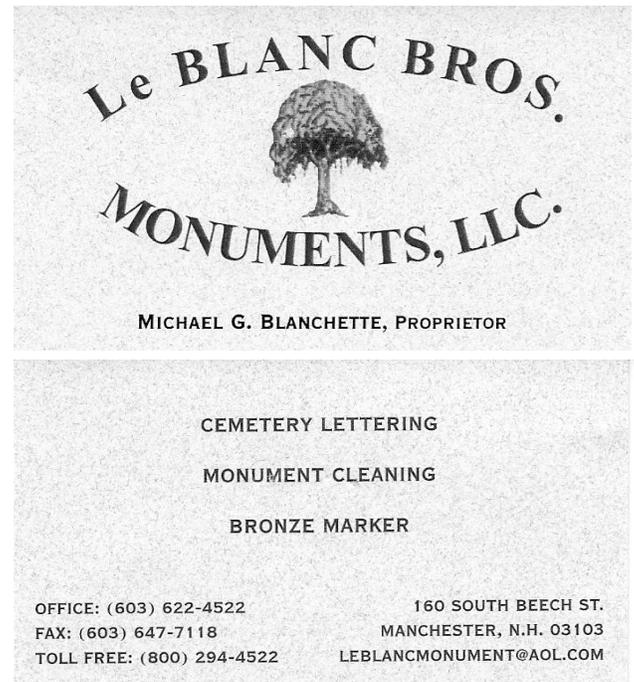
The American Legion family delivered a message in February. But we didn't speak. We roared. How else does one explain how, with little advance notice, American Legion posts, Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters rallied their members, spread the word and generated the votes needed for Operation Comfort Warriors to finish first among 729 competing charities in Pepsi's Refresh Everything Project? The result: an additional \$250,000 to purchase comfort items for men and women recovering in U.S. military hospitals and warrior-transition units around the globe.

Veterans have always been a determined lot, but there was something new added to this equation: the power of social media. As my Twitter followers and Facebook friends can attest, I have been preaching this gospel since before my days as national commander. The Refresh Everything Project, however, proved my theory true.

Although The American Legion nominated Operation Comfort Warriors for the contest in mid-January, we didn't learn until Feb. 1 - the first day of Internet voting - that the program had passed all the necessary qualification hurdles. By Feb. 3, we had rocketed from 27th place to second. By the final weekend of the month, we were on top.

We relied on our Web site, the Online Update, the

Dispatch and external media. The American Legion Auxiliary fired off an e-mail blast. So did our friends in Legion Riders. Departments linked to the Refresh Everything Web site and reminded people to vote for OCW. American Legion family newspapers and newsletters published announcements. **Facebook friends** chatted. People Tweeted and re-Tweeted. By the middle of February, I Googled "Pepsi and American Legion" and found page after page of posts encouraging people to vote for this great program.

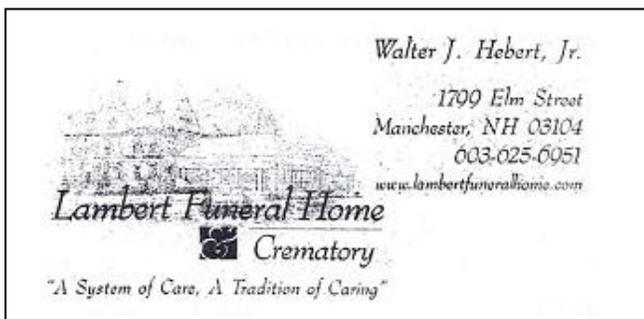


Getting the word out quickly has always been a challenge for an organization as large as The American Legion. With 55 autonomous departments and more than 14,000 equally autonomous posts, reaching our rank and file requires more than simply flicking a switch. Yet the word did get out, and enough people voted daily for us to finish first.

Operation Comfort Warriors, at www.legion.org/ocw, is modeled after an earlier Legion fundraiser for troops recovering at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. While the care at most U.S. military hospitals and warrior-transition units is first-rate, Operation Comfort Warriors was created to provide so-called "non-essential" items that don't show up as budget

lines on government spreadsheets: iPods, electronic games and DVDs for patients, or pool tables and entertainment centers for their common areas. The Legion pays all administrative and operating costs for OCW out of its own budget. This means that 100 percent of donations - including the Pepsi grant - go directly to helping the troops. These gifts won't make the patients "whole" again, but they do show them that we care about them and appreciate their sacrifice.

On May 31, this nation will observe Memorial Day, a solemn day during which we remember our war dead. As much as we revere these heroes, let's not forget the more than 35,000 troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. The fallen would want us to take care of their friends.



THE AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATES SIGNING OF VETERANS CAREGIVERS AND FAMILIES RELIEF ACT

May 6, 2010

With an American Legion official standing behind him Wednesday afternoon, President Barack Obama signed into law the long-awaited Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. As its name implies, the act calls for the government to provide health benefits, training, respite care and, in some cases, monetary stipends for individuals who provide at-home care for severely ill and disabled veterans.

"This is a big step in the right direction," said The American Legion's National Commander Clarence E. Hill. "Finally, the sacrifices made by the families and caregivers of our wounded warriors are being recognized and, more importantly, their needs are beginning to be met."

Many of The American Legion's top legislative

priorities have been included in the congressionally popular Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act, including improvements for women's services at VA health-care facilities, better support for caregivers of disabled veterans, expanded mental-health services and more funding to help reduce homelessness among veterans.

As it stands, the benefits of the new act apply primarily, though not exclusively, to veterans and caregivers of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) - the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. According to a House Veterans Affairs Committee press release, the act does require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) "...to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for certain Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide, and Gulf-War era veterans who have insufficient medical evidence to establish a service-connected disability" but contains little else specific to veterans of the pre-9/11 era other than to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to "...submit a one-time report on the feasibility and advisability of expanding the program to cover veterans who have a serious injury incurred or aggravated before September 11, 2001."

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

VADM Dirk Debbink, Chief of Navy Reserve
FORCM Ronney A. Wright, Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

May is a month of celebrations and remembrances that remind us that our service matters. On Armed Forces Day, we honor and celebrate those currently serving. On Memorial Day, we pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These holidays serve two different purposes.

Armed Forces Day, celebrated this year on Saturday, May 15, was established by the newly-formed Department of Defense in 1949 and first observed in 1950. This all-service observance is not only intended to honor those serving but to provide a forum to educate the public on life in the service, the role of the military in civilian life, military technology and the need for a strong defense.

Our all-volunteer force means that fewer people have firsthand knowledge of our military. As a Sailor serving in the Navy Reserve, you may be the only person in your family, your neighborhood, and your social and professional circles that has served in the armed forces. While support for service members is strong, you can help foster an even better understanding of and a deeper appreciation for our military. As the face of our armed forces, we urge you to share your experiences and to be an ambassador to our fellow citizens.

On Memorial Day, observed this year on Monday, May 31, we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our first celebrations of Memorial Day emerged during the reconstruction years of our Country after the Civil War. It was originally known as Decoration Day; fresh spring flowers were placed on the graves of fallen. Today, there are parades, speeches and memorial ceremonies.

We encourage each of you to participate in a Memorial Day observation. These ceremonies remind us that it is an absolute privilege to wear our uniforms, and to serve alongside those who have accepted the challenge and responsibility of joining our nation's armed forces. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice. All service matters.

We value the contributions, recognizing service can and does vary from a few days a year to full-time service. The greatest tribute we can offer to those who have paid the ultimate price is to wave the banner of freedom proudly, and to ensure that our nation shall endure for generations to come. We are honored to serve in the United States Military.

Every day, we have the chance to honor the legacy of the men and women who fought and died in the service of this great nation. We honor that legacy by being Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.

NOT FORGOTTEN

By Mark A. Wright, HMC(SS)
22 June, 2000

I first saw him on a park bench
I've seen him every day

Sitting in a shady grove
Where my children come to play
Sometimes he feeds the birds and squirrels
Or whittles little toys
Sometimes he just sits and smiles
At the laughing girls and boys
And I never paid him any mind
'Till one day just this year
I noticed that he wore a frown
And on his cheek ... a tear.

Well I asked him why he seemed so down
He looked up, began to say
I lost half my friends 60 years ago today
He told me of the terror
As he fought to reach dry land
By the time the beachhead was secure
Half his friends lay in the sand

That was just in one long day
He fought on for 4 years more
And the 60 years from then to now
Have not dimmed His sights of war

He said they have reunions
Just to keep in touch and share
And for each comrade who has gone on
They leave an empty chair

Well, His park bench has been empty now
About 6 months or so
And if I'd never took the time
Then I never would've known
That sitting on that simple bench
With bread crumbs and little toys
Was a man who gave his all
To guarantee my daily joys

So give thanks to all the men and women
Who're still here or have gone before
And made the highest sacrifice
In both Peace time and in War
Because they bought our freedom
Paid their own blood, sweat, and tears
Then endured the heartache of those empty chairs
For all these years

So please do not ignore them
Or speed by without a care
'Cause you never know
When you might pass by
A hero, unaware

DEAR SWEENEY POST 2 MEMBERS
YOUR HELP NEEDED!!

We are planning on doing some cosmetic renovations to our office this summer. We want to complete this task in a frugal manner. Volunteers with knowledge in carpentry, flooring, painting and electrical would be greatly appreciated to help us keep the cost to an absolute minimum. If you have interest in working on this project contact Junior Vice Commander Greg Hunt at 315-2593 or Commander Bill Whitmore at 669-4801.

We also want to compile a list of skilled members that can help the post grow and prosper. We are looking for skills in any trade group, with computer background, Web programming ability, and communication. We will keep your name in our database and call upon you when related projects or repairs are needed.

With an eye on cross training we also want to identify members that have a financial background in accounting or worked as a bookkeeper. We would like to train a backup for the finance officer position to ensure a smooth flow if a transition was needed. This position does have a small stipend as a benefit. All interested members should contact Commander Whitmore 669-4801.

Thank you for supporting YOUR Post

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