



# District 17 Communicator

Volume 3 – Issue 1

JULY 2021

## Commander's Corner

Legionnaires,

On July 10, I will be installed as the 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander. It will be my honor and privilege to serve in this position. I want first to thank Commander Jim Glassman for his leadership and dedication the last two years as he led the 17<sup>th</sup> District through the COVID crisis. Looking ahead, I look forward to working with all the Post Commanders and Legionnaires. As we return to normal, we will need to continue working on membership and starting up your Legion Programs in support of our veterans and community. Later this month we will be coming out with our District Schedule. For membership, Jim has volunteered to be the Membership Chairman. I encourage you to use his wealth of experience if you have any questions or need help with your membership. For Post visit's, my goal will be to visit every Post in the District. If your Post have an event you would like me to attend, please contact me. Thanks again for your trust and confidence.

Keep doing your Buddy Checks!!!

Be safe!!!

Mike Kimlick  
Commander

## MEMBERSHIP

It looks like we will finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Department again. Thank you to the Posts that tried hard to get us to #1. Unfortunately, some posts didn't.

Membership is hard work. I know, I have been Post 24's Membership Chairman for 23 years. Make sure that you have a dedicated Membership team this year. Make sure you have all your members information to include phone numbers and e-mail addresses so you can reach out to them. I reviewed one Post's roster and out of 78 members, they have phone numbers and e-mails on only 14. You need everyone's information! Remember to get your membership in on a timely basis. You should not be holding them back. When you do, you hurt our District. If you need assistance, I'm a phone call away. Last year, I sent each post copies of letters that I send out to those who have not renewed. Believe me, they work. If you need them again, just ask. Let all members know that they can renew their membership on-line. It's the quickest and easiest way to do it. And don't forget about Paid Up for Life memberships.

Let's strive to be #1 this year.

Jim Glassman

members, friends, and Old Town Alexandria residents.

### What's Going on at your Post

#### Alexandria Post 24 – Commander Henry Dorton

#### May/June

**Memorial Day Weekend:** Post 24 members supported the VFW Post 609 flag placement detail at the *Alexandria National Cemetery* on the rainy Saturday 29 May. Our members and other volunteers placed U.S. flags on about 4,300 grave sites.



**Memorial Day Observance– Monday 31 May:** Post 24 held its Memorial Day Observance by the flag pole at its post home. Program highlights included a wreath presentation by Sgt-at-Arms Jim McDermott; the opening prayer by Chaplain “Dick” Evans; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Donna Reuss closed the ceremony by singing *God Bless America* (a cappella). The Observance was attended by about (40) Legionnaires, family



Sgt-At-Arms Jim McDermott



Chaplain Richard Evans (L)



3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Donna Reuss (Vocals)



On Memorial Day: Past Post 24 Cdr Doug Gurka (L) met with other former 199th Infantry Brigade members for an official ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Post Installation Support:** On Tuesday 1 June, Post 24 helped officiate the Springfield Post 176 Installation. Post 24 Adjutant (and 17<sup>th</sup> District Cdr) Jim Glassman officiated the installation of officers and executive committee members. Post 24 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cdr Donna Reuss served as the Installation Chaplain.



**The America Veterans Disabled for Life (AVDL) Memorial:** On Saturday 5 June, Post 24 was represented at the AVDL Memorial to help with the periodic cleaning. This community service project is scheduled each month through November 2021.

**Flag Retrieval Support:** Post 24 members supported the VFW Post 609 flag retrieval detail at *Alexandria National Cemetery* on Sat. 5 June. The volunteers helped collect (and clean) the thousands of miniature flags

which had been placed on the grave sites for the Memorial Day weekend.



(L-R) Wes Kerr, Donna Reuss, Mike Mixon w/ granddaughter Charlotte, Jim McDermott, Henry Dorton, and dual Post 24 member & VFW Post 609 Cdr Jerry Krueger.

**District 17 Convention:** Thanks to the Coronavirus pandemic, the 17<sup>th</sup> District officers stayed in place and Jim Glassman served a remarkable ***Two Terms*** as District Commander, the first and maybe the last time this feat will be accomplished. The Convention on June 13 was the last District meeting for outgoing Commander Glassman. (We wish Jim all the best in his new job as an Uber driver.)



Past Nat'l Cdr Dellinger (L) and Dist. 17 Adjutant Niernberger (R), applaud Dist. 17 Cdr Glassman.

**U. S. Welcome for Afghan Interpreter:** As you recall, The American Legion led the VSO effort to help coalition Afghan and

Iraqi translators or “Terps” (short for Interpreters) gain access to the United States. Post 24 Adjutant Jim Glassman wrote a Resolution that moved up the chain and was ultimately passed by the National Office. Initially, the visa program was working, and visas were available for some of these combat partners, but the Coronavirus resulted in the closure of the Kabul embassy which processed visas. One of the first Afghan Interpreters to arrive in the U.S. since the Kabul Embassy reopened, was “Sediq”. On 15 June, Post 24 reps joined the *No One Left Behind* organization to greet the translator and his family upon their arrival to Dulles International Airport.

**Past Post 24 Cdr Doug Gurka (L) and Cdr Dorton greet Afghan Translator “Sediq” at Dulles Intl Airport**



**(Left Rear) Post 24 mbr James Miervaldis, Chairman, No One Left Behind Organization**



**Early Summer Blood Drive:** In support of *Inova Blood Donor Services*, Post 24 hosted a Blood Drive on Monday **28 June** in Old Town Alexandria. Post 24 members donated blood, as well as recruit and schedule blood donors for the Bloodmobile which will be located near City Hall in Old Town Alexandria

## **July**

**Community Service Project at The America Veterans Disabled for Life (AVDL) Memorial:** In coordination with the National Park Service, the AVDL Memorial in Washington, D.C. will be cleaned on **Sat. 3 July** with the help of Post 24 members.

## **Post 24 Fundraiser for Legion Baseball**

⌚ - Post 24 plans to host a fundraiser for our post's Legion Baseball program on Sat. 10 July (5-11pm). All Legionnaires, Active Duty, and Veterans are invited to this Cookout event which will be in the Gadsby's Tavern Courtyard. Naturally, the fundraiser theme will be *Baseball* and the menu will include ballpark fare such as hotdogs, peanuts, popcorn, Cracker Jacks, plus the traditional ballpark beverages. The event is a “doubleheader” because we will also celebrate the conclusion of Post 24 Adjutant Jim Glassman's *Two Terms* as District 17 Commander and his *30-year* support for Legion Baseball. All are welcome to join us.

### **Women Veteran Membership Drive -**

Post 24 is planning a *meet-n-greet* for women veterans interested in learning about The American Legion and potential membership. The event is scheduled for Sat. 31 July in the post ballroom.

### **Greenspring Post 123 – Commander Paul Newcombe**

Greenspring Post 123 officers for LY 2022 were installed on June 16.

17<sup>th</sup> District Commander James Glassman served as installing officer, Sergeant-at-Arms: Past District Commander Phil Dunn, and Chaplain: Alexandria Post 24 3rd Vice Commander Donna Russ. Post officers for LY 2022 are Paul Newcombe, Commander; Vance Morrison, Vice Commander; Edward Wyse, Adjutant; and Elizabeth Haynes, Finance Officer.



### **Falls Church Post 130 – Commander Wayne Hines**

#### **Regular DMV Connect Dates July 12 -14 2021**

9:30am to 3:00pm Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30pm

Walk-ins may be considered on a case by case basis. Call the Office **(703) 248-5450** or e-mail us your name, cell #, e-mail address & DMV transaction type, & appointment availability to:

**[commissioner@fallscurchva.gov](mailto:commissioner@fallscurchva.gov).**

### **Remote Knowledge Testing dates for Learner's - July 19 - 22, 2021**

9:30am to 3:00pm Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:30pm

Permit & CDL and they do regular DMV Connect transactions. It's a new pilot program.

By appointment, but they can sometimes be booked via an email sent to Lily Riehn at: **[dmvconnecttysons@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:dmvconnecttysons@dmv.virginia.gov)**

The post holds an 8 Ball tournament every first Friday of each month. We play singles if turnout is low and "luck of the draw" for doubles. It is double elimination. All pool playing members are welcome.

Post hours: Monday -Saturday 1200 to 2200. Sunday- 1300 to 2200.

### **Springfield Post 176 – Commander Marty Pfeifer**

Post 176 continues to be active hosting events and meetings. We hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> District Meeting on June 13th. 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jim Glassman of Post 24 (Alexandria) turned over the gavel to Mike Kimlick of Post 177 (Fairfax). Food and beverages were served to the 40 Legionnaires who were present. I want to thank Jim for his outstanding leadership and service to the 17<sup>th</sup> District during a challenging year and I look forward to working with our new 17<sup>th</sup> District Commander Mike Kimlick this year.

Other events hosted at Post 176 are Line Dancing on Monday evenings at 6:00 PM as well as some retirements and promotions of military personnel. We also sponsored a flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup> by the American Heritage Girls, an organization similar to the Girl Scouts. Post 176 provided support for the flag retirement ceremony along with our Auxiliary. I had the honor and privilege to read the American

Legion Resolution adopted on September 23, 1937, that outlines the proper way to retire flags that are no longer serviceable. Thanks to Sergeant at Arms Emeritus Floyd Cline, Second Vice Commander Michael Farabaugh, Third Vice Commander Matt Hedrick, and Auxiliary President Susan Hedrick for making this event a memorable experience for the girls and their families.



We will also host an Independence Day Picnic on Saturday, July 3, 2021, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Cost is \$8.00 for Picnic food such as hot dogs, burgers, and other fare. Beverages of all kinds, including sodas and beer will also be available. Legionnaires, their family, and friends are welcome.

In closing, I want to thank Commander Dennis Madtes for his leadership as our Post Commander for the past three years. Dennis faced many challenges but always kept Post 176 moving forward. Thanks, Dennis, for your service to Post 176 and the 17<sup>th</sup> District.

### **Arlington Post 194 –Commander DeWanda Mintz**

"It is my sad duty to report that Comrade Chester Wells has been called from our midst, and gone to report to the Commander of all." Comrade Wells has been a member of Dorie Miller Post 194 for over 32 years. He'll be laid to rest at Quantico National Cemetery Quantico, VA

Virtual Cooking with Chef Jason, Saturday, June 26th. This activity was sponsored by **Children & Youth Team Department of Virginia**. Dorie Miller ALA Unit 194's Junior, Christa Davis, participated and presented the Unit President, Della Lockett with a sampling of her dishes.

### **Centreville Post 1995 – Commander Hunter**

#### **Memorial Day Breakfast for the Homeless**

On Memorial Day 2021 Post 1995 purchased and prepared breakfast for 150 homeless veterans and their families. Breakfast included: Southwestern casserole mild and plain, pancakes, sausage, bacon and scrambled eggs, coffee, OJ and milk. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Holiday that we have provided breakfast for the homeless veterans. In addition to the breakfast, there were agencies available to provide housing assistance to attending Veterans and their families.

### **Legion Auxiliary**

#### **Unit 85**

It is a "Rainy Day" basket. It is filled with assorted candy, popcorn, 10 DVD's, popcorn bowl with 2 serving bowls and other goodies. Drawing will be on July 24th. Need not be present to win. Make sure you put your name and telephone number on the back of your tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00.



### **Sons of The American Legion - Tyler Vanice, Department Vice Commander**

It is time for our Annual Detachment Convention to be held in person and virtually at 12:30 pm on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at The American Legion Post 284 in Colonial Heights. We will open the meeting about 20 minutes early to assist with any technology issues. Please send your reports to the following leads.

VA & R  
Joe Gallagher  
[saljgallagher@gmail.com](mailto:saljgallagher@gmail.com)

Americanism  
Dave Boggs  
[DBBoggs@outlook.com](mailto:DBBoggs@outlook.com)

Children & Youth  
Tyler Vanice  
[Tyler.vanice@gmail.com](mailto:Tyler.vanice@gmail.com)

Membership  
Kevin Chaplin  
[kchaplin@lexacom.net](mailto:kchaplin@lexacom.net)

Legislative  
Linwood Moore  
[woodman989@aol.com](mailto:woodman989@aol.com)

### **Meeting Information:**

**What:** Detachment of VA - 2021 Convention  
**When:** Sat, Jul 10, 2021, 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT)  
 Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/433434325>  
 You can also dial in using your phone.  
 United States: +1 (872) 240-3412  
 - One-touch: <tel:+18722403412,,433434325#>  
**Access Code:** 433-434-325  
**Where:** Post 284  
 505 Springdale Ave  
 Colonial Heights, VA 23834

It is important that all Squadrons have a representative in attendance for this meeting to allow us to carry out the Election of Officers for the next administrative year. We will also announce the Detachment Award Winners for Americanism, Children and Youth, and VA & R as well as the Detachment Scholarship Award Winner and the Son of the Year Award.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 7:30pm at Post 284 in Colonial Heights. We will also offer a virtual option, if requested, via GoTo Meeting. Meeting links will be sent out 1 week prior to the meeting.

**Squadron Officer Forms** are due. Please make sure you fill out and complete the New Officers form if you have done this yet. This form must be completed and returned to me

and the Department Membership Secretary by July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. The new 2021 – 2022 Membership Cards have arrived at Department Headquarters, and we need your new Officers information so we can make sure we are shipping them to the correct person and address. You can find this form by visiting the SAL Detachment website [vasons.org](http://vasons.org), by clicking the link above or by contacting me.