



The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion Post 76, The Spirit of Freedom
ISSUE 06 December 2013 — February 2014

Commander's Message



Your Post has been extremely active this past few months. We have sent delegations to the District 2 meeting in Boulder City. We have actively participated in the Retiree Appreciation Day at Nellis Air Force Base. Members attended the Honor Flight pancake breakfast at Harley Davidson on Rainbow as well as the Honor Flight Movie at the Orleans Cinema. Several members volunteered at the Veterans Service Fair at the Cambridge Center. Our Post was invited to be part of the Information Fair at Creech Air Force Base, which is in our recruitment area. Those of us that went had a great time explaining what your American Legion is and what we do. And last weekend we attended the departure and arrival of the Honor Flight Veterans. Our Post is proud to be part of the No Veterans Alone services at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Thursday mornings. On Veterans Day, we participated in the parade riding in six Model T Fords supplied by the Las Vegas Model T Club.

We have so many opportunities for our members participate for the good of the Legion, and more importantly, for the good of all Veterans and their families. Won't you join us?

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!



Post 76 Supporting our YMCA's Kids Campaign!

The Durango Hills YMCA, our Post Home of sorts for many years now, has been awarded a \$25,000 match donation to help refurbish and refresh the aging facility serving our community's youth for over 15 years now. They are looking for "Campaign Champions" to donate to this very worthwhile cause, as well as to help them further by soliciting donations from other individuals and businesses. A minimum \$500 donation will guarantee the donor a place of Honor on a new 'Donor Recognition Wall' to be proudly displayed in the newly updated main lobby of our Durango Hills YMCA for all to see; great public relations exposure to help us with our own Post membership drives, and at the same time supporting The American Legion's commitment to our Youth & Children 'pillar of service', all while helping our community's youth!

A much needed gym floor refurbishing, boys and girls locker rooms improvements, and welcoming lobby update are a few of the much needed refurbishing projects. Our Post is among the first community members to offer assistance to our friends at the "Y", who have so generously given us many financial incentives over the years, by requesting contributions towards a \$500 donation to them. Individual Post members or friends can contact Post 76 Trustee BobJagemann@aol.com or at 476-4230, for further information, or to make a donation to this worthwhile cause for our community's youth!

Won't You Join Us?

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Post Everlasting —
Elkins, Merrill: Korea, Navy
Fabac, Eugene:
WWII, Merchant Marine
Filhart, Benjamin: WWII, Navy
Foster, Harold: WWII, Air Force
Gomez, Raymond: Korea, Army
Leaming, Jack: WWII, Navy
Nathan, Joseph: Korea, Army
Nichols, Albert: Vietnam, Army
Travis, Eugene: WWII, Navy

Service Officer's Message — VA Pension for Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

It appears that most veterans and their wives do not know about a program called the "Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension benefit" (known as A&A) This program can help defray the cost of providing care in the home. This can be paid to whoever is providing the care: wives, daughters and sons or it can be used for assisted living or nursing home.



Eligibility for this program is based the veteran being in the service for 1 day during their 90 day minimum military service during a time of war. Spouses of deceased veterans may also have some eligibility. There is also a cap on the annual income and assets.

There are at least two web sites that provide free information and assistance in filing for these benefits. The first is VeteranAid.org a 501©(3) charity. The second is Vetangels.org. These two web sites go deeper into eligibility and filing requirements.

If you require assistance in your home, assisted living or nursing home care, this may be a valuable program for you to consider. This is a benefit you have earned by your service, so it may be for you.

As your new service officer, I am a novice at researching VA programs, so if you see an error or have more information on the subject, please contact me at frankt3755@gmail.com. In addition, if you need or know of someone who needs a service officer, send me and email or give me a call at (702) 228-0889. I stand ready to be a Veteran Still Serving America and its Veterans.

The Potomac Two-Step, Youth, and Money.

These past couple of weeks has shown us one thing for certain about our elected officials in D.C.-and that is there has never been more animosity between the parties and disdain for American citizens than ever before. Regardless of your political party affiliation, both sides seem to have forgotten what they are there for and to whom they serve. With the recent shutdown causing furloughed workers, national monuments and park closures, and very little negotiating from the top, it became painfully clear that a major shakeup in Washington is not only needed but required to keep America as the greatest country in the world. Threatening the withholding of Social Security and Veterans pay and announcing that come January 1 the cost of living increase would only be 1.5%, it is time to think outside the norm for generating money for the Legion and all our great programs that help so many people.



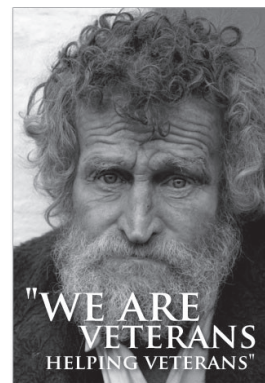
Since this is my first newsletter a little background information for those who have not met me as of yet. At age 41, I am one of the youngest members of Post 76, however I come to you with 16 years of financial background that ranges from



running banking centers for Bank of America, establishing vault services with the Federal Reserve, up to having my federal securities and insurance licenses as a Financial Advisor. I am married and have 3 children (15, 5, and 1). Working full time and having to plan for college and the general financial security of my family gives me great insight to what is needed and required, the old ways of thinking and planning are simply not enough anymore. Since leaving the Navy I have felt a strong desire to keep serving any way that I can. It is with this desire that I will be going after a younger crowd to join our ranks thus generating more membership dues and fundraising ideas. An example would be having Creech and Nellis AFB allow us to speak at

transitioning meetings that those on active duty must complete when going back into civilian life. In addition, I could also offer briefings at the VA Northwest Clinic on Rancho.

I encourage all of our members to donate not just your money if able, but your time as well. The depth of knowledge you possess needs to be passed down to the next generation of Veterans. While we are doing well with membership dues being paid, the rising costs of everything that goes into running the Post, requires more and more each year, and because of this I dedicate myself and my knowledge to helping the post financially anyway that I can. Please let me know if I can help in any way. Thank you for your service, your time and your consideration. Finance Office-Stuart A Cohen, (702) 673-0613, Stu32usa@gmail.com



Adjutant's Pen

We Need Your Discharge Document !



You are **VERY** special! Only about 3% of living Americans have served in the military. In addition, Congressional Law (U.S.C.A. Title 36) only members during eight war-time conflicts are eligible for membership in the Legion.

An IRS new audit manual instructs auditors to have each American Legion post provide military service records or discharge papers for each active member during their assessments of the Legion's tax-exempt status. The IRS fined posts that didn't comply. American Legion Post 447 in Round Rock, Texas, was fined \$12,000 for "a lack of compliance" towards the IRS' request. Post 447 had submitted documentation the IRS asked for, but apparently it wasn't to the agency's satisfaction. The post was fined \$1,000 per day until the IRS received enough documents to satisfy their request.

"As former military members, the one thing we know how to do is follow regulations," said Louis Celli, national legislative director for the American Legion. "The inspection manual they give to inspectors tells them to look for documents that we were not told to maintain in the first place."

Celli elaborated that the IRS' problem is that previously the IRS stated that organizations must maintain records of members and their dates of service, but not their official discharge papers. That has now apparently changed.

We were instructed a number of years ago, that discharge papers contained sensitive information that we should not have, so we shredded the paperwork we did have on file. Now, because of the new IRS effort to target non-profit organizations like us, we need to ask you to again provide a copy of your discharge papers to us in case we get audited. The information that we should not have, and do not need is your place of birth and social security number. Please cross out those items, if they exist. 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. 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 Ad-

ministration'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, you can write a letter with the following information to them.

Include as much of the following information as possible: (1) The veteran's complete name used while in service, (2) Service number or social security number, (3) Branch of service, and (4) Dates of service. Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known.

Mail a letter to:

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

Or Fax a letter or Standard Form 180 to: **314-801-9195**

NOW GET A COPY TO POST 76.

If you have it in your possession already, or get a copy from the records center, make a copy, mark out social security number and place of birth, if that information is on the form, 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 at:
 - NV Post 76, P.O. Box 34012,
Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012**
- (4) Bring your document along to a meeting and hand deliver it to the Adjutant or any other officer.

Thank you for understanding and your service to America. Help us to prove to the IRS that you are a special individual that has earned the right to membership in the American Legion. **YOU ARE ONE OF THE 3%**

UPCOMING POST 76 MEETING DATES :

District 2 E Board Meeting — December 7, 2013 10:00 am at Post 8 733 Veterans Memorial Drive 89101
E Board Meeting — December 12, 2013, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — Christmas Party Date and Time To Be Determined at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — January 9, 2014, 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center

General Meeting — January 19, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

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

General Meeting — February 16, 2014, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

Department of Nevada Meeting — February 21&22 8:00 am at Post 8 733 Veterans Memorial Drive 89101

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




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

HELP! We will be publishing *online updates* but only if we have your email address. If you do not already receive the online updates, and would like to, please send your email address to *nvpost76@gmail.com*.



Membership is OUR Most Important Asset
 TO HELP OUR POST RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS
 TO OUR POST,

THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION				 DUES RECEIPT <i>(Please Print)</i>	
Name _____	(First)	(Initial)	(Last)	(Phone)	
Address _____	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)	
_____	(Membership ID# Former Member)	(Email)	NV 76 (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 _____		
Mail with \$35.00 to: American Legion Post 76 PO Box 34012 Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012					
					Date _____
					Received From _____
					\$_____ for 20____ Dues
					Recruiter's Name _____
					Recruiter's Signature _____
					Recruiter's Phone # _____