



AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XVIII No. 3 THE LEGION LETTER Jul-Aug-Sep 2007

“My country ‘tis of thee”

From a Chaplain in Iraq

I recently attended a showing of “Superman 3” here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom back in the States, we stood and snapped to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature. All was going as planned until about three-quarters of the way through the National Anthem the music stopped.



Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year-olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and call for a movie. Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place.

Here, the 1,000 Soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again. The Soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. And again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect to happen? Even here I would imagine laughter as everyone sat down and expected the movie to start.

Here, you could have heard a pin drop. Every Soldier stood at attention. Suddenly there was a lone voice, then a dozen, and quickly the room was filled with the voices

of a thousand Soldiers ‘and the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!’

It was the most inspiring moment I have had here in Iraq. I wanted you to know what kind of Soldiers are serving you here.

Text source: unsolicited email. Photo source: file

*Written by: Chaplain Jim Higgins – May 14, 2007
LSA Anaconda, Balad Airport, Iraq (north of Baghdad)*

What others have said:

“If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for War.” *George Washington*

“The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered deeply, finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.” *George Washington*

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one Nation evermore!” *Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.*

“No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he is vigilant in its preservation.” Gen. Douglas MacArthur, USA

“We, and all others who believe in freedom as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Source: <http://www.worldofquotes.com>

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172

OFFICERS

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

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

THE LEGION LETTER

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGIONNAIRES



July

- 5th William A. Burk, William F. Welch Sr.,
David L. Wilson Sr.
- 9th Jay R. Shaffer
- 11th Daniel A. Dougherty, Leonard A. Lambert
- 15th William R. Davin, William D. Morris
- 16th Daniel W. Barclay
- 18th Robert M. Schlesinger
- 20th Carol A. Elstad, Robert J. Longo
- 23rd Craig E. Kasold
- 24th Ron L. Herron, Joseph E. Leinenbach,
Andy Marmorstein, Robert J. Morrison
- 31st Michael F. Pavlak

August

- 1st Klaus W. Clippinger, Frank E. Owens
- 2nd Harlon Reece
- 4th George N. Key, Gerald Washburn
- 6th Gary House, Howard B. Peck
- 7th Ray L. Carmichael
- 9th John H. Eaker, Gordon E. Joslyn
- 15th Jim Fritz
- 18th Olin A. Baughman, Angelo Wider
- 23rd Donald J. Calder
- 24th Daniel J. Bullis, Michael L. Davis,
William I. Miller
- 26th Kevin R. Darby
- 27th Richard G. Dubuque, Roy T. Howe
- 29th Jacob R. Epprecht Jr., Ronald L. Marshall
- 31st Herbert O. Brickson, Robert D. Martin

September

- 4th Patrick E. McCann
- 5th Allen R. Wild
- 6th Pinckney A. Lynch Jr., Vaughn L. Siegenthaler
- 10th Herman D. Kirk
- 11th Joseph R. Fehrenback, Wendell T. Pugh,
Wayne M. Ward
- 16th Gerritt Peck
- 17th Richard A. Otis
- 18th Robert G. Dalrymple, William R. Knudsen Jr.
- 20th Joseph H. Findley Jr., Jeff Kroke,
Gary L. McCarty
- 21st Hubert M. Jordan, Charles W. Palmer III
- 22nd Brian W. James
- 23rd Richard M. Thomas
- 25th Cyril M. Yench
- 29th Jack D. Hickson
- 30th William P. Schlosser

May 31, 2007

American Legion
Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Washington DC Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Acting Director, Fernando O. Rivera, veteran patients and staff, I would like to thank you for the kind donation of 2 boxes of great movie videotapes.

Your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness are so greatly appreciated. Thank you not only for your donation, but also for your support to our mission of caring for those who served to maintain our Country's Freedom.

Sincerely,
--- signature ---
Paula Gorman
Chief, Voluntary Service

*received from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical
Center, Washington, DC*

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****



While I was on vacation in June, I was nominated and reelected to a third term as the Commander of Post 184. I have accepted this honor as no other members have volunteered to run for open Officer positions. I definitely do not want our Post to dissolve. Last month our Adjutant, John Rogosky resigned as he will be moving to Ohio. John's departure is a big loss for the Post. In addition to being the Adjutant he was also the membership chairman for the Post and took on many other duties as well. I have been very busy taking on John's responsibilities including membership renewals. I need HELP. If our Post is to continue, we need more members to get actively involved in post activities. We need a new Adjutant, we need a membership chairman, and we need others to volunteer for the activities we support throughout the year. Post 184 gives over \$10,000 a year to the area veterans hospitals and other veteran organizations. We organize our Memorial Day and Veterans Day Observances, we fly thirty-eight veteran casket flags making up our Avenue of Flags twice a year at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. We have several flag disposal ceremonies throughout the year where we burn the unserviceable American flags we have collected at our flag disposal depository at the Herndon recycle center. We also collect magazines and videos for our hospitalized veterans. Our two main fundraisers each year are the Poppy campaign during Memorial Day weekend and the Herndon Festival in June where we sell snow cones during the four days of the Festival. It takes a lot of work to continue these activities. Each year it seems to get more and more difficult to come up with the volunteers needed to keep these activities and fund raising events going. Without volunteers to keep these activities going, we will lose these activities and traditions and the hospitalized veterans will lose the most. Please attend our next meeting on Wednesday, September 19th at 7:30 PM and see what needs to be done and where you can help. Wives and daughters of veterans can also help by joining the Post's Auxiliary. My wife Mary is the new President but membership is sparse. Call her to join at 703-481-6189.

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:

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug.2, 1990-cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Govt. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec.20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug.24, 1982-July 31, 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec.22, 1961-May 7, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950-Jan.31, 1955 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec.7, 1941-Dec.31, 1946 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marine Corps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917-Nov.11, 1918 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

The lighter side of things.....

Murphy's Lesser-Known Laws

- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
- The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
- If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
- The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
- The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in the dark.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who aren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

This is what marriage is really about!

He ordered one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink. The old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them kept looking over and whispering. You could tell they were thinking, "That poor old couple – all they can afford is one meal for the two of them." As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine – they were used to sharing everything. The surrounding people noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said, "No thank you we are used to sharing everything." As the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with a napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked, "What is it you are waiting for?" She answered (are you ready for this?) ---- "HIS TEETH."

Beware of legionnaires hunting....

Two old legionnaires were hunters. They hired a bush pilot to fly them from Minneapolis to British Columbia to hunt moose. They bagged six. As they started loading the plane for the return trip home, the pilot tells them that the plane can take only three moose. The old legionnaires objected strongly, stating; "Last year we shot six moose and the pilot let us put them all on board and he had the same size plane as yours." Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all six moose were loaded. Unfortunately, even on full power, the little plane couldn't handle the load and crashed a few minutes after takeoff. Climbing out of the wreck, one legionnaire asked the other, "Any idea where we are?" The other legionnaire replied, "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

How about some military one-liners

- You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.
- You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3 (Paul F. Crickmore, test pilot).
- The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
- A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit.

POST 184 - HAPPENINGS



American Legion Post 184
Memorial Day 2007 Ceremony
Chestnut Grove Cemetery

Boy Scout Devin McNulty from Great Falls, Virginia is presented with the "Veterans Remembrance Patch" by Post 184 Commander Dave Kirby at the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28, 2007. David and Jack Hardwick from Vienna, VA and Danny Coza from Herndon, VA were also recently awarded the patch.

Qualifying for the Veterans Remembrance Patch requires visiting numerous veterans memorials and other locations and then answering a series of questions about each.

American Legion Post 184
Memorial Day 2007 Ceremony
Chestnut Grove Cemetery

Herndon Town Council member Harlon Reece delivers the keynote address at the Post 184 Memorial Day Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery on May 28, 2007. Mr. Reece is a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Marine Corps with combat service in Vietnam. Mr. Reece also serves as 1st Vice Commander, Post 184.

The complete text of Councilman Reece's address, which so succinctly and poignantly brought out the true meaning of Memorial Day --- a day to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect our American way of life, can be found beginning on page 6 of this newsletter. Read it and learn a bit of history about what it means to be an American.



American Legion Post 184, Memorial Day 2007 Ceremony, keynote address

Ninety years ago last month on April 6, 1917 our country entered World War I, the “War to End All Wars” joining allies Britain, France, Italy and Russia against the Central Powers led by the Austro-Hungarian, German, and Ottoman empires. When World War I ended at eleven o’clock on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, over 53,000 of our American service members had fallen in battle on foreign soil and our armed forces suffered more than 63,000 additional non-battle deaths.

There is good reason to believe that, when the war began in August 1914, most of the leaders involved had no real appreciation for what they were setting in motion. World War I saw the first use of chemical weapons and the first mass bombardment of civilians from the sky. Many thought the war would last only a few months, but when Armistice was declared more than four years later, nine million people had died on the battlefield and our world was forever changed.

While many Americans were not in favor of entering World War I and wanted to remain neutral, President Wilson declared in his message on April 2, 1917 to the 65th Congress that, “there is one choice we can not make, we are incapable of making: we will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our nation and our people to be ignored or violated. The wrongs against which we now array ourselves are no common wrongs; they cut to the very roots of human life.”

President Wilson went on to say, “The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them.”

As we are gathered here today to honor those who have given their lives in the service of our country, we are confronted with the sad reality that World War I was not the war to end all wars. Indeed, much of our world was already engaged in the global conflict known as World War II when Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The next day the United States declared that a state of war existed between our country and Japan. Three days later, as a result of a pact between Germany, Italy and Japan, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States and later that day our country declared that a state of war existed with Germany and Italy. When the Second World War ended in 1945, more than 291,000 American service members had died on battlefields in Europe and the Pacific and our brave armed forces suffered more than 113,000 additional non-combat deaths.

A bit less than five years later our service members were once again dying on foreign soil in Korea in an effort to halt North Korea’s invasion of South Korea. When this so called police action ended in July 1953, over 54,000 of our service members had perished.

Over 58,000 of our service members died in Vietnam in a war that lasted more than ten years – a war that deeply divided our country and inflicted wounds on our national psyche that have yet to be completely healed.

In August of 1990, thousands of our armed forces were deployed to Saudi Arabia in response to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. In January of the following year, our service members were sent into battle to liberate Kuwait. When hostilities ceased, 147 of our service members had died in battle and we suffered more than 1,800 additional non-combat deaths.

In September of 2001, our country was brutally attacked by terrorists who hijacked four U.S. planes that were crashed into the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 innocent people in a matter of hours. Most of those killed were Americans and now we know that many more lives would have been lost were it not for the bravery of passengers who gave their lives to bring down that plane in Pennsylvania, thereby preventing the terrorists onboard from completing their mission of destruction.

Following the horrific events of September 11, 2001, our armed forces were sent to Afghanistan to overthrow the oppressive Taliban government and to eliminate a training ground and safe harbor for the terrorists who planned and executed the attacks on our homeland. While our work in Afghanistan is not complete, we have lost more than 300 of our brave service members there.

We gather here today with the knowledge that many thousands of our service members are now engaged in combat in Iraq. While we wait for history’s judgment on the final outcome of the war in Iraq, we are confronted with daily reminders of the mounting casualties among the brave men and women of our armed forces.

Clearly, World War I was not the war that ended all wars and we are left to wonder if the day will ever come when war will cease. Is the dream of swords made into ploughshares forever unattainable? Will there ever be a time when all the people of our world will live in freedom?

I sincerely believe that we are a peace loving people. I believe that those of us who have been to war especially appreciate peace because we have experienced the costs involved. Those who have lost loved ones in the service of our country know full well that peace often comes at a great price. While we may be a peace loving people, we must not allow our longing for peace to obscure the reality that today we face an enemy that is determined to destroy us and the values that we hold dear – liberty, equality, justice. This enemy has clearly demonstrated a willingness to commit

American Legion Post 184, Memorial Day 2007 Ceremony, keynote address (cont'd)

unspeakable acts of terrorism in order to bring us down. We must keep America strong and ready to protect our fundamental freedoms and values. Certainly, we owe that to those who have sacrificed so much to gain and maintain the rights we enjoy in our great nation.

As we contemplate the extent to which we are indebted to those we come to honor here today, let us consider how different our lives would be had not those brave patriots been willing to give their lives to gain our independence, giving birth to a new nation and paving the way for our cherished Constitution and Bill of Rights. Let us imagine how different our world would be today without the defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan. Let us imagine if we can how many more unspeakable acts of terrorism we might have experienced in our homeland had not the Taliban government been overthrown and the capability of the terrorists that it supported significantly crippled.

So, let us leave here this morning with rekindled reverence and respect for those who gave their lives in the service of our great land. Let us leave here with renewed appreciation for the rights that we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America.

Earlier this month, I met a woman, Gloria Anthony, who immigrated to our country over forty years ago. She has written a poem that I would like to share with you. Its title is, 'I am America.'

I am America.
I am a child of Justice and Freedom.
My grandparents are Honesty and Wisdom.
Married to Honor, I bore children named Fairness, Dignity, Compassion and Valor.
I've lost many sons on distant shores to rescue humanity from oppression,
but achieved my strength by drinking from the bitter cup of errors and hence attained
a keen awareness of the yearning of Mankind.
The world through shadows of fear, follow my eagle there to the mountain of hope
where my torch of liberty flames and my flag flies free against the limitless sky.
For I was given a golden rod to wrest from bound seas the right of
everyman no matter his creed or class.

I pray that Almighty God will give us the wisdom, courage and resolve to ensure that America will continue to be the America so powerfully described by this poem. For in so doing, we shall guarantee that America will continue to be a beacon of freedom – a reason for hope for those for whom freedom is a distant dream.

(written and delivered by Lt.Col. Harlon Reece, USMC (Ret.), May 28, 2007)

The American Legion – National News

American Legion hails amnesty's defeat, calls for better border security

WASHINGTON, DC (June 28, 2007) – The National Commander of The American Legion called today's collapse of the amnesty bill in the U.S. Senate "a victory for the American people."

The Senate's 46-53 vote to limit debate on the bill essentially killed any attempt to reform immigration until after the 2008 elections, according to the Associated Press. "It is unconscionable that six years after the worst terrorist attack in history, America's borders are still not secure," National Commander Paul A. Morin said. "However, awarding amnesty to foreigners who have broken the law is not and will never be the way to make America more secure."

While The American Legion strongly opposed President Bush's proposal to grant amnesty to illegal aliens, the nation's largest veterans organization has repeatedly called upon the administration to construct security fences, hire more border patrol agents, invest in the necessary technology to protect the borders and search cargo entering U.S. ports. "Some of the terrorists who plotted to murder Americans at Fort Dix fit the definition of what many call 'undocumented workers.' They are illegal aliens and that is the term I will continue to use," Morin said. "The American Legion is willing to work with our leaders in reforming immigration, but there can be no reform until our borders and ports are secure."

Morin also pointed out that illegal aliens can attend many state universities at lower tuition rates than Americans who are not state residents, a benefit not even offered to many of America's veterans and military members.

A Heritage Foundation study estimates that a typical illegal alien costs taxpayers \$1.2 million in lifetime benefits and the total cost of the amnesty proposal would have been \$2.6 trillion. "American taxpayers fund many of the health care, education and other public service benefits taken for granted by illegal aliens who pay no income tax," Morin said.

(released – 28 Jun 2007 by The American Legion, "Public Relations Division")

The American Legion – National News

Landstuhl heroes deserve more

June 25, 2007 – *By American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin, American Legion Auxiliary National President JoAnn Cronin and Sons of the American Legion National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky.* Many of the wounded arrive there naked. We are not talking about a hospital in the Sudan, but our very own Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a stop on the journey home for most of the severely wounded Americans fighting in the War on Terror.

As Michael M. Phillips explains in his book, “The Gift of Valor,” the clothes of these heroes are often cut off their back by medics and corpsmen as they are evacuated from the battlefield. He adds, “If you make it to Landstuhl, you’re good to go. It was an article of faith among the Marine infantrymen in Iraq that if the corpsmen plugged up the hole to keep you from bleeding out, and the field surgeons stitched up the important organs, and the Air Force got you all the way to the Army hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then you’d live. You might not be the same. Your legs might not be where they were before the war. Your arms might not work as well. Your skin might be disfigured by burns. Your brain might be so badly injured that you might not really be the same person you used to be. But you’d survive and eventually get home to your parents, your wife, your kids, your girl.”

The American Legion wants them to do more than survive. America can never repay the debt it owes these heroes, but it can certainly improve their quality of life. Much attention has been rightly given to substandard conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, but little is being done to help the plight of our heroes at Landstuhl.

Last month, National Commander Morin and President Cronin had the honor of visiting this vital DoD facility. Patient’s there don’t ask for much. Some are even eager to return to their old units so they could fight alongside their buddies. Sadly, some of these wounded warriors had broken television sets in their rooms. Others lack comfort items such as DVDs, MP-3s or even magazines. They do receive a small clothing allowance, but when you arrive with nothing it doesn’t go very far.

We are throwing down a challenge to the entire American Legion family and anyone else who wants to help. Let’s raise \$50,000 by the close of our 89th Convention on Aug. 30 to ensure that these men and women are given the comfort items that they want. By family, we mean The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion; “anyone else” includes everyone who has the heart to help these brave young men and women.

It’s important that this be a family effort because it is our families that these men and women are protecting. The heroes of Landstuhl are our Band of Brothers and Band of Sisters.

Words such as “support the troops” and “sacrifice” are tossed around so much these days that they are in danger of being dismissed as clichés. Here is another one: “Talk is cheap.” Care packages and cards are nice, but a donation to “Operation Landstuhl” is effortless. Simply visit www.legion.org (<http://www.legion.org/landstuhl>) and use any major credit card to make an online donation. It doesn’t matter how much you give. Just give something. If you prefer, you can mail a check to Operation Landstuhl, c/o The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

Every post, unit or squadron that makes a donation will receive a certificate of appreciation signed by the national commanders and the national president. A strong national security and taking care of veterans are two of the original four pillars that The American Legion has been built on. Operation Landstuhl is yet another way to fulfill that commitment.

(released - 26 Jun 2007 by The American Legion, “Public Relations Division”)

Fisher House matches Landstuhl phone card purchases

INDIANAPOLIS (July 30, 2007) – Just days after the national commander of The American Legion announced the purchase of \$25,000 in pre-paid telephone calling cards to be given to troops as part of Operation Landstuhl (Lond Stool), an official with the Fisher House Foundation announced his organization’s intention to match the donation given to U.S. troops recovering at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

“We are going to send \$25,000 of our own calling cards to the heroes recovering there,” said James D. Weiskopf, Vice President of Communications for Fisher House. “This is in addition to the periodic shipment of cards we make to both the Pastoral Care Division and the manager of the two Landstuhl Fisher Houses. We stand ready to assist The American Legion in this special program to take care of servicemembers and their families.”

“This is an example of two great organizations working together,” National Commander Paul A. Morin said. “Thanks to the Fisher House Foundation and The American Legion family, the troops will soon be getting \$50,000 worth of calling cards instead of \$25,000. As a consequence of war, a steady stream of new patients arrives there daily. These cards will all be put to good use.”

Operation Landstuhl is an initiative by Morin, Auxiliary President JoAnn Cronin and Sons of The American Legion Commander Earl Ruttkofsky. It was prompted by a recent visit to the center by Morin and Cronin.

“Brig. Gen. David Rubenstein and his staff at Landstuhl do an outstanding job of making sure the patients there receive the best medical care in the world. They are to be commended. But there are some personal comfort items that the

The American Legion – National News

patients could use,” Morin said. “Whether it’s a set of civilian clothes, DVDs, CDs, magazines or books, we want to provide it for them. We owe it to them. These phone cards are just the start.”

The hospital is a stopping point on the journey home for many wounded servicemembers, who are injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. During peak fighting periods, the hospital often accepts more than 900 new patients per month.

Credit card donations for the program are accepted online at www.legion.org (<http://www.legion.org>) and checks can be mailed to Operation Landstuhl, c/o The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.

“Operation Landstuhl is just more than a month old and we are already on our way to achieving our goal,” Morin said. “The generosity of the American people has been overwhelming. I am confident that we will meet our goal by the close of our 89th National Convention on August 30th.”

The Fisher House Foundation was established in 1990 by the late Zachery Fisher, a New York builder, and his wife Elizabeth. Fisher House is designed to diminish emotional and financial drains on veterans’ families and provide wheelchair-friendly places for veterans to visit. In recognition of the special sacrifices of severely wounded or ill U.S. servicemembers and their families, the foundation donates “comfort homes” so families can face medical difficulties together. Contact: John Raughter or Joe March (317) 630-1253.

(released – 31 Jul 2007 by The American Legion, “Public Affairs Division”)

The American Legion – State & Local News

Unrecognized Danger

This past month we in the Legion remember the loss of the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, the 900 raw recruits and the famed Four Chaplains who went down with her. Most Naval personnel will agree that one of the most dangerous jobs of World War II was sailing in convoys; and the worst danger of all was sailing in the convoys in winter, for then, if a ship was torpedoed, a man perished quickly in the icy waters, unless help came at once. Every man in those England and Russian convoys was a hero.

William Barclay tells that one day a chaplain of that era came to a man who had sailed in those convoys and asked him if he had any special impressions. “I don’t think,” said the man, “that there is anything I can tell.” “But,” said the chaplain, “I know that you were bombed and torpedoed and machine-gunned. There must have been something that you will remember all your life.” “Yes,” said the man, “there is something, or rather, there are two things that I shall always remember. The first is the sound of men’s voices in the sea at night, when you can’t stop to pick them up and the other is the sound of people’s voices complaining in the shops at home.”

In that man’s mind was the burning memory of the contrast between the men dying in icy waters and men and women complaining about trifling inconvenience. People grumbled at their personal inconveniences while men were dying at sea, for their freedoms.

How tragic it is that today, that many in our country still complain about their own personal inconveniences and forget those who are fighting for our freedoms.

Can it be that they are either ignorant of the facts, or unwilling to realize that those whom we are fighting on foreign soil want to destroy our way of life, here at home. They want our freedoms stopped and would impose their form of Government and its lack of human rights upon us. This has been and still is their main goal for years and they don’t want peace.

An Unrecognized Danger today is, “If we fail to learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.”

Don’t forget Freedom isn’t free it is the most costly possession we have.

Another Unrecognized Danger today is, many a man will spend his whole strength and energy on this world’s goods and completely forget that there is a God and a world to come.

The Bible asks us about another UNRECOGNIZED DANGER “what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul or what shall he give in exchange for his soul?” [Mark 8:36,37]

(The Virginia Legionnaire, April 2007, page 3, “From the Pulpit, Dr. David Russell, Department Chaplain”)

VA Searching for Last Soldiers from WWI

With only four living American veterans of World War I currently known, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking public assistance in determining whether others are still alive. To qualify as a World War I veteran, someone must have been on active duty between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918. VA is also looking for surviving Americans who served in the armed forces of allied nations. Members of the general public who know of a surviving World War I veteran are asked to contact VA by emailing the information to ww1@va.gov; faxing it to 202-273-6702, or mailing it to the Office of Public Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs (80), 810 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20472

(The Post Times, Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, May 2007, page 3)

**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

September 19th
October 17th
November 21st

Meeting held on the 1st floor of the
Herndon Moose Lodge
Center Street
Herndon, VA



Show YOUR COLORS

Display your Flag!!!

Labor Day
September 3rd

Patriot Day
September 11th

POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 21st

Columbus Day
October 8th

Navy Day
October 27th

Veterans Day
November 11th