

DECEMBER 16, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Nov 26: The VAC met. There were fewer members in attendance across the commission. We did discuss the new delegate form. They will be mailed/sent to each organization. The Superintendent is working on the Report to the Governor.

Nov 28: Did you eat all your turkey? Did you get your pie?

Nov 29: Met with Commerce Bank to get documents for the filing the AG990-IL. After obtaining these, I met with Steve Duff so we could file the forms. Once we got a working system to input data, we filled out the required forms. Steve got these mailed out on Saturday. Thanks Steve for your work on behalf of the Post.

Dec 1: Met with the Immediate Past Department Commander, Delmar Buske, Al Mahan, and Don Scheyer. Our meeting in Highland was to have breakfast on this snow covered

morning. Of course we discussed Legion business.

Dec 5: Several Post members descended on Messinger Cemetery. We gather to post the flags along the road and a final cleanup of the area for our ceremony on Saturday. It was a bit nippy to say the least.

Dec 7: Pearl Harbor Day at Messinger Cemetery. The weather was good. Members assembled and other veterans in attendance. Major General (Ret) Bill Enyart provided remarks. Rev. Baue and Will Shannon also provided remarks about the day. A wreath was laid at the monument. Thanks to all that helped with the ceremony.

Dec 10-13: Todd Herzog was working on membership. Thanks for helping out and providing information back to the Commander!

G.I. JOE (MARCH 24, 1943 – JUNE 3, 1961)

A pigeon noted for his service in the United States Army Pigeon Service. The bird was one of the homing pigeons used during World War II for communication and reconnaissance purposes. G.I. Joe had the name tag Pigeon USA43SC6390.

He was hatched in March 1943, in Algiers, North Africa and underwent a training for two-way homing pigeons perfected at Fort Monmouth,

in New Jersey.

During the Italian Campaign of World War II, G.I. Joe saved the lives of the inhabitants of the village of Calvi Vecchia, Italy, and of the British troops of 56th (London) Infantry Division occupying it. Air support had been previously requested against German positions at Calvi Vecchia on 18 October 1943. However, the 169th (London)

CALENDAR

- Dec 25, Merry Christmas!
- Dec 31, Are your Dues Paid?
- Jan 1, Happy New Year!
- Jan 11, 9AM to ?, 5th Division Oratorical Contest, Centralia Post 446
- Jan 16, Membership Caravan, lunch at Harrisburg Post 167, dinner at DuQuoin Post 647
- Jan 17, Membership Caravan, lunch at Breese Post 321, dinner at Columbia Post 581
- Jan 19, 22nd District Winter Caucus, 1PM, Edwardsville Post 199. (There will be SAL meeting at 10AM, other Committee meetings at 11AM, with lunch at Noon)
- Jan 26, 5th Division Winter Caucus, at St. Libory Post 683. (SAL and Committees meet at 11AM, lunch at Noon)
- Jan 27, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:30PM and General Meeting at 7PM. POT O' GOLD!

**CHARLES A. WOODFORD
POST 2007**

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

Swansea Improvement Association
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STILL SERVING AMERICA

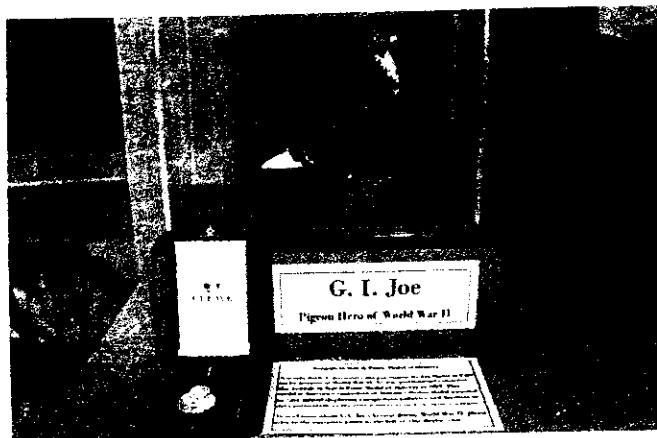
DID YOU KNOW (CONTINUED)

Infantry Brigade attacked and won back the village from the Germans ahead of schedule but they were unable to transmit a message via radio to call off the planned American air raid. G.I. Joe was dispatched as a last resort to carry the message and arrived in the air base just in time to avoid the Allied air force from bombing their own men. G.I. Joe flew this 20-mile distance in an impressive 20 minutes, just as the planes were preparing to take off for the target. Over 100 men were saved.

On 4 November 1946, G.I. Joe was presented the Dickin Medal for gallantry by Major-General Charles Keightley at the Tower of London. The citation credits him with "the most outstanding flight made by a United States Army homing pigeon in World War II". The award is also known as the equivalent of the Victoria Cross or the Medal of Honor for animals. G.I. Joe was the 29th and the first non-British recipient of the medal. In 2019 he was also posthumously awarded the Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery.

After World War II, he was housed at the U.S. Army's Churchill Loft at Fort Monmouth, in New Jersey along with 24 other heroic pigeons. He died at the Detroit Zoological Gardens at the age of eighteen, and was mounted and displayed at the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Museum at Fort Monmouth. G.I. Joe was removed from display after Fort Monmouth's closure in 2005 and is currently on display in the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle Pennsylvania.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



TID BITS

On This Day

1773 Boston tea party incident - Sons of Liberty protesters throw tea shipments into Boston harbor in protest against British imposed Tea Act

1912 1st US postage stamp picturing an airplane, 20 cent parcel post, issued

1924 Hiram Bingham is elected as a Republican to serve in the US Senate forcing him to resign as Governor of Connecticut after serving only one day in office, the shortest term of any Connecticut Governor

1950 Child star Shirley Temple announces her retirement from films aged 22

This maybe the last issue of Commander's Comments in this format. The Post may adopt a new format with additional information for our members. Thank you for your support of this format. I will be working with the others to provide a quality newsletter for you.

I want to remind you that Veterans are everywhere! You encounter them in your daily outings and adventures. You can play an important role in helping Veterans. Jim, I'm not trained. You are correct, but you know someone that is. The Veterans Assistance Commission of St. Clair County (VACSCC) is trained to help our Veterans. Encourage those that need help to call the VACSCC at 618-277-0040. Help is just a phone call away.

This a special time of the year. Whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, enjoy your family and the spirit of the season.

Commander Out