



District 17 Communicator

Volume 5 – Issue 3

SEPTEMBER 2023

Commander's Corner

As we start our 2023-2024 Legion Year, the beginning of fall, schools opening, etc., there are so many things I am grateful for, appreciate and look forward to. I, like many others believe the more you give, the more you get back. I know my position as 17th District Commander will be an enriching one as my base of friends and associates broadens. I wish to thank my comrades and Vice Commanders for their vote of confidence, and I will strive to do my best.

It must be said that the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders are a big support to The American Legion. I have been impressed with their work and the amount of support they give to the Legion from the beginning. I look forward to working with the members and learning from them as well. They are my heroes.

I hope that everyone is feeling as invigorated and optimistic for the coming year as I am. Let's challenge ourselves to be better as whatever we do. Collectively, we can be one of the top performing districts.

Be The One!!!

Commander
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Adjutant's Corner

Membership Standings as of
1 September 2023

We are in 7th Place in the Department.

VA-0024 64.42%
VA-0044 89.47%
VA-0085 33.86%
VA-0123 76.62%
VA-0130 46.38%
VA-0139 50.77%
VA-0162 45.00%
VA-0176 60.17%
VA-0177 56.20%
VA-0180 55.79%
VA-0184 60.36%
VA-0194 40.82%
VA-0270 47.16%
VA-1775 45.95%
VA-1976 62.75%
VA-1995 56.67%

SUM: 56.94%

So far, 922 members have renewed online at My Legion. If you don't have a My Legion account, GET ONE!!!

Also, keep pushing Paid Up for Life memberships. I've been pushing this hard for the last several years and Post 24 now has 193 PUFLs! Put it out that National will be raising our dues in the coming years. If you are a PFUL, you are grandfathered in at your current rate. Think about that.

Again, we did great last year, but we can do better in 2024 if we all do our jobs and do it seriously. Adjutant and Membership are two of the most important positions in every post, if not the most important. **We can do better IF, IF, we have a dedicated Membership team in our posts.**

Let's hit the road running!!!

Jim Glassman
District Adjutant
Membership Chairman

Legislation Chairman – Bill Aramony

As I write this, the Virginia General Assembly is scheduled to meet September 6, 2023, in special session to vote on a newly negotiated budget, which contains a military tax exemption provision. I do not know the outcome of the vote and rely on secondhand information about the provision. Contact your Delegate and Senator to urge their support (or thank them if it passes) of income tax exemption of military retirement. Do a web search by your zip code if you do not know how to contact them.

Virginia could join most States that exempt from State tax active-duty military retiree income. Virginia seeks to retain and attract retiring service members. Military retirees are educated and have special skills bringing to the State stability and revenue from second careers. Your support helps veterans but also Virginia. On the national stage, join Voters Voice at the American Legion national legislative web page. It allows you to contact Congress when needed. 3.5%, only a few, Virginia legionnaires are Voter Voice members. Nationwide, these few had an outsized impact last year in legislative contacts – 500 of 15,500 nationwide. Please help your fellow veteran, even if the issue does not directly affect you. Email bill.aramony@aol.com subject line Voters Voice if you need more information.

CHAPLAINS CORNER - Chaplain McComb

On September 11, Patriot Day gives all of us time to reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line. Let us take a moment on September 11th to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place for all.

A Prayer for the Anniversary of 9/11.

“O God, our hope and refuge, in our distress we come quickly to you. Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided, replaced now with an emptiness, a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those who lost their lives. We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants who demonstrated the greatest love of all by laying down their lives for friends. We commit their souls to your eternal care and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering and we come in hope, not in ourselves, but in you. In commemorating this tragedy, we give you thanks for your presence in our time of need and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth, our guide, and our guardian. Amen.” Source: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-prayer-for-the-anniversary-of-911>.

Take care of each other. May the Lord provide you encouragement and comfort always, but especially if you are enduring difficult times. May the Lord be a constant companion us all. Blessings,

--Paul McComb,
District 17 Chaplain
pmccomb98@gmail.com

**What's Going on at your Post
(Thank you to the Posts that
submitted their input!!!!)**

**Alexandria Post 24 – Commander
Mixon**

AUGUST 2023—What Happened?

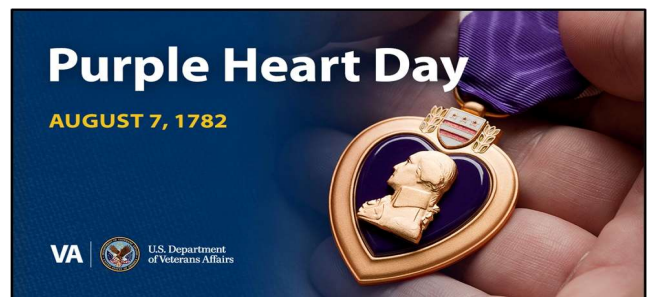
Coast Guard Birthday. On August 4th, the U.S. Coast Guard celebrated its 233rd birthday. The Post 24 Clubroom hosted a cake cutting ceremony that evening. Representing the oldest and youngest Coast Guardsmen: Victoria Hansard represented her father Clifton C. Williams, Jr., Coast Guard, WW2 veteran and Saniya Desai represented the youngest Coast Guardsman. See photo below. Semper Paratus!

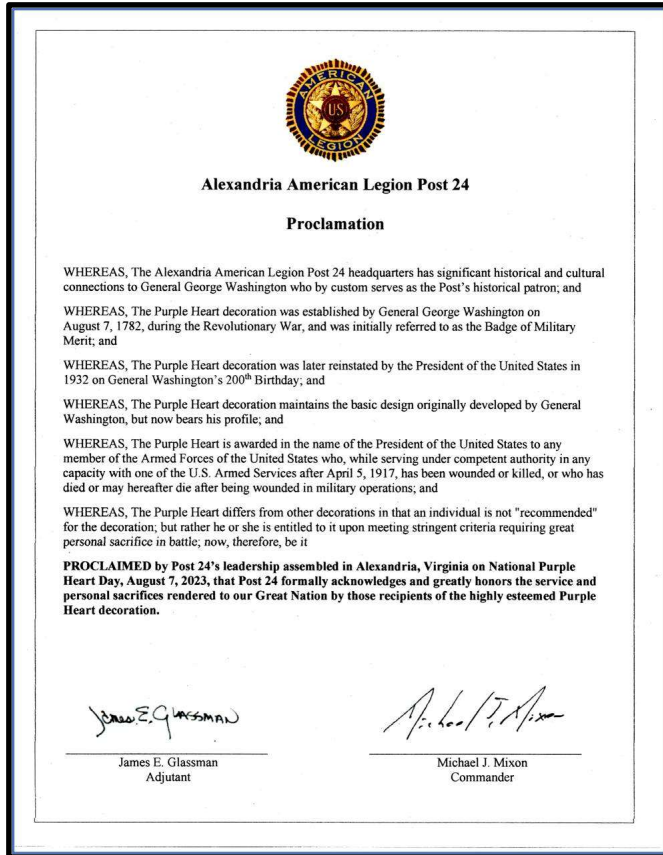


Cleaning Memorial in DC. On August 5th, several Post 24 members teamed up with other like-minded American Legion members from our area to clean up (wall washing and litter pickup) on and around the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial located in Washington D.C. Great teamwork!



Purple Heart Recognition Day. On August 7th, post 24 leadership issued a proclamation to commemorate this special day set aside to remember and honor the more than 1.9 million members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action while defending our great nation.





Awards. At Post 24's membership meeting on August 9th, Adjutant Jim Glassman showed off the numerous awards (e.g., Americanism, Children & Youth, Membership, etc.) that Post 24 recently received from the Department of Virginia's District 17. These awards were evidence of the outstanding performance of dedicated Post 24 Legionnaires during the previous Legion year.

Ladies-Only Restorative Yoga Class. On August 24th, another successful "Ladies-Only Restorative Yoga Class" convened in the Ballroom. A big thanks to Wendy Driver for championing and organizing these classes!



The National Museum of the U.S. Army. A few years ago, Post 24 decided to participate in the brick program in support of building The National Museum of the United States Army located at Fort Belvoir. To find the Post 24 brick while visiting the museum you should walk along the promenade until you reach Section 22; there you will locate the Post 24 brick. Commander Mixon visited the museum on August 25th and snapped the photo below.



SEPTEMBER 2023—What's Coming?

September is remembered for many things, but two biggies that stand out are Patriot Day on September 11th and National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the 3rd Friday—this year being September 15th. On Patriot Day we honor and remember those who lost their lives (2,977) or were injured (over 6,000) in the horrific terror attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001. We will never forget the first responders, military personnel, veterans,

Greenspring Post 123 – Commander Morrison

On August 24 our post staffed a table at Greenspring Connect, a fair held to inform residents about the activities and clubs available at the Greenspring senior living community. The event theme was Hawaii and so we wore Aloha shirts and Legion caps. A treat was Polynesian hula dancers bedecking our folks with leis.



Falls Church Post 130 – Commander Carl



BEER BRATS, SAURKRAUT, GERMAN POTATO
SALAD AND SNACKS



OCTOBER 20TH

\$10.00

AMERICAN LEGION POST 130
400 N OAK, FALLS CHURCH

STARTS AT 5PM

KARAOKE AT 7PM

JELLO SHOTS AND 50/50

PLENTY OF GERMAN BEER

Springfield Post 176 – Commander Gaddis

I want to thank Theron and Rosemary Patrick for organizing another successful blood drive on August 8th. This was Post 176's largest blood drive with a collection of 68 units. The next blood drive is on Tuesday, October 10th. All are encouraged to donate to this worthwhile cause. I want to congratulate Post 176 Second Vice Commander Randy Wheeler on receiving Post 176's Legionnaire of the Year Award. Randy has done a great job with the Post's Children and Youth Programs since being elected as Second Vice Commander. Besides sponsoring three Boy Scout Troops and facilitating numerous Eagle Scout Projects, Randy got Post 176 involved in the Legion Oratorical Contest. Randy throughout the past year has taken personal leave from work to visit the local high schools in Fairfax County promoting Legion

Programs. With the retirement of Coach Vax, he worked tirelessly to find a new baseball coach and kept Post 176 involved in Legion Baseball. Because of Randy's leadership and efforts, post 176 sponsored over 20 young men for Boys State this year. Post 176 is fortunate to have a dedicated professional like Randy Wheeler within its ranks. Randy exemplifies all the core values of the American Legion. Congratulations Randy. Well deserved.

Congratulations to Mona Espinoza on her selection to attend the American Legion National College this November. Congratulations Mona!

On Monday, August 21st the Washington Tattoo Fife and Drum Corps held an open rehearsal along with their comrades from Switzerland. This great family event was well received and attended. Thank you to the Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders who made this event such a big success.

Thanks to the efforts of Aaron Shadow, Post 176 hosts a Trivial Night on the last Thursday of the month. Trivia Night is picking up traction with attendance growing every month.

Upcoming Events

The Post 176 Auxillary has the honor of hosting the first tailgate of the season on Sunday, September 10th at 1:00 pm. Please come out and support the Auxillary.

Post 176 will hold a 9/11 memorial service on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 pm. The time of 7:00 pm was chosen because 9/11 fell on a Monday this year and we would like to afford as many as possible the opportunity to attend.

Post 176 Sons are hosting their 8th Annual Pig Roast on Saturday, September 16th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Come out and support the Sons. The price is \$20 per person and the Sons will have a DJ. This event is open to the public.

On Saturday, September 30th, the Special Forces Association Chapter XI will host their 7th Annual Oktoberfest. Please support the Special Forces Association.

Fairfax Post 177 – Commander Parkhurst

Greetings from Post 177 in Fairfax! Karaoke continues the last 2 Wednesdays of the month. Our last Karaoke included Grab bag Kamikaze Karaoke which proved to be a lot of fun! Every Tuesday is Taco Tuesday and Wednesdays bring us Wild Wing Wednesday. Saturdays, catch your favorite College Football game with food specials each week. Check our web site and social media for the menu each week. September 15 is our 80's party; dress in your coolest 80's duds! After enjoying Friday Night Dinner, sing karaoke and dance to your favorite 80's tunes with DJ EJ, aka Commander Eric. September 30, the SAL presents a Luau with all your favorite Luau food and fixins and a great time of fun and camaraderie. Every Friday night we serve dinner, complete with salad bar and dessert. Second Sunday Breakfast Buffet is also a great time complete with pancakes and omelets cooked to order. Look forward to our Sunday Bloody Mary Bar beginning Sep 17, 8-Noon. We look forward to seeing you at 177!

Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184 – Commander Womak

In August, Post 184 was honored to have the three boys who attended Boys State return to the Post and give an out brief on their time at Boys State. It was informative and inspirational!

Post 184 also conducted a local flag retirement and will no longer be participating in the planned Flag Retirement due to logistical constraints.

Post is planning on participating in the Herndon Homecoming Parade on October 14th. Post also continues to prepare for Veteran's Day Activities.

Dorie Miller Post 194 – **Commander DeWanda Mintz**

August

The Post was in public relations mode with an in-door booth @ The Arlington County Fair, August 16th-20th.

Thank you, Shirley Gaines, Beatrice Vaughn, & Wesley White for your assistance with booth duties; however, a special accolade to Roger Ceaser for his dedicated service Thursday-Sunday.

Additionally, a big thanks to our fellow Legionnaire & new Post 194 member, Ms. Greene for her musical performance at the fair.



Warmest congratulations to a very special pair, who have found their dearest moments in the happy life they share – 17th District Commander Shirley Gaines & Post Historian Clarence Buchanan joined in marriage on August 25th



Thank you, Legionnaires - Clarence Buchanan, Shirley Gaines, Pat Hennighan, & Judy Kirkland; Auxiliary - Della Lockett, Juanita Marshall, Allison Smith, & Sharon Smith, for

representing our Post @ 'The 104th National Convention' in Charlotte, NC, August 25th – 31st, 2023

*We met with Legionnaires from Dorie Miller posts in Charlotte, NC; Brooklyn, NY & Chicago, IL (2nd picture below) *



Post/Auxiliary collected & donated ***'Back-to-School Supplies'*** for our host school, Hoffman-Boston Elementary School

Post 194 pledges to:

“Keep doing your Buddy Checks!!!

We can be proud of the work you do for your Posts, communities and veterans working together as a team.” - Shirley Gaines, District Commander

~~ *Prayers for our fellow Legionnaires/Auxiliary who are suffering with ill health* ~~

Centreville Post 1995 – Commander Young

Legion College

Post 1995 sent three Legionnaires to the 2023 Department of Virginia Legion Family College in Midlothian, Virginia. Attending were Adjutant Steve Hunter, 3rd Vice Commander Jim Robison and Commander Randy Young. Also attending were two Auxiliary members, our Auxiliary President, Peggy Caggiano, and Past President Karen Hunter. We all made the most of the opportunity to learn in a classroom setting as well as networking with fellow Legionnaires from all over the Department.



Steve Hunter, Karen Hunter, Patty Caggiano, Jim Robison, and Randy Young

County Supervisor Attends Post Meeting

Post 1995 was honored by a visit by Fairfax County Sully District Supervisor, Kathy Smith, at our membership meeting on August 8th. She was provided read-ahead material consisting of a Fact Sheet about our post and how we support the community and veterans. Supervisor Smith observed our opening ceremony, and we then adjourned to a joint meeting with the Auxiliary to hear an address by Kathy. She stated that affordable housing was the biggest challenge

facing Fairfax County over the next five years. She also talked about what services the county provides to our veterans. She was presented with Thank You coins from the Post and the Auxiliary.



Group photo of joint Auxiliary/Post meeting with Supervisor Kathy Smith and a 2023 Boys State attendee.

District Attendance

Third Vice Commander Jim Robison represented Post 1995 at the 17th District Organization Meeting on Sunday, 20 August 2023, hosted by Post 130 in Falls Church. Also in attendance was our Adjutant, and Past District Commander, Steve Hunter.

National Convention

At the Department Convention, two members of Post 1995 were elected as Alternate Delegates to the 104th National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina: Commander Randy Young and Adjutant Steve Hunter. At the Convention we attended The National Security Joint Commission, Americanism Commission, and the Be the One Inaugural Symposium on suicide prevention. We also participated in the Virginia Delegation Caucus and the inspirational General Session and the National Commanders banquet.



Past Department of Virginia Commanders accepting the National Americanism Trophy. This is the second year in a role Virginia has won this award. Attending Virginia Legionnaires signed our state marker.



Staff Sergeant Christopher Irvine, USA, won the Army Spirit of Service Award, he was nominated and is a member of Post 162 – Lorton.

Ox Hill Battlefield

Commemoration

For the first time, Post 1995 rendered honors and presented a wreath at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park commemorating the fallen at the Battle of Chantilly on the 161st anniversary of the battle,

Friday, September 1st. This is the only Civil War battle within our post's footprint. In attendance were the POC and Past Commander Jim Robison, Bob Barrs, and Commander Randy Young. Our initial effort was low key to determine the best way to honor these Civil War veterans. We will continue to maintain this observance in the future. We met several families touring the park and explained our role in the observance.



Jim Robison, Randy Young and Bob Barrs commemorating the Civil War Battle of Ox Hill (September 1, 1862)

American Legion Auxiliary – Present Tamara Parks

Howdy to all the 17th District officers, District chairmen, Unit Presidents, and members of the Auxiliary. Congratulations to all who have agreed to serve during the 2023 – 2024 year. I look forward to serving as your 17th District President.

Thank you to all who attended the Department Convention in July. The 17th district by far had a lot of members in attendance. I hope you came away with a better understanding and appreciation of all the ways we support our Veterans, their families, and our communities. We heard a lot of reports from the chairmen, giving us new ideas to use in our Units this coming year.

To the Units who received the Award of Meritorious Citation, congratulations!! Some Units received either a Department or Convention award. Great Job to those Units as well!!

Congratulations to our new Department President Darla Lisbon on being elected. The theme is AMERICAN LEGION BE THE ONE with a sprinkle of Magic mixed in. We wish her much success this year. We also want to congratulate Ethel Carson on becoming the new Vice President. They will have all our support over the next year.

Great information was shared at Legion College in August and sent out to the district.

Many are attending the National Convention in Charlotte. Will look forward to hearing and sharing any up-dates from National as well as getting to know our new National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2023 – 2024.

Let's be prepared to participate and work towards our mission by working together as a team of Auxiliary members in support of the Veterans in Virginia.

Upcoming events

Department Fall Conference, Williamsburg, October 26 – 29

17th District Fall Conference, Fairfax Post # 177, November 5th

SAL - Tyler Vanice, Detachment Vice Commander

The Sons of The American Legion just had their 51st National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina the last weekend of August. It was jam packed with Legion Family members from around the world (yes, there are

Departments outside the United States). At this Convention, we welcome our new National Commander Donald Hall Jr., from Squadron 40 Glen Burnie, Maryland. Some of you might recognize him as the pond dividing Virginia and Maryland is not far or wide at all!

Donald “JR” Hall Jr.’s slogan for his term as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion: “Representing more than me.”



“As a member of the Sons, I represent my grandfather’s service. As a member of the Sons, you represent your family’s service. As a member of the Auxiliary, you represent your family’s service. And if you served, you represent your branch of service, you represent your family,” Hall said after his election as SAL National Commander on Aug. 27, the final day of the SAL’s 51st National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

“‘Representing more than me’ is big. I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for my grandfather’s service. That’s what it’s all about,” Hall said.

We should also welcome our new Southern Region National Vice Commander, Linwood A. Moore from Virginia!

For more local news, please have your squadrons post events here! This newsletter is meant to showoff events, programs, and good deeds accomplishments by the American Legion Family. We need content so please share them.

Squadron 176 Springfield is holding their annual Pig Roast Saturday, September 16 from 1:00 pm to 5:00. Support a good cause and join them!

For God and Country,
Tyler E. Vanice
Detachment Vice Commander