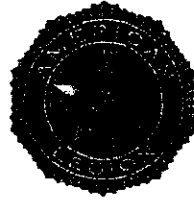


SEPTEMBER 23, 2024



CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Sep 3: I traveled to Lake County (Chicago) to look at the operation of the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission. The team asked many question concerning operations and other issues that they encountered over the last seven years. We collected plenty of information and ideas to aid in rebuilding our VAC.

Sep 4: I was in Bloomington for Division Commander's duties.

Sep 5: Met with Gabe. He is our Eagle Scout candidate working on his project. He was working to get the project approved at the Scout Council. He is working to complete this project by April.

Sep 11: I had the honor to present a Patriot's Day program at PSOP in Belleville. Our Post provided the folding the flag. Thanks Rich, Doug, and Andrew for doing this. I also saw Robin and Barb in the crowd, thank you also!

Sep 16—20: Attended a week long conference to obtain knowledge and make some contacts for our VAC. While this trip did not make me a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), I have a better idea of the challenges they face. Regulations change fast and the time for the claims to process continue to add pressure to our VSO's. Please be patient when you file a claim, our VSO is working for you!

Sep 21: District Roundtable in Glen Carbon. Twelve Posts were invited to attend, six Posts were present. Commander Al Mahan addressed membership, attendance, required forms, and other items for Post leadership. He stated that the membership goal for the 22nd District is 100%, or greater, by October 31. Please ensure your dues are current. Your 2024 dues ends on December 31, after that date you are not in good standing.

CALENDAR

- Sep 24, 7PM, VAC meeting, 19 Public Square
- Sep 28, Walnut Hill Cemetery, 9AM to Noon, Headstone cleaning, VFW Post 1739 is hosting
- Sep 28, POW/MIA Ceremony, 10AM to ?, VFW Post 805 O'Fallon, Get there by 9:30 AM, lunch after the ceremony!
- Oct 6, 22nd District Fall meeting, 11AM Committee meetings, Noon lunch, 1PM meeting starts, O'Fallon Post 137
- Oct 11 & 12, Division and District Officer Training, Bloomington
- Oct 14, Columbus Day
- Oct 19, Flag Collection, 9AM to Noon, 107 Service St. Swansea
- Oct 20, 5th Division Fall meeting, Committee meeting 11AM, Noon lunch, 1PM meeting starts
- Oct 28, Post meetings, 6:30PM Exec Board, 7PM General meeting

DID YOU KNOW? (CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

FAST FACTS

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

There are nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, making it the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization.

The American Legion has more than 12,000 posts in communities throughout the United States. In addition to posts in

every state, The American Legion has posts in the District of Columbia, France, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes in U.S. society. Six months earlier, The American Legion wrote the first draft of what later became the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered The American Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

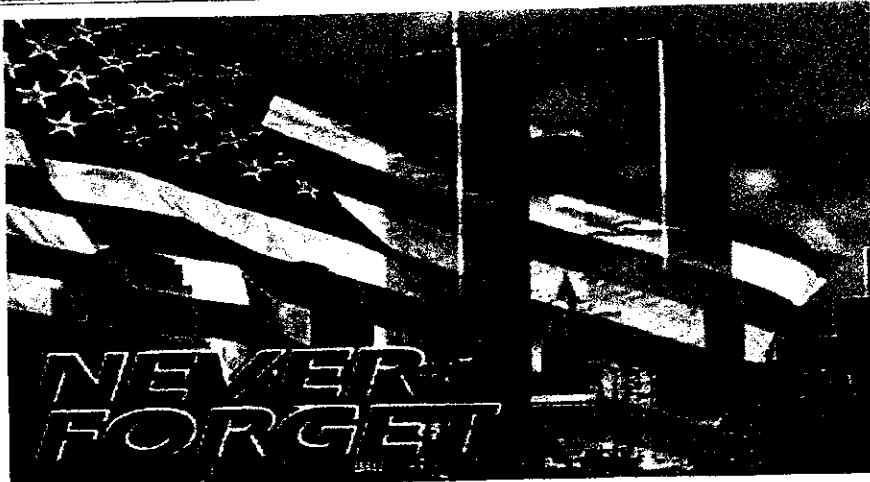
Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.

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 (CONTINUED)

Higher education becomes democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families.

On Aug. 9, 1921, a Legion-led effort resulted in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, which later became the Veterans Administration.

The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington in 1923. Congress adopts the code in 1942. Today, The American Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.

The American Legion donated \$1 million to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.

The American Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. Congress receives the results of the "American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans" in 1989.

Today, more than 2,000 high school students annually participate in The American Legion's Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The first event was held in 1991.

In 2010, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program won first place and \$250,000 in PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project. OCW received the most votes in an online contest and defeated hundreds of other groups and charities to take first place.

The American Legion provides free, professional assistance -- for any veteran -- in filing and pursuing benefits claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Legion Baseball was formed in 1925 during an American Legion South Dakota Department state convention. By 1926, Legion Baseball posts in 15 states developed. Today, the program registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Approximately 20,000 young men annually participate in Boys State, a Legion program dedicated to promot-

DID YOU KNOW & TID BITS

ing leadership. Boys State alumni include former President Bill Clinton, news commentator Tom Brokaw, professional basketball player Michael Jordan, astronaut Neil Armstrong and many more.

Since 1938, The American Legion National High School Oratorical Program: "A Constitutional Speech Contest," has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. Many politicians and news anchors have been participants, including CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Since 1919, American Legion posts have sponsored more than 2,500 Scouting units across the country. And annually, The American Legion honors an Eagle Scout of the Year with a \$10,000 scholarship.

From National American Legion Website

This Day In History

1806 Lewis and Clark return to St Louis from Pacific Northwest

1962 ABC's 1st color TV series "The Jetsons" premieres, created by Hanna-Barbera and Joseph Barbera

1974 John Lennon's single "Whatever Gets You Thru the Night", featuring Elton John, released in US; it was Lennon's only solo No. 1 single during his lifetime

1977 3rd test of Space Shuttle Enterprise

1994 "The Shawshank Redemption", directed by Frank Darabont and starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, is released

Legionnaires, please continue to help your Post when you can. We will be needing help to get our membership up to 100% or higher.

Commander Out