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

FEBRUARY

DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR

2010

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

February is one of those "in-between" months. It's almost Spring, but we still have a bit of winter to go. "Cabin Fever" is probably running at its highest and many of us are looking for things to do outside the home. Well, the Post can offer Wednesday Night Shrimp Night and Bingo on Fridays. We're also holding a New Members Orientation program (see inside for more details). This is an opportunity to introduce our new members to the American Legion in general and the Post in particular. The swearing in ceremony is a highlight and it'd be good to have many of our already existing members available. Additionally, the County American Legion Oratorical contest will take place at the Post (more information inside). I've either been a judge or attended the Oratorical Contest for several years and have enjoyed listening to the contestant speeches. The topic is always related to the U.S. Constitution.

If memory serves me correctly, the February membership meeting is where we begin making delegate nominations to the State Convention in July. Assuming my memory is correct on the timing is correct, you must either be present to accept your nomination or have submitted something in writing indicating you will accept if nominated.

During the March regular membership meeting, we'll begin the nomination process for Executive Committee members. As with the Convention delegation nominations, you must either be present to accept your nomination or have submitted something in writing indicating you will accept if nominated. If you need more time to think about it, we do a second round of nominations at the April regular membership meeting. Of course, we'll be nominating a new Commander as our bylaws limit the number of consecutive terms a Commander can serve. I'll be as interested as I'm sure many of you will be in seeing who is running for Commander; as well as, all the other positions.

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

In Legion Service
Brian Kern, Commander

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello All,

Let me start this month's newsletter by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! I hope that everyone's holiday season was as fulfilling as mine! Now with that being said, it's time to get back to business.

No News is Good News is the motto! I did not put anything in last month's newsletter because not much had changed through the holiday season. This month is a little bit different. We have our annual "Superbowl Rally Dance" scheduled for February 6th 2010. The cost of the dance is \$25, to be paid at the door. This cost covers canned domestic beer and rail drinks and will be held between 8 PM and 12 AM. For those of you that haven't made this dance, it is rapidly becoming a big attraction for us on a yearly basis. We always have a good crowd and great music which will be provided by "Just Jeff the DJ". So get a group of friends together and come on up for some great fun!

I would also like to take this time to welcome our new members; Patrick Walsh, Louis Green and Pete Gebaur. Additionally I would like to encourage our current members to keep their membership in "Good Standing" and if possible recruit new members that meet the eligibility requirements. We are always in need of fresh faces and new ideas. The S.A.L. would also like to commend Kenny King for his continued support over the years. His efforts along with many others have helped make your S.A.L. a more successful program of The American Legion.

Lastly, I would like to applaud Richard Walsh for taking his role in The S.A.L. seriously. He has just recently vacated his Sgt. at Arms role to take on a much bigger one of 2nd Vice Commander. He has proven in the past few years that he is prepared for the challenge of leading our Ways and Means committee to greater heights. He will pilot our efforts of having as many functions as we realistically can. And judging from his actions, I'm sure he will do a fantastic job!

Thank you,

S.A.L. Commander
David Hutchinson

CHARLOTTE HALL

We held our monthly BINGO on 13 Jan. The VOLUNTEERS helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmon, Mike Gilbert, Rose Hoffman and Adele Williams. We had some students from Chopticon High School (jrROTC) helping out also. There were 84 veterans in attendance. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks. The next BINGO will be 10 Feb. Say THANKS to a VET

Mike Strotkamp, 301-645-2397

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

The winner of this year's Shotgun raffle was Richard King. Thanks to all who participated and made this another successful fundraiser. The cost of the Children's Christmas Party was completely covered by the proceeds of the raffle.

Citizenship Process Expedited for Service Members

The Department of Homeland Security recently expedited and streamlined the citizenship process for men and women serving in the Armed Forces. The rule amends DHS regulations to reduce the time requirements for naturalization through military service from three years to one year for applicants who served during peacetime, and extending benefits to members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the U.S. Armed Forces. Service members who have served honorably in an active-duty status or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve for any time since Sept. 11, 2001, can file immediately for citizenship. For more information on USCIS, visit <http://www.uscis.gov/military>.

Department of Veterans Affairs to Survey Veteran Households

The VA is launching a national survey of veterans, active duty military members, activated National Guard and reserve members, and family members and survivors to learn if they are aware of VA services. Currently, the VA is mailing out survey screening information to more than 130,000 households to identify potential survey participants. Those identified as being eligible may be asked to

participate in a full length survey. This will be the 6th VA National Survey of Veterans since 1978. The data collection is expected to be finished by the end of February 2010 and a final report issued in December of 2010. Post Commander Kern encourages any Post member receiving information to complete it and return it. The importance of doing so for all fellow veterans cannot be overstated.

Post Member and Pearl Harbor Survivor Receives Visit

Post 259 member and Pearl Harbor survivor, Raymond James, was recently visited by Past Department Commander Ed White and Prince Georges County Commander Robert Wilson. Mr. James shared his memories of the "day that will live in infamy". Mr. James was in the Air Corps and stationed at Hickam Field, Hawaii on the day of the attack. A tip of the hat to Ray and a heartfelt thanks to a member of the "greatest generation".

Information of Interest to Veterans Residing in Maryland

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs provides many services for Maryland veterans. Although the following is not an entire listing, the information may be of benefit to some of our Post members or any veteran residing in Maryland:

- Outreach and Advocacy Program
16 Francis Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
866-216-7928
- Veterans Service Program, Claims Assistance
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
800-446-4926
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
29449 Charlotte Hall Road
Charlotte Hall, MD
800-522-8387
- Cemetery and Memorial Programs
1122 Sunrise Beach Road
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-987-3820
- Assistance with veterans issues such as homelessness, depression, PTSD, etc.
877-770-4801 or www.veterans.maryland.gov
or by going to www.facebook.com and searching for "Maryland Veterans".

Four Pillars of the American Legion

In 1919, the American Legion was founded on four pillars. The four pillars are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. As part of Commander Kern's Legion Education efforts, this month we'll focus on the third pillar – Americanism.

It is perhaps no surprise to many of you that the foundations on which this country were founded have been under increasing attacks for many years. The American Legion's focus on Americanism is an attempt to reinforce those foundations. For example, The American Legion has been very involved in seeking to protect the U.S. Flag from desecration by those very people whose right to protest was earned by the sacrifices of veterans. Additionally, The American Legion strives to maintain the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom and not some abbreviated version of the pledge, but the version that contains the words "under God". Last but not least, The American Legion sponsors many programs such as Boys/Girls State, Boy Scouts, American Legion baseball, etc., all with the intent to promote a one hundred percent Americanism in the participants.

Want more information about the four pillars, go on-line to www.legion.org/onlineupdate/2687/four-pillars-available-online. A 24 page book is available for you to download free of charge.

We Asked... You Responded... National Emergency Fundraising Going Extremely Well

Last month we asked for your help in raising \$500 through your donations to support the NEF. Well, we are well on the way to meeting if not exceeding that goal. Although current numbers are not available at the time this article is being published, we've received numerous contributions from our Post members...but let's not stop yet. 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 and 100% of your contribution goes directly to where it is needed most – to support to the families of American Legion members and Sons of the American Legion members in need.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2010</h1>						
	1 Veterans Commission Mtg. Senior Center Camp Springs 7:30 PM	2 Groundhog Day	3 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	4 Pizza Night 5:00 - 7:00 PM	5 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	6 S.A.L. Dance S/3 Rally
7 SUPERBOWL Sunday	8 Auxiliary Unit 259 7:30 PM	9	10 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	11	12 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	13
14	15 Executive Committee 7:30 PM Presidents Day	16	17 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle Ash Wednesday	18	19 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	20
21 New Members Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 PM SMD Oratorical Noon - Foxhole	22 General Membership Dinner 6:30 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	23	24 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM Pinochle	25	26 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	27 SMD Oyster Bowl Youth Camp
28 Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Dinner						

Clinton Post 259



Auxiliary Officers

President	Toni Carr
Vice	
President	Vacant
Secretary	Glenda Morgan
Treasurer	Mary Russell
Chaplain	Sharon Franklin
Historian	Vivian Boyd
Sgt at Arms	Wendy Harris

Executive Committee
 Barbara Theesen
 Liz White
 Marilyn Thomas



Post Officers

Commander	Brian Kern
Adjutant	Robert Wilson
Asst Adjutant	Larry Hall
1 st Vice	Gary Gifford
2 nd Vice	William Ward
3 rd 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
 Joe DeCenzo
 Matt Garofalo
 Jim Panor
 Richard Switzer



S.A.L. Officers

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

Executive Committee
 Wayne Berbig
 Gary Castleman