



# The Post Journal

Quarterly Newsletter of The American Legion Post 76, The Spirit of Freedom  
ISSUE 04 June —August 2013



## Commander's Message

At the March General meeting, our keynote speaker was **Ken Gossett**. He recalled his experiences on a Liberty Ship in 1947 on a trip around the world taking 9 months and 4 days. Part of that trip included going to Lae, Rabaul and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. Unlike my fellow sailors, I did extensive work with the people and the exploration of the territories with the help of an Australian man serving Vacuum Oil Company there. My mates spent all of their time complaining about the heat and lack of any activity except drinking into stupors. I saw the remains of the 216,000 Japanese, Australian and American military killed there and the U.S. Navy base taken over by the jungles. I was a Merchant Marine for over 5 years and then served as First Sergeant in the U.S. Army with a company of up to 1200 men.

**We want to hear your story.** Our preference is to have our members give a short 5 to 15 minute talk at our meetings. If you have homebound, then send us your stories at the email or postal address [listed in the sidebar].

**William "Richard" Barrett** PFC [B-BTG 420 AFA; CCB; WWII Veteran] recently entered Post Everlasting February 3, 2013. This story was told on the 10th Armored Division Western Veterans Chapter website. I was born in Northeastern Iowa. Our family moved to a farm in Kansas before I started school. We lived on a small farm. I grew up and attended school in Solomon, Kansas.

I answered the draft and was inducted on the 23rd of September, 1943. My first assignment was with the 16th Armored Division. I was there until spring of 1944. At that time, a large group of the 16th trainees were shipped to the 10th. We finished basic training there and in September, we were headed overseas. On Sept. 23, 1944, we landed in Cherbourg, France. There we picked up our tanks (M-7), a 105 MM Howitzer that was mounted on a medium tank chassis. I remained in the same gun crew for the remaining time. The driver and I stayed on the same weapon.

Then it was an armored column across France to where we seen action around Metz. I was living in the field and it was muddy. On Dec. 15th, we received orders to move out the next morning. We had no idea where to, but we did know we were heading North.

On the afternoon of the 17th, we moved through Bastogne and set up in firing position just north and east of Bastogne. There was no snow on the ground that day. We spent the night on the ground and woke up the next morning with 7" of snow on us. From that position, we never fired a shot. Then we had to move back through town to another site and got shelled going through. The fog was heavy so our observer could not see targets.

On the 19th, we were shooting in all four directions, including the road we came in on. The enemy had surrounded us. We tightened up and we started running low on ammunition. I zeroed my sights several times but never fired at a direct target. The orders came through, that if you saw our tanks, to shoot between them as the enemy was behind them. We held our positions as best we could. That afternoon the 101st Airborne came in on trucks. I had a personal weapon, but never fired it. I went to bed many nights counting how many bullets I had for my carbine, but that old 50 caliber was mine to take care of, and I was not going to use that carbine if I had that 50 caliber, because that could turn tanks around. I was never wounded, however Colonel Brown, Commander of the 420th at the time, was hit by a shell that went over my head and hit the colonel, and eventually killed him. Major Crittenberger took over for him.

We were there until the middle of January until we moved down South and east to the vicinity of Metz. We continued in that direction to the border of Austria. My next move was to be a replacement and head home for 30 days. On my way home, they dropped the big bomb, so my orders changed. About 3 months as a prison guard in Ft. Hood, Texas, and then I was discharged on Feb. 1, 1946. Moreover, that ended my military career.

**NOW LET'S HEAR FROM YOU.** You served honorably and now we want to hear about your experiences!

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### Post Everlasting —

Robert Kohler, **USN WWII**, a 10 year member of our Post and the father-in-law of Trustee Jack Ford.

### Sick Call —

Trustee "**Ted**" Pugh is still recovering from recurring strokes and would appreciate hearing from you at (702) 804-8080.

If you know of anyone, or are under the weather yourself, let us know! We are adding a sick call list to the website soon.



# RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTIONS

Elections were held at the April General Meeting. The results of the elections were as follows:

**Commander**, Joel Forman;

**1st Vice Commander**, Mike Percival;

**2nd Vice Commander**, Frank Timbers;

**Sergeant-at-Arms**, Paul Hemsley;

**Three-year Trustee**, Past Commander Ted Pugh

Trustee Jack Ford will continue in the 3rd Year of his three year term. Trustee Robert Jagemann will continue in the 2nd year of his three year term. The Commander then appointed the following individuals to positions and the Board approved:

Adjutant, Roger Henning;

Service Officer, Frank Timbers;

Judge Advocate, Bob Jagemann;

Historian, Evie Hallas;

Chaplain, Paul Hestand;

Finance Officer, Jack Ford

There are still openings for Legionnaires willing to volunteer to chair or serve on the following committees:

***Membership, Americanism, Children & Youth, Finance, Public Relations, Nominations, Service, Ways & Means***

## **Show Your Pride in Serving and Get the Recognition from a Grateful Nation**

The coming months will also present the opportunity for veterans to stand and be seen in several memorial activities and parades. If you are able — join us. The community is looking to show its support for what you have done and need you there for them to be able to show it. You are able to stand, side by side with your fellow Post 76 members and show the pride you have in your service to your country. The Memorial Day ceremony at the Lakes South Park is again being sponsored by the Post. Please be there to honor our fallen. Post 76 is again entering the Summerlin Patriotic Parade on Thursday July 4, 2013. This is the only 4th of July parade in Las Vegas. We have a number of slots still available to ride in the Model Ts provided by the Las Vegas Model T club. Later in the year, we participate in the Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Las Vegas, November 11th, 2013 10:00 AM. More information will be provided to those that notify us they want to attend either or both parades.

One of our big activities this spring was the school award program. Your neighborhood schools select the students that best represent Americanism in their class. Post officers and Legionnaires went to school award ceremonies and represented all veterans in the presentation of the American Legion award to these deserving students. Four of our high schools have Jr. ROTC programs.

In those programs we awarded four bronze medals for Military Excellence. This award is presented annually to one third or fourth year cadet based on the cadets' general military excellence. Each cadet must: rank in the top 25% of their JROTC class; and demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship. We also award four bronze medals for Scholastic Excellence. This award is presented annually to a third or fourth year cadet based on the cadets' overall scholastic achievements. Each cadet must: rank in the top 10% of the high school class; rank in the top 25% of their JROTC class; demonstrate leadership qualities; actively participate in related student activities such as student organizations, constructive activities or sports.

Two additional high schools and thirteen middle schools selected one young woman and one young man each to be recognized by the American Legion School Award. Medals were awarded on a six-point criterion of Character, Courage, Scholarship, Leadership, Community Service and Patriotism. It is the intent of the American Legion to recognize and encourage these attributes in our youth to cultivate good citizenship.

In all, Post 76 recognized and presented medals and certificates of achievement to 38 young patriots. These individuals represent our future and we are proud to recognize them as they continue on to be our future leaders.

**Post 76 would like to thank**  **for their generous support of our newsletters.**

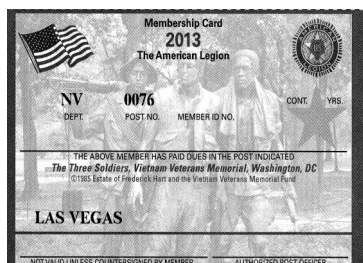


American Legion Post 76  
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## Membership is our Post's most important asset!

Our Post has a total of 540 members. 493 members reside here in Nevada, 9 in California, 3 in Arizona, Tennessee and Missouri, 2 each in Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Utah. The rest live in 17 other states across our great country. We have 243 Vietnam War veterans, 124 from the Korean War, 103 WW II, 27 Lebanon/Grenada, 23 Persian Gulf, and 12 Panama. Your fellow Legionnaires from our post has 195 members from the Army, 134 members from the Air Force, 127 members from the Navy, 43 are from the Marines, 7 from the Coast Guard, and 3 from the Merchant Marines. Most of our members live in area code 89134, 89130 is 2nd and 89129 is 3rd. We have 1 member with 53 continuous years in the American Legion, 1 with 62 years, 1 with 63 years and one member with 68 years!

Less than 8% of our members have not paid their dues as of April 30, 2013. Look at your membership card. If it does not say 2013, you are now delinquent. There can be many reasons for this. If one of reasons is "I forgot".....well now is the time. Fastest renewal is at: <http://www.legion.org/renew> or send a check to the Post PO Box address on the cover page of this newsletter. That is the only way we can continue to help our fellow Veterans and support our Legion Programs. Thank You.



## Be Proud to be A Legionnaire!

You are one of the millions of Veterans ***Still Serving*** America! The Post needs YOU to step up and take an active role in our future as a recruiter. By talking to your friends, relatives, and people whom you sit next to that may be wearing something that says, "I am a Veteran". Do they belong? Do they know what the American Legion does? Are they are aware of the benefits they could have as a Legionnaire? Ask them to come to a meeting and join you.

NOT VALID UNLESS COUNTERSIGNED BY MEMBER AUTHORIZED POST OFFICER  
Thanks for still serving America.

# Adjutant's Pen

# Memorial Day



Memorial Day, should forever be, one of our most venerated national holidays. It is a day set aside so that we might reflect on the honor and sacrifice of those who courageously gave, "that last

full measure of devotion"- their lives, to safeguard us and our way of life. These men and women will remain "forever young" in our memories.

Throughout our nearly 237-year history as a democracy, time and again, Americans in uniform have had to secure the heritage of freedom and liberty for us and for the oppressed in other lands, paying a steep price in blood and suffering. (Since the American Revolution 1775-1783 through the Iraq war 2003-2011 more than 655,518 and still counting.)

The past decade has provided enough reminders of the devotion, loyalty, and determination of the magnificent men and women who serve in our military formations. "In harm's

way" has become the cliché for those deployed on missions. But it fail to really capture the danger, stress, worry, fear, and love that keeps military families awake at night and riveted to each breaking overseas news bulletin. There are no clichés for discussing that which is undiscussable.

As we go about our daily lives let us be ever mindful of the men and women who gave their lives for our freedom. Their powerful legacy surrounds us each and every day all across this Nation - when we gather openly to speak our minds freely. It is found in our churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples, where worship is freely exercised. It is evident in the openness of our media, where information is shared without fear of reprisal. It is embedded in our polling places, where ballots freely cast determine who will govern this great nation. Let us today and every day remember the families of our Fallen. And with our prayers for peace, let us also pray for Gods continued blessings on this great country, for which so many laid down their lives.

**HELP!** We will be publishing *monthly online updates* but only if we have your email address. If you would like to receive these updates please send your email address to [nvpost76@gmail.com](mailto:nvpost76@gmail.com).

**Junior Shooting Program** —We are building a marksmanship training unit to support the American Legion Jr. Shooting program in our community to instruct young men and women how to shoot safely. Several post members have completed the required instructor certification and range safety training. In June we will be supporting the Boy Scouts at Kimball camp. They hold camp for three weeks, one week each. The camps that we are helping support are June 10-14, June 17-21 and June 24-28. We really need more Range Safety Officers (RSOs). Training will be available June 1st. If you can attend this training and get NRA RSO certified, please contact Jr Past Commander Paul Hestand at (702) 521-8907 or at [p4979h@gmail.com](mailto:p4979h@gmail.com). If you like to shoot and think America's youth need to know how to also, we need you, please join the effort.

**No Veteran Alone** — Thirty-thousand, that is 30,000 of our comrades, who, like you were proud to wear the uniform of the U. S. Military are laid to rest at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City. Nearly every Thursday morning, members of your Post 76, The Nevada Patriot Guard, Women Veterans of Nevada, the Vietnam Veterans of America as well as other Veteran organizations pay tribute to Veterans who have no family members to accompany them on the journey to their final resting place. Come and join us, if you have a Flag, bring it. We even have members attend in wheelchairs. Be part of your Post Color Guard to honor these brave men and women. For information, contact Commander Joel Forman at [akan01@centurylink.net](mailto:akan01@centurylink.net) or check our webpage calendar each Wednesday.

## UPCOMING POST 76 MEETING DATES :

**Memorial Day Ceremony — May 27, 2013 10:00 am at the Lakes South Park.**

**E Board Meeting — June 13, 2013 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center.**

**General Meeting — June 23, 2013 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA.**

**E Board Meeting — July 11, 2013 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center.**

**General Meeting — July 21, 2013 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA.**

**E Board Meeting — August 8, 2013 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center.**

**General Meeting — August 18, 2013 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA.**

**E Board Meeting — September 12, 2013 4:30 pm at the Summerlin Trails Community Center.**

**General Meeting — September 15, 2013 1:30 pm at Durango Hills YMCA.**