

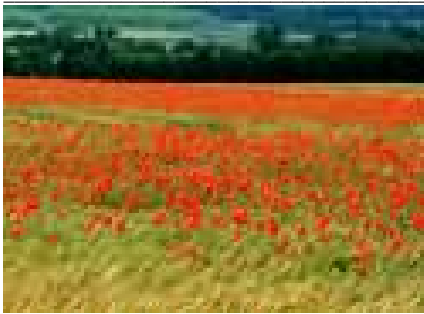
AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XVIII No. 2 THE LEGION LETTER Apr-May-Jun 2007



“In Flanders Fields”

remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written. It is a lasting legacy of the terrible battle in the Ypres salient in the spring of 1915. Although he had been a doctor for years, it was impossible to get used to the suffering, the screams, and the blood here, and Major John McCrae had seen and heard enough in his dressing station to last him a lifetime.



As a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, Major McCrae, who had joined the McGill faculty in 1900 after graduating from the University of Toronto, had spent seventeen days treating injured men --- Canadians, British, Indians, French and Germans --- in the Ypres salient.

It had been an ordeal that he had hardly thought possible. McCrae later wrote of it: “I wish I could embody on paper some of the varied sensations of that seventeen days. Seventeen days of Hades! At the end of the first day if anyone had told us we had to spend seventeen days there, we would have folded our hands and said it could not have been done.”

One death particularly affected McCrae. A young friend and former student, Lieut. Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, had been killed by a shell burst on 2 May 1915. Lieutenant Helmer was buried later that day in the little cemetery outside McCrae’s dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

The next day, sitting on the back of an ambulance parked near the dressing station beside the Canal de l’Yser, just a few hundred yards north of Ypres, McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook.

A young soldier watched him write it. Cyril Allinson, a twenty-two year old sergeant-major, was delivering mail that day when he spotted McCrae. The major looked up as Allinson approached, then went on writing while the sergeant-major stood there quietly. “His face was very tired but calm as he wrote,” Allinson recalled. “He looked around from time to time, his eyes straying to Helmer’s grave.”

When McCrae finished five minutes later, he took his mail from Allinson and, without saying a word, handed his pad to the young NCO. Allinson was moved by what he read: “The poem was an exact description of the scene in front of us both. He used the word blow in that line because the poppies actually were being blown that morning by a gentle east wind. It never occurred to me at that time that it would ever be published. It seemed to me just an exact description of the scene.”

In fact, it was very nearly not published. Dissatisfied with it, McCrae tossed the poem away, but a fellow officer retrieved it and sent it to newspapers in England. *Punch* published it on 8 December 1915.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918)
Canadian Army

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
 Between the crosses row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.**

Text: “The McLean Legionnaire,” Vol. XX, No. 5, May 2007

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172

OFFICERS

Commander	Dave Kirby
1 st Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
2 nd Vice Commander	Harlon Reece
Adjutant	John Rogosky
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
Service Officer	Dmytro Andriuk
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Sanders
Historian	Bob Thompson
National Security	-- vacant --
Americanism	-- vacant --
Public Relations	-- vacant --

Commander's Phone	(703) 481-6189
Adjutant's Phone	(703) 481-5047
Post 184 Phone	(703) 481-1200

THE LEGION LETTER

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

**PROPOSED SLATE OF
OFFICERS FOR 2007/2008**

Commander	---- open ----
1 st Vice Commander	Harlon Reece
2 nd Vice Commander	Eric Claunch
Adjutant	Jim Fritz
Vice Adjutant	---- open ----
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
Service Officer	Dmytro Andriuk
Sergeant at Arms	---- open ----
Historian	Bob Thompson
National Security	---- open ----
Americanism	---- open ----
Public Relations	John McMonigle

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



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
LEGIONNAIRES**



April 4th Leslie K. Gallipo
6th Elwood White
8th Alberto B. Villarreal, Michael M. Jacobs
9th Jerome A. Geary, John S. Ward
10th James S. Loftus, Jr.
13th Stanley A. Kachel, Robert W. Mullenger,
Geoffrey Schelhorn
15th Jerry L. Mullins
16th Thomas E. Kellner
18th Ryan Washington
19th Harold G. Oakes
20th Alice Baker, Frank K. Elkins,
William L. Sickenberger
21st Barbara J. Metz
30th John C. Herge

May 1st Martin L. Kennebeck
2nd Kevin C. Chiaravalle, John R. Kirk, Sr.
4th David A. Kirby, Kenneth L. Wuelzer
6th Robert A. Shawn
11th Norman D. Eiben, Frederic A. Lombardo
12th Adrian Pelzner
14th William B. Tirrell, Sr.
15th Roy F. Perkins, Jr., Robert J. May
16th Stuart A. Crown
18th Randy Ashby, Ted T. Crites
20th Joseph R. Hyer, Phillip G. Urban
22nd Norman D. Messman
24th Greg Wymard
25th John Sylvester
26th Richard L. Harlow, Edward Reiff
27th John A. Hvozdovic
29th Edmund R. Neach
30th James H. Godsey, Jr.,
31st Daniel D. Gillespie, Terrel F. Waters

June 3rd Paul Vandenberg
6th Robert J. Riendeau
8th Richard L. Deason
10th Ronald A. Butler
17th Theodore Lecour
18th Melville J. Appell
19th Anthony C. Gaudio, Patricia A. Janes
20th Glenn A. Stroup
21st Rex R. Roller, Ronald Sanders, Jr.
23rd Roger S. Busch
24th Robert D. Debner, Adolph M. Essigmann
27th Chris Andrews
28th Charles D. McGuire
29th John W. Walsh

****COMMANDER'S CORNER****



It's that time of the year once again. Memorial Day weekend (May 26 – May 28) kicks off our biggest fund raising time of the year. Right behind Memorial Day is the Herndon Festival (May 31 –

June 3) where we will be selling our famous snow cones. We are calling our membership for volunteers to help out with the Memorial Day Weekend Poppy Campaign and snow cone sales at the Festival. We also need volunteers for marshal duty at the festival too as this is how we “pay” our entry fee. We have four Giant Food Stores that have given us permission to pass out poppies and take donations. Unfortunately Trader Joe's in Reston has denied our request at their store this year. If you haven't been called to volunteer yet and would like to give three, four or more hours of your time to these great causes, please call me at home at 703-481-6189 and I will add your name to which ever available dates and times are best for you. If you're going out of town over Memorial day weekend, then you can still volunteers for our snow cone sales or to be a Marshal at the Herndon Festival. In past years we have raised over \$10,000 during these events. These donations are distributed to the various Veterans Hospitals in the area and to other veteran organizations.

Post 184 officer nominations are still being sought. We decided at our last meeting to extend the present Officers an extra month so we can talk to those who come out over the Memorial Day weekend or the Herndon Festival and see if anyone would want to consider being nominated for an Officer position including Post Adjutant, and Post Commander. The present cadre of Officers have given their time and have been loyal to the post for several years. It's time to get some “new blood” and to give those who have served a well deserved rest. So please consider stepping up to the plate and become active in your post's activities by agreeing to be nominated for a Post Officer position.

For God and Country

David Kirby

Post 184 Commander

****ADJUTANT'S CORNER****

I am retiring and relocating to Ohio in the near future and wish to thank the Post members and Officers for their comradeship and assistance during my terms as Commander and Adjutant.

It is very important for members to take part in our Post's various events and activities. But it is vital to have Officers to organize and lead those events.

Post 184 is being carried by the involvement of just a handful of our members. There are 10 active members leading activities or being Officers – out of 250+ members.

As the active members retire, relocate or pass away, the Post is in danger of dissolving - unless additional members become active in the Post.

Your American Legion Post needs candidates for Post Officer positions. Most positions do not require a large amount of time.

All Post members are encouraged to take part in our annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day activities, the Poppy Campaign and the Sno Cone sales. Besides those activities an average of 2 hours a month will fulfill the responsibilities of all Officer positions, except for those of Commander or Adjutant.

The Commander represents the Post at District 17 (Fairfax County Posts) meetings, presents JrNROTC awards and has other ceremonial duties which add about 2 more hours a month for an average of 4 hours per month.

The Adjutant's function is quite similar to that of Company Clerk. Processing mail and membership materials, doing reports, etc., which takes an average of 10 hours a month.

Please attend the next meeting and volunteer to be an Officer.

For God and Country

John Rogosky

Post 184 Adjutant

ATTENTION “SNOWBIRDS” & “SUNBIRDS”

If you are a “Snowbird” and wing your way south in the winter, or, if you are a “Sun Bird” and hit the byways north in summer, then please let your post know. If you'll provide your additional addresses then we can make sure that you get every issue of the newsletter “on time” so that you can be aware of all Post 184 happenings. Send this information to the post address on the back of this newsletter or call the post Adjutant at the number listed in the staff block on page 2

HELP YOUR LEGION GROW!

When you're talking to folks out there see if any of them are Veterans. If so then tell them about the benefits of being a legionnaire, and, what we do for our fellow veterans who are resident in our VA hospitals. The American Legion needs new members in order to grow in strength and to continue to provide for our fellow veterans and their families. Give them this form and help them to complete it, then have them mail it in with a copy of their current orders or a copy of their DD214 to:

AL Post 184, PO box 5118, Herndon VA, 20172.

American Legion Post 184 Membership Application

(Name) _____

(Mailing Address) _____

(City/State/Zip) _____

(Phone #) _____

(Email address) _____

(Date of Birth) _____

(Date) _____

Dues \$26 year ----- Currently Serving: 1st year FREE

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below:

Aug.2, 1990-cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Govt.

Dec.20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990

Aug.24, 1982-July 31, 1984

Dec.22, 1961-May 7, 1975

June 25, 1950-Jan.31, 1955

Dec.7, 1941-Dec.31, 1946

April 6, 1917-Nov.11, 1918

U.S. Army

U.S. Navy

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Coast Guard

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

(Applicant Signature) _____

Name of Recruiter: _____

Upcoming Events at the Washington, D.C.

VA Medical Center

June 2, 2007 (Saturday)

WELCOME HOME celebration

September 14, 2007 (Friday)

Summer cookout at the CNRC

BOYS & GIRLS STATE

Our post is once again sponsoring four local high school students as delegates to the Virginia Boys State and Girls State programs. This Year Boys State will be held at Liberty University and Girls State will be held at Longwood University. The delegates are:

Boys State

David A. Eaddy --- Herndon High School
Matthew G. Sipe --- Herndon High School

Girls State

Melina Kontos --- Herndon High School
Laura Dillon --- South Lakes High School

MEMORIAL DAY 2007

(Chestnut Grove Cemetery)

May 25th (Friday)

8:00 AM --- grave flags in place, Avenue of Flags poles in place

May 28th (Monday)

7:00 AM --- set up Avenue of Flags (weather permitting)

10:00 AM --- Memorial Day ceremony

6:00 PM --- take down Avenue of Flags

May 29th (Tuesday)

8:00 AM --- pick up grave flags (May 30th "rain day")

HOW ABOUT SOME AVIATION HUMOR?

--- A student pilot became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, "What was your last known position?" The student answered: "When I was number one for takeoff."

--- A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touchdown. The San Jose Tower noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the light and return to the airport."

---Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries.

Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184
Meeting Minutes
February/March/April 2007

(condensed and combined)

Memorial Day:

Friday, May 25, 8:00am - put out veteran grave flags at Chestnut Grove and mount poles for Avenue of Flags.

Monday, May 28, 7:00am - raise Avenue of Flags.

Monday, May 28, 10:00am - Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. If construction is not complete, to be moved to a different location within the cemetery. Harlon Reece, Post 184 2nd Vice Commander, has accepted the invitation to be our guest speaker.

Monday, May 28, 6:00pm - lower Avenue of Flags.

Tuesday, May 29, 8:00am - collect grave flags weather permitting. Rain date is Wednesday, May 30.

Poppies:

William G. Wright Sr. will lead the 2007 Poppy Campaign and has 5,500 Poppies on hand

Email and phone calls are in progress to sign-up volunteers for Saturday, 26 May – Monday, 29 May.

Volunteer's to receive (3'x5') flags - one per household.

Sno-Cones:

During Herndon Festival: Thursday, 31 May – Sunday, 3 June. We will rent a second ice machine.

Email and phone calls are in progress to sign-up volunteers. Prices will increase to \$2 each – 3 for \$5. New signs will be purchased. Trailer had tongue jack and entry door replaced for safer operations.

Finance Committee Report:

As of the April meeting there was \$626.66 in checking and \$8,900+ in building fund CDs.

Avenue of Flags report:

Two (2) Veterans were buried in Chestnut Grove during the months of February–April 2007.

Flag Pole holes have been placed for the new 2" poles thanks to a project led by Eagle Scout Candidate Josh Feltz.

Commander Kirby picked up the Casket Flag of Angel C. Castro - which is # 40 for our Avenue of Flags.

Commander presented Avenue of Flags picture and plaque to Town to mount in the new cemetery administration building. Cemetery Manager Mike Moore has offered to include our Avenue of Flags brochure in all follow-up letters to family of veterans interred at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Flag Disposal:

12 boxes (and 5 from the Town) were disposed of in a Ceremony on Friday, May 11, 2007.

Mike Moore, Chestnut Grove Cemetery Manager, has suggested we do our Flag Disposal Ceremonies at the cemetery and will be installing a cremation vault for the flag ashes (cotton only). This would be a much better setting for the ceremony and the Commander will follow up for Fire Marshal approval.

Books for Veterans:

William G. Wright Sr. has made 2 deliveries in the last 2 months.

Reston Library has donated several boxes from their semi-annual sale in April.

Membership:

2007 campaign has Post goal of 252. As of press time we're THERE – 100% of goal.

We still have 22 unrenewed 2006 members – they received a final notice in their copy of this newsletter.

New Post members since January - Carol Elstad, Ellwood White, John McMonigle & Kevin Dresdner.

New PUFL's since January - Edward Steinmetz.

Boys/Girls State:

Post is sending 2 boys and 2 girls total between Herndon and South Lakes HS.

Good of the Legion:

Post provided NJROTC medals and certificates for presentation at HHS Change of Command Ceremony May 11th.

25th anniversary ceremony for Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be held May 20th. Donated new flag for Moose Lodge.

July 12-15, 2007 - Department Convention, Fairview Marriott Hotel, Falls Church. \$92.00 registration fee.

District 17 will be holding a golf tournament (\$50 per player) and BBQ on July 7, 2007 for the Department Conference.

See Post web page for details. Dulles Airport USO has opened at the baggage level close to International Flights terminal. Members are encouraged to visit and volunteer.

Eagle Scout candidates to present project overviews at the next meeting:

Skylar Syre - Veterans plot mapping project

Roger Bailey - Veterans history project

The American Legion – National News

Message to America: Respect Memorial Day

INDIANAPOLIS (May 15, 2007) - Here is a surprise; I am not going to defend the Iraq war. I won't even explain the importance of the war on terrorism. VA budget? Not today. That's because this column is about Memorial Day, a hallowed day that should be about honoring the more than one million men and women who died in service of this nation in wars and conflicts dating back to 1775. It should be above politics. Period.

Yet one presidential candidate has blatantly violated the sanctity of this most special day. I recently received an e-mail from a group called "Supportthetroopsendthewar.com." It included a video of former Sen. John Edwards. He calls on Americans to use Memorial Day weekend as a time to "bring an end to this war." Shockingly, the video is titled "A Memorial Day Message from John Edwards," with the smoking gun note, "Paid for by John Edwards for President." Moreover, the e-mail recommends that Americans bring signs with the message "Support the troops, End the War" to local Memorial Day parades. Revolting is a kind word for it. It's as inappropriate as a political bumper sticker on an Arlington headstone.

Edwards is hardly the first politician from either political party to exploit this day, a holiday that was consecrated with the blood of American heroes. But the e-mail makes me sick nonetheless. It needs to stop. This isn't about Edwards, it's about everybody. As national commander of The American Legion, I implore all candidates to refrain from politicking on Memorial Day.

The families of those killed in war should not be led to believe that their loved ones died for a less-than-worthy cause. They died because they took an oath to defend this nation and it's Constitution. The sacrifice is the same whether it's for a "popular war" or an unpopular one.

Memorial Day should be an occasion to bring Americans together to honor these heroes. It brings to mind the words of Army Sergeant First Class Jack Robison, who recently wrote from Iraq, "Sometimes I think God must be creating an elite unit in heaven, because He only seems to select the very best soldiers to bring home early."

If you want to honor these heroes, visit a veterans' cemetery on Memorial Day. Attend a parade without the divisive political signs. Make cards for the comrades of the fallen that are recuperating in military and VA hospitals. Lay a wreath at the stone of a departed hero.

We Americans need to remember why Memorial Day is special. It's not about picnics or trips to the beach. It's not about making pro- or anti-war statements. It's not about supporting political candidates. It's about honor, duty and the ultimate sacrifice. It's about people who have decided that the United States is worth dying for.

(Paul A. Morin of Chicopee, Mass. is national commander of The American Legion)

Legion Remains Steadfast on War Supplemental

Washington, DC (May 17, 2007) – Although Congress seems somewhat confused as to the details of the Emergency Defense Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2007, The American Legion stands adamantly behind its Resolution 169 – Full Support for the Global War on Terror.

How can there be any confusion on whether or not to fund the troops, the military commanders on the ground, and the Commander in Chief by a nation at war?" asks Paul A. Morin, national commander of The American Legion. "Congress voted and approved the time to play political games with funding for those placed in harm's way," he said. "The nation faces many, many funding decisions for FY 2008, but there is no fiscal obligation more important than sustaining a strong national defense," Morin said. "Not funding the Global War on Terror is shameful. The very men and women doing their jobs in the Middle East expect elected officials in the Hall of Congress to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities to 'provide for the common defense (sic), 'raise and support Armies,' and provide and maintain a Navy.'"

Right now budgetary shortfalls in Afghanistan and Iraq will be covered by taking money away from other defense accounts – once again asking the military to make more sacrifices while members of Congress and their families make plans to enjoy another peaceful recess," Morin points out. "Many of these elected officials will participate in Memorial Day services in their local communities and pay tribute to the heroic men and women that made the ultimate sacrifice."

"There is no greater way to honor these patriots than making sure their comrades still on duty have the resources they need to complete their military missions." The American Legion continues its call for passage of the Emergency Defense Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2007 that funds the on-going costs of war but without timelines attached designed to determine the prosecution of the Global War on Terror.

Founded in 1919, the 2.7 million-member American Legion is the nation's preeminent service organization for veterans of the U.S. armed forces, including active duty, National Guard and Reserves, and their families. A powerful voice for veterans in Washington, The American Legion drafted the original GI Bill and was instrumental in establishing the agency that today is the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Released by: Public Relations Division, The American Legion, Washington, D.C.)

[The American Legion – National News](#)

[Partnership provides travel benefits for Legionnaires](#)

American Legion Travel is the premier travel service for The American Legion. It's a unique partnership between The American Legion and nuTravel, Inc. and is designed to provide American Legion members and their families with exclusive leisure travel benefits both online and through travel agents.

nuTravel is a leading leisure travel company that provides benefits and discounts to its customers with supreme service and savings for all their travel needs. Through the partnership, American Legion Travel provides its members with a benefit that includes booking flights, hotels, rental cars, vacation packages and cruises for both personal and business travel needs. Travel to anywhere in the world; members can take advantage of deals to vacation spots like Mexico, the Caribbean, Europe or even Australia. With the addition a partnership with Club Med Vacations, members can save up to 30 percent on a Club Med Vacation. To find out more about the Club Med Vacation benefit, log on to The American Legion Travel site at www.AmericanLegionTravel.com or call our Club Med Specialist at (914) 848-4566, ext. 40.

American Legion Travel has become an easy way for members and their families to find the best bargains to plan their travel, whether online or through our live travel agents. Today, this service is available to an estimated number of 2.7 million American Legion member households, and a percentage of the income generated goes to support American Legion member benefit programs.

American Legion Travel guarantees that you'll get the best price every time. If you book a trip and find a better price elsewhere for the exact same trip within 24 hours, you will be refunded the difference. The Best Price Guarantee is available to travelers who have booked travel on or after Jan. 15, 2007. To find out more information about the terms of this guarantee, please log on to www.AmericanLegionTravel.com and click the price-guarantee link.

Visit www.AmericanLegionTravel.com or call (800) 676-1004 to speak to a travel specialist.

("The American Legion Dispatch," Vol. 16, No. 8, April 20, 2007, page5)

[The American Legion – State & Local News](#)

[World War II Tours - 2007](#)

Visit France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. WWII veteran Dr. Brooks Ranney and his wife Vi have dedicated their (retired) lives to escorting veterans, families and friends back to the great battlefields of Europe. Next summer they have two departures planned. The June 4 departure is a twelve day four-star tour which will celebrate the 63rd anniversary of D-Day on the Beaches of Normandy. Other places of interest in France are St. Mere Eglise, Pointe du Hoc, St. Lo, Rheims, and several cemeteries and museums. Other tour highlights are the American Cemetery where General Patton is buried near Luxembourg City, two days spent in The Battle of the Bulge area, and then into Germany with highlight cities of Heidelberg and Nurnburg included. We will also visit the Buchenwald Concentration camp near Weimar. The August 25th departure is a 10 day economy tour similar to the June tour. For more information on how veterans, family and friends may join the tour, please call the Ranney's at 605-665-3596 or email them at: viranney@mchsi.com. Let is know if you are interested in a WWII Sicily/Italy/tour.

("Virginia Legionnaire," February/March 2007, pages 1 & 6)

[Give Back to Those Who Give it All](#)

The Military Channel and Military.com have joined forces to create "Reconnect America," a nationwide program that makes it easy for you to show your support for the men and women of our Armed Forces. Together, we can join forces to say "thanks" in ways that matter most. Several non-profit organizations including the Fisher House and the Armed Services YMCA are doing great work for our troops. Go to: <http://reconnectamerica.com/giveback/> and click on any of the links to learn more and lend a hand.

("The Post Times," Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, February 2007, page 5)

[Have You Ever Stayed at a Navy Lodge?](#)

A place you might wish to consider staying when traveling or on a vacation is one of the Navy Lodge facilities. Located in 18 States (including Hawaii) and the District of Columbia, (there are seven facilities in Virginia, Maryland and DC) as well as six overseas in Italy, Japan and Spain (and there's one at Guantanamo Bay if you want to go there). Navy Lodge is available for leisure or official travel to all Active and Reserve Component and retired personnel and their families, and DOD personnel and their families if they are on PCS or TDY status. The Lodges offer a very complete range of amenities, and every room has a kitchenette. Rates are remarkably low – only three locations in the US charge more than \$80 per night (and that's during the height of the season). For more information go to www.navy-lodge.com/, or call 1-800-NAVYINN.

("The Post Times," Dyer-Gunnrell Pos 180, February 2007, page 5)

[The American Legion – State & Local News](#)

Cruise Control Safety?

A 36 year old female had an accident several weeks ago that totaled her car. She was traveling while it was raining, though not excessively, when her car suddenly began to hydroplane and literally flew through the air. She was not seriously injured but very stunned at the sudden occurrence! When she explained to the highway patrolman what had happened he told her something that every driver should know – **Never Drive in the Rain with your Cruise Control On!** She had thought she was being cautious by setting the cruise control and maintaining a safe consistent speed in the rain. But the highway patrolman told her that if the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydroplane, when your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed and you take off like an airplane. She told the patrolman that was exactly what had occurred. The patrolman said this warning could be listed on the driver's seat sun visor: **Never Use the Cruise Control When the Pavement is Wet or Icy** along with the airbag warning. We tell our teenagers to set the cruise control and drive a safe speed but we don't tell them to use the cruise control only when the pavement is dry.

(“Newsletter,” Bicentennial Post 1976, Volume XXXII, Issue #4, April 2007, page 6)

The History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic on May 5, 1868, and was first observed on May 30, 1868. At the end of the Civil War, organized women's groups throughout the South were decorating graves. New York was the first state to recognize the holiday in 1873 and by 1890 all the northern states were celebrating it. The South refused to acknowledge the holiday until the end of WWI when the holiday celebration changed from those who died in the Civil War to honoring any American who died in any war.

It was Moina Michael's idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died while serving our nation. She was the first to wear one and sold them to her co-workers. The monies were donated to benefit the servicemen.

Madam Guerin from France visited the United States and liked the poppy idea so much that she shared it with France and the tradition spread to other countries. Contributions were given to war-orphaned children and widows. The Franco-American Children's League sold poppies in 1921 to benefit war orphans of Belgium and France. Madam Guerin asked the VFW for help when the League disbanded. The VFW became the first Veteran's organization to sell poppies. In 1923, the “Buddy” poppies program sold poppies made by disabled Veterans. Ms. Michael was recognized for her role in founding the national Poppy Movement by issue of a 3-cent postage stamp with her picture on it.

The VFW registered “Buddy Poppy” with the U.S. patent office and on May 20, 1924, a certificate was issued to the VFW granting all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers.

(Abstracted from: “Newsletter,” Bicentennial Post 1976, Volume XXXII, Issue #5, May 2007, page 6)

Post 184 Electronic Mailbox

WMKAL184@yahoo.com

Post 184 – Web Site

<http://www.wmkal184.org>

NOW THAT'S FUNNY!!

A minister decided to do something a little different one Sunday morning. He said “Today, whenever I say a single word I want you to sing whatever hymn comes to mind.” The pastor then shouted “CROSS” and the congregation sang in unison “THE OLD RUGGED CROSS.” He then hollered out “GRACE” and they came right back with “AMAZING GRACE.” He then said “POWER” and again they responded almost immediately with “THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD.” Then he said “SEX” and you could hear a pin drop. After what seemed like an eternity, a

little 87 year old widow lady stood up in the back of the church and began to sing “PRECIOUS MEMORIES.”

How about some military one-liners ----

--- Without ammunition, the USAF would be just another expensive flying club.

--- Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo.

--- If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.

--- If you see a bomb technician running, follow him.

--- Any ship can be a minesweeper --- once.

Quotes to live by -----

---“If you're faced with a forced landing, fly the thing as far into the crash as possible.” Bob Hoover (renowned aerobatic and test pilot).

--- “Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.” General Douglas MacArthur.

Lights Out, Go to Sleep! ---- the history of TAPS



Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call **Taps**. The melody is both eloquent and haunting and the history of its origin is interesting and somewhat clouded in controversy. In the British Army, a similar call known as 'Last Post' has been sounded over soldiers' graves since 1885, but the use of **Taps** is unique with the United States military, since the call is sounded at funerals, wreath-laying and memorial services.

Taps began as a revision to the signal for 'Extinguish Lights' (Lights Out) at the end of the day. Up until the Civil War, the infantry call for 'Extinguish Lights' was the one set down in Silas Casey's (1801-1882) 'Tactics,' which had been borrowed from the French. The music for **Taps** was adapted by Union General Daniel Butterfield (1831 – 1901) for his brigade (Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac) in July, 1862.

As the story goes, General Butterfield was not pleased with the call for 'Extinguish Lights' feeling that the call was too formal to signal the days end and with the help of the brigade bugler, Oliver Wilcox Norton, wrote **Taps** to honor his men while in camp at Harrison's Landing, Virginia, following the Seven Day's battle. These battles took place during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The call, sounded that night in July, 1862, soon spread to other units of the Union Army and was even used by the Confederates. **Taps** was made an official bugle call after the war.

The first use of **Taps** at a funeral during the Peninsular Campaign in 1862 was ordered by Captain John C. Tidball of Battery A, 2nd Artillery. During this campaign a soldier (cannoneer) of Captan Tidball's Battery was killed in action. The burial took place at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position, concealed in the woods. It was unsafe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave on account of the proximity of the enemy, and it occurred to Captain Tidball that the sounding of **Taps** would be the most ceremony that would be substituted. The custom, thus originated, was taken up throughout the Army of the Potomac, and finally confirmed by orders.

The earliest official reference to the mandatory use of **Taps** at military funeral ceremonies is found in the U.S. Army Infantry Drill Regulations for 1891, although it had doubtless been used unofficially long before that time, under its former designation 'Extinguish Lights.'

The first sounding of **Taps** at a military funeral is commemorated in a stained glass window at The Chapel of the Centurion (The Old Post Chapel) at Fort Monroe, Virginia, dedicated in 1958. The site where **Taps** was born is commemorated in a monument on the Berkeley Plantation grounds erected by the Virginia American Legion. This monument to **Taps** was dedicated on July 4, 1969.

As soon as **Taps** was sounded that night in July 1862, words were put with the music. The first were, "Go To Sleep, Go To Sleep." As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but here are some of the more popular verses:

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.

Love, good night, Must thou go,
When the day, And the night
Need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all
To their rest.

Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
May the soldier or sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEXT 3 MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar

3rd **WEDNESDAY**, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

June 20th

July 18th

August 15th

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



SHOW YOUR COLORS

Display your Flag !!

Armed Forces Day

May 19th

Memorial Day

May 28th (observed)

Flag Day

June 14th

Independence Day

July 4th