

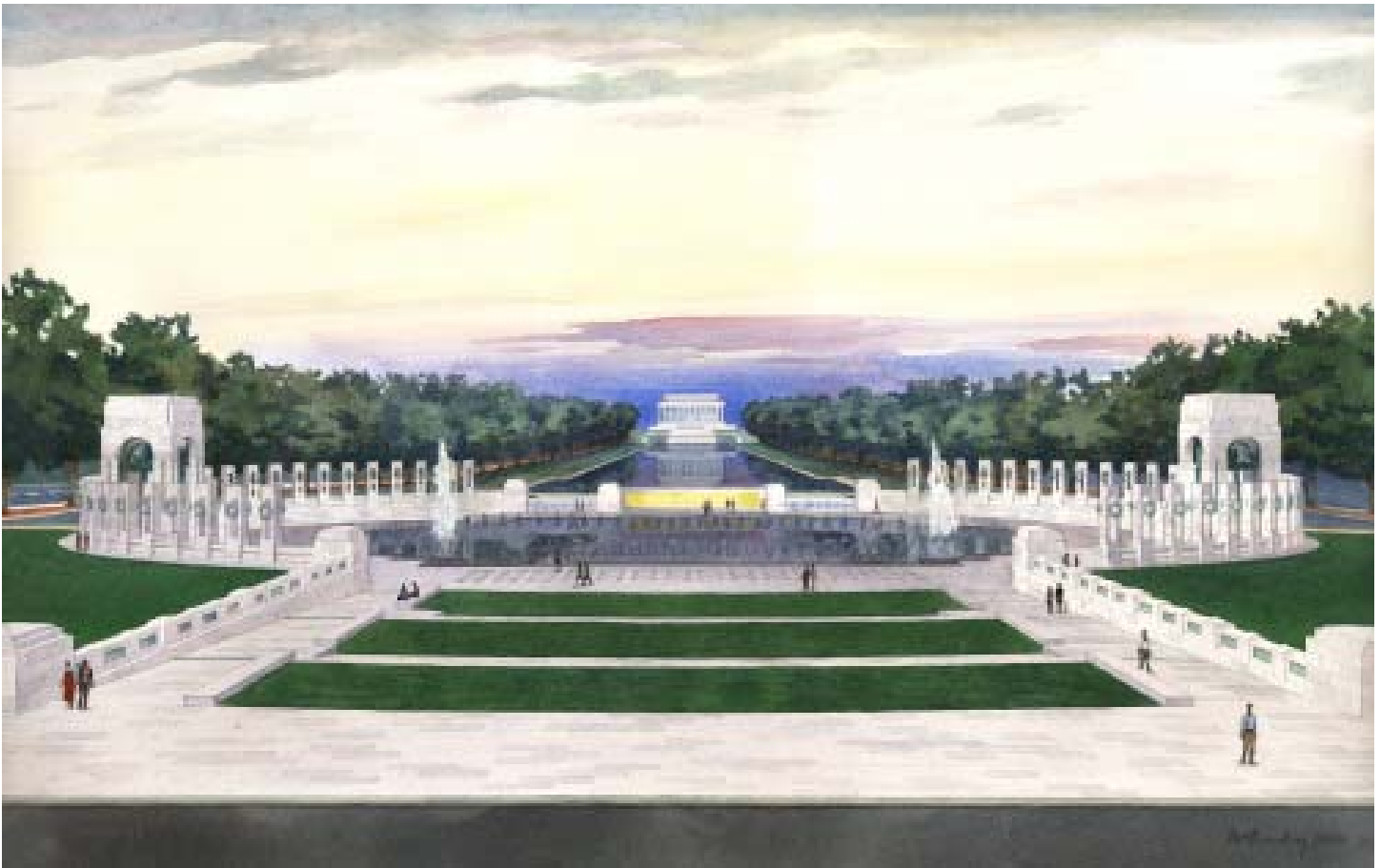
AMERICAN LEGION
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XV No. 2

THE LEGION LETTER Apr-May-Jun 2004

NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL
"West View"



Rendering by: Joe McKendy

Downloaded from the National WWII Memorial web site (<http://www.wwiimemorial.com>)

“On April 29, 2004, as a service and tribute to members of the World War II Generation, the National World War II Memorial opened for public viewing, exactly one month prior to the formal Dedication Ceremony taking place May 29, 2004. The World War II Memorial is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during the Second World War. The memorial, established by the American Battle Monuments Commission, honors all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation’s call to arms. The Second World War is the only 20th century event commemorated on the Mall’s central axis.”

(abstracted from the National WWII Memorial web site <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>)

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
Adjutant	Jack Hickson
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 (703) 437-5217

THE LEGION LETTER

Editors: Bob Thompson (703) 435-8377
 e-mail: kd4fue@bellatlantic.net
 Jack Hickson (703) 437-5217

**Proposed Slate of Officers
2004 – 2005**

Commander	John Rogosky
1 st Vice Commander	Doug Swisher
2 nd Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
3 rd Vice Commander	Dave Kirby
Adjutant	Jack Hickson
Vice Adjutant	Rich Jones
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
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Historian	Jack Hickson
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Americanism	Herb Nunnenkamp

Voting: Wednesday, May 19, 2004 @ 7:30 PM
Installation: Wednesday, June 16, 2004 @ 7:30 PM
 (Family members are cordially invited for the
 installation of Officers on June 16, 2004)

*** ELECTION OF OFFICERS ***

Please review the "proposed" slate of officers listed on this page and be prepared to vote on them at the **May 19th** meeting. Installation of newly elected officers will take place at the **June 16th** meeting. Please make every effort to attend these two very important meetings for Post 184.

**The Poppy's are Coming !!
The Poppy's are Coming !!**

Post 184 will again be supporting a "Poppy Campaign" at four local Giant food stores on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, Sunday and Monday). Once again our Post Commander, John Rogosky is masterminding the plan of action for this campaign. By the time you receive this newsletter you will have probably already received a "call for volunteers" email from John. We are in need of volunteers to work shifts (each shift lasts three hours) between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday and between Noon and 6:00 PM on Monday. Three hours is not so long when you are having fun and also helping to raise people's awareness of how this nation came to be so great. Remember that the simple crepe paper Poppy we hand out to the public was made by hospitalized veterans and has come to be the most easily recognized symbol commemorating Memorial Day. PLEASE CALL Commander John Rogosky (703-481-5047) for more details and to sign on for a shift or two to help us continue to provide support to our fellow servicemen who have sacrificed greatly for God and our country. They were there for you, now be there for them !! Thanks.

**"Tribute to a Generation: National
World War II Reunion"**

A major four-day event produced by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folk life and Cultural Heritage will take place on the Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets COINCIDENT with the dedication of the World War II Memorial (May 27 - 30, 2004).

**** Commanders Corner ****

1. "AVENUE OF FLAGS" WORKDAY

Post 184 will hold a workday at Chestnut Grove Cemetery on May 15th (9:00 AM) to dig new and replacement holes needed to support the flagpoles used in our Avenue of Flags. We will also be assembling additional flagpoles for the new flags that Post 184 has received since Veterans Day 2003.

2. MEMORIAL DAY PREPARATIONS

Friday, May 28th @ 9:00 AM: Put out grave flags and erect the "bare" Avenue of Flags flag poles at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Monday, May 31st @ 7:00 AM: Place casket flags on flagpoles - weather permitting.

Monday, May 31st @ 10:00 AM: Memorial Day ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. Sgt. Maj. W. A. Green (HHS JROTC guidance councilor) will be guest speaker. He will plant a tree in memory of their graduate recently killed in Iraq.

Monday, May 31st @ 7:00 PM: Remove casket flags and store flagpoles.

Tuesday, June 1st @ 9:00 AM: Remove the grave flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for all of these activities so please call your Post 184 Adjutant and sign-up to help (703-437-5217).

3. FLAG DISPOSAL TRAINING/CEREMONY

In the June/July time frame, Post 184 will train on the procedures for formal disposal of non-serviceable flags and schedule a disposal ceremony in conjunction with another Post.

4. DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION - July 9-12, 2004

Delegate Chairman and Alternate Chairman positions available for volunteers. Contact me if you are interested (703-481-5047).

For God and Country

John Rogosky

Post 184 Commander

HERNDON FESTIVAL

The Herndon Festival will be held from **Thursday, June 3 through Sunday, June 6, 2004**. This will be the fourth year for the Post 184 sno-cone trailer. As in past years we need a cadre of volunteers to serve in the sno-cone trailer as well as others to play the role of Marshal at the entrance gates. Marshal

duty shifts are 3 hours long while sno-cone shifts are 5-6 hours long. Expect to get a call from **Dave Kirby**, our **Post 184 Herndon Festival Coordinator**, asking for your help to make this fund raising effort a huge success. Remember this is the prime source of money used to support the day-to-day business of Post 184. Don't wait, give us a head start and give Dave a call **(703-481-6189)**.

*** Adjutants Corner ***

MEMBERSHIP

Post 184 has 234 paid memberships for the year 2004 (82.69% renewed), which is down considerably from that achieved in 2003.

FLAG DISPOSAL

Since placing the "refurbished" mailbox for collection of unwanted/unusable flags at the Herndon Recycling Center 10 months ago, almost 300 flags have been received to date.

AVENUE OF FLAGS

Post 184 now has 29 casket flags of deceased veterans for display in our "Avenue of Flags" on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

REMINDER:

The American Legion membership renewal program can be confusing. As of April 12th, six members have paid their 2004 dues twice. Last year, with the mix-up at the Department level, there were 59 members who paid their dues twice. American Legion Headquarters sends out renewal notices up to four times each year if they have not received notice of your dues payment. If you get a 2nd, 3rd or 4th renewal notice, check your wallet to see the date on your membership card. If you are current, throw the renewal notice in the trash. If you are not current, then please send in your renewal form and dues to your Post Adjutant. If you can't find your membership card, call me for help at **(703) 437-5217**.

RELOCATING ?

In an effort to keep our membership records current and accurate, it would be appreciated if you would notify the Post Adjutant 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

Jack Hickson

Post 184 Adjutant

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)

Boys & Girls State

American Legion Post 184 is sponsoring four area high school students as delegates to Virginia Boys State and Virginia Girls State this summer. Our post has been sponsoring students for several years providing an opportunity for our youth to understand the foundations of government. This year, Post 184 is sponsoring one boy and one girl each from Herndon High School and South Lakes High School. The delegates are:

Boys State

Herndon High School – **Nicholas A. Erickson**
South Lakes High School – **Jamie-Lee C. Brust**

Girls State

Herndon High School – **Nicola K. Brady**
South Lakes High School – **Mary Boyle**

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.ncptsd.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/>

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR AMERICAN LEGION POST 184 IS ALL ABOUT?

The American Legion, as an organization, has three principal purposes:

- 1). Assist disabled and needy veterans and their families, and, the families of deceased veterans,
- 2). Carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans of the Armed Forces, and
- 3). Promote the general welfare of the community.

Additionally, the National and State levels of The American Legion provide advocacy for national and state policies and laws affecting veterans and their families.

* * * * *

The Wayne M. Kidwell American Legion Post 184 is entering into its 15th year with an average membership of 250. Over the last five years, Post 184 has:

- provided \$30,250 to veterans care centers and hospitals in support of veterans needs,
- provided \$26,500 towards construction of the Herndon Veterans Memorial,
- provided \$600 to The American Legion Emergency Assistance Fund,
- provided \$500 to the 9/11 Pentagon Survivors Fund,
- provided \$4,662 for sponsorship of 20 high school youth for the Virginia Boys and Girls State programs, and
- provided \$1,684 for scholastic, military, and marksmanship excellence ROTC medals.

In addition to monetary donations, Post 184 members volunteer their time to:

- collect undeliverable magazines from the USPS for distribution to veterans in the Washington VA hospital,
- collect and destroy unserviceable American flags,
- hold Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, fly the “Avenue of Flags” and placement of grave flags on both occasions.

Now you know so take pride in your service and your membership in The American Legion --- don’t let us forget our commitment to our fellow service members and to our country.

<<<<< AROUND THE LEGION >>>>>

HEROIC CHAPLAINS

Rev. Clark V. Poling
Rev. Alex D. Goode
Rev. George L. Fox
Fr. J. P. Washington

On February 3, 1943 the S.S. Dorchester, carrying troops to England, was torpedoed off Greenland. The four Army chaplains aboard made their way to the slanting deck, encouraging the men, praying with them and assisting them into lifeboats and life jackets. They gave their own lifebelts to soldiers who had none. They were last seen, their arms linked and their voices raised in prayer, as the ship went down.

McLean Post 270 "The McLean Legionnaire"
Vol. XVII, No. 2, p.2

LEGION FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

The American Legion's Family Support Network is ready to provide immediate assistance to service personnel and families whose lives have been directly affected by Operation Iraqi Freedom and America's war on terror.

Since September 11, 2001, the nation's active duty military has been on high alert, and National Guard and Reserve units are being mobilized in record numbers. As a result the families of these men and women often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly expenses, and assistance is needed for a variety of everyday chores. These tasks include grocery shopping, child care, mowing the grass, fixing the family car, and other routine household jobs. To address these issues, The American Legion has a 24 hour

nationwide toll-free telephone number 1-800-504-4098, for service members and their family members to call for assistance. Calls are referred to The American Legion Department, or State, in which the call originated.

Departments relay the collected information to a local American Legion post. The local post then contacts the service member or family to see how assistance can be provided locally. Since the creation of the Family Support Network during the first Persian Gulf War, thousands of posts have responded to meet these families needs.

Posts are reminded that families in financial need with minor children are encouraged to call on the Temporary Financial Assistance program at National Headquarters to assist. Otherwise, it is up to local posts to provide or develop the resources necessary to meet the need.

For God and Country,
Paul Goodin, Commander

Post 162 "Expressions"
Vol. 5, March/April 2004, p. 2

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Most people (myself for one) say "one nation, under God" with a pause after nation. Actually, there is no comma, and therefore, no pause. I will try to remember this!

Post 162 "Expressions"
Vol. 5, March/April 2004, p.2

NOTE: Just think what a very large difference in meaning results from this very small error in punctuation. Amazing.

TELL YOUR STORY

The Library of Congress (LOC), Veterans History Projects seeks Veterans, Merchant Marines, Non-military Defense Workers, Home Front Participants, Journalists, Civilians acting to support troops from World War I, II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War. Students from James Madison High School in Vienna, as youth partners with the LOC, will conduct taped interviews to be donated to the LOC for future students of history. Please join us in this important project. Get more details at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets>

Dyer-Gunnell Post 180
"The Post Times"
April 2004, p. 4

100 YEARS AGO - 1904

- Average US life expectancy - 47 years
- 14% of homes had a bathtub
- 8% of homes had a telephone
- 8,000 cars in the US; 144 miles of paved road
- Maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph
- 1.4 million residents in California; 21st most populous State
- Average US wage - 22¢/hour
- Average worker made \$200 -\$400 per year
- 95% of all births took place at home
- 90% of physicians had no college education; they attended medical schools often condemned in the press and by the government as substandard
- The American Flag had 45 stars

Abstracted from:
Dyer-Gunnell Post 180
"The Post Times"
February 2004, p. 3

The American Legion – State and National News

LONG-TERM CARE AND MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT REPLACEMENT INSURANCE

“Dear Post Commander:

An exciting opportunity has come our way and I want to make sure your Post is in a position to take advantage of it.

AGIA just announced that the Legionnaires Insurance Trust (LIT) has contracted with Bankers Life and Casualty Company to offer our members valuable Long-Term Care and Medicare Supplement replacement Insurance.

Established in 1879, Bankers Life and Casualty Company has established itself over the past 124 years as one of the largest and most respected insurance companies in the United States focused exclusively on the needs of seniors. Bankers has a Career Agent Distribution organization that consists of over 4,000 Career Agents who are located in over 150 Branch Sales Offices nationwide.

It is because of Bankers’ expertise and professionalism that the LIT has selected them to serve as its endorsed provider for these products. The location and availability of Bankers’ Career Agents further enhances their service capabilities. These experts are available to consult Legionnaires, at the Post, on financial concerns and options associated with the senior market. We have extended the invitation to local Bankers’ Branch Office Career Agents to contact you over the next few weeks to discuss marketing and seminar opportunities and talk about how you can work together to benefit local veterans and their families. Furthermore, these representatives are available at no cost to the Post.

We hope you are as excited as we are about this new relationship. It is a great opportunity to serve our members and promote the Post within the community.

As always if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.”

Signed: Sincerely, Dale D. Chapman, Department Adjutant

(Text reprinted verbatim: The American Legion, Department of Virginia, Inc., letter of January 2004)

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER RESPONDS TO HISTORIC CARES DECISION

LAS VEGAS (May 7, 2004) – “American Legion National Commander John Brieden said he applauds the promise of “enhanced services” in the CARES (Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services) decision announced here today by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. Brieden also said he expects continued active involvement and participation by veteran stakeholders as plans unfold in what has been touted as the biggest capital-improvement proposal for veterans health care since the troops came home after World War II.”

“Everything the secretary said today seemed to indicate his priorities are with the health-care needs of veterans,” Brieden said. “We do not believe in waste, and we know that empty buildings cost money that could be put to better uses. We are all for efficiency, unless the decisions are budget-driven instead of needs-driven. Legionnaires across the nation have made that point clear to VA through every stage of the CARES process. I am proud that veterans’ voices were heard and actions were taken upon their recommendations in many parts of the country. We must continue to be heard and stay actively engaged as the CARES process continues to its next phases.”

6

NOT SO FAST ON AGENT ORANGE COMPENSATION CUTOFF

WASHINGTON (March 4, 2004) – “Some Vietnam veterans have already developed cancer related to their Agent Orange exposure. Others will become ill decades after coming home. Bottom Line: Environmental cancers don’t have cutoff dates, and there should be no cutoff after which a Vietnam veteran with respiratory cancer is no longer presumed to be a victim of exposure to the herbicide.”

“Victims of Agent Orange exposure have cleared a major obstacle, and the men and women of The American Legion scaled that barrier with them,” American Legion National Commander John Brieden said. “Who knows how long after exposure to Agent Orange one will suffer from its harmful effects? Our government must expedite just compensation and medical treatment to all victims of this harmful substance, regardless of when their service-connected disabilities arise.”

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF HISTORY? THEN READ ON SHIPMATE !!

A bit of history from World War II will be magically appearing in Alexandria, Virginia between June 26th and July 1st. During that time period the USS LST-325 will be berthed at the Robinson Terminal wharf on the Potomac. What exactly is the USS LST-325 you ask? This ship is officially classified as a "Landing Ship Tank" which is an amphibious vessel designed to land battle-ready tanks, troops and supplies directly onto enemy shores. Ships of this type served in both war and peace providing a significant part of the amphibious logistic train. It could drive its bow onto the beach, open the bow doors, and directly off-load troops, cargo and vehicles, or, anchor offshore and off-load onto small boats such as DUKWs and LCMs. Think this was a piece of cake? Wrong Answer !! Ships like the LST-325 were very lightly armed and lacked any significant protective armor plating, but would charge in to the beach, sometimes under direct enemy fire, to bring in troops, weaponry and supplies as part of an invasion force. An LST was sometimes referred to as a "Large Slow Target" because of her limited speed and lack of significant armament with which to defend herself. These were workhorses of World War II.

USS LST-325 was launched on October 27th 1942 and commissioned into active service on February 1st 1943. After completing her shakedown cruise, LST-325 sailed on March 19th 1943 for the port of Oran, Algeria to begin service in support of our country. USS LST-325 served throughout the war and participated in Operation Husky (the invasion of Sicily) and was part of the backup force for the landings on Omaha Beach on June 6th when she off-loaded men and machinery on June 7th. After WWII service, LST-325 was deactivated until 1951 when she saw service in the Military Sea Transport Service arctic operations. She was deactivated in 1961. LST-325 was reactivated again in 1963 and transferred to Greece in May 1964 where she was renamed SYROS (L-144) and served in the Greek Navy until 1999 when she was decommissioned for the third time. In 2000, she was acquired by The USS Ship Memorial, Inc., and sailed the Atlantic for the last time in 2001 (some 57 years after her first crossing) arriving in Mobile, Alabama on January 10th 2001 where she currently resides and undergoing restoration. Guess what folks, the crew that sailed her across the pond that final trip consisted of only 29, yes you read right, 29 sailors. Oh by the way, these sailors were older than the gallant lady herself as they were all WWII veterans of the sea services. How about that !!!



NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The USS LST Ship Memorial is looking for volunteers to serve as "Beach Guard" for the visit of USS LST 325 to Alexandria from June 26th to July 1st. Don't worry, there is no manual labor required; only ticket sales and "greater duty." Volunteers are needed on June 27-30th from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Contact **William Wernecke** (serving as Beach Master) for more details. Contact Mr. Wernecke at (410) 252-1939, or by email bkw309@comcast.net.

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

May 19th
June 16th
July 21st

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 15th

Memorial Day

May 31st (observed)

Flag Day

June 14th

Independence Day

July 4th