

JULY 28, 2025



CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

June 28: There was a Messinger Cemetery cleanup. Member gathered to maintain the cemetery. Thanks Team.

July 9: Travelled to Springfield IL for the Department Convention. We attended to the business of the Department Executive Committee (DEC). Several Posts merged and some were closed. The Membership awards were presented. Our District leadership were recognized as finishing in the Top 10 in the State.

July 10 - 12: The Convention was in full force. Various committees met to discuss and make recommendations on resolutions. Resolutions can create change in the American Legion. These changes could impact State or National policies. We also met as Districts to decide how to vote on items coming to the floor. This was the first time that the Convention was split. The Wyndham hotel was not available. The Team that

plans the Convention is already working to get us back together next to the BOS Convention Center.

July 16: Barb Page scheduled a fundraiser at McAlister's Deli. This event was successful! We saw over \$200 in donations and the same in tips! Thanks Barb and all who came out to work or eat!

July 17: We heard the sad news that Les O'Neal had passed away. Les was a retired Air Force Colonel. Les served in Vietnam. Les was one of the Charter Members of this Post when we formed in 2006/2007. RIP Les.

July 19: Attended the 22nd District Organizational meeting in Highland. The District leadership, led by Commander Don Scheyer provided the yearly plan and expectations for our District. District meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in attending, check the calendar or ask me.

DID YOU KNOW?

When we were in school, we were told about voting. Voting is one of our rights. But how do our representative know what you support? In a perfect world, they would pole their constituents. Some elected represents do send out surveys to see what your thoughts are. It does not happen that often.

The American Legion through it advocacy program can help you tell

your representatives your feelings on veterans issues.

Go to the National website, www.legion.org. Click on the Advocacy tab. Click on the Advocacy Center in the pull down menu. Click on the Grassroots Action Center tile.

You can browse and sign up for alerts. Your vote does matter!

CALENDAR

- July 29: VAC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square, 1st floor Conference room. Open to the Public
- August 9: Poppy Day, 9AM to 3PM, Lowes on Greenmount Commons, across from College
- August 17: American Legion All Game vs Missouri All Stars, 10 AM at Grizzlies Stadium in Sauget
- August 25: Post Meetings, 6:30 PM Executive Board and 7PM General Meeting
- August 26: VAC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square, 1st floor Conference room. Open to the Public
- September 6: Messinger Cemetery Cleanup. 9AM to Noon
- September 22: Post Meetings, 6:30 PM Executive Board and 7PM General Meeting

CHARLES A. WOODFORD
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
Swansea American Legion Post 2007

Post Email:
ILLEGIONPOST2007@gmail.com

STILL SERVING AMERICA

DID YOU KNOW

Honoring Veterans:

Army Veteran Alton Roberts

Alton Reese Roberts was born in September 1951 in Gastonia, North Carolina, as the son of Lee Mack Roberts and Bonnie Estelle Smallwood Roberts.

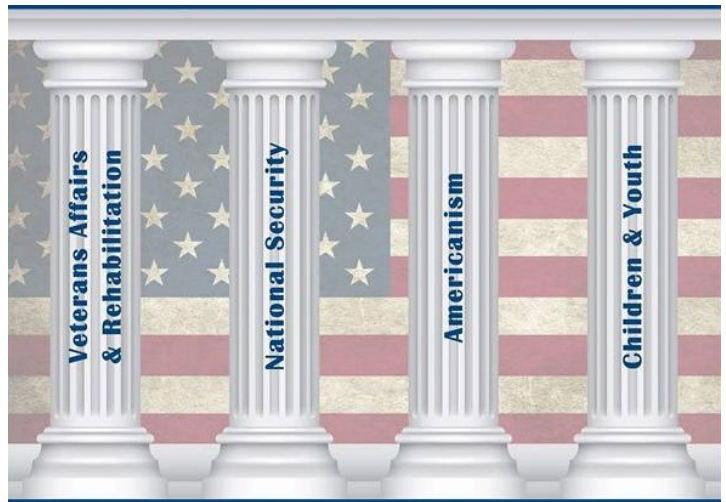
Roberts was a Specialist Five in the Army. In January 1970, he was assigned to Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade on an OH-6A Observation helicopter, serving as a general vehicle repairman in flights over South Vietnam and Cambodia. In April 1971, Roberts and his helicopter were shot down over South Vietnam while providing support to Fire Support Base-6. He was 19 years old.

For his service and sacrifice, Roberts was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, an Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge, a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, an Army Presidential Unit Citation, a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Service Medal, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross and an Army Good Conduct Medal.

On May 30, 2021, as part of NASCAR's 600 Miles of Remembrance, driver B.J. McLeod drove with Roberts' name on the no.78 car during the Coca-Cola 600 race.

Alton Roberts is buried at Gaston Memorial Park in his home town of Gastonia. His name can be found on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. at Panel W4, Line 122.

We honor his service.



TID BITS

This Day in History

1866 The metric system becomes a legal measurement system in the US

1900 Louis Lassing creates the hamburger in Connecticut

1943 US President Franklin D. Roosevelt announces end of coffee rationing in US

1978 Price of gold tops \$200 an ounce for the first time

2061 31st predicted perihelion passage of Halley's Comet. (Legionnaires please mark your calendars! I will not be adding this to future publications.)

My term as 5th Division Commander has come to an end. It was an honor to serve the 119 Posts across southern Illinois. This honor would not have been possible without the support of you, my Post. You approved the resolution that that put me on the Division path three years ago, Thank you. I have grown to know and appreciate the American Legion even more. There are many more Legionnaires in southern IL that are advocating for veterans and veteran issues. We are making a difference, and need to keep an eye on our elected officials so they don't erode our earned benefits. Collectively we can and do make a difference. Keep your membership current and work to recruit at least on new member into our Legion. I also ask that your support your Post. Chair or become part of a committee, help during Messinger Cemetery clean ups, work a shift at a Poppy Day event, or attend our fundraisers. These events matter to the Post and our community.

Commander Out