



The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 26 — January 2019 — March 2019

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

What is happening to Post 76? There was a time when we were first in the Department in activities and membership. Although a lot was the result of former Commander, Joel Forman and his Executive Committee, there should be no reason why we can't continue doing what made this possible. Like President Trump said, "Let's make this Post great again."

The business of the Post on a day to day basis is handled by its elected officers, appointed officers and directors, as an **Executive Committee** (which colloquially is called the **E-Board**) working for the Commander. This small, dedicated group volunteers a large number of hours of work to keep the Post 76 one of the best in the State! I have recently had some challenges with the resignation of my First Vice Commander and health issues of others on my E-Board. What I am saying is I need a few good veterans to step up to the plate. I know there are a lot of you who would like to help us out if you knew how. Let me help you with your decision.

Yes I want your dues. But what I really need are your **DO'S**. **Do** renew your membership each year. **Do** be a regular in your attendance at our meetings. **Do** volunteer to be part of a team using your unique talents. **Do** feel free to ask how you can be of assistance.

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. Our Post tries to make sure we are active in all four of this pillars, so there is an opportunity for each of you to participate in an area that interests you personally.

Our E-Board is capable of doing just so much. We need vets who can agree to attend one or more special events throughout the year. We also need vets who can offer suggestions at our meetings. There is no suggestion that won't be entertained at our E-Board meetings.

During our membership drive each year, we are always seeking vets who would make a phone call or two to encourage another vet to renew or reach out to a Post 100 member to request their transfer to our Post. There also is the need for vets to "hang" some medals to deserving youth during the months of April and May.

I hope each of you have a safe and happy holiday season with your family and look forward to starting the new year with a revitalization of our Post.

— **Mike Percival, Post 76 Commander**

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S UPDATE

Being the Jr. Past Post Commander and the current Department Commander gives me a lot to write about, but I will keep my comments at the Post level.

It appears that we will not finish in first place this year in the competition to be the first Post in our District to reach our goal of 100% membership renewals. Post 24 in Mesquite beat us last year, and again this year. Our membership year runs from 1 July to 31 December of the following year. So if one renews from Jan 1 - 30 June, the membership is only good for that year. If one renews on or after 1 July, he is covered through 31 December of the following year. It does look like we will come in 2nd, if not third in the competition for the gift certificates from Emblem Sales. If anyone has skills either in recruiting or in membership, please let our Post Commander or either Vice Commander know and volunteer to help us out.

Our Color Guard has been very busy this past quarter and is always looking for a few good members to literally "step-up". We take pride in our Post being a Community oriented Post. That means we do stuff, like school awards, Boys State, Oratorical contest, visit the Veterans Home, and work with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services.



ONCE A COMMANDER.....ALWAYS A COMMANDER!

It was my privilege and honor to fill in for a few minutes for vacationing Post Commander Percival and 2nd Vice Commander Cheatham at our November meeting. After opening the meeting with proper protocol, with some help from PDC Ford, it was my duty to install, newly appointed 1st Vice Commander Eisenberg, so that he could resume command over the remainder of the meeting. It was also my honor and privilege to present the Adjutant of the Year Plaque to Post 76 Adjutant Tom Mahon for the year 2017 -2018. All 34 Post adjutants in the Department are eligible for this award. It should be noted that Post 76 has won this award for 3 years in a row. Past Adjutant Steve Daugherty won this prestigious recognition the prior 2 years. Our Post has been a leader in the Department of Nevada due in part to the hard work and dedication of past adjutants, Roger Henning, Steve Daugherty and our current adjutant, Tom Mahon.

Joel Forman, Past Post Commander and current Department Commander

ADJUTANT'S PEN



Post 76 members who have not renewed their membership for 2019 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. It'll also help the Post win a monetary prize from American Legion Department of Nevada for being the 3rd to reach 100% of our goal for Paid Members. You can help us win this prestigious prize by renewing as soon as you can, either online (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.

If you have questions on your membership status, please contact your Adjutant with email at pilot121@yahoo.com or call to 253-691-0617.

FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA SERGEANT AT ARMS

I'm going to write an article this month that I really did not think I would ever have to write.

Some will consider it out of line, some will think, he's having a bad day, who does he think he is, but many will understand where I'm coming from. In reality, all of those statements would be correct.

We are The American Legion! No one forced us into signing up for membership, none of us were drafted, we all volunteered for this assignment because we all are, **WAR TIME VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**



This should not come as a surprise to anyone but our beloved Legion is taking a downward move, and it is our own fault. We have become lax in our participation in Legion programs, unwilling to put in just a little time and extra effort to make sure we stand out as a beacon to our families, friends, communities and our State and Nation. It seems the "let someone else do it" attitude has managed to work its way into a once revered and respected organization. I have watched over the past couple of years and seen how we are no longer recognized for what we do, what we plan to do, or what we have done. Many people do not even know what The American Legion is or what we are all about.

This must change for us to survive. Again, I can see the looks and the shrugged shoulders with the I've done my deal, "let some one else do it" attitude. This is a change that must happen with all of our Posts, Districts, and Department. The time has passed for Posts to simply not participate in providing leadership, member involvement, and financial help to our programs and fellow Veterans and Legion members. I believe these facts to be taken in the spirit in which they are given. I truly love being a member of The American Legion. I have never had the comradeship I have now since I was wearing the uniform of our United States Army. I am truly concerned about our viability if we don't wake up and take the steps to change our downward trajectory. Please don't look at this article as an butt chewing, instead consider it a cry out for **HELP**. We truly need **your** help and now, not later.

Thanks and I wish you all and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving. God Bless. — **Mike Shepherd**

ONLINE PATIENT PORTAL HELPS VETERANS MANAGE THEIR HEALTH CARE

This month, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is celebrating the 15th anniversary of My HealtheVet an online patient portal created to empower Veterans to become active participants in their health care. Launched on Veterans Day 2003, My HealtheVet has grown from a simple website to a robust suite of tools and resources that further enables Veterans to take charge of their health care by allowing them to refill their VA prescriptions, exchange private secure messages with their VA health care team, access their VA health records and more.

"My HealtheVet elevates the level of service offered to our Veteran patients by ensuring they can easily access and manage their VA health information," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It's a great example of VA's modernization efforts and is a significant tool in increasing Veterans' access to care."

To date, My HealtheVet has more than 4.5 million registered users who have requested over 127.7 million prescription refills, downloaded nearly 32 million personal health records and exchanged more than 69.4 million secure messages with their VA health care teams.

Earlier this year, My HealtheVet won a 2018 Government Innovation Award for the VA Medical Images and Reports feature, which allows Veterans to view, download and share electronic copies of their radiology studies, such as X-rays, MRI and CT scans from their VA electronic health records.

For more information on My HealtheVet and its 15th anniversary, visit the site today. All Veterans and Service Members are encouraged to create a My HealtheVet account at www.myhealth.va.gov.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

In addition to being the Judge Advocate for Post 76, I am also the Assistant State Captain for the Patriot Guard Riders of Southern Nevada (PGR). The PGR is a very active organization and on most Thursday mornings we attend the interment services for Unaccompanied Veterans at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Unaccompanied Veterans are those veterans who died without anyone to claim their remains. We provide a flag line inside the Chapel during the services, and then we follow the cremains to the grave site and provide a flag line there until the interments are complete.

There are a number of Post 76 members who are actively involved with the PGR in various capacities, and attend these services and take part in the flag lines on a regular basis. Bobi Oates regularly is the person who organizes and reads the services on Thursday mornings; Chaplain Daniel McDonald attends most services and reads the services when necessary, and then provides the reading of the 23rd Psalm at the grave site; Em Stempien is very active and rarely misses the Thursday morning services. She also is the person who organized and spearheaded the placement of the Remembrance Walk Memorial Monument at the cemetery; Joel Forman, Buzz Cheatham, Mike Shephard also attend on a regular basis.

In addition to the Thursday morning Unaccompanied Veterans services, the PGR also provides motorcycle escorts and flag lines for families of deceased veterans when they request it, as well as on special occasions when requested. On October 9th we escorted the cremains of 12 veterans and the spouse of one of those veterans as part of the Missing in Nevada project. These were veterans whose cremains have been sitting on a shelf in a mortuary vault because nobody ever claimed them. The Missing in Nevada organization is researching the data bases of the mortuaries in Southern Nevada to identify which of those cremains are veterans. When they are identified a ceremony is held to properly honor and inter those veterans. A large contingent of Post 76 members attended the ceremony on October 9th. These ceremonies will take place on a regular basis until all the missing veterans are found and properly honored and interred.

On October 30th we provided a motorcycle escort and flag line for George Haussmann, and Air Force veteran and President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 17. PGR members formed a flag line inside the Chapel as Buzz Cheatham conducted the service with Dan McDonald assisting him. We then followed the procession to the Columbarium where Dan McDonald read the 23rd Psalm. We provided another flag line at the interment site until the ceremony was complete.

— ***Rick Foulon, Judge Advocate***

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

A Department of Defense website (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh>) provides a wealth of information about military funeral honors as well as a resource tool for funeral directors as they assist veterans' families by arranging military funeral honors. Some of the information on the website includes:

Who is eligible for Military Funeral Honors?

- Military members who died while on active duty or in the Selected Reserve
- Former military members who served on active duty or in the Selected Reserve and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions
- Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions

What services can the family of an eligible veteran expect?

By law, military units are required to provide, at a minimum, a two-person uniformed detail to present the core elements of the funeral honors ceremony. The core elements of the funeral honors ceremony are:

- Playing of Taps
- Flag folding
- Flag presentation

Membership Accolades: At the beginning of each year, Post 76 is proud to recognize those members below who have reached significant five year milestones in their membership Continuous Years, as of 15 December 2018— Congratulations!. **Check your membership card to see how many stars you have earned to wear proudly!**

45 years continuous membership

Louis P Nazzaro

35 years continuous membership

John Mahn SR

30 years continuous membership

Fred W Boughton JR
Henry H Gill
Roger G Hetrick

25 years continuous membership

Theodore Amato
Richard Anderson
William B Blair
David L Cowdery
Lawrence W Cox
Milan Dobrijevic
Ronald A Dubielak

20 years continuous membership

Lawrence J Denno JR
Gerard P Dubuc JR
James H Elliott
Joseph Fairchild
Jack L Ford
Stephen C Foreman
Robert A Gill
Walter R Meyer

LT COL

Michael K Nelson
Torres P Ramey
Ronald C Snow
Jerome E Storch

15 years continuous membership

Antonio A Aguilera
Robert L Blacketer
Leonard S Czarnecki
Louis A DeMartino
Terry L Dixon
David J Dziadon
Paul C Glazier
Daniel M Golich JR
Manuel Guerrero
Israel N Habif
James L Koeller
Linda M May
Kenneth W McIntosh
Lorenzo L Nichols
Larry H Schwartz
Fred E Wagar
Marvin P Winchell
Craig Wright

10 years continuous membership

Homer C Arnett
Clifford R Brink
Mike B Garber
Frank E Hamell
John H Hilgar
Tom A Kennison
Loren W Krause
Anthony J Mascari
Tilman Otto
CW4 William A Patterson RET
Richard E Peterson
Max C Stack
Bert Stone
Patrick J Stringer
Richard M Thomas
Gary L Vanderhoof

5 years continuous membership

John E Anderson
Lawrence E Beber SR
Charles E Brown
Barton T Brundige
James S Carey
James G Carter JR
Mark Chapman
Kerry V Coffman
Brian R Collins
Benjamin Dailey
Joseph T Deegan
Conrad C Fecher
David G Finke
Hipolito Gonzales
Ronald Green
Scott C Hickman
Norman H Hicks
Paul K Kelly
Paul W King
Raymond R Kowalski
Robert C Manola
Daniel E McDonald
Bill B Phillips
John M Phillips
Michael Ponder
Marty Resetar
Cornelius J Schmitt
Fred P Simione
Edward J Simon
Ronnie W Smith
Vernon O Smith
Thomas G Sutterfield
Andrew Turner
Drew E Volz
Clayton W Wong



Continuous Membership Tack



Continuous Membership Patch



5 Year Star



STORY OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

It was Feb. 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains -- arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, only 230 survived. Before boarding the *Dorchester* back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire. So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.

It was never given before and will never be given again.

[extracted from the *usarmy.mil* website — submitted by **Tony Mascari, Chaplain**]

DUTIES OF OFFICERS [PART TWO] [Part one was in the July—September Newsletter]



Barry Bashist

FINANCE OFFICER will have charge of all the Finances of the Post. They shall see that all Post funds are safely deposited in the bank, or banks, and report once a month to the Executive Committee on the condition of the Post's finances. The Finance Officer will recommend, as deemed expedient or necessary, methods for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Post. He will be the principal individual to sign checks dispersing the monies of the Post. The Commander, 1st Vice Commander, or 2nd Vice Commander, in that order, is required to be the second signature on checks. Two (2) signatures are not required for checks made out to THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of Nevada for membership dues. However, the Post Adjutant shall be authorized as a secondary individual to sign checks in the event that the Finance Officer is not available or it is more expedient for the Adjutant to discharge this function. The Finance Officer will furnish such security bonds in such sums as may be determined by the Post or Executive Committee. The Finance Officer will also serve as a member of the Financial/Audit Committee. The Finance Officer may delegate the tasks of writing checks for authorized invoices and making deposits to those with check signing privileges with the approval of the Commander.



Richard Hoffer

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS will be responsible for overseeing the setting up and disassembly of the meeting place, as well as preserving order at all meetings. They will welcome and record attending members and guests. They will advise the Commander of the names of new or first-time members and guests. When so directed by the Commander, they will escort members or guests to the podium, and may remove any individual from any Post meeting with assistance and permission to call proper authorities if necessary at request of the Commander.



Tony Mascari

CHAPLAIN will be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post's comrades. They will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of any Post functions.



Rick Foulon

JUDGE ADVOCATE is responsible for the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Post. At any time, the Judge Advocate may be called upon by the Commander, other Officers or a Member, to provide an opinion on the legality of actions and decisions as they affect the good of The American Legion and the integrity of the Post. The Judge Advocate's opinion is not the "Final Word" and may or may not be accepted by the Commander, Executive Committee or General Assembly. The Judge Advocate must, when queried, produce all documentation as to how they arrived at said opinion. Failure to produce such documentation can result in nonfeasance: The neglect or failure of a person to do some act which he ought to do. The Judge Advocate is also the chair of the audit committee, and should conduct a financial audit just prior to the annual election of officers.

MVP: Million Veteran Program Research Initiative

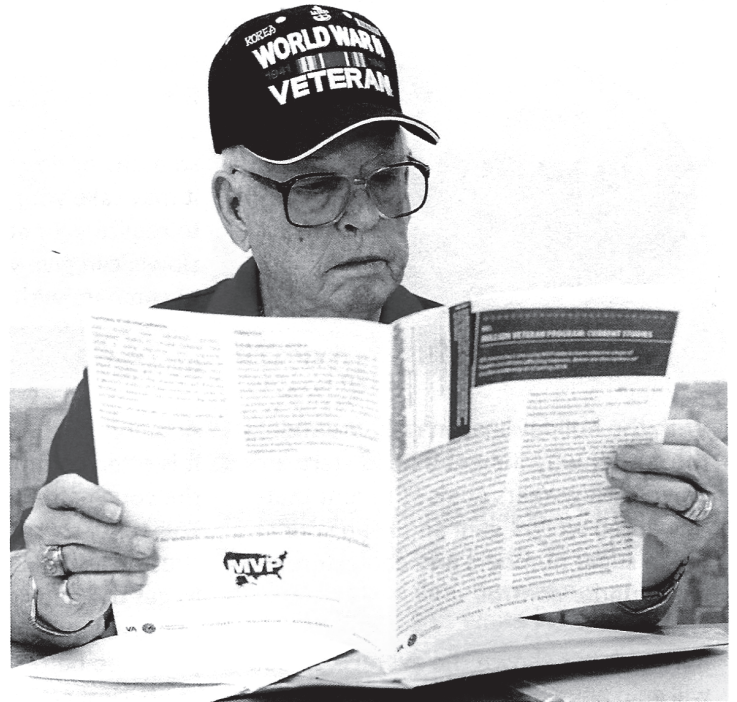
VASNHS Participates in VA National Research Program

Jack Ford has dedicated his life to service. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving for 10 months before they discovered he was only 15 years old. He was honorably discharged, but returned to service upon reaching the legal age. Ford joined the U.S. Navy where he spent more than 20 years as a parachute rigger and air traffic controller, serving all over the world and during three major conflicts (World War II, Korea, and Vietnam). Today, the spry 88-year-old Veteran continues to serve in retirement as a Red Coat Ambassador at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System's North Las Vegas Medical Center. It's this dedication to serving others that led Ford to support another endeavor – being one of the first Veterans in Southern Nevada to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Million Veteran Program.

The Million Veteran Program (MVP), which began locally in July, is research partnership project between the VA and Veterans to learn more about how genes affect health and to improve health care for Veterans. To accomplish this, MVP is establishing one of the largest databases of genetic, military exposure, lifestyle, and health information in the United States. Research findings based on MVP may lead to new ways of preventing and treating illnesses in Veterans. Such findings may help answer questions such as; Why does a treatment work well for some Veterans but not for others? Why are some Veterans at a greater risk for developing an illness? and How can we prevent certain illnesses in the first place? With the expected enrollment of one million Veterans over the next five to seven years, MVP aims to be one of the largest databases of its kind in the United States.

Dr. Joseph Fayad, serves as the local site investigator for the MVP Program at VASNHS. He is working with the Research and Development section to reach out to Veterans about the significance of this pioneering new program. "It's very important, not only for the Veterans themselves, but for active duty. Servicemembers are sent to different countries and exposed to different chemicals than other people are," Fayad said. "They are exposed to viruses and bacteria in other countries that civilians in America are not exposed to. It's very important to find out what genes you have that predispose you to be resistant or susceptible to certain conditions."

To learn about the role of genes, researchers compare genetic and health information from many samples. With such large amounts of information, researchers are better able to gain valuable knowledge to improve health care. "[The program] is progressing very well in our facility," Dr. Fayad said. "We are up to 270 Veterans who have submitted samples for the Million



Veteran Jack Ford reading the MVP pamphlet before enrolling in the program

Veterans Program. We appreciate your help in making this effort a success and to get more people involved."

For Veterans like Ford, the potential findings and breakthroughs are reason enough to volunteer. "I agreed to become a participant because I strongly believe that future medical advances can only be accomplished through extensive medical research," he said. "I would encourage all Veterans to enroll in the MVP program as it offers the potential for improving Veteran health programs for current veterans as well as those who will follow in future generations."

"It's a very simple program to join," added Dr. Fayad. "We will send you a notification, and all that you have to do is agree to have us draw one tube of blood, and it will be sent in a very methodical way to a central bank. That bank will then analyze your pre-existing conditions, and send your sample to support studies that require those particular specimens."

Active involvement in this program begins by filling out surveys about health and health-related behaviors, providing a blood sample that will be stored for future genomic analyses, allowing secure access to VA and VA-linked medical and health information – including past and future health records; and agreeing to future contact. For more information about MVP, Veterans should speak to their provider, or visit www.research.va.gov/mvp or call, toll-free, (866) 441-6075.



YOUR POST SERVING THE COMMUNITY

At Bishop Gorman High School at their Veterans Day event held on 12 November, Post 76 provided a unique and *very colorful* Color Guard. Pictured are: Color Guard Commander Walter Cheatham, Andy Agan, Director Marvin Morgenthal, Victor Ellis, TALDON Commander Joel Forman, Adjutant Tom Mahon, Dylan Forman, and Gary Parriott.

A very unique Veterans Day Ceremony/WWI Commemoration and Book Signing took place at the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, NV on 11 November.

The Event was organized by Nevada Department of Veterans Services, Commemorating the 100th Anniversary to the End of WWI.

New York Times best-selling author and historian Patrick O'Donnell was present to autograph his most recent book, "The Unknown".

WWI Memorabilia, Costumes, Static Displays and More were available to view in the morning and the formal Veterans Day Ceremony took place in the

afternoon. Truly a unique event and memorable experience.

There were doughboys and nurses dressed in period costumes at the World War One event. In addition, there were many VIPs in attendance including Department Commander Forman and his grandson [our own Doughboy], Post 76 Legionnaire Dr. Richard Small [MOPH] and Post 76 Gary Parriott.

At the Spotlight event on 19 October at the Texas Station. Besides having an information table Post 76 presented the Colors in the auditorium where different bands provided entertainment for the attendees. Three different Senior Beauty Pageant winners asked to get their picture with us so we accommodated them and got our own photos too. Legionnaires included Mike Shephard, Joel Forman, Gary Parriott, Marvin Morgenthal and Walter Cheatham.



Pictured are the 2018 Boys State individuals who were also selected to attend Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. The young man on the left is Marcos Jimenez, a new Eagle Scout, 2018 Boys State graduate, 2018 Boys Nation graduate. The young man on the right is Woodrow Orris, he is also an Eagle Scout and a 2018 graduate of both Boys State and Boys Nation.

Post members at our most recent meeting included Mike Shephard, Department of Nevada Sergeant at Arms and Post 76 Boys State Coordinator, Department of Nevada Commander Joel Forman (immediate past Commander of Post 76), and District 2 Commander Joe Tasby. The well-attended meeting was held on 18 November where not only the Boys Nation participants spoke but also there was a presentation on Boy Scouts by Pranava Moody (previously Mrs. Veteran Global Nations, Mrs. Nevada and currently Lady Premiere World 2018). **Background information and photos by Post Historian Gary Parriott**

POST 76 THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB [TALARC]



The Post 76 Amateur Ham Radio Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Santa Fe Casino, 4949 North Rancho Dr. We meet in a room inside the buffet area, it is to the right of the entrance. If you wish to eat breakfast, get a Stations Club card, it will reduce the cost of your buffet. If you wish breakfast, come around 0800, the meeting starts at 0830.

General plans are to build a HF/VHF/UHF radio room. We need to find a permanent room that can be secured, If anyone has any suggestions we would appreciate it.

Future plans include; emergency communications, disaster preparedness and support for natural and man-made disasters. The Club is open to anyone associated with the legion, it does not require a post change, you may remain with your current post. The only requirement is a Ham License or the desire to obtain a license.

We need donations and expertise, come on out and enjoy communicating around the world. and possibly help a fellow veteran. Any questions or suggestions contact **Frank Timbers** - 702-277-9160 or frank2755@gmail.com.

LEGIONNAIRE WILLIAM KNAPP TRANSFERS TO POST EVERLASTING

Bill was a U.S. Army hero who parachuted into France on D-Day, later parachuted to liberate Holland, and ended up at the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, was promoted as a battlefield commission to 1st Lieutenant and served a honor guard after the war in Paris for General Eisenhower. He was awarded the French Legion of Merit for his actions. Today, 3 December, we gave a final salute and farewell to our good friend and loyal PGR member, Bill Knapp, by honoring him with a PGR escort and flag line at his memorial service. Twenty-eight motorcycles took part in the escort from Palm Mortuary on N. Main in Las Vegas out to the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Along the way 8 PGR members stood a flag line on the Wagon Wheel Drive overpass.

Upon arrival at the cemetery 35 PGR members formed a flag line inside the chapel. Prior to the beginning of the service, Cynthia Man provided some beautiful music from her



flute. Em Stempin then conducted the service that included comments from Joel Forman, Immediate Past Commander of Post 76, and Commander, Department of Nevada. The minister from the church that Bill Knapp attended regularly added comments and offered a

prayer. An Honor Guard team from the United States Army conducted a rifle salute after which Echo Taps was played. Bobi Oates read the 13 Folds of the Flag during the flag-folding ceremony which was performed by the Army Honor Guard team. Chaplain Daniel McDonald (Post 76 Service Officer) concluded the service with a prayer and a reading of the 23rd Psalm.

It was a beautiful and fitting ceremony for a great hero and a great friend to us all. Thank you to all who attended and/or took part in today's memorial service. I'm confident that Bill was watching, and that he was very pleased.



Post 76 Legionnaire Bobbi Oates waits with Bill's Remains to enter the Chapel.



US Army Honor Guard folds the flag while Bobbi Oates reads the "Thirteen Folds".

All Photos courtesy of Scott Oates



Flautist Cynthia Man

Rick Foulon
Assistant State Captain
Patriot Guard Riders of Southern Nevada
Judge Advocate – Nevada Post 76

SERVICE OFFICER'S UPDATE

I have a few points of interest to bring before the membership. There is a new rule for anyone filing a TFA (Temporary Financial Assistance) claim with American Legion National. You must be a member of the American Legion. After the claim is completed and investigated by the Post Service Officer, it is submitted to the Department Adjutant. Once the Department Adjutant has approved the TFA request, it is sent to National for review. If approved by National, then a check will be sent to Department for distribution to the recipient.

When filing to get disability compensation "percentages" from the VA for service connected conditions, you must either have evidence such as trips to sick call, infirmary, and or any medical attention that was performed while serving in the Military, or evidence that you served in areas where the Presumptive Conditions are covered. When filing, only file with a certified Veteran Service Officer. There are a lot of people claiming they will help you file and then ask for your money for the assistance. You don't need to pay. One of the sources I use is the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) group at the VA Hospital. Their Service Officer's (once you sign a Power of Attorney) have access to your Military Records. They will also inform you of other supportive documentation you can provide to assist with your claim.

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases." Different conditions have been identified for the following types of service: Former Prisoners of War, Vietnam Veterans, Atomic Veterans and Gulf War Veterans, More information can be found at: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

AL Amyloidosis— A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias— A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)— A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2— A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease— A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease— A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma— A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma— A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease— A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset— A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda— A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer— Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)— Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)— A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues



American Legion Post 76
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UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

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

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

E Board Meeting — 14 February 2019, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — 17 February 2019, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — 14 March 2019, 4:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING — 17 March 2019, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA

E Board Meeting — 11 April 2019, 4:30 pm

NOTE! Meeting for April moved to accommodate Easter / Passover which is held on our normal 3rd Sunday

GENERAL MEETING — 28 April 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/>

IF You have not yet paid 2019 dues, you should have received your final renewal notice,. By paying your dues you help our Post have the resources to pay bills that come in during the beginning of this year.