

JUNE 24, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

May 21: Received a check from Carole Middendorf, niece of Adolph Choura. Adolph was a member of the Post and past several months ago. His estate was in the final stages and Carole called me to say "Uncle Red" has stated he wanted to leave a gift to his American Legion Post. She wanted to know if there was a specific program that she could donate to. We discussed options. She liked the Visiting Vets program as her uncle was in an assisted living home the last years of his life. So the check in the amount of \$500 was given to Steve Duff for processing. Thanks Carole!

May 21: School Awards at Wolf Branch. The eighth grade class is ready for graduation. I was honored to fill in for Steve Duff due to his back issues. The four students were certificates for the hard work during the year. The two winners were presented a medal also.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wearing your Legion Cap

In Legion meetings the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades (including the POW/MIA service, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.

A Legionnaire wearing the cap should behave in proper accordance as to salutes, etc., the same as if the member was wearing the military uniform. If not wearing the Legion cap, the ordinary rules of etiquette

May 27: Memorial Day. Walnut Hill Cemetery was the place to be to honor those who paid the ultimate price for freedom. The ceremony included MG (Ret) Bill Enyart providing the comments for the day.

June 9: Traveled to Louisville IL for the 5th Division Convention. I was nominated and elected to serve as the 5th Division Commander. I'm looking forward to serving our Posts in southern Illinois. It is an honor to serve in this capacity. Thank you Post 2007 for placing my resolution into the ring.

June 11: Had the honor to install the new Post 58 Officers. Congratulations to Commander Bill Enyart and his staff!

June 23: Second game at Busch Stadium was IL vs MO Legion Allstar game. The boys from IL started strong but were overtaken by MO. Final score MO 12 and IL 8.

for civilian dress should be observed.

Female members of The American Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services. This is suitable for most situations, but...taste and common sense should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire is afforded the opportunity to leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, prayer and during meals. No national authority can be found which mandates the removal of the cap by female Legionnaires during such occasions.

CALENDAR

- **June 25:** VACSCC Meeting, 19 Public Square, 7PM
- **June 29:** Messinger Clean Up, 9AM to Noon
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **July 10 to 14:** Department Convention, Springfield IL
- **July 20:** Recycle and Flag Collection event, 9AM to Noon, St Clair County Township, 107 Service St., Swansea
- **July 22:** Post Meetings. Executive Meeting at 6:30PM. General Meeting at 7PM. 216 Service Street in Swansea.
- **July 27 to 31:** VFW National Convention in Louisville Kentucky.
- **July 30:** Veterans Assistance Commission Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square.

**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?

Theresa M. Claiborne was the first African-American female pilot in the United States Air Force.

Claiborne came from a military family and she went to University of California, Berkeley where she joined the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). She realized she wanted to be a pilot while in the ROTC program. She completed her Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, in 1982.

On June 20, 1981, Claiborne was commissioned as second lieutenant in the USAF. She became the first African-American female pilot in the U.S. Air Force after graduating from Laughlin Air Force Base on September 16, 1982 with the class 82-08. Claiborne flew KC-135 Stratotankers for Strategic Air Command for seven years. She left active duty in 1988. She served as an instructor pilot on the KC-135E and a flight commander for the USAF Reserves where she rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Claiborne also began working for United Airlines as a first officer in 1990. She would later be promoted to captain. She retired from the military on January 6, 2003 with over 3000 military flight hours.

In 2016, Claiborne co-founded the organization Sister of the Skies with pilots Christine Angel Hughes and Nia Wordlaw. Sisters of the Skies' mission is to support and build a more diverse next generation of aviation professionals by offering workshops, mentorships, and scholarships.

Captain Claiborne touched down on her final flight in Newark New Jersey on May 23, 2024.



Theresa M. Claiborne

TID BITS

This Day In History

1853 US President Franklin Pierce signs the Gadsden Purchase, buying 29,670 square-miles (76,800 square km) from Mexico for \$10 million (now southern Arizona and New Mexico)

1948 Soviet Union begins the West Berlin Blockade by stopping access by road, rail and water

1972 Wake Island becomes unincorporated territory of US (US Air Force)

1983 7th NASA Space Shuttle Mission: Challenger 2 lands at Edwards AFB

1985 18th NASA Space Shuttle Mission (51-G): Discovery 5 returns to Earth

As I traveled this past month, I met a bartender at a Post in the 5th Division. We struck up a conversation. She said that there were Posts in the American Legion and the VFW that she had visited. She was telling me that these Posts had lost their way. I asked her to expand on that comment. She said that it seemed that these Posts had forgot that they exist to help veterans! She said that it was refreshing to hear that there are Posts in her District and the Division that are helping veterans and not open for the bar.

Post 2007 has been there for our veterans. We need to continue to help where we can.

Next month we will start our new year for membership. Please help Bill Martin and pay your dues early.

Commander Out