

DECEMBER 15, 2025



**CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007**

## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

### *Since We Last Met*

**Nov 24:** The VAC and the County had agreed to a budget for the 2026 year. Included in the budget was an increase in financial aid for Veterans in need and the possibility of a new location for the office. The new location has not been visited to date for compatibility and use of space. More to follow as it develops.

**Nov 30:** Barb and I return from a visit with my mother in North Carolina.

**Dec 4:** Davey Tree arrived at Messinger Cemetery for tree trimming. Steve Duff coordinated the work at the site. The canopy was raised. Thanks Steve!

**Dec 5:** Flags were posted at Messinger Cemetery along Old Collinsville Road. Thank to all that helped with the work.

**Dec 6:** Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at Messinger Cemetery.

The weather was good. The ceremony was in recognition of 84 years of the attack. Thanks to all that participated and attended this event.

Next year will be the 85th anniversary of the attack. Several suggestions were made and we will be looking to having a larger event.

Note: As of the December 4, 2025, the VA reports only 13 survivors remain from the attack.

**Dec 8:** The Visting Vets Committee met at the VFW Post to assemble the gift bags for this year. They received items from the Gift to the Yanks program to add to the bags. Ms. Carol was present also! Great to see her out and about.

**Dec 13:** Met with Kendall, Scout, about his Eagle Project. He is planning to provide three picnic tables for the site.

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

#### **The ARCH**

*For the project to be complete, a total of thirteen million US dollars were required, and this was a lot of money during the Great Depression periods of the 1930s. They tried raising the sum, but they could not come up with that amount of money; however, they were funded by Executive Order 7253, signed by President Roosevelt on December 21, 1935. The signature played a significant role in approving the monument and*

*partially supporting it with \$6.75 million US dollars and \$2.25 million worth of the city bonds.*

*From the top of the Arch, you will be amazed at the view you will get of unique features; the arched observation deck is made to be 65 feet or 20 meters long and 7 feet wide, where it holds up to one hundred and sixty people. In addition, it is made with windows on every one of the sides meant to enable someone to peek and get the views.*

### CALENDAR

- Dec 25, Christmas Day
- Jan 1, 2026, New Year's Day
- January Post Focus Items: Continue to Work Membership/ Present Flags and Flag Code to Schools (If Allowed)
- January 15-24, 2026, Membership Caravan, Jan 23, Mascoutah Post 292, Dinner at 6PM
- January 18, 5th Division Winter Caucus, Post 176, Fairfield, 1PM
- January 25, 22nd District Winter Caucus, Post 435, Glen Carbon, 1PM
- January 26, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00, Four Chaplains Ceremony
- February Post Focus Items: Continue to Work Membership/ School Awards Planning, Wolf Branch & High Mount/ Boy State Planning/ Plan for March Buddy Checks and Community Service Activities
- February 21, Flag Collection, St. Clair Township, 107 Service St., Swansea, 9AM to Noon
- February 23, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00

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POST 2007

Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.  
Swansea Improvement Association  
216 Service St, Swansea IL 62226

Check Out Our Facebook Page  
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**STILL SERVING AMERICA**



## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

### ***DID YOU KNOW***

Throughout its 135-year history, the Army-Navy game has featured hundreds of athletes who would later serve in combat, including the likes of Omar Bradley and Dwight D. Eisenhower in West Point's Class of 1915, later known as "the class the stars fell on" for producing 59 generals.

However, less than a dozen cadets or midshipmen who played for their school have gone on to receive the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Six midshipmen who lettered in varsity football have received the honor, while five cadets from West Point — who played, albeit minor roles, on their teams — would go on to receive the award.

Four of those came prior to World War II, including three — Navy's Allen Buchanan, Jonas Ingram and Frederick McNair Jr. — from the same Vera Cruz campaign in Mexico in 1914. (Ingram held the distinction of being the only player to score a touchdown during the 1906 Army-Navy game.) The fourth, presented to Carlton Hutchins in 1938, was a rare peacetime award.

Hutchins played for Navy from 1922 to 1925 and was awarded the peacetime Medal of Honor for remaining at the controls of his damaged PBY-2 seaplane during a tactical exercise and, according to his citation, "endeavoring to bring the damaged plane to a safe landing and to afford an opportunity for his crew to escape by parachutes."

Here are some of the players from this storied rivalry who would go on to earn the Medal of Honor:

Rear Adm. Richard Antrim, Lt. Col. Harold Bauer, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Lt. Col. Robert Cole, Lt. Col. Leon Vance Jr., First Lt. Samuel Coursen, and First Lt. Frank Reasoner.

### ***TID BITS***

#### **On This Day**

**1791** US Bill of Rights ratified when Virginia gives its approval, becomes amendments 1-10 of the US constitution

**1874** 1st reigning king to visit US is the King of Hawaii, received by President Grant

**1941** USS Swordfish becomes 1st US sub to sink a Japanese ship

**1944** American bandleader Major Glenn Miller, lost over the English Channel

**1944** US Congress gives General Eisenhower his 5th star

**1954** US Scientists involved in secret Project Superpressure at GE Research Labs realize they have synthesized diamonds for the first time

**1965** Gemini 6 launched; makes 1st rendezvous in space (with Gemini 7)

As we move into a new year, will you commit to making the Legion and our Post stronger? If you have some time to help during an event, work day, or planning/chairing an event, you will do just that. The Post can use your skills and time to make things better at Post, State, and community levels. See you soon.

We are in the middle of a joyous time of the year. Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is right around the corner. Hanukah started Dec 14 and will go through 22. Kwanza will start on Dec 26 and go through Jan 1. I am sure there other events this time of year also.

Regardless of your beliefs, enjoy this time with family and friends.