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

**MARCH**

**DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR**

**2010**

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sometime ago during my first term as Commander, I read an article concerning The American Legion and change. In a nutshell, the article suggested that The American Legion needed to "update" itself to better reflect the environment it currently operates in as compared to how it operated in the past. Although I found the article interesting, I didn't necessarily agree with all it suggested. Still, the article contained a kernel of insight in that The American Legion (or any organization for that matter) needs to be open to change and allow change to occur when it is in the best interests of the organization. I'd like to build on that paradigm and bring it down to the Post level.

First, let me say that the thoughts about to be expressed are largely my own. I expect some of you will agree, others will disagree, and others will be indifferent. But agree or disagree, I hope to spur some respectful discussion. Let me start by saying that when I joined The American Legion, I did it as a proud veteran with a keen interest in "still serving America". In-part my decision to join was based on my recollections of American Legion events held in the town where I grew up. These events were always well attended and I recall the veterans marching in various local parades. Practically speaking, the sense of pride displayed by those veterans played a large role in my later decision to enlist in the military.

So it was with great anticipation that I joined The American Legion, became a member of Post 259, and looked forward to participating in Post activities. However, the American Legion I so fondly remembered from my younger days was different from The American Legion I found today. Now, it could be I simply recall things being better than they actually were but it seemed that our Post events, while having good attendance, were not as well attended as I'd remembered from past Legion activities I attended as a younger (non-Legion) person. Although I can't say that I attended any American Legion meetings prior to becoming a member, many of our older Post 259 members recall the days when our Post meetings were well attended (by the way, a very special thank you to those members who routinely attend the general membership meetings), Post elections were contested, and Post events were overflowing with participants.

I've often wondered during my time on the Executive Committee and during the last two years as Commander, whether we can bring back the Post 259 of old. Some have suggested that re-invigorating the various Post Committees would work towards doing that. Others have suggested holding more events. Others have suggested getting the general membership more involved by seeking volunteers for activities, etc. Still others have (continued on next page)

### Commander's Message (continued)

suggested that trying to return to the "old days" is simply not practical in today's environment. Respectfully, I've tried to incorporate each of those viewpoints to see what happens.

As I start my last four months as Commander, I've come to realize more and more that need for change discussed in the article mentioned at the start of my message, exists here at the Post. While always remaining first and foremost a veterans organization, we need to remember that the running the Post is a business and we need to make sound and perhaps difficult business decisions. Things such as long term rentals to outside organizations, increased financial contributions from other American Legion connected organizations using Post facilities, perhaps holding Bingo at a time other than Friday night, increased and better marketing of Post events to both members and non-members, pursuing unrelated business income when it makes economic sense to do so, considering whether we have too much Post for our current needs, or selling other Post owned property all need to be legitimately considered. Essentially, we need to shift our business paradigm from a strong financial reliance on members and Post events to an increased financial reliance on revenue streams from non-members and non-Post related activities. Whether we do any of this remains to be determined, but one thing we cannot do is maintain the current status quo and this is where you, the Post membership become extremely important. We (current and future Post Commanders and Executive Committee members) need to hear from you. Consider attending general membership meetings where many of these things may come up for discussion.

I fear I have rambled on too long and appreciate your willingness to read this message to its conclusion. Some of you may be leaping out of your chair to disagree. Hopefully, some of you agree. Some of you may be saying, "We'll you're the Commander, figure it out" and I certainly understand that. I look forward to your comments and feel free to send them to me at [brian\\_k540@yahoo.com](mailto:brian_k540@yahoo.com) or drop me a line at the Post. As always, thanks for your continuing support, thoughts, and ideas. In Legion Service,  
Brian Kern, Commander

### AUXILLIARY

Hi Members,

I hope everyone has shoveled themselves out from the blizzards' of 2009 -2010. We have not been able to have our regular meeting in February, so please plan on coming to our March 8th meeting so we can make plans for the Spring.

At our meeting we will have a brief (Volunteer Field Service Workshop) which is required by ALA Department of Maryland for everyone who volunteers at Veteran facilities.

Easter is early this year so we will have our Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 28th from 9 AM to 1 PM. We will need many workers to help make this breakfast a success, if you can help, please call me.

The Children's Easter Party will be Saturday, April 3rd, 1 PM to 4 PM. A sign up sheet will be available in March on the front door at the Post.

We are also hoping to have a Yard Sale, date and time will be posted in the April newsletter.

BINGO-BINGO workers are needed for Friday evenings the second and fourth weeks of the month. If you can help, please call me at 301-868-7960. Also, if you would like to help with our rentals, please let me know.

It's that time of year to start thinking who you would like to be your Auxiliary officers for the Administrative year 2010-2011, nominations will start in April.

If you have not renewed your membership, please send them to Liz White so we can hopefully reach our goal for this administrative year. Thank you for your valuable membership in the world's largest women's organization and for your support to our Veterans.

To all members, if you think your volunteering hours in the community, in the schools or helping a veteran, other than a relative, can be used in our yearly reports, please let me know so I can include them in the reports. Reporting period runs from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

Our next meeting will be April 12, 2010, hope you will be with us. Happy Easter everyone and hope to see you at our Palm Sunday Breakfast.

God & Country  
Toni Carr, President

## CHARLOTTE HALL

Well, we had to cancel our visit at the home on 10 February because of the snow!! Our next BINGO will be 10 March. Hope to see you there. Remember to say THANKS to a Vet.

Mike Strotkamp, 301-645-2397

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### **Baseball Bits**

It is a pleasure to report that Clinton Post 259 Will again have a baseball team representing us in the American Legion Roiley League this Spring and Summer. This was made possible by the contributions made by our members who responded to the plea for financial assistance last year. A number of loyal contributors responded with donations of \$100, \$50, \$25, or less. To them we owe a rousing THANK YOU.

Our team will be coached by Larry Prang and Ed Smith from McNamara High School. The players will come from McNamara, Gwynn Park, and Douglass High Schools. Couch Prang recently spoke highly of the players and the potential for a super season. More news to come.

Jim Panor  
Baseball Chairman

### **Post Everlasting**

Since the Legion Year began last July, we have lost, or been notified of the deaths of the following members. We are only aware of their passing when we are notified, sometimes years later.

James A. Robertson - Mar. 20, 2007  
Gino Bernacchia - Nov. 29, 2008  
James M. Langley - Dec. 24, 2008  
Rodney D. Wyne - Mar. 30, 2009  
Charles M. Carter - Mar. 31, 2009  
William L. Klinger - April, 2009  
William C. Barry - May 17, 2009  
John C. Hoffman - June 10, 2009  
Ronald F. Voigt - June 12, 2009  
Paul McConkey - June 26, 2009  
Oscar L. Taylor - July 10, 2009

William R. Adkins - July 22, 2009  
Thomas J. Wilson - July 22, 2009  
John T. Loweth - Aug. 11, 2009  
Eugene C. Walden - Aug. 27, 2009  
Wayne R. Jewell - Sep. 30, 2009  
Emory L. Fowler - Oct. 31, 2009  
Barry Brooks - Nov. 18, 2009  
Don R. Anderson - Sep. 3, 2009  
Frederick G. Sparrow - Nov. 2, 2009  
Jack Smith - Nov. 30, 2009  
John M. Hilgenberg - Dec. 30, 2009  
Bernie C. Hays - 2009  
James E. Porter - Jan. 5, 2010  
Jimmy D. Smith - Jan. 24, 2010  
William Cizler - Feb. 2, 2010  
Richard A. Baxter - Feb. 15, 2010

These were our Comrades and our friends. May their souls rest in eternal Peace. May their families know that they will not be forgotten. It was the belief of the ancients that when a deceased person's name was evoked, they rested a little bit more comfortable.

### **New Members Orientation Dinner Well Attended**

Approximately 60 people including 17 new Post 259 members and their families attended the Post's 2nd New Members Orientation Dinner held on February 21st, 2010. The new members were sworn into the Post by Commander Kern. 1st Vice Commander Gary Gifford and Judge Advocate (and former Department of Maryland Commander) Elbert "Ed" White spoke on the Post's and The American Legion's history. After a brief question and answer period, the attendees enjoyed a spaghetti dinner.

### **District Oratorical Contest Held at Post 259**

On February 21st, attendees assembled in Post 259's Fox Hole to participate in the Southern Maryland District Oratorical Contest. Although two contestants were scheduled to speak, only one was available at the time of the event. Southern Maryland District Commander Steve Taitro was on hand to congratulate the winner.

### **Boy Scouts Celebrate 100 Years of Scouting**

Post 259 is proud to sponsor both a Boy Scout and Cub Scout troop and congratulates the Boy Scouts on their 100th birthday. The American Legion's support of scouting reaches back to the Legion's first national convention in 1919. Altogether, The American Legion charters more than 2,700 Scouting units and serves more than 72,000 scouts. The American Legion National Commander, Clarence Hill, wrote the following in his February message (entire message available on-line at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)), "The American Legion and Scouting are connected by shared values, and by a mutual commitment to serve God and country. A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. So, too, is a Legionnaire. In appreciation of all we have shared since 1919, I am honored to render Boy Scouts of America a 100th-anniversary salute and offer best wishes for another century together."

### **Virtual Tour of American Legion Museum Available**

Legionnaires and visitors now have the opportunity to view a selection of pieces from the Emil A. Blackmore Museum at The American Legion's National Headquarters from the comfort of their homes. A virtual tour of the museum is available at [www.legion.org/virtualtour](http://www.legion.org/virtualtour). The history of the organization is illustrated by items such as the gavel and block used to preside over the first national convention in Minneapolis in 1919; the wars Legionnaires have fought in through a captured Viet Cong AK-47; and Legion programs and causes presented by items such as a promotional bat from the 1965 American Legion World Series, held in Aberdeen, S.D. (article taken from the American Legion website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).)

### **Maryland Veteran Related Legislation Available on State Website**

Interested in always being up-to-date on legislative issues pertinent to Maryland veterans? If so, the Department of Maryland website ([www.mdlegion.org](http://www.mdlegion.org)) is the place to look. Click on the tab "For Veterans" and then select "Maryland Veterans Legislation." This tab takes you to a list of various veterans' related legislation and provides an update on the status. For those who may not know, Post 259 Judge Advocate and former Department of Maryland Commander, Elbert "Ed" White chairs the Department's Legislative Committee. This Committee advocates to the Legislature on behalf of Maryland's veterans.

### **WWII Veterans – Duty Calls One More Time?**

You proudly served your country during WWII. Your generation has been called the "greatest generation" for its commitment and service to America. Now you have an opportunity to share your experience with local high school students in Prince Georges County who are tasked with interviewing WWII veterans for a school assignment. More information is available from Gary Brown of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. He can be reached at 301-248-0463 and his office is located at 6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748. Please if you have time, share your memories with today's young adults.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2010</h1>						
	1 S.A.L. 7:30 PM	2	3 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle	4 Pizza Night 5:00 - 7:00 PM	5 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	6
7	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	16	17 St Patrick's Day Dinner Corned Beef or Ham and Cabbage 4:30 - 7:00	18	19 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	20 SAL St. Patrick's Day Party 8PM - Midnight
21	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
28	29	30	31 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle			

Don't forget to call the Post to find out the daily Menu on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays. Some weekends too!!

# 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 <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  
 Joe DeCenzo  
 Matt Garofalo  
 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	Richard Walsh
Judge Advocate	Vacant
Finance Officer	Gary Castleman
Chaplain	Vacant
Historian	Robert Ailiff
Sgt at Arms	Vacant

Executive Committee  
 Wayne Berbig  
 Gary Castleman