



The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion Post 76, The Spirit of Freedom
ISSUE 07 March 2014 — May 2014

Commander's Message

So many of our Post 76 members do not attend our meetings or functions because they may be disabled. Many of these members have not updated their phone numbers or their E-mail addresses or even their mail addresses with the Post Adjutant. If



we cannot get in touch with you, you are not taking advantage of your American Legion membership to the fullest. Your officers and I are ready to be of assistance. Please give any one of us a call and update your file.

It's all about service. Veterans are well acquainted with this. As members of the American Legion, we are the veterans who still want to serve our nation, our community and our fellow veterans. At Post 76, we are trying to do just that

but need your help. Your Post officers are keeping actively engaged in a multitude of activities and we need your support. These activities continue to form the basis for the community's view of what veterans are and what veterans do. We give. How can other Legionnaires in our Post help you?

The VA Voluntary Services for the Southern Nevada Healthcare System URGENTLY needs our help!



There are openings at all locations for volunteers and donations to meet the needs of our Veteran patients. A list of needs was sent via email, and copies will be available at the next meeting. If you can help in any way, contact our VAVS representative, Trustee Jack Ford at (702) 493-2252. Be sure to mention you are with American Legion Post 76 and want to help!

Memorial Day Ceremony — Post 76 in cooperation with the Fleet Reserve Association and The Lakes Association sponsors a Memorial Day Observance including speakers, honor guards, ceremonial flag folding and terminating with the passing of a wreath from Veterans representing war eras from WWII to the present to JROTC commanders who then board a boat and place the wreath on the water. The committee is forming right now and we need volunteers to make this event a success.



Your Donations to Post 76 are Tax Deductible

— As per IRS Publication 557, Post 76 is a tax-exempt 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization under Group Exemption Number (GEN) 0925. Donations to war veterans' organizations

are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return. At least 90% of the organization's membership must consist of war veterans. The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the U.S. Armed Forces, who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, and later declared

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Contact Us:
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Spirit of Freedom
Nevada Post 76**
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Post Everlasting —

Foster, Harold, USAAF, WWII
Kott, Casimir, US Army WWII
Lalone, Harold, US Navy, WWII
Licht, John, US Marine Corps, Vietnam
Travis, Eugene, US Navy, WWII
Sick Call —

**Sergeant at Arms Hemsley 254-0137
If you know of anyone, please call us.**

Service Officer's Message – VA Enrollment

It is recommended that every veteran be enrolled with the VA. You may not require their services today but you do not know what the future will bring? The Northwest Clinic facility has enrollment offices and will sign you up. They will also provide a lot of information on VA programs that may apply to you.

North Las Vegas Medical Center
6900 North Pecos Rd
North Las Vegas NV 89086
702-791-9000



Proof of service, is required; DD Form 214, Certificate of Military Service or discharge papers, and a photo ID. You will have to fill out a VA form 10-10EZ. Come prepared with:

- Previous calendar year gross annual income of veteran, spouse and dependent children.
- Previous calendar year deductible expenses; medical, funeral, and educational.

Previous calendar year net worth, veteran, spouse and dependent children

Frank Timbers, Service Officer 228-0889

Request for Nomination of Candidates for Officers / Notice of General Elections

Post 76 will be holding its annual elections during our regularly scheduled general meeting on April 20, 2014 at the Durango Hills YMCA. Complete position descriptions can be found requested from the Adjutant. The nominating committee is now looking for qualified candidates to consider for all of the following elected positions:

COMMANDER - will preside over all meetings of the post and have general supervision over post affairs.

1st VICE COMMANDER - will assume and discharge the duties of the Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Commander and will be Chairman of the Membership.

2nd VICE COMMANDER - will assume and discharge the duties of the 1st Vice Commander in the absence or disability of the 1st Vice Commander and plan, schedule, and prepare for Post and patriotic events.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS - will be responsible for overseeing the set-up and tear-down as well as maintaining order at all meetings.

TRUSTEE - will be elected for a period of three (3) years and represent the interests of the general membership on the Executive Committee and shall have sufficient autonomy to deliberate and act in favor of the greater common good and national interests of the membership. Trustees shall be elected in a staggered order so that only one is elected each year. If you are interested in any of these positions, you must contact the Adjutant at (702)595-1795 or e-mail **NVPost76@gmail.com** **NO LATER THAN March 14, 2014** to be considered by the nominating committee. We are also looking for individuals who would be appointed by the Commander to fill the following positions: ***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, Finance, Public Relations, Service, and Ways & Means

Numbers don't lie, but liars use numbers

The old saying that "Numbers don't lie, but liars use numbers", has been updated a little to "Figures don't lie, but liars figure". Whichever term you prefer, money has always and will remain as the central talking point in Washington D.C. While the Legion on a national scale combats the IRS targeting, we at home must give them no other reason to continue the harassment. To everyone who has submitted your DD214 or release papers, a sincere thank you. To anyone who has been unable, please let any of the E-Board members know how we can be of service. In the same regard a big thank you to everyone who has already paid your 2014 membership dues. This December we had 14 members pay their dues, which are 3x the amount as 2012 and double from 2011. As a result of over 85% of all members paying their 2014 dues, our post was able to contribute to the entire Legion sponsored charities for 2014. This could not have happened without all of you, so thank you. Also in 2013, we continued to show why the American Legion is among the best organizations with 17 members donating a total of \$2,335 that went into 6 Legion sponsored charities. Veterans helping Veterans is what we do best, thank you for continuing to uphold what we hold most dear. As always if there is anything I can do for anyone, please let me know.

Stu Cohen, Finance Officer 673-0613

Adjutant's Pen

YOU Need Your Discharge Document !



A Certificate of Release or Report of Separation is generally issued when a service member performs active duty or at least 90 consecutive days of active duty training. There are many reasons why you should have multiple copies of your military separation papers stored in different files. The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations. Discharge papers can be of many forms, commonly a DD214, but some do not have either of those bits of data, so don't worry if yours does not. The first DD Form 214s were issued in 1950, after replacing the older discharge documents. These documents, in turn, had existed since 1941.

So what are the possible uses for your record of military service? They may include:

- **Nevada Drivers License** — You can have VETERAN added to your drivers license upon renewal of your current license.
- **VA Home Loans** — Military members are entitled to apply for VA home loans as part of their military benefits.
- **GI Bill** — Department of Veterans Affairs offers educational benefits through the GI Bill.
- **VA Health Care** — If you apply after you have left service, you need your DD Form 214 to verify claims for healthcare benefits. Since your DD214 lists your military service in detail, it can help to verify claims of service in combat zones and other areas where special pay, allowances, or consideration was given or could be given in relation to health care claims or other issues.
- **VA Aid and Assistance** — [see last newsletter Service Officers Message] Veterans, 65 years and older who served during war time, may be eligible for a tax-free benefit called the Veterans Aid and Attendance benefit awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- This Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefit was designed to provide financial aid for war era veterans and their surviving spouses to help cover the cost of long-term care at home, in a board and care, or in an assisted living community.
- **Employment** — Often your DD Form 214 can help you get a federal job as a contractor, a GS employee or related position.
- **Death Benefits** — DD Form 214 is also generally required by funeral directors in order to immediately prove eligibility for interment in VA cemetery and/or obtaining a

grave marker and/or provide military honors to a deceased veteran. **MAKE IT EASY ON YOUR FAMILY DURING THEIR TIME OF LOSS BY HAVING A COPY OF YOUR DD214 READILY AVAILABLE.** Burial benefits available include a gravesite, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. On September 1, 2000, the National Defense Authorization Act enabled, upon the family's request, every eligible veteran to receive a military funeral honors ceremony, even at private cemeteries, to include the folding and presentation of the United States burial flag and the sounding of Taps, at no cost to the family.

- **Demonstrate Military Service during a war era for membership in a Veteran Organization** — If a Veterans organization has requirements for you to have served during a specified war era, then you will need a DD214

If you do not have a copy, there are many ways that you can get your DD214 or discharge documents. Discharge documents are stored at the National Archives and Records Administration's National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, St. Louis, Missouri. The records are free to you, so do not pay anyone a fee. The easiest is to go online at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. You can then apply online directly, or print out a SF-180 to send or fax in. If you do not have access to the internet, let our service officer help you provide the right information. Fax a letter or Standard Form 180 to: **314-801-9195**

OR Mail a letter to:

**National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138**

NOW GET A COPY TO POST 76.

When you get a copy, make a copy, mark out social security number and place of birth and get it to us any of four different ways.

1. Scan it and attach to an email to us at: NVPost76@gmail.com
2. Send it via mail in the envelope supplied with your renewal form if you have not already renewed
3. Send it to us via mail to the address on the first page.
4. Bring it along to a meeting and give to any officer.
5. Give us a call and we can pick it up from you.

UPCOMING POST 76 MEETING DATES :



E Board Meeting — March 13, 2014, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — March 16, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA, 3521 N. Durango Dr. 89129

E Board Meeting — April 10, 2014, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — April 27, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA [note this is changed to the 4th Sunday]

E Board Meeting — May 8, 2014, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — May 18, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA, 3521 N. Durango Dr. 89129

Memorial Day Ceremony — Monday, May 26, 2014 [Solemnly Held at Lakes South Park, 89117]

District 2 Meeting — June 7, 2014, 10:00 am at Post 8, 737 Veterans Memorial Blvd. 89101

E Board Meeting — June 12, 2014, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — June 22, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA, [note this is changed to the 4th Sunday]

Summerlin Patriotic Parade — July 4, 2014, Legionnaires step off at 8 AM [Hillpointe near Hills Center]




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




Membership is OUR Most Important Asset

TO HELP YOU RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS
 TO OUR POST, USE THE FORM BELOW.



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Phone)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

_____ NV 76 _____
(Membership ID# Former Member) (Email) (Post #) (Date)

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below:

<input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84)	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46 - Only Eligibility)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War/War on Terrorism (8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities)	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signed By Applicant _____ Name of Recruiter _____

DUES RECEIPT
(Please Print)

Date _____

Received From _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____

Mail with \$35.00 to: American Legion Post 76 PO Box 34012 Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012