



AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XVI No. 1

THE LEGION LETTER Jan-Feb-Mar 2005

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2005



STATEMENT OF AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER ON CONFIRMATION OF SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 27, 2004) – “On behalf of the 2.7 million men and women of The American Legion I extend my congratulations to Secretary Nicholson. A U.S. Military Academy graduate and decorated Vietnam War veteran, he served eight years as an Army Ranger and paratrooper, earning the Bronze Star and then served 22 years in the Army Reserve. An attorney, who served with distinction as the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, he is eminently qualified to assume the helm of America’s Department of Veterans Affairs.

As our military men and women combat terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Department of Veterans Affairs faces new challenges in meeting their needs as they return home. An essential part of meeting those needs is ensuring that we have an adequately funded health care system for all of America’s veterans who have answered the call of our country in past wars.

We look forward to working with Secretary Nicholson to ensure that the VA health care and benefits system remains the very best in the world. The American Legion pledges its full commitment to work with Secretary Nicholson and Congress in implementing the recommendation of the President’s Task Force on Veterans Health Care: to provide “full-funding” and provide the current comprehensive benefit in accordance with VA’s established access standards. The American Legion and eight other veterans’ service organizations agree.”

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172

OFFICERS

Commander	John Rogosky
1 st Vice Commander	Doug Swisher
2 nd Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
3 rd Vice Commander	Dave Kirby
Adjutant	VACANT
Vice Adjutant	Rich Jones
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
Service Officer	Dmytro Andriuk
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Kaufmann
Historian	Jack Hickson
National Security	Herb Nunnenkamp
Americanism	Herb Nunnenkamp

Commander's Phone (703) 481-5047
Adjutant's Phone

THE LEGION LETTER

Editor: Bob Thompson (703) 435-8377
Email: kd4fue@bellatlantic.net

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Well folks, we have taken another leap into the future with regard to our Post 184 newsletter. To save you time, the frustration of long downloads, and some much needed disk space, we are no longer sending our quarterly newsletter via the Internet. Don't worry all you computer recipients out there in "tron" land, we now have THE LEGION LETTER in Adobe format on the post web site.

<http://www.wmkal184.org>

NOTE: If your birth date is listed incorrectly, or, not listed at all, please email the correct date to the post at WMKAL184@aol.com, or, send it by mail to American Legion Post 184, P.O. Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172. →

Post 184
Electronic Mailbox
WMKAL184@aol.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGIONNAIRES



January

1st Joseph F. Haney
9th Robert Beall
11th Daniel W. Gambel, Michael E. Little
14th Harris G. Bruch
15th Gregory Deutsch, Joseph J. Eash III
16th George D. Summers
17th Scott W. Levinson
22nd Richard S. Campbell
24th James R. McLearen
25th James B. Bartley
28th Dave R. Polant
29th Robert E. Pearson

February

2nd Christopher E. Neuzil
7th Henry J. McFarland, Jr.
8th Burton E. Morrow
11th Richard A. Straser
15th Joseph N. Kamide, Paul F. Zadrozny
16th Sandy D. Mangold
17th David J. Tinkham
18th William A. Greb, Shown P. Rolfe
20th Alvin S. Bales, Jr., Gilbert L. Baron
23rd Bobby J. Thacker
24th George Barboza, Gerald E. Vandenberg
26th Shirl F. McArthur
28th Dennis J. Shea

March

1st Frank Johns, Richard F. Favley,
Thomas E. Shia
4th Robert L. Brewer, Edward J. Steinmetz,
Ted Tempel
5th Charles E. Farwell, Herbert A. Nunnenkamp
6th Walter A. Alexander, John M. Hurd
7th Roger D. Hamerlinck
9th Karen Miller
10th Jon J. Canerday
12th Nicholas A. Bemish
14th Charles M. Marts
15th Roger Blough
19th George D. Idlett
20th John M. Cuff
25th Carl A. Provencher
26th Charles L. Frame
30th Ed J. Bush

BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:
KENNETH E. NEWTON - November 2nd

**** Commanders Corner ****

1. "PARTICIPATION"

The Veterans Day activities went well, with Post membership attendance a little low because not everyone had the day off work. We placed individual small flags on veterans' graves in Herndon's Chestnut Grove and Baptist Church cemeteries, flew 30 casket flags for the semi-annual Chestnut Grove Avenue of Flags display, and held the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Herndon Veterans Memorial. Special thanks to Herndon High School JNROTC for their Honor Guard's participation in the Ceremony and with folding casket flags at the end of the day.

Our annual Christmas dinner was well attended. It was held at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern for the first time and attendees were very pleased with the menu selections, dining area and service.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

We have scheduled the Post's first disposal ceremony for unserviceable flags. The ceremony will be held at the Herndon town maintenance yard – next to the Police station – see the article on the next page for details. We need maximum membership turn out for this.

3. POST OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2005 - 2006

A selection committee was formed at the last meeting to develop a slate of members to run for Post Officers. Anyone interested in running for office, please leave a message on the Post phone answering machine **(703) 481-1200** and you'll be contacted.

4. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of February 3, 2005, our Post has attained 95% renewals for 2005!!! Only 13 more to reach 100%

National headquarters has mailed the third and last wave of 2005 notices. If you have already renewed and received your 2005 membership card, throw away redundant notices.

Renewal paperwork goes from Post 184 to the Department of Virginia and then to the National Headquarters where they update the records. It takes paperwork several weeks to

transit the whole path and that time lag is the reason extra notices get sent.

If you haven't yet received a renewal notice for 2005 please contact the Post. We have 2005 membership cards for all our 2004 members. Send the Post a \$20.00 check and your new card will be on the way. The Post will then contact National Headquarters about the "no" notice. Members NOT renewed by the end of April will be DROPPED from the rolls and THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER THEY WILL RECEIVE.

5. POST 184 TELEPHONE NUMBER

The Post telephone message center has been functioning well. You can call and leave messages for any Post officer. Any events not published in the newsletter – like the upcoming Flag Disposal Ceremony – will have information available on the answering machine so please call it weekly to hear the latest scoop. The number is **(703) 481-1200**.

6. BENEFIT PAMPHLET FOR IRAQ VETS

The American Legion has issued a "Welcome Home, Know Your Benefits" pamphlet for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans. The pamphlets are available, on request, via the Post 184 phone number, or, at the monthly Post meetings.

RELOCATING?

In an effort to keep our membership records current and accurate, it would be appreciated if you would notify the Post if you move to a new locale. This will help not only with record keeping, but will also save the post money for undeliverable newsletters.

For God and Country



Post 184 Commander

3

Post Everlasting

John 'Joe' Eaker

WORLD WAR II Veteran

(USAAF – North Africa – 1941-1945)

Native American (Creek & Apache)

January 6, 2005 (age 89)

American Legion Post 184 Flag Disposal Ceremony

We are planning a "Flag Disposal Ceremony" for **Saturday, February 19, 2005**. I suggest we have it at 4:00 PM as it is supposed to be done at night, but we all know Saturday nights can cause conflicts. The Town of Herndon has been gracious enough to allow us to hold the ceremony at the **Herndon DPW Maintenance Yard** located at **1481 Sterling Road**, just behind the Herndon Police Department. I have received the Health Department permit and have submitted the forms for the Fire Permit but have not yet received approval. We may not get our "Bonfire" permit from the Fire Marshall until the 18th as they have to send out an inspector the day before the actual fire, BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT WE WILL GET BLESSED SO WE ARE MOVING FORWARD. I did get the \$100 fee waived. We will need as many Legion Members as we can muster for this ceremony. We will need the Commander, the 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders, the Sergeant at Arms, the Chaplain, and as many members as we can get to help. **We have over 500 flags to burn!!!** I have printed and laminated the ceremony procedures and command calls and we can review them and maybe shorten some, as the ceremony is quite an ordeal if done "by the book." My son Matthew wants to play the call "To the Colors" (part of the official ceremony) and has been practicing with his trumpet every day. Commander Rogosky and myself visited and surveyed the site and believe it is a great place for this ceremony to take place.

I have not yet contacted the manager of Chestnut Grove Cemetery but will do that on Monday, February 7th. We plan to bury the ashes at Chestnut Grove.

The Town of Herndon has offered to write up a press release for the local papers and I will call and confirm that with the Town Public Information Officer on Monday, February 7th.

At our next Post 184 meeting on February 16th we should review the official rules for the flag

burning ceremony and plan a rehearsal date and time.

For God and Country,
Dave Kirby
3rd Vice Commander

TOWN OF HERNDON

P.O. Box 427
HERNDON, VIRGINIA 20172-0247
703-435-6805

November 12, 2004

Commander John Rogosky
American Legion, Post 184
PO Box 5118
Herndon, Virginia 20172-1967

Dear Commander Rogosky,

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Herndon and the Herndon Town Council, I would like to congratulate you on another memorable and moving Veterans Day Observance and express our appreciation for your efforts on behalf of our community.

The American Legion has been instrumental in planning and coordinating of many events and ceremonies to create a way of remembrance for all of our hero's, such as the "*Avenue of Flags*" flown during Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery, the building of the Veterans Memorial on the Town Green, and countless hours spent volunteering for other events in our community.

Again, we appreciate all your efforts and the Legion's active involvement and valuable contributions to the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

Michael L. O'Reilly

Michael L. O'Reilly
Mayor

c. Members of the Herndon Town Council
Stephen F. Owen, Town Manager
(Printed verbatim from original letter)

**VETERANS DAY "AVENUE OF FLAGS"
AMERICAN LEGION POST 184
November 11, 2004
Chestnut Grove Cemetery**



Almighty God, giver of all victories, we thank You for the opportunities which abide in our land, for Your guidance in the hour of peril and Your tender love in times of need. Help us to remember with reverence the valor and devotion of our departed comrades; not only those whose bodies consecrate our Country's soil, but also those who sleep beyond the seas, and those others whose resting places will not be known until the last day when the deep will have given up its dead. O God, teach us to honor them by ever cherishing the ideals for which they fought. Keep us steadfast in the cause of human rights and liberties, of law and order and true Americanism. Give us the power to see, and the will to do the ideal for which our comrades died. May Your merciful blessings rest upon those they left behind. Keep us forever firm in righteousness, humble of heart, and unselfish in purpose. Amen *(Post Chaplain)*

POST EVERLASTING

**American Legion Post 184
Historical Listing**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1-Robert M. Coffelt | 2-Jesse H. Hopkins |
| 3-Raymond T. Snyder | 4-Milton H. Hoffman |
| 5-Raymond E. Crosby | 6-Alfred O. Jenner |
| 7-V. Webster Magee | 8-Joseph W. Smith |
| 9-William King | 10-Cecil W. Tribble |
| 11-Delroy B. Gochnauer | 12-Donald Ankeny |
| 13-Edward W. McKulshy | 14-George L. Wallace, Jr. |
| 15-Jack R. Long | 16-Lester D. Fitzgerald |
| 17-George R. Cusson | 18-Oscar J. Downes |
| 19-Christopher P. Peeke | 20-Julian Goldberger |
| 21-Wilmer I Keppler | 22-Wayne A. Gochenour |
| 23-James R. Mitchell | 24-William P. Shanley |
| 25-Robert E. Bruner | 26-John D. Catron |

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 27-Thomas F. Harrison | 28-Francis J. Dutton |
| 29-Raymond J. Moreau | 30-Robert A. Sweatt |
| 31-Leo N. Brubaker | 32-Robert H. Beese |
| 33-Walter L. O'Brien | 34-Peter N. Trygstad |
| 35-William J. McNealy | 36-Alfred B. Fehlmann |
| 37-Randolph J. Provost | 38-James L. Wallbeoff |
| 39-Edmund B. Jenkins | 40- John 'Joe' Eaker |

HONOR ROLL

**Years of Service
American Legion Post 184
Historical Listing**

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Donald T. Meyer – 54 | William A. Greb – 52 |
| John M. Cuff – 39 | John A. Hvozdovic – 36 |
| Dennis J. Shea – 26 | Gregory Deutsch – 23 |
| Norman D. Messman – 21 | Dmytro Andriuk – 20 |
| Joseph R. Hyer – 20 | Robert P. Jensen – 20 |
| Harold G. Oakes – 20 | Bobby J. Thacker – 20 |
| Edwin P. Geesey – 19 | Leonard A Lambert – 19 |
| Joseph H. Schvimmer – 19 | Jay R. Shaffer – 19 |
| Elmo D. Gadd – 18 | Dennis D. Husch – 18 |
| James R. McLearn – 18 | Robert A. Serveiss – 18 |
| Paul F. Zadrozny – 18 | Adolph M. Essigmann – 17 |
| Charles L. Frame – 17 | Daniel W. Gambel – 17 |
| Joseph F. Haney – 17 | Ron L. Herron – 17 |
| Jack D. Hickson – 17 | John R. Kirk, Sr. – 17 |
| Kenneth E. Newton – 17 | Wendell T. Pugh – 17 |
| Rex R. Roller – 17 | Glenn A Stroup – 17 |
| William B. Tirrell, Sr. – 17 | John W. Walsh – 17 |
| Terrell F. Waters – 17 | Angelo Wider – 17 |
| Alvin S. Bales, Jr. – 16 | George A Bratina – 16 |
| Hardy F. Cofield – 16 | William R. Davin – 16 |
| Leonard A Dillman – 16 | Frank K. Elkins – 16 |
| Leslie K. Gallipo – 16 | Gordon E. Joslyn – 16 |
| George N. Key – 16 | Pinckney A. Lynch, Jr. – 16 |
| Ronald L. Marshall – 16 | Robert J. May – 16 |
| Edmund R. Neach – 16 | Frank E. Owens – 16 |
| Richard F. Pavley – 16 | Edward Reiff – 16 |
| David A Voorhees – 16 | F. Dale Williams – 16 |
| Gilbert L. Baron – 15 | Kevin C. Chiaravalle – 15 |
| Richard L. Deason – 15 | Jacob R. Epprecht, Jr. – 15 |
| Roger D. Hamerlinck – 15 | Allen M. Kanak – 15 |
| James S. Loftus, Jr. – 15 | Charles D. McGuire – 15 |
| James E. Parks – 15 | Willie L. Ruff – 15 |

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT

2005 Spring Conference

March 18-20, 2005 - Virginia Beach Resort,
Virginia Beach. Registration: \$78.00

The American Legion – Local, State and National News

When the Stars Come Out at WRAMC

“On 14 December the 25th Infantry Division Association and the Armed Forces Foundation held a “Welcome Home party” for the wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. At WRAMC, the Army’s top medical facility, the stars are doctors, nurses and a few well-known patients. Some of the best surgeons in the country and many top-flight nurses work at WRAMC. For the hospital outreach team from the 25th IDA and the AFF, the stars are the patients. And rightly so. These patients are a new generation of American heroes, warriors for freedom, soldiers in the global war on Terror. Many have become somewhat like folk heroes, as hundreds of Americans learn of their injuries, pray for them, learn of their courage, and follow the progress of their recovery. And the stars came out. These were not like Hollywood “stars” who are popular because they were born beautiful and have graced the silver screen to entertain us. These are stars who put themselves in harms way to ensure Freedom and liberty do not perish. They know some things are worth fighting for. They put their lives on the line so we can live in luxury and exercise whatever freedoms we wish in the greatest country on earth. We are grateful for all these stars These men and women!”

(Joe Finch, Service Officer, Centreville American Legion Post 1995, “*The Centreville Defender*,” January 2005)

Library of Virginia Seeking Your War-related Materials

“The Library of Virginia is seeking your help in telling the stories of Virginians who served their country at home and abroad during America’s 20th century wars and military actions. Help the Library of Virginia preserve your story for future generations and honor those Virginians who have served our nation by donating materials concerning their service. They ask for your help in preserving and making available the permanent records of those who fought and both those who supported the war effort and protested these wars. History begins with you. Those who fought in America’s 20th century wars have a rich and vital story, as do those who opposed these wars or served as conscientious objectors. Your records will join the extensive records already available at the Library documenting the lives of Virginians across four centuries. These items will be made available to visitors, students, scholars and researchers.

“We want Virginians to know that those family letters, diaries, scrapbooks, ration books, discharges and photographs would all have a welcome and honored place at the Library of Virginia,” said State Archivist Conley L. Edwards III. Please contact the Library of Virginia at (804) 692-3795 if you would like to discuss donating any war-related materials.”
(“17th District Communicator,” Vol. 6, No. 3, page 1, Jan/Feb 2005)

Congressman Continues Support for U.S. Stamp Honoring John Basilone

“Congressman James P. Moran has announced his continuing support for a Resolution to express the House of Representative’s support for a stamp honoring Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. This legislation was referred to the House Committee on Government Reform during the 108th Congress but no action was taken during that session. Similar legislation is expected to be reintroduced during the 109th session. “As the first recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded in World War II, and the only enlisted Marine in that war to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart, John Basilone is deserving of the honor of gracing a U.S. Postal Stamp,” said Moran. Legion members are urged to contact their Congressmen and Senators urging them to take action on a Resolution during this congressional session.”

(“17th District Communicator,” Vol. 6, No. 3, page 3, Jan/Feb 2005)

‘Angels of America’ Flights Free

“Here’s a resource that you may or may not be aware of Angels of America (www.angelflightamerica.org). This is a non-profit organization that provides FREE flights to patients who may live in a rural area and can’t afford to get to a larger medical facility for treatment. The expenses are paid for by donations and volunteers. You can contact them at 1-800-446-1231. You still have the issue of getting the patient from the airport to the medical facility. For example: a patient on chemo lives in a rural area and needs to get to a large medical facility a few hours away for treatment 1 day each week and he can’t have the treatment done at a local facility. They will fly him to the appointment every week. They will also fly a family member with him if he can’t fly alone. They also have Compassionate Flights for family members. For example: A patient is at a larger medical facility and his wife needs to remain home with the children and can’t afford to get to the larger medical facility that is a few hours away. This organization would fly the wife to visit her husband. They also want to extend this service to immediate family members of injured soldiers who can’t afford to visit the soldier. This has been more of an issue for the family/patient at the TBI or SCI rehab centers, since the families often do not live in the immediate area. They have also flown veterans to the blind rehab centers. **THESE SERVICES ARE BASED ON NEED AND INCOME** however they do review each case individually.”

(“The 17th District Communicator,” Vol. 6, No. 3, page 3, Jan/Feb 2005)

The American Legion – State and National News (continued)

New Website Provides Easier Access to Health Benefits Facts

“Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that a new re-engineered health eligibility Internet web site was launched on January 10, 2005. This site, which is located at www.va.gov/healtheligibility, is VAs authorized source on the Internet for information on veterans health benefits eligibility. Designed with the veteran in mind, the site provides easy access to VAs comprehensive health benefits, eligibility and enrollment information. Users attempting to access the current site, www.va.gov/elig, will be provided the new URL and automatically redirected to the new address.”

(“17th District Communicator,” Vol. 6, No. 3, page 5, Jan/Feb 2005)

Vets Groups United in Call for Full Funding of VA Health Care

WASHINGTON (Jan. 19, 2005) – Representing more than 7 million military veterans, The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars today reaffirmed their unanimous support for fully funding the veterans health care system. The organizations are members of the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform.

The three largest veterans organizations firmly believe that veterans have earned the right to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care through their extraordinary sacrifices and service to this nation. Yet, each year funding levels must be determined through an annual appropriations process that is fundamentally broken. Year after year, veterans have fought for sufficient funding for VA health care and a realistic budget that reflects the rising cost of health care and increasing need for medical services. Despite these continued efforts, the cumulative effects of insufficient health care funding have resulted in the rationing of medical care.

“The nation’s highest priority is national defense. VA health care is an ongoing cost of war. Every veteran answered the nation’s call to arms without reservation. As wartime veterans, Legionnaires understand the importance of the VA health care system. Short-changing VA health care is short-changing every military veteran from Bunker Hill to Baghdad. America’s veterans are not expendable and should never be treated as such,” said American Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus.

“Especially during this time of war, fully providing for the needs of this nation’s past, present and future defenders is more than a mere contract between this government and its people, it is a moral obligation. No veteran must ever be denied VA health care or benefits for want of federal funding,” said VFW Commander-in-Chief John Furgess.

“What’s needed is a mechanism that will guarantee adequate annual budgets to meet the health care needs of America’s sick and disabled veterans, a move supported by all the major veterans organizations,” said DAV National Commander James E. Sursely. “We must eliminate the year-to-year uncertainty about funding levels that has prevented the VA from being able to adequately plan for and meet the constantly growing needs of veterans seeking treatment.”

Millions of veterans have made the VA their first choice for health care because of the quality of the care they receive. And for many others, the VA is their only health care lifeline.

For the third year in a row, the veterans health care system has had to struggle along for months at the previous year’s inadequate funding level because Congress has failed to deliver a timely appropriations bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, our nation’s veterans have been denied timely access to necessary VA health care. And the outlook isn’t any better for the thousands-and potentially tens of thousands- of our men and women when they return from Afghanistan, Iraq and the global war on terror, when you consider that they will need care from the VA for decades to come.

This national crisis is well documented by, among others, the President’s Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation’s Veterans. In its final report released in May 2003, the task force identified a significant mismatch between demand for VA services and available funding which, if left unresolved, would delay veterans’ access to care and threaten the quality of care provided. To resolve this intolerable situation, the task force recommended the federal government provide full funding for veterans health care through modifications to the current budget and appropriations process, by using a mandatory funding mechanism or by some other changes to achieve the desired goal.

Guaranteed full funding for the VA health care system is not about politics; it is a realization that taking care of America’s sick and disabled veterans is a continuing cost of national defense.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY, pledged to service “for God and Country,” has continually emphasized the spiritual foundations of our Freedom. It believes that a spiritual awakening of the people of the United States is needed in order to preserve this Freedom. To that end The American Legion has launched and is continuing a nation-wide effort to bring all Americans closer to the Creator who has so bountifully blessed this country. This “Back to God” emphasis urges three things: 1. Regular Church or Synagogue attendance, 2. Daily family prayer and Scripture reading, and 3. The religious education of children. A NATION THAT WALKS WITH GOD NEED FEAR NO MAN.

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SHOW YOUR COLORS

Display your Flag !!

Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 12th

President's Day
Feb 21st

Armed Forces Day
May 21st

Memorial Day
May 30th (Observed)

NEXT 3 MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar
3rd Wednesday 7:30 – 8:30 PM

February 16th

March 16th

April 20th

Meetings held on the 1st Floor of the
Herndon Moose Lodge
Center Street
Herndon, VA