



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 25 — October 2018 — December 2018

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Congratulations are in order for our own Immediate Past Commander of Post 76 Joel Forman!

Joel M. Forman was elected on July 15, 2018 as Department Commander for The American Legion Department of Nevada.

A Vietnam War Era Veteran who served in the U.S. Army for six years as a combat medic/pharmacist. He is a 13 year member of *Spirit of Freedom* Post 76 in Las Vegas and was Post Commander for 4 years,

He also served as 2nd District Commander for 2 years and a Department Officer for the past 3 years (1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and Sergeant at Arms).

Joel has been married for 48 years, he and his wife have 2 daughters and seven grandchildren. He was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts and is a 1970 graduate of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and owned a pharmacy for 23 years.

He is a graduate of The American Legion College, class of 2016. He has represented The American Legion at 771 interments of unaccompanied Veterans at the Southern Nevada Memorial Cemetery (as of July with more coming every week). He is a member of the Color/Honor Guard for his Post.

He is a member of the Selective Service System for Clark County. He also serves the Clark County Election Department during Primary and General Elections.

(Source: Department of Nevada Website)



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DEPARTMENT SERGEANT AT ARMS



Another congratulations are in order! Michael H. Shephard was elected on July 15, 2018 as Department Sergeant At Arms for the American Legion Department of Nevada. He is a Vietnam Era Veteran and served in both the Illinois and California National Guard. He was trained for Vietnam service as an Infantry mortar crewman, graduated from AIT in 1970 at Fort Ord, California. He was mobilized, along with his unit for riot duty twice during civil unrest and riot duty at The University Of Illinois. He volunteered for service at the Northern Warfare Training Center in Fort Greely, Alaska in 1971 and graduated from the Arctic Warfare School. He transferred to a new National Guard Unit in California in 1972. He trained for and became a Tank Commander. He received an honorable discharge as a Staff Sgt. E-6 from both the Illinois and California National Guard in 1975.

He is a Journeyman Electrician and owned his own Electrical Contracting Business in California. He has been married for 49 years. He has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. His middle grandson has just enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He

is a 13 year member of The American Legion, is a member of Spirit of Freedom, Post 76, has served 4 years as Boys State and Oratorical Contest Chairman for his Post, 2 terms as 1st Vice Commander for his Post, 2 terms as 2nd Vice Commander, District 2, 2 terms as 1st Vice Commander District 2, 4 years as District 2, Chairman Boys State and Oratorical Contest. Has been appointed as Chairman of Department of Nevada Boys State Committee. Michael is a member of the Color/Honor Guard for his Post.

TIME MARCHES ON

Since I was appointed as Post 76 Adjutant last October, I have been working very hard to master the process and procedures necessary to keep our Post on top. The Post has gone through some changes since my appointment and I want to take a moment to review.

We elected some new Post officers last April. In May, our excellent former Post Adjutant and 2nd Vice Commander, Steve Daugherty, left the Post by moving to Hawaii. In June, our 1st Vice Commander, and our 2nd Vice Commander, Mike Shephard and Buzz Cheatham, were elected 1st Vice Commander and Sergeant-at-Arms respectively in the District 2 elections. During the Department Convention in August, our esteemed Past Post Commander and Past District 2 Commander, Joel Forman, was elected Department of Nevada Commander, and our dedicated past First Vice Commander, Mike Shephard, was elected Sergeant-at-Arms. While our District 2 and Department of Nevada colleagues gained some very dedicated and excellent leaders, our Post will still benefit from the experience and assistance of ex-Post leaders Joel and Mike, and Buzz remains our 2nd Vice Commander, and Captain of the Color guard.

Many things have changed, but all the good things we do as a Post remain as excellent examples of service to veterans, service to community, service to country, and service to youth.

CONFRONTING THE FUTURE

The new membership year began on July 1st. Our members have been renewing on a regular basis, but we as a Post have dropped in the renewal rate list of Posts to 4th place. If you have not yet renewed for 2019, please do so as soon as possible. You can renew on line with a credit or debit card at legion.org or by sending a check or money order to the Post at **P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012**. If you do your part, we will increase our standing, but we are also trying to look to the future to examine ways to recruit younger veterans to our cause. The standard methods we are using are not as effective as they have been in the past. Younger vets say they don't feel valued by older vets sometimes and they complain that we have no presence on social media that they use daily (**Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+, Tumblr, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, YouTube, Facebook Live, Periscope, Vimeo**). I would like to ask any members who have knowledge or expertise with any of these platforms to step up and volunteer to help get us involved with these technologies. Send me a text message on 702-619-2873 or an email to pi-lot121@yahoo.com if you would like to be a pioneer for Post 76.

Tom Mahon, Adjutant

SUMMERLIN PATRIOTIC PARADE JULY 4, 2018

Many are good at talking, but do little. Others do a lot but don't talk about it; they're the ones who make a community live.

Congratulations to the sharpest looking color guard unit in the Summerlin Patriotic Parade 2018. A second place award. This was an outstanding job by those who participated and again won a award like last year's two awards.

It was warm, but not as warm as in recent years past. It was dry, thank goodness. Several members of The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Disabled American Veterans either marched or rode in the Summerlin Patriotic Parade on July 4, 2018 to the delight of some 40,000+ spectators! Many, more than in the past, rose to their feet, clapped and saluted as we passed, showing appreciation for Old Glory, The Nevada State, The V.V.A., The D.A.V., The American Legion and the flags of the services (the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force and US Coast Guard) as we passed in review. Several members who wanted to participate but could not march, rode, courtesy of the Model T Club of Southern Nevada.

Most of the marchers made it to the finish line, one of the group had to leave midway due to his recently repaired hips giving way, and one of our Chapter members, left the comfort of the Model T, in which he was a passenger, due to recent surgery, and took our fallen flag bearer's colors and carried it until the end of the parade.



It was a time for camaraderie, for friendship, and a short time to spend with our brothers and sisters in many Veteran Organizations who carried or rode with their flags.

A second place win was in the category of Summerlin Resident Choice Award.



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Greetings Post 76 Legionnaires !!

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to begin my 2nd term as your Chaplain.

Post 76 is a truly unique post, in that , it is far and away the most active post I have ever seen.

The genuine concern and care of fellow veterans and the American Legion's mission is inspiring. As National Commander Rohan pointed out in her speech to our post, we are a family, and it is our commitment as Legionnaires to continue serving.

For me, my service to God and country is sacred. I have been a member of the American Legion for the past 10 years, and have served as a Chaplain for 8 of those years. First, with Post 51, and now, here with 76.

I want all of our members to know that I am available to assist in spiritual matters. Though my official duties are considered non denominational, I am happy to assist Legionnaires of any faith.

Let us remember that the success of the post, and in fact, The American Legion, relies on us. The more active in the community we are, the more we will reach veterans, and be of service to them.

My prayers are with you all.

Tony Mascari, Chaplain

POST 76 COLOR GUARD AND LEGIONNAIRES RIDING IN VETERANS DAY PARADE

Post 76 proudly will march in the Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2018 accompanied by Model T Fords driven by members of the Las Vegas Model T Club. The Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade is the second largest parade in the nation – second only to New York. While Las Vegas is known for many attributes, including the title of the Entertainment Capital of the World, most people don't know that every major veterans organization in southern Nevada participates in the annual Veterans' Day Parade. The parade includes all the schools with JROTC units, congressionally recognized organizations, civic and commercial entities. Veterans' organizations from the surrounding states (California, Arizona and Utah) regularly participate in the Las Vegas Veterans' Day Parade. ALL LEGIONNAIRES ARE WELCOME! For information on participating, contact the Color Guard Captain, Walter Cheatham Phone: (702) 741-4415, email: buzzcheatham@gmail.com.



MT. KIMBALL BOY SCOUT SUMMER CAMP



Located at the base of Mt. Potosi, about 35 minutes southwest of Las Vegas and 15 to 20 degrees cooler, beautiful Kimball Scout Reservation is an ideal place for Scouts looking for adventure and advancement. Taking a step back into history, Kimball has been renovated to resemble an old mining town. The adventure begins with over 20 merit badges to choose from, and advancement programs designed to get your younger Scouts

to their First Class Rank.

Scouts can earn one or more of the hiking segments by taking many different mountain hikes that lead to spectacular views of the Las Vegas Valley, including an unforgettable night hike that overlooks the light filled valley. In June, Legionnaire Paul Hestand supported Kimball Boy Scout summer camp off Blue Diamond Road at Potosi NV. Paul ran the First Aid Station while also supporting training for the First Aid Merit Badge and the Rifle Marksmanship Merit Badge. If you are interested in working with the Boy Scouts, contact Paul at +1 (702) 401-8089 or email at p4979h@gmail.com



Paul Hestand, Past Post Commander

LEGIONNAIRE LOANS AUTHENTIC M1 RIFLES TO COLOR GUARD

George Curcio, a Korean War veteran and a member of American Legion Post 76 for several years, has been making his two M1s available to our Color Guard for flag postings, parades and other events.

George was born in a little town near Greenwich, Connecticut called Cos Cob in 1931. He lived there until 1942 when his father, who had a general contractor's license in Connecticut, packed up the whole family and headed west to California to join George's older brother, who was also a general contractor. George and his family settled in Hollywood.

George graduated high school and with some friends joined the Marine Corps Reserve. This was in 1949. Lo and behold, one year later the North Korean Army marched across the 38th parallel into South Korea and George found himself in a combat unit so very far from home. Fortunately, George lived through the ordeal and returned home safely.

Shortly thereafter George acquired one of his M1s, and he bought the other one just a few years ago.

At our last meeting on Sunday, August 19, 2018 the Captain of our Color Guard, Walter "Buzz" Cheatham, presented George with a Korea War Veteran cap in appreciation of his generosity. George was most appreciative of being thought of, since his main gripe in life is that the war itself and all who participated are totally forgotten, completely overshadowed by Viet Nam.

George will be 87 years young next month and we all wish him a very happy birthday and continued good health.

Marvin Morgenthal, Trustee



Our Post has won awards the past several years for being one of the first Posts in the Department of Nevada for reaching our membership goal. The award is a gift certificate from Emblem Sales, the retail store of The American Legion. The Post uses these to offset the cost of our School Awards. There are three awards given for \$250.00, \$200.00 and \$150.00, for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. We are currently in 4th place and need your help. This year's contest is turning into a real "horserace". If you have not yet paid your 2019 dues, and if you are able to, now is the time to either go online to LEGION.ORG and click on RENEW, or send in your check to the Post P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133. We are 95 members short of reaching our goal!

Respectfully, Joel M. Forman, Past Post Commander

DUTIES OF OFFICERS



Mike Percival

POST COMMANDER will preside at all meetings of the Post and shall have general supervision over the business affairs of the Post. Such officer will be the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson for the Post. The Commander will make an annual report covering the business of the post for the previous year, with recommendations for the ensuing year. This report will be read at the annual meeting and a copy thereof will be forwarded to the District and Department Adjutants. The Commander will perform such other duties as directed by the Post.

Any APPOINTED officer may be removed from that office by the Post Commander.



Saad Kaddi

1st VICE COMMANDER will assume and discharge the duties of the Post Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the post Commander. The major responsibility of this officer will be that of Chairman of the Membership and Finance/Audit Committees and the formulation of procedures to improve membership. In the event of death or resignation of the Post Commander, this officer will preside over a meeting for the purpose of electing a successor. The 1st Vice Commander will perform such other duties as directed by the Post.



Walter
Cheatham

2nd VICE COMMANDER will assume and discharge the duties of the 1st Vice Commander in the absence or disability of the 1st Vice Commander. The major responsibility of this officer will be the planning, scheduling and preparation for Post and patriotic events, which will include recommended guest speakers and arranging for member participation in Post, national, or military holidays and other veteran affairs. They should build a program that makes meetings interesting and enjoyable with the goal of improving meeting attendance. The organization of refreshments at meetings, including a cooler of drinks shall also be the responsibility of this officer. In the event of death or resignation of the 1st Vice Commander, the Post Commander, unless also deceased or resigned, will appoint a replacement; otherwise this officer will preside over a meeting for the purpose of electing a successor.



Tom Mahon

POST ADJUTANT will have charge of, and keep a full and correct record of, all meetings, and keep such records as the Department and National Organizations may require. Membership reports must be rendered annually or when requested during meetings. It will also be the duty of the Adjutant, or member of the Executive Committee as directed by the Commander in the Adjutant's absence, to record the minutes of the Executive Committee and General meetings. Further, under the direction of the Commander, the Adjutant will handle all correspondence for the Post. The Adjutant shall also be authorized, in event of the death or resignation of the Post Commander, to summon the Post Executive Committee for the election of a successor, and in the event the Post Adjutant shall fail, refuse or neglect, within fifteen (15) days after said death or

resignation, to issue a call for said meeting of the Post Executive Committee, chaired by the 1st Vice Commander to be held within thirty (30) days after said death or resignation, then said meeting for the purpose of electing a successor may be held upon the written demand signed by 96 representatives of fifteen or more Post members, giving fifteen (15) days' notice thereof.

*Source: THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA 3 BYLAWS FOR "SPIRIT OF FREEDOM" POST 76
More duties of officers will be provided in future issues.*

John Is My Heart

This is a well-written article about a father who put several of his kids through expensive colleges but one son wanted to be a Marine. Interesting observation by this dad. See below. A very interesting commentary that says a lot about our failing and fallen society. By Frank Schaeffer of the Washington Post.

Before my son became a Marine, I never thought much about who was defending me. Now when I read of the war on terrorism or the coming conflict in Iraq, it cuts to my heart. When I see a picture of a member of our military who has been killed, I read his or her name very carefully. Sometimes I cry.

In 1999, when the barrel-chested Marine recruiter showed up in dress blues and bedazzled my son John, I did not stand in the way. John was headstrong, and he seemed to understand these stern, clean men with straight backs and flawless uniforms. I did not. I live in the Volvo-driving, higher education-worshiping North Shore of Boston I write novels for a living. I have never served in the military.

It had been hard enough sending my two older children off to Georgetown and New York University. John's enlisting was unexpected, so deeply unsettling I did not relish the prospect of answering the question, "So where is John going to college?" from the parents who were itching to tell me all about how their son or daughter was going to Harvard. At the private high school John attended, no other students were going into the military.

"But aren't the Marines terribly Southern?" (Says a lot about open-mindedness in the Northeast) asked one perplexed mother while standing next to me at the brunch following graduation. "What a waste, he was such a good student," said another parent. One parent (a professor at a nearby and rather famous university) spoke up at a school meeting and suggested that the school should, "carefully evaluate what went wrong."

When John graduated from three months of boot camp on Parris Island, 3000 parents and friends were on the parade deck stands. We parents and our Marines not only were of many races but also were representative of many economic classes. Many were poor. Some arrived crammed in the backs of pickups, others by bus. John told me that a lot of parents could not afford the trip.

We in the audience were white and Native American. We were Hispanic, Arab, and African American, and Asian. We were former Marines wearing the scars of battle, or at least baseball caps emblazoned with battles' names. We were Southern whites from Nashville and skinheads from New Jersey, black kids from Cleveland wearing ghetto rags and white ex-cons with ham-hock forearms defaced by jailhouse tattoos. We would not have been mistaken for the educated and well-heeled parents gathered on the lawns of John's private school a half-year before.

After graduation one new Marine told John, "Before I was a Marine, if I had ever seen you on my block I would've probably killed you just because you were standing there." This was a serious statement from one of John's good friends, a black ex-gang member from Detroit who, as John said, "would die for me now, just like I'd die for him."

My son has connected me to my country in a way that I was too selfish and insular to experience before. I feel closer to the waitress at our local diner than to some of my oldest friends. She has two sons in the Corps. They are facing the same dangers as my boy. When the guy who fixes my car asks me how John is doing, I know he means it. His younger brother is in the Navy.

Why were I and the other parents at my son's private school so surprised by his choice? During World War II, the sons and daughters of the most powerful and educated families did their bit. If the idea of the immorality of the Vietnam War was the only reason those lucky enough to go to college dodged the draft, why did we not encourage our children to volunteer for military service once that war was done?

Have we wealthy and educated Americans all become pacifists? Is the world a safe place? Or have we just gotten used to having somebody else defend us? What is the future of our democracy when the sons and daughters of the janitors at our elite universities are far more likely to be put in harm's way than are any of the students whose dorms their parents clean? I feel shame because it took my son's joining the Marine Corps to make me take notice of who is defending me. I feel hope because perhaps my son is part of a future "greatest generation." As the storm clouds of war gather, at least I know that I can look the men and women in uniform in the eye. My son is one of them. He is the best I have to offer. John is my heart.

Faith is not about everything turning out OK; Faith is about being OK no matter how things turn out."

Oh, how I wish so many of our younger generations could read this article. It makes me so sad to hear the way they talk with no respect for what their fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers experienced so they can live in freedom. Freedom has been replaced with Free-Dumb.



American Legion Post 76

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

E Board Meeting — 11 October 2018, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — 21 October 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — 8 November 2018, 4:30 pm

Veterans Day Parade — 11 November 2018 in Downtown Las Vegas TBD

GENERAL MEETING — 18 November 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — 13 December 2018, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — 16 December 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — 10 January 2019, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — 20 January 2019, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

POST 76 HAS A STRONG PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET.

Be sure to join and/or subscribe to these sites so you will be notified when updates with new information are made. **Web** — <http://www.nvPost76.webs.com/> **Blog** — <http://alPost76lv.blogspot.com/>

You have received your early bird renewal notice, and will soon receive your second notice. By paying your dues you help our Post have the resources to pay bills that come in during the remainder of this year.