



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 41 — July — September 2022

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Dear Post 76 Legionnaires, It is my utmost honor to have been elected to serve as your commander for the upcoming year, I learned quite a bit about you, about our Post, and about The American Legion in the past two years serving as your First-Vice Commander. I am keenly aware of the weight that has been bestowed upon my shoulders and I am happy to take on this role. As some of you may be aware, I have the distinction of serving as Post 76's first female commander. As such, one of my goals is to reach out to our female veterans in a more intentional way. Additionally, I want to reach out to younger veterans. Our core of Legionnaires which has held this post up for so many years is ready to cheer on the next group. Those that came before us paved the way for us and I want to encourage others to follow in our footsteps.

The American Legion as a whole is making efforts to reach a wider variety of veterans and we are no exception to that. Some of you may find this hard to believe, but when I went to the National American Legion College last November I was the youngest attendee, by about 20 years! I will be working to expand our use of various social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc. in an effort to reach out to a younger veteran population. This should make our post more approachable and make the younger potential members more aware of current veterans' available benefits, assistance, and support resources.

I am also very excited to plan more member activities such as barbecues, bowling nights, and other socializing events. After two years of interruptions to how we interact with each other, I am eager to see all of you at social events. We are working on a bowling event in August or September. We are also continuing to better our online meeting platform for those of you that may not be able to join us in person. I want to make sure that we meet the needs of every one of our members.

Thank you to all who helped prepare for and those who attended our 20th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. The first time I participated in this ceremony was eight years ago, and it is still one of my favorite events to go to each year. This day is for our brothers and sisters who cannot attend this service and are here only in our memories. This event is a reflection of our ability to come together as a community for great things. One of these great things we are wanting to come together for is a Veterans Memorial to be placed at the Lakes South Park. Our very own Director Jack Ford has been working tirelessly coordinating all the moving parts to make this vision a reality. We have raised about 1/3 of the funds needed to make this memorial come true. If you or anyone you know, including local businesses, would like to help make this Veteran Memorial a permanent fixture in our community, please reach out to us.

I would like to thank Junior Past Post Commander Tony Mascari for his mentorship and guidance over the last two years. I know I have big shoes to fill.

I look forward to a great year serving as your commander. Thank you for bestowing your trust in me.

Warm Regards, Pranava Moody

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ANNUAL ELECTION AT THE APRIL 2022 MEETING

Post 76 held its annual elections during our regularly scheduled general meeting on 24 April 2022 at the Humana Community Center. Complete position descriptions can be requested from the Adjutant and will be published on our webpage. The following Legionnaires were elected to the positions:

COMMANDER - Pranava Moody.

1st VICE COMMANDER - Tim Smith

2nd VICE COMMANDER - Walter Cheatham

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS - Scott Moody

The Commander is still looking to appoint Legionnaires to the following offices: ***Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Historian and Chaplain.***

There are openings for Legionnaires willing to volunteer to chair or serve on the following committees:

Membership, Americanism, Children & Youth (which includes Boys State Representative), Finance, Public Relations, Service, and Ways & Means

Short Bios of the new officers are included on later pages.

Commanders Bio:

Pranava Moody has been married to Scott for 21 years and together they have four boys: Michael, Matthew, Mark, and Martin. Pranava is a Disabled Veteran and has dedicated much of her time advocating for her fellow veterans helping them overcome their afflictions. She joined the Air Force in August of 1996 and served until December 2005. She was stationed at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; Osan AB, Republic of Korea; Landstuhl AB, Germany; and Andrews AFB, MD. She was a Services Craftsman, serving as a Food Service Manager in Arizona and Korea, as a Sports Director in Germany and Maryland, and as the Training & Deployment Manager and the NCOIC of Mortuary Affairs in Maryland. Pranava received numerous accolades during her time on active duty, including multiple Airman and NCO of the Quarter and Year awards, a Volunteer of the Year award, Outstanding Team & Program during Unit Compliance Inspections, as well as being the first enlisted person to receive the Andrews AFB Sam Fox Service Award. She was awarded the following decorations during her time in service: Air Force Achievement Medal with 4 devices, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon/Rifle and Pistol with one device, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, Korean Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with 2 devices,



Pranava earned her Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies, Magna Cum Laude from UNLV in December 2018, she earned her Master of Arts in Urban Leadership from UNLV in May 2021. She is currently starting her third and final year at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV and was recently elected as the Student Bar Association President. Pranava competed in state and national pageants and was Mrs. Nevada, Mrs. Veteran Global Nations, and Lady U.S Premier World. Pranava has been a volunteer with Boy Scouts of America for 15 years, serving in many positions in three different councils. She founded Boy Troop 312 on September 11, 2017, and Girl Troop 312 on February 1, 2019. She has mentored the first female Eagle Scout in the Las Vegas Valley along with eight other Eagle Scouts. She has been awarded the national Silver Beaver award and the Vigil Honor--the highest honor in the Order of the Arrow, the honor society of Boy Scouts of America.



DIRECTOR JACK FORD RECEIVES “NEVADA VETERAN OF THE MONTH” AWARD

The Veteran of the Month award recognizes the volunteer work done to benefit Nevada’s veterans, servicemembers and families. The public ceremony provided Jack Ford with the thanks he deserved and to raises awareness to the public in general about volunteer opportunities available to support or benefit Nevada’s veterans’ community.

For the month of April 2022, Post 76 Past Department Commander and current Director Jack Ford received the award from Governor Steve Sisolak. In addition to all he does for our Post, Jack routinely can be seen at the VA as a “Red Coat Ambassador”, a commitment to excellence while assisting our nation’s Veterans. He has also organized our Sock It 2 UM campaign to provide socks to the homeless and those unable to buy their own warm socks.



1st Vice Commanders Bio:

1st Vice Commander Tim Smith served on active-duty Army from 1981-1998 until Honorably Discharged.

He was elected to the Beverly City Council and held the position of City Councilor until leaving the council to work in the area of Veterans Services. He then assumed the duties of Post Commander in the VFW in Massachusetts in 2005 and worked every position in the VFW of Massachusetts culminating in becoming State Commander in 2012-2013. Finishing my time in the VFW, I was recognized four separate years as a Century Recruiting which resulted in over four hundred NEW paid members in the Massachusetts VFW.

Though a majority of my time has been spent in the VFW, I have been a regular member and PUFL member of the American Legion since 1993. I spend much of my time working JROTC and Scouting projects as in the case of the Association of US Army and the Korean War Veterans.

I attended and graduated the Warrior-Scholar Program at Syracuse University. I have attended Bunker Hill Community College in Boston Massachusetts and moved to Nevada in 2018.

The majority of my spare time is spent working projects with the following groups and associations, The Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans of Southern Nevada, The Association of the US Army (Vice President of R.O.T.C and J.R.O.T.C Relations), The Spirit of Freedom American Legion Post 76 (First Vice Commander), The Phantom Airborne Brigade (Paratrooper) 2015-Present, 101st Airborne Division Association, and currently a seated member of the North Las Vegas City Charter Committee, and a strong and lead supporter of the City of North Las Vegas Veterans Resource Center which is the 1st of its kind in Nevada and being currently built.

Sergeant at Arms Bio:

Scott Moody spent 22 years in the United States Air Force in the Security Forces career field and is excited and honored to serve as the Sergeant at Arms. He hails from Danvers, MA and entered the service In September 1992. His Air Force journey included assignments to Malmstrom AFB, MT; MacDill AFB, FL; Osan AB, Korea; Ramstein AB, Germany; Andrews AFB, MD; Kirtland AFB, NM, and Creech AFB, NV. His responsibilities were mainly split between duties surrounding Air Force One and Nuclear Security. He spent four years as a Nuclear Surety Inspector and was identified as the Air Force's Inspector of the Year in 2010. In addition to his several assignments, Scott deployed to many locations throughout Southwest Asia in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Scott has worked at the Venetian Resort, in Security Management since his retirement from the Air Force in 2014.

Scott is married to Pranava Moody. The two of them met while they were both stationed in Osan AB, Korea and were married in September of 2000. They have four sons, Michael, Matthew, Mark, and Martin. Scott, and his entire family have been deeply involved in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program. Scott and all four of his sons are Eagle Scouts, and both Pranava and Scott are the recipients of the prestigious Silver Beaver award. For the past four years, Scott was the Vice-Council Commissioner having leadership and oversight of all BSA units in Southern Nevada, and some of the units across the border into California and Arizona. Additionally, Scott and Pranava started a Scout Troop for boys on September 11th, 2017 and a Scout Troop for girls on February 1st, 2019. He is the Committee Chair for both units and the Cubmaster for the feeder pack.



AFA RENAMED AIR & SPACE FORCES ASSOCIATION

After 76 years as the preeminent voice for American air and space power, AFA announced it is changing its name to better match its mission. It will henceforth be known as the **Air & Space Forces Association**.

Bobbi Oates, one of our Post 76 legionnaires, has been named the National Director, West Area, for the organization

The Air & Space Forces Association is the only professional military association exclusively dedicated to promoting dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong National Defense. Founded in 1946 as a non-profit membership association, AFA has been dedicated to educating the public on critical issues in air power, space power, and national security, advocating for dominant U.S. Air and Space Forces as the foundation of a strong national defense, supporting Airmen, Guardians, and their Families, and honoring the enduring heritage of America's Air and Space Forces and veterans.

WHO ARE WE? (DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR POST)

American Legion Post 76...we are:

Service	# members
U.S. Army	262
U.S. Air Force	231
U.S. Navy	153
U.S. Marines	56
U.S. Coast Guard	11

War Era	# members
Vietnam	410
Korea	72
Persian Gulf	67
Lebanon/Grenada	53
Gulf War	48
Other	23
WW II	17
Panama	14

We have active members in 27 other states and one foreign country.

POST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Post 76 Color Guard for Navy Reunion L-R, Finance Officer Dennis, Ham Radio Club Larry, PDC Joel, Commander Pranava & S.A.A. Scott



Presenting awards at Palo Verde Air Force Junior ROTC ceremony.



Eight of our Legionnaires attended on Saturday, 28 May 2022, at the Galleria Mall, Henderson, NV., Veterans Fair, Recruiting & Information Table.

This started off slowly, but finished with 2 Brand new Legion members, 1 Post 100 transfer & 1 Post 76 renewal.

Thanks to all who gave their time to aid our veterans.



Fred Wagar Dir NDVS at the fire pit



Tony Mascari-jr PPC

Congratulations for achieving 92% retention in membership for year 2021-2022

TOPS IN THE DEPARTMENT



New SAL Squadron Forming
(dual membership and multi generation qualifiers allowed)

Contact Mike St Clair
(316) 655-5446 dakraut@live.com

OUR HISTORIAN WAS ON THE LATEST HONOR FLIGHT



Honor Flight Friday April 29th to Sunday May 1st

By Gary Parriott, Post 76 Historian

Saturday we visited the primary war memorials starting with The Marine Corps War Memorial depicting the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima and had a group photo taken. This is one of the most popular memorials amongst all servicemen. Next we visited the WWII memorial and nearby Lincoln Memorial. While at the WWII memorial we had another group photo taken and watched a precision Drill Team present the Colors and heard a rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner sung. While viewing the WWII inscriptions we had an opportunity to visit with other Honor Flight Groups from New York and Hawaii. During the balance of the day we visited the Korean War and Vietnam Veterans Memorials, made a brief stop at the impressive Air Force Memorial, and visited Arlington National Cemetery to watch the changing of the Guard and wreath laying. The final stop of the day was at the National Archives and nearby Navy Memorial. Everywhere we went we were enthusiastically greeted and thanked for our service. The accompanying photo was taken by my assigned Guardian at the WWII Memorial with the Washington Monument seen in the background and the United States flag flying.

QR CODE OR LINK TO ALL UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING ZOOM

Since Humana has set up a recurring zoom meeting for our General Meeting I thought of another way to disseminate that information to the membership. It appears the login credentials remain the same, month to month, so we could convey that information via the newsletter in each edition - if this proves viable. I've created a QR Code which has the zoom website info so that will simplify the process of joining the meeting for cell phone users. Any iPhone or Android cell phone's camera will recognize the link contained in the QR Code and will direct the browser to the meeting. Suggested QR code explanation: This QR code provides a link to our General Meeting that is held on the 3rd Sunday of every month, starting at 1:30 pm. Simply point your cell phone camera at this QR Code and follow to the website with your browser.

Meeting URL:

<https://humana.zoom.us/j/95433436552?pwd=cm0zdCtsUzcxWVc0enBtUjBMZz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID:

954 3343 6552

Passcode:

438744

Join by Phone

One tap mobile:

US: +13126266799,95433436552#,# or Toll Free: 8887880099,95433436552#,#



If you would like to correct our distribution list, email your contact information to:

nvpost76@gmail.com

In addition to email from MailChimp, we have three electronic outlets:

1. Our WEBPAGE: <https://NVPost76.org>
2. FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV
3. TWITTER: www.twitter.com/ALPost76LV

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The Special 20th Annual Lakes Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Monday 30 May, 2022, solemnly and promptly at 9:00 AM. The Silver State Flute Choir performed patriotic music at 8:30 AM as the crowd arrived.

The media label this day as the official beginning of summer. Some in the media say that it is a day to CELEBRATE and honor ALL the men and women who serve and have served, as well as those who paid the ultimate price. They are incorrect.

MEMORIAL DAY is that special day where we DO NOT CELEBRATE but HONOR and remember with humility and gratitude those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms and our way of life.

The ceremony at The Lakes, organized by the American Legion Nevada Post 76, drew nearly 200 people including several members of the Gold Star Wives of America.



Silver State Flute Choir performed before the ceremony



The crowd had comfortable seating in the shade



Post 76 Commander Moody was Master of Ceremonies



Post 14 Commander Tasby and Don Freund performed the POW/MIA Table Ceremony



The City of Las Vegas, courtesy of Councilwoman Victoria Seaman and Events Coordinator Christie Garness, provided excellent infrastructure for the ceremony



Councilwoman Seaman and WWII Vet Jack Ford place the wreath on the water while Centennial and Palo Verde Cadet Commanders watch

SCOUTING UPDATE



Boy and Girl Troops 312 are excited to announce four new Eagle Scouts! Chase L., Mark M., Martin M., and Alex S. are all excited to have reached this great milestone.

On Saturday, 4 June 2022 at the Scouting Resource Center 7220 South Paradise Road, 9 Post 76 Legionnaires attended the EAGLE (Scout) Court of Honor

Mark M. was awarded the Vigil Honor, the highest honor in the Order of the Arrow.

Sandy Lane, Kristi Siegmund, and Nate L., all sealed their commitment to the Order of the Arrow, the honor society of Boy Scouts of America, in their Brotherhood ceremony.



SUMMERLIN PATRIOTIC PARADE — JULY 4, 2022

After two years of virtual parades online only, the Summerlin Patriotic Parade returned in its full glory.

Post 76, "Spirit of Freedom" Post has participated in this Patriotic Parade for more than a decade. Post 76 this year is accompanied by the three Boy Scouts of America units that they charter. Troop 312 Boys, Troop 312 Girls, and Pack 312, which serve the youth of Southern Summerlin.

Post 76 provided its *famous Color Guard*, as well as our sponsored cub scout pack and scout troops who either marched with us or rode in a decorated trailer for the younger cub scouts and Senior Legionnaires. In addition, two Eagle Scouts rode in a classic red Mustang carrying an American Flag as they interacted with the crowd!





American Legion NV Post 76
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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

E Board Meeting —14 July 2022, 4:30 pm Location TBD

GENERAL MEETING — 17 July 2022, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130

E Board Meeting —11 August 2022, 4:30 pm Summerlin Trails Community Center

GENERAL MEETING — 21 August 2022, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130

E Board Meeting —8 September 2022, 4:30 pm Summerlin Trails Community Center

GENERAL MEETING — 18 September 2022, 1:30 pm at Humana 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130



Join us on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month from 0930 -1030 at the Veterans Coffee Club at HUMANA Community Center 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130, 89130. Contact Dennis Christiansen @ (702) 429-3724 because sometimes we meet at the Harvest Cafe across the street.

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from 1 January to 31 December
IF You have not yet paid 2022 dues, you are now expired. By paying your dues, you help our Post have the resources to support programs that benefit both veterans and families in our area.
Our Fiscal Year is July—June of each year. You will be receiving “EARLY BIRD” notices to renew for the 2023 calendar year. Please renew because it helps us cover costs early in our fiscal year.