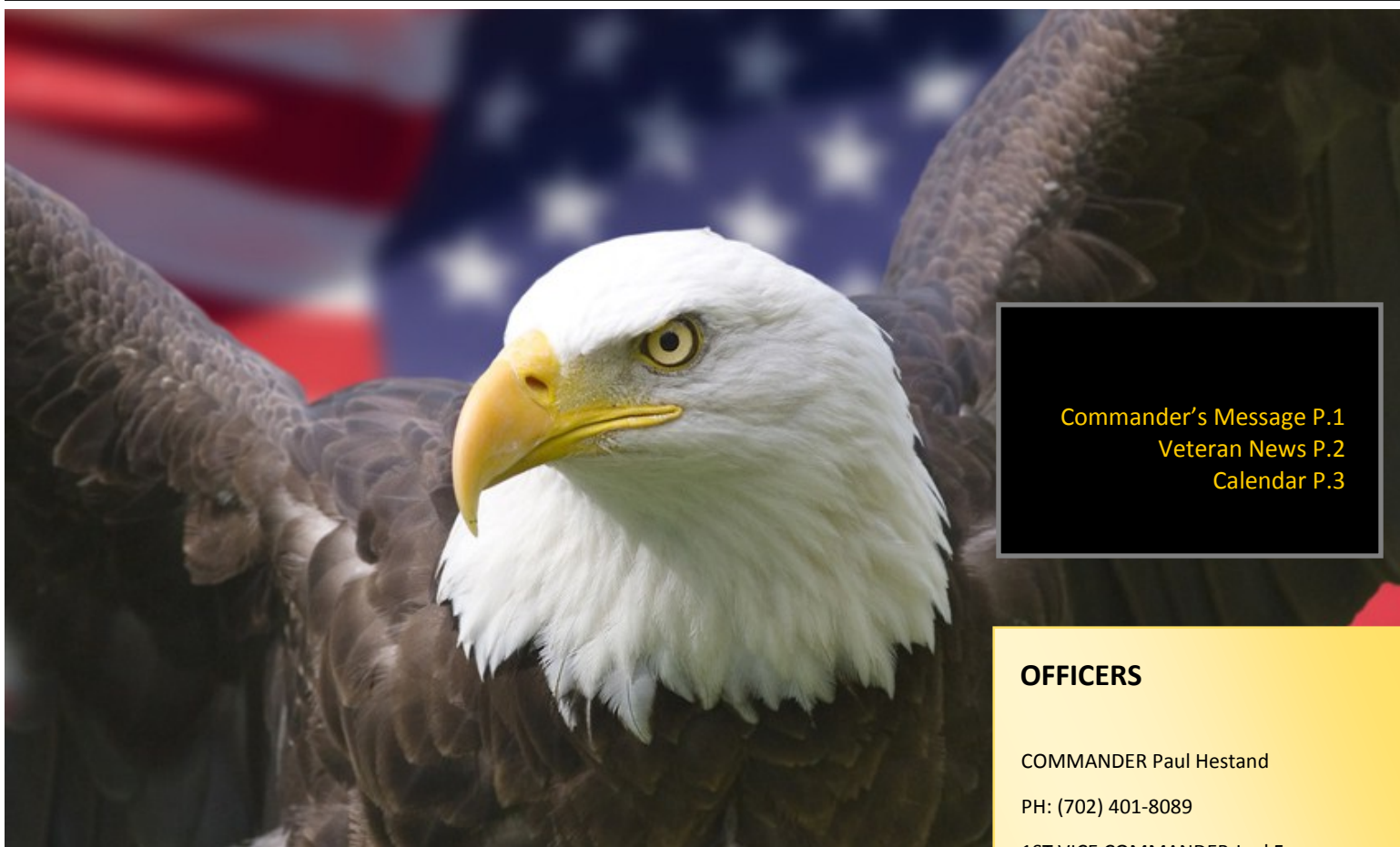




The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion Post 76, The Spirit of Freedom
ISSUE 01 September—November 2012



Commander's Message P.1
Veteran News P.2
Calendar P.3

Commander's Message

I would like to thank everyone for a phenomenal quarter! These past few months have seen amazing turn-outs at the general and E-board meetings.

The first Rod and Gun Club event was a big hit. We saw a little over a dozen people at the range and had a great time. The Memorial Day ceremony allowed us to remember our dearly departed comrades. I would especially like to thank Congressmen Joe Heck, Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, and Marcy Cote (President, NV Chapter of Gold Star Mothers). There is a great deal of work that goes into these types of events and the hard work definitely showed. We also enjoyed a fun social outing at a Las Vegas 51's game in July—a game our home town team won in dramatic fashion! The coming months will include:

Thursdays: Veteran Burials at Southern NV Vets Memorial Cemetery (POC: Joel Forman)

October Veterans Stand Down (POC: Jack Ford)

Veterans Day Parade (POC: Roger Henning)

Junior Shooting Sports Program (POC: Paul Hestand)

OFFICERS

COMMANDER Paul Hestand

PH: (702) 401-8089

1ST VICE COMMANDER Joel Forman

PH: (702) 274-1434

2ND VICE COMMANDER Bonnie Parrino

PH: (702) 354-4603

ADJUTANT Roger Henning

PH: (702) 595-1795

FINANCE OFFICER Jack Ford

PH: (702) 493-2252

SERVICE OFFICER Joel Forman

Contact Us:

American Legion Spirit of Freedom

Nevada Post 76

P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133-4012

Email: nvpost76@gmail.com

VA Report: New Training Model Yields Faster, More Accurate Claims Processing



In the face of dramatically increasing workloads, VA is vigorously pursuing new and better ways to train its employees in the complex regulations governing VA's disability compensation program.

Students of the new model completed 150 percent more claims per day, with a 30 percent increase in accuracy, when compared to student performance under the previous program. To date, more than 1,300 employees have taken the training, which is now in place for all newly appointed or reassigned employees who handle disability claims.

VA has completed a record-breaking 1 million claims per year the last two fiscal years, and is on target to complete another 1 million claims in FY2012. Even so, too many Veterans have to wait too long to get the benefits they have earned and deserve. That is why VA is aggressively building a strong foundation for a paperless, digital disability claims system – a lasting solution that will transform how VA operates and eliminate the backlog. This plan will help VA achieve Secretary Shinseki's goal: claim completion in less than 125 days with 98 percent accuracy in 2015 – delivering faster, better decisions for Veterans.

Members of the Quality Review Teams are trained by VA's national quality assurance staff to ensure local reviews are performed according to national standards. Team members are also certified in management and leadership approaches. Since implementation earlier this year, the teams have already conducted nearly 60,000 in-process reviews, and decision quality levels are showing significant and steady increases as a result.

VA has also developed a skills certification process to assess employees' job proficiency in comparison to national performance standards. Employees who process claims for disability benefits can now link their certification test results to individualized training plans and promotion criteria. This allows VA to target employee training to improve disability claims accuracy at both the individual and national level. "Through the national certification program, we are raising the skill levels of our core decision-makers and producing greater consistency in claims decisions," said VA Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

To learn more about what VA is doing to prepare its employees to deliver first-rate and timely benefits and services to our Nation's Veterans, view the full Challenge report at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/Evaluation-Report.pdf>.

American Legion honors decorated Korean War veteran



NORWALK -- Philip Roger Marzolf, a longtime East Norwalk resident and decorated Korean War veteran, received the American Legion's posthumous honor of Veteran of the Month on Sunday. A native of Staten Island, N.Y., Marzolf was a Navy corpsman attached to the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He reached the rank of Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class and received numerous medals for his outstanding service, including the Korean Service Medal with three battle stars, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star with "V" for valor -- awarded for acts of bravery and heroism -- and two Purple Hearts for the injuries he sustained in combat.

The flag in front of the American Legion Post 12 meeting hall on County Street will fly this month in honor of Marzolf, who was named the August veteran of the month. Marzolf's stepson, Robert Flynn, said his father displayed great courage in Korea and would have been honored to receive the legion's award. "I know Phil is smiling down on this ceremony," Flynn said. Marzolf entered the Navy on Sept. 14, 1950 and was honorably discharged on July 9, 1954. Leo Motyka, a past commander of Post 12 who presided over Sunday's ceremony, read a citation that Marzolf received from Marine Corps Maj. Gen. J.T. Seldon for his heroic achievements while serving with a Marine infantry company in Korea on March 2, 1952. "Serving as a company corpsman, Hospitalman Marzolf displayed outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty in the face of grave danger," the citation reads. "When the company was subjected to an intense enemy mortar and artillery barrage, he continually exposed himself with complete disregard for personal safety, in order to treat casualties." The citation says Marzolf continued to treat injured Marines, even after being wounded by an enemy shell while trying to carry a casualty to safety. Not until all casualties had been treated and evacuated would he accept medical attention himself," the citation notes. "Hospitalman Marzolf's personal bravery and fortitude throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Barbara Marzolf joked that her husband's bravery continued in civilian life. "Phil displayed great courage in Korea," she said, "and he displayed even more courage the day he married this widow with five kids." Born Aug. 14, 1930 to Philip and Ellen Marzolf, Philip Roger Marzolf attended local schools in his native Rhode Island before graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut. He also took courses at Yale University and worked for more than 30 years as a computer engineer with Mobile Oil and CBS until his retirement in 1995. Marzolf married the former Barbara Raymond on Dec. 28, 1986. Both had children from previous marriages. In addition to his wife, Marzolf is survived by his sons, Erich and Kurt; brother Richard; sister Carol; and many nieces and nephews.



American Legion Post 76

P.O. Box 34012

Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

It Is Time to Renew Your Membership!!!

July 1st starts the beginning of the renewal process for the 2013 American Legion year, and the easiest way to renew your membership is online. The website is <http://www.legion.org/renew>. You can also send a check for \$35 to our Adjutant, Roger Henning.

Your dues help support programs in your community and across the nation, to include Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs and many others.



Adjutants Pen

AMERICAN LEGION 2013 ONLINE RENEWAL NOW OPEN

If you have not done so already, please consider renewing your membership online. The website is www.legion.org/renew. If you want to do it right now, that would be even better. I just renewed and it took less than 2 minutes! If you renew online, I can have the card to you in a couple of weeks. It can take National a couple of months to mail your card if you do not renew online.

You need your member number to start. It is listed on the notice you re-

ceived or on your current membership card. If you don't have your card handy, I have a copy and can give you your number. Call me at (702)595-1795. After entering your name and number, the form will auto fill all information already in the American Legion database. You may correct your information at that time. Mandatory information for online renewal includes your name, date of birth, address, and email. The rest is optional, but

helps us understand who you are and what programs may be of interest or helpful to you.

Payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. I will mail you your validated membership card as soon as I get the information from the website.

Thank you for ensuring the American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, service members, their families, and communities across the nation.

Special Events:

September 2012

S	M	T	W	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2012

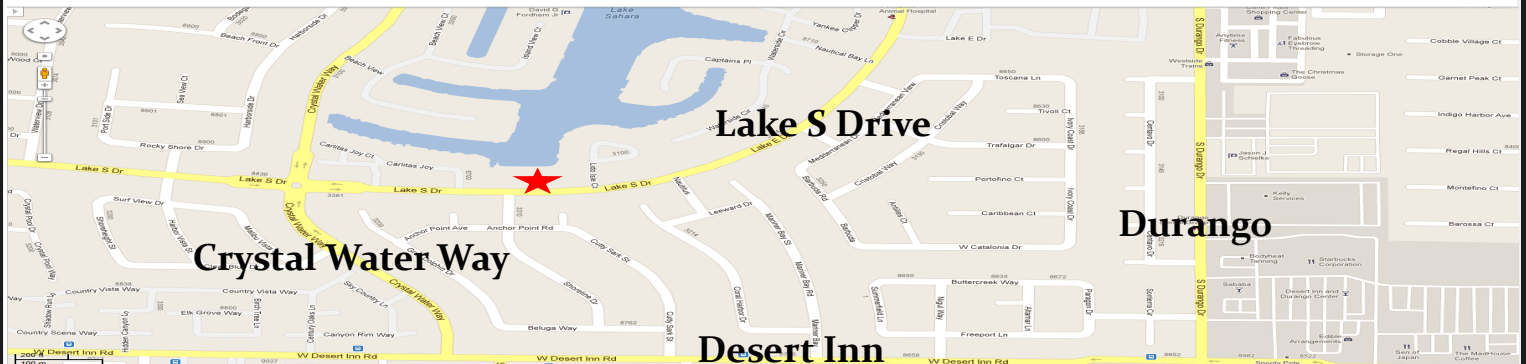
S	M	T	W	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2012

S	M	T	W	TH	FR	SA
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

General Meetings—October 21st and November 18th at the Durango Hills YMCA—Meetings start at 1:30 p.m.

*****The September 16th General Meeting will be a picnic at The Lakes South Park to celebrate Post 76's birthday!*****



To get to the Lakes South Park, take Desert Inn west to Crystal Water Way. Take a right on Crystal Water Way and follow it to a round-about which connects to Lake S Drive. Follow Lake S Drive to South Park, which is approximately across the street from Shoreline Drive.