

JULY 22, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

June 29: VACSCC hosted a townhall with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). This meeting was well attended by veterans from across the region. Director Terry Prince answered numerous questions. Several members from the Post were in attendance.

July 8: I had the honor to travel to Highland Post 439. I installed Post Officers for the upcoming year.

July 9: The rain cancelled a meeting at Post 58 at the Freedom Farm.

July 10 to 14: Attended the Department Convention in Springfield. We elected Joe Lampert and Roy Smith as Commander and SrVice respectively.

Attended several meetings dealing with electing delegates to the National Convention and Rules and Credentials. These meetings help form

the position for the Department going into the National Convention.

The Department budget was presented. We will be working in a deficit again this year, approximately \$25K. The Chairman explained that we would have been operating at a larger deficit if not for two generous donations from Legionnaires that passed away. This means there will not be a Department per capita increase this year!

Got to hear from the leading candidate for National Commander, John LaCoursiere. Jim is from Connecticut, 27 year Legion Member, Air Force, and comes from the medical field.



National
Commander
Leading
Candidate

Jim
LaCoursiere

DID YOU KNOW?

There are many resources for veterans, here is some from the IDVA:

Website: veterans.illinois.gov

IDVA Benefits Guide: veterans.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/veterans/services-benefits/documents/benefits-guide.pdf

Employment Resources: veterans.illinois.gov/services-benefits/employment-resources.html

Hunting and Fishing Permits: veterans.illinois.gov/services-benefits/permits.html

Illinois Joining Forces: veterans.illinois.gov/programs/illinoisjoiningforces.html

Women Veterans: veterans.illinois.gov/programs/women.html

CALENDAR

- **July 23:** VACSCC Meeting (Changed due to not enough members projected at July 30 date.), 7PM, 19 Public Square
- **August 3:** 5th Division Organizational Meeting, 9AM to Noon, Benton Post
- **August 17:** 22nd District Organizational Meeting, 11AM to 1PM, Nashville Post
- **August 17:** Flag Collection, 9AM to Noon, 107 Service Street, Swansea
- **August 23-29:** American Legion National Convention, New Orleans
- **August 24:** Messinger Cemetery Clean Up, 9AM to Noon, 3450 Old Collinsville Rd
- **August 26:** Post Meetings, Executive at 6:30PM and General at 7PM, 216 Service Street, Swansea
- **August 27:** VACSCC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square

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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

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STILL SERVING AMERICA

DID YOU KNOW?

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, III. – Buffalo Soldiers Day is July 28, commemorating the formation of the first Army regiments comprised of African American Soldiers.

In 1866, Congress passed the Army Organization Act, allowing former slaves to serve during the Civil War. Over 180,000 African American men made up six regiments and fought for the Union. Despite the current conflict they faced, they served their country with pride and distinction. Thus in 1992, Congress passed a law designating July 28 as Buffalo Soldiers Day.

"The Buffalo Soldiers adjusted the way America and the U.S. military viewed race," said Sgt. Maj. Quincy Rice, Military Surface Deployment Distribution Command's directorate of operations sergeant major. "They proved to be courageous and well-disciplined Soldiers, which was further represented by the stellar example and phenomenal leadership of Colonel Charles Young."

Young, only the third African American graduate of the United States Military Academy, led the Buffalo Soldiers with distinction in the Ninth and Tenth U.S. Cavalry and was the first African American to achieve the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army.

The regiments played a major role in developing the western part of the nation. They traversed the frontier monitoring Native American populations, building roads, and protecting settlers, all while contending with challenging terrain, inadequate supplies and discrimination.

"The pain and disrespect the Buffalo Soldiers and all Soldiers of color faced years ago in the Army paved the way for Soldiers today to blossom into leaders that were never seen before," said Rice. "It is amazing how morale and motivation escalates when team members are treated equally and given the same opportunities for progression. Collectively, it leads to a stronger force of Soldiers and a better Army."

During an Indian Wars battle in 1867, Native American Cheyenne warriors gave these Soldiers the nickname Buffalo Soldiers because of their features and said they fought like fierce and brave buffalo. Since the tribe held buffalo in high regard, the members proudly adapted the name Buffalo Soldiers as a badge of honor.

Buffalo Soldiers



TID BITS

On This Day

1796 Cleveland, Ohio, founded by General Moses Cleaveland. Originally called 'Cleaveland', the public adopted the current name after a newspaper editor noticed the name was too long to fit on the page.

1893 Katharine Lee Bates writes "America the Beautiful" in Colorado

1933 Wiley Post completes the 1st solo flight round the world, takes 7 days and 19 hours

1943 US forces led by General George S. Patton liberate Palermo, Sicily

July 16th saw some incredible rainfall in the area. Our Legionnaires in the Nashville area were on our minds. I had several people call to ask about the Nashville Post. All the early information did not ease our minds. The television coverage gave us hope that the Post was okay, but we could not confirm. After a couple of hours, we were able to get hold of the Commander of Post 110. He said that he was on the way to the Post to confirm all was okay. (He was very confident that all was well) He was going to check on other members of the Post.

Our disaster team was informed on the positive news.

This may not be the end of the story. We may have some Legionnaires that may have some damage discovered after the rains stopped and the dam stopped releasing water. The Department Sr Vice has contacted the Post Commander to assist.

Buddy Checks in action!

Commander Out