

AUGUST 26, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

August 1: I met with Gabe Lang to discuss his Eagle Project at Messinger Cemetery. He is looking to place bases for the concrete tables at the site. Currently there are two tables. He will be adding pads for an additional two tables.

August 3: The 5th Division held an Organizational meeting in Benton IL. The Division set goals for the next year. Number 1 will be membership. Would like to achieve 100%, or better, by December 31. Help Bill Martin and get your dues in!

August 12: Met with SrV Smith with all the District Commanders in the Division. We discussed many topics that have an impact on doing business. Membership, training, Buddy Checks, communications, and being there for our veterans. Our District Commanders are working to tackle these issues.

DID YOU KNOW?

Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix) is a national 501(C)(3) nonprofit that supports all branches of currently serving military, including the Guard and Reserves, Veterans of all eras, their families, including immediate family of those killed in action, and caregivers of VetTix-ers. Vet Tix provides free event tickets with a nominal delivery fee to attend sporting events, concerts, performing arts and family activities. Attending these types of community events im-

August 12: The VAC of St Clair County welcomed a new Superintendent! John Lawson assumed command and is working to evaluate the office and staff. I am confident that John will have a positive impact on or Commission. Welcome John!

August 17: Attended the 22nd District Organizational meeting in Nashville. Commander Mahan is strongly encouraging that all member Posts of the District to be 100% or better in membership by October 31st. Just a reminder, your dues expires every year on December 31st. Consider purchasing a 5 year card or a Paid up for life membership. (PUFL)

August 24: Messinger Cemetery clean up. Thanks to Mary Monett, Robin Latdrick, Doug Jameson, Dave Devine, Andrew Dunham, Jerry Sau-erwine, and Charlie from Venice-Madison Post 307 for attending. Jerry thanks for the special work at Rose's gravesite

proves morale and strengthens family bonds while encouraging service members and Veterans to stay engaged with local communities.

Since 2008, Vet Tix has provided more than 6.4 million free tickets to over 1.2 million verified VetTixers. The nonprofit organization spends over 95 percent back to its programs, giving back to those who have given so much. Visit VetTix.org to learn more, and follow them

CALENDAR

- Aug 27, 7PM, VACSCC, 19 Public Square
- Sep 2, Labor Day
- Sep 11, 10AM, Patriot's Day Presentation, 201 N. Church Street Belleville
- Sep 14, 1PM, Dept. Exec. Comm in Des Plaines IL
- Sep 21, Flag Collection, 107 Service St. Swansea
- Sep 23, Post Meetings, Exec. @ 6:30PM & General @ 7PM, 216 Service Street Swansea
- Sep 20, POW/MIA Ceremony hosted by Post 1937 @ Walnut Hill Cemetery, 10AM
- Sep 28, 9-10AM?, POW/MIA Ceremony at Post 805 in O'Fallon
- Oct 6, 1PM, 22nd District Fall Caucus, Post 137 in O'Fallon

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Swansea Improvement Association
301 Service St, Swansea IL 62226

Check Out Our Facebook Page
Swansea Post 2007

Post Email: ilpost2007@gmail.com

STILL SERVING AMERICA

DID YOU KNOW

The Purple Heart: America's Oldest Medal

Aug. 7, 2023 | By Claudette Roul

Did you know that the Purple Heart is America's oldest military award? In 1782, although the Revolutionary War was basically over and peace talks were happening in Paris, Gen. George Washington needed a way to quell the talk of rebellion. Congress was running out of money after years of war against England. Troops were hungry and unpaid and there was talk of mutiny.

He decided to create the Badge of Military Merit to recognize heroic acts by his troops.

The requirements for earning the badge were a lot different from today's Purple Heart. Soldiers had to do something unusually heroic or perform some act that was essential to the success of the Continental Army. While that sounds more like something you'd have to do to earn the Medal of Honor, the badge was actually a cloth purple heart with the word "merit" stitched across it in white. So, in a way, both the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart came from the Badge of Military Merit.

One thing that made the badge different was that it was the first award meant for enlisted troops. Before this, the only way to recognize heroism by an enlisted soldier was to promote him, or for a general to give him a battlefield commission.

No one knows for sure how many soldiers ever received the Badge of Military Merit, though. It could be as few as three. And the book in which recipients' names were recorded has been lost for more than 200 years.

Washington's order was allowed to lapse after the war ended and the Purple Heart wasn't revived until Feb. 22, 1932, on Washington's 200th birthday. Designed by Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist, the modern medal features a profile image of Washington. Once again, the medal was awarded for meritorious service, but now soldiers could also receive it if they'd been wounded by the enemy.

On This Day

1682 English astronomer Edmond Halley first observes the comet named after him

1945 Japanese diplomats board USS Missouri to receive instructions on Japan's surrender at the end of WWII

1968 "Hey Jude" single released by the Beatles in US (Billboard Song of the Year 1968)

1981 Voyager 2 takes photos of Saturn's moon Titan

2003 The Columbia Accident Investigation Board releases its final reports on Space Shuttle Columbia disaster



DID YOU KNOW (CONTINUED)

The award was made retroactive — World War I soldiers who had earned certain awards could apply for the Purple Heart. The first medal was presented to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Army chief of staff at the time.

At first, the Purple Heart was only available to soldiers, but in 1942 Congress changed the rules for earning the award, authorizing it only for wounds, and made it available to all services, including some civilians.

Civilians who worked with the military, like Red Cross workers or war reporters, remained eligible for the award until 1997. Civilian employees of the Defense Department who are killed or wounded by an enemy now receive the Defense of Freedom Medal.

Army Sgt. Stubby, a dog who was smuggled to Europe by members of the 102nd Infantry Regiment, earned the Purple Heart twice during World War I — once for being wounded in a gas attack and once for being wounded by a grenade.

However, as of April 25, 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed Executive Order 11016 and formally established the rules for awarding the Purple Heart medal, military service animals are no longer able to receive the award.

About 1.07 million Purple Hearts were awarded during World War II, more than were awarded in all of the other conflicts of the 20th century combined.

Chief Nurse Beatrice Mary MacDonald was assigned to a British Clearing Hospital in Belgium during World War I. In 1917, she lost her right eye when German aircraft bombed her hospital. She received the Purple Heart for her wounds in 1936, retroactively making her the first woman to earn the award. She was also the first woman to earn the Distinguished Service Cross. MacDonald served with the Army in Belgium and France for the rest of the war.