



# The Post Journal

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

ISSUE 24 — July 2018 — September 2018

The Post 76 Color Guard, under the leadership of 2nd Vice Commander Walter Cheatham, is becoming more and more popular, not only in our area but all over Southern Nevada. We need your help in keeping up with the demand. If you have a Legion Cap, white shirt, dark tie, and can walk 50 paces then you are qualified to be in our Color Guard. The Color Guard does not cost anything to the Post, but does, on occasion, receive donations to help us serve our Veterans and our community. If you are interested in joining us as an on-call member, contact 2nd Vice Commander Walter "Buzz" Cheatham.

With our new officers and EBoard in place, we look forward to continuing our Post's growth and involvement in the Department of Nevada. According to figures from National, 3% of our members will transfer to other post, and 20% will not renew, for whatever reason.

Our membership is ahead of where we were last year, in spite of transfers and those going to Post Everlasting, and all too many non-renewals. This is quite an accomplishment as only a few number of Posts can say this.



Membership renewal will be coming up on July 1st for 2019. The best way to renew is online via The American Legion website. This is the most efficient way to renew and you will be updated within 24 hours! Check and snail mail will take up to 9 days from the day the Adjutant posts it online to National.

And don't forget the new American Legion address labels have been sent out to all our members. This is an opportunity for each Post member to participate in a small way, even if you do not attend meetings or participate in Post activities.

COMMANDER Mike Percival  
Phone: (702) 901-9413  
mgpercival7@gmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> VICE CMDR. Saad Kaddi  
Phone: (702) 815-3562  
sekaddi@msn.com

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE CMDR.  
Walter Cheatham  
Phone: (702) 741-4415  
buzzcheatham@gmail.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
Richard Hoffer  
Phone: (702) 768-9022  
richardh360@cox.net

ADJUTANT Thomas Mahon  
Phone: (702) 619-2873  
pilot121@yahoo.com

FINANCE OFFICER Barry Bashist  
Phone: (702) 210-3098  
bbvegas@yahoo.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Rick Foulon  
Phone: (702) 427-7185  
rickfoulon@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN Tony Mascari  
Phone: (702) 218-0689  
bm1mascari@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN Walter Cheatham  
Phone: (702) 741-4415  
buzzcheatham@gmail.com

SERVICE OFFICER  
Daniel McDonald  
702-449-8521  
peavy110-tech@yahoo.com

VETERANS ADVOCATES  
Larry Eisenberg  
Phone: (503) 351-0502  
LarryEisenberg@cox.net

Bobi Oates  
Phone: (702)498-3045  
boates4616@aol.com

**DIRECTORS:**  
Jack Ford, PDC (702) 228-4810  
acchief@aol.com

Marvin Morgenthal  
(702) 395-4334  
nevadamarv@aol.com

Paul Hestand, PPC  
[702] 401-8089  
p4979h@gmail.com

IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER  
Joel Forman  
Phone: (702) 360-5833  
akan00001@gmail.com

 John D. Sample  
2900 E. Apache St.  
Tulsa, OK 74110

 John D. Sample  
2900 E. Apache St.  
Tulsa, OK 74110

 John D. Sample  
2900 E. Apache St.  
Tulsa, OK 74110

 John D. Sample  
2900 E. Apache St.  
Tulsa, OK 74110

For all you do and let us do, I thank you all. —

**Joel Forman, Past Post Commander.**

## **POST 76 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Post 76 elected its new slate of officers during its General meeting on 15 April 2018. The normal meeting protocol was diverted to the election process, led by Immediate Past Commander Forman. He introduced the slate of officers presented by the Election Committee and approved by the Executive Board, and the membership subsequently approved the newly elected officers as: Mike Percival, Commander; Saad Eddine Kaddi, 1st Vice Commander; Walter Cheatham, 2nd Vice Commander; Richard Hoffer, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Paul Hestand, 1 Year Trustee.



(Left to Right) Commander Mike Percival; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Saad Eddine Kaddi; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Walter Cheatham; Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Hoffer; 3 Year Trustee Paul Hestand

Department of Nevada Commander Yvette Weigold administered the oath for installation of all the newly elected officers before turning the podium over to the elected Post 76 Commander, Mike Percival, to continue the normal business meeting.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

I would like to introduce myself to the Post members because I have not met all of you. I will be handling tracking membership renewals and endeavoring to recruit many new members to our Post.

I am a 26 year member of the American Legion and a Vietnam era Air Force Veteran. I am a Retired MSgt. with 24 years of service, including 20 years as a Jet Engine mechanic on F15 and F16 Aircraft Testing on Hush Houses and Sound Suppressors / Flight Line; 2 years as a Flight Technician Defense Intelligence Agency on C-12 Aircraft, accredited to 10 countries in Africa; 6 years as Operations Supervisor of Intelligence (DIA), Diplomatically Accredited to Turkey and Egypt.

Following my military career, I spent 11 years with the American Battle Monument Commission Overseas Operations. During that time, I was Assistant Superintendent Luxembourg American Cemetery, then Superintendent Flanders Field American Cemetery, Belgium, followed by Director of Operations Normandy American Cemetery / Assistant Superintendent and finally the Deputy Director of Visitor Services Normandy American Cemetery

I am looking forward to working with and helping our fellow veterans and be of service to the community.

**Saad Kaddi —1st Vice Commander -**



## **AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

American Legion Department of Nevada Convention this year will be held at the Sands Regency Casino Hotel Reno NV. 345 N. Arlington Ave. The convention is hosted by High Desert Post 56



In an advertisement submitted to the Convention Program, Post 76 endorsed the following candidates from our Post for Department of Nevada offices:

**JOEL FORMAN** for COMMANDER and

**MICHAEL SHEPHEARD** for SERGEANT AT ARMS.



In addition, we extended our best wishes this season To Our Legion Baseball Teams LAS VEGAS KNIGHTS, DURANGO HIGH POST 76 and DURANGO BLAZERS

Thanks to Department of Nevada Commander (2017-2018) Yvette Weigold for her leadership this year!

### **POST 76 SOCIAL MEDIA SITES**

In July 2017, the American Legion Post 76 Las Vegas established a Social Media Committee to help spread awareness and increase membership.

Currently, we have three main outlets:

1. FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV](http://www.facebook.com/ALPost76LV)
2. INSTAGRAM: [www.instagram.com/ALPost76LV](http://www.instagram.com/ALPost76LV)
3. TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/ALPost76LV](http://www.twitter.com/ALPost76LV)



To subscribe to our main outlets, please go to each URL then simply click on follow/like. Once subscribed, followers are able to access future events, communicate with Post 76 for any questions or concerns, share information, and much more.

### **OPT OUT OF PAPER NEWSLETTER?**

- As always, if you are a member that appreciates and would like to continue receiving paper copies of this newsletter, you do not need to do anything. If you would consider opting out of the paper newsletter, you can receive the current newsletter as a PDF attachment to an email.

If these options would be acceptable to you, send an email to the Post email address:

***NevadaPost76@gmail.com.***



### **US ARMY M1911s SOON TO BE AVAILABLE TO POST 76 LEGIONNAIRES.**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018. Included in the bill is a provision that would make U.S. Army surplus 1911 .45 ACP pistols available to the American public through the Civilian Marksmanship program (CMP).

The CMP Board of Directors has determined how the sales of 1911s would be handled, when the CMP were to ever receive them from the United States Army. For up to date information —[http://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/1911-information/](http://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/1911-information/)

### **PATRIOTIC PARADE — JULY 4, 2018**

Post 76 has been invited to show their colors at The Summerlin Council Patriotic Parade taking place Wednesday, July 4. We will feature our Color Guard [volunteers always welcome] as well as have many of you riding in Model T Fords from the Las Vegas Model T Club. The escort division steps off at 8:30 a.m so we need to be in place by 8:00 a.m. The parade travels along flag-lined streets from Hillpointe Road and Hills Center, then south on Hills Center Drive concluding on Trailwood Drive at the entrance of the Trails Village Shopping Center. Participants can park at Joel Forman's house (1960 Faywood St. 89134) and walk the short distance to the parade route. Directions? Past Cdr. Joel Forman (702) 274-1434 or 1st VC Walter Cheatham (702) 741-4415.



## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY 2018

The American Legion Post 76 sponsored its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial Day Ceremony at The Lakes South Park in Summerlin on 28 May 2018. The solemn ceremony was held under a sunny sky and attracted over 200 Nevada residents to the park.



Master of Ceremonies and Commander Mike Percival, presided over the emotionally moving ceremony that included a Musical Prelude by Ms. Cynthia Man and her Silver State Flute Choir; beautiful trumpet music (Taps, First Call, To the Colors) by Juanpablo Macias, Band Director at Greenspun Junior High School; an impressive Presentation of Colors by Centennial High School Navy JROTC students; an outstanding rendition of the National Anthem, sung by Kadence Highfill, a student at Becker Middle School (and grand daughter of the Commander); the Pledge of Allegiance by The American Legion "L.D. Lockhart" Auxiliary Unit

14; a powerful POW/MIA Ceremony presided over by American Legion Post 14; a strikingly impressive Flag Folding Ceremony by Palo Verde Air Force JROTC Honor Guard students; a Wreath of Remembrance Service featuring a veteran representing each of the US war eras since WWII; and a Tolling of the Bell Service, where the Wreath was placed in the water, for a final tribute to the fallen.



Guest speakers for the occasion were Commander Richard Pokropski, U.S. Coast Guard (retired), Senior Instructor for Centennial High School's Navy JROTC and Ms.



Yvette Weigold, The American Legion Department of Nevada Commander. . All paid tribute to those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and our way of life.

MC Mike Percival closed the ceremony by asking the audience to "As a tribute to their sacrifice, let us renew our resolve to remain strong enough to deter aggression, wise enough to preserve and protect our freedom, and thoughtful enough to promote lasting peace throughout the world."



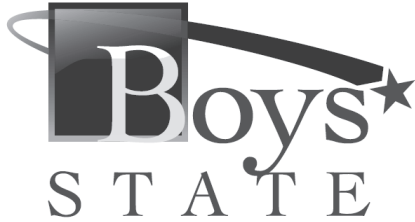


## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Before I write my article, I want all of our Spirit of Freedom, Post 76 to know how much of an honor it was to serve as both your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander. The main reason I did not attempt to run for Commander of our Post is because I felt I was needed at both the District 2 position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander and my attempt to be elected as Sergeant At Arms for The Department of Nevada. I am still involved with both Post and District Boys State and Oratorical Contest. I cannot say thank you enough for all of the assistance and support you have all given me. I look forward to helping our Post advance and remain the best Post in Nevada.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

## **BOYS STATE 2018**



It looks like we have had another banner year for attendance. The entire Department of Nevada has at least 154 young men signed up to attend. We have 18 from Post 76. District 2 has 121 signed up. The rest of the Department has 33. You all have been instrumental in our success and deserve an Outstanding Job shout out.

We are once again doing our raffle for Boys State with tickets for the National Finals Rodeo 2018. Please contact Mike Shephard for information. 702-256-3106

## **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Again this year we were able to increase our number of contestants over last years. For the past 2 years by changing our format for the contest, we have been able to increase the scholarship awards by substantial amounts. This has generated much more interest and participation. We had at one time 16 entries for 2017-2018. As normal, some dropped out but we still had 5 contestants. The First Place \$1,500.00 scholarship went to Kaitlyn Willoughby from Desert Oasis H.S. & Post 14. The Second Place \$1,000.00 scholarship went to Dawson Mullen from N.W. Career & Technology & Post 76. The Third Place \$500.00 scholarship went to Zachary Marks from West Career & Technology & Post 76.



We also had two additional contestants at the District 2 contest. Ms. Sydney Lin from Clark H.S. & Post 14, and Mr. Shehad Ahmed from Bonanza H.S. And Post 8. They also were outstanding in their presentations. Ms. Willoughby and Mr. Mullen also competed in the Department Contest. Mr. Mullen placed second and, Ms. Willoughby placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to them all and thank you all for your support and fundraising efforts.

## **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EXPO AND SCOUT CAMP**



On Saturday 28 April 2018 at Craig Ranch Regional Park the annual Scout Expo was held. As he has for the last several years, Legionnaire , Former Combat Medic and Army Nurse (Col. Ret. USA) Paul Hestand taught the First Aid Merit Badge. 90 Scouts participated in the training and were awarded the merit badge.

The training continued in June at the Kimball Scout camp, just Southwest of town, off Blue Diamond Road. Legionnaire Paul Hestand served as the camp health officer and continued First Aid Merit Badge training at the

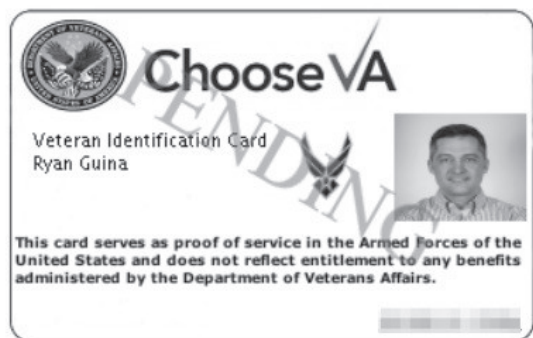
camp from 17-30 June 2018. If you are interested in working with the Boy Scouts sometime in the future, contact Paul at (702) 401-8089 or email at p4979h@gmail.com. Youth is our future. Let's train them right.

## **VA ISSUING FREE ID CARDS TO ALL HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS**

In case you haven't heard, the Department of Veterans Affairs is offering veterans a free ID card which can be used to prove your veteran status when needed at businesses and other locations.

The free ID card, which originally rolled-out in late November, was ordered by Congress in 2015 as a way to give veterans proof of service at businesses without carrying a copy of their DD-214 forms. It is available for all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of era or time in service.

**Veterans who are enrolled in the VA healthcare system already have a VA issued ID card**, but that leaves the majority of veterans without any valid proof of service that may be required to get special benefits from private firms. If you have the health card, you will not get one of these. You are already covered.



**Sample VA ID Card**

### **How Do You Get the Veterans ID Card?**

Getting the card is actually pretty easy, at least as easy as dealing with the VA can be. It took me about 15 minutes to log on to VETS.GOV, create an account, enter my service data, and upload a selfie that I took with my phone. Of course, I did this back in November when the program started and had several issues with the website freezing up. According to the VA, those problems have been fixed.

Although I applied in three months ago I still haven't gotten my card, but the website will let you download and print out a paper copy of the card if you want to.

### **Why Get The VA ID Card?**

Let's face it, most of us never got a ticker-tape parade when we came home and we didn't get told "thank you for your service" on a regular basis, in fact many of us were looked down upon by our fellow citizens.

This card helps to fix that problem. Historically there hasn't been a better time to be a veteran. If you want a discount at the store, a free meal, a special parking space, special benefits from the state or local government this is the time for you.

Now, before you harrumph and say that those benefits are pretty worthless and tacky for all you did, let me just say that most of us didn't join the military to get heaped in praise by our fellow citizens. Most of us got three hots and a cot and paid every two weeks, and that is all we asked for.

### **What Will The VA ID Card Do For Me?**

While the card won't necessarily get you any new federal or state benefits it will possibly get you some special little perks like free meals on Veterans Day, parking spots closer to the door, and discounts at many retailers.

If big companies want to give me a parking spot close to the grocery store entrance, a free meal every now and then, a discount when I buy furnace filters, or a few thousand bucks off a new car I'll take it. Heck, I'm even going to make sure my new bright shiny veteran card is right under my driver's license so if I get pulled over for speeding the nice officer can see I'm a veteran, it never hurts to try.

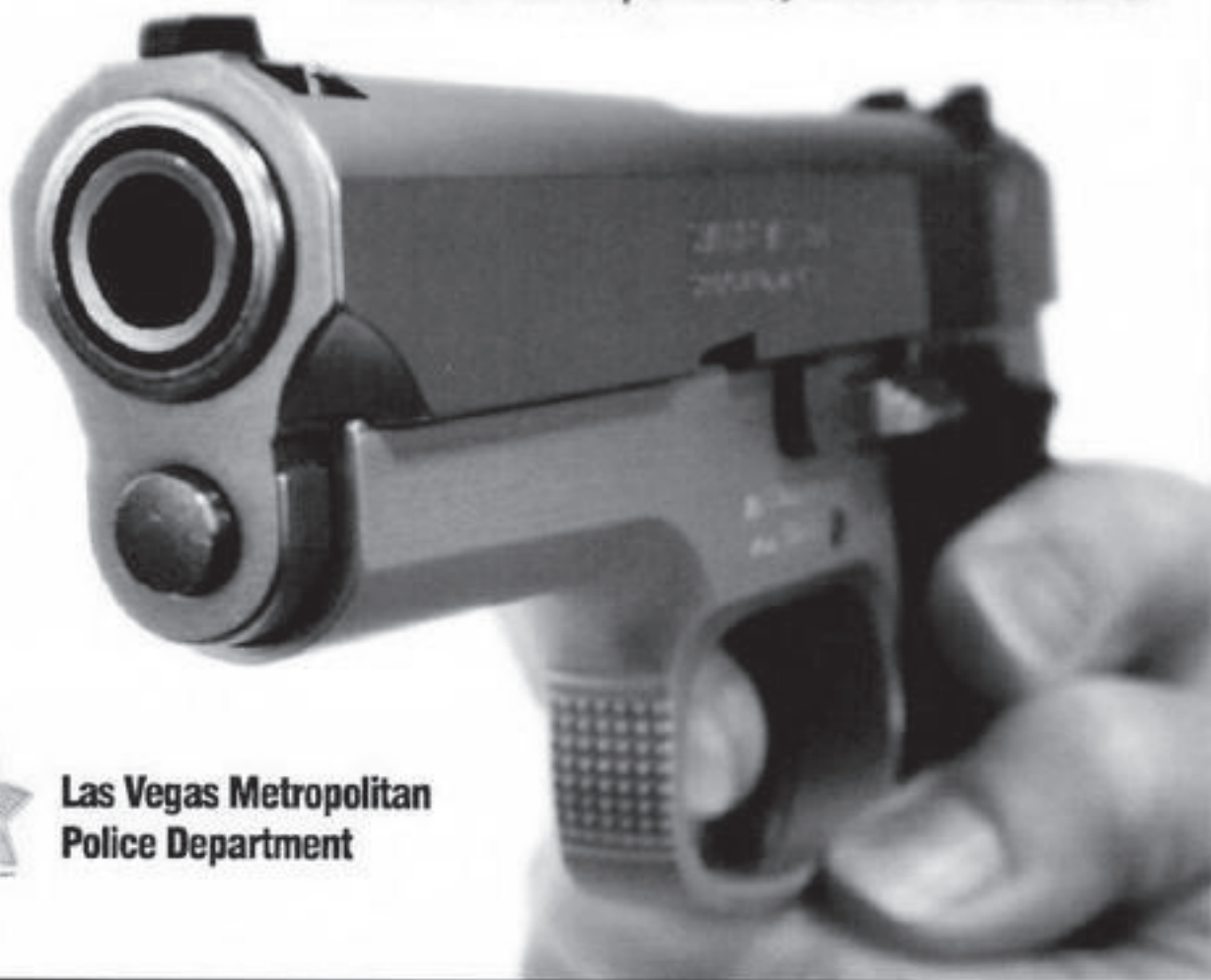
Having this veterans ID card ready to show anybody who gives me a sideways look when I park right next to the handicapped and expectant mothers spots makes me feel good (especially when it is cold or raining). It kind of makes up for all those late night watches and dress formations. I feel like I'm finally getting a little respect for my service, and I get it every day - not once a year.

My advice? Get the card. It never hurts to accept a little bit of gratitude when it is offered, you never know when it will come again. — **Source: Military.com**

# If you don't lock up your gun, there's a chance you might see it in someone else's hands!

- FACT:** Every 3.5 hours, a gun is stolen from the lawful owner in Las Vegas.
- FACT:** Criminals frequently obtain their guns from auto and residential burglaries.
- FACT:** Many stolen guns are recovered after they have been used in a violent crime, including MURDER!

*Please Be Responsible, Secure Your Guns.*



**Las Vegas Metropolitan  
Police Department**



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

### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES :**

***Summerlin Patriotic Parade — 4 July 2018 starts on Hillpointe Rd. 7:30 am***

***E Board Meeting —12 July 2018, 4:30 pm***

**GENERAL MEETING — 15 July 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

***E Board Meeting —9 August 2018, 4:30 pm***

**GENERAL MEETING — 19 August 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

***E Board Meeting —13 September 2018, 4:30 pm***

**GENERAL MEETING — 16 September 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

***E Board Meeting —11 October 2018, 4:30 pm***

**GENERAL MEETING — 21 October 2018, 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA**

***Veterans Day Parade — 11 November 2018 in Downtown Las Vegas TBD***

### **POST 76 HAS A STRONG PRESENCE ON THE INTERNET.**

Take a minute and add these internet addresses to your favorites and when you get online, 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/>**

**You will soon receiving your early bird renewal notice, By paying your dues early and being an “Early Bird” you help our Post have the resources to pay bills that come in during the remainder of this year.**