

MARCH 24, 2025



## CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

### *Since We Last Met*

**Mar 3:** I had the opportunity to talk to a Scout Troop Committee about the Legion Scouting Program. They were happy to hear that there are scholarships for youth and adults. Many of these scholarships go unclaimed.

**Mar 8:** Todd Herzog hosted a training session for Buddy checks. I know that these contacts are providing results. I have heard from those members who appreciated the call. A few of them mentioned letter of invite to the Post dinner. Thanks Todd and the Team for reaching out to our Post members!

While the training was happening, I was with the Sons of the American Legion in Centralia. We had a good day and completed our mission.

**Mar 11:** The Post assembled at McAlister's in Shiloh for a fundraiser. Cleaning tables, filling drinks, opening doors, and talking membership

### *SOAP BOX*

Being a member of multiple Veterans Organizations, there is a major concern. Each organization is concerned that our EARNED BENEFITS are being eroded.

You have heard recently that the VA will be cutting jobs. While we don't know where these cuts will be made, they are probably going to affect someone reading this.

Doctors, claim reviewers, and support staff cuts will cause longer times for a

were the order of the evening. Our Sgt at Arms, Gary Stacey and Kenny Green, were on Poppy duty.

The event was the highest total to be received from McAlister's, \$176+.

Thanks to Barb Page for setting up this event! You were able to keep our rowdy bunch on task. Thank to those who gave there time: Todd Herzog, Steve Duff, Bill Martin, Gary Stacey, Kenny Green, Barb, and myself.

Thanks to those that came out to support by eating!

**Mar 16:** 5th Division meeting in Marion. Spirited discussions and information exchange.

**Mar 23:** 22nd District meeting in Dupo

claim to be resolved. We just went through this a couple of years ago. Staff was hired, and claim times were reduced.

As veterans, we need to get involved in the legislative process. At all levels of government, They are attacking your EARNED BENEFITS.

Contact your elected representatives and let them know how you feel about eroding benefits. You make a difference!

### CALENDAR

- Mar 25, VAC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square
- Mar 26, National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony, Mel Price Memorial Park, 1500 Caseyville Road, Swansea, Time to be Announced
- Mar 27, DAV Open House, 11AM, 317 Market Place Dr. Freeburg, IL
- Mar 30, Women's Veteran Fair, 1234 Vandalia St., Collinsville (VFW Post)
- Apr 15, Tax Day
- Apr 20 Easter
- Apr 28, Post Meeting, 7PM, 216 Service St., Swansea
- Apr 29 VAC, VAC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square
- May 6, VAC St Clair Veteran Fair, 9AM to 3 PM, 2300 W. Main

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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

### How To

#### Download VA Benefit Letters

**Go To:** [www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters/](http://www.va.gov/records/download-va-letters/)

To receive some benefits, Veterans need a letter proving their status. Access and download your VA Benefit Summary Letter (sometimes called a VA award letter) and other benefit letters and documents online.

Sign in with a verified account

You'll need to sign in with an identity-verified account through one of our account providers. Identity verification helps us protect all Veterans' information and prevent scammers from stealing your benefits.

Don't yet have a verified account? Create a Login.gov or ID.me account. We'll help you verify your identity for your account now.

Not sure if your account is verified? Sign in here. If you still need to verify your identity, we'll help you do that now.

You can download a variety of VA letters that include information about your benefits and service history.

Before you download your VA letter, we'll ask you to review the address we have on file for you.

This address will be listed on your letter. If this address isn't correct, you can update it. But your letter will still be valid even with the incorrect address.

Note: To download a letter, you'll need the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. It's free to download.

What if I have trouble downloading a VA letter?

Call our MyVA411 main information line at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711).

### Happy 106th Birthday American Legion!

The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I.



### TID BITS

#### On This Day

**1920** 1st US coast guard air station established (Morehead City, NC)

**1944** 76 Allied officers escape Stalag Luft 3 (Great Escape)

**1964** Kennedy half-dollar issued

The recent storms that past through area reminds us that, we need a plan! When severe weather is predicted, do you have a safe shelter, is your phone charged, and do you have a way to get current weather information? This is just a few items to think about. Put a plan together and execute when needed.

On March 30th, I have been invited to meet with Senator Tammy Duckworth and House of Representative Nikki Budzinski for a town hall meeting. Do you want to help me? Do you have some questions you would like to ask our representative? Please forward them to me, so we get present them at the town hall. You can email me at [kcroyal56@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcroyal56@sbcglobal.net).

When displaying your Flag outside, keep it away from anything that could cause wear. It is best to place it in an area that is free from objects that can cause rips or tears (rough surfaces, branches, wires...etc.) In the event that your Flag should become torn, it is okay to repair it. Should your Flag become dirty, wash it with a mild soap and dry it on a gentle cycle or lay it flat. Note: do not let the Flag soak as the colors may run together.

*Commander Out*