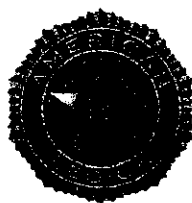


NOVEMBER 25, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

## TALKING WITH OTHER

### Since We Last Met

**Nov 8:** Veterans Day Ceremony at Wolf Branch. The Rifle Team assembled at the ballfield. We had weapons and ammunition check by the Resource Officer. We are ready for the ceremony outside. We needed to have someone play TAPS. Harper from the School volunteered. Steve Duff directed the outside ceremony. Wreath was placed, guns fired, and Harper played the Bugle! Thanks to all of the Team for pulling this together.

**Nov 9:** I attended Sons of the American Legion Training in DuQuion. This training was to help the Officers in the Squadrons. While our Post does not have a SAL Squadron, I needed to see what this training had to offer. The SAL is a *program* of The American Legion. If you are a male descendant of a veteran, father or grandfather served, you are eligible to join the SAL. Talk to me for more information.

**Nov 11:** Belleville Veterans Day Ceremony. John Lawson our VAC Superintendent was the MC. The weather was great, if you were in the sun, it was a bit chilly in the shade. Senator Tammy Duckworth was in attendance. It was good to see all the Veterans at the Square.

**Nov 15-17:** Travelled as the 5th Division Commander to The Haven Jamboree in Marion. Several events which involved meals and talking with other Legionnaires from across the State. The Banquet provided additional comradery. The Haven raised approximately \$6,000 during the weekend. There may be additional funds forthcoming. This event is biggest fundraiser for The Haven. The Haven provides a respite from the day to day hospital life. Several special events are held for our vets throughout the year, BBQ's, fishing sessions, kayaking, and just time to sit and enjoy the views at The Haven

### CALENDAR

- Nov 26, VAC Meeting, 7PM, 19 Public Square
- Nov 28, Thanksgiving.
- Dec 5, Messinger Cemetery Clean Up, 10AM. This is a clean up to get ready for the Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony on Dec 7
- Dec 7, Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, 11AM start, Messinger Cemetery, 3450 Old Collinsville Road
- **Dec 16 or 23, Post Meeting.**
- Dec 25, Merry Christmas!
- Jan 1, Happy New Year!
- Jan 11, 5th Division Oratorical Contest, 9AM in Centralia
- Jan 16, 5th Division Membership Caravan stops, Harrisburg Post 167 and DuQuion Post 647
- Jan 17, 5th Division Membership Caravan stops, Breese Post 323 and Columbia Post 581
- Jan 23, Post Meeting

### THANKSGIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA

*I was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1991-1992. We deployed from Loring AFB, Maine. We finally took up home outside Riyadh. We were not sure where we were going when the plane left the ground.*

*As we settled into our new duties at the small Base, time was blur. We worked many days in a row. This work schedule helped to keep our minds from dwelling on loved ones back home.*

*Thanksgiving Day arrived and it was just another day of work. As I was in the Engi-*

*neering Section, I volunteered to work as my staff departed to their quarters for some downtime.*

*Many hours into the day, our First Sergeant found me and said let's go. I did not question Doug. We travelled back to our Base. We did not go to our quarters, Doug said lets get something to eat. Entering the Dining Hall, the smell of Thanksgiving hit us.*

*As we went through the line, all the fixings of a traditional dinner were in front of us. Doug and I sat, talked, and enjoyed a great meal.*

## CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

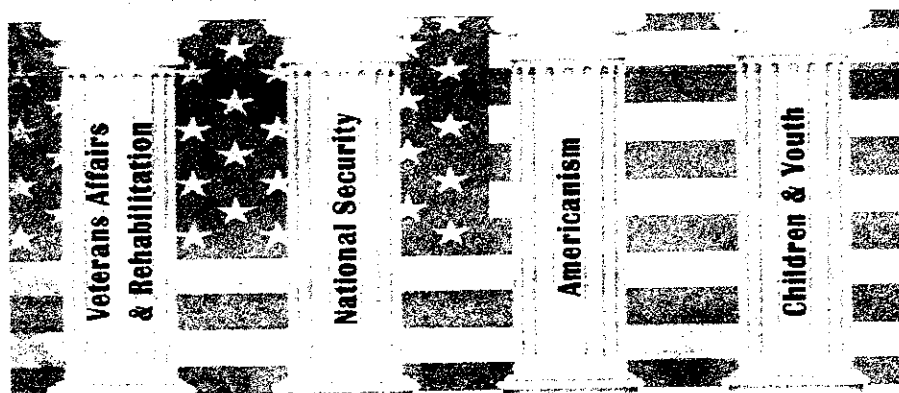
Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.

Swansea Improvement Association  
301 Service St, Swansea IL 62226

Check Out Our Facebook Page  
*Coming Soon*

Post Email: ilpost2007@gmail.com

## STILL SERVING AMERICA



### CHILDREN & YOUTH

The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation's youth. The organization was founded on the principle in 1919, when Children & Youth was declared one of the Legion's four pillars. In the years since, a number of youth-oriented programs have been developed including Temporary Financial Assistance, Family Support Network and child safety and wellbeing programs.

The Americanism Commission's Children & Youth Committee is the center of the Legion's youth-support efforts. The committee meets annually to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to accomplish:

- Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth.
- Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

The American Legion has been a strong advocate for children and youth since its inception. This steadfast dedication has never wavered and continues to be a driving force on behalf of children across the country today.

### TID BITS

**1874** The United States Greenback Party is established as a political party consisting primarily of farmers affected by the Panic of 1873.

**1884** John B Meyenberg of St Louis patents evaporated milk

**1920** 1st Thanksgiving Parade (Philadelphia)

**1940** Woody Woodpecker debuts with release of Walter Lantz's "Knock Knock"

**1949** Gene Autry's single "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" appears on music charts; songwriter Johnny Marks adapted poem written by his brother-in-law Robert L. May for Montgomery Ward department stores

**1957** US President Dwight Eisenhower suffers a mild stroke, impairing his speech

**1963** JFK laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery

I have met with many Veterans this past month. I have sat and talked to Legion, VFW, DAV, and Veterans. The one thing I was hearing was, "we love this Country". While everything is not perfect in their eyes, this Country is still theirs.

This was refreshing to hear. We just went through a long and tiring election process. As we move forward to the inauguration, we will continue to be The United States of America.

The Haven weekend was great as we saw the generosity of our fellow Legionnaires. This generosity helps those Veterans needing a place to forget about their medical issues for awhile.

*Commander Dut*