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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.....
Larry G. Hall, Commander

DECEMBER

MICHAEL A. PRICE, EDITOR

2010

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and Veterans Day. My thanks to President Trudee Hunter and her staff for an excellent program on Veterans Day. Also to the secret chef who "willingly and happily" donated his time and made some outstanding potato soup. Due to family commitments, I was unable to attend the Thanksgiving Day festivities, but I understand it was also a success, thanks in no small part to the work of Diane, Irene and Mike. They did all the prep work themselves because someone (me) neglected to arrange for help for them. Thanks again guys. It won't happen again.

Don't forget the upcoming Christmas parties. Both the children's party on the 12th and the adult party on the 18th promise to be very good. We hope as many of you as possible can get to them. I would like anyone who is willing to do so, to volunteer to drive and bring those who cannot drive to the Christmas party. If you can, please contact any Post Officer and let him know. For those who cannot drive, please call the Post before you decide not to attend to see if we have someone who can pick you up.

In December, our regularly scheduled General Membership meeting on the fourth Monday (27th) will not be held. We will have a very short meeting at the beginning of the Christmas Party (and I mean short!). Also, for our Executive Committeemen, the EC meeting will be on Thursday, the 16th at 7:00.

Don't forget the Shotgun raffle and the Wagon of Cheer drawings will be done at the Christmas Party. You do not need to be present to win, but you need to buy a ticket to be eligible! Get them at the bar at the Canteen. Cost is \$1.00 per ticket. Improve your chances of winning...buy them by the bunch!

If you have not yet renewed your annual membership, please do so as soon as possible. While our membership numbers are running slightly ahead of this time last year, we still have a long way to go. Remember, your current membership expires on December 31.

A word on security. There have been instances in other Legion and VFW Posts of attempts to break in and one post was robbed. Please adhere to the following policies. First, do not use the exit in the Game Room to leave the Post. It doesn't always secure properly and until it is fixed,

we cannot allow exit there. Second, under no circumstances should anyone but the bartender, House Manager or a Post officer answer the door when someone presses the buzzer, even if you know the person. Only post members are authorized access to the canteen. Members may bring guests with them, sign them in and stay with them. When the member leaves, the guest must leave. Only the member may pay for any food or drink for the guest. A stranger at the door is not a guest and the bartender can determine the purpose of the visit by answering the door.

For those of you who watch our budget, you know some programs we have supported in the past are unfunded this year. This is not to say we won't support them. In the near future, we will begin a program where our members may contribute to a specific program or programs. That, along with other fundraisers in conjunction with the SAL and Auxiliary, we hope, will help us support those programs. Stay tuned.

Finally, On behalf of the Post Officers, Post Executive Committeemen, and my wife, I wish all of you the happiest of holidays and good health. We hope the New Year will be a good one for all and for our Post and Legion.

Yours in Legion Comradeship,
Larry G. Hall
Commander

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

The SAL is a "Very Proud" and long running program of The American Legion. As has happened with many programs, things have slowed a bit and the things we have be accustomed to doing in the past are much more difficult to accomplish. It all begins with participation! This is a vital function of our existence. It certainly isn't time to push the panic button but it is time to address this issue. We have become more and more depended upon to support the post in various ways. It is a task that we should accept with open arms. This cannot happen without ideas and participation from our membership. This includes the recruitment of others who may be eligible to join.

On another note, this year is flying by faster than any other I have witnessed! If you haven't paid your dues for this year, they need to be paid before January 1st. Renewal forms are in the quarters if you have misplaced or have not received one by mail. Also, our meetings are held on the 1st Monday of every month. They usually get started between 7:00 and 7:30pm. We would love to see some fresh faces and hear some fresh ideas. The meetings generally last about an hour or so.

Last but not least, I generally like to see the glass as half full. I like to be very optimistic about the potential that we have to do great things. We are looking forward to planning some good things in the future and it will take a collective effort to accomplish them. There are certainly many challenges ahead but it is so much more rewarding when you know how hard you've worked to reach your goals. The SAL is looking forward to doing there part.

Thanks
SAL Commander
Dave Hutchinson

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy Holidays!

We were blessed to honor about 40 veterans at our Veteran's Day program. My daughters helped me set up the hall with the POW/MIA setting. It was a proud day for me and my daughters to honor all veterans with a special focus on the women that served. I am also very grateful for the tremendous help from my favorite couple, Bud and Barbara Theesen. The potato soup was AWESOME!! Luv Ya BUD! The beautiful Cha L'Mar Dancers were magnificent as usual.

Thanks for all the cake donations we received this month for Bingo. We're covered for at least three months. Way to Go!!

We may not be having meetings for the next couple of months but that shouldn't stop us from finding ways to support our fellow soldiers, veterans and their families especially this time of year.

Charlotte Hall Nursing Home will be having a gift shop day on December 4th at 8:00 am. This is where we help veterans pick out presents for their loved ones and wrap them. It is a day full of pure love and joy. Please join us!

Washington VA Medical Center will be having their Christmas Party on December 17th (set up starts at 10 and the party starts at noon). The Auxiliary is always looking for volunteers. It is a great way to spend a few hours. Please join us!

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates 23% of all homeless in America are veterans. VETERANS!! These people fought and served for us when we needed them, now it's our turn. Please help us collect new/slightly used coats and blankets and other essentials such as gloves, socks, under garments, and toiletries. There will be a box set up at the Legion for you to drop off your donation. Please help!

If there are changes that you want made, stand up and be heard! Call me, come to a meeting, and bring in new members. New members bring in new ideas. Change is GOOD! Please attend our next meeting on February 14, 2011 at 7:30 PM. I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!!

Trudee Hunter
TVRHunter@aol.com
240-299-7117





TRIP TO CASINO: Post 259 will be sponsoring a casino trip to Harrington, Delaware, Midway Casino/Slots on Tuesday January 25th 2011. The cost will be \$30.00 per person and includes a \$15.00 Bonus Card (Free) and Dinner Buffet (Free). The bus will leave the Post parking lot at 10:00 am and return at approximately 6:30 pm. Contact Joe Decenzo 301 297-7996 or Matt Garofalo 301 292-4464.

WAGON OF CHEER: A Wagon of Cheer is being raffled off by the Post. The proceeds will be used to buy toys for the children for Christmas. Come out and support this worthy effort. Raffle tickets are on sale at the post. The contents of the wagon include:

Tanquery Gin	Goldschlager
7 Crown	Barcardi
Asback Brandy	Crown Royal
Dewars White Label	Jack Daniels
Baileys Irish Creme	Hennessy Cognac
Silver Patron Tequila	Amaretto
Steeple Chase Red	Gray Goose

Also included are mixers, assorted candies, several wines, champagne and your choice of a 4-pack of wine and a case of beer.



HATS FOR SALE: Do you have your American Legion cap? Baseball style caps and American Legion uniform hats are available at the Hall:

caps, white or black	\$10.00
uniform hat, male/female	\$50.00

The uniform hat comes complete with the post number (259), state flag, and location - Clinton, MD. A limited number of caps and hats are available at the post.

BINGO: Post 259 sponsors a bingo every Friday night at 7:30. Early bird games are held at 7:15. Prizes are as follows per game:

Early Bird (3)	\$30
Regular (12)	\$80
Special (6)	\$100

Also included are a Bonanza and a Special Jackpot worth as much as \$500. Admission prices are \$17 for a pack of 12 cards, \$10 for a pack of 6 cards and \$1 - \$2 for special games and jackpots.

CHARLOTTE HALL

Post 259 held their monthly BINGO program at the home on 10 November 2010, the 235th birthday of the US Marines. Trudee Hunter and Maria Suthard from the Auxiliary, Bob Levendusky and Al Elmond were the post 259 volunteers with much appreciated help from the Chopticon High School ROTC students and their escort, Kimberly Bowles. These students were Abbie Reynolds, Lyndsey Reynolds, Steven Cave, Mathew Jacobs, Nina Mire, Russell Johnson, and Tyler Bowles. Thanks to the Auxiliary for providing the snacks for the evening. The next BINGO will be 8 December.

Helping hands are always welcome. The rewards are priceless from a very grateful group of heroes.
Al Elmond

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST:

Did you know that home schooled students are eligible for the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest? This contest is open to **ALL** high school students in the ninth through twelfth grades. The contest rules are simple. The subject is always the same: The United States Constitution. The student prepares a talk for 8-10 minutes on any subject within the U. S. Constitution and delivers it. There is an assigned topic that the student speaks on for 3-5 minutes. The subjects are in the Rules which are available at the Post. The prize at the state level is \$2,500.00. The winner then goes to National, where the first prize is \$18,000.00. Comrades, check with your children and grandchildren and see if they are interested. This will give them a chance at winning scholarship money and sharpen their speaking ability. The rules are available by asking in the lounge. I will see that you get a copy.
Bob Wilson, Adjutant

(ROTC volunteers at Charlotte Hall)



Edward R. Radzwich, DSC-LTC-US ARMY (RET) readying his uniform for the Veteran's Day parade



AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP:

2011 Membership is now due. New Post key cards will be issued after January 1, 2011. You must have a paid 2011 dues card in order to obtain your new key card. Senior dues are \$14.00, Junior dues are \$4.00.

Liz White,
Membership Chairman
301-868-1612

POTENTIAL SCAM ALERT: An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on the VA. It is also gathering personal information on veterans. **This organization is not affiliated with the VA in any way.** <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.htm>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate Chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)

Paraprosdokian: A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to re-frame or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect. If you're a lover of words and language, we believe you'll appreciate the following statements!

- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right; only who is left.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I just said I was blaming you.
- Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Posted on a Bulletin Board at Paris Island

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this domicile did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stockings by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far away land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the house of a U. S. Marine.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more.
So I walked down the hall, and pushed open the door.
There he lay sleeping, silent and alone.
Curled up on his poncho liner, a floor for his bed.

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
I realized that the families I would see this night,
Owed their lives to these men, who are willing to fight.

In hours around the nation, children would play,
And grown ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed their freedom, all month long and all year,
Because of Marines, like this one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lie alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought, brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees, and started to cry.

He must have awoke, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, for this is my choice.
I fight for freedom, and I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my Country and Corps".

As I looked into the guardian of honor, so willing to fight
He saluted and said, "Merry Christmas my friend;
Semper Fi, and good night"

Author Unknown



**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 Trudee Hunter
Vice Pres. Glenda Morgan
Secretary Maria Suthard
Treasurer Toni Carr
Historian Vivian Boyd
Chaplain Sharon Franklin
Sgt At Arms Barbara Theesen
Exec. Comm. Liz White
Ginger Latimer
Marilyn Thomas



Post Officers

Commander Larry G. Hall
Adjutant Robert A. Wilson
Ass't Adjutant
1st Vice Gary Gifford
2nd Vice Matthew Garofalo
3rd Vice Ronald Potts
Judge Advocate Elbert "ED" White
Service Officer Joseph Vlcek
Finance Officer Richard Switzer
Ass't Fin Officer Jerald Thompson
Historian Charles Lewis
Chaplain Thomas Treichel
Sgt At Arms George Martin
Sgt Major John Jackson
Exec Comm. James Panor
Joseph DeCenzo
Joseph Morgan
Richard Barb
Melvin Hale



S.A.L. Officers

Commander David Hutchinson