

Legion News

The Official Publication of the American Legion Department of North Carolina



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HAPPENINGS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your Staff in Raleigh and Winston Salem wish for each and every one of you a Healthy and Prosperous "New Year"! May 2012 bring you happiness and peace.



MID WINTER CONFERENCE

Commander Lee's special guest will be National Vice Commander, Larry Sheets From the Department of Florida. The Band for your Friday night dance will be Centerline band, brought back by popular demand. The memorial Service will be held on Saturday Morning.

Pearl Harbor Survivors Tell Their Story

TWO PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS signed in at Post 182 in Columbia on November 14. They vividly described their experiences together during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, and later as crewmen aboard a PBY amphibious airplane in the South Pacific. Ernest Davenport of Virginia Beach, Va. (left), and Dallas Jones of Roanoke Rapids both turned 90 this year. A model of their plane is in the foreground.

Ernest Davenport and Dallas Jones were crewmates aboard a U.S. Navy PBY amphibious airplane at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. They told their stories to Post 182 in Columbia on November 14. Davenport, of Virginia Beach, Va., grew up in Tyrrell County, joined the Navy to escape the Depression, and became an aircraft crewman. "What they didn't destroy on the first strafing strike, they got on the second, including the hanger," Davenport said of the attackers. He told of retrieving a 30-calibre machine gun from a burning plane and holding it down in an improvised standard of



pump pipe while a fellow sailor fired at the oncoming planes.

Thirty-five U.S. planes were destroyed on the ground at the Naval Air Station that morning, he said.

He told of a night patrol much later when the PBY ran out of fuel and came down in rough seas without radio contact. It was 36 hours before they were located. The pilot said he brought the plane down and he was going to fly it out, so, after 400 gallons of fuel were loaded aboard, they took off and returned to base.

Dallas Jones grew up in Duplin County and now resides in Roanoke Rapids. He spoke of similar experiences at Pearl Harbor, then related how he and Davenport were at Midway, New Caledonia, and Guadal-

canal, where they hit a Japanese cruiser. Jones then transferred to the Atlantic. His plane dropped a depth charge on and sank a German submarine off the Irish coast that was maneuvering to attack a convoy bound for Russia on February 28, 1944.

In conclusion, he told the Legionnaires, "Those who didn't see combat were just as important as we were."

Davenport and Jones, both now 90, have kept close touch over the years and participated many times in Pearl Harbor survivor reunions in Hawaii.

Davenport was accompanied by his wife Jessie and son Larry. Jones' driver was John Briggs of Enfield.



Pictured, left to right, James Luther part time Hospital Service Officer in Salisbury, Cajun Comeau Department Service Officer, Paul Russo, Salisbury VA Medical Center Director, and Department Commander Ben Lee.

VA Medical Center in Salisbury Receives Plaque

On August 22, 2011, Commander Ben Lee made his official visit to the VA Medical Center in Salisbury. While visiting, Commander Lee presented a plaque thanking the medical center for their care of and service to the military veterans and their families. Similar plaques have been presented to all the VAMC's in North Carolina.



Snow Hill Post 536 Visits JROTC Class

Members of the local Post 536 visited Green Central High School JROTC classes to discuss what it's like being veterans. Cadets asked about locations they have traveled, jobs they obtained in the military, and reasons why they joined. Ray C. Speight, Alton Dixon, Sharetta Whitfield and Anthony Darden were happy to accommodate the cadets.

They also asked about the comparison between the military and civilian life. Ms Whifield lives in Snow Hill but works as a nurse in Raleigh. Retired Sergeant Speight has retired from the Army and NC Dept of Correction. Mr. Darden retired from the Army and sometimes works as a substitute teacher, and Mr. Dixon has retired from the military and his civilian job.





ADJUTANT'S CALL

FRANK STANCIL
Department Adjutant



POSITIVE- POSITIVE- POSITIVE

WOW! 2012. Can you believe it? Another year is gone and a new one begins. Are you looking forward or backward? Let's not keep looking back and saying we should have done this or that, or even saying that I should have (have not) said this or that. Let us look forward to this year, this day, this hour and make the very best of it. For none of us are promised tomorrow so let us concentrate on today!

Maybe we should work on our priorities: Faith, Family, and Friends. Each of us has the same amount of time to prioritize our goals if we just prioritize our day. We all have 24 hours, so let's not make excuses and prioritize what we want to do and have a satisfying day." Beware of spending too much time on matters of too little importance." Most folks will be remembered for what they gave as opposed to what they get.

Thank each of you for your sacrifice with your time and talents in your community, state, and nation. You are making a difference in other peoples lives and you will be leaving your part of the world better than you found it. Is what you are doing in the name of The American Legion worth it? YES. Do people benefit from what you are doing for The American Legion? YES. Does anybody care about the visits you make to veterans at the VA Medical centers and/ or the Nursing Homes. You bet they do!! Thanks!!

So here we are in 2012. Going Forward. "Always Forward"!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

RANDY CASH
Department Chaplain



Why Should We Remember Pearl Harbor?

Through the ages there have been countless battles, thousands of cases of recorded heroics of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coastguardsmen, glorious victories and, yes some defeats as well. Why should Pearl Harbor be important to us when history is replete with examples from which we can learn?

Before I speak of Pearl Harbor there is another battle I want to mention. Every little child has heard the phrase, "REMEMBER THE ALAMO." They learn it in school and hear it in western movies. Why does that phrase survive over so many years? Perhaps it is because the brave men who died at the Alamo represent the ultimate in courage and commitment. Perhaps the war cry "REMEMBER THE ALAMO" served to motivate those who still had fighting left to do. We say that phrase with pride and we really do remember the Alamo, if not the details at least the courage of those who died there.

But why remember Pearl Harbor as anything more than just another event among the many important events in our nation's history? We lost at Pearl Harbor. It was only a temporary defeat but it was a defeat nonetheless. Our military readiness in Pearl Harbor in December 1941 is not something we can remember with pride. One book I read recently said, and I quote, "For it (the attack) to succeed the Americans had to remain uninformed and unprepared, their fleet in the harbor and their planes on the ground until the attack was upon them." This does not sound like an event of which Americans can be justifiably proud.

See Chaplain, Page 8

Commander's Column

Shortly before Christmas, I was invited to attend the semi-annual memorial service at the W.G. "Bill" Hefner Veterans Administration Medical Center at Salisbury. An Honor Roll, with the names of the 74 Veterans who died at the Center over the previous six months was read and a moving ceremony included the North Carolina Military Funeral Honor Guard posting the colors and concluding the night with "Taps". The service provided patriotic musical selections and appropriate readings and remarks, by both Center staff and your Department Commander. It was a most moving evening as staff and family members silently said goodbye to those they loved and cared for, who are now with the supreme Commander. Thankfully, on behalf of each of you, I had the opportunity to salute, for the last time, 74 patriots, fellow vet-

The Climb to the Top

We have reached our half way point in the membership year. Up to this point we have been going down the hill and should have generated momentum for that ride back to the top. While maintaining a great pace I'm not sure we have gathered enough steam to just sit back and enjoy the ride up. I do want to thank all five Divisions and most of the Districts for exceeding their goal of 75% by the middle of December. The 32 Posts that have made their 100% membership goal and the 40 Posts that have topped 90% thanks for the great work. Which by the way put our Department at nearly 80%, 5 points ahead of our goal. That being said we will still have a long hard battle to the top and our 100% goal.

Lets look at what we will still need to do to get there. Recruiting new members is a year long effort, but at this point that alone will not get us close enough to the top.

Use the tools; Mike Reott and Rora Kellis of the membership committee

Annual Department Commander's VAMC Visits

1. The American Legion Department Commander recently conducted visits to VA medical centers within North Carolina. During these visits the Commander addressed specific, systemic issues brought forward by Legionnaires, VSOs and Veterans within the state. Listed below are the Commanders TOP FIVE concerns regarding VHA services within NC facilities. VAMC Directors were asked to address and expand on cause, impact and resolution measures for the respective perceived and real issues.

A. Backlog of C&P exams contributing to lengthened claims processing time-lines

The backlog, which was built up in part because of the decentralization of C&P exams from the Salisbury VAMC in 2009 has been effectively dealt with through the use of targeted C&P "blitzes". This program involved closing some

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

BEN LEE
Department Commander



erans all.

We have now arrived at the time of the Legion year with so many of our programs take form simultaneously. The oratorical contest for High School students is already underway and the Student Trooper Program is ready to roll. This unique program always attracts an early response from hopeful attendees so jump on this program ASAP. Information on Boys State will be out soon -- if it's not out already --so start thinking about sponsors. They're out there (Attorneys, Judges, local businesses, etc, etc) and, like membership, sometimes all you have to do is ask!

And let's not forget about baseball. The committee usually meets just about this time to critique the past year and plan for the next. Don't

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

JIM MAYHEW
Membership Chairman



have had some great tools all year long for us to use. We need to dust off that tool box and break out that tool that will get the job done. If you are a bit rusty on how to use them JUST ASK us.

Ask for help; Herman Carr of the membership committee was ASKED by a District Commander to assist with a couple Posts in their area that needed help and it generated new members for those Posts and put one over the top to reach 111%. You District Commanders need to use our committee to assist you with your Posts that need help, that's why we are here!

Reinstate old members; how about those members that once belonged to your Post, but for what ever reason dropped out, you would be suppressed what a simple phone call inviting them back could do. All you need is to come up with that list of old members, oh wait we have al-

LET'S TALK REHAB

CAJUN COMEAU
Department Service Officer



ancillary clinics within respective VAMC for a one-month period to concentrate medical treatment professional's time on completing exams. The initiative has resulted in a 74% decrease in exam backlog. The result is a much quicker turn around time for exam completion and file return to the VA regional office for development and adjudication of claims.

B. Availability of initial/follow up appointments and fee basis for VA patients

Each respective Director stated that initial intake appointments for

See Service, Page 8

forget, after the regular season and playoffs are over, The American Legion Baseball World Series will be held August 17-21 in Shelby, N.C. the PERMANENT home of the competition. Why don't you put that on your schedule now, believe me you'll have a great time and come away shaking your head in disbelief at the baseball skills these high school kids possess.

The annual Mid Winter Conference is being held again this year at the North Raleigh Hilton, February 17 and 18. Plenty of information on this elsewhere in this issue. Check it out!

For those of you who have not yet sent in your 2012 dues I ask that you take care of that as conveniently as possible. We're doing great with more than 32,000 of your fellow North Carolina vets on board already! Plenty of good work is being done here in our state with your help. You've earned the right to be a member, don't throw that privilege away.

ready done that for you it's in your tool box. Don't think you have to do the calling yourself, get some of your members that like to talk to help, and I bet you have some. Just come up with a script to help them deliver the message, oh wait we've done that for you too JUST ASK for a copy. Don't forget about your Auxiliary ASK them to help you make some calls, and while they are on the phone they can let the member know that their wives, daughters or that they are eligible for the Auxiliary if they sign back up. And lets not exclude your SAL Squadron they could relay the same message about their sons and grandsons belonging to The Sons of The American Legion. If you have a Legion Riders group they can help also. If we make this a family affair it might be more enticing for some to belong, use whatever you have.

Renew last years members; we have members of our Post that could be 5, 10 or 20 year members but for some reason don't pay their dues until the very last minute. Give them a call and a reminder that your post would like to be 100% as soon as possible. You could also make a list of those

See Members, Page 8

The North Carolina Legion News

Ben Lee
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

W. Frank Stancil
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Articles may be submitted for consideration to be published in The North Carolina Legion News, PO Box 26657, Raleigh NC 27611-6657.

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MID-WINTER CONFERENCE NORTH RALEIGH HILTON

3415 Wake Forest Rd • Raleigh, NC
FEBRUARY 17-18, 2012

TENTATIVE (MEETING ROOMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

****NOTE: CHAIRMEN MAY NOT PICK UP THEIR INFORMATION FOLDERS UNTIL AFTER 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2012**

Thursday – February 16, 2012

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Registration

Friday – February 17, 2012

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM Administrative Committee
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Resolutions Committee
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM JROTC Committee
12:00 Noon- 1:30 PM National Legion College Committee
Time and Place
Boy Scout Committee
POW/MIA Committee
Oratorical Contest & Education
Constitution and by-Laws Committee
Sons of The American Legion
Voluntary Hospital Services
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Baseball Hall of Fame
Colon Furr Scholarship
Leadership Development
Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Rehabilitation Committee
Legion Riders Committee
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM AL National Convention Corp of NC, Inc.
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM Committee to Study FY11-3-FC
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM Public Relations Committee
Boys State Committee
Community Service
Veterans Employment & Preference
Law and Order Committee
Baseball Committee
Membership Post Activities
SAL DEC Meeting
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Internal Affairs Commission
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (Division/District Commanders)
20 & 4
8:00 PM Dance

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

5:30 PM

8:00 PM

Saturday – February 18, 2012

8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon Registration
8:00 AM Joint Memorial Service
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Americanism Commission
Children and Youth Commission
Legislative Commission
National Security Commission
Veterans Affairs & REHAB
Internal Affairs Commission
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM CHAPLAIN'S CONFERENCE
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM Resolutions Committee
10:30 AM -11:00 AM Administrative Committee
(Resolutions Only)
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CONFERENCE
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Division I Caucus
Division II Caucus
Division III Caucus
Division IV Caucus
Division V Caucus
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING

Grand Ballroom Registration

Grand Registration Desk
Ben Lee
Coley Hunsucker
Joel Lipsey
Rora Kellis
David Shore
Cary McMasters
Curtis Leary
Harry Flynn
Ed Jones
Morris Dale
Mae Carroll
Clayton Sutton
R.E. Collier
Milton Woodle
Joel Lipsey
Hank Gotard
Wally Higgins
Jerry Hedrick
Jerry Hedrick
Lou Cook
J.E. Woodard
Fannie Young
Kenneth Siragusa
E.C. Toppin
Roy Waters
Jim Mayhew
Christopher Byrd
David Desmond

Helen Kellis

Grand Registration Desk

Chaplain Randy Cash
Bill Oxford
James Ford
Jeff Joyner
Dick Neville
Shuford Edmisten
David Desmond
Chaplain Randy Cash
Coley Hunsucker
Ben Lee

Christopher Byrd

Detachment Cmdr.

Paul Reid

Michael Braswell

Terry Chatfield

Dean Haywood

Tony Sherrill

Ben Lee

Department Cmdr.

Grand Ballroom 1

Salon C

Grand Ballroom 2

Salon E

Salon E

Salon C

Salon B

Grand Ballroom 1

Salon A

Grand Ballroom 2

Grand Ballroom 3

Salon E

Grand Ballroom 2

Salon C

Salon B

Grand Ballroom 3

Salon G

Grand Ballroom 1

Grand Ballroom 1

Grand Ballroom 3

Grand Ballroom 1

Salon E

Salon C

Salon B

Salon G

Grand Ballroom 2

Oakwood

Salon D

Salon B

Grand Ballroom 1-3

Grand Ballroom 1-3

Salon AB

Salon C

Judicial

Salon D

Salon F

Salon E

Sandalwood

Oakwood

Sandalwood

Grand Ballroom 1-3

Salon F

Salon AB

Salon C

Salon D

Salon E

Grand Ballroom 1-3



In the photo: From left to right: Faye Gardner, Vice President Garner Veterans Memorial Committee, Terry F. Chatfield, Department Vice-Commander, Warren Murphy, Post 232 Service Officer and Mark Berube, Garner Veterans Memorial Committee

Post 232 Donates to Garner Veterans Memorial

December 9, 2011: Department Vice-Commander Chatfield and Post 232 Service Officer Murphy presented a check for \$5000.00 dollars to the Garner Veterans Memorial Committee. Both Vice Commander Chatfield and Service Officer Murphy are members of Garner American Legion Post 232, Garner, NC. Department Vice-Commander Chatfield is the Garner American Legion Post 232's representative on the Garner Veterans Memorial Committee. To date the Garner American Legion Post 232 as donated a total of \$5800.00 to the Memorial fund.

In 2009 a group of Garner residents along with the two veteran organizations (the American Legion and VFW) formed the Garner Veterans Memorial Committee. The Garner Veterans Memorial Committee and sponsoring individuals and organization are commissioned to provide a memorial on a Town of Garner site that appropriately honors and remembers the service, achievement and sacrifice of Garner Area men and women who have served in the armed forces since 1776. The Town of Garner donated a site at Lake Benson Park located in Garner, NC.

South Rowan JROTC Leads the Way

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, the South Rowan High School JROTC Raider Challenge Team of China Grove, NC competed in the Raider Challenge Nationals, held at the Gerald Lawhorn Scouting Base near Molena GA.

Twenty-seven Junior ROTC teams from army and Marine Corps programs around the nation faced off over five physically demanding events. The competition was intense and was conducted over extremely hilly terrain which added further in ensuring all team members would remember this competition for many years to come.

Cadets did all the pushups they could in two minutes, followed immediately by doing all the sit-ups they could perform in two minutes. With no more than five minutes of rest, the ten cadet team began a second event that consisted of a five kilometer race over both road and wooded trails. Team members had to stay together and finish within 10 yards of each other.

Other events included a one and a half mile race with six cadets carrying rucksacks weighing 35 pounds each and a field litter/stretchers



within a 95 pound attached weight to represent an injured person. At the conclusion of the run, cadets had to pull all equipment under a low crawl obstacle, and then get all team members and the six rucksacks over an eight-foot wall.

The most technically challenging even was the single rope bridge whereby cadets had to span a stream/ravine by securing a 150-foot rope to trees on either side and cross all cadets for time. Except for the first and last cadets to cross, all team members had to be attached to the rope bridge by snap link and pull themselves the sixty feet to the opposite stream bank.

Lastly, a Raider Gauntlet run of one mile up the steep side of a mountain with four cadets carrying rucksacks each weighing 35 pounds, turn around at the top of the mountain and race back down. Grueling was the universal feeling among all competitors.

The South Rowan team finished seventh among all 27 teams with a 4th place finish in the Litter carry/Cross Country Rescue. They were the only team competing from North Carolina.

A Great time was had by all. The Boy Scout facility was truly outstanding and the experience worth a life-time of memories.

American Legion Sponsors Soccer Team



Pictured is the soccer team Rockingham American Legion Post 147 sponsors in the Richmond County Soccer League with adult Post members (left to right) Jimmy Johnson, Carlton Hawkins, Robert Steele, and the soccer team coach.



Learning the Pledge of Allegiance

The kindergarten and 1st graders of Murray Elementary School in Hickory NC were visited by Past Department Commander Jim Mayhew, Ladies Auxiliary Education Chairman Linda Laws and Bill Richard on November 8, 2011. They were given a program about our American Flag and our Pledge of Allegiance. Each student received their own flag and Pledge of Allegiance Book Mark.



Bill Carr receives The Order of the Long Leaf Pine

William W. "Bill" Carr of Goldsboro North Carolina received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine during Sunday services at Rosewood Baptist Church on July 3, 2011. Presenting the award on behalf of Governor Beverly Purdue was North Carolina Representative Efton Sager. Bill's daughter Terry accompanied her father. Bill is a member of American Legion Wayne Post 11, The Veterans of Foreign Wars Goldsboro Post 2615, The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 657, The Marine Corps League Detachment 1350, and the Wayne County Veterans and Patriots Coalition, all of Goldsboro and Wayne County.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the most prestigious award presented by the Governor of North Carolina for exemplary and extraordinary service to the state, communities, and its citizens. Bill received the award as a result of his dedication with strength and character to the service of Veterans throughout the state of North Carolina.



Mark A Wallace of American Legion Post 28 graduates from National American Legion College. Photo: National Commander Wang Fong, Mark Wallace, Past National Commander Harold Miller, Chairman of the National Internal Affairs Larry Besson.

North Carolina Veteran Completes National American Legion College

INDIANAPOLIS (October 28, 2011) They came here from nearly every state not knowing what to expect. They were challenged from the beginning to demonstrate creativity, leadership and innovation. They are the 52 members of The American Legion College class of 2011, among them, Mark A. Wallace, DCE, a member of American Legion Post 28 in Lillington, North Carolina. He has been an active member of the American Legion for approximately 2 ½ years and has been very active in his post. He is very enthusiastic with the mission of the American legion as well as dedicated in helping his fellow veterans. This enthusiasm and dedication led to his selection to attend the college. Mark works for the VA Hospital in Fayetteville and is the Service Officer for Post 28 in Lillington, NC.

Members of the class of dedicated, Legionnaires completed a six-day course that saw them lay a solid foundation for American Legion post revitalization in a variety of settings to include a rural area, the inner city, suburban communities, a metro-

politan area and a cyber post. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for American Legion activities at their respective posts for presentation at a mock district meeting.

The National American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer's leadership, management and communication skills. This helps prepare young members of The American Legion to lead the nation's largest wartime veterans organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship for both other members and special groups in the community was a central point to several of the activities for the class.

"You are the new seeds and it is now time to grow and spread what you've learned," American Legion National Commander Fang Wong told the graduating class. "Take the knowledge you have gained back to your departments and posts and teach others."

Wallace was nominated by organizational leaders in the state of North Carolina.

Twenty and Four Lady Legionnaires

What in the world is the Twenty and Four? Who are those Lady Legionnaires in those RED Jackets, what's up with the Red Jeeps? Let's take a walk down memory lane and explore this "Honor Society of Women Legionnaires". In the year 1919, The American Legion was formed what was and still is the Largest organization of War Veterans in history and membership was opened to all veterans who had served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in World War 1, as the men and women had no choice as to where they served. Later, by amendment, membership was extended to veterans who had served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and to present.

Although women veterans of World War 1 were eligible for membership in The American Legion and despite the fact that some of these women joined the organization, forming Posts entirely female in membership in some Departments, it wasn't until after World War II and the completion of military service by some 500,000 women, that the women members of The American legion was able to win election and appointments to offices above the Post Level on a noticeable scale. Today there are dozens of all women Posts in The American legion and hundreds of women members belonging to mixed Posts and now we see some women that County, District, Department officers and a few National women officers. Not long after WWII women veterans, having actively participated in all phases of American Legion activity, women veterans believed that some recognition was due the members of their sex who had contributed honorable and distinguished service to the organization.

The Forty and Eight at that time remained firmly closed to women Legionnaires and to men of color (this has now been changed) and the Eight and Forty was largely an organization of Auxiliary members. It was then that the female American Legionnaires determined to organize a honor society for women members of The American Legion. During

The American Legion year of 1949-50, a group of women Legionnaires in California held an organizational meeting for the purpose of founding an honor society which would recognize the contributions made by the "Lady Legionnaire". They declared their purpose to be, "To uphold the constitution of the United States, The American Legion and the Twenty and Four; to at all times strive to promote their principles and advance their welfare; to promote the welfare of all women veterans in hospitals and elsewhere that are in need of assistance; and to bring into close fellowship that are the individuals members of Posts of the American Legion in the State of California".

They required members to have held membership in The American Legion for at least three years and have served the programs of the American Legion in an outstanding manner. They chose the jeep as their emblem because women of all branches of service had driven jeeps in World War II. Twenty women were present at that first organizational meeting and they could comfortably accommodate in four jeeps, therefore the name selected the twenty (women) and Four (jeeps). Stay tuned, more on the 20/4 in the issues coming and when North Carolina's Echelon 27 began. Don't forget to support the 20/4 at the Conferences and Convention, when we are selling raffle tickets. Our money goes to scholarships and support for our veterans.

Jeepette Crayton (Post 148), offers services to a woman veteran, while Jeepette Harris (Post 124), left, looks on. This woman veteran was among the hundreds of homeless veterans take showed up at the Bull City Stand Down, There were 14 visits to the Women Veterans support table, seeking information about women veterans health care services and the American Legion. They passed out donated Legion bags filled with shower essentials and information in support of Women Veterans that visited their table. These bags were put together by Greta Crayton (donated supplies) and Mrs. Daisy Alston (ALA 157), Patricia's mom.



L-R: Post 48 member Bob Olson, Post 48 Commander Harry Flynn, Hickory VA clinic volunteer Brenda Bowen, Post 48 2nd Vice Commander Pam Lytton



Past Post Commander Roger Ivey, Historian John Elskamp, and Service Officer Mark Wallace.

Post 28 Recognizes Veterans' Grave

Members of Post 28, Lillington, placed flags at the grave markers of veterans at Harnett Memorial Park in Lillington the day prior to Veteran's Day. The Post wanted to recognize the area's rich veteran legacy.

Donation Presented for Veterans Coffee Fund

The Commander of the American Legion Hickory Post 48, Harry Flynn, presented a donation check to Hickory VA clinic volunteer, Brenda Bowen, for \$250.00 for the Veterans Coffee Fund. Brenda has been funding this amazing service to our veterans, whom come to the Hickory VA Clinic, out of her own pocket. When Hickory Post 48 heard about Brenda's outstanding kindness from their veterans attending the clinic they presented her with this check in hopes it would show their appreciation for her services to the veterans as well as help to support her voluntary Coffee Fund for our veterans.

Frequent Flyers Miles Solicited For Veterans World War II Tours-2012

This is the ninth year that Vi Ranney will be escorting veterans and others to Europe for the 68th anniversary of D-Day. The tour is produced by Rupiper Travel and designed by WWII veteran Dr. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, SD. Highlights will include:

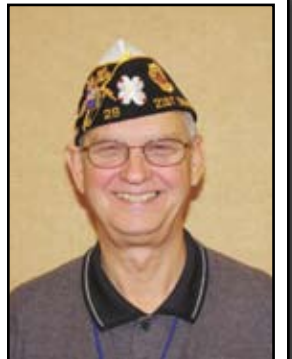
- Paris, Normandy and Eisenhower's headquarters in France
- Patton's grave in Luxembourg
- The Battle of the Bulge area in Belgium
- The Remagen Bridge, Munich, Dachau, Hitler's Eagle's Nest and more in Germany

The tour features professional guides, great hotels, most meals and is economically priced. Two departures are slated: June 3-13 and August 8-18. Veterans are especially honored at the June 6th ceremonies.

Mrs. Ranney stated that "since our WWII veterans are elderly and often living on a small pension, a trip like this is not always feasible unless help is solicited. Therefore, we are asking individual, businesses, large corporations, VFW and Legion Posts and Departments for contributions for contributions of extra frequent flyer miles. If we could get the air transportation covered for our needy veterans, they could afford the rest in most cases.

Each year I hear from between three and four hundred veterans who would like to make the trip, but just can't afford it. After all they have done for us, isn't it a shame they can't go. They need to go back and make a closure. If you can help, please call me," she concluded. Call Mrs. Ranney at 605-665-3596 if you would like a brochure or to donate frequent flyer miles.

N. Lynn Mullinax



For Division V Commander 2012-13

Military Experience

Retired Army NCNG — Vietnam Era Veteran
Retired NC State Movement Control Coordinator
Expert Marksman
Medals and accommodations including:
The Old North State Award
The Meritorious Service Medal from NC
The Meritorious Service Medal from the US

National Level

Gold Brigade recipient
Credentials and Internal Affairs Committee
General Appointment Law and Order Committee

Department Level

Department Executive Committee [2 terms]
Membership Committee [2 terms]
Credentials and Internal Affairs Committee [2 terms]
Aide to the State Commander 2010 - 2011
NC Department delegate at the national convention [2 terms]

District Level

Current 21st District Commander [2 terms]
Multiple recognition for Post Visitation
Revitalized and strengthened the posts
Oratorical Chairman

Post Level

Member of Post 29 for 17 years
Post Commander [2 terms]
100% Post Commander [2 terms]
Member of the Post Executive Committee [multiple terms]
Member of the Baseball Committee [multiple terms]
Building and Grounds Committee member [multiple terms]
Nominating Committee member and various other committees
Sergeant-at-arms
Chaplain
NC Legion College—three times
The American Legion Extension Institute
Post 29 delegate to the Department convention

Other Affiliations

Member of Samaritan Christian Fellowship Church
Caldwell County Veterans Council
NC National Guard Association
The American Legion — life member—PUFL
VFW [Past Commander] — life member
DAV — life member
Moose Lodge — life member



Flag Retirement Training For Local Scouts

On Saturday, November 12, Cary Post 67 conducted a flag retirement training session for local Scouts, led by our Commander Bill Cozzolino, assisted by member Dan Ball and Service Officer Jim Terrill. The program was tailored specially for this event by modifying the American Legion Ceremony to allow the scouts to hold the roles of Commander, Sgt-at-Arms and Chaplain. Participating in the exercise were; Boy Scout Troop 213, chartered by the Kirk of Kildare Presbyterian Church in Cary; Scoutmaster Ken Griffo and Cub Scout Pack 120 of the White Plains Methodist Church in Cary; Leader Jim Kosek.

Each scout would bring a properly folded American flag to the

burn barrel, present it to Bill, then stand at attention while the flag was unfolded and dropped into the flames. Bill then called for a hand salute by all present. This program continued, one scout at a time, for approximately one hour. There were far more flags than could be accommodated in that time, but the scouts had an opportunity to see the program in action and understand proper etiquette for our flag when its time is done.

Following the program, lunch was provided at our Post Home for all who attended.

To see the slideshow of all photos for this event go to <https://picasaweb.google.com/carypost67/2011FlagRetirementWScouts#>.
Post 67 Historian Robin Hinkley



Waxhaw American Legion Post 208 Holds Veterans Day Display

Sons of the American Legion members Ken Corn and Scott Farb organized and hosted a "Walk through History" at Post 208 on Nov. 12, 2011 in honor of Veterans Day. On display were uniforms, weapons and equipment dating to the French and Indian War. For more information contact James Grainger, Commander Post 208 at jgrainger002@carolina.rr.com



Pictured above is (left to right) Representative Ken Goodman, Post Commander Richard Luncford, and Past State Commander Jeff Joyner. Ken Goodman is a veteran and a member of Rockingham Post 147. He lives in Rockingham.

Ken Goodman Receives Honored

North Carolina State Representative Ken Goodman was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Rockingham American Legion Post 147, at their monthly meeting October 7th, for his accomplishment in introducing and leadership in passing House Bill 159; placing a veterans' identification on the North Carolina motor vehicle operator's license. Starting in 2012, a veteran will be able to bring his DD-214 or some oth-

er service connected identification to the Motor Vehicle Department, and have their State operator's license be a form of photo identification proof of being a veteran. Pictured above is (left to right) Representative Ken Goodman, Post Commander Richard Luncford, and Past State Commander Jeff Joyner. Ken Goodman is a veteran and a member of Rockingham Post 147. He lives in Rockingham.



Cornelius Veterans Monument dedicated on November 11, 2011

Cornelius' Tribute to All of Its Veterans

American Legion Post 86 and the Town of Cornelius combined their Veterans Day Service with the Opening Day celebration of the jointly sponsored "Cornelius Veterans Monument Plaza" on November 11, 2011. Keystone speaker was Thom Tillis, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Post 86 Commander John Washam officiated. The event began at exactly 11 A.M. on November 11, 2011, thus making it 11/11/11/11. An overflow crowd of about 1,000 people attended the ceremonies. It was the largest gathering of any kind in Cornelius since the last Confederate Soldiers Reunion 52 years ago.

Despite unfavorable economic conditions, a total of \$190,000 was raised and the monument was erected in less than two years. Engraved on its walls, on black polished granite panels, are the names of 1,119 Cornelius veterans. More names will be added periodically as new applications are received. The monument has six columns representing the five branches of the US Armed Services and one for the US Merchant Marine during WWII. Each of the columns bears a large seal of the service it

represents. At the head of the plaza is a circular stage with a wheelchair ramp which will be used to conduct special events related to veterans' affairs.

The building of a veterans monument in Cornelius was the vision of former mayor Harold Little. Harold was a Navy veteran who served two years in the Pacific during WWII. He was also a member of American Legion Post 86. His proposal to the Town Council to build the monument in Cornelius was approved unanimously. In doing so, the council also authorized a matching fund grant of \$50,000 to start the project.

At its first meeting of the planning committee, Harold stated that his dream was to see the monument finished during his lifetime. Unfortunately, Harold became ill unexpectedly in mid-June and died on June 29, 2011. The Opening Day ceremony on November 11 was dedicated to Harold Little and his dream of building a veterans monument in the town of Cornelius. At the Opening ceremony, Harold's son spoke on behalf of the family in thanking the town for the honor they bestowed on his father.



Eagle Scouts Honored

Newport Post #203 presented certificates and medals to three scouts from Newport Troop #61 that were elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout. Pictured from left to right in the front row are; Andy Sauer; Jordan Bell and Duncan Ross. From left to right back row; 1st Vice Cmdr Trace Reynolds; Commander Steve Blizzard; Adjutant Ron Ambrose and Scoutmaster James Mullins. The Court of Honor was held at St James United Methodist Church, Newport, NC.



Installation Of Hayesville Post 532 Post Officers

The installation was conducted by-Division V Commander-Tony Sherrill. Installed were; Commander- Joe Buckner, 1st Vice Commander- Phil Cantley, 2nd Vice Commander- Joey Buckner, 3rd Vice Commander-Dave Anderson[Not Pictured], Post Adjutant-Jack Greve, Finance Officer- Tommy Hooper, Chaplain-Dwight Moss, Service Officer-Larry Sams, Sgt. At Arms-Mike Repeto[Not Pictured], Judge Advocate-Bill Thurman, Post Historian-George Leduc[Not Pictured],



President's Message



I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas with family and friends. It is always comforting to finish the year on a warm and happy note.

The troops in Iraq are now on the way home and those in Afghanistan are scheduled to follow in 2014. Remember that they serve valiantly to

shield us from the ongoing threats of terrorism and tyranny. We owe them more than words can say for the freedom and security that we enjoy each day.

My husband and I were privileged to be invited by a veteran to attend the Veterans Day ceremony in Roxboro, North Carolina. Supported by

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUE GOOCH
Department President



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

JOYCE WILLIS
Aux. Department Chaplain



Chaplain's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR, AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!! I surely hope that you all had a joyous holiday season as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Now the challenges that come with a New Year are in front of us....will you try to change the things you can for the better or will you sit back and be satisfied with the status quo? Every new day given to us is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, an opportunity to grow in our faith, and an opportunity to show the world what kind of person we are by what we do. We are certainly not guaranteed tomorrow—or even our next breath—so it's extremely important to seize every chance we have to make our life worthwhile. If you have a strong faith in God and a strong self-confidence, you can move mountains! So put your faith to work—use the talents God has richly blessed you with and make a difference!! Remember that Phillipians 4: 13 of the Bible states, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."

I would like to close today with a very heartfelt THANK YOU to all who sent cards, made calls, offered prayers, and visited following the death of my son, Jim. You all know what a brave and long battle he fought with brain cancer—you all supported me every step of the way more than you will ever know. I am finding peace now that he is walking with our Savior—and his dad—and I thank God every day for the blessing of that peace. You are a very special part of my life. God Bless You All.

Honor the Service

We're honoring the service of Lueva A. Weybrew. She enlisted in April 1943 in the U.S. Marine Corp Women's Reserve, which was actually active duty. She was part of the first women's group based at Cherry Point. Mrs. Weybrew attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Lejeune, Celestial Navigation School in Hollywood, FL, and Link Trainer School in Quanset Point, RI. She was an instructor at Cherry Point with 1000 hour flying time until her discharge in 1945. She is one of only six women to receive the Naval Observer Wings. Mrs. Lueva Weybrew is the mother-in-law of our District 7 President, Theresa Weybrew.

In January we Honor their Service with Compassion. Compassion is the ultimate and most meaningful embodiment of emotional maturity. It is through compassion that a person achieves the highest peak and deepest reach in her search for self-fulfillment. Personal contact is so important. Everybody can reach 100% membership by January 31, 2012.

HONOR OF SERVICE

MARY WARD
Membership Chairman



Call those who have not renewed and call the family of new Post members. Invite them to join. Use the initiation ceremony. Remind all members of the benefits we have and how our dues support our programs.

In February we Honor their Service with Generosity. Generosity is the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return. Get the word out on all our programs. It is the right time to recruit for Tar Heel Girls State. Offer to teach the children and grown-ups in your community about flag etiquette and history. Tell them about our scholarships, community service, and activities to support our Veterans, Service members, and their families. What a great recruiting tool! They will want to belong if you follow-up and ask! Don't forget President's Day on February 20th.

Our Target Dates (Milestones) for the rest of this year are: 70% by February 2, 2012; 85% by April 5, 2012;

and 100% by May 31, 2012 (NC's goal, not National's!). We made 70% at the beginning of December. Thanks to everyone who has worked very hard to achieve this. However, we cannot slack up. I have it on good authority that we are approximately 350 behind last year on the first of December. There are 30 units that are behind by 10 or more. Hopefully, we will have made that up and surpassed last year's numbers by the time you are reading this. Congratulations to the following districts for making 70% by December 1, 2011: District 2-Mary Ella Harrison (70.57%); District 3-Cynthia Braswell (72.88%); District 7-Theresa Weybrew (78.63%); District 10-Juanita Shermer (75.91%); District 11-Mary Towery (75.29%); District 12-Jenny Dowdy (71.46%); District 14-Gale Jones (71.23%); and District 15-Susan Jones (73.48%). Thanks to Debra Harris and the ladies of Division I for being 71.95%. I know that all of you can make 80% by February 2, 2012.

The Membership Team wishes everyone a Joyous New Year and a Happy Valentine's Day! Committee members are Brenda Brewer and Frances Oxford.



10 for 10 Project Receives School Supplies

Department Education Chairman Linda Laws of Auxiliary Unit 48 in Hickory, delivered school supplies for the 10 for 10 project during Education week. Pictured with Linda is Dr Walter Zahler the principal of Snow Creek Elementary School. She also delivered a fruit basket for the office.



Rockingham Co. Schools Collects Pull Tabs

Wentworth Elementary School in Rockingham County has been busy collecting pull tabs for the Durham Ronald McDonald House thanks to Tabman Percy Sudsbury's Tab Talk. Sydney Hladilek, pictured left, a 4th grade student in Mrs. Wilson's class brought in several pounds of pull tabs. Kaleigh McMichael, a 2nd grade student in Mrs. Cox's class brought in 2 full buckets of tabs.



Service

From Page 2

other than mental health issues is made within an average 21 days however the complaints from Veterans concerning initial and follow up appointment availability continue. The Commander assertively stated that the mission of the VA should be to provide health care and service commensurate with top tier private sector health care facilities. He further stated that although he understood and accepted the briefed information he was concerned about the perception within the Veteran community that timely service and follow up is an issue. The message was well received by the respective Directors and collectively it was promised that there would be increased focus in this area while moving forward with quality improvement measures.

C. Women's healthcare in the VAMC

Women Veterans healthcare is a major focus area for the Federal VA and subsequently the VAMC within NC have been focused on providing better facilities, increased manpower and improved equipment to provide the specific services required by female Veterans. The Commander was well satisfied with the strides made in each of our VAMC in the area of wom-

en's healthcare. Although there are current cuts to the federal budget in all areas of VHA funding the women veterans healthcare initiatives within the NC VAMC are strong and continue to improve at a very rapid rate.

D. Rural Healthcare for NC veterans and transportation to VHA facilities

This area is especially important in NC as approximately 63% of veterans live in rural areas of the state. Not only did the Commander address programs to reach out to rural veterans and assist with enrollment into the VA healthcare system but he also addressed measures to physically convey those veterans that are not able to get themselves to medical facilities due to health condition and/or lack of transportation. All NC VAMC currently have services available for veterans who need transportation and these respective programs are all growing over the next two years. The Commander had some concerns that while rural health care teams, fielded by the VAMC, contact and sign up veterans there should be a stronger emphasis on follow up and ensuring that those who sign up actually are attending their intake and follow up appointments. The message was well received. The Commander pledged to recruit Legionnaires to support

the rural healthcare program by volunteering to drive vans and perform other missions to assist fellow veterans. The Commander said "now, just as when we were on military duty, we must strive to leave no comrade behind. We must, as the strongest veterans service organization in The United States, lead the way in ensuring that all are able to receive those benefits they have earned."

E. Emergency care facilities and parking availability

a. All emergency care facilities at respective VAMC within the state will continue to function in a full ER capacity. Fayetteville and Salisbury currently have initiatives to improve and expand their ER and emergency services capability. These improvements are dependent on future funding so the progress may be slow in coming to fruition. However this is a step in the right direction, as veterans need competent, in house facilities capable of handling emergent needs as they arise.

b. Parking availability continues to be a huge challenge at NC VAMC. Durham VAMC will have a new parking garage open 1ST QTR FY 2012 and Asheville has plans to expand parking slowly over the next three years, dependent on Federal funding. Parking

will continue to be in short supply at our VAMC during certain periods of the day but active steps are being taken to improve facilities.

2. The Commander also requested information and updates in the following areas. All Directors and staffs were very responsive in providing clear and complete details of the current status of these specific focus areas. Good dialogue, in an effort to establish partnership and support was conducted.

A. Current quality initiatives within the VAMC which will improve services to veterans

B. Contracting projects under way and planned

C. Special projects and funding for current and future FY

D. Staffing and equipment levels and projected needs

E. Assistance needed from The American Legion and Auxiliary

4. The Commander then completed a 1-3 hour tour of the respective facilities and grounds. Areas of special interest were PTSD treatment facilities, TBI treatment facilities, and Combined Living Center facilities. The Commander carried the fervent message that The American Legion stands ready to assist and support our VAMC in creating a more efficient system in which our Legionnaires and Veterans can receive the high quality of healthcare they have earned by serving this great nation.

Members

From Page 2

not paid, "don't make it a black list", and ask your members at a monthly meeting if they may know someone on the list. They may be a neighbor or someone they had signed up that they

could contact with a reminder. Post Commanders or Adjutants you don't have to do all of this by yourself, but someone needs to get the ball rolling and that would be you. Again if you need help please JUST ASK.

Let's review what we will need to

make it to the top.

Use the tools; Ask for help; Reinstate old members; Renew last years members;

If we all work on these for the next two months we could be at 90% before the end of February and

only need 10% to make it to the top in the last three months of the year.

I hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Now let's start that climb up hill to the top and our 100% membership goal!

Chaplain

from Page 2

Of course we do have evidence of many personal feats of heroism on that morning. Sailors of the U.S. Navy cannot forget that 2400 Americans, most of them Navy shipmates, were left dead or dying and some 1,300 more were wounded. Almost 20 Ships were lost and names like ARIZONA, OKLAHOMA, CALIFORNIA, WEST VIRGINIA, NEVADA, MARYLAND, TENNESSEE, AND PENNSYLVANIA don't conjure up thoughts of the states of the Union, but rather of mighty capital ships in flames and sinking at their berths, of men who were trained to fight at sea trying to save their ships and hit back at the enemy while in port on a Sunday morning. When someone mentions Hickam Field (as it was known in 1941), I don't think of the modern air base that exists today but of 230 aircraft lost on the ground, never getting airborne to beat back the attackers. These are not pleasant thoughts but they are vivid and they were very, very real.

From my community, the Navy Chaplain Corps, two were lost that day, Captain Thomas Kirkpatrick of USS ARIZONA (BB 39) and Lieutenant Aloysius Schmitt of USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37). Chaplain Kirkpatrick was nearing the end of his time in the military - a career Navy man who had served his country for more than 20 years. He reported to the USS ARIZONA in September 1940. It was prophetic that just a few days before the December 7th attack, Chaplain Kirkpatrick penned a note to a friend and fellow chaplain on the USS NORTH CAROLINA (BB 55), "This is a tense week with us out here, and before you get this it will be decided one way or another, doubtless," he said. On the tragic morning, Kirkpatrick was in the wardroom of the Arizona, enjoying a cup of coffee before his morning worship service. Historical reports explain that the wardroom mess was across from the

admiral's cabin on the left side of the second deck and presume that when the attack began, the chaplain rushed to his battle station in sickbay to minister to any casualties. The reports note that the location of sickbay on the ARIZONA was on the same deck and just forward of gun turret number one. Most of the men in that area of the ship were instantly gone when the massive explosions of the forward magazines rocked the mighty battleship. Chaplain Kirkpatrick, along with 1,176 other Sailors, lies forever entombed in the remains of the battleship on the bottom of Pearl Harbor.

Chaplain Aloysius H. Schmitt was at the beginning of his naval career. Appointed as acting chaplain on June 28, 1939, he was serving his first tour of duty at sea onboard the USS OKLAHOMA. He had just finished celebrating his morning mass when the attack began. As the assault on the Navy's fleet raged, Chaplain Schmitt went to the ship's sick bay to minister to the injured and dying.

When the OKLAHOMA was struck and water poured into her hold, the ship began to list and roll over. Many men were trapped. Schmitt found his way - with other crew members - to a compartment where only a small porthole provided enough space to escape.

Chaplain Schmitt helped other men, one by one, to crawl to safety. When it became his turn, the chaplain tried to get through the small opening. As he struggled to exit through the porthole, he became aware that others had come into the compartment from which he was trying to escape. As he realized that the water was rising rapidly and that escape would soon be impossible, he insisted on being pushed back through the hole so that he could help others who could get through the opening more easily. Accounts from eyewitnesses that have been published in the Arizona Memorial newsletter relate that the men protested, saying that he would never get out alive, but he insisted, "Please let go of me, and may God bless you all."

Within 20 minutes after the first torpedo hit, the USS OKLAHOMA rolled over and settled into the mud in the harbor. There were 448 crew members who died with the ship. It is believed that Chaplain Schmitt was buried at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Hawaii, in a grave with about 400 other unidentified bodies recovered from the Oklahoma. His name is engraved there in the Courts of the Missing.

On a port visit to Pearl Harbor some years ago, I'll never forget when "attention" was sounded and all those topside rendered a hand salute until the ship had passed the USS ARIZONA Memorial and then "carry on" was sounded. Any Sailor who has been privileged to render such honors agrees that words can't adequately express the emotion. Onboard that day was a survivor of Pearl Harbor. There on the bridge, as he pointed out the attack routes the aircraft had taken, I knew that, for him, December 7th 1941 was only yesterday. When he showed us the path of the bombers that had come around Diamond Head and struck from the southeast, he had tears in his eyes and could not continue. It was a real emotional moment for everyone on the bridge, including me. But it would be years later until I truly grasped what was taking place that day on the bridge and the depth of the old Sailor's words. After my retirement from the Navy Diane and I were passing through Washington, D.C. on I-395. We passed the Pentagon as I had done many times before. And the horror of another "Day of Infamy" swept over me. At that moment I recalled the memories of that Sailor on the bridge and I understood a little better the message he was giving us that day.

Why should we remember? What is it we should remember? Is it just the heroics, the lessons learned regarding vigilance, the need for information about the enemy, the absolute requirement for readiness? Is it the sacrifice of so many gallant men and the destruction of our capital ships? Of course, it is all of these things that we must keep in mind, but for

Americans today there is a greater message in the history of Pearl Harbor.

Americans are still being called upon to make sacrifices. World War II did not end conflict in our world. The men and women of our Armed Forces are still being called upon to make the personal sacrifice of separation from their families, many of whom are parents with children who miss and need them. Is it sacrifice of national wealth? A military is an expensive proposition and a forward deployed one such as ours is even more expensive. Legionnaires know only too well that there is a very real personal sacrifice that each of us makes when we serve our country. You and your country make these sacrifices for the common good of all Americans.

We make them because Pearl Harbor can never be permitted to happen again as we painfully learned on September 11th 2001. We cannot as my earlier quotation said, "be uninformed and unprepared, our fleet in harbor and our planes on the ground." We earnestly hope and pray that neither war, future Pearl Harbors nor 9/11's will occur. Only by remembering them and keeping alive their possibility planted firmly in the forefront of our thoughts can we make the sacrifices required to remain ready and strong. Thus we ensure that other nations and other leaders, who may not abhor war as we do understand that the ultimate result of another Pearl Harbor, whether ashore or at sea, would be their certain defeat and a price that is simply not worth paying.

If those 2,400 men, who died on December 7th 1941, could see the men and women of our Armed Forces today and could watch them perform their mission, I think they would be proud. And if they could see the faithful men and women of our American Legion and other veterans organizations and the tremendous work they perform on behalf of our veterans and our nation, they would undoubtedly be proud of you as well.

That is the lesson of Pearl Harbor, a lesson we cannot and must not forget. Thank you for the sacrifices you are making and for the tremendous job you are doing on behalf of God and Country.