



# The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 38 — October — December 2021

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE



### Greetings NV Post 76 Legionnaires!

Well, just when it looked like we were taking 2 steps forward, we take one step back. The re-imposed mask mandate has delayed our return to our post home at Humana, and we resumed having meetings via ZOOM.

*(LAST MINUTE UPDATE — We will hold the September and likely subsequent meetings at the VVA Hall — see note below)*

The Post however, continues to grow, and remains as strong as ever. We will not be deterred in our mission of service to our veterans, and service to our community. Our membership team continues to do an amazing job despite setbacks with the new myLegion system.

Judge Advocate Barron, an accredited Veterans Service Officer [VSO], is very busy helping veterans out of 2 offices. Post Director Ford was recently elected as Alternate National Executive Committeeperson. Post Director Forman has been busy growing the Post with a detachment at High Desert State Prison, and we look forward to attending a meeting once things are set up.

Additionally, Post 76 would like to congratulate Troop 312 member Lucia Eichelberger for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and will be having a Court of Honor in early September.

I will close this message with a request to all.... **Please check on a buddy.** Just a phone call, text or email to ask another veteran how they are doing. We are a strong community and we need to be there for one another.

Stay healthy. Stay safe. I hope to see you all when we can meet again.

May God bless you all.

*Tony Mascari, Commander*

**We will be holding an in-person General Membership Meeting this month at the Vietnam Veterans of America Hall at 6424 Cheyenne Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89108, on our normal 3rd Sunday of the Month (19 September 2021) at 1330 hours (1:30 PM PDT civilian time).**

**At that meeting, we will be raffling off 2 passes, each good for 2 golfers at a golf course in Sun City Summerlin, for a donation of \$10 per ticket.**

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## PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S/ POST 76 DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Recently, I took a trip to the heartland of our great country. For miles in every direction one could see cornfields and soybeans as far as you could see, waving in the breeze just like in a Norman Rockwell painting. America, just as I pictured it to be. Even behind the house I stayed, nothing for miles but cornfields. The new development where I stayed had about 250 brand new storybook houses, young families, lots of children playing on the lawns and streets. One day that it did not rain, I walked around the neighborhood up and down the streets, all basically the same, no browns and grays, all pastels and green everywhere.

But something was missing, I asked myself, "Where was "Old Glory"? I did not see one American flag, anywhere. I did see a few flag poles attached to some houses, but bare. I noticed a military license plate on a car parked in a driveway and stopped to talk to a nice young man about different things. Before I went on my way, I asked him why there were no American Flags anywhere in the new neighborhood. Yes, there was a small flag painted on a fence, and a small military statue in an entryway, but that was it.

I could not believe the answers, this young patriot gave. I will not go into that here, as we try to be apolitical. Even around my development here, I counted 4 American flags, including my own.

What has happened? Where has "Old Glory" gone?

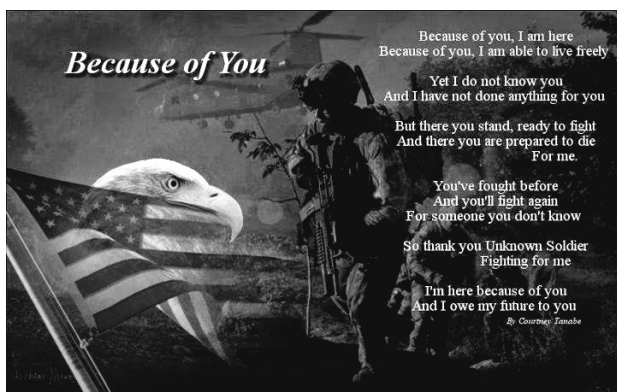
*Joel M. Forman — Past Post Commander, PDC & Director, NV Post 76*

## THE LAKES VETERANS MEMORIAL IN SOUTH PARK

After last year's Memorial Day Service at South Park in The Lakes, I was contacted by Mr. Larry Robbins, President of the West Sahara Home Owners Association to see if Spirit of Freedom, Post 76 would be interested in establishing a Veterans Memorial there in the park. After discussion and approval by our E- Board and the General Membership, it was decided that we would like to undertake this project.

As appointed Chairman of the project I had some personal discussions with various other individuals who have been involved in previous projects of a similar nature at the Veteran Cemetery in Boulder City. Since concern was raised about the potential for vandalism if the memorial was placed in the park itself, I met with the board members of The Lakes HOA to see if it would be possible to place the Memorial beyond the fence on the water side of the Lake. They indicated that would be acceptable depending on the actual memorial we would propose, and also indicated they would like it to be a community project... something with which I concurred.

Presently various options are being considered, and, when the choices are narrowed down to the two or three, those will be published in the Post and Community Newsletters for further input. Since the size and quality of the Memorial will be in direct proportion to the funds that we can raise through the community and our Post membership, I am starting our fund-raising effort at the present time. If you would be willing to join us in this tribute to all our Veterans, please make your tax-deductible check payable to Spirit of Freedom Post 76 with the notation "SP Veteran Memorial" on the comment line and mail it to The American Legion, P.O. Box 34012, Las Vegas, NV 89133. *Jack L. Ford, PDC, Director Spirit of Freedom Post 76*



*Honoring the sacrifices many have made for our country in the name of freedom and democracy is the very foundation of Veterans Day*

*- Charles B. Rangel, an American politician who was a U.S. representative for districts in New York from 1971 to 2017*

*Veterans Day 2021—11 November Thursday.*

# LEGIONNAIRES HAVE CLINIC ON GEOCACHING MERIT BADGE

On August 14th Post 76 Legionnaires **Pete Cervantes** and **Steve Bickford** gave a clinic for the **Geocaching Merit Badge** at the **Las Vegas Area Council BSA HQ**. For half a-day, seven scouts from all around the Las Vegas area learned the basics of Geocaching:

- ◇ How to use a GPS device (such as the Garmin or Smart Phone),
- ◇ Understanding Latitude & Longitude,
- ◇ Along with basic map & compass knowledge (which included something called Universal Transverse Mercator or UTM),
- ◇ Finding and maintaining your own caches,
- ◇ Doing it safely, and
- ◇ watching out for Muggles.

The culmination of the session was to put into practice from what was learned in the classroom. It was time to head out into the field and form teams and find caches. Each team had to find two unique caches which were hidden around the HQ campus. After about 40-45 minutes all teams successfully completed the course and had a good time in doing so.

*Steven E. Bickford, Post 76 Scouting Committee Leader*

## Now many of you will ask: “WHAT IS GEOCACHING ANYWAY?”

“A geocache is something that has been hidden in a secret location. The hider will record the coordinates. This game of “coordination” started on May 3, 2000. A computer consultant named Dave Ulmer hid a bucket somewhere in the state of Oregon and posted the GPS coordinates online. Two people found it, and it caught on from there. According to Geocaching.com, there are millions of caches around the world—even on the International Space Station. Unless you’re an astronaut, this one will remain a mystery for the ages.”

From: Geocaching <https://i.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gocomics.com%2Fmichaelramirez%2F2021%2F08%2F22%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0hKJI9NoIVubrGSno3TIGpv7I-CsmdT0o1BomIKeg34dUz3Th->

## IN-COUNTRY VET



THINKING OF OUR AFGHAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS...



**GWOT Vets — Your Service Mattered. You kept the wolf from our doors for 20 years**

When you don't know who to call at the Veterans Administration:  
**1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)** is the one number to call



**Choose VA**

# PACK 312 AND TROOPS 312 SELL POPCORN

## It is that time again...Popcorn Time!!

Support Pack and Troops 312 by purchasing popcorn from them. Post 76 sponsors Pack 312 and both 312 Girl/Boy Troops.

### **BSA – Las Vegas Area Council Promo:**

#### TRAIL'S END POPCORN

Each year, the Las Vegas Area Council sponsors a Trail's End Popcorn sale to raise money for local Scouting programs and activities. The annual product sales of the Las Vegas Area Council provide a unique fundraising opportunity for Scouting units to raise funds to provide a quality Scouting experience for their Scouts and families. Annually, the Council provides units with opportunities to participate in the fall Product Sale and spring Camp Card sale.

#### WHY OUR SCOUTS SELL TRAIL'S END POPCORN?

- Increase our units income – 73% stays local
- Pay for your entire Scouting program.
- Scouts learn life lessons by “earning their own way”.
- The prize program motivates Scouts.
- Cool new incentives for Scouts who sell.
- For additional revenue, sell online to friends and family out of town.

### Where can you buy popcorn to support our Pack and Troops?

Pack 312 and Troops 312 have the following dates at these two Smith's locations.

They will be there from 8 am - 7 pm.

Saturday, September 25, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

Sunday, September 26, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

Saturday, October 2, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

Sunday, October 3, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

Sunday, October 3, 9851 W. Charleston Blvd. - Troop 312

Saturday, October 9, 9851 W. Charleston Blvd - Pack 312

Saturday, October 9, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

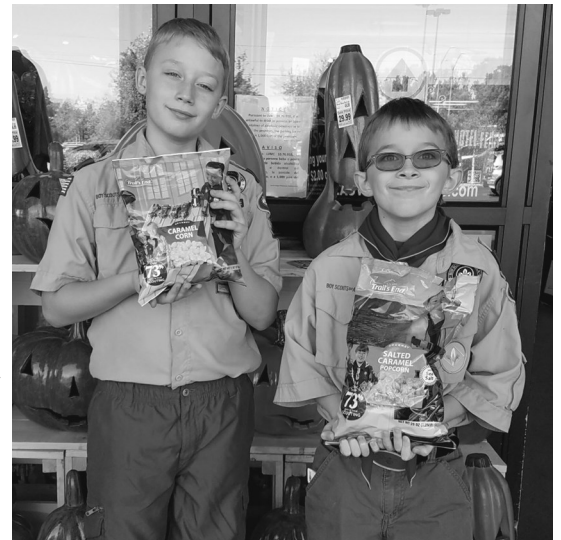
Sunday, October 10, 8555 W. Sahara Ave. - Troop 312

Sunday, October 24, 9851 W. Charleston Blvd. - Pack 312

The pack will also be at the Lowe's in Summerlin and the CVS in Village Center on these days:

Saturday, August 14, Lowe's, 8 am - 4 pm

Sunday, August 22, CVS, 8 am - 2 pm



*Best, Pranava Moody, 1st Vice Commander*



Troop 312 Instagram: [Instagram.com/lvtroop312](https://www.instagram.com/lvtroop312)

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***

We are now starting into our Fiscal Year 2022. There are no outstanding bills or assessments and our budgeted Post income is on course to achieving our overall goal for this fiscal year. Thank you all for your support.

Per the approved Constitution of our post, The Post's investment fund has been renamed to "J&B Rost Post Home Fund" to honor those who started this fund.

Also, a "Reserve Fund" has been set up. The start-up money for this fund has come from our General Fund and the J&B Rost Post Home Fund. This fund will only be used in case of any shortfalls we may have in paying our bills and charities and will need the approval by a majority of those Executive Committee members entitled to vote. The action must then be ratified by the Post membership at the next general meeting.

If anyone has any questions for me about the Post Finances, please contact me and I will answer them to the best of my ability.

Please know that any member in good standing may view the financial records of our Post if they so desire.

*Dennis Christiansen – NV Post 76 Finance Officer*

### ***PLEASE HELP! WE NEED YOUR EMAIL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER***

On our BUDDY CHECKS, we have found that some of the phone numbers are incorrect in the National Database. Either that or our members do not answer calls from numbers they do not recognize. If you did not receive a BUDDY CHECK in the last year, then we would like to confirm your correct telephone number. NV Post 76 officers are dedicated to making calls to our members just to find out how they are doing, and if there is anything the Post can do for them.

The same goes for EMAIL ADDRESSES. We get a number bounced back to us as undeliverable or the mailbox is full. To increase communications between our Legionnaires and Post Officers, we'd like to add your email address to our distribution list. We promise that by providing your email to us we will not share this information with any vendor or individual and that the communications you receive from our American Legion Nevada "Spirit of Freedom" Post 76 will be strictly monitored.

We use email to notify you of upcoming meetings, and selected important information that may be of interest to you. We strictly limit the amount of material that we send. We receive email from Department and National almost daily and seldom forward only about once a week on the average.

Thank you for your support of the American Legion and our Posts efforts to educate, advocate, and support the total Veteran Community.

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

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

***When you don't know who to call at the Veterans Administration —  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is the one number to call.***

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 76 NEWS

The Auxiliary, members Cynthia Ferris, Courtney Kaplan and me, Linda LeDeuc, have been busy in the month of August.

With all the upcoming events we will be looking for volunteers for help with an assortment of duties.

Committee Chair, Cynthia Ferris is keeping everyone

updated on the events with the following report regarding the High Tea Fundraiser for the Competition:



## American Legion Auxiliary

### High Tea and Holiday Bazaar - 4 December, 1-3pm

Linda, Courtney and I met with the Activities Director at The Meadows Senior Living yesterday morning. The clubhouse is absolutely lovely and will be the perfect location for our December fundraiser. We are in need of 15 tea pots, 70 teacups/saucers (plates/service pieces are a bonus) and 15 tiered servers. In addition, square and rectangular table linens in white, ivory, red or green colors. If you know of anyone who is looking to make space in their linen closets or china cupboards, please ask them if they would donate or lend these items to Unit 76.

Linda is following up with the woman who will be in charge of the food as well as securing the Rancho HS ROTC as servers. Courtney volunteered to set up ticket sales through 'Event Bright' and will activate it as soon as we finalize the ticket price. There are only 70 tickets available (actually 67, since the 3 of us have spoken for ours) so watch your emails!

We do have space for up to 6 vendors, so if you know of someone who may like to sell their items please let Linda know. Vendor booths are \$60.00.

The American Legion, Post 76's First Annual Christmas Party is in the planning stage, it should be a fantastic Holiday Celebration will also be held at Meadows Senior Living Clubhouse.

### Christmas Party - 18 December, 5-8pm

This was also discussed this morning. We will be able to re-purpose the High Tea table linens. Linda is looking into entertainment and Corinne has graciously volunteered to find a caterer and choose our menu. Thank you, Corinne!

### Southern Nevada Veterans Creative Arts Competition - 26 February, all day

This past week the City of Las Vegas agreed to be a co-sponsor of our competition! They are donating the use of the Charleston Heights Arts Center (Brush/Charleston). It is the perfect venue with a large theatre for performances, ballroom for gallery space, spacious lobby for check-in and large meeting room for the veteran's hospitality room. What a tremendous gift to our veterans. As soon as the VA puts their stamp of approval on both the date and location, we will be able to officially announce this year's competition.

Wishing you a good week,

Cynthia Ferris

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

Sissy Carrasquilla - Director of Operations  
(404)205-2372  
2902 Lake East Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89117  
(702)483-7320 (corporate)  
[www.LakeviewBayClub.com](http://www.LakeviewBayClub.com)  
Event Options for EVERY Budget

# RESOURCES RELATED TO AFGHANISTAN

Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the U.S withdrawal from the country and the events unfolding now. Veterans who served during other conflicts may also be feeling strong emotions as they may be reminded of their own deployment experiences. Here is a list of available resources, call center information, peer support, and other community services:



- NVDS - Local Vet Center groups
- Vet Centers – Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call 1-877-927-8387
- Veterans Crisis Line – If you are having thoughts of suicide, call 1-800-273-8255, then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>
- For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to your local VA medical center 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.
- VA Women Veterans Call Center – Call or text 1-855-829-6636 (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 6:30PM ET)
- VA Caregiver Support Line – Call 1-855-260-3274 (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 5PM ET)
- Download VA’s self-help apps – Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.
- VA Mental Health Services Guide – This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.
- MakeTheConnection.net – information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS) Is Here For You! or call 800-959-TAPS (8277)

If you are struggling, the worst thing you can do is nothing. Don’t be afraid to lean on your Veteran community and please consider reaching out to VA if you would like to learn more about what is available.

## **Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER?**

**A:** A veterans service officer (VSO) is an individual who advocates for veterans benefits. They should never take an action which they believe to have a negative impact on the veteran or family of the veteran. The VSO is also responsible for being proficient in the areas of customer service, technical knowledge of regulation and law as it pertains to VA matters, and proper disposition of claims and appeals. They too should be empathetic, understanding and helpful.

It is very important when seeking a professional VSO that you take several factors into consideration. First, verify that the service officer is accredited by a veterans service organization, such as The American Legion. Second, if a VSO attempts to charge you money for services rendered, either covertly or overtly, they should be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Third, you should make an appointment with the prospective representative to explain your case and get a feel for how well they do their job. If you are not satisfied, find another VSO that you feel comfortable with. The VSO is your lifeline to VA benefits, and you must ensure that they are providing everything you deserve.

A VSO can only be courteous as long as the vet is. Empathy is associated with the vet being honest and not being obtuse.

When a VSO attempts to charge you money, you need to contact the Service Organization they're representing and lodge a complaint.

Lastly, if you're disrespectful and don't follow the direction of the VSO, the VSO doesn't have to represent you. Vets forget that we don't have to accept their disrespectfulness, cursing, and abuse.

Contact our local American Legion service officer to assist with a VA claim or benefits:

**WILLIE BARRON**     *Veterans Service Officer #49974 Southern Nevada*

[Wilmer.barron@va.gov](mailto:Wilmer.barron@va.gov)

**(702) 224-6827**



American Legion NV Post 76

P.O. Box 34012

Las Vegas, Nevada 89133-4012

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**

*Due to the pandemic and uncertainty in size of groups allowed, we do not know when, or if, we can report upon scheduled upcoming in person meeting dates and times here as we usually do in newsletters.*

***For September, we have secured a meeting location at the***

***VVA Hall at 6424 Cheyenne Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89108 on 19 September 2021 1330 hours.***

*We will likely continue to hold meetings at the VVA Hall for the near future. We will continue to notify Legionnaires of meetings via email and our Facebook page. Please check your SPAM or JUNK folders for email from [NVPost76@gmail.com](mailto:NVPost76@gmail.com) or [info@nvpost76.org](mailto:info@nvpost76.org) 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](mailto:NVPost76@gmail.com) to be added to our list. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV/>*



it's time to  
**RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

If you **have not renewed for 2022** it is now time to **early-bird renew**. Membership renewal notices for the 2022 year have been sent out during July, 2021.

The easiest way to do renew, is to go online to [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org) and click on **RENEW**, and pay with a credit card. If it is more convenient for you, checks are always fine mailed to the address above after you receive your renewal in the mail. IF you **pay and receive your new 2022 membership card, disregard any renewal notices** that may come afterwards.