



9122 Piscataway Road  
Clinton, Maryland 20735

(301) 868-2550  
*Web Site: post259.org*

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

December

Charles Lewis, Editor

2011

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving Holiday this past month. I was unable to attend, but I understand all went well. Many thanks to Matt Garofalo for his work in setting this up and giving his time to making sure the dinner was a success. Also, Matt, thank all your help for their time. I understand we now have some professional meat slicers at the post.

Now we have the upcoming Christmas Parties facing us. The information for both parties is attached to the newsletter. Please sign up as soon as possible at the Post so we can get a good head count. The price is \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child under 10. The deadline for signing up is December 10<sup>th</sup> for the adult party. The menu is steamship round, Legion green beans and Diane Miller's super baked potatoes. We ask that everyone dress appropriate to the festival time of the year. Tuxedos and formal gowns are optional.

**ATTENTION ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN:** The December EC meeting will be held at the Post on Sunday, December 11 at 10:00 am. Coffee and Donuts will be furnished.

**ATTENTION ALL POST MEMBERS:** The December General Membership meeting will be held approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of the Adult Christmas Party on Saturday December 17. The meeting will be short.

I have been under the weather for the past couple of weeks and am late in getting this information to the newsletter publisher. Therefore, keep an eye out for upcoming information for 2012 in the January newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Yours in Legion Service

Larry G. Hall  
Commander

<b>Post Officers 2011 – 2012</b>		<b>Annual Events(In Order by Legion Year)</b>	
		<b>Event</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Commander	Larry Hall	Joint Installation - June 2011- Outgoing Commander	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Gary Gifford	S.A.L. 259 Golf Tournament – Sept 2011 – S.A.L.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Matthews Garofalo	Veteran’s Day Service – Nov 2011 – Auxiliary Unit	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	George Martin	Adult Christmas Party – Dec 2011 - Legion	
Adjutant	Robert A. Wilson	Children Christmas Party – Dec 2011 – Legion	
Vice Adjutant		Super Bowl Party – Feb 2012 - Legion	
Judge Advocate	Elbert “ED” White	St. Patrick Day Dinner – Mar 2012 –S.A.L.	
Service Officer	James Woodland	Children Easter Egg Hunt – April 2012 – Auxiliary Unit	
Finance Officer	Richard Switzer	JBA Joint Service Open House – May 2012 - Legion	
Historian	Charles Lewis	Memorial Day – May 2012 - Legion	
Chaplain	Thomas Treichel	Flag Day – June 2012 - Legion	
Sgt At Arms	Haywood Moss	Joint Installation – June 2012 - Legion	
Sgt Major	John Jackson	Crab Feast – September 2012 - Legion	
		Thanksgiving Feast 2012 - Legion	
Executive Committee E.I. Day Joseph DeCenzo Joseph Morgan James Panor Vacant			
<p>The American Legion Clinton Post 259 9122 Piscataway Road Clinton, Maryland 20735</p> <p>Phone: 301 – 868-2550 Website: <a href="http://www.post259.Org">www.post259.Org</a></p> <p>Clinton Post 259 Newsletter is published monthly on Post 259 website</p> <p>We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, or question for future issues of the Clinton Post 259 Newsletter. Drop them off at the Post – Attention Newsletter Editor</p>		<p><b>We need your assistance, let us know of any our members who are sick or in the hospital Please call 301 868-2550</b></p> <p><b>If you have moved, please contact the Post with your new address</b></p>	



<b>Auxiliary Officers</b>		<b>S.A.L. Officers</b>	
President	Glenda Morgan	Commander	Richard A. Walsh Jr.
Vice President	Rose Butler	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Dave Hutchinson
Secretary	Freida Skaggs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Todd Harding
Treasurer	Toni Carr	Finance Officer	
Historian		Sgt At Arms	Dave Desmaris
Chaplain	Sharon Franklin	Historian	Red Aliff
Sgt At Arms	Barbara Theesen	Chaplain	Lou Montgomery
Advisor	Liz White Cookie King	Advisor	Jim Cox George Bucklew

## **Have You Paid Your 2012 Dues?**

**Drop them in the mail or drop them off at the Post**

**The cost for renewal is \$30.00**

**Renew Now – Please give us your e-mail address**

**Need Help in Obtaining Benefits and/or Medical Care Don't Go It Alone**

**Contact**

**American Legion Post 259**

**Service Officer**

**James R. Woodland**

**Home: 301 283-6451**

**Cell: 301 283-5047**

**E-Mail: [jamesr.woodland@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesr.woodland@yahoo.com)**

**You are not alone**

<b>Organizational Meeting</b>		
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month	S.A.L. Meeting - 7:30PM
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the Month	Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30PM
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month	Executive Committee Meeting 6:30PM
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month	General Membership Meal starts at 6:30PM General Membership Meeting begins at 7:30PM
		American Legion Riders Meeting
<b>Post Special Events</b>		
Every Friday		Bingo – Early Bird starts at 7:15PM
Every Wednesday		Pinochle
Sunday	Dec. 11, 2011	2011 Children Christmas Party – 1:00PM until 4:00PM
Saturday	Dec. 17, 2011	2011 Adult Christmas Party – 7:00PM until 1:00AM
<b>Post Meals</b>		
Every Wednesday		Shrimp Night from 5:30PM until 7:30PM
Thursday	December 1	Bob’s Belly Buster Fish Fry - \$8.00
Thursday	December 8	Crab Cake Sandwiches – Sign up at the bar - \$8.50
Thursday	December 22	No meal – Hall has been rented

## **Rent the Social Hall**

**Rental Rates: \$600.00 - \$700.00 for four (4) hours**

**Seating: Up to 200 people**

**Tables: Round Banquet, Seating eight (8) comfortably**

**Large Dance Floor**

**Dinners available from \$13.00 to \$13.50 per plate**

**Call for reservations/appointment between 8:00AM until 2:00PM**

**Contact Information**

**Ms. Diane Miller**

**(301) 868-2550**

## SPECIAL MEALS JUST FOR YOU



**Thursday December 1, 2011**

**Bob's Belly Buster Fish with Fries and Coleslaw  
\$8.00**



**Thursday December 8, 2011**

**Crab Cake Sandwich with Fries and Coleslaw  
\$8.50**

**Please sign up and pay at the bar for Crab Cake – these will be homemade crabcakes and I need to make sure I have enough crab meat.**

**December 22, 2011**

**There will not be dinners due to rental of the hall**

# DATES TO REMEMBER



## Pearl Harbor Raid, 7 December 1941

The 7 December 1941 Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor was one of the great defining moments in history. A single carefully-planned and well-executed stroke removed the United States Navy's battleship force as a possible threat to the Japanese Empire's southward expansion. America, unprepared and now considerably weakened, was abruptly brought into the Second World War as a full combatant.

Eighteen months earlier, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had transferred the United States Fleet to Pearl Harbor as a presumed deterrent to Japanese aggression. The Japanese military, deeply engaged in the seemingly endless war it had started against China in mid-1937, badly needed oil and other raw materials. Commercial access to these was gradually curtailed as the conquests continued. In July 1941 the Western powers effectively halted trade with Japan. From then on, as the desperate Japanese schemed to seize the oil and mineral-rich East Indies and Southeast Asia, a Pacific war was virtually inevitable.

By late November 1941, with peace negotiations clearly approaching an end, informed U.S. officials (and they were well-informed, they believed, through an ability to read Japan's diplomatic codes) fully expected a Japanese attack into the Indies, Malaya and probably the Philippines. Completely unanticipated was the prospect that Japan would attack east, as well.

The U.S. Fleet's Pearl Harbor base was reachable by an aircraft carrier force, and the Japanese Navy secretly sent one across the Pacific with greater aerial striking power than had ever been seen on the World's oceans. Its planes hit just before 8AM on 7 December. Within a short time five of eight battleships at Pearl Harbor were sunk or sinking, with the rest damaged. Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also knocked out and over 2400 Americans were dead. Soon after, Japanese planes eliminated much of the American air force in the Philippines, and a Japanese Army was ashore in Malaya.

These great Japanese successes, achieved without prior diplomatic formalities, shocked and enraged the previously divided American people into a level of purposeful unity hardly seen before or since. For the next five months, until the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May, Japan's far-reaching offensives proceeded untroubled by fruitful opposition. American and Allied morale suffered accordingly. Under normal political circumstances, an accommodation might have been considered.

However, the memory of the "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor fueled a determination to fight on. Once the Battle of Midway in early June 1942 had eliminated much of Japan's striking power, that same memory stoked a relentless war to reverse her conquests and remove her, and her German and Italian allies, as future threats to World peace.

# Hanukkah Begins



Chanukah commemorates the Jewish people's successful rebellion against the Greeks in the Maccabean War in 162 BCE. A ritual cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple occurred after the Jewish people's victory. It is believed that there was only enough consecrated oil to keep the lamp burning for one day but the small bottle of oil miraculously lasted for eight days. Chanukah, also known as Hanukkah, is referred as the Feast of Lights or Festival of Lights for this reason.

Moreover, the survival of Judaism over the many years is also celebrated during this period. The last day of Chanukah, which marks the end of Chanukah, falls on the eighth day of this period.

# Merry Christmas

"Father Christmas" (or "Santa Claus") has become the human face of Christmas. Pictures will be seen everywhere of the old man with long white beard, red coat and bags of toys. Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas (or in some countries on December 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Nicholas' Day), many children up to the age of 7 or 8 really believe this to be true. In most countries, it is said that he lives near the North Pole and arrives through the sky on a sledge pulled by reindeers. He comes into the house down the chimney at midnight and places presents for the children in sock or bags by their beds or in front of the family Christmas tree.

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas which explains his other name "Santa Claus" which comes from the Dutch "Sinterklaas". Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern Turkey) in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. He was very shy and wanted to give money to the poor without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking which a girl had put in place to dry by the fire.

# Kwanzaa History



The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.

The candle-lighting ceremony each evening provides the opportunity to gather and discuss the meaning of Kwanzaa. The first night, the black candle in the center is lit (and the principle of umoja/unity is discussed). One candle is lit each evening and the appropriate principle is discussed.

## 2011 CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **December 11, 2011** it will run from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## 2011 ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Adult Christmas Party will be held on **December 17, 2011** from 7:00pm until 1:00 a.m. with dinner be served from 7:00 -- 8:30 pm. There will be an open bar from 6:30 -- 8:30pm and the dance will follow from 9:00 pm to 1:00am.

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# CHARLOTTE HALL

## CHARLOTTE HALL



Views of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Fall Dress  
Submitted by Al Elmond

## Do You Know of A Veteran Needing Home Improvements and/or Structural Alterations

### Contact

**American Legion Post 259**

**Service Officer**

**James R. Woodland**

**Home: 301 283-6451**

**Cell: 301 283-5047**

**E-Mail: [jamesr.woodland@yahoo.com](mailto:jamesr.woodland@yahoo.com)**

## HISA GRANT

**Veterans can receive a grant not to exceed \$6,800.00 from the Veterans Affairs – to apply the veteran must complete VA form 10-0103 – Veterans Application For assistance In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations**

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## The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor [Lou Dobbs](#).

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

**We need your help in finding candidates to represent Post 259 within the competition – County – State - National**