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

**DECEMBER**

**DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR**

**2009**

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

With the hectic holiday season underway, many of you are attending holiday parties, shopping, getting ready to take a holiday trip, etc. However, for those of you with some free time on your hands, I'd like to personally invite you to attend the Post's traditional holiday party... but please be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible. Of course, we'll also have the traditional Children's Holiday Party, but again to help make the event enjoyable for your children or grandchildren we need you to register in advance. You can register for either event by stopping in the canteen and filling out a form prior to the cut-off date for reservations. Of course, we always need an extra volunteer or two or three.

Thanks to all who attended the Veterans Day Program hosted by our Auxiliary. We had approximately 40 people attend. This year was unique in that the event was covered by the Clinton/Fort Washington/Upper Marlboro Gazette. Everyone appeared to have a good time and the Auxiliary did a great job.

Turkey and all the trimmings were the highlight of the Post's traditional Thanksgiving Day Dinner. 100 participants took part in the festive event. I know I had enough to eat (okay maybe too much too eat). Thanks to those helped cook the turkeys, food, etc., and did all the small things to make sure everyone had an enjoyable time.

Our membership numbers continue to do well. In fact, we have met or exceeded several membership goals established by the Department of Maryland. Let's not stop yet. I'd really like to see us make 3-Star again this year. Come to think of it, a membership in the American Legion would be a great gift for any eligible veteran you may know. Even more so would be giving the gift of a "Paid Up For Life" membership.

My best wishes to each of you for a festive holiday season. See you in 2010 (if not sooner).

As always, thanks for your continuing support, thoughts, and ideas.

In Legion Service  
Brian Kern, Commander

## AUXILLIARY

Hi Members,

The months are flying by so quickly and the holiday season will soon be here, so please take a moment and renew your dues for 2010. Dues are still \$14.00 for Seniors and \$4.00 for Juniors.

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. We are still trying to get a full crew for each Friday, so we need you to please volunteer.

Thank you, Thank you to all our volunteers; Auxiliary, Legionnaires and SAL, you make it possible for us to put on the programs for our members and our community and I want you to know how much you are greatly appreciated.

It is that time of year to get started with our Americanism Essay Program and we are asking if you have children or grandchildren in Elementary, Middle School or Home Schooled, who would like to participate in our Department of Maryland's Americanism Essay program please call me. The title is: "What is my Patriotic Role as a U.S. Citizen?" The program consists of three groups: Group I - Grades 3 & 4; Group II - Grades 5 & 6 and Group III - Grades 7 & 8. Please encourage your children to participate in this program. There are awards from our Unit, the District and also the Department of Maryland.

Our Veterans Day Program certainly was a wonderful day for us to thank our servicemen and women, past and present for their service and dedication to our great Country. Thank you to everyone who participated in our program making it such a great success.

At our meeting in November we voted not to have Auxiliary meetings the month of December and January, so my wish for everyone is to have a wonderful holiday with your families whether it be Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa and for all to have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM, hope you will be with us.

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

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello All,

Well, the Christmas Season is rapidly approaching. I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday. It is this time of year that makes families come closer together. With that being said, The S.A.L is asking for its members (family) to come closer together. We are in need are support and are looking to expand our membership. It is vital that we have the participation of our members and that they pursue friends and family to become members. Let's face it!!! Our numbers are slipping for various reasons; some of which we can not control. So, let's do something about the things that we can control... Membership!!!

I missed putting a message in last month's newsletter and I am totally at fault. A month goes by so fast anymore... Wow!!! I am very sorry about that and hopefully it won't happen again. It is my duty as Commander to stay in touch with our members and I will make a conscious effort to do so in the future.

Over the last couple of month's, The S.A.L. hosted a Halloween Dance and I am very pleased to say that it turned out fairly successful. We had approximately 80 people or so and by pretty much all accounts, everyone had a wonderful time. I would personally like to thank Mike Hunnicutt and Diane Miller for a wonderful job! They made everyone feel at home and therefore able to enjoy themselves to the fullest. We had some awesome costumes and we are looking forward to having it again next year with even more participation. The only downfall was the lack of participation by the Post Members as a whole. Hopefully next year we can increase those numbers.

Last but not least, Mr. Moe Moroney's name was regretfully omitted in the newsletter following the golf tournament. The S.A.L. would like to recognize and thank him for volunteering his time and efforts. Without people like him we can not be successful. Thanks Again Moe!!! Sorry!!!

S.A.L. Commander  
Dave Hutchinson

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### **New Website Highlights Veterans Employment and Contracting Opportunities**

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano recently unveiled a new website designed to provide veterans with information on DHS employment and contracting opportunities. The website is [www.dhs.gov/veterans](http://www.dhs.gov/veterans). In addition to the already mentioned information, the website also provides information on ways to get involved in community based efforts like Citizen Corps, and special veterans programs such as Operation Warfighter and Wounded Warrior which provide employment opportunities for severely wounded or recovering service members and aids them in transitioning back to the military or civilian workforce.

### **American Legion National Commander Hill Comments on Ft. Hood Tragedy**

Commander Hill recently made the following comment concerning the Ft. Hood tragedy. He said, "My first reaction is purely emotional. I must say that I am shocked and speechless. I simply cannot believe we have soldiers who would do this to their comrades. The American Legion extends condolences to the victims and the families of those affected by the shootings at Fort Hood. The facts are not all out and there is still much about the events that we do not yet know. We do know, however, that The American Legion will reach out to assist any soldiers, family members, or other victims of this horrible tragedy in any way possible. We will release further statements as the facts become known."

### **Post Kitchen Area Getting New Look**

You may recall a previous article concerning a fire department response to the Post during the Crabfeast and a problem discovered in the kitchen area. After review by an insurance adjuster and a contractor, repairs are scheduled to get under way shortly after Thanksgiving. New paneling and increased heat/fire protection near the stoves will be the highlight of the repair efforts. Although not part of the repair efforts, consideration is also being given to replacing the kitchen area ceiling tiles.

### **Post Kicks-Off National Emergency Fund (NEF) Fundraising Effort**

Post 259 intends to raise at least \$500 through charitable donations of its members to support the American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF). The NEF provides support to the families of American Legion members and Sons of the American Legion members in need. All contributions to the NEF are deposited in a special account at the national level and used exclusively to meet the urgent needs of American Legion and S.A.L. members. Not a penny of the fund is used for fundraising, administrative costs or fulfillment. This means that 100% of your contribution goes directly to where it is needed most. In order to help the greatest number possible, grants not to exceed 1,500 may be given to eligible participants in order to meet the participant's most immediate needs (temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.). The NEF has provided over \$6,900,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and Posts since its creation in 1989.

If you would like to contribute, please send a check made payable to American Legion Post 259 and indicate in the check's memo section that the check is to support the NEF Fundraising Campaign. All contributions are tax deductible. Cash contributions may also be made in the Post Canteen.

### **Post Receives Some Local Press**

Imagine Post Chaplain Bob McCollum's surprise when he learned his picture appeared on the front page of the Clinton/Upper Marlboro/Fort Washington Gazette's November 12th edition. Chaplain McCollum was pictured as he offered a moment of silence along with other participants during the Post Veterans Day program hosted by the Auxiliary. Although nothing is final until it actually appears in print, an article relating to the Post is scheduled to appear in the November 26th edition of the same paper. While many of you are learning about this after the fact, it is good to see our Post getting some publicity through a local newspaper.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2009</h1>						
		1	2 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 Pinochle	3 Pizza Night	4 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	5
6	7 7:30 pm S.A.L.  Pearl Harbor Day	8	9 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 Pinochle	10	11 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	12
13 Post 259 Children's Christmas Party 1:00 - 4:00 PM	14 7:30 pm Auxilliary Unit 259	15	16 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 Pinochle	17	18 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	19 Adult Christmas Party 3-4 Cocktails 4-5:30 Dinner 6-10 Dancing
20	21 7:30 pm Executive Committee  1st Day of Winter	22	23 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 Pinochle	24	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS  POST CLOSED	26
27	28  No Geneal Membership Meeting	29	30 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 Pinochle	31		

# Clinton Post 259



**Auxiliary Officers**

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



**Post Officers**

Commander	Brian Kern
Adjutant	Robert Wilson
Asst Adjutant	Larry Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Gary Gifford
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	William Ward
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice	Ronald Potts
Judge Advocate	Elbert "Ed" White
Service Officer	Joseph Vlcek
Finance Officer	Jerald Thompson
Historian	Charles Lewis
Chaplain	Robert McCollum
Sgt Major	John Jackson
Sgt at Arms	Robert Ford
Executive Committee	Rich Barb Matt Garafalo Joe DeCenzo Jim Panor Richard Switzer



**S.A.L. Officers**

Commander	Dave Hutchinson
Adjutant	Vacant
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Wayne Berbig
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Vacant
Judge Advocate	Vacant
Finance Officer	Gary Castleman
Chaplain	Vacant
Historian	Robert Ailiff
Sgt at Arms	Richard Walsh
Executive Committee	Wayne Berbig Gary Castleman