

AMERICAN LEGION CLINTON POST 259



FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legion Family,

We know that living with COVID-19 and the measures we are taking to control its spread have been difficult – impacting our mental health, daily rituals, and the economy. As the states roll out their COVID-19 vaccination programs, it is said that the vaccine will serve as an important tool to help stop the pandemic but the combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations such as wearing masks and social distancing will offer the best protection from COVID-19. Stopping this pandemic requires using all the tools we have available and I want to take this opportunity to thank our members in doing their part in reducing the spread of this disease by following established safety protocols while visiting the Post canteen.

Reflecting back on the month of January, we experienced an insurrection at our Nation's Capital on January 6, 2021, the inauguration of President Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States on January 20, 2021, the first major snowstorm of 2021, and the loss of Maryland Senator Thomas Vincent "Mike" Miller, Jr. who was a Life Member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 259, and whose father was a four-time Clinton Post 259 Commander. Senator Miller was referred to as "a titan in Maryland politics who led a Senate chamber longer than anyone in the nation."

As we entered into the month of February, the month was kicked off with the selection of the Post's shotgun raffle winner and Super Bowl LV. The drawing for the shotgun raffle was held on Thursday (2/4/2021) and it is my pleasure to announce Marie Vanness as the raffle winner who in turn has a choice of receiving the Remington Model 11-87 semi-automatic 12-gauge shotgun or \$400.00 in cash. Congratulations to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers who dominated the Kansas City Chiefs in winning Super Bowl LV in their home stadium. This is the Buccaneers second Super Bowl title with the first in 2003. The NCAA announced in early January that the entire men's basketball championship will be played in Indiana and it is expected that this year's 2021 March Madness be unlike any that has come before. So, let's get ready for the Bubble! February has also brought some sadness with the loss of the following Legion family members that have transferred to the jurisdiction of Post Everlasting of The American Legion: Past Post Commander Larry G. Hall, Immediate Past 2nd Vice Commander Raymond E. Butts, Jr., and Legionnaire Ronald L. Potts. May their souls rest in peace!

Finally, let's talk about membership. There are approximately 200 members that have not renewed their membership for 2021. Maintaining our numbers contributes to the numerical strength of The American Legion, which is so important because it allows the organization to continue its intense efforts to protect and preserve veteran benefits programs, especially in the area of medical care. The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, their families, and communities across the nation and this success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. Let's continue to stand up and show our support for our veterans, as well as the men and women currently serving by renewing your membership today!

Yours in Legion Service,

Willie E. Evans
Commander

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2020 - 2021

Commander	Willie E. Evans
1 st Vice Commander	Helen Smith
2 nd Vice Commander	Marie Vanness
3 rd Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Glenda Sturdivant
Judge Advocate	Haywood Moss
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Richard Switzer
Historian	June Forte
Chaplain	James Burrows
Sergeant at Arms	John Jackson
Immediate Past Commander	Murray Hall
Executive Committee Members-At-Large Joseph Morgan Ray Carmichael Gary Gifford* Anthony Hinnant	

(*Gary Gifford also serves as the Department of Maryland Treasurer)



Auxiliary Officers	Legion Rider Officers	S.A.L. Officers
President: Freida Skaggs	Director: Darryl Fielder	Commander: David Hutchinson
Vice President: Marilyn Thomas	Asst. Director: James Burrows	1 st Vice: Vacant
Secretary: Rose Butler	Secretary: Brie O'Neal	2 nd Vice: Kenny Hendrix
Treasurer: Michele Davis	Treasurer: Brie O'Neal	Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais
Historian: Vacant	Chaplain: James Burrows	Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas
Chaplain: Shay Brown		Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.
Sgt At Arm: Parnice Green		Historian: Vacant
Executive Advisory Board Donna Queen Pam Streeter Cheryl Batie		Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer Advisor: Eugene Murray

UPCOMING EVENTS

Southern Maryland District (SMD) Council Meeting – 07 February 2021 – Stallings-Williams Post 206 (1:00 pm)
Super Bowl Sunday – 07 February 2021 – Super Bowl LV (55th NFL Championship Game)
SMD Council Oratorical Contest – 20 February 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (10:00 am)
Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting – 21 February 2021 – Laurel Post 60 (1:00 pm)
Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 22 February 2021 (7:30 pm)
American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2021
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner – 17 March 2021 (TBD)
SMD Council Oyster Bowl – 20 March 2021 – LaPlata Post 82 (TBD)
Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 22 March 2021 (7:30 pm)
Palm Sunday Brunch – 28 March 2021 – Auxiliary (TBD)
PGCC Meeting – 12 April 2021 – John B. Lassiter Post 217 (7:00 pm)
SMD Council Public Safety Awards Program – 25 April 2021 - Greenbelt Post 136 (1:00 pm)
Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 26 April 2021 (7:30 pm)
Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 24 May 2021 (7:30 pm)
PGCC Commander’s Roast – 27 May 2021 – Laurel Post 60 (7:00 pm)
Memorial Day Program – 31 May 2021 – Clinton Post 259 (TBD)
SMD Council Reception – 05 June 2021 – SMD Youth Camp (TBD)
SAL Golf Tournament – June 2021 (TBD)
Flag Day – 14 June 2021
PGCC Caucus – 14 June 2021 – Glenarden Post 275 (7:00 pm)
SMD Council Caucus – 27 June 2021 – Cheverly Post 108 (1:00 pm)
Clinton Post 259 General Membership Meeting – 28 June 2021 (7:30 pm)
Department Convention – 13-16 July 2021 – Ocean City, MD (TBD)

Message from First Vice Commander Helen Smith
(General Membership Meeting – 1/25/21)

- **Membership Status: 2021 Membership Goal:** 896 Total Financial Members by 5/12/21 (Armed Forces Day)
- **Paid members as of this meeting is 724, which represents 80.80% of our goal.**
- **Our next Milestone: 762** – which will be 85% of goal by 2/10/21. We are only 38 members short of reaching that goal.



Message from Publicity Member Rich Barb

New VA Centralized Phone Number Available 24/7/365

The new number is 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) that provides a single access point to all VA contact centers. Make sure to add the number to your contacts for easy access.

If you ever tried to call the Department of Veterans Affairs to get help or information about your VA benefits, you know that it can be confusing knowing just which number to call. The agency currently has several dozen customer service lines, each set to address a different issue. If you call the wrong number, you most likely will not be able to get your specific question answered.

That has now changed with the addition of the new single access telephone contact point that VA officials say will alleviate confusion and make it easier for veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors to reach a live agent that can provide assistance.

The number is available anytime 24/7/365.

But the other numbers are not going away. That means if you can't remember or lose the new number, the line you've been using for years to contact your desired division will still work.

The Veterans Crisis Line can also still be reached directly at 800-273-8255 or by texting 838255, and the White House VA Hotline is also still available to help veterans or family members with problems at 855-948-2311.

But officials want to make sure veterans know they can use the new number too.

VA Now Has One Centralized Phone Number for all Customer Service | Military.com

American Legion Riders

by Darryl Fielder, Director, American Legion Riders Chapter 259

The American Legion Riders was started by Garden City, Michigan American Legion Post 396 in 1993. It was started by two Legionnaires/riders who wanted an environment where Legion family members could come together to share a common love for motorcycles. It has grown to over 110,000 Legion Riders worldwide.

What are the American Legion Riders? We are a national program under The American Legion. The purpose of the American Legion Riders is to use our common interest and association to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as well as the promotion of motorcycle safety and awareness. Each legion riders' group/chapter must be supported by a Post. The American Legion Clinton Post 259 is our sponsoring/supporting Post. American Legion Riders Chapter 259 was started in 2011.

Who can join the American Legion Riders Chapter 259? Anyone that is a current member and in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion. There is one major requirement; there must be a motorcycle, so you must be a legally registered motorcycle owner or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration. You must be properly licensed and insured per state laws. And you must obey the motor-vehicle laws in the state in which you are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

Here are some of the things we have supported in the past and will continue to support in the future:

- 1) Serve meals to Gold Star families during Rolling Thunder Memorial Day weekend. We have also ridden in the actual event.
- 2) Participate and support the annual Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run, a statewide fundraising ride.
- 3) Participate and support the annual American Legion Legacy Run, an annual cross-country fundraising ride.
- 4) Do local charity events/rides in support of The American Legion and local communities.
- 5) Do honor and escort rides when requested.
- 6) And we ride just for the pleasure of riding.

So, if you like riding and your membership is in good standing, come join us. You will not find a better group of people to ride with. Stay safe and see you on the road.

In loving memory of Maryland Senator Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
(December 3, 1942 – January 15, 2021)

"A Life Member of the Sons of The American Legion Clinton Squadron 259"



The marquee in front of American Legion Post 259



From David L. Huchinson, Squadron 259 Commander:

On behalf of The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 259 in Clinton Md, I wanted to take a minute to express our deepest condolences to the family of Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. He will be sorely missed!

Mike Miller was an honorary life member of our squadron. For nearly 50 years, Mike was very instrumental in our ability to raise funds and donate to charities and so many American Legion programs. By association, his name represented excellence and integrity for our Squadron and The Clinton American Legion as a whole.

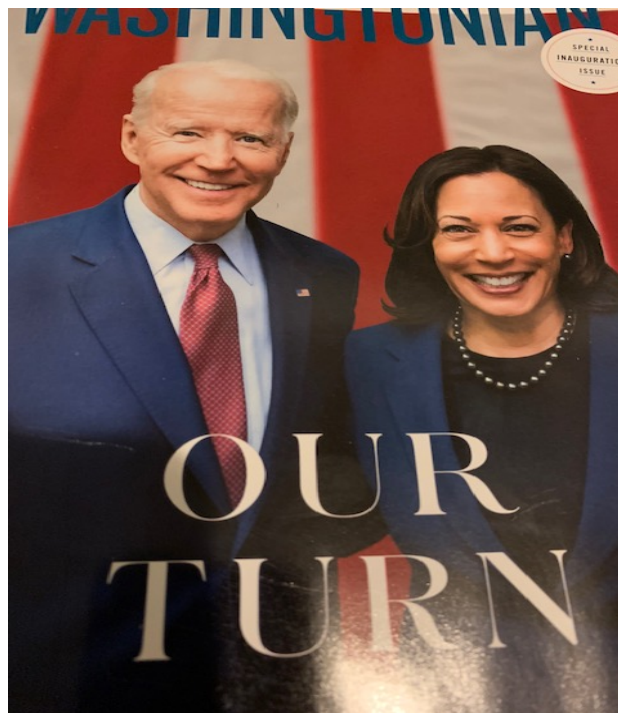
We will continue to strive for excellence and community service in the battle to support our veterans and their programs. Thanks to Mike and his family for the decades of support as we continue our march forward to make Clinton Squadron 259 a proud representation of his excellence.

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Southern MD District Council (SMD) Meeting - Chesapeake Beach Post 206 (1:00pm)	8 Auxiliary Meeting (6:30pm)	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Exec Committee Meeting (6:30pm) Presidents' Day	16	17	18	19	20 SMD Council Oratorical Contest - Clinton Post 259 (10:00am)
21 Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting - Laurel Post 60 (1:00pm)	22 General Membership Meeting (7:30pm)	23	24	25	26	27
28						

NEW YEAR/NEW ADMINISTRATION

Three important factors to take note of in relation to soldiers and veterans



How will the Biden (now the new **Commander-in- Chief** of the Armed Forces in the United States) administration affect soldiers and veterans



Photo by© Manuel Balce Ceneta-Pool/Getty Images

Lloyd Austin is the new **Secretary of Defense**. He has vast responsibilities in creating major policies for the armed forces while cleaning up issues from the previous administration. More on Mr. Austin can be found here.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/lloyd-austin-takes-first-steps-to-repair-a-battered-pentagon/ar-BB1dxqYR?ocid=uxbndlbing>



Denis McDonough is the new **Secretary of Veterans Affairs**. A government official who had key roles under the Obama administration, McDonough responded if confirmed he would “fight like hell” to take care of veterans.

"I have seen and internalized [veterans'] excellence and know that a basic requirement of the VA secretary is to have their backs," McDonough said. He was confirmed February 8.

More on McDonough can read here. <https://www.va.gov/opa/bios/secva.asp>



POST EVERLASTING



It is with heartfelt sympathy that the unexpected news of three Post 259 comrades have passed in early February.

May Past Post Commander **Larry Hall**, Immediate Past Post Second Vice Commander **Raymond E. Butts Jr.**, and Legionnaire **Ronald Potts**

Rest in Peace.



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Stay Home-Stay Safe-Stay Connected

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I welcome your news, ideas, suggestions,
comments, or questions for future issues.

Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at
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(subject to change)

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