

AMERICAN LEGION

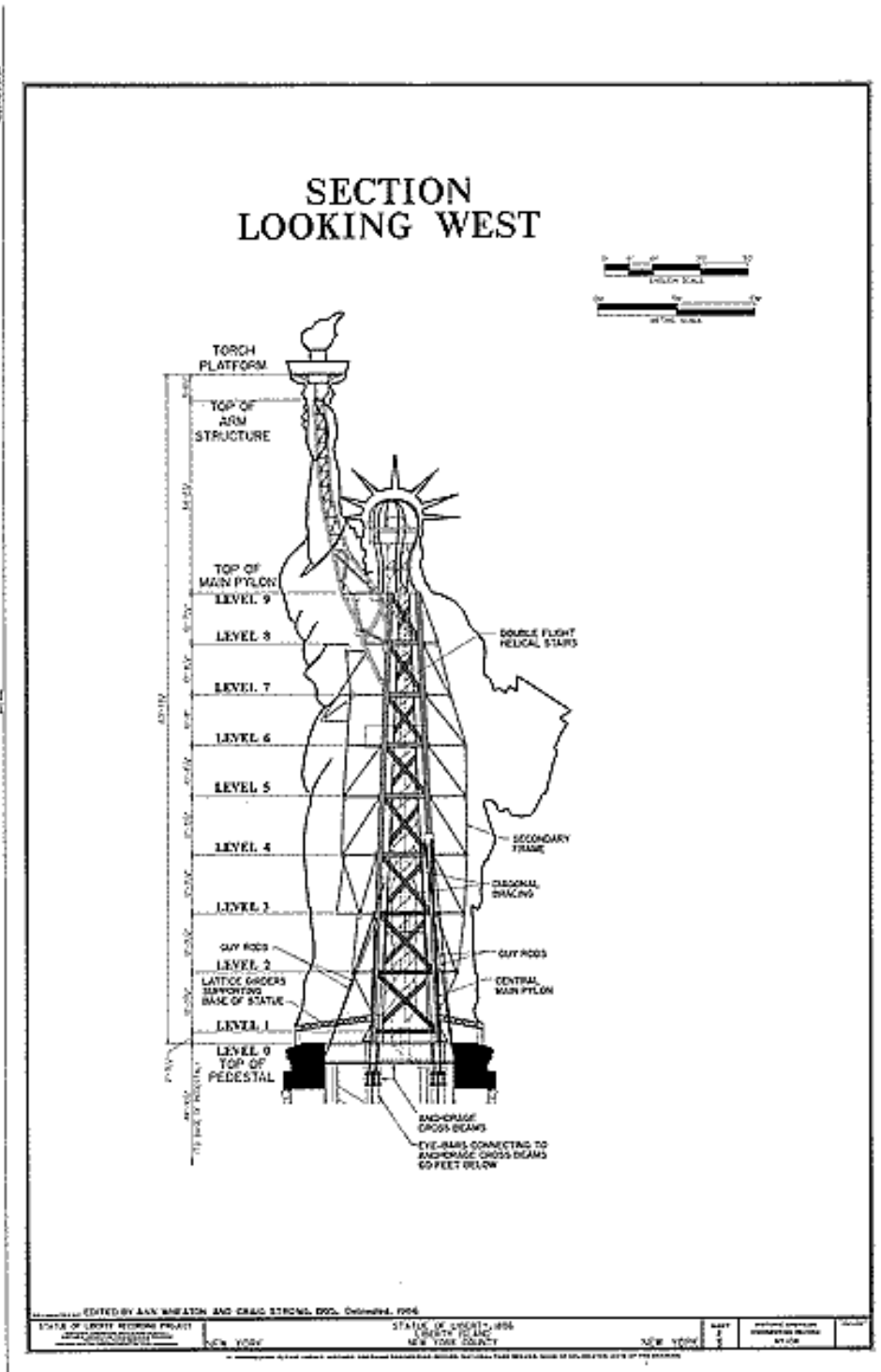
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XV No. 4

THE LEGION LETTER Oct-Nov-Dec 2004



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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

How would you like to receive the quarterly Post 184 Newsletter in your "electronic mailbox" rather than your postal mailbox? Think about it! The electronic version gets to you instantly, it's in color (rather than drab black and white) and it saves the Post funds (less copies and stamps!!) that can better be used to provide for the needs of hospitalized and institutionalized veterans. If you like the idea just send an email to Bob Thompson (Editor, The Legion Letter) and state that you would like to have your name placed on our electronic distribution list. Simple? -- you bet. Send your requests to kd4fue@bellatlantic.net and the next issue of The Legion Letter will come to you via the Internet without being folded, soiled, mutilated or spindled :o)

Post 184
Electronic Mailbox
WMKAL184@aol.com

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGIONNAIRES

October

1st Ronald E. Kauffman
2nd James M. Shevis
3rd Elizabeth O. Sandel
7th David V. Pauling
10th William G. Mattheis
12th Leonard A. Dillman
13th John Cunliffe
18th F. Dale Williams
19th William A. Olson
22nd Dmytro Andriuk, Herman A. Ferg,
James R. Jones
23rd Hardy F. Cofield
29th Glenn F. Heselton
30th Robert S. Thompson
31st David E. Bellamy

November

3rd Walter Roman, Willie L. Ruff
8th Dennis D. Husch
9th Vincent F. Sullivan
10th John A. Rogosky
11th Raymond W. Hine
13th Robert L. Guest, Benjamin C. Weaver
17th Paul F. Conroy
18th George J. O'Hop
21st Elmo D. Gadd
22nd Richard A. Aceto
24th Mark J. Bates, Michael A. Rafalko
26th John S. Hardin
28th Joseph H. Schvimmer

December

3rd Donald T. Meyer
9th John P. Czoski
12th Gilbert L. Smith
15th David W. Twigg
17th Alan D. Lee
20th James D. Morgan, Robert A. Serveiss
24th Robert P. Jensen
26th Richard E. Lubow, Patrick T. Morris
31st Steve A. Yarbrough

BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Gerald (Gerry) Washburn - August 4th

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.

**** Commanders Corner ****

1. "PARTICIPATION"

The Post needs, and is soliciting, more members to become active in supporting Post 184's various programs and events. We encourage "all" members of Post 184 to attend our monthly meetings to learn "first hand" how your Post operates.

2. POST ADJUTANT

We are currently looking for a volunteer who can assume the duties of Post Adjutant. These include: attend monthly meetings, draft monthly meeting minutes and have space available at home for the Post's computer to handle membership documentation. The duties of Post Adjutant will require approximately two hours of your time each week. If you would like to accept this "challenge," or want to learn more about it, please give me a call (703-481-5047).

3. MEMBERSHIP

As of November 1, 2004 Post 184 has attained 76% of the 2005 membership goal established by the Department of Virginia. We need 57 of the 61 post members who have not renewed to date to do so in order to meet our overall membership goal. If you have not as yet renewed, please make every effort to do so as you do not want to lose your membership in the American Legion and the privileges and benefits that come with it.

The National office of The American Legion has mailed out a second wave of renewal notices nationwide. If you already renewed and received your 2005 membership card, throw away the redundant notices.

All renewal paperwork goes from Post 184 to the Department of Virginia who in turn forwards this on to the National office to update records. Because of the time lag involved in this process, duplicate renewal notices result.

If you have not as yet received a renewal notice for 2005, please contact the post and one will be sent to you. Simply complete the form and forward it, with a check for \$20.00 made payable to "American Legion Post 184" and mail both to the post at the address on the back of this newsletter. Post 184 will then

provide the National office with the updated information.

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.

POST 184 TELEPHONE NUMBER

While we are awaiting appointment of an individual as Adjutant, the Post has established a "Telephone Message Center" where you can call and leave messages for any of the officers. Messages are collected daily to ensure your call is answered in a timely manner. The number is **(703) 481-1200**.

For God and Country

John Rogosky

Post 184 Commander

*** WELCOME ***

New Members and Transfers

**Gil Baron
Bruce Bowman
John Cunliffe
Norman Eiben
Frank Johns
Joseph Leinenbach
Scott Levinson
Henry McFarland, Jr.
Burton Morrow
Paul Tremblay**

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We are glad that you chose to make Post 184 your home post and hope that you will become actively involved in all of the projects ongoing in support of fellow veterans. BE ACTIVE!!

**Post Everlasting
Edmund Jenkins
WORLD WAR II Veteran
17 Year American Legion Member**

Post 184

VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

Veterans Day (November 11th) is close at hand and Post 184 has a lot of activities and events planned to celebrate this national holiday. The two most important days in our post year where we directly involve the general public in recognizing the contributions that veterans have made to ensure our freedom as a people, and our status as a world leader and peace maker are MEMORIAL DAY and VETERANS DAY. We call upon all Post 184 members to do whatever they are able to do to support post activities on these important days as this is the best way you can honor your fellow veterans who have gone on before you in service to our great country. BE THERE FOR THEM!

WEDNESDAY, November 10, 2004

This is the day where Post 184 members place individual small flags on the graves of veterans who are interred at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. Additionally, the large flag poles used for our "Avenue of Flags" will be washed and put in place along the roadside within the cemetery. Post 184 members will be assisted with these tasks by members of Herndon High School Junior Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (JNROTC). For all who can come out and help with these two work events, please be at the cemetery at 9:00 am.

THURSDAY, November 11, 2004

Veterans Day: Beginning at 8:00 am, Post 184 will hoist over 30 individual veterans casket flags on the flag poles installed on Wednesday, weather permitting. Once again our post members will be assisted by the Herndon High School JNROTC cadets.

The Post 184 Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at 11:00 am on the Herndon Town Green at the site of the Herndon Veterans Memorial (behind the Town's Municipal Building). The guest speaker for the ceremony is the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, Michael L. O'Reilly. The mayor will present resolutions from the Town Council honoring the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. An additional resolution will be presented honoring the selfless and dedicated work of "Rosie the Riveter" to the war effort during World War II. A real, live "Rosie" will be there to accept the honor for all "Rosie's" who served this nation.

Starting at 5:00 pm, Post 184 members will begin the task of hauling down our Avenue of Flags and properly folding each flag in preparation for storing them until they are displayed next Memorial Day. Additionally, the large flag poles will be taken down and stored in the utility shed. The Herndon High School JNROTC cadets will assist with this effort as well.

FRIDAY, November 12, 2004

Beginning at 9:00 am, Post 184 members and Herndon High School JNROTC cadets will remove the small individual flags from veteran's graves, clean them, and bundle them for storage.

Subject: HBO Veterans Day Special Advisory

Date: Tues, 2 Nov 2004 16:07:39 -0500

From: Harris, Lee P. <lpharris@legion.org>

To: Public Relations Division <PR@legion.org>

On Veterans' Day, November 11, at 9 p.m. ET/PT, HBO will air *LAST LETTERS HOME: Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq*, a one-hour HBO Documentary Special produced by HBO and *The New York Times*, in association with LIFE Books.

Built from the words of troops who were killed in Iraq, these final letters sent home are read by the wives, mothers, fathers, children and friends who received them. Full of pride, idealism, wonder and regret, the letters by these troops stand as a lasting memorial to the spirit and humanity of the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country.

A comparison LIFE book entitled "Last Letters Home: Voices of Americans from the Battlefields of Iraq" is in-store and online now, and a DVD will be available in 2005. All net profits from these releases will be donated to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

HBO is opening the signal to all cable operators in order to make the special available to the largest possible audience. This will mean non-subscribers to HBO will still be able to receive the program via their cable provider.

We are cooperating with HBO in letting veterans know of this program. Please let others know of the broadcast.

POST 184 WEB SITE

“Check it out!!”

To further help communication with our Post 184 members, and to let the world know who we are and what we do, our web site has been dramatically updated and improved. Check it out for yourselves --- you'll be impressed, trust me. Many thanks for the long hours and hard work put in by Daniel Kirby, son of our 3rd Vice Commander Dave Kirby. Dave Kirby has asked that if you see anything on the web site that needs to be updated or corrected, send him an email with Daniel as a “cc.”

To: david1k@aol.com

cc: daniel100k@aol.com

Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184 Web Site

<http://www.wmkal184.org>

HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNER

Look at your calendar legionnaires because “Christmas Time is Coming” - to quote an old song. It is just about that time of year when Post 184 members and their families gather to enjoy each others company, some good food and bring in the Holiday Season at the annual post HOLIDAY BASH. We had a great time last year at Sylvana’s Restaurant in Herndon and that will be the location for this years festivities as well. We are tentatively looking at the week of December 13th through the 17th so check those calendars and let Post Commander John Rogosky know if you have any preference with regard to a specific date in the planning window. Final details will be posted on the Post telephone answering machine (703-481-1200). Call to hear the arrangements and to leave a RSVP. HO HO HO to one and all ---- just practicing ;o)

VETERANS WEB RESOURCES

Veterans Benefits Information

<http://www.vba.va.gov/>

Information for Iraqi Freedom Veterans

<http://www.va.gov/gulfwar/>

Afghanistan Service Information

<http://www.va.gov/environagents/>

PTSD and Iraq Veterans

<http://www.nptsd.org/topics/war.html>

VA Health Care Enrollment Info

<http://www.va.gov/elig/>

Online Benefits Applications

<http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/>

Women Veterans Health & Benefits Info

<http://www.va.gov/wvhp/>

<http://www.va.gov/womenvet/>

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Topics/Women/>

THOMAS P. CADMUS NATIONAL COMMANDER THE AMERICAN LEGION 2004 - 2005



To learn about our new American Legion National Commander, Thomas P. Cadmus, see the articles in this newsletters “The American Legion - State and National News” section. You’ll learn about his military and civilian career, but more importantly, gain some insight into what he has in mind for The American Legion during his tenure as National Commander. He has already established a new incentive program to help stimulate recruiting efforts to bring in new legionnaires and has taken a strong position on a very important issue to us as legionnaires and Americans, and that is the proposed flag protection amendment to the Constitution. READ AND BE ENLIGHTENED!!

The American Legion – State and National News

THOMAS P. CADMUS ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER 2004-2005

Thomas P. Cadmus of Ypsilanti, Michigan was elected National Commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion on September 2, 2004 in Nashville, Tennessee during the 86th National Convention of the nation's largest veterans organization. Cadmus is a United States Army veteran where he served as an Armored Reconnaissance Specialist from 1965 to 1967. He left the Army as a Specialist 5th (E-5). During his time in the Army he was stationed at Fort Knox, KY and Munich, Germany. He joined The American Legion in 1967 and has served in key leadership positions at the post, district, department (state) and national level. Among his national level appointments are: Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Vice Chairman of the National Security Council and a member of the Policy Coordination and Action Group, the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee and the Commanders Advisory Committee.

Cadmus is retired from the Ford Motor Company where he worked on a variety of automotive projects during his 38-year career. Not only is Cadmus active in The American Legion, he also belongs to the Elks, the Moose, Eagles, AMVETS and the 24th Infantry Division Association.

Cadmus has two children, Nicole Kymberly and Brian Russell Cadmus.

(full text reprinted from the Virginia Legionnaire, Vol. XVIII, No. 2, September/October 2004, page 5)

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Ride in the Thomas P. Cadmus Cavalry!

Throughout the 2004-2005 membership year, Legionnaires and Legion Family members in every post will be eligible to earn National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus's "**Thomas P. Cadmus Cavalry**" pin. The concept is simple: For every five new Legionnaires recruited into The American Legion, the recruiter (Legionnaire, Auxiliary, or SAL member) will receive one pin.

Commander Cadmus's goal is simply to recognize those individual Legionnaires who build so much of our membership at the "grass-roots" level ---- and to emphasize the importance of individual involvement.

All certification forms for this program may be submitted at any time, but must arrive at National Headquarters on or prior to May 31st, 2005. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the new member status, and mail the recruiter the *Cadmus's Cavalry Pin* within three weeks. What's more, each new Cadmus Cavalry member will be eligible to receive additional pins each time they recruit an additional five new members.

Be a Cavalry Scout!

Ride with the "Thomas P. Cadmus Cavalry"!

VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL

My Fellow Legionnaires --- Virginia is the only state in the nation that has a Memorial that honors the veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. The Virginia War Memorial in Richmond was built in the mid 1950s primarily as a result of the influence of the American Legion. For over forty years our beautiful Shrine slowly fell into a sad state of disrepair. The only events held at the Memorial were Memorial Day and Veteran's Day Ceremonies that were conducted by the American Legion's 11th District.

Thankfully, under the leadership of Legionnaire Frank D. Hargrove, Sr., Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from Hanover County and Chairman of the Memorial's Board of Trustees, the Memorial has made a tremendous resurgence and is now a place that all veterans and all Virginians can be very proud of. The Board has accomplished over \$2,000,000 in repairs and renovations to the Shrine of Memory and the Memorial Building.

What I find the most exciting is not the fixing of the Memorial itself, but the educational programs that have been started. Many of you have participated in the Memorial's *Virginians at War* interview program. They use the interviews of veterans from across the state who participated in the same history-changing event or battle and edit them together with archival film footage, photographs, maps, music and graphics to make 15-20 minute long films that teach history and instill patriotism. The entire program is correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning by lesson plans with each film. The Memorial distributed the first volume of this work to every middle and high school in the state (at no cost to the schools) earlier this year. The response from students and teachers alike has been very positive.

The Memorial needs our help. They receive no funding from the state to develop their educational programs. I ask every Legionnaire and every post in the Department to use the enclosed Virginia War Memorial return envelope to support the Memorial. Once again, Virginia and the American Legion Department of Virginia are leading the Nation in honoring our veterans. Spotlighting the sacrifices of veterans to teach our youth what it really costs to live in a free country follows what the American Legion stands for --- let us join together to make this program a success! In advance, thank you for your help. For God and Country, Michael E. Harris, Department Commander.

(full text reprinted from the Virginia Legionnaire, Volume XVIII, No. 2, September/October 2004, page 1)

The American Legion – State and National News (continued)

GUEST EDITORIAL – Let the People Decide NOW – THOMAS P. CADMUS

As we Americans prepare to conduct the greatest exercise in the free world on November 2, we should be grateful that we are privileged to be citizens of a nation that cherishes freedom. We should also be alarmed and outraged that as the clock ticks out the 108th Congress, the U.S. Senate is blocking a constitutional right of the vast majority of American citizens.

Nearly 80 percent of the American people and all 50 state legislatures have asked the U.S. Senate to pass SJR 4, the flag protection amendment and send it to the states for debate and ratification. The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the measure five consecutive times. Yet, this common sense measure that merely restores the right of Congress to protect Old Glory from physical desecration has languished in this body for over four years. As Senators travel around the country urging constituents to exercise their right to vote, back on Capitol Hill some of them are blocking the right of their constituents to amend the Constitution to protect their flag. Flag protection has been debated before. There have been multiple hearings. Yet the measure languishes in limbo because some Senators choose not to vote before Election Day on an amendment that just might cause voters to wonder where their Senator's values lie.

As my son would say, "This is a no brainer." The U.S. Constitution gives us the right to petition our government for a redress of grievances through the amendment process. When a supermajority of Americans all agree, no elected member of the Senate should stand in the way, regardless of their personal position on the issue. Regrettably in 1989, five judges ruled that 48 state legislatures and the Federal government didn't understand that urinating, defecating, defiling, and other wanton acts of physical desecration of the flag of the United States was a protected right. They told us that the Flag Code was incorrect --- that such capricious actions are proper and acceptable in the eyes of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, architects of our Constitution. HOGWASH.

As national commander of the largest wartime veterans' service organization, I will call on the leadership of the United States Senate, Senators Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, to bring the flag protection amendment to the floor for a vote before the Senate adjourns in a matter of days.

This is not a "gray" issue. If you would not teach your children to physically desecrate Old Glory, then it is simply wrong. Flag desecration is not a "slippery slope" speech issue, but rather "gutter" conduct. The flag that serves as the eternal thanks of a grateful nation to a grieving veterans' family, serves the same protection that veteran died to defend.

Every Senator deserves the opportunity to go on record. We the People have the right. And the United States Senate should have the common good of the people at heart, and bring the flag amendment to the floor for a vote.

(released by Lee P. Harris, Public Relation Division, The American Legion, September 28, 2004)

WHO ARE FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR?

Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans, including 85 women, have been captured and interned as POWs. Not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost or never recovered. Only one-third of America's former POWs since World War I are still living (about 36,500). More than 90 percent of living former POWs were captured and interned during World War II. Over 21,000 former POWs are in receipt of compensation for service-connected injuries, diseases, or illnesses. *(reprinted from the 17th District Communicator, Volume 6, No. 1, Fall 2004)*

THE POW/MIA FLAG

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of a U.S. military officer listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the U.S. service members whose fates were never accounted for during the war. The black and white image of a gaunt silhouette, a strand of barbed wire and an ominous watchtower was designed by Newt Heisley, a former World War II pilot. Some claim the silhouette is a profile of Heisley's son, who contracted hepatitis while training to go to Vietnam. The virus ravaged his body, leaving his features hallow and emaciated. They suggest that while staring at his son's sunken features, Heisley saw the stark image of American service members held captive under harsh conditions. Using a pencil, he sketched his son's profile, creating the basis for a symbol that would come to have a powerful impact on the national conscience. By the end of the Vietnam War, more than 2,500 service members were listed by the Department of Defense as Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). In 1979, as families of the missing pressed for full accountability, Congress and the president proclaimed the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the American people to never forget the men and women who gave up their freedom protecting ours. Three years later, in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the only flag other than the Stars and Stripes to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C. On August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, designating the POW/MIA flag: "The symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia."

(reprinted from the 17th District Communicator, Volume 6, No. 1, Fall 2004)

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

November 17th

December 15th

January 19th

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



SHOW YOUR COLORS

Display your Flag !!

Veterans Day
Nov 11th

National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
Dec 7th