



# The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 43 — January — March 2023

## POST 76 ABOUT FAMILIES!

As our Post has grown over the years, this new year heralds a full compliment of ways both YOU, the veteran and our extended families can get involved.

Last year we added an Auxiliary Unit. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary is grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and also to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

This year we added a Sons of the American Legion Squadron. Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

The Sal contact is Mike St.Claire @[dakraut@live.com](mailto:dakraut@live.com). The Auxiliary contact is Cynthia @ [Cynthiaferrismusic@gmail.com](mailto:Cynthiaferrismusic@gmail.com).

In addition, we have a Post 76 radio club. If interested, contact director Larry Eisenberg @ [lseinlas@gmail.com](mailto:lseinlas@gmail.com).

## Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family.

Of interest to many of us, our Post is sponsoring a **bowling night on Friday 20 January 2023 starting at 1700 (5 PM)**. The location is Santa Fe Lanes at 4949 N. Rancho Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89130. The cost is \$7 per game and \$5.25 if you need to rent shoes. **Even if you don't want to bowl**, just come and socialize with your family and ours.

## MEETINGS AT HUMANA COMMUNITY CENTER

Our General Meetings are held at

**Humana Community Center, 4830 W. Craig Rd. Suite 130, 89130.**

With our meeting attendance on the rise, there is increased congestion at the meeting room door just before the meeting is called to order, so please try to arrive a bit early so everyone has a chance to sign in before the start of the meeting.

A couple of reminders about our meetings:

- We have a 50/50 raffle at each meeting where 50% of the money collected goes to the winning ticket holder, and the Post keeps the other 50%.
- Dues can be paid at the meeting for the current or coming year. We accept cash, check or charge card.
- Questions related to Legion insurance, membership, or other administrative issues should be directed to the Post Adjutant.
- There is a table of free resources and information, such as notices and veteran-related information.
- We also have items for sale at each meeting: Post 76 ball caps (\$25.00), t-shirts with pockets (\$12.00), t-shirts without pockets (\$10.00), and service & war era ball caps (\$10.00).

The meeting room is open at 12:30 on the meeting days. Come early and have coffee or tea and snacks Humana provides. We could always use more help setting up the room before the meetings as well as for tear down after the meetings.

Thank you to all our members who come to the meetings, to all our new members, and to our first-time attendees. We are so excited to have so many of you join us!

*Joel M. Forman—Past Department Commander and Post 76 Director*



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## FREE LIFETIME NATIONAL PARKS PASSES

All U.S. veterans and Gold Star family members will be able to get a free lifetime entrance pass for federal parks and recreation sites nationwide starting Nov. 11.

The pass, an expansion on the annual free pass for currently serving troops and their families, grants free access to about 2,000 parks and lands managed by the National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Reclamation; and the U.S. [Army](#) Corps of Engineers, according to an announcement on the park service website. It also gives discounted amenity fees in some locations.

While not every park or visitor area requires an entrance fee, many do. For example, Yosemite National Park in California charges a \$35 entrance fee per vehicle, while Craters of the Moon National Monument charges \$20. Other locations charge for entering museum or curation areas in the visitor center. For instance, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in the Chugach National Forest, Alaska, charges \$5 per adult to access a film and exhibits.

Those fees are waived for holders of the new lifetime pass, as well as those with the free active-duty America the Beautiful military pass or other passes sold or awarded by the agencies. The new pass covers the holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle at sites that charge per car, or the pass owners and up to three adults age 16 and over at sites that charge per person.

The new lifetime pass program does not exclude veterans with so-called "bad paper" discharges. To get the pass, veterans must submit one of the following:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card

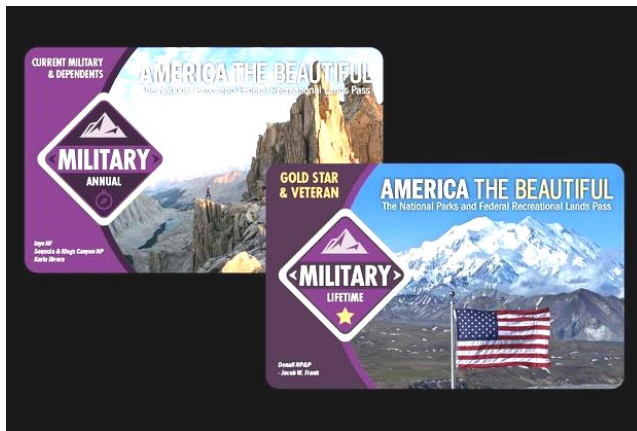
Veteran designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

To receive a pass visit a National Parks or parks and land agency store or staffed fee kiosk, or order via the [U.S. Geological Survey store](#). Passes ordered online carry a \$10 processing and shipping fee. Passes received in-person are free.

Gold Star family members can receive the pass by presenting a self-verification form certifying they are the next of kin to a military member killed during service overseas. The form includes a signature block and confirmation that the user is an "eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in qualifying situation."

No other identification or proof is required for Gold Star family members who want to get a lifetime pass.

*Source: [Free Lifetime National Parks Passes Are Here for Veterans and Gold Star Families | Military.com](#)*



**Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)** is a program brand new to UNLV and is intended to help low-income, first generation, and at-risk veterans attain their educational goals. Our mission is to prepare, motivate, and assist military veterans in the development of academic and other skills necessary for acceptance and success in postsecondary education. We provide assistance with HSE/GED Pre-testing, tutoring, college admissions applications, academic advising, career counseling, and more.

**All of our services are FREE to participants.**

Although the program is provided through UNLV, participants may choose to enroll in a school or certificate program outside of Clark County, NV.

**For more information please email [veteransub@unlv.edu](mailto:veteransub@unlv.edu) or call (702)774-4200**

## ADJUTANTS PEN



Post 76 members who have not renewed their membership for 2023 by 31 December will be technically expired. We hope everyone will try to pay their membership dues before the end of the year to keep their Continuous Years intact and help Post 76 continue to thrive.

Post 76 is in a friendly competition with all other Posts in Nevada to see who can have the highest percentage of Renewed Paid Members by 31 December. You can help us win this prestigious prize by renewing as soon as you can, either online ([www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org)) or payment with check or money order to PO Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133. As a reminder again, once you receive your new Post 76 ID card, you should not respond to any other dues invoice mailings from National—they're sometimes behind the dues processing delay curve.

Transferred members from other Posts sometimes have to wait a while for National Headquarters to process the transfer request. All Legionnaires who requested to transfer to Post 76 received a welcome letter, but no new Post 76 ID card. You will get the new ID card when the transfer process is complete at National Headquarters. You may rest assured that it eventually happens, and you will receive your new Post 76 ID card when it's complete.

If you have questions on your membership status, please contact your Adjutant with email at [stevedaugh@aol.com](mailto:stevedaugh@aol.com) or call the Adjutant at (253) 691-0617.

*Stephen Daugherty—Adjutant*

## NEW VA WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE AVAILABLE

In January 2023, VA will launch a new life insurance program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife), which provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to Veterans age 80 and under, with any level of service-connected disability. Some Veterans age 81 and older may also be eligible.

Guaranteed acceptance is a whole life policy that does not require a medical exam or ask health questions. It also does not have a limited two-year window to sign up. Whole life insurance provides coverage for the entire life of the individual policyholder, provided that premiums are always paid. Premium rates are locked in for the life of the policy, and unlike term policies will not increase as the policyholder ages.

All service-connected Veterans age 80 and under with 0-100% VA disability ratings are eligible. There is no medical requirements for enrollment.

Veterans age 80 or younger with a VA disability rating of 0-100% are eligible for VALife, with no time limit to apply.

To learn more about VALife and whether it's the right choice for you and your family, please visit the webpage here:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>.

**Or contact the Post** at one of the email or telephone numbers listed and we can get you in touch with the right people to help you get through the process.



**VA**

U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



## **POST COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

### **CREECH A.F.B. WELCOMES “SPIRIT OF FREEDOM” MEMBERS FOR “HALLOWCREECH” CELEBRATION**

In with keeping with Air Force Family Support Groups and with the reopening of family activities for Halloween 2022 at Creech AFB, the base invited the Post to help with an information table and guests to help celebrate the reopening of activities for children during Halloween 2022.

Our Post is extremely busy thanks to many members that travel across the Valley and the State to represent not only the Post but the American Legion at large. You too can be part of the festivities and the good work of our Color Guard. Information Tables seek out new potential members of the Color Guard or, if interested, speak to any Post Officer.

The Post members involved Color Guard Captain Walter “Buzz” Cheatham, Past Department Commander Joel Forman, Adjutant Steve Daugherty, and 1st Vice Commander Tim Smith.

### **TOASTING OUR FALLEN BROTHER ED HALL**

On October 28th, many of our Post family members met with fellow member and Pearl Harbor Survivor Ed Hall and members of his extended Shriner and community family on what was his 99th Birthday.

Days later we were informed that Ed had passed away, Ed was one of the few of what is known as our Greatest Generation left in the United States and one of the very few Pearl Harbor Survivors left.

We need to reach out to all of our members as time has passed since the end of restrictions and many members and newer members have joined our Post and we are STILL missing many of our old faces.

A big thanks goes out to those who include our Chaplain Richard Hoffer who has been diligently calling around and trying to connect the “dots” to all that have been missed.

### **VETERANS DAY SPEAKERS IN MASSACHUSETTS EVENTS**

On Veterans Day in Massachusetts, As 1st Vice Commander, I was able to receive the honor of being recognized by the Town of Danvers, Massachusetts as the guest of retired LTC(R) Dick Moody USAF and Mrs. Christine Moody founders of “Operation Troop Support”.

Operation Troop Support is a non-profit that supplies gift and packages to deployed servicemen and women across the globe.

The project is nearly 20 years old and has had the distinction of being recognized by several US Presidents and even the Kellogg Cereal Company as its members have had their photograph on the boxes of cereal.

I was able to impart upon those attending, the message of “Commitment & Service” to our military either at home or deployed across the globe.

Above 3 stories submitted by *Tim Smith* — 1st Vice Commander

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACANCIES ON THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Department of Nevada has two vacancies in the National Legislative Council for Contacts to US Congressional Representatives, Titus and Horsford. A contact needs to be able to correspond with the Representatives or their veteran’s staff member

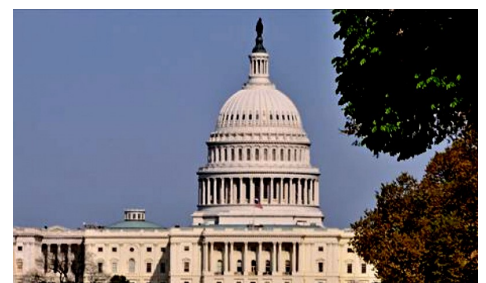
As a post member please be aware of these are important vacancies and If you are interested in the contact position please contact the Department of Nevada Adjutant[taldon737@aol.com] or National Legislative Council Vice Chair PDC David Evans (775) 997-5823 email: hmcs8425@att.net.



In the Picture are Legionnaires Tom Mahon, Steve Daugherty, and Water Cheatham with families of Creech and Nellis Airmen



Incoming Post Treasurer Lou Goss, 2nd Vice Commander Walter “Buzz” Cheatham, 1st Vice Commander Tim Smith, Past Department Commander Joel Forman, and Post Adjutant Stephen Daugherty.



## ***POST 76 HELPS OUT SANTA!***

On Monday, 12 December 2022, 8 of members of our American Legion Post 76 were at the V.A. Hospital, 6900 North Pecos Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89086 for the:

### ***Presentation of Donation for Santa's Soldiers Clothing Drive and our Sock-it-zum drive.***

Many of our brothers and sisters will only have the cold loneliness of the streets of the Las Vegas. Demand will be high on our Homeless Community Based Outreach Centers to meet the increasing need for services. The one thing that is in high demand and most requested is socks. We purchase socks and gloves for donation to the VA Voluntary Services.



Those attending and wearing Legion caps from left to right are:  
2nd VC Walter Cheatham, Director Jack Ford, Radio Club VC Frank Timbers, Webmaster Dennis Christiansen, Director Joel Forman, and Adjutant Steve Dougherty.

## ***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: Dec 18, 2022 12:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019263216?>

[pwd=WTJqcUZqbDd0Um1DSIBWUXBQc1loQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85019263216?pwd=WTJqcUZqbDd0Um1DSIBWUXBQc1loQT09)

Meeting ID: 850 1926 3216

Passcode: 695407

## ***POST 76 WEBPAGE UPDATE***

Please know that Post 76 has a NEW Website. It is located at:

**<https://www.nvpost76.com>**

Information regarding our Post and Support for Veterans has been updated.

Give it a try you might be surprised in what you find.



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

**[nvpost76@gmail.com](mailto:nvpost76@gmail.com)**

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

1. Our ***NEW WEBPAGE***: <https://NVPost76.com>
2. FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV](http://www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV)
3. TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/ALPost76LV](http://www.twitter.com/ALPost76LV)

## **POST 76 LEGIONNAIRE ACTIVITIES**

Fellow Legionnaire Steve Bickford was a co-instructor for a NRA Basic Firearm Safety Course held at the local BSA Las Vegas Area Council HQ on August 13, 2022. The four-hour class covered safe handling and storage for pistols, rifles, and shotguns. While no live ammunition was present a variety of firearms were available to go over functionality with respect to safety and operation. These and other firearm related classes are offered by the Silver State Shooting Sports Association organization in conjunction with the LVAC BSA Shooting Sports Committee, which Steve is a member.

### **Three Legionnaires Recreational Fun Shoot**

A gathering of the **Three Legionnaires**, **Athos** (aka Frank Timbers), **Porthos** (aka Pete Cervantes), and **Aramis** (aka Steve Bickford), took place at the **Desert Sportsman's Rifle & Pistol Club** on November 8<sup>th</sup>. It was to see if it was time to upgrade their Rapiers to a more modern EDC.

It was a chilly and rainy day (a day also known as the day of "what the heck were we thinking") to determine if .22LR, 9mm, .40 S&W, or .45 ACP were better than their normal armament of Rapiers. It seems each Legionnaire had their favorite and it did not matter which pistol was used the Rapier always came in last.

Further evaluations are planned when the weather turns better and if there are other Legionnaires interested in participating please contact Steve Bickford for more information.



Athos & Porthos During a Rare Rain Stoppage

### **Legionnaire Bickford volunteered for 2 scouting events.**

The **first one was during "Scout Expo"** where he was teaching a merit badge class in Geocaching. Despite the strong winds that blew across the lake every hour or so 10 scouts managed to receive credit towards the merit badge. Two scouts went on a geocache hunt featuring six caches that were hidden around Floyd Lamb Park, with one scout actually putting his hand on the hidden cache saying he just cannot find it.

Can you find the geocache hidden in the picture?

The **second scouting event was held at BSA Las Vegas Area Council HQ**, where legionnaire Bickford earned Rangemaster qualification for Cub Scouts. Helping the scouts learn safe range protocols for BB gun, Archery, and Sling Shot events. Approximately 50 Cub Scouts participated in the three events earning special awards to be placed on their uniforms. The Sling Shot event consisted of Wrist Rocket Sling Shots using dog kibbles for ammo resulting in easy cleanup and leftover food for the wildlife.



## **THE PACT ACT AND YOUR VA BENEFITS**

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or "presume") are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

### **The PACT Act will bring these changes:**

- ✦ Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
  - ✦ Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
  - ✦ Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
  - ✦ Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures
- If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

# SCOUTING UPDATE



Our Scouts at the Grand Canyon!

There is still time to support our Scout Troops by attending the last night of Glittering Lights. Stop and buy some hot chocolate and other concessions from them. DO IT NOW!

SUPPORT SCOUT TROOP 312  
**GLITTERING LIGHTS**  
 AT THE LAS VEGAS SPEEDWEAY  
 CONCESSION PROCEEDS  
 DIRECTLY SUPPORT OUR SCOUTS



**NOVEMBER: 12, 16, 17, 21, 26, 30**  
**DECEMBER: 5, 9, 14, 18, 23, 27**  
**JANUARY: 1, 5**

SUNDAY - MONDAY:  
 5PM - 9PM  
 FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND HOLIDAY'S:  
 5PM - 10PM

# JOHN HILGAR II VETERAN'S DAY PUTTING TOURNAMENT

Would like to thank everyone who participated and donated to the annual John Hilgar II veteran's day putting tournament. Together we raised \$1240 for Operation Comfort Warriors. All donations go to helping support our wounded, injured or ill servicemembers and veterans. Those most of need of our help. The winners in the three divisions were; Kevin Mastowski AL, Savannah Parker 9hole and Marie-Florence Hilgar 18hole. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this event





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

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

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

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

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

*FYI upcoming E Board Meetings this quarter will be virtual on ZOOM.*

*The meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 1630 (4:30 PM)*



Join all local veterans at Humana 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.

If interested in breakfast or just coffee with Post 76 legionnaires, contact Director Forman because usually 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 2023 dues, as of 1 January 2023, 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. If you have not renewed, You will continue to receive notices to please renew for Fiscal Year 2023. If you have already renewed and receive a notice, ignore it.