



VFW POST 1177 Loudoun County, VA

ISSUE 6
APR—JUN 2013

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Town of Leesburg Honors Memorial Day

May 27 was the day that we remember those brothers that have given the ultimate sacrifice in serving their nation, Memorial Day. On this solemn day it was estimated that there were about 500 people crowding on the front courthouse lawn to observe the ceremony as well as pay their respects to the fallen.

Lt Gen Mills, USMC was the key note speaker for this year and was introduced by our Mayor, Kristen Umstattd. Before the crowd Gen. Mills gave his remarks from experiences and fellow service members that he has known over the years as well as how some of those that had fallen were remembered in later times.

We as a nation gather to remember those that gave their lives for their country on this day, but we in the VFW remember more than



names on a wall or plaque. We see faces associated with those carved names. We know them for what they truly are, brothers who stood by us and placed themselves

between us and danger.

While much of America has really forgotten the true meaning behind Memorial Day, it was moving to see that a small town in Northern Virginia came together for a few moments to remember all of our



brothers. We thank all of those good people and pray that there will always be those that, while they may not know the names, they honor and give thanks for the sacrifice that was made so they could go on with their lives and enjoy the great freedoms this country has.

VFW 1177 Comrade speaks to overflowing crowd at Belmont Ridge Middle School

The History teachers at Belmont Ridge Middle school wanted to do something different this year to commemorate Memorial Day and give their students something different. They wanted to bring in a veteran who would speak with the students about their experiences serving our nation and what it meant to them.

Chris Buttrick (photo right) contacted our Post and asked if someone would be able to come by and speak with the 7th Grade students for 10 to 15 minutes and possibly answer a few questions at

the end.

Before a standing room only crowd of more than 700 7th graders and staff, Comrade Ray Houck was introduced by Brian Papenheim, an Iraq Veteran and teacher, and spoke on his service in the Army and of those that he served with.

After Ray's comments several students asked questions such as;

"Did you feel like you were given everything that you needed when you were in the Army?"

"Was it hard to leave your

family and friends to go into the service?"

And "Do you think that movies and television shows accurately portray what serving in the military is like?"

With school systems all across the nation moving further and further away from teaching civic duties and responsibilities, we would like to commend Mr. Buttrick and Mr. Papenheim for what they are bringing to their classrooms.



Rolling Thunder

Every year a deafening roar can be heard from around the country traveling around the country ending up in our Nation's capital. Rolling Thunder started as an organization that intended to bring awareness of our POW/MIA from all wars.

Men and women riding motorcycles of every style descend on Washington, DC to make sure that no one ever forgets that not everyone came home and that we need to do whatever it takes to make sure that they are brought home and are never forgotten.

Gene Oden and Ray Delpache took part in this year's ride and told all of us how amazing it felt to be a part of something so large and powerful.

If you would like to take part in the

VFW 1177 Rider Club, come by our meeting and talk with Gene. We are an officially chartered riding club with the VFW.



Honor Flight from Wisconsin Brings Vets to Dulles

On 8 Jun a group of WWII and Korean War veterans arrived in to Dulles airport to be greeted by volunteers from all over the Washington DC area. Comrade Hood and his wife Myoko were part of the group that was waiting for their arrival.

There were many that broke down in

tears as they came through. One woman from Korea hugged and cried as she thanked one of the Veterans from the Korean War and Myoko thanked one of the Veterans that fought on Okinawa where she is originally from. There were also two men who at one time would have rather shot one another rather than speak to each other and embrace, but embrace they did. An American POW from WWII was with a German friend. Not sure if there is a connection there or not, but it is a sign that things can change.

Honor flight is a non-profit that brings WWII and Korean War Veterans to Washington DC so they can see the WWII and Korean WAR memorials. If you would like to know when they will be coming again check them out at [http://](http://honorflightdca.wordpress.com/)

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No special training is required and no commitment to spending a day with the group is required. Just come and show them your appreciation.

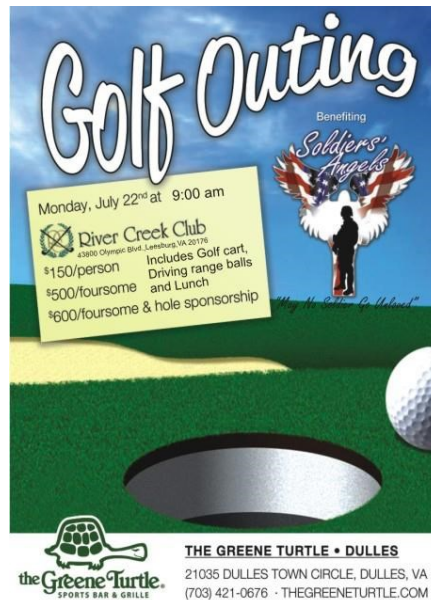


Golfing Tournament to Sponsor Wounded and Ill Warriors

Some people don't seem to need a reason to go golfing, but for those of you that do, here is one that you could feel good about and even get your significant other to join you.

The Green Turtle of Leesburg and Soldier's Angels are teaming up together and hosting a golf tournament that will raise funds for Soldiers' Angels Wounded and ill Warrior Support team of the VA/MD/DC Metro Area.

The date will be 22 July 9am at the River Creek Club in Leesburg. If you would like more information on this event you can contact Jacquelyn Stein at cncva06@gmail.com and she'll fill you in on all the details.



Poppy Drive a Big Success

Once again the folks of Loudoun County have stepped up and help support our Veterans through donating at our Poppy Drive.

This year we raised more than \$3000 dollars and I'm sure the number will climb again once we get the totals in.

Thanks to everyone that helped over the weekend and braving the cold winds on Saturday morning. Your efforts were truly recognized by the general public for standing there on what would normally be a warm day that turned out to be so cold.

Fundraising Suggestions

As many of you are aware we have many veterans that are in need of assistance in our area. On top of this, we as a Post have our own financial needs as well in order to maintain and keep our Post home.

If you would like to suggest a way that the Post can raise the funds that are needed so that we can continue to support our fellow brothers and sisters please send an email to Ray Houck at raymondhouck@comcast.net with your suggestion. We will probably have a meeting outside of the regular business meeting to discuss this and other items that are of import to our Post.



Membership

Every meeting we have had new members join our organization. Some young some old, but deserving everyone of them. Make sure that you have the applications with you all the time. You won't meet eligible prospective members at the Post meeting that haven't already been recruited.

The more that we can bring in and take part of something really great, the more our veterans will know that we are here and we care. Let's all do our part.



July 4th Parade

One of the biggest events in the Town of Leesburg is the 4th of July Parade. Every year the VFW Post 1177 has been second in line. This year our Honor Guard led by Comrade Dick Shingleton will be leading the way bearing our Nation's colors.

For those that would like to march in the parade please arrive before 9:30 am on King St outside Ida Lee Park. Uniform will be VFW uniform shirt or a white shirt with black pants and your cover. We have traditionally have had high member turn out for the parade and we would like to continue in that direction.

For those that are unable to walk in the parade, there will be several vintage military vehicles that you could ride in.



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Eagle Scout Court of Honor

These past few months, VFW Post 1177 has been honored to participate and host two separate Eagle Courts of Honor. Achieving this rank is no easy task and takes a lot of hard work and dedication. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout they have had to demonstrate their Scout Spirit through the Boy Scout oath and Law, service and leadership. Since the rank of Eagle Scout was first introduced there have been more than 2 million recipients of this rank and some of the more notable Eagle Scouts have been President Gerald Ford, Steven Spielberg, Neil Armstrong and Thomas Norris Navy Seal and Medal of Honor recipient, and Howard Hunter. Since our last report, there have

been two that our Post has had the honor of participating with. They were Connor Olivier of Troop 1159 and Marcus Joseph of Troop 1106, both of Loudoun County.

In order to finally achieve this rank one of the final requirements is to complete an Eagle Scout Project. This project is designed to test the prospective Eagle Scouts leadership skills in leading others in completing a project that benefits the community.

It cannot benefit the Boy Scouts of America, a commercial enterprise, any specific individual or

business. Some other projects in the past have been resetting stones in a cemetery, constructing park benches in a park, or organizing a blood drive.

Connor Olivier who comes from a long line of Eagle Scouts in his family created a nature observation area/outdoor classroom at Sprout Therapeutic Riding in Aldie.

Marcus Joseph interviewed and documented accounts of 11 American war veterans and submitted these to the Library of Congress to be included in the National Archives so that future generations could hear



directly their accounts of their experiences.

In many respects these Scouts have demonstrated selfless sacrifice and duty in all that they have done to achieve this most honored rank in serving their neighbors and friends. As can be seen by those that have earned this rank before them, one can only imagine the great things that they will accomplish now.

New Officers elected for 2013 - 2014



In May elections were held for our officers for the 2013 to 2014 term. The officers as listed below were sworn into office during the meeting held on 1 May 2013 at the Post. Swearing them in was Jim McQuary, Past Commander.

The elected Officers are;

Ray Houck—Commander

Ray Delpesche—Sr. Vice Commander

Dave Martin—Jr. Vice Commander

John Ast—Quartermaster

Dennis Boykin—JAG

Bob Kohberg—Chaplain

Dave Douglas—Surgeon

Max Gutierrez—Trustee 1

Stan Dixon—Trustee 2

Phil Rusciollelli—Trustee 3

The following Comrades have agreed to continue on in their appointed roles in support of the Post in their most critical positions.

Chris Gerow—Service Officer

Doug Carver—Adjutant

Dick Shingleton—Officer of the Day

Please join in congratulating them all on accepting the positions within our Post and wish them the very best in supporting all of our veterans and the community.

July Meeting changed to 10 July!

Due to the 4th of July coming on the day after our regular meeting, it was voted in our last meeting that it be moved one week to 10 July at 7:30.

We hope to see you there and be sure to bring someone with you that isn't already a member. I'm sure that there will be plenty of hot dogs and pretzels for everyone.

Commander's Corner

Before I get to far into this column, I want to thank all of the Officers that served during the 2012-2013 term. All of this could not have been done without the dedication that was shown by our outgoing Commander, Phil Rusciollelli.

It was through his drive and desire to see our Post be the leader in the State that he knew was there, that got us to the All American status. Thank you Phil and everyone else for all that you have done.

When Phil asked me to consider being Commander for the next term, I was speechless for a few moments. I didn't know what to say so I said the first thing that came to my mind, "Why? There are others that have been with the Post for much longer than I have and are probably more deserving."

He then told me that he saw in me a real desire to do whatever can be done for our men and women in uniform as well as the veterans. Again I didn't know what to say, but I told him that if he talked with the other members that I would be honored to be considered.

After we hung up I found myself shaking and starting to tear. Phil had everything right except for one thing, I don't think that I could ever possibly do enough. I thought back to a day when my life had started to take a nose dive and I wasn't sure if I would ever be able to pull out of it. A day that when I think about it I was reborn, a day that a gift was given to me that I would not appreciate for a long time because I let the events of that day eat at me day and night.

The day that a young man from Houston, TX named Anthony Ward died so that others could live, like so many others before him.

After finally seeing that I needed to get my act together and some very good help from people that I love dearly, I made myself promise that I would do all within my power to help our veterans and their families in whatever way I could.

I hear people say that "I don't have time" or "I can't afford to do anything at this time". Last year at work I challenged every last one of our MAG

members to give one day a year. One full 24 hours out of their life to do something for a veteran or their family.

That's 2 hours a month, 30 minutes a week. We spend more time than that doing absolutely nothing. I would like to make the same challenge to everyone of our members of VFW Post 1177.

There are an infinite number of ways that you can help out a veteran or their family and it won't cost anything. Well that's not true, it will cost you a little bit of your time, but that's all. And you can even get your family to help out as well.

All of us know what it is like to be in their shoes because we have all been there. It was one man that gave me the gift of living and it is one veteran at a time that I make some effort to deserve that gift.

So how about it? 2 hours isn't very much now is it? I'll bet you a dollar that once you see the good you do and the appreciation expressed in the faces of those that you're with, you'll want to do more.

Renew your VFW Membership Today

Being a member of the VFW is one of the memberships that all members have earned. Every member has answered the call for their country in every part of the world.

Renewing your membership insures that you as a combat veteran have a voice in our Nation's capital as well as within our respective State capitals. The VFW brings to attention those things which we as veterans value most.

And while you're at it, sign up to be a life member. That way you never have to remember to renew your membership every year and you can still stay on top of what is going on with the VFW and veterans in general. When you look at

the cost of what you would be paying over the course of your lifetime, you could be saving hundreds in membership dues.

Also, there are a lot of veterans that are coming home from a variety of operations who are eligible for membership. Let them know about the VFW and what we do for everyone that has ever worn the uniform.

You've all earned it by the duty you served. Help us make sure that all veterans receive the benefits and entitlements that we all deserve.

**Loudoun County
Veterans-We're
waiting
for You!**



Join Your Comrades! www.vfw1177.org

Post Rental

Need to find a place where you can have your family reunion?

Want to have a meeting away from the office that won't break your expense budget?

How about that birthday party for that special person?

Visit our Web site to find out more about renting the post Hall for your event.

Have something to share?

Do you have a story that you would like to appear in our newsletter? Is there something special that you want to pass on about your time in service? Do you know of someone that shows pride in being an American and want to spread the word?

Let us know what it is. We are always looking for stories and news that's fit to print. All of us have a story of something that happened when we were in uniform and we see from time to time ordinary citizens who demonstrate a love for our great country in much of what they do.

If you have something that you would like everyone to know about, you can send an email to ray-mondhouck@comcast.net with your story.



Days to Display your flag

4 July—Independence Day

27 July—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

2 Sep—Labor Day

11 Sep—Patriot Day

20 Sep—POW/MIA Day

17 Sep—Constitution Day

Keep an eye out for all of the days where we proudly display our nation's flag, which continues to stand as a banner of hope and freedom throughout the world.



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