



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 46 — October — December 2023

JOIN US FOR ENJOYABLE AND INFORMATIVE MEETINGS

Our Post meetings are meant to be both enjoyable and informative. With the summer heat becoming a thing of the past, and a line up of quality speakers, meetings will be a chance to sit with your buddies and enjoy a couple of hours in friendship and camaraderie. If you have not been to a meeting lately, you missed hearing from Dr. Komanduri, Chief of Staff at our V.A. Hospital, Col. Ryan Mihata, Commander of the Mike O'Callaghan Hospital at Nellis AFB, and Col. Joshua DeMott, base commander of both Nellis and Creech AFB. Two of our upcoming speakers will be a representative from Metro and a representative from The American Legion, Department of Nevada. All of the speakers have taken questions and comments from our members and remain after the meeting for individual concerns.

Membership, recruiting and retaining, remains an ongoing task for several of us who regularly attend Veteran events, not only in our area, but all over Southern Nevada. Without members, we would not be able to continue our mission under the Four Pillars of the American Legion. Membership dues are what drive your Post. Paying dues early in the year helps the Executive Board plan for the upcoming year. Payments received prior to 13 September are eligible for the "Early Bird" stamp on your 2024 membership card.

We do have a few Post 76 ball caps and Post 76 Tee shirts available for sale at the meetings

There are several Veteran events coming up in the coming months and our communications officer will attempt to keep everyone informed, however, he can not do this if we do not have your current email address. If it has recently changed or you have not been receiving any notices from the Post, let me or the Post Adjutant know by sending an email with the change.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming meetings.

Joel M. Forman, Post 76 Commander

Nevada Post 76 -- Spirit of Freedom: Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, Inspiring the Future; A Legion of Friends, A Family of Veterans

Join us for our **General Meetings** on the **3rd Sunday of each Month** starting promptly at **1330 hrs.** at the **Humana Community Center**
4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130, 89130

Doors open at 1300 and we have a social period after the meeting.

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*** VETERANS DAY ***
CAR SHOW & BBQ

Presented by
 VA SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
 in partnership with:

FRIDAY
10 NOV
 10am to 2pm

North Las Vegas VA Medical Center
 6000 North Pecos Road
 North Las Vegas, NV 89008
 Admission: No admission, No alcohol, No smoking

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
<https://www.va.gov/southern-nevada-health-system/events/>

Scan the QR Code for more info:
<https://www.va.gov/southern-nevada-health-system/events/>

VA

Southern Nevada
Veterans Creative Arts Competition
 Sept. 18, 2023 At the Charleston Heights Arts Center
 800 Brush Street, Las Vegas, NV 89107

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Over 130 categories including visual fine art, creative writing, dance, drama, and vocal and instrumental music. Veterans must be enrolled in receive care at a VA medical facility before entering a local competition. The top entry in each category will be submitted to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Each Veteran can enter up to 5 works in different categories. To sign up, send your submission to nhajagov@va.gov and add "SHVAC sign up" to the subject line.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS Discover the Arts

VA



Wednesday morning Breakfast Buddies at the Harvest Café. Join US! 0930 hrs.

2023 MONTHLY ASK-A-LAWYER

10AM - 12PM
 VA MEDICAL CENTER: RM 2B294

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023	WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11, 2023
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, 2023
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16, 2023	WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13, 2023
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, 2023	

OMLA OFFERS CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO NV MILITARY MEMBERS & VETERANS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS
 *OMLA DOES NOT ASSIST WITH CRIMINAL MATTERS

775.687.2140 NVAGOM.A@AG.NV.GOV

ZOOM MEETING UPDATE

- American Legion NV Post 76 is inviting you to a scheduled ZOOM meeting. The Zoom will be active before the formal meeting begins. The General Meeting begins at 1330 (1:30 PM) sharp, but we open the **ZOOM** to give everyone interested a chance to make sure they are online.

Topic: American Legion NV Post 76's Zoom Meeting
 Time: 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019263216?pwd=WTJqcUZqbDd0Um1DSlBWUXBQc1loQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1926 3216
 Passcode: 695407

POST 76 WEBSITE UPDATE

Our NEW Website is updated often. It is located at:

<https://www.nvpost76.com>



Scan this QR Code to access the ZOOM meeting with a camera equipped smartphone
 QR codes give you quick access to websites without having to type or remember a web address. You can use the Camera app to scan a QR code.
 How to scan a QR code with the Camera app

1. Open the Camera app from the Home Screen, Control Center, or Lock Screen.
2. Select the rear facing camera. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. Your device recognizes the QR code and shows a notification.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

Which ONE (s) ARE YOU?

American Legion Auxiliary

HONORING AMERICAN HEROES WORLDWIDE

Memorial Day in the United States is the day in which our nation annually remembers and honors those men and women who have died in our nation's wars. But, ceremonies to pay respects to our fallen comrades-in-arms is not limited to the US. Post 76 Legionnaire Stephen Daugherty recently had the privilege to participate in such a service in Taipei, Taiwan.

Background: During the period of 1944–1945, Allied airmen who had been shot down or crashed while on patrols over Taiwan were held as POWs in the Taipei prison by the Japanese Army. Thousands of Allied soldiers were also imprisoned in other POW camps around the island. On 29 May 1945, 14 American airmen from the POW prison in Taipei were given a "mock trial" and sentenced to death. The execution took place inside the prison courtyard only 58 days before the end of World War II. When the war ended, the rest of the men were released and returned home.

The plight of these warriors could have been lost in history. But, many years later, a single individual, Michael Hurst, a Canadian citizen now living in Taiwan, formed the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society and began to document the POW camp locations and prisoners held within. He managed to cut through red tape barriers and erect plaques to officially memorialize the allied soldiers and airmen held in the camps in many locations.



Figure 1: Official memorial plaque erected on the Taipei Prison Wall



Figure 2: The Prison Wall draped with US flag for Service of Remembrance ceremony



Figure 3: Service of Remembrance message participants: Lt. Gen. Chang, Huey-Zon (ret.), former Deputy Commander, Taiwan Air Force; Michael Hurst MBE, Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society; Felix Wang, Taiwan Veterans Affairs Council

One such plaque recognizes the 14 US airmen above (See Figure 1, 2). The inscription reads in part: "This plaque is placed here in honor and memory of all the allied airmen who were held in the former Taipei Prison by the Japanese Army in 1944-45, and the fourteen American airmen who were needlessly executed here on June 19, 1945." This location is named "The Taipei Prison Wall" and is the site for annual Service of Remembrance ceremonies, co-sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9957 and the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society.

On 18 June 2023, a Service of Remembrance to honor the 14 American airmen who were needlessly executed was held at the Taipei Prison Wall plaque. Tributes were brought from Lt. Gen. Chang, Huey-Zon (Ret), former Deputy Commander of the Taiwan Air Force; Michael Hurst, POW Camp Memorial Society; and Felix Wang, Taiwan Veterans Affairs Council (See Figure 3) and others. The names of the 25 interned American airmen were read, messages (See Figure 4) from various members, and a prayer were shared. Finally, wreaths were laid, Taps played, a minutes' silence, Reveille, and a final solemn salute to the fallen airmen (See Figure 5) close the program.



Figure 4. American Legion Post 76 Adjutant Stephen Daugherty shares a message



Figure 5: Allies pay a final farewell to the fallen American airmen held in the Taipei prison.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 76 "SPIRIT OF FREEDOM"/BOYS AND GIRLS OF TROOP 312 AND PACK 312



A panoramic view of all of the 2023 Legion and Scout participants.



The 1st echelon of at least 5 rows of marchers.



Commander Forman with Mrs. and Miss Nevada

It was another scorcher for The Summerlin Council Patriotic Parade. The Patriotic Parade drew an estimated 50,000 people, who sat alongside streets of The Trails Village, to witness 70 entries march down nearly a mile. The council says over 2,500 people were in the parade, 500 volunteers supported the operations, and 20,000 cubic feet of helium kept 20 giant balloons in the air.

The American Legion NV Post 76 "Spirit of Freedom", and our chartered Scout troops and Pack marched and showed the Post and Troop colors and patriotism of our members and scouts. Our Post is the 2nd largest in NV, largest not serving alcohol and focuses on service to veterans, service members and communities. Our chartered Scout Troops 312 include a young man's and young women's troops. In addition we charter a Cub Pack. The Cubs showed unbelievable stamina as they marched the almost 1 mile (the last 2/3rds up hill) in the stifling heat.

We have "been there, done that". As such, Legionnaires understand sacrifice and they know well the hardships that accompany military service. The men and women of The American Legion stand ready to assist our nation's newest veterans and their families engaged in the Global War on Terror.

In voting that took place for weeks after the parade, enough of you were diligent in voting for our entry so the Winner of 1st Place in the Resident Choice Award 2023 was **American Legion Post 76 "Spirit of Freedom"/Boys and Girls of Troop 312 and Pack 312!**



Sock-it-2UM Time

"Spirit of Freedom" Nevada Post 76 members initiated a community support program for homeless veterans six years ago. Our aim then and now is to provide clean, warm socks for our homeless Brothers and Sisters during the cold 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. We think of socks as **only** going on our feet, but the homeless find them useful as well to keep their hands warm during those cold nights.

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 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 (SOF76). Please mail your donation, however small or large to:



Sock-it-2UM Program
Spirit of Freedom NV Post 76
P.O. Box 34012
Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012



Thanks for your support, *Jack Ford, PDC, Program Chairman*

IMPORTANT NOTE! Nellis Air Force Base is moving up its Aviation Nation show from its traditional November dates to April. The free air show is **now scheduled for 6 and 7 April 2025**.

ARE YOU RECEIVING EMAIL FROM POST 76?

A recent change in how mass emails are handled by most receiving email service providers has impacted how mail sent by us is delivered to you. As a result, we needed to change our free email delivery service.

We do not have valid email addresses for many of our members. It could be transcription typos because the area on the application is so small to handwrite the address, or you have chosen not to provide us with one on your renewals. We only have email addresses from about 500 of our over 1000 members on our roster. Whereas we only had a few that were rejected in 2022, this year, we have had 75 that "bounced", either because the address was invalid or the mailbox was full.

In the next few months, our Chaplain will be making "buddy check" calls, the purpose of which is just to check on your well being, **not to solicit anything else**. If he could check to see if you have a valid email address, that would help us immensely keep in touch with you. Otherwise, if you did not receive any email recently from us, send us an email to **NVPost76@gmail.com**. We promise that the number of emails per month will be three or less, not spam or sales but information on meetings, important veteran information, or special events.

UNIT 76 NEWS

OCTOBER

We will be hosting an **Open House for new members** on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at Humana, 12:30-1:30 pm. Please encourage your wives, daughters and/or granddaughters to come and find out what we do and see how friendly we are!

Thursday, October 19, 2023 we will be holding a **Dining Fundraiser at Lucille's BBQ, 11011 W. Charleston Blvd. 11am-10 pm.** Thanks to Patricia St. Clair for organizing this.

Unit 76 will begin pre-selling Christmas Party tickets! Corinne Forman is our chairman and has put together a wonderful evening of festive dining, entertainment and a raffle for all of us to enjoy. **SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 16, 2023.** 5-9 pm at Las Vegas Meadows Senior Living, 2900 So Valley View, 89102.

NOVEMBER

This is the first time that we will be participating in **Operation Warmheart.** We plan to sponsor two families this year.

November 19 Meeting - Unit 76 will be offering a delectable sampling of foods featured in our recipe book. Bring a friend, family member or neighbor – there will be plenty to go around and our books should be ready for purchase. Christmas Party tickets will be available for purchase.

DECEMBER

On December 16, 2023, we will be hosting the Post 76 Christmas Party. 5-9 pm. Las Vegas Meadows Senior Living, 2900 So. Valley View. Shhh...a lucky person will have a chance to win the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 76 Cookbook!

Unit 76 will not be holding a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2023.



Veteran's Expo

Presented by Humana

Veterans! Join us as we celebrate you, honor your service and provide countless resources available to assist you with things like:

- Banking
- Home Loans
- Mental Health
- Mobility
- Medical
- Housing
- Legal
- Family Services
- End of Life
- Food
- Clothing
- Rehabilitation

FREE ADMISSION
11am - 4pm

Gulf War Veterans
Santa Fe Station Casino
Saturday, Sept 9, 2023

Women Veterans
Galleria Mall Sunset Rd.
Saturday, Nov 11, 2023

VENDORS: info@ProExpoLV.com (702) 331.1350 www.ProExpoLV.com



Thank you for your service!



SCOUTING UPDATE

The BSA Las Vegas Area Council in association with sponsor Safari Club International put on a “*Shooting Sports Day*” event on August 26, 2023. The event was held at the Pro Gun Vegas gun club near Boulder City. Post 76 Legionnaire members Steve Bickford and Pete Cervantes were there to help sixteen Scouts earn their Rifle Shooting Merit Badges.



Steve led the classroom discussion with Pete’s assistance. There were plenty of “Show ‘N Tell” items to go along with what was being said.

A heavy emphasis was on safe gun handling along with learning about different rifle types and how to use & clean them.

Afterwards Pete took the Scouts to the range to put into practice what they learned in the classroom. All Scouts were using .22 LR Bolt Action Rifles.



The main take away from the class was ...**Safety, Safety, and Safety.**

Remember these **THREE fundamental NRA rules** for safe gun handling.

1. **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Steve is a BSA Rifle Shooting Merit Badge Counselor.

2023 MEMBERSHIP PINS AWARDED

National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola has authorized the 2023 membership pin for the following Post 76 Legionnaires who were responsible for recruiting, in some way, 3 new members, who were not members of the American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.



Walter Cheatham
Dennis Christiansen
Stephen Daugherty
Larry Eisenberg
Joel Forman

Roger Henning
Richard Hoffer
David McNeill
Michael Percival
Michael Romero

Timothy Smith
Frank Timbers

GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT

The American Legion Gold Medal of Merit is awarded by members of Post 76 to a Legionnaire who "distinguished himself or herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Veterans Community and to the Post". The medal was awarded to Roger Henning , our Newsletter Editor and Communications Officer. He has served the Legion for 18 years both at the Post and District levels.





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

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

GENERAL MEETING — 15 October 2023, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130

GENERAL MEETING — 19 November 2023, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130

GENERAL MEETING — 17 December 2023, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130

Upcoming E Board Meetings this quarter are expected to be at the Trails Center. The meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1630 (4:30 PM)

FOR MORE EVENTS USE THIS LINK TO WEBPAGE CALENDAR —> <https://www.nvpost76.com/events>



If interested in **breakfast or just coffee with Post 76 legionnaires**, we usually meet every Wednesday at the **Harvest Cafe** at 0930 hrs. If interested, contact Director Forman to be added to his email list. It has gotten very popular; he needs to know who may be coming to let the Café know how many tables and chairs we may need to stay together.

EXPLANATION OF AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from 1 January to 31 December

IF as of 1 January 2024 you have not paid, you will be considered expired. If you have not already paid your 2024 dues, by paying your dues now, you help our Post have the resources to support programs that benefit both veterans and families in our area. If your membership card says 2024, you are current.

Our Fiscal Year is July—June of each year. If you have not renewed, You MAY continue to receive notices to “please renew for Fiscal Year 2024”. If you have already renewed and receive a notice, ignore it.