



American Legion Post 639 (Vietnam War Memorial) Springfield, Missouri

DECEMBER 2022



REMEMBER

From the Commander ...



Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. I know I did. Our annual Post Thanksgiving feed went well.

We fed 60-70 troops. I want to personally thank Robin, Sadie, Melissa and crew for working so hard to make it happen. Members always pitch in and bring delicious sides and desserts.

While I'm on the subject of holidays. We are going to change our Christmas feed up a bit this year. We are going to do a brunch from 10-2 and will be closing at 5. There will be a sign up sheet for folks wanting to bring something. I'm going to bring my spin on a breakfast casserole. Make a plan to stop by. Curtis and I will be guest bartenders so our staff can have the day off.

Things are moving along at our Post pretty smooth. Remember to come out and support our daily lunches M-F and be sure to look at our calendar in this newsletter, and mark yours for our events. Our officers, staff, support groups and volunteers work hard to keep things rolling. Let's all show them how much we appreciate them.

Thank you, and I hope you all have a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

Stand tall, pray for our troops, and as always fly your Flag and be proud.

Mike Goforth

Commander, Legion Post 639

Business Hours Change

Due to a slow-down in business in our later evening hours during the winter months, the Post 639 Executive Board voted on November 28th, 2022 to adjust our business hours as follows for the period of December 1st, 2022 to April 1st, 2023.

**Monday - Saturday, 11AM - 8PM (vs. 9PM)
Sunday Noon - 6PM**

The Commander also has the discretion to make daily adjustments to closing based on business volume.

As stated above, regular hours will resume on April 1st, 2023.

Post 639 Executive Board

Adjutant



Brothers and Sisters, we have run into a real problem. Of the last 40 mail in renewals 35 were previously paid. National sends out **Renewal Notices**

quarterly and they are not paying attention to our inputs for renewals. **IF** you get a Renewal Notice, check the latest card you have and if it has **2023** on it, **IGNORE THE NOTICE**. We are returning checks as we get them and verifying your status. This has been an ongoing problem with National. The Department of MO is aware of the snafu but there is little to nothing they or we, here at 639, can do except to ask for your patience. If you have any questions about a **Renewal Notice** you may receive call me at 417-569-9871 and we will get them resolved ASAP.

Tom Newsom

Adjutant, Legion Post 639

Chaplain



This time of year we think of Christmas and New Years. The real reason is to remember the Savior and His birth.

A child is born, and the Savior has come to the world. Remember the **REASON** for the **SEASON**. As always, the Post and the members are in my prayers.

Rex Krasche

Post 639 Chaplain

Auxiliary



I hope everyone had a thankful and grateful Thanksgiving and remembered our troops who spent the holiday away from family and friends. We are grateful and thankful for their sacrifice.

It was a very disappointing and heartbreaking start to November for us, as we had to cancel our participation in the Western Greene County Veterans Day Parade. Due to the very windy conditions early that morning, a decision was made to not transport our float to the parade in fear of the damage that may have been caused by those conditions. I would like to thank Susan and Noel Heppard for all of their hard work on getting the float prepped this year. We did serve a hot free lunch, after the parade, to the riders who escorted the Mount Vernon veterans to the parade and the Post participates who were in the parade.

WOW, OH WOW, OH WOW! What a wonderful and fun event the Paddle Party/Meat Raffle was! So many people to thank for all their hard work, donations and volunteerism but first and foremost to Kim Goforth, our Event Coordinator. **Kim, once again, you knocked it out of the ball park this year!** Thank you so much!!! This event only disappoints if you did NOT attend. We had some AWESOME vendors this year, many who returned and some newcomers which was very nice. We sure do appreciate them. I hope all of you got some early Christmas shopping done like I did. (See pictures on Page 8)

A LOUD and LONG SHOUT OUT to ALA members Sherry

Hawk, Linda Tenneson, Marsha Crom, Karen Doelger, Terra Cooperider, Susan Heppard, Lindy Dobbs, Connie Austin, Joyce Sanders, Charlotte Kelly and Mikayla Criger. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your part in making this event such a success! Also, a Shout out to Commander Goforth for all your help and support with our event and to our brothers of SAL.....NICE JOB with the Meat Raffle! You guys ROCKED it out! Thank you for coming aboard and sharing this event with us! We make a great team!

Christmas is only weeks away. Remember the reason for the season. Remember our military men and women who won't be home. Remember law enforcement, fire fighters and EMT's who will be on duty as you celebrate. Remember the homeless, many of whom are veterans. Remember our veterans who will be alone this holiday. Pray for them, thank them and be appreciative for the blessings you have in your life. May your Christmas holiday bestow you with peace, happiness, good health and blessings from above.

Merry Christmas Post 639 members and employees, SAL, ALR and ALA!

In Spirit of Service, not Self

Diana Cooperider

President, Post 639 Auxiliary

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion are looking for New and Past Members!

The Sons are made up of male descendants of Veterans who served in the US Armed Forces. Show your appreciation for your family members Service, and keep the memory of those brave Service members alive.

Our motto is "Serving Those Who Served" this great country. We do this through our events and volunteering at the LZ 639.

Annual dues are only \$25... and you get soooo much more out of your service to these brave vets, who fought to provide the freedoms each of us enjoy every day. Service with fun / fellowship - that's what you get !!

We jumped in with both feet on November 16th, serving the food at Queen of Hearts. Thanks to the SAL team for knocking this one out of the park. (See pictures on Page 6)

SAL handled the Meat Raffle portion of the Paddle Party Event on November 19th - \$800 raised. AWESOME. Equally awesome was our own Mike House, volunteering to be "tased" for charity. An additional \$280 to the total. (Pictures on Page 8)

We are always interested in talking with individuals who want to help our beloved LZ 639. We meet at 7PM on the last Tues-

day of each month.

Come out and sit in on a meeting or talk with a few of our members. Jump in and find your spot in SAL. Service and fellowship memories that will last you a lifetime ...

Curtis Meyers, Commander

Sons of the American Legion

Service Officer



Disability Claims

On October 12th. the Veterans Administration announced a change in the way disability claims are processed. They must now be sent to the Claims Input Center in Janesville, WI instead of the Regional Office in St. Louis. They now advertise a response time of 102.4 days (as compared to about three weeks in St. Louis). It appears they are trying to reduce costs by centralizing and automating the process. They don't seem to be trying to improve service ...

Bob Scott

Post 639 Service Officer

Legion Riders Chapter 639



I simply cannot wrap my mind around it being the Holiday Season already. Time to be thankful for our blessings, and enjoy those blessings with our families.

Ron and I enjoyed some extended vacation time away to recharge from mid-October to mid-November. I did my best to stay "un-engaged" from ALR business. I at least **partially** succeeded, but I was comforted in knowing my team was handling things in an efficient, professional way.

Our cross-country collaboration with ALR Chapter 234 in Souderton, Pennsylvania on behalf of Chris Harring was a great success. Chris's background story was in the November 2022 Newsletter. Just to recap - Chris, his wife Nicolle, and their 9-year-old daughter Addison lost their home and all of their possessions in Wheelerville, MO, to a fire last September. We teamed up with ALR Chapter 234 to provide them some relief. Combined with \$500 from 234, we added \$200 from ALR Chapter 639, \$250 from Post 639 and a "pass the hat" offering at our November 1st General Meeting for \$281. Chris and Nicolle were here for the General Meeting, and they were so very thankful. This is what we do, Riders. We're in the thick of the fight to help folks - right where we should be.



November 5th saw a group of Legion Riders, Red Knights and Post 639 participants headed to Mt. Vernon Veterans Home to

escort 4 veterans to the **Veterans Day Parade in Willard**. Hardy souls, they were. **BIG TIME Thanks to the Saturday Breakfast crew for opening early to feed the riders before they headed out.** KSU was 8:15AM - 41 degrees, 30 mph wind, light rain. Perfect riding weather, our hearts were warm from our purpose.

Picked up 4 veterans from Mt. Vernon, headed to Willard - Legion Riders in front, Veterans bus in the middle, Red Knights and Post 639 members behind the bus, symbolic of "having their 6". (See pictures of the event on Page 6-7).

November 9th was ALR's night for hosting Queen of Hearts. We decided on Chili night, so thanks to Sherry Hawk and Bob Kalwat for sharing their "secret family recipes" !!!! No leftovers - kinda says it all

November 11th, Veterans Day at Post 639. We teamed up with our other organizations to feed our Veterans for free. The Lasagna and Chicken Alfredo we had last year was such a hit, we did it again this year. Cake for dessert. THANKS so much to all who helped pitch in to say thanks to our Veterans. (See pictures on Page 7).

We had no dinner ride in November due to the proximity of Thanksgiving. We decided to hold our appetites for **"THE BIG ONE"** at the Post.

November 24th, The Thanksgiving "Feed the Troops" meal, was a celebration of what we have in this country, and a solemn appreciation of our troops away from home. Free meal to veterans and their families, general public. ALR members were involved in smoking turkeys, serving the meal - a number of ways to serve in general. (See pictures on Page 8,9).

November 27th, December 4th - Marine Corps Toys for Tots Kickoff/Run. The Elks Lodge hosted the Marines Toys for Tots kick-off event this year on November 27th. Music was provided by the "Wings of Swing" Big Band, of which Bob Kalwat is a member. Nothing like Christmas music to get the event off to ringing start. (Event pictures on Page 9). **Per Nolan Moody, the event raised \$2000 in cash/toys for the kids.** For the ride itself on **December 4th**, ALR will meet at Post 639 at Noon, KSU is 12:30PM to go over to staging at Corwin Ford. The destination has changed this year, Normally we rode to the Oasis Convention Center. This year will be to the Prime, Inc. training center on Packer Rd. (See the Poster on Page 22 for details). Ride is at 2PM, and plan to come back to Post 639 for the "after-ride" celebration !!! Pictures of the Ride event will be posted in January 2023.

During our monthly meeting on November 20th, Ron Jackson asked for our Riders to starting thinking about their favorite ride destinations for the 2023 riding season. Be sure and send him your "wish list", and we'll review them during the **December ALR meeting/Christmas Party on December 18th.**

PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS. Melissa Wilson, (bar staff member), will be catering a Mexican feast for the party. **Do not miss this !!!**

The 639 Coat Drive runs through **December 3rd**, so you all still have time to make a contribution. SHOUT OUT to Mike House, SAL, for providing the boxes and transport of donated items to The Kitchen, LLC, for distribution to local homeless veterans. By the end of the drive, we estimate **15 BOXES** of cold weather gear for these veterans. Thanks so much to all who contributed to help them out !!!

If you ride during November/December, stay warm and safe out there. Have a Blessed, Merry Christmas with your families. As always, I'm so very proud of you all, and honored to be your Director

Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639

Historian/Newsletter Editor



In last years' December issue, I published a pictorial collage showing troop deployments during Christmas throughout our nation's history. I felt it was appropriate to publish it for a second year. (See page 11).

Regardless of the historical context, the issues that deployed troops have dealt with during Christmas have been the same. Technology has improved the living conditions, but the emotional impact is the same.

Fear, anxiety, and loneliness (even when surrounded by your buddies, all who have these issues in common). Many in combat theaters of operation wonder if they'll see another Christmas. All are missing and worrying about their families. They have only each other to lean on, comforted by their common experience.

Loving memories of Christmases past are sometimes painful because they're not home with their loved ones to share current memories that are being made. The sound of a familiar Christmas Carol or popular song may cause strong memories to come flooding back.

Letters from home are coveted and reread numerous times. Some are missing the first Christmas with new-born children they've yet to see. Minus the current technology, all veterans across history who have spent time overseas, or just away from home during Christmas, have experienced these feelings.

No one understood this better than Bob Hope. The beloved entertainer, for **DECADES**, spent his Christmases (as well as the celebrities who traveled with him) seeking to ease the anxiety/loneliness by visiting the troops on the front lines. He loved the veterans, wanted to help them, and they loved him back for helping them get through it. He left a legacy of love for veterans that's unmatched.

My own personal experience with this was with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Iwakuni, Japan during the Christmas of 1973.

At the ripe old age of 20, I had never been away from home for Christmas before, much less **8000 miles** away. Before the advent of Email, Facebook Instagram, Twitter, Facetime and Zoom, I would correspond with my parents, girlfriend and friends via regular mail (usually two weeks round trip) for the entirety of the year I was overseas. I was not prepared for the emotions I would experience during Christmas, and how strong they would be.

My buddies were all experiencing the same feelings. We were all bonded for life by this common experience. Some hid their reactions to it better than others, I was not one of them. It was the loneliest I had ever been in my life. My 1974 Christmas, back home again, was one of the sweetest I had ever experienced.

At that time, Vietnam was winding down. Combat Marines had been withdrawn, 1st MAW had returned from deployment several years earlier. So although overseas, I was in a non-combat environment. That being said, **AMPLIFY** my experience exponentially for someone in a combat zone. In no way is that lost on me as I look back.

Please look over and absorb the historical context of the pictorial journey through history again on **Page 7**.

Hug your veterans especially tight this Christmas. If you're a Veteran who has experienced this, a heartfelt **THANKS** for your service/sacrifice, and giving up your Christmas at some point to defend our nation - you deserve our most heartfelt gratitude. I pray the nation remembers.

If you have a veteran family member currently deployed, rest assured (and let them know) that we at Post 639 honor them, love them, and pray for their safe return.

For those of you who are enduring the loss of a Veteran family member, remember - we at Post 639 love you, are eternally grateful for you family's sacrifice, and are here for you.

In a letter attributed to Abraham Lincoln, so eloquently stated in 1864, -

"I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Have a very Blessed Christmas

Bob Kalwat

Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor



**OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Joshua Boley
Outreach Coordinator
Veterans Upward Bound

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Springfield, Missouri 65802
www.otc.edu/vub

Office 417-447-7840
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boleyj@otc.edu

Added Note - In honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th, I'm publishing a special historical article (Pages 16-19), written by our former Finance Officer, US Marine veteran Paul Doelger. In it, he tells the story of the hospital ship U.S.S Solace, AH-5, moored in the harbor across from Battleship Row during the attack. Please read and absorb this perspective on December 7th, 1941. **Sincere thanks to Paul for this content.**

December VSO Activities/Info

Give Vets Hope

Our group continues to grow slowly. We have had veterans, husbands and wives showing up, being interested in what we do. We try to make them as comfortable as possible. There is so much going on for veterans and their families that we have always considered family members welcome to our meetings. Significant others, sons, daughters, mothers and fathers, are all considered part of the support system that a veteran may bring to our meetings.



I am continuing to call anyone that has shown an interest in our group and those that haven't shown up for awhile. I have called, texted, written to, or left messages for veterans and their families almost 2000 times since COVID hit in 2020. I consider this an ongoing process. Being connected and checking in with everyone is so important.

Our next group meetings will be December 13th and 27th, at the VFW Post 3404 on 1136 E Atlantic from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. If you need any further information, please contact David Suits at 417-773-1837 and leave a message. Pizza and soda will be provided. We do apologize but we do not provide childcare at this time. Service animals are welcome!

David Suits

Founder/Co-facilitator

Average Weather in December for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *decrease* by 7°F, from 51°F to 43°F, rarely falling below 28°F or exceeding 65°F.

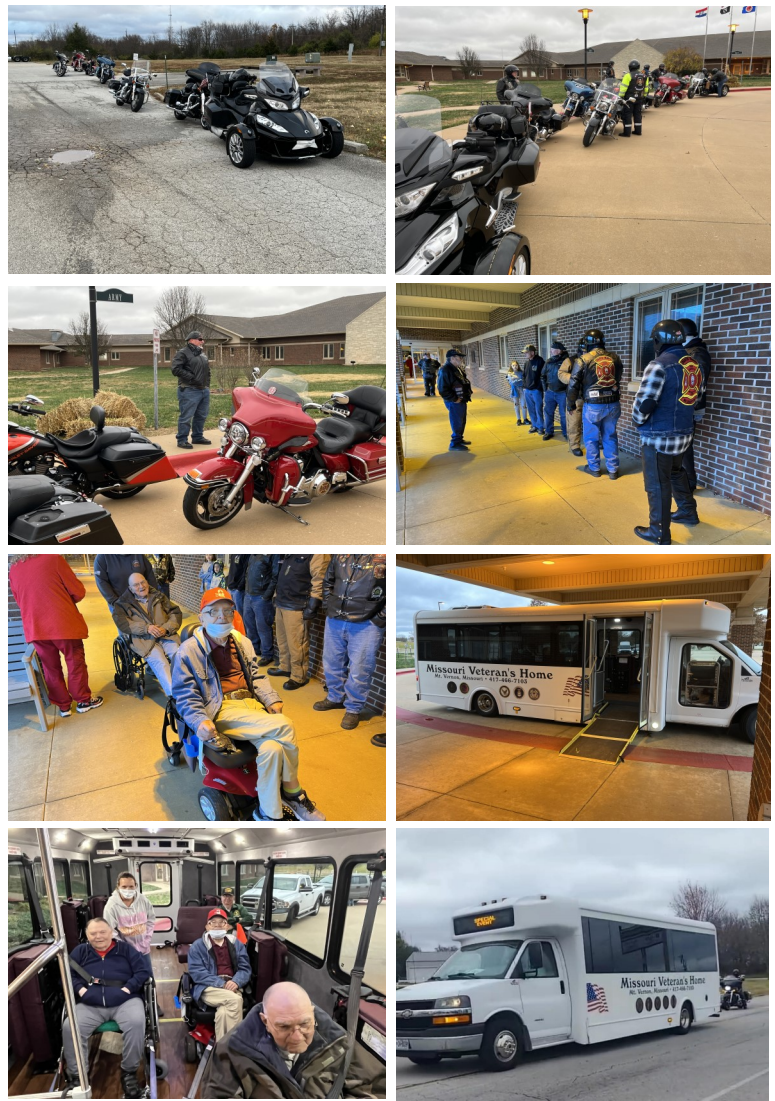
Daily low temperatures *decrease* by 7°F, from 33°F to 26°F, rarely falling below 10°F or exceeding 47°F.

Over the course of December in Springfield, the length of the day is *essentially constant*. The shortest day of the month is *December 22*, with 9 hours, 36 minutes of daylight and the longest day is *December 1*, with 9 hours, 48 minutes of daylight.

The earliest sunrise of the month in Springfield is 7:08 AM on *December 1* and the latest sunrise is 19 minutes later at 7:26 AM on *December 31*.

The earliest sunset is 4:55 PM on *December 5* and the latest sunset is 10 minutes later at 5:05 PM on *December 31*.

November 1st, 2022
Post 639 Auxiliary Birthday Celebration



November 5th, 2022
Saturday Breakfast, Mt. Vernon Veterans Home Escort
Veterans Day Parade, Flag Ceremony, Willard, MO

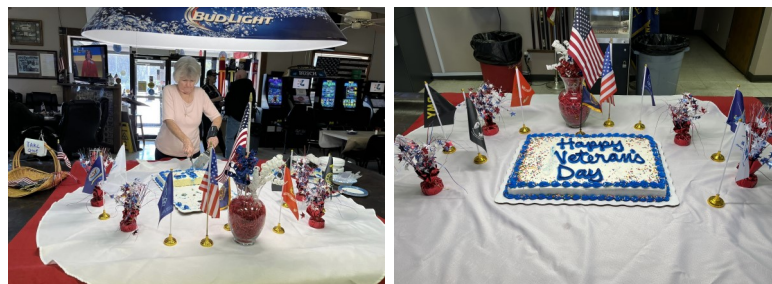


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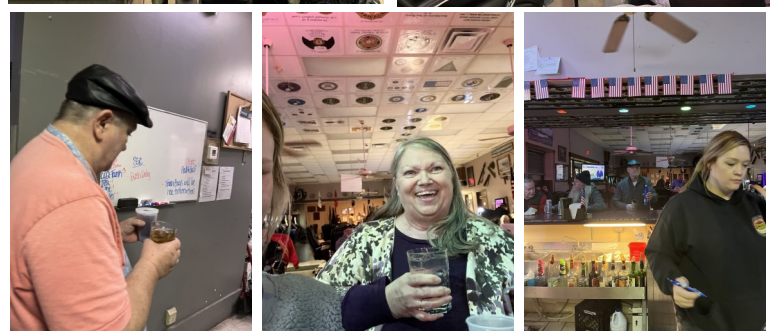
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November 11th, 2022
Post 639 Veterans Day Lunch



November 16th, 2022
Post 639 Queen of Hearts, SAL Hosting



November 19th, 2022
639 Auxiliary Paddle Party, SAL Meat Raffle



November 24th, 2022
Thanksgiving Day Meal - "Feed the Troops"





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History in December

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 2, 1859 - Abolitionist leader John Brown was executed for treason at Charles Town, West Virginia, following his raid on the U.S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry.

December 3, 1967 - The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky, who lived for 18 days.

December 4, 1829 - The British banned the practice of "suttee" in India in which Indian females traditionally burned themselves to death on their husband's funeral pyre.

December 5, 1933 - The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution was repealed. For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it had outlawed the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery, stating, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, save as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

December 8, 1991 - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist, as the leaders of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine signed an agreement creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining republics of the former USSR, with the exception of Georgia, joined the new Commonwealth.

December 9, 1993 - A five-day repair job in space on the \$3 billion Hubble Space Telescope was finished by U.S. astronauts.

December 13, 1991 - North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression which also formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953.

December 14, 1799 - George Washington died at Mount Vernon.

December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective following ratification by Virginia.

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.

December 17, 1777 - At Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, the Continental Army led by General George Washington settled in for the

winter.

December 18, 1916 - During World War I, the Battle of Verdun concluded after ten months of fighting in which 543,000 French and 434,000 German soldiers were killed.

December 19, 1946 - War broke out in French Indochina as Ho Chi Minh attacked the French seeking to oust them from Vietnam. This marked the beginning of a thirty-year conflict, which eventually led to heavy U.S. involvement until 1975.

December 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the American Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union had 21 states and a population of over 20 million.

December 21, 1945 - World War II General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident. He had been injured on December 9th near Mannheim and was taken to a hospital in Heidelberg where he died. He was buried in Luxembourg. Nicknamed "Old Blood and Guts," he once stated during the war, "We shall attack and attack until we are exhausted, and then we shall attack again."

December 22, 1783 - Following a triumphant journey from New York to Annapolis, Maryland, George Washington, victorious Commander-in-Chief of the American Revolutionary Army, appeared before Congress and voluntarily resigned his commission.

December 23, 1948 - Hideki Tojo was hanged for war crimes. He had been Japanese prime minister from 1941-44. Following Japan's defeat in World War II, he was arrested as a war criminal, tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to death. He was hanged along with six other Japanese wartime military leaders at Sugamo Prison in Tokyo, with the sentence carried out by the U.S. 8th Army.

December 24, 1943 - General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force preparing for D-Day.

December 25th - Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25th by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

December 26th - Boxing Day in the United Kingdom and many other countries, a day of gift giving when boxes of food, clothing and other gifts are traditionally given to employees, tradespeople and other service providers.

December 29, 1965 - During the Vietnam War, North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh rejected unconditional peace talks offered by the U.S.

December 31, 1879 - Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.



A Visual Journey Through American History - Christmas on the Front Lines for the Deployed Troops



The Revolutionary War



The Civil War



World War I



World War II



The Korean War



The Vietnam War



Desert Shield/Desert Storm



Iraq / Afghanistan





Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - December 7th



National Guard Birthday - December 13th



National Wreaths Across America Day - December 17th



Space Force Birthday - December 20th

A Soldier's Silent Night/Merry Christmas, My Friend

"Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this dwelling did live.

As I looked all around, a strange sight to see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking on the mantle, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
Medals and badges, awards of every kind,
a sobering thought came alive in my mind.

This house was different, it was dark, it was dreary.
I had found the home of a soldier, I could see that most clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping silent, alone.
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.
His face was so gentle, room in such disorder,
Not at all how I pictured a U.S. soldier.

Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, a floor for a bed?
Then I realized the other families that I saw this night
Out there lies the soldiers who are willing to fight.
In the morning around the world, children would play
Grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas day
But they all enjoyed freedom, each month through the year,
because of soldiers like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in lands far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye.
and I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

The soldier awakened, I heard his rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."
The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, and I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still.
as both of us shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold, dark night.
This guardian of honor, so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure.
He whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend,
May God bless you this night.

The original poem was actually written by a former Marine Corporal James M. Schmidt. Schmidt was stationed in Washington, D.C. in 1987 when he wrote the poem originally titled "Merry Christmas, My Friend." Printed in the December 1991 edition of 'Leatherneck' Magazine

Post 639 Schedule of Events

December 2022

- December 1 Thu - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30PM
- December 3 Sat - Post 639 Breakfast 8AM - 10AM
- December 6 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- December 7 Wed - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- December 8 Thu - Marine Corps League Mtg VFW 3404
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- December 10 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting, 11AM
- Red Knights Holiday Party, 6:30PM
- December 13 Tue - National Guard Birthday
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- December 14 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- December 16 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- December 17 Sat - Wreaths Across America
- December 18 Sun - ALR Meeting/Christmas Party 5PM
- December 20 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting 7PM
- US Space Force Birthday
- December 21 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- December 22 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM
- Newsletter Content Due
- December 25 Sun - Christmas Day
- December 26 Mon - Post 639 E-Board Meeting 6:30PM
- December 27 Tue - SAL Meeting, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- December 28 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- December 31 Sat - New Years Eve



From the Bar/Galley ...

Happy Hour at LZ639 :

12PM-2PM 7 Days a Week (.50 off)

6PM-8PM, Monday thru Saturday (.50 off)

Saturday Breakfast - Morning Chow @ LZ639

1st Saturday of the Month 8AM - 10AM

The 6am Breakfast crew with this short message for you

Your Saturday breakfast is made possible by the following 6AM crew - **Bob Dale, Dylan Dale, Mike Chandler with support and assistance of Scotty and Robin.** Breakfast served 8AM-10AM. Drinks separate charge. No charge for salt and pepper. Tell your friends as it's only \$8 all you can eat. Please thank the people who give up their time to support this Post 639 benefit.



Breakfast served 8AM-10AM. Drinks separate charge. No charge for salt and pepper. Tell your friends as it's only \$8 all you can eat. Please thank the people who give up their time to support this Post 639 benefit.

Thanks to all who supported the **November Breakfast** at the Post.

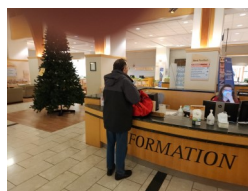
AND, BIG TIME THANKS to Ron Sanders, Mike Walters, Gregg Gilmore and Commander Goforth for cleaning the floors on Nov 20th. Scrubbed and polished. Thanks Guys for making the floor super clean for the Holidays.. I know 7am was early for some of you.

Jim "Skippy" Cooper (got peanut butter)

Your 6AM Support Team

REGARING OUR BELOVED SCOTTY KELLY

Volunteer EXTRAORDINAIRE Scotty had open-heart surgery November 20th. He attacked this situation with his normal vigor and positive attitude, like he always does. I'm sure the folks at Cox who checked him in (below) had their day brightened by being around him. Commander Goforth and Ron Sanders went to see Scotty post-surgery and found him in great spirits. Jim Cooper has talked to



him as well and found him chompin' at the bit. Once Scotty gets into a Rehab facility, we're sure he'd appreciate some visits and company. Let's all pitch in and show him the love and support as only Post 639 can !!!!

For the Good of the Legion ...

The F-100 Super Sabre -

First in Speed of Sound

The F-100 was the “state of the art” in the 1950’s. A fighter-bomber, it was also used as a “wild weasel” to destroy enemy radar sights.



The F-100 was adopted for use by the USAF Thunderbirds precision flying team, to promote the US Air Force to the general public.

The F-100 was the first modern jet fighter to achieve the speed of sound in straight and level flight. It was nick-named the “lead sled”. It operated with a single engine with an after-burner, and a crew of one.

It took a lot of maintenance to keep it flying. A special maintenance procedure was done on the F-100, which involved changing the hydraulic pump on the engine while still in the airplane. This involved crawling down the intake, removing and replacing the pump. I was one that helped do that job.

The reason for this type of maintenance was to save man-hours. The standard method would take many more hours. This involved removing the aft section of the aircraft and moving it into the hanger, which alone took 6 hours. Then the engine crew of 3 men would remove the engine (8 hours each), then replace the pump (2 men, 2 hours each)

Then a crew would have to run the engine check (8 hours). If it checked out, they would re-install the engine into the aircraft and run it up without the tail section (20 hours). Then the aircraft crew would re-install the tail section and return it to service.

Charlie Weaver



Welcome New 2022 Members

Mike Walters

Robert McMillan

Lon Jeske

Virgil Powell

Wallace Brock

Hagen Gibbs

David Putman

Larry Haggard

John King

Darryl Gourley

Mark Wells

Craig Donjes

James Cunningham

9/28/22, 5:48 PM

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1/1

Volunteer Opportunities at the Legion

As always, we have several volunteer opportunities for members and non-members. Currently, we are in need of someone with excellent administrative skills and the ability to see a task through to completion. This could mostly be done at home, but it will take some familiarization with how the business here operates.

As our buildings age, maintenance has become a growing concern. If you have any skills in any of the trades, or if you are a “Jack of ALL Trades”, we could use your help. There are several projects pending.

At this time, we’re always looking for those with cooking skills. Special events, cooking lunch on those days when we need a sub to fill in, etc. If you want to show off your culinary skills to the membership, please contact the Post and we’ll get you set up.

If you’re interested, please call 882-8639, or drop by. We’ll contact you and match you up with an opportunity. **Volunteers are what allow Post 639 to function. YOU ARE NEEDED. Come work and fellowship with us !!!**

Post 639 Lunch Menu 11AM-2PM, M-F

Burgers. Served with fries. Substitute Mushrooms or Onion Rings for \$1. Add bacon for \$1. Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Pickle on request.

- **Hamburger \$6**
- **Cheeseburger \$7**
- **BBQ Burger \$8.50** - Classic Cheeseburger with BBQ seasoning, and onion ring, and drizzled with BBQ sauce.
- **Blue Burger \$8.50** - Classic hamburger with our special seasoning, topped with Bleu Cheese crumbles.
- **Brunch Burger \$8.50** - Classic with choice of cheese, topped with a fried egg and bacon.
- **The LZ639 \$8.50** - Classic with a choice of cheese, garlic parmesan aioli and topped with grilled onions.

"Smashed Sandwiches" Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Grilled Cheese \$6**
- **Hot Ham and Cheese \$6.50**
- **Reuben \$7.50** - Corned Beef, Sauerkraut, Swiss Cheese, 1000 Island Dressing
- **BLT \$6**

Upgraded Classics. Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Pork Tenderloin Sandwich \$7.50**
- **Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$8-** Topped with Swiss cheese, garlic aioli and bacon.
- **Patty Melt \$8.50** - Choice of cheese, Grilled Onions, T Texas Toast

Soft Drinks \$2

Sprite/Diet Sprite, Coke/Diet Coke, Dr Pepper/
Diet Dr Pepper Unsweetened Tea, Coffee

Classic/Specialty/Extra Specialty Pizzas - see table menu for selections/prices



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DECEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 LUNCH 11-2 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 6:30PM	2 LUNCH 11-2	3 BREAKFAST 8 - 10AM
4	5 LUNCH 11-2	6 LUNCH 11-2 KOREAN WAR VETS 1PM LEGION/AUX GENERAL MTG 7PM	7 LUNCH 11-2 QUEEN O HEARTS 6 - 8 PM PEARL HARBOR DAY	8 LUNCH 11-2 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 993 CHRISTMAS DINNER 6PM	9 LUNCH 11-2	10 SUB VETS MTG 11AM RED KNIGHTS PARTY 6:30PM
11	12 LUNCH 11-2	13 LUNCH 11-2 NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5PM	14 LUNCH 11-2 QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	15 LUNCH 11-2	16 LUNCH 11-2 VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 - 7 PM	17 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
18 ALR MEETING 5PM CHRISTMAS PARTY 6PM	19 LUNCH 11-2	20 LUNCH 11-2 AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM US SPACE FORCE BIRTHDAY	21 LUNCH 11-2 QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM	22 LUNCH 11-2 FL EET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	23 LUNCH 11-2	24
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 LUNCH 11-2 E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM	27 LUNCH 11-2 SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM	28 LUNCH 11-2 QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM	29 LUNCH 11-2	30 LUNCH 11-2	31

Ongoing Suicide Prevention

EVERY month is Suicide Prevention month. Always be vigilant for your brothers/sisters that might need help.

Some signs of concerning behavior include:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

If you notice any signs of concerning behavior here are some things you can do:

- **Start a conversation:** Mention the signs that prompted you to talk to them. Stay calm and let the person know you want to help them. Don't leave the person alone.
- **Listen, express concern and reassure the individual:** Let the person know you care and that you take the situation seriously. Letting the person know you care will go a long way in establishing a support system.
- **Create a safety plan:** Ask the person if they have access to anything that could harm them and call for help if you feel the situation is dangerous.
- **Get the individual help:** Provide resources for the individual. **Call the Veteran's crisis line at 1(800)-273-8255.** Or if you feel the situation is severe, take the individual to the closest emergency room or call for help.





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www.foxholetechnology.com - Wes Hester, CEO

LZ639 Pizza Company will make available to our members of Post 639 and families your choice of 12 different pizzas that we offer to area bars. There is a minimum order of 6 pizzas and they will only be made when we are making orders for our wholesale customers and will be **take out only**.

The price is **\$6.00** per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See **Robin** or one of the bartenders for additional information and to order.

U.S.S Solace AH-5

History's Short Stories

A Ship of Mercy in Harm's Way

PAUL A. DOELGER

University of Minnesota, Crookston

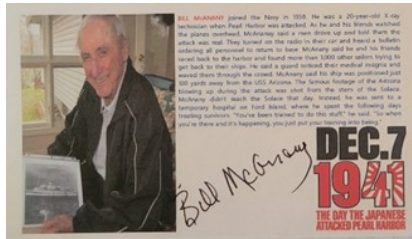
This short story is dedicated to our greatest generation.

“They fought together as brothers in arms; they died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation — the obligation to ensure that their sacrifice will help to make this a better and safer world in which to live.”

Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz

The Dictation

One day at work, I was having a meeting with one of my employees. During these discussions, I always tried to get to know about my coworkers and their families. Somehow, we started talking about World War Two and he mentioned that he knew of someone that was at Pearl Harbor on December 7th. Shortly afterwards an envelope appeared on my desk, it was from the employee with which I had recently met. In this envelope was a dictated summary of William Eugene McAnany's (Bill) service during the Second World War. It started with William being stationed aboard the Hospital Ship AH-5, the USS Solace as an X-ray technician. As I learned about Bill and the Solace, I knew I could not tell their stories without recounting the events of the attack on Pearl Harbor, specifically Battleship Row.



SS Iroquois

We start this story prior to the United States entry into World War 2. At that time, the United States had a large commercial coastal fleet of mid-sized passenger ships that were cruising up and down the east coast. Two of the larger ships of this fleet were the sisters Iroquois and Shawnee. In 1939 the German Army launched the invasion of Poland, triggering the beginning of the second world war. As Germany overran Europe, American citizens became trapped in the war zones and were trying desperately to escape. In response, the United State Government chartered the S.S. Iroquois to evacuate as many of her citizens as possible. Loaded with Americans, the Iroquois started on her cruise home. During the voyage, intelligence reports indicated that the Iroquois was being targeted to be sunk by the German Navy. These threats were so credible that President Roosevelt ordered Navy Destroyers and a Coast Guard Cutter to intercept and escort the Iroquois safely home. After unloading her people, the Iroquois was destined to serve the United States in other ways and would soon be heading back into harms way.

USS Solace AH-5

The Two-Ocean Navy Act, which was enacted in 1940 provided the funding for the conversion of 100,000 tons of auxiliary ships, these ships were intended for use in national defense. One of the ships earmarked for conversion was the SS Iroquois, and she was to be transformed into a floating naval hospital. In July of 1940, the Secretary of the Navy approved the renaming of the ship to Solace. This name is synonymous with providing comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness, after which the ship then received the identification

the hull number identification of AH-5. The Solace was converted at the Atlantic Basin Iron Works Corp., Brooklyn, N.Y., where the ship received engineering upgrades and conversion into a seagoing hospital. She was fitted out to accommodate 418 patients and up to 584 under extreme circumstances.



Capt. Benjamin Perlman assumed command of this newly commissioned ship on 9 August 1941. For her first voyage she sailed from New York down to Hampton Roads, through the Panama Canal, up to Long Beach, California, then over to Pearl Harbor. She arrived at Pearl on Navy Day, 27 October 1941. In her cargo bay, the Solace carried Mobile Base Hospital # 2 that was to be set up on Ford Island. The mission was to better support the medical needs of the fleet, the Solace was moored just north of the Ford Island Naval Air Station and Battleship Row. Other ships that were moored close by were the U.S.S Nevada, Arizona, West Virginia, and Oklahoma, all of which were the pride of the United States Navy.

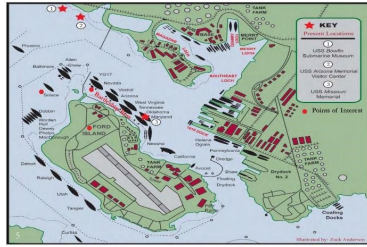
The Attack

The attack on the Pacific Battle Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is well documented. There was a total of (3,435) casualties and loss or damage to (188) planes, (8) battleships, (3) light cruisers, and (4) miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than (100) personnel, (29) planes, and (5) midget submarines (Attack on Pearl Harbor, 2022). The day started as every other Sunday in port. The 1 -Main Circuit (1MC) is the term for the shipboard public address circuits on United States Navy ships. Over the 1MC Reveille sounded, sweepers were instructed to man their brooms, the smoking lamp was lit and that breakfast for the crew was being served. Colors were being posted just as the first bombs began to fall. Battle Stations, “All men man your Battle stations, this is not a drill” was heard echoing throughout the harbor from the 1MCs aboard other ships. Crews immediately went to their stations however they were dressed and prepared for the worst. The Battleship California is a good example of the state of readiness aboard the ships at the time, “That morning found California’s crew in a condition of readiness common for peacetime. None of her 14-inch main battery guns were manned. Fifty shells for each of the battleships open-mounted five-inch guns were positioned in nearby locked ready boxes. The only weapons manned were two .50-cal machine guns, each with four hundred rounds of ammunition” (Domagalski, 2021). “Most ships were fueled to 95% of capacity and had one boiler operational to provide auxiliary power” (Loproto & Mark, 2018).

As ships and their crews sprang into action those on the Solace had

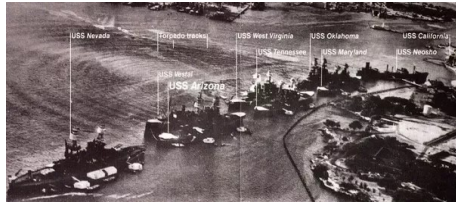
a ringside seat to watch the horrors unfolding before their eyes.

The Solace was moored approximately (100) yards from Battleship Row. According to William McAnany, a crew member of the Solace, the Japanese “were using our ship as a marker” (NELSON, 2019) . The Solace, painted in white with a large red cross on her side shined like a beacon in the smoke-filled harbor. The Japanese planes lined up above the Solace in squadron formation using her to point them directly to Battleship Row.



Battleship Row

There were (8) battleships in port that day, (6) were moored in Battleship Row. The (6) battleships moored in the row were, Nevada, Arizona, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maryland, and Oklahoma. The Nevada was attacked and suffered at least (6) bombs and (1) torpedo hits. Courageously, the crew of only junior officers managed to effectively direct the entire ship under heavy attack. Trying to escape from the danger of the harbor, the Nevada managed to build up enough steam to get underway. The movement of the Nevada immediately alerted the Japanese pilots, who were ordered to fire on any battleship attempting to leave the harbor. The Nevada’s hull was badly damaged from the attack and water began to rapidly flood the interior of the ship. The battle damage was so severe it made it difficult to maneuver and the current of the channel began to control the direction of the ship. The Japanese seized the opportunity, relentlessly bombarding the vessel with (3) bombs which struck near the bow. Realizing the Nevada was doomed, her crew decided to beach her at Hospital Point. Back on Battleship ship row the Japanese continued with their attack.



Being a Sunday, the crew of the Arizona scrambled to their battle stations however dressed and immediately came under enemy fire. The attack was led by (10) Nakajima B5N2 “Kate” torpedo bombers. These planes were equipped with 41-centimeter armor piercing shells that were modified into 797-Kilogram bombs. These bombs had the same striking power as a 16-inch shell fired from a battleship. The Japanese were deadly accurate, scoring (4) hits and (3) near misses. The last of the bombs to strike the Arizona penetrated the armor deck near the magazines which was in the forward section of the ship. What happened next was captured on film by an Army doctor from the deck of the Solace. Doctor Eric Haakenson took this picture at the precise moment the last bomb detonated on the Arizona.



The explosion was so great that it effectively broke the ship in two, releasing massive amount of fuel that covered the surface of the water. The Arizona normally carried (1548) tons of fuel oil. It was

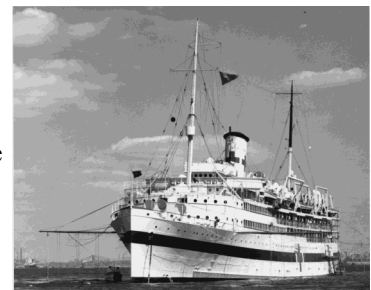
not long before the oil leaking from the Arizona began to burn, leaving the crew with little options to escape their sinking ship. The Arizona had a crew of (1512) crew members aboard, (1177) died in the explosion. Those whose survived the blast were either thrown overboard into the flaming water or were wounded, topside and awaited rescue. Moored forward of the Arizona was the USS West Virginia.

The West Virginia was hit by (7) type-91 torpedoes on her port side and a pair of 797-Kilogram bombs, which struck the ship causing secondary explosions of the ammunition stored in her casemates. Water began flooding in and the crew had to counter flood so that she slowly sank upright, settling into mud of the harbor, the crew was ordered to abandon ship. The men aboard ship had nowhere to go because fuel oil leaking from the destroyed Arizona had caught fire and engulfed the West Virginia in an inferno. Many choose to jump into the flaming sea, trying to escape to safety. Of a compliment of (1241) crewmen aboard, (106) men were killed in the attack, those who remained aboard ship joined damage control parties to save their ship or were thrown overboard.

“The battleship Oklahoma was moored just forward of the West Virginia. At the start of the attack (80) members of her crew manned the Anti-Aircraft Guns (AA) but were unable to return fire because the firing locks were in the armory” (USS Oklahoma (BB-37), 2022) . While she sat there unable to defend herself, she was hit by (3) torpedoes and immediately began to capsize. As she was rolling over, the Japanese swooped in, strafing the crew, and launching (2) more torpedoes. In less than (12) minutes the Oklahoma rolled over only halting when her caged masts struck the bottom of the harbor. Unable to save their ship, crew members from the stricken Oklahoma clambered aboard the U.S.S. Maryland and manned her anti-aircraft batteries. The attack on the Oklahoma costs the lives of (429) of the (1398) crew members aboard, some suffered for days before dying being entombed in the ship’s hull. Having witnessed the destruction unfolding before their eyes, the crew of the Solace sprang into action.

U.S.S Solace

Shortly after the start of the attack the crew of the Solace was prepared for the worst. All watertight doors were closed and the crew went to their respective battle stations. In a matter of minutes, the hospital facility was fully operational and ready to receive casualties. As stated by her Captain, Benjamin Perlman, in his official after action report; “Two motor launches were immediately dispatched with rescue parties to the Arizona, and another boat was lowered and sent on similar duty. Most capital ships in the fleet had their own medical triage facilities aboard ship and were able to treat their own wounded. It became obvious from the explosion aboard the Arizona and the damage to the West Virginia and Oklahoma would be unable to treat their own wounded, so motor launches were dispatched to assist. About 08:20 hrs. boat loads of casualties began to arrive and were at once taken care of by the medical personnel, aided by available men for the deck divisions. At



09:00 hrs. the Solace got underway, having slipped its forward and aft moorings, and shifted from berth four, near Dobbin and destroyers to berth X13 in the clear". (Action during air raid December 7, 1941; Report of., 1941) . The (2) motor launches from the Solace raced to battleship row to assist.

Solace Motor Launches

The Crew of the Solace's Motor Launches (MLs) were busy aiding the injured by making multiple trips to the stricken Arizona, West Virginia, and Oklahoma. The MLs had to make several trips to the Arizona to rescue members from what remained of the stern of the ship. After a sudden explosion aboard the West Virginia the Solace's motor launch teams turned their attention on saving members of West Virginia's crew that were forced to jump overboard trying to escape. The ML crews rushed in and were able to rescue (3) dozen men.

On their fourth trip that day, they rescued the West Virginia Executive Officer and continued to pick up injured sailors from the burning water. On one occasion a member of a launch crew dove into the burning water and saved a drowning Ensign. The fires were so intense that the hulls of both motor launches were scorched from navigating through the burning water. A Coxswain of one of the ML's had to jump into the water to put out his own burning uniform. Having witnessed the Oklahoma capsize, one of the MLs raced to assist with the rescue of sailors from the Battleship. There were not much the crew of the Solace's ML could do to help those trapped aboard the Oklahoma, when she capsized during the attack many of her crew below deck and were unable to escape. The launch stayed on station with the stricken Oklahoma until well after midnight, at which time it became apparent that nothing more could be done to assist those that were trapped below.



X-Ray Technician Bill McAnany

This brings us to the story of X-Ray Technician Bill McAnany. Being a Sunday some of the Solace's crew, including Bill, were enjoying the weekend ashore. When Bill heard of the attack on the radio, he tried to rush back to the harbor with about one thousand other sailors who were trying to get back to their respective ships. A guard noticed the medical insignias on his uniform, and Bill was dispatched to help at a temporary hospital set up on Ford Island. All indications point to Bill being assigned to the Number 2 hospital as a corpsman when he was unable to return to his ship. Mobile Base Hospital Number 2, like an Army Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) was not yet operational at the time of the attack and was rushed into service to treat the wounded. Bill's services were so valuable that he spent multiple days at the hospital before returning to his duty station aboard the Solace.



Bill, along with others from his crew, were recognized for their actions during that fateful day in December. While serving aboard the Solace, Bill also took part in the Battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, and the invasion of Guadalcanal. In 1943 William was transferred to the U.S.S Samaritan (AH10) and saw duty during the invasion of Guam, Palau, Okinawa, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. William continued to serve in the Navy during the Korean War and retired in 1958 as a Navy Chief. In 1990 Bill moved to Jefferson City Missouri, and passed away June 15, 2022, at the age of (101).

Aftermath

After the attack, a total of (132) patients were admitted and treated aboard the Solace. Unfortunately, there were (28) service men that were unable to be immediately identified because of their burns, tragically (26) later died and (2) were transferred to burn centers. Overall, seventy percent of casualties were burn cases. Some of the burns were caused by burning fuel oil and many were "flash burns" caused by "temporary but intense heat from exploding bombs." (Pearl Harbor Navy Medical Activities, 2022) Although superficial, the flash burns were quite excessive, and men exposed to flash burns had as much as eighty percent of their body surface burned. According to reports most of the burned patients who were pulled from the water when they came aboard the Solace were covered from head to foot with fuel oil. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to properly clean the oil from the burned men, so they were treated as though no oil was there, and treatments were applied over the oil. It was later determined that the extent of the burns suffered were in part determined by the amount of clothing they happen to have on during the attack. Of the men who were burned, those with the least amount of clothing were burned the worst. Being that the attack occurred on a Sunday morning, many of the crew members were off duty and not in uniform when they responded to their battle stations. In addition to burns many of the injured men had compound fractures. The medical staff did what they could to clean the wounds and set the fractures in plaster-of-paris as soon as they could. Once set, the cast was x-rayed, and the position of the bone fragments was stenciled on the cast so that it was easier to treat after they were evacuated to medical facilities. For her part, the Solace stayed at Pearl Harbor until after Christmas. Every day they would send out a couple of their motor launches to scour the harbor looking for casualties that may have floated to the surface.

Conclusion

When reading about history it is easy to think only of the number of planes shot down, ships sunk, or tanks destroyed. What often gets missed is the battle within the battle, the stories of the men and women involved in the fighting and their struggle to survive. The Medal of Honor, our highest military decoration was awarded to (16) members of our military that day, (11) of this (16) were issued posthumously. Medals of Honor were awarded to, (4) sailors from USS California, (3) from USS Arizona, (2) each from USS Nevada and USS Oklahoma, (1) each from USS Utah, USS Vestal, USS West Virginia, as well as (1) land based at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay and a Marine based at Naval Air Station Midway. The Japanese fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor also struck elsewhere in the Hawaiian Islands that day, trying to disable the U.S. Marine base on Sand Is-

land at Midway Atoll. As her name implies, the Solace, synonymous with providing comfort or consolation in a time of distress or sadness, did just that. USS Solace was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for its role at Pearl Harbor. The Solace and her crew served with distinction in every major conflict during the Pacific war and received (7) Battle stars. Of the Battleships discussed in this story only the Arizona and Oklahoma were not returned to service. The USS Arizona, now a national memorial, still leaks oil from her hull, many call these droplets floating to the surface “Black Tears” from the crew members entombed aboard the Arizona. It is said that the tears will stop when the last of her surviving crew members pass away and are able to join them aboard Arizona. It took until 1943 for the Oklahoma to be righted and was found to be too severely damaged to return to duty. The Oklahoma was lost at sea while being towed from Hawaii to San Francisco to be scrapped, her exact location remains unknown. These ships and their crews are just a few of many unsung heroes of a war that forever changed the world, our greatest generation.

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[%2C%203%20light%20cruisers%2C%20and%204%20miscellaneous%20vessels.](https://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/pearl-harbor#:~:text=Attack%20on%20Pearl%20Harbor%20On%20the%20morning%20of,battleships%2C%203%20light%20cruisers%2C%20and%204%20miscellaneous%20vessels.)

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Vietnam Vet Radio



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VIETNAM VET RADIO (vietnamvetradio.org)

8181 S 4230 RD

Chelsea, OK 74016

Contact: Bennie P. Blount

SFC, US Army, Retired

Chu Lai 1969, Long Binh 1970, Vung Tau 1971-72



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PARTY TIME!

Friday 7PM Central Time USA

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Vietnam Vet Ra



The Music You Remember and The Respect You Earned

VietnamVetRadio.org

WANTED Winter Coats

For Homeless
Veterans

October 25th - December 3rd



Have an extra coat, jacket, hat, gloves or scarf in your closet you haven't worn in a while and can spare? There's a homeless Veteran in our community who could use these items for warmth this winter. **American Legion Post 639, 639 Auxiliary, 639 Legion Riders, 639 Sons of the American Legion and VFW Post 3404** are combining forces with The Kitchen, Inc. Springfield, whose mission is to serve the homeless in our community. Drop boxes for your donations will be available at Legion Post 639 and VFW Post 3404. Collected items will be transferred to The Kitchen, Inc. for distribution to the homeless.

BE GENEROUS. THE NEED IS GREAT.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A HOMELESS VETERAN'S LIFE



**Springfield
Marine Corps
Reserve**



42nd ANNUAL

MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Corwin Ford 3241 S. Glenstone to 2788 N Packer Rd,
Springfield, MO.

12/04/2022

RAIN OR SHINE

Change of the route this year. There is no rain date
Run will leave from Corwin Ford 3241 S. Glenstone at 2:00pm
on Sunday December 4th and travel Glenstone North to Kearney Street East
to Packer Rd, and ending at 2788 N Packer Rd Prime Inc Training Center on
the right side of the street. Bring a new unwrapped toy for a donation.
This event is open to all motorcycles and riders.
The ride will take place rain, snow or shine.

Extra Special Thanks to Jerry Gray for 42 Years of Service!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- USMC, Kevin "Bear" Morgan • Corwin Ford
- Transport Graphics • American Truck and Equipment LLC
- Springfield Police Officers Assoc.
- Mustang Printing • SRC Heavy Duty • Peterbilt Truck Components
- Mark Brown of M&D Truck Repair • Heavy Duty Rebuilders
- GoR's Chemical Toilet Rental • Right Stuff Machine
- Lem's Truck & Auto Service • Nuts & Boltz
- MHC Kenworth Springfield • Classic Rock Coffee/The Riff
- BWI Sanitation • Wal-Mart • Hy-Vee • Prime, Inc.
- www.ozarksbikershop.com • Biker Wear Wholesale
- Vince Hamilton of Thompson Buick-GMC-Cadillac

After Run Parties

Veterans Post 639
2860 South Scenic

Carrie's Bar

1906 E. Meadowmere

Drunken Monkey Bar

1816 W Division St,

FREE FOOD

In Memory of Randy Worsham



Sponsors

- *Gallopig Goose M/C • El Forastero M/C • Midwest Drifters M/C
- *Vietnam Vets M/C • Hells Angels Missouri M/C • Tribe of Judah M/M
- *Boozefighters M/C • Guardians of The Children • Ozark Coca-Cola
- *Target • Elite Home Center • Honda of the Ozarks • Don and Sons Cycle
- *John L. Gilmore • In & Out Carwash • Gtrrrr County Damaged Freight

BIKERS BE THERE
Street Legal Vehicles Only

As specified in the American Legion Post 639 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 2, the proposed budget of anticipated income and expenditures for the coming fiscal year will be printed in the Post Newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the Post's fiscal year. Below is the proposed budget for fiscal 2023.

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Projected 2023</u>
Total Bar/Kitchen Income	206999.88
Bar Sales	143790.00
Food Sales	59418.84
Pizza Sales (Outside)	3791.04
Total Contributed Support	24440.64
Total Fundraising	1137.72
Total Gaming Revenue	305811.84
Total Post Revenue-ATM/Quarter	5295.00
Membership Dues	18101.76
Total Income	567939.84
Cost of Goods Sold	100376.04
Alcohol Purchases	39351.96
Food Purchases	18386.40
Kitchen/Bar Supplies	42637.68
Gross Profit	467563.80

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Projected 2023</u>
Charitable Contributions/Donations	1644.60
Total Fundraising Expenses	3942.24
Total Gaming Expenses	191808.60
Occupancy Expenses	60058.08
Total Office Expenses	7611.84
Total Payroll Expenses	78601.68
Payroll Expenses	195.24
Payroll Processing Fees	201.60
Salaries & Wages	69638.40
Taxes	8566.44
Total Professional Fees	47802.72
Total Expenses	423343.68
Net Operating Income	44220.12
Other Income (Interest)	26.40
Net Income	44246.52



Legion Post 639 Officers, 2022 - 2023

Commander	Mike Goforth	commanderlz639@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Mike Chandler	chandlermp1@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Adam Jamieson	fixxer560@yahoo.com
Adjutant	Tom Newsom	menehune66@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Frank Messley	lizzard1955@hotmail.com
Judge Advocate	Jim Cooper	mcccoop@sbcglobal.net
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Service Officer	Bob Scott	bscotttrf@gmail.com
Quartermaster	Barry Greene	ibbeg@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	rexdk10@sbcglobal.net
Historian	Bob Kalwat	rkalwat@gmail.com
Member at Large	Bob Dale	justbob94@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Darrin Dobbs	dobbster64@gmail.com



Post 639 Legion Riders Officers, 2022 - 2023

Director	Marsha Crom	mjcrom54@gmail.com
Assistant Director	Kathy Davis	kddavis258@gmail.com
Treasurer	David Turner	dbts@hotmail.com
Secretary	Bob Kalwat	rkalwat@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Mike Brooks	c130mike@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Herman Burkett	eazydime@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Will Odgen	aka_freestarr777@yahoo.com
Ride Coordinator	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Membership	Bob Kalwat	rkalwat@gmail.com



Post 639 Auxiliary Officers, 2022 - 2023

President	Diana Cooperider	dlcooperider77@gmail.com
Vice President	Terra Cooperider	tlc00011@gmail.com
Secretary	Susan Heppard	smheppard01@gmail.com
Treasurer	Hallie Scott	bscotttrf@gmail.com
Historian	Mikayla Criger	mikaylacriger@outlook.com
Chaplain	Tammi Grantham	rumtumtrans@yahoo.com
Sergeant at Arms	Charlotte Kelly	
Member at Large	Lindy Dobbs	ldobbs21@outlook.com
Member at Large	Sherry Hawk	shawk47@gmail.com



Post 639 Sons of the American Legion Officers, 2022 - 2023

Commander	Curtis Myers	curtis74myers@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Eric Duff	jhtduff@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Al Manes	akmanes7@gmail.com
Treasurer/Finance	Noel Heppard	judstadad55@gmail.com
Chaplain	Frank Grantham	rumtumtrans@yahoo.com
Adjutant/Historian	Mike House	mike@wemovebetter.com
Sergeant at Arms	Michael Schwindt	mike.schwindt80@gmail.com
Post Liaison (VFW)	Nolan Moody	nrmooddy@sbcglobal.net
Post Liaison (AL)	Justin Adamson	sfcadamson@gmail.com



Vietnam War Memorial
American Legion Post 639
2660 South Scenic Ave
Springfield, MO 65807

www.americanlegionpost639.org

(417) 882-8639

Post Hours:

Mon - Sat 11AM - 8PM

Sunday Noon - 6PM

REMEMBER

