

NOVEMBER 24, 2025



CHARLES A. WOODFORD Post 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Nov 2: Attended the 22nd District Fall Caucus in Dupo. Commander Scheyer heard reports from all Committees in attendance. He asked all Posts to work membership and Programs. The Commander also mentioned that we should be doing Buddy Checks. (Thanks Todd and Team for making this happen)

Nov 7: Wolf Branch Middle School Veterans Day Ceremony. The students placed 300 flags at the entrance of the school. Thanks to Jeff Hastings, The Flag Man, for supplying the flags. The students had their ceremony inside. Outside, the rifle Team waits to close the ceremony. After time, Steve Duff appears so we can close the ceremony. The students place the wreath, rifle Team fires three volleys, and Taps is played. Thanks to all who attended, took pictures, and meet with the students and staff. A big shout out to

Steve Duff for his coordination while pushing through some pain.

Nov 8: Messinger Cemetery Clean Up. Girl Scouts attended and Posted the flag along the road. The area was cleaned as normal.

I met with the Swansea Park Board to start the ball rolling for a Memorial Day Ceremony. They will be providing other opportunities for the Post in other activities.

Nov 11: Veterans Day Ceremony at Honorary Veterans Memorial Square in Belleville. Thanks to Todd for holding our colors! The guest speaker was Commander Blackwell, VFW State Commander.

The VAC has had a few meetings concerning the 2026 Budget. As of this writing, nothing settled. We will continue to work with the County to resolve the impasse.

DID YOU KNOW?

What is the mobile app resource? VA Health and Benefits mobile app puts VA information and resources at Veterans' fingertips — anywhere, anytime! Veterans can view and cancel health care appointments, refill and track VA-dispensed prescriptions, view claims and appeals status, upload documentation to VA, get their vaccine records anywhere and anytime, securely message their doctor, locate VA facilities, access the Veterans Crisis Line, and more — right from their smartphones — with VA's Health and

Benefits mobile app. The mobile app also makes it easy to prove their status as a Veteran so they can take advantage of available retailer discounts at stores and restaurants. At least two million users in the Veteran community are already accessing their benefits and services safely and securely, wherever and whenever they need them using the app.

VA Health and Benefits App can be downloaded from your iOS or Android App Store.

CALENDAR

- December: 1. Continue to Work Membership. December 31 is end of Legion Year 2. Gifts to the Yanks and Visiting Vet Visits to Assisted Living Homes
- Dec 5, 9AM, Messinger Cemetery, Put Up Flags, Clean for Ceremony tomorrow
- Dec 6, 11AM, Pearl Harbor Ceremony at Messinger Cemetery
- Dec 15, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00
- Dec 25, Christmas, Flag the Flag
- January 1. Continue to Work Membership 2. Present Flags and Flag Code to Schools (If Allowed)
- Jan 1, New Years Day, Fly the Flag
- Jan 15-24 Membership Caravan (22nd District at Mascoutah Post)
- Jan 18, 5th Division meeting in Fairfield
- Jan 25, 22nd District Meeting in Glen Carbon
- Jan 26, Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00

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 THIS?

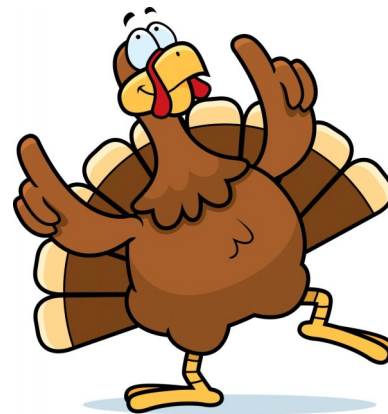
The American Legion etched a permanent place in history in 1944. That year, Legionnaires ushered into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act – better known as the GI Bill. Since then, millions of veterans have received free or discounted higher education benefits. So effective was the GI Bill, it is often credited for spurring more than 50 years of economic prosperity across the nation.

As the decades unfolded, however, the benefit fell out of pace with the changing times. The GI Bill was no longer covering fast-rising tuition costs. In some communities, it barely covered transportation cost to and from campus. National Guard and Reserve veterans were not receiving the same GI Bill benefits as those who'd served in the active-duty branches, regardless of their combat experiences in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly 25 years removed from its last major overhaul, it was no longer your grandfather's GI Bill.

EVERYTHING CHANGED IN THE SUMMER OF 2008.

The American Legion and Congress had worked together for more than three years to overhaul the federal veterans' education benefits package, including elimination of a \$1,200 "buy-in" for service personnel and extending the time span a veteran has to use the benefit after discharge.

The Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act was signed into law on June 30, 2008, and implemented Aug. 1, 2009. Four different education programs now exist: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill/ Selected Reserve and the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP).



TID BITS

On This Day

1896 1st US absentee voting law enacted by Vermont

1954 First Lady Mamie Eisenhower christens the first plane to be designated Air Force One

1971 American "Dan Cooper" hijacks a plane, extorts \$200,000 in ransom, jumps out of the plane over Washington State and is never seen again

1979 Senate report proves US troops in Vietnam were exposed to the toxic chemical defoliant Agent Orange

This time of the year can be a joyous year for most. There are some people that have difficulty during this time of the year for many reasons.

I ask that you listen to those around you, they may be asking for help in some way.

The Be the One Campaign can be a way of keeping our friends, family, and those in need safe during this season. Don't be afraid to help to those that may need help. The **VAC** can provide some help. Call 618-277-0040 to make an appointment. You can also use the **Crisis Hotline**. The phone number is 988.

Be the One to make a difference.

Enjoy Thanksgiving! I will see you when I get back!

Commander Out