

AMERICAN LEGION
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XIX No. 4

THE LEGION LETTER
2008

Oct-Nov-Dec



CHRISTMAS 2008
Arlington Cemetery

Several thousand volunteered December 13th at Arlington National Cemetery to place wreaths on the headstones there. The event, called "Wreaths Across America" is in its 17th year.

Photo by C. Todd Lopez

Photo and text obtained from: http://www.strategypage.com/military_photos/2008122362537.aspx

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172

OFFICERS

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

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

THE LEGION LETTER
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 email: kd4fue2@verizon.net

POST EVERLASTING

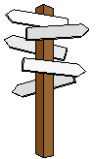
Robert J. May

May 15, 1921 – November 12, 2008
WWII – P-40 & P-51 pilot
American Legion Post 184 – Charter member and former Chaplain

“Classic Quotes”

“Tracers work both ways” - Army Ordnance Manual
 “Five second fuses only last three seconds” - Infantry Journal
 The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are: “Why is it doing that?,” “Where are we” and “Oh S...!”
 “The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you.”- attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot)
 “Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGIONNAIRES



October

- 1st Ronald E. Kauffman
- 2nd Michael A Hughes
- 7th David V. Pauling
- 10th William G. Mattheis
- 12th Leonard A. Dillman
- 13th John Cunliffe
- 15th Chester E. Wyskiel
- 16th Eric Claunch
- 18th Thomas R. Uiselt, F. Dale Williams
- 19th William A. Olson
- 22nd Dmytro Andriuk, Stanley P. Beyer, Herman A. Ferg, James R. Jones
- 23rd Hardy F. Cofield
- 29th Kevin S. Dresdner, Glenn F. Heselton
- 30th Robert S. Thompson
- 31st David E. Bellamy

November

- 2nd Stephen Long, Kenneth E. Newton
- 3rd Walter Roman, Willie L. Ruff
- 4th Ted A. Longworth
- 5th Thomas Iremonger
- 7th David E. Hendrickx, John Johnston
- 8th Dennis D. Husch
- 10th John A. Rogosky
- 11th Raymond W. Hine
- 12th Charles D. Adams
- 13th Robert L. Guest
- 17th Paul F. Conroy
- 18th George J. O'Hop, Robert R. Rudine
- 22nd Richard A Aceto
- 23rd John J. Dragonetti
- 24th Mark J. Bates, Michael A. Rafalko
- 26th John S. Hardin
- 28th Joseph H. Schwimmer

December

- 1st Griswold C. Simpson
- 3rd Donald T. Meyer
- 15th David W. Twigg
- 17th Alan D. Lee
- 20th James D. Morgan, Robert A. Serveiss
- 22nd John Cuddehe
- 24th Robert P. Jensen
- 26th Richard E. Lubow

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.

COMMANDER'S CORNER



I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving too. Our Veterans Day Observance was, once again, a great success. I want to thank all those who came out and helped with

the Avenue of Flags, the grave flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, and to those who attended the Observance on the Herndon Town Green. Former Herndon Mayor Richard Thoesen was the guest speaker at the observance. Thoesen is a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps.

Legionnaire, Robert (Bob) May, Post 184 Charter Member and past Chaplain passed away on Wednesday, November 12. A quick response email and voice phone blast went out on Sunday morning, November 16 for Legionnaires to respond and attend Bob's viewing at Adams Green Funeral home that evening at 6 PM. Eight Post 184 members showed up in class A dress and proceeded to give Bob a final salute. Members went to the casket two by two, saluted and proceeded to the family reception line to pass on their condolences to Bob's sons and daughter and other family members. The next day, several legionnaires met at Chestnut Grove Cemetery for the funeral, chaplain Dymtro Andiuk sounded taps on the Post's bugle and I presented the casket flag to Bob's son David. The May family was very grateful and impressed with our showing.

LEGIONNAIRES! It's time to renew your membership for 2009. If you haven't already sent in your dues please send them in as soon as possible. Lost or misplaced your renewal form? No problem, just put a check for \$26.00 made out to American Legion Post 184 in an envelope and mail it to:

American Legion Post 184
PO Box 5118
Herndon, VA 20172

When received, your dues will be processed and your new 2009 membership card will be mailed out to you. Don't lose your "Continuous Years" status and get your dues paid up for 2009. Remember, paying your dues does not commit you to any volunteer activities at the Post and you have no obligation to attend our meetings. However, we do have a great need for new Officers and new volunteers to help continue our activities throughout the year. Please consider attending our next meeting on January 21, 2009 at 7:30 PM in the Herndon Moose Lodge meeting room. Enter through the back parking lot. Hope to see some new faces at this meeting.

For God and Country
David Kirby
Post 184 Commander

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 U.S. Army
 Dec.22, 1961-May 7, 1975 U.S. Navy
 June 25, 1950-Jan.31, 1955 U.S. Air Force
 Dec.7, 1941-Dec.31, 1946 U.S. Marine Corps
 April 6, 1917-Nov.11, 1918 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: _____

[Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

[New Law Authorizes Veterans' Salutes during National Anthem](#)

WASHINGTON, DC - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (October 30, 2008) – Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month.

“The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag.”

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

[The American Legion – National News](#)

[Legion: VA Makes Right Call on New GI Bill](#)

WASHINGTON, DC (October 13, 2008) – The nation's largest veterans organization applauds VA Secretary Dr. James Peake's decision to retain control of the new GI Bill rather than outsourcing services.

Last month National Commander David K. Rehbein expressed concerns about VA's earlier decision to contract out certain delivery aspects of the educational benefit during testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

On Oct. 10, VA announced that it will rely upon its own workforce to develop the information technology programs necessary to implement the educational benefits necessary to administer the Post-911 GI Bill.

Rehbein said the Legion's opposition to VA's earlier plan to outsource is based on practicality. “The VA employs IT personnel with intimate knowledge of how to best serve the veterans' community. VA should be provided with the additional resources needed to get the job done by the August 2009 implementation date.”

“The new GI Bill is an earned benefit that the newest generation of wartime veterans richly deserves,” Rehbein said. “The ultimate goal is to assure timely delivery of these enhanced benefits. The American Legion will continue to work with VA to achieve this goal.”

With a current membership of 2.6-million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans' affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

[American Legion Congratulates New VA Secretary-Designate](#)

WASHINGTON, DC (December 8, 2008) – The head of the nation's largest veterans service organization expressed his congratulations and desire to work with President-Elect Obama's choice to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs in the upcoming administration.

“Gen. Eric Shinseki has made a career of serving this country,” said American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein. “A former Army chief of staff and a Vietnam veteran, Gen. Shinseki knows what it's like to lead. We are all familiar with the current slogan 'Army Strong.' We are committed to working with Gen. Shinseki to provide a health care system that is 'VA Strong.’”

Rehbein added that Shinseki will face great challenges. “Eliminating the backlog that veterans face to use the health care system that was created for them must be a top priority,” he said. “VA must also ensure that veterans understand and can easily access the benefits for which they are entitled under the new GI Bill. Funding must remain a priority, even during tough economic times. Congress must remember that if not for America's veterans, there would not be a U.S. Economy to worry about. We hope that Gen. Shinseki's Pentagon experience will enhance the integration underway for DoD and VA to share its information technologies and provide for a seamless transition. The American Legion stands ready to assist Gen. Shinseki in providing the care and benefits that America's veterans deserve.

The American Legion – National News

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The American Legion Reiterates Call to Dismantle Veterans Corporation

WASHINGTON, DC (December 17, 2008) – The American Legion is calling on Congress to cease federal funding of the Veterans Business Development Corporation (also known as The Veterans Corporation or TVC). A just-released report from the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship states that the TVC has failed in its mandate to properly provide monetary and educational resources to military veterans wishing to establish small businesses.

“The American Legion raised the issue many months ago,” said David K. Rehbein, The American Legion's national commander. “Back in March, we fired off a letter to Sen. Robert Byrd, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, pointing to the TVC's insufficient support of the country's three Veteran Business Resource Centers. At that time, The American Legion requested emergency monies be distributed to these centers by the Small Business Administration to compensate for the TVC's inadequate actions.”

“Then, at our national convention this past August, The American Legion adopted a resolution stating that we no longer support the continuing initiatives or the existence of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation,” said the commander.

“This latest report from Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Chairman Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) and ranking member Olympia Snow (R-ME) indicates that the TVC has continued its pattern of failure to perform,” Rehbein said. “This appears to be due, in part, to questionable expenditures and excessive compensation for its executives. The TVC has failed miserably in meeting its obligation to the entire veterans' community and should be held accountable.”

“Therefore, we reiterate our call for the dismantling of the Veterans Business Development Corporation and propose that its funding be redirected to the Small Business Administration's Veterans Business Development Office. The SBA is subject to congressional oversight and has in place 1,500 small business development centers across the country that can certainly incorporate dedicated services to entrepreneurial veterans. This, in our view, would be of much greater benefit to our nation's warriors.”

And now for something completely different – from the lighter side of life

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, “What's on TV?”

I said, “Dust.” ----- and then the fight started.

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, “I want something shiny that goes from 0 – 150 in about 3 seconds.”

I bought her a scale. ----- and then the fight started.

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive.

So I took her to a gas station. ----- and then the fight started.

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, “Do you know her?” “Yes,” I sighed, “She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.” “My God!” says my wife, “who would think a person could go on celebrating that long. ----- and then the fight started.

UH OH, TOO LATE! ---- An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She was hysterical as she explained her situation to the dispatcher. “They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!” she cried. The dispatcher said, “Stay calm, an officer is on the way.” A few minutes later the officer radio's in. “Disregard,” he says, “She got in the back seat by mistake.”

OLD FRIENDS ---- Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, “Now don't get mad at me.....I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is.” Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, “How soon do you need to know



**THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
APPLICATION FOR PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE (PUFL) MEMBERSHIP
(Please type or print)**



APPLICANT'S NAME _____ MEMBER ID # _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NO. [_____] _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ TOTAL PUFL FEE \$ _____
(Mo./Day/Year) (See Chart on Reverse)

BRANCH OF SERVICE (check one only): US Army US Navy US Marines US Air Force US Coast Guard

Full Payment Enclosed **OR** Time Payment Enclosed – Requires minimum payment of **10% OF TOTAL** as down payment.

PAYMENT IS MADE BY THE FOLLOWING METHOD:

Check or Money Order (Made payable to The American Legion) **DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Please provide check or money order number _____

Charge to MasterCard, Visa, Discover or American Express

(Credit Card Number)

(Expiration Date)

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Applicant's signature may be omitted if PUFL is to be given as a gift. If card is to be mailed to another address, enter below.

IF GIFT, MAIL CARD TO:

Name _____ Mbr ID # (If applicable): _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE POST ADJUTANT OR FINANCE OFFICER

1. *By signature below*, I certify that the PUFL applicant named above is a member in good standing and holds a valid membership card. Annual dues were last paid for the _____ membership year and were paid to Post # _____ in the Department of _____.

2. **Check one:**

Member is applying at a PUFL fee based on our annual Post dues rate of \$ _____.

With Post approval, this member is applying at a PUFL fee based on the **reduced Post dues rate** of \$ _____.

3. *If applicable*, this member is transferring from the above Post to (new) Post # _____ in the Department of _____.

Signature of Post Adjutant or Finance Officer

Dept/Post #

Date Processed By Post

POST FORWARDS APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. (RETAIN A COPY FOR POST RECORDS.)

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Member National Per Capita _____

Date Received at National: _____

Post Dept Per Capita _____

Dept. Post Per Capita _____

PFLN

FORM #32-090 (October 2003)

^ DETACH HERE ^

APPLICANT'S RECEIPT:

Name of Applicant

\$ _____
Payment Received

Date Processed By Post

The member named above has applied for a Paid-Up-For-Life membership. The application has been certified by the Post and sent to the Department Headquarters with the payment noted above. After Department approval, it will be forwarded to National Headquarters for final processing. National will issue a permanent membership card in recognition of your status as a PUFL member of The American Legion.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Signature of Post Adjutant or Finance Officer

Veterans Day Observance 2008



Candid photo of 2nd Vice Commander Bob Thompson

Photo by: Tom Flores



Rick Thoesen and Commander Kirby
Laying of the Memorial Wreaths

Photo by: Mary Kirby



Guest Speaker - Former Mayor of Herndon & US Army Captain and Vietnam Veteran Rick Thoesen

Photo by: Mary Kirby

NEXT 3 MEETINGS
 Mark Your Calendar
 3rd **WEDNESDAY**, 7:30-8:30 PM
 January 21st
 February 18th March 18th
 Meetings held on the 1st Floor of the
 Herndon Moose Lodge
 714 Center Street
 Herndon, VA
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Washington's Birthday
 February 22nd

President's Day
 February 16th

Lincoln's Birthday
 February 12th

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 January 19th

Display your Flag !!

HOW YOUR COLORS



**American Legion
 Post 184
 Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED