



The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion NV Post 76, "The Spirit of Freedom"

ISSUE 51 — January—March 2025

Full color versions of this newsletter can be viewed or downloaded at our Post Website www.NVPost76.com/newsletter

!! GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE MOVED !!



**The Trails Community Center
1910 Spring Gate Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89134**



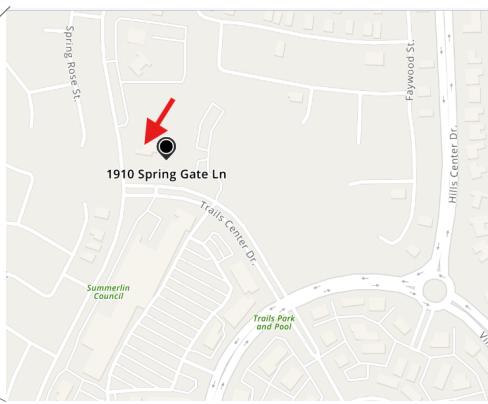
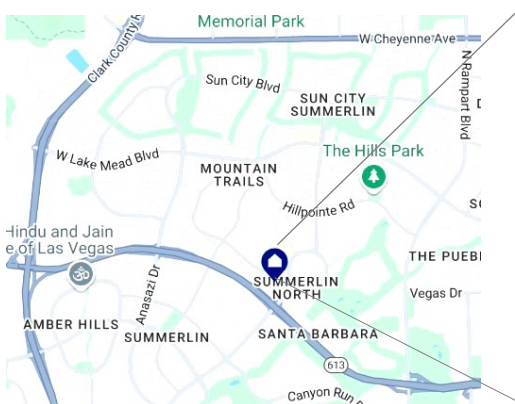
We will be changing our regular General Membership meeting **day, date, and time.**

IMPORTANT

From now on, because we are unable to locate a meeting place on a Sunday, our General Membership Meetings will be held on the **SECOND SATURDAY** of each month, **1130 hrs. (11:30 am)**. Doors will open at 1100 for setup and we must be out of the building by 1300 hrs.

Please feel free to come at 1100 so you can socialize while we set up for the meeting.

Set aside Saturday 11 January 2025 at 1130 hrs. for our first General Meeting in our NEWS Trails Community Center location.



General location of the Trails Community Center. The highway to the west is CC215 beltway, and the highway to the south is Summerlin Parkway. The street to the east is N. Rampart Blvd and to the north is W. Cheyenne Ave. N. Town Center is an exit on the Summerlin Parkway to the south.

Closeup of where the Center is location relative to the large Summerlin Library Village Center Circle, to the south is the Trails Shopping Center and to the east are ballfields. Spring Gate can be accessed from W. Lake Mead to the north, and the Trails Center off of the Village Center Circle.

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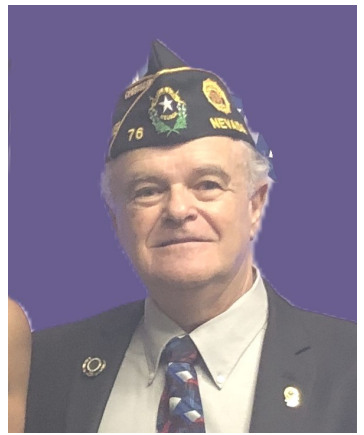
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COMMANDERS MESSAGE

We have reached the halfway point in our Legion year which has been the busiest in the 6 years, not consecutive, that I have had the privilege of being your Commander. In the past 6 months, the Post Color Guard has presented the Colors in **ELEVEN** events all over Southern Nevada. We have had nearly that amount of information/resource tables talking about Veteran benefits and benefits of joining The American Legion. Our members do these events with no charge to the Post for any expenses. We are, after all, volunteers. Our Post runs on its membership, and we are having difficulties in members who are not renewing their membership. Please look at your latest membership card, if it does not say 2025, you will be expired on 1 January, which is our renewal date.



Article IV of the National By-Laws states:

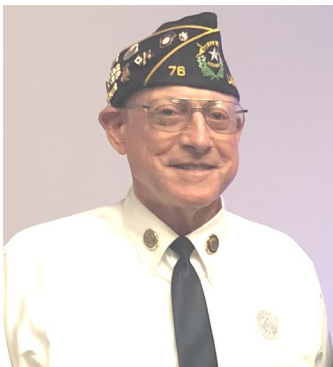
Section 4. A member whose dues have not been paid on the member's renewal date shall be classed as delinquent. If their dues are paid within 30 days of expiration, the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the member is still delinquent 30 days after expiration, the member shall be suspended from all privileges. If the member is still under such suspension 120 days following expiration their membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues; however, the Posts, Departments and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

Dues may be paid in one of several ways. 1. Cash, check, or credit card at the December meeting. 2. Checks may be sent to our Post Office Box, 3. Credit cards may be paid over the phone to the Commander, a receipt will be texted or emailed by National within minutes.

Please help your Post help our Veterans by remaining a current member.

As you may have heard and saw the notice on the front page, the Post is moving our meeting place. We want to thank Ian McNary and CenterWell for accommodating us for these many months. We enjoyed our time there. But it is time to move on. Beginning with our January 2025 meeting, we will be at the Trails Community Center, 1910 Spring Gate Lane, 89134. We will meet on the 2nd SATURDAY of the month from 11:30 until 12:30. We will set up the room at 11:00 and we must be torn down and out by 1:00. There is limited parking in front of the building but loads of parking spaces on the rear. We are only allowed to book the room for 4 months out, so we are good through February. We cannot use the facility in June/July as it is packed with parade stuff for the 4th of July.

Joel Forman, Commander



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
FOR 2025 CAN BE DONE AT
THE UPCOMING MEETING**



THE ADJUTANT'S PEN

It not too late to pay your 2025 membership dues! A number of Post 76 members have not yet paid 2025 membership—your membership technically expires 31 December 2024. But it's not too late! To keep your Continuous Years streak intact, you can renew now and suffer no penalty—\$45.00 for 2025. Pay online or mail your payment to American Legion Post 76, PO Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133. You may call the Adjutant at (253) 691-0617, if you have any questions about your membership status.

Email updates continue to come in, but many Post 76 members are not on our mailing list. We use email for sending meeting reminders and other relevant information to keep members updated on important Veteran-related issues. If you haven't received a General Meeting reminder recently, you probably aren't on our list. You can call the Adjutant at (253) 691-0617 to update your correct email address or to add it to our database.

Stephen Daugherty, Adjutant

EXPANDED ACCESS TO MILITARY INSTALLATION COMMISSARY, EXCHANGE AND MWR FACILITIES

Under the 2019 John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, several new benefits became available for service-connected veterans. Many veterans are unaware of how to access these benefits, so hopefully this article will help guide you through these newer benefits and how to use them to your advantage.

Expanded access to military installations

Service-connected veterans, Purple Heart recipients, and former prisoners of war (and/or their registered caregivers) are now eligible to shop at military commissaries and exchanges in-person or through their online shopping portals. (It's important to note that all eligible veterans without service-connected disabilities are also authorized to shop the online exchanges accessible through www.shopmyexchange.com under their Veterans Privileges program.) Access to bases is subject to a background check, and requires eligible veterans to obtain a Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) denoting



one of the eligibility groups. A VHIC can be obtained in person at any VA Hospital or online at <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/>.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) facilities are now also available to service-connected, Purple Heart recipients and former POW's, in addition to those other categories that were previously eligible. These facilities include fitness centers, pools, and other recreational areas which may vary from installation to installation. Campgrounds, theaters, auto skills shops and more may be available depending on availability and installation commander rules.

MWR Hotels are also part of this expansion, which means that members of these newly eligible veteran groups (service-connected, Purple Heart, and/or former POW) are now also eligible for competitive rates at the MWR Hale Koa (Honolulu, HI) and the Shades of Green (Walt Disney World Resort, FL) and Dragon Hill Lodge (Seoul, South Korea) resorts. Most recently, the Hale Koa nightly rates are in the Priority Group III level, averaging between \$189-\$249

Veteran Health Information Card (VHIC) showing eligibility categories

per night for a quadruple occupancy room in July 2025. www.halekoa.com The Edelweiss Resort in Germany is not currently eligible for this expanded benefit due to existing status of forces agreements in place with the host government.

These are just a few of the newer benefits available to an expanded list of eligible veterans. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or feel free to do your own research. The VA website and the MWR websites have a lot of great information for eligible beneficiaries.

Chris Johns, 2nd Vice Commander

SOCK IT 2UM 2025

Eight years ago, "**The Spirit of Freedom**" Post 76 members initiated a community support program for our homeless veterans. Our aim then and now is to provide clean, warm socks for our homeless Brothers and Sisters during the chilly winter months here in the Las Vegas valley. The thought of Cold chilling winds whipping through our concrete canyons might be hard to imagine as we start coming off months of soaring triple-digit temperatures. But, as night follows day, winter will come, so now is the time for us to start seeking your support for this meaningful project. We need to order our sock supply well in advance of December so that we will be able to receive and distribute them through the VA Healthcare system in time for Christmas.

Socks are the #1 clothing need of those experiencing homelessness. The **Sock It 2Um Campaign** aims to place new socks on the feet of men, women, and children who are in need. You are asked to please participate by becoming a "**Sock It 2Um Ambassador**". You can do that by sharing information about this program with your friends and neighbors as well as on your social media platform.

Financial donations should be made payable to:



Spirit of Freedom, Post 76 and mailed to: *The American Legion, Post 76 at P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012*. Please indicate for Sock it 2 Um on the comment space. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Jack L. Ford, PDC, Program Chairman, "**Spirit of Freedom**" Post 76

POST 76 WINS 2 MAJOR NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION MEDIA AWARDS!

AMERICAN LEGION

Media & Communications

2024 Annual Contest

First Place

Website

Posts over 750

Presented to:

Dennis Christiansen

Post 76 in Las Vegas, Nev.

AMERICAN LEGION

Media & Communications

2024 Annual Contest

First Place

Social Media

Posts over 750

Presented to:

Roger Henning

Post 76 in Las Vegas, Nev.

The American Legion 2024 Media & Communications contest recognized the work of Legion Family members – Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Legion Riders – for what they do to promote the good of the organization across media channels.

There were a record 109 contest entries submitted for the seven categories. The winners were selected by a panel of judges and approved by the National Media & Communications Commission on 6 May 2024 during Spring Meetings.



Webmaster Dennis Christiansen receives his plaque from Commander Joel Forman as Sgt.-at-arms John Purcell watches.

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SCAN ME

Contact Patrick Morrissey patrick@morrisseyusa.com, Joseph "Jay" Sweeney jsweeney@ausa6.org or Tim Smith tangoe7@aol.com for more information. The Fremont meets monthly 4th Thursday of every month at 1730 hrs. at the **Arroyo Parkway Army Recruiting Station** (Near the CC-215 S. Rainbow exit). 7305 Arroyo Crossing Pkwy Suite 105, Las Vegas, NV 89118. Basic Membership is FREE for 2 years. **What is stopping you from joining?**



RADIO CLUB

Our net, that operates on Mondays, starting at 1900 hrs., sponsored by Post 76 is on the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club frequency of 146.940 VHF and 448.500 UHF, Standard negative offset 5hz, PL tone of 100 HZ. VHF & UHF linked all days, all hours.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS (ALR)

ALR is a program supported by a post or department of The American Legion and upholds the declared principles of The American Legion and conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted department governing body.



Our riders join with Post 149 for Breakfast rides at 800 hrs. Additional information — John Purcell (ALR) Phone: (631) 379-4955 msfd33@icloud.com

THANK YOU to our sponsors —

AUSA Fremont Chapter; KWVA Tibor Rubin Chapter; Centennial Hills Insurance Solutions; Fred E. Wagar; and Flanagan Financial LV.

With their continued support, it ensures that our newsletter will be published in the future!

POST 76 SUPPORTS R.C. WILLEY VETERAN FOOD DRIVE

This year R.C. Willey decided to sponsor a Veteran Food Drive at their furniture stores in three States (Utah, Nevada, and California). Our Post was asked to pick up the donated food at their Southwest store and get it to Share Village for their Thursday event in helping Veterans with canned and boxed food.

This was accomplished on November 21st, and all went well. Special thanks to Charmaine Meana (a member of Post 40) for coordinating this and to Walter Cheatham our Post Color Guard Captain for being at the event to hand out the food collected.

To the right is a picture of Walter (Buzz) Cheatham and Charmaine and her husband at the event.

We are hoping that R.C. Willey will continue this event yearly but, as of yet, we do not know this for sure



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



The mission of the SAL is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. The three areas are: 1) support for veterans and their families, 2) promoting patriotism and Americanism and 3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

Our local Squadron 76 is still in the process of organizing and needs more members. If you are interested in joining us or know of anyone looking to be of service to America that meets the criteria, contact Roger

Henning at nvpost76@gmail.com or (702) 595-1795.

POST 76 CONNECTS WITH STUDENT VETERANS



Post 76 and CSN Cheerleaders Make it Happen!

(L-R) Ashley Nygard, Solana Storey, Adjutant Steve Daugherty, Commander Joel Forman, Member Jon Asdourian, CSN Mascot, Yuri Alvarado

Your American Legion NV Post 76 was recently invited to the College of Southern Nevada (CSN), North Las Vegas campus, to participate in their student Veterans appreciation festivities.

The CSN administration, in conjunction with their Veterans Education & Transition Services (VETS) Center, sponsored a resources fair and luncheon to recognize and thank student Veterans for their service to the country. Post 76 furnished an

Information Table to provide Veteran-related information to the attendees. It was a great day to show the Colors and sew recruiting seeds.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 113TH ANNUAL TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

Your Legion Post 76 was recently invited to present the Colors and participate in a local ceremony and luncheon at the Spanish Trails Country Club in Las Vegas. Hosted by the Global Federation of Chinese Businesswomen, Las Vegas Chapter, and co-hosted by the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas, the event fetes the Republic of China's 113th annual Taiwan National Day (compare to US July 4th).

Ming-Chi Scott, Director-General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco was the keynote speaker. He emphasized the strength of the Taiwan-US relationship.

Congresswoman Susie Lee was an honored guest, who expressed support for the Taiwan-US relationship.

As many Veterans were stationed in Taiwan or had TDY tours to the area during the Cold War, Veterans from various service organizations in Southern Nevada were invited to attend as honorees.

The ceremony and luncheon presented a great opportunity for local Veterans to gain an appreciation for the Taiwanese issues with their homeland.



In photo to the left:

Post 76 Adjutant Steve Daugherty presents Certificate of Recognition to Sophia (Ya-Shun) Chuang, Director of Culture Center, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Milpitas



(L-R) Color Guard Captain Walter Cheatham, Legionnaire Larry Eisenberg, Legionnaire Jon Asdourian, Legionnaire Frank Timbers



((L-R) Fred Hagenbeek, Commander, VVA Chapter 1076; Stephen Daugherty, Adjutant, American Legion Post 76; Vincent Palmieri, Commander, Military Order of Purple Hearts, Chapter 711; Bob Bencsko, Commander, American Legion District 2; Vic Moss, Adjutant, American Legion Post 149; George Rivers, Col (Ret), USMC; Joel Forman, Commander, American Legion Post 76; VFW Nevada State Commander Representative; Phil Perlmutter, Captain (Ret), US Navy, American Legion Post 40.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED !!!

Now that the extreme heat levels have subsided have you had enough just sitting around the house watching stupid political ads and dumb daytime programs on TV, or just getting in your spouse's, (male or female) hair, the solution is here! Volunteer at the VA Hospital or at one of the VA Clinics near your home. Roam the facility as a "VA Ambassador", helping other Veterans find the resources they need, or as an Information Desk volunteer directing them to the area where they need to be. You can deliver mail, send out appointment reminders, drive a Comfort Cart, assist in the Canteen Services, or be a Fisher House Assistant. A big plus is that you will be important in helping our Veterans have a more comfortable and pleasant VA visit. There is also a need for Guitar and Creative Art Instructors. Whatever your interest or passion is, there is likely a place waiting for you. If you have an interest in volunteering, please contact:

Jack Ford, PDC at, ACChief@aol.com or cell # 702-493-2252

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR POST 76 LEGIONNAIRE SPONSORS

Gold Legacy Life Member



FRED E. WAGAR

Asst. Leg. Chair, Department of Nevada

10634 Cave Ridge St.
Las Vegas, NV 89179

Cell 775.857.9905

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Fred Wagars dedication to serving veterans continues even after his retirement from the Nevada Department of Veteran Services.

By taking on the role of VFW Assistant State Legislative Chair, he commits to advocating for veterans' interests at the Nevada State legislature. His efforts are crucial in ensuring that laws are passed which provide tangible benefits to the veteran community in Las Vegas and throughout Nevada.

Post 76 Legionnaire Fred Wagars work exemplifies the ongoing commitment to support those who have served their country, aiming to improve their quality of life through legislative change.

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Every year on the anniversary of D-Day, French citizens take sand from Omaha Beach and rub it onto the gravestones of fallen soldiers to create a golden shine. They do this for all 9,386 American soldiers buried there.

Right here in Las Vegas, volunteers from and other veteran or service organizations help "Wreaths Across America" join the grounds staff of the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on the weekend ahead of the ceremony and clean up the gravestones in preparation for the laying of wreaths ceremony that was held on December 14, 2024.

On that day, volunteers traveled again to the cemetery to attend the ceremony, and lay wreaths on the graves.

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Do you have a custom manual wheelchair, powerchair, or scooter that was provided by the VA and is in need of repair?

Call: 1-888-583-VETS (8387)

"No consult or appointment required."

Aviation Nation, 2025 Women of Aviation

An Air Show hosted by the Air Force plays a crucial role in fostering public interest and awareness in the field of aviation, serving as an educational and inspirational platform for individuals considering a career in this dynamic industry. Aviation history is rich with stories of courageous and determined women who have played pivotal roles in advancing the field. 4 April 2025 is Gratitude Day for Military Families and First Responders & Families. If you have base access you can attend 5-6 April Open to the Public. Gates open at 1000 and close at 1800



American Legion Post 76
P.O. Box 34012
Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

E Board Meeting — 9 January 2025, 4:30 pm — Summerlin Trails Community Center
GENERAL MEETING — 11 January 2025 11:30 am — Summerlin Trails Community Center
GENERAL MEETING — 8 February 2025 11:30 am — Summerlin Trails Community Center
E Board Meeting — 13 February 2025, 4:30 pm — Summerlin Trails Community Center
GENERAL MEETING — 8 March 2025 11:30 am — Summerlin Trails Community Center
E Board Meeting — 13 March 2025, 4:30 pm — Summerlin Trails Community Center

Several Post 76 members get together to socialize and have a breakfast **most Wednesdays 9:30 am** at:
HARVEST CAFÉ, 4835 W Craig Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89130

JOIN US!

There is a link to photos on the nvpost76.com under "GALLERY", then scroll down to "Harvest Café Breakfast to open up the photos from Jon Asdourian. You can play "Where's Waldo?".

Contact Commander Forman akan00001@gmail.com to be notified.



You are a member of an organization chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into today, one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.