

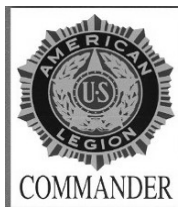


The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 36 — April — June 2021

COMMANDERS MESSAGE



Greetings NV Post 76 Legionnaires!

I hope you are all safe and healthy. It looks like we may be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel!!

On April 18th, 2021, The Post held its first in person meeting since Feb 2020. Director Ford was able to line up a meeting room at the Lakeview Bay club. We had approx. 25 members attend in a safe, socially distanced meeting. Hopefully, we will be able to continue to move forward and meet in person. We were able to hold our annual elections and I want to thank all the incoming officers for serving the post and its members. Adjutant Tom has retired as Adjutant, but will remain on the Exec Committee as a Director. Andy LeDuc has been appointed as Post Adjutant.

Several awards were handed out at the meeting, including Congressional Certificates of Recognition, from the office of Senator Rosen, to all the members of the Buddy Check Committee. Sgt at Arm's Richard Hoffer received the Gold Legion of Merit for his continued work in reaching out to, and assisting post members. Finance Officer Dennis Christiansen was awarded Post 76's Legionnaire of the year for 2020. Finance Officer Dennis took on many responsibilities over the course of the year, and it was an honor to present him with the award.

Judge Advocate Willie Barron has worked extremely hard, and has earned the title of VSO for Southern Nevada. He has begun assisting veterans, and many more will benefit from his assistance.

As you can see, the year is off to a great start. I am hopeful that once we can again meet at the Humana community center, that we will see all of you there. We plan on livestreaming the meetings once we do go back, so that those that wish to stay home can still be involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this past year, and I look forward to my second term as Commander for the best American Legion Post in Nevada.

ANDREA BOLTES EARNS ONE OF THE FIRST GIRL EAGLE SCOUTS

Andrea was the Delta Academy Class of 2020 Valedictorian. She is currently a student at the College Southern Nevada and an Air Force ROTC cadet at UNLV. She is a founding member of Girl Troop 312, chartered by the American Legion Post 76 - Spirit of Freedom. She is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, currently serving as Nebagamon Lodge's Vice-Chief.



Dear Boltes
Gayle O'Neal
2021-02-08
Troop 312
Nevada

Reported by Tom Mahon, Adjutant NV Post 76

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PAST COMMANDER/POST DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Our Post has not met in person since approximately last March of 2020. But, your officers and directors have not taken any time off from keeping the Post active and growing. Two very capable officers have moved on to other states, our Director and Past Commander, and our Judge Advocate. We wish them both the best of luck in their new adventures. We have been privileged to have two members of our Post step up and be appointed to their new positions, again, both extremely capable. Our Adjutant over the past 4+ years will be our new Director and has a lot of experience with the day to day activities of our Post. His spot as Adjutant will be taken over by an experienced member who has served as Secretary for other Veterans organizations for many years. We have, indeed, been fortunate.

When Covid hit, we realized that it was a disease and not an excuse. Our Post has continued to increase our membership from just under 1000 members to over 1200 during this time. Exact figures are not available just yet as the National Website has had a major makeover, and is still not quite up to par. However, National has indicated that sometime during the 4th week of April we should be up and running at full speed. Those members who have renewed online may experience a slight delay in receiving their new membership cards due this system enhancement.

As of this date, we have had a Color Guard function, and a 3 day recruitment/information table, which was very successful. Several more are being planned for the upcoming weeks and most of us are certainly ready to put this past year behind us and move on.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you back at our regular Post Home at Humana, very soon.

Joel M. Forman — Past Post Commander, PDC & Director, NV Post 76

POST 76 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

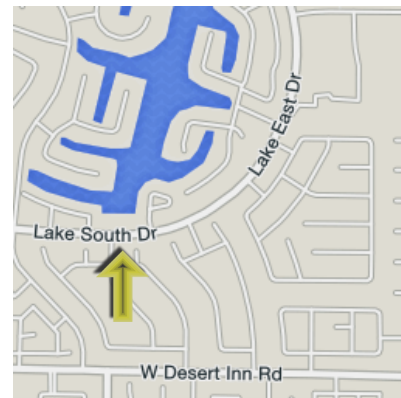
Please Attend the 19th Annual Lakes Memorial Day Ceremony

Saturday May 29th, 2021 [Note that this is the Saturday BEFORE Memorial Day]

Solemnly and Promptly at 9:00 AM

Held at the Lakes South Park

[APPROXIMATELY 3310 Lake South Drive] [between Sahara / Desert Inn North-South and Durango / Ft. Apache East -West]



On Memorial Day, we remember and honor our fallen heroes. Join Nevada Post 76 Spirit of Freedom Legionnaires, our neighbors from The Lakes, The City of Las Vegas and our distinguished speakers on this important National Holiday to honor those who gave all to defend the way of life for us.

The media label this day as the official beginning of summer. Some in the media say that it is a day to CELEBRATE and honor ALL the men and women who serve and have served, as well as those who paid the ultimate price. They are incorrect.

MEMORIAL DAY is that special day where we DO NOT CELEBRATE but HONOR and remember with humility and gratitude those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedoms and our way of life.

SHOOTING SPORTS

On April 1st two fellow Legionnaires (Pete Cervantes aka “My 9 beats your 4.” and Steve Bickford) held a “Fun Shoot” on some BLM land near Indian Springs. It was a hike to get there, but eventually we found the place after roaming around on the desert floor for a spell or two.

Not a lot of ammunition was shot due to the current shortages, but enough to get the barrels dirty.

It was all pistol shooting featuring 9mm, .40 S&W and .45ACP at 7-yards. Targets included “Barney” the Dinosaur. Who seemed to escape any real harm from the 9mm shooter, due to his tendency to shoot low and left. It was as if he wanted to make “Barney” dance, but who really knows?

Now the other shooter, whose philosophy is “all my gun calibers start with the number 4,” was spot on as usual. After about an hour it was time to head on home and as we went past Sheep Mountain we all saluted Kenny Veach who we think is still up there since 2014. *Steven Bickford, Post 76 Shooting Sports Chairman*



TWO SCOUT LEADERS AWARDED SILVER BEAVER

Along with four other recipients, Scott Moody received the Silver Beaver award from the Boy Scouts of America’s Las Vegas Area Council. Kristina Siegmund of our troop is also receiving the Silver Beaver Award. Two of the five council recipients come from Troop 312.

The award will be presented to them at the Las Vegas Area Council 's Annual Dinner on 25 March 2021.



Scott is a current member of Post 76 and Committee Chair for our troop 312. He is also currently the BSA's LVAC Red Rock District Commissioner. Also, Sandra Lane, another one of our Assistant Scoutmasters received the District Award of Merit.

Congratulations Scott, Kristina and Sandra!

By the way, The handle is @lvtroop312 on the Instagram app.

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America.

Upon nomination by their local Scout council and with the approval of the National Court of Honor, recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council.

The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedica-

tion, and many years of service.

It is given to those who do not seek it.

Steven E. Bickford, Post 76 Scout Committee Chairman



Contact Pranava Moody, 1st Vice Commander, NV Post 76 for more information.

Mrs. Moody’s info can be found on page 1.



POST FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

March 31st. ended our 3rd. quarter for Fiscal Year 2020 which our Post was in. It has been a very good year so far thanks to the generosity of our members and sponsors. Donations have been up over 600% compared to last year. We donated to 12 different organizations and the year is not over till June 30th.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2021 has been approved and I believe the Donations and Charities we sponsor will be happy with what we plan to give. Thanks to you and your support of our Post I know our Post will be seen and recognized locally and nationally as one of the Premier Posts in The American Legion. Thanks again for your support.

Dennis Christiansen, Finance Officer

JUST A SAMPLING OF POST ACTIVITIES

Director Joel Forman, Andy LeDuc, Neil Johnson, Linda Leduc, 2nd Vice Commander Walter Cheatham, as well as Fred Wager (Post 76 member and Deputy Director of Programs and Services at Nevada Department of Veterans Services) help put out wreaths during the Wreaths Across America event at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. In addition, Em Stemple, our Post 76 honorary member was there to represent the both the Southern Nevada Patriot Guard as well as Post 76..

The Wreaths Across America were taken in on January 9th. 2nd Vice Commander Walter Cheatham, Director Joel Forman and Finance Officer Dennis Christiansen attended the cleanup.



The Sock It 2 me (Which Director Jack Ford organized with donations from several members) was done in December at the V.A.



Hospital. Finance Officer Dennis Christiansen, Judge Advocate Willie Barron, 2nd Vice Commander Walter Cheatham, and Directors Joel Forman and Jack Ford gave not only the Socks, but 3 checks to the V.A. One was for V.A.V.S., one was for The Fisher House, and one was for

The "Indigent Food Fund" which is done at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System facility on Pecos. Post 76 donated over a thousand decks of playing cards. Because there was no Fall Stand Down, the Post donated surplus OD wool socks and gloves. Also wool gaiters that could be worn as hats or face coverings were donated to the cause.

Post 76 is continuously looking for ways to help our active military. Recently we were invited to participate in The Creech Spouse Appreciation Event held on 7 May. The Post and our Auxiliary Unit were able to hand out gift bags containing an American Flag, craft kits, playing cards, personal items donated from Humana and Post and unit contact information.



The Post has developed a patch to recognize and celebrate our 25th Anniversary of the Spirit of Freedom NV Post 76.

This patch is now available for a suggested donation of **five (5) dollars** and will be sold at meetings at the back table.

POST 76 HOLDS ITS FIRST IN-PERSON MEETING IN OVER A YEAR!

Due to the pandemic lockdowns, Post 76 has been restricted to holding all executive board and general business meetings via Zoom. While the Humana Community Center is still closed, Director Ford was able to locate an alternative location. The Lakeview Bay Club volunteered to donate its beautiful hall on the shores of Sahara Lake.



Elections were held. The officers elected were Tony Mascari, Commander, Pranava Moody, 1st Vice Commander, Walter Cheatham, 2nd Vice Commander, Richard Hoffer, Sergeant at Arms, and Tom Mahon, Director. The Executive Board then approved the slate of appointed officers that are also listed on the first page.

Following the elections, an Award Ceremony was held. A flag that was flown over the Capital in his honor was presented to Tom

Mahon for his years of service to the Post as Adjutant. Richard Hoffer was present the Gold Legion Order of Merit for his outstanding work on the Buddy Check Program. Dennis Christiansen was awarded the Legionnaire of the Year award.

In addition, Certificates of Special Congressional



Recognition Senator Jacky Rosen were presented to:

- Tony Mascari
- Pranava Moody
- Tom Mahon
- Joel Forman
- Dennis Christiansen
- Richard Hoffer
- Roger Henning (not yet presented)





Lakeview Bay Club

Private Lakefront Event Venue
Indoor/Outdoor - Stunning Views
Near Sahara and Ft. Apache



Sissy Carrasquilla - Director of Operations
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2902 Lake East Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89117
(702)483-7320 (corporate)
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Event Options for EVERY Budget

AGENT BLUE

Agent Blue is part of the Rainbow Herbicides Group. It was used from 1961 to 1971, mainly in Vietnam and later in Laos.

Agent Blue affects plants by causing them to dry out. As rice is highly dependent on water to live, using Agent Blue on these paddies can destroy an entire field and leave it unsuitable for further planting. Agent Blue has no half-life, it last forever in soil, sediments, rivers, canals, and public water supplies. Once it's in environment, its toxicity is magnified as it moves up the food chain; slowly killing and disabling humans as it accumulates in the body.

Blue was used during "Operation Ranch Hand", and was used in Laos to kill crops in order to deprive communist Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops of food.

The Vietnamese Rice today remains tainted with arsenic. By attacking the food supply, reasoning went, villagers would be forced out and the villages would no longer provide support and protection for the Viet Cong.

Kenneth Olson, professor emeritus of soil science at the University of Illinois and a US Army Vietnam – era veteran, has studied and published on the soils and sediments of South Vietnam, the roles they played in Vietnam warfare and the legacies left behind. Olson's recently released paper, "The fate of Agent Blue, the Arsenic Based Herbicide Used in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War," is co-authored with Larry Cihacek, also a US Army veteran, who is professor of soil science at the North Dakota State University. It's their most recent in a series of papers on Vietnam Soils and sediments and herbicide persistence in the environment.

"Agent Blue was sprayed on 100,000 hectares (one hectare is about 2.5 acres) of mangrove forests and about 300,000 hectares of rice paddies just prior to rice harvest time that resulted in destroying the standing crop and contaminated soils and water sediments with arsenic.

The "Rainbow Herbicides." Were sprayed on wetlands, rice paddies, forests, mangroves, bamboo groves and military base perimeter fences to defoliate jungle vegetation, reveal guerrilla hiding places and destroy the food supply of enemy troops.

Cihacek, a soil chemist stated, "Agent Blue was the most effective of all the rainbow herbicides in killing rice and grasses and persisted in the soil after the crops were destroyed."

It was manufactured by the Ansul Company chemical plants in Marinette, Wisconsin, and Menominee, Michigan. During Vietnam, oceangoing ships were loaded with 205-liter Agent Blue barrels and shipped via the Saint Lawrence Seaway to the coast of South Vietnam. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found throughout Southeast Asia deltas, including the Mekong Delta. Today, arsenic-contaminated rice and groundwater are growing concerns as neither naturally occurring arsenic nor anthropic arsenic has a half-life and neither can be destroyed. Arsenic that's in place due to human intervention has remained in the Mekong Delta environment for the last **50 plus years** and has added to persistent arsenic contamination in water supplies, sediments and soils. Water-soluble arsenic primarily leaches into the soil root zone and the groundwater or is carried by floodwater into adjacent waterways or volatilized under anaerobic rice paddy conditions as arsine gas.



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The health of 15 million Vietnamese people living in the Mekong Delta is at risk from the combination of manufactured and natural arsenic in drinking water and food supplies. The arsenic in contaminated rice paddy soil, sediment and water is taken up by fish or shrimp, or by crop vegetation; trace amounts can end up in the rice grain and food crops bioaccumulation of arsenic in fish, shrimp and birds increases the concentration of arsenic throughout the food chain, leading to a bio magnification of its toxicity in the Vietnamese people.

It's urgent that elevated arsenic concentrations in water supplies and agricultural products be identified and mitigated through better runoff control and groundwater managements; improved rice genetics and alternate crop selections; shifts in crop management associated with tillage, fertilization and phosphorus use; and systematic monitoring of food and drinking water. In 2001, the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease registry ranked arsenic as number 1 on its list of hazardous substances at Superfund sites – polluted areas needing cleanup of hazardous contaminants

In 2016 Olson took a trip to South Vietnam to study the Chu Chi and Iron Triangle soil tunnels in an attempt to determine why those tunnels were so resilient and stable, so hard to destroy with bombs during the Vietnam War. The answer was in the nature and properties of the soils. When the soil tunnels were aerated and dried, the soil wall took on properties similar to concrete and no additional wooden external support beams were needed to hold up the ceilings.

In 2019, there was a follow-up trip. "Long-term Fate of Agent Orange and Dioxin TCDD Contaminated Soils and Sediments in Vietnam Hotspots," examined the persistence of dioxin in South Vietnam soils, sediments, water and the food supplies. Many Veterans were interested in this report and contacted the researchers for further information. As a result of the vast interest, an unofficial Band of Retirees (mostly Vietnam, Vietnam-era veterans and university agriculture professors) were brought together to discuss, fact-check and collaborate on research and writing projects, especially this most recent paper on Agent Blue.

The Merry band of Retirees mission is an educational mission, code-named "Operation Divine Providence." The committee members share personal experiences and scientific information among themselves and with others to educate Vietnam and United States governments, militaries, veterans and civilians about the environmental impacts of the spraying of Rainbow herbicides more than 50 years ago during the Vietnam War.

The group members were also an important source for ground trothing, checking facts, research, writing, review and distribution of the Agent Blue article. They view their work as an "educational and historic gift to the Vietnamese" from US Vietnam veterans and Vietnam-era soldiers.

We were told that these agents had no medical impact on humans, and we weren't in Laos and Cambodia; therefore, we can't apply for benefits. These denials have been going on and still exist today. It's really earth shattering the United States uses us at their expense, then lies to you, and refuses to grant your entitlements. Instead of taking care of what they created, the US turns their heads away from their responsibilities to their soldiers and promises they made. How can you continue to trust such a system? So, the reality is that the US continues to deny that we were in two countries during that time (Laos and Cambodia), but I can tell you that CIA operations existed from Laos. Nixon ordered a conflict in Laos, and without reservations I will attest that our soldiers were in those countries. To prove it, we can line up hundreds of Vets that can tell you so. So, with my final word, I ask all of you this question: **WHY WOULD THERE BE A NEED TO SPRAY LAOS AND CAMBODIA IF WE WERE NOT THERE? WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE IF NOT FOR OUR SAFETY NEEDS?**

Willie Barron, American Legion VETERANS Service Officer; 702-848-8312

Reference Sources: Kenneth Olson, Professor; University of Illinois US Army Vietnam Veteran



American Legion NV Post 76

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES :

*There is a very slim chance that we will be able to have a in person meeting at Humana during the second quarter of 2021. Due to the **pandemic and uncertainty** in size of groups allowed, we do not when, as well as if, we can report upon scheduled upcoming in person meeting dates and times here as we usually do in newsletters.*

We will continue to notify Legionnaires of meetings via email. Please check your SPAM or JUNK folders for email from NVPost76@gmail.com. If it is there, please add it to your safe senders list depending on how your email system works.

If you have not been receiving emails from us, please send an email to NVPost76@gmail.com to be added to our list.

If you **do not have a 2021 Membership card**, it means you are now **EXPIRED**.

Membership renewal notices for the 2021 year have been sent out numerous times during 2020. If you renewed during 2020, you will not get a renewal reminder in the mail this year 2021. You can help us by paying your 2021 dues. The easiest way to do this, is to go online to www.Legion.org and click on **RENEW**, and pay with a credit card. If it is more convenient for you, checks are always fine after you receive your renewal in the mail. IF you pay and receive your new 2021 membership card, **disregard any renewal notices** that may come afterwards.