



9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(301) 868-2550

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...
Brian S. Kern, Commander

NOVEMBER

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2008

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

First, let me say a special word of thanks to all of you who have supported the various programs and activities I've started since becoming Commander. Thursday night dinners are doing very well. Over 100 tickets were sold for the Crab Feast. The effort to return our Post to 3-Star status continues to make progress, but I'll admit it could use a boost. Please consider whether any of your friends, co-workers, family members, etc., may be eligible for American Legion membership. Applications are available in the Post Canteen or you can refer veterans to the American Legion website (www.legion.org/national/join/about). Current members interested in becoming a "Paid up for Life" member can visit the same webpage.

Over the course of the last several months, many of you have offered comments on what we can do better, suggestions for various activities, words of encouragement, and, yes, even a few complaints. I take all of these very seriously not only because many are offered by my fellow veterans; but also, because those veterans (as well as SAL, Auxiliary members, and guests) serve as the customers and patrons of the Post. Please keep bringing things up and for those that I may not run into, feel free to send me an email at "brian_k540@yahoo.com" or you can leave a written message for me with a bartender.

As we move into the holiday season, I want to draw your attention of a few activities. As in the Past, the Post is aiding families in need by providing holiday baskets with food items, etc. A special thanks to Post 259 Service Officer Joe Vlcek who heads this effort up. The Thanksgiving Dinner is coming up and this is always a well attended event and an excellent bargain for the price. The Post Adult and Children's Holiday parties take place in December and we are looking into having a band rather than a DJ. Please make sure you sign up for these events by the deadline. In fact, sign up earlier if you can as doing so ensures you a place and allows us to better plan the events.

Also on the horizon is "New Member Initiation Night" on January 25th, 2009. During this event, we'll be inducting and welcoming new members into our Post. We also hope to have some guest speakers on topics of interest to all American Legion members. I say all that to say that this event is not for new members only. In fact, I hope many of are already existing members participate to show their support. I really want our new members to feel welcomed and encouraged to be active in the Post. Remember, these new members will play a large role in future Post endeavors and the more we can encourage them to become active, the stronger the Post will be in the long term.

Continued on next page

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE (cont.) I know I can't say this often enough, but thank you, thank you, thank you to those that volunteer, plan or otherwise help out with activities. Whether it's Friday Night Bingo, Shrimp Night, Thursday Night Dinners, or other special events like the Crab Feast or Special Bingos, we can't do it without you.

In Legion Service
Brian S. Kern, Commander

CHARLOTTE HALL

We held our monthly bingo program at Charlotte Hall on October 8. Helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmond and Mike Gilbert. If it weren't for a few students from Chopticon High School's Jr ROTC, we would have had a hard time keeping up with the Vets. The room was packed with 79 vets playing bingo and it is difficult when only a few of us show up to help out. It seems that each month, we get more and more vets in attendance. This is good as it is clear that they enjoy the evening. So Post members, why don't you spend a few hours each month (you even get a free meal from 5-6 pm) lending a hand and making a vet smile. Also, a special thanks to Jack Rhine for providing the snacks for the evening. Our next bingo will be November 12 (the DAY AFTER VETERANS DAY!). Why don't you plan to spend the evening with us!

REMEMBER.....SAY THANKS TO A VET!

Mike Strotkamp, 301-645-2397

NEW MEMBERS: Voted in at the July 28, 2008 Membership Meeting:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|---------|
| Carl A. Hunt | Transfer 170 | US Army |
| Clarence M. Davis, III | New | USAF |
| John K. Pappas | New | US Army |
| Shannon W. Williams | New | Marines |
| Regina A. Powell | New | US Army |

AUXILIARY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hi Members,

We had a very good meeting on October 13th but you were not with us and we miss seeing your smiling face. We hope you will be able to be with us on November 10th and share an evening with you friends at Unit 259.

We still need workers on Bingo nights both to cook and to take orders. If you cannot work our functions, maybe you would be able to bake for one of our Friday night Bingos. We need a couple of cakes or pies for each Bingo night, please call me if you can help bake or work.

Our Department of Maryland's Americanism Essay Program will be starting the first of November. If you have children or grandchildren in Elementary, Middle School or Home Schooled, who would like to participate, please call me. The title is: "Soldiers Past and Present ...America Honor Your Veterans". We will contact the schools in the Clinton area and hope they will participate. The program consists of three groups: Group 1 - Grades 3 & 4; Group 11 - Grades 5 & 6; Group 111 - Grades 7 & 8. Please encourage your children to participate.

We will have a program honoring our Veterans on November 11th starting at 11 AM at our Post Home, followed by lunch. Come share some time with your Veteran and say "Thank You" to those who gave so much so we could be free.

Membership - Membership, please take a moment and renew your dues for the year 2009. Dues are still \$14.00 for Seniors and \$4.00 for Juniors.

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM, hope you will be with us. We will not have a Unit meeting in December and January, so I wish for everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a great Holiday and New Year.

For God & Country
Toni Carr, President
301-868-7960

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SAL Monthly Meetings
First Monday of Each Month
7:00 PM

Dues: Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership. Almost 50% of the SAL membership has renewed. In order to assist with the renewal process renewal cards were recently mailed to SAL members. If not yet paid then mail the completed card and your dues to the Post using the enclosed envelope. You may also leave it with the bartender in the canteen. Dues are as follows:

\$20.00 Senior Dues/\$10.00 Junior Dues / \$10.00 Dual Members

Team Spotlight: The SAL Squadron 259 has been supporting the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home since 1985. The SAL core team of Mike Strotkamp, Al Elmond and Mike Gilbert has volunteered together at the Veterans Home each month for several years. It should be noted that Mike is a dual member of the Post, prepares the monthly updates of their activities for the Newsletter, and performs the necessary coordination to assure sufficient volunteers. This team is to be commended for their dedicated efforts to our veterans. The veterans certainly look forward to their running the bingo program, the socializing, and the interest given to them. The rewards and self gratification the team receives is knowing they have helped "make the day" of the veterans. Also, a special thanks to all the other SAL, AUX and Post volunteers that Mike mentions in the newsletter. It takes 5 - 6 volunteers to effectively run the bingo activities and some nights it becomes very hectic because of the shortage of volunteers. So please plan to dedicate one night of a month for this worthwhile cause. Call Mike or just show up.

Reminder: If 10 or more members are present at the SAL meeting a \$10 gift certificate to Ledo Pizza will be given to a lucky member. Brock Hursey, Post 259 2nd Vice, won the certificate for the September meeting. Meetings generally last about an hour.

Yours in Service,
Wayne Berbig

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC,

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK: Comrades, Tuesday, November 4, 2008 is a very important date for all Americans. What happens on that day is important to all of us. This is one of the important things that we fought for and were willing to die for. That is the right and privilege of voting! If we do not cast our votes on election day, we have no right to complain how our government is being run. Remember, we as Americans have the kind of government we deserve. These politicians work for us, not the other way around. If it is not being run as we wish, then as has been previously stated, "throw the bums out." Too many good men have died so that we may exercise our rights. So whichever way you vote, VOTE!

NOTES, ETC.: Don't forget the huge cooler filled with "goodies". It is on display in our canteen. Chances are only a buck apiece, so stop off and by a few tickets.

By now you should have received your shotgun tickets in the mail. If you need more, there is a goodly supply in the canteen.

Bob Wilson, Adjutant

VETERANS DAY: Although Veterans Day may have already passed by prior to your getting this newsletter, I hope each of you enjoyed the day. Unfortunately, Veterans Day has simply become a day off from work or a reason to attend a sale at the mall for many non-veterans. In today's society it is often left to veterans themselves to reflect on the importance of this day as perhaps only they can understand what it means to have served their country in a military capacity. As you reflected on this day, I hope you recalled not only the difficult times; but also, the times that bring a smile to your face. It doesn't matter whether you were Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, active duty, reserve, National Guard, drafted, volunteered, officer, enlisted, or the era you served, you answered America's call and for that reason we share a common bond as veterans in general and American Legion members in particular. I salute each of you.

Brian Kern, Commander

VA, DOD ELECTRONICALLY "HAND OFF" RECORDS OF WOUNDED PATIENTS:

Instant electronic medical information from the Department of Defense (DoD) about severely wounded troops soon will be transferred to four Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) special treatment centers. The two departments completed a successful pilot project sharing patient information between Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Polytrauma Unit at the Tampa, Fla., VA Medical Center.

The pilot's expansion will share enhanced data between VA's four polytrauma centers in Tampa, Fla.; Richmond, Va.; Minneapolis; and Palo Alto, Calif. and all Army medical treatment facilities.

The patient information to be shared between DoD and VA involves electronic notes on the patient's situation and background, an assessment of his or her condition, and recommendations for future care. This uniform, standard method of communicating patient information will ensure veterans receive high quality care immediately after being transferred and the information is available and accessible at all times.

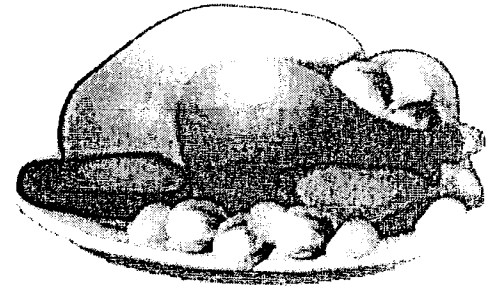
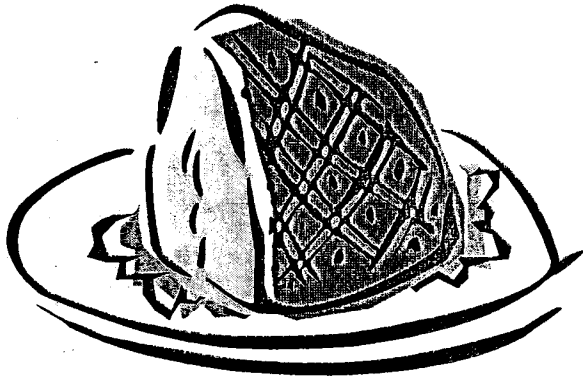
COMMUNITY HEALTH DAY: Our Post and the Lions Club have partnered to run the Community Health Day on 15 November, 9:00am-3:00pm at our Post. Several services are being planned with American Red Cross, the Lions Club, County Health Department & Social Services and Kaiser Permanente that include, a blood drive, eye & ear testing, blood pressure, flu shots (There may be a nominal charge for the flue shots if you dont have Medicare Part "B") and information on medical as well as social services. There will be a drawing for 1st Place and Runner Up of \$100 and \$50 Savings Bonds for the Blood Donor participants. The Community Health Day events are free and open to the public.

Joseph V. Vlcek, Service Officer
Richard Barb, President
Lions Club of Camp Springs

3rd Annual

Thanksgiving Dinner

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!



MENU INCLUDES:

Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Kale, Cranberry Sauce, Apple Sauce, Rolls & Butter and Assorted deserts.



. PRICING

ADULTS: \$10.00
PER PERSON

CHILDREN
UNDER 10-\$5.00
PER CHILD

NOVEMBER 27TH, 2008

4:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

Tickets will go on sale November 1, 2008. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cut off date to purchase tickets will be November 20, 2008.



For more information : 301-868-2550

2008 CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE ANNUAL CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2008 IT WILL RUN FROM 1:00 PM TIL 4:00 PM. A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT WILL KEEP THE CHILDREN OCCUPIED UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF SANTA CLAUSE, WHO WILL GIVE A GIFT TO EVERY CHILDTHE (10) AND UNDER. PLEASE SIGN UP NOW.

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PARTY, YOU MUST BE A PAID UP MEMBER OF POST 259. FILL OUT THE APPLICATION BELOW AND HAVE IT IN NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 21, 2008

NOTE: WHEN FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION, MAKE SURE THE LAST NAME IS FILLED IN ON BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE ADULT PARTY.

CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE GIFTS

FIRST & LAST NAME OF CHILD _____ SEX ____ AGE ____
_____ SEX ____ AGE ____
_____ SEX ____ AGE ____
_____ SEX ____ AGE ____

MEMBERSHIP CARD NUMBER: MD0259 _____

THE ANNUAL ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2008 FROM 7:00 PM TIL 1:00 AM WITH DINNER BEING SERVED FROM 7:00 – 8:30 PM. THERE WILL BE AN OPEN BAR FROM 6:30- 8:30 PM AND A DANCE WILL FOLLOW FROM 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM.

IN ORDER TO ATTEND THIS PARTY, YOU MUST BE A PAID UP 2008 MEMBER OF POST 259 AND HAVE SUBMITTED THIS APPLICATION TO THE POST HOME NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2008

AS USUAL, SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED ACCORDING TO THE FIRST 175 NAMES RECEIVED BY THE CUT OFF DATE. A CHARGE OF \$10.00 PER PERSON MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION. EACH MEMBER IS ENTITLED TO BRING HIS OR HER SPOUSE, OR IF SINGLE ONE FRIEND.

NAME _____ # ATTENDING ____ SELF ____ Spouse ____ FRIEND ____

MEMBERSHIP # MD0259 _____ TELEPHONE # _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK WITH APPLICATION. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO A. L. POST 259.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT MIKE HUNNICUTT AT 301-868-2550

November 2008

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 S.A.L. 7:00 PM | 4 GENERAL ELECTION Polls open 7:00 AM Close 8:00 PM | 5 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle | 6 | 7 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Auxiliary Mem. Mtg 7:30 PM | 11 VETERANS DAY Ceremony at 11:00 AM | 12 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle | 13 Dinner 5:00 - 7:00 PM Open face hot beef sand./gravy Mash. Pdt. Peas. | 14 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM | 15 Health Fair 9:00 - 3:00 PM |
| 16 | 17 Executive Committee 7:30 PM | 18 | 19 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle | 20 | 21 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM | 22 |
| 23 | 24 General * Membership Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM | 25 | 26 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle | 27 Thanksgiving Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 PM (Reservation only) | 28 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |



AMERICAN LEGION POST 259
 P.O. BOX 44
 CLINTON, MARYLAND 20735

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CLINTON, MD

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



Auxiliary Officers

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| President | Toni Carr |
| Vice President | Vacant |
| Secretary | Glenda Morgan |
| Treasurer | Mary Russell |
| Chaplain | Ann Lacey |
| Historian | Vivian Morgan |
| Sgt at Arms | Ruth King |
| Executive Committee | Barbara Theesen Sharon Franklin Liz White |



Post Officers

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Commander | Brian Kern |
| Adjutant | Robert A. Wilson |
| Asst. Adjutant | Charles Rentz |
| 1st Vice | Gary Gifford |
| 2nd Vice | Brock Hursey |
| 3rd Vice | Ron Potts |
| Judge Advocate | Elbert "Ed" White |
| Service Officer | Joseph Vlcek |
| Finance Officer | Jerald Thompson |
| Historian | Charles Lewis |
| Chaplain | Robert McCollum |
| Sgt at Arms | Robert Russell |
| Sergeant Major | William Ward |
| Executive Committee | Jim Panor Joe Morgan John Jackson Matt Garofalo Bud Werbowetski |



S.A.L. Officers

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Commander | Wayne Berbig |
| Adjutant | Vacant |
| 1st Vice | Gary Shupe |
| 2nd Vice | Dave Hutchinson |
| Judge Advocate | Vacant |
| Finance Office | Gary Castleman |
| Chaplain | Vacant |
| Historian | Roy Jewell |
| Sgt at Arms | Vacant |
| Executive Committee | Danny Kenney Gary Castleman |