

Orland Memorial Post 111

*For God and Country*

# THE POST

Website: [www.orlandpost111.org](http://www.orlandpost111.org)



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## CHANGE OF SCENERY

### IN THIS ISSUE

1. **Change of Scenery**
2. **From the Desk of the  
Commander  
Adjutant's Call  
Prayer Corner**
3. **Shifty**
4. **Shifty (cont)  
Exercise for People  
over 59.**
5. **Commander (cont)  
God Bless You**
6. **PUFL  
From the Senior Vice  
Commander**
7. **Legacy Scholarship**
8. **Mojave Desert Cross**
9. **AD Page**
10. **On the Horizon**



**In a change of both scenery and schedule Post members gather before the meeting for refreshments. In the past refreshments were served after the meeting inside. This month we took advantage of the nice weather to enjoy an outdoor picnic before the meeting.**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

As we enter a new legion calendar year there are many challenges that await us. Our membership has remained pretty stable through the years. I appreciate the efforts that several of you have made to bring new members into the fold. Our situation is unique in that we do not have a post building. Yet considering that we have a substantial membership base. However as we all know our membership is aging. We know that the hands of time stop for no one. Just recently 3 of our WW11 Veterans passed. Bob Suhs, Harold Moss, and Eugene Pertile. This was a sad time. Men like these are not easily replaced. Yet as serving in the military has taught us, life continues on and although we mourn their passing we must continue to do our duty and tend to the living.

With that in mind if anyone knows of an eligible Veteran please inform him or her about us. There is a lot in our post that any Veteran would be proud of being a part of. One of my main considerations during this year of command is to make sure that any of our WW11 Veterans who want to go our nations capital via the "Honor Flight Program" have this wish granted. I have discussed the importance of this with our program coordinator Frank Jerz and we are dedicated to getting you on that plane as fast we can. Hell if we have to get you there by 20 mule team we will find a way. Even if some of the members myself included have to pull that wagon.

Our finances are very good. Thanks to the efforts of our Finance Officer Joe Raftery who minds the books and all of you who gave so generously of your time during our fund raising activities we are in a position to support worthy Veterans initiatives and programs. There is always a need in this area and we must insure that our efforts make a qualitative difference in this regard.

Health care is a primary concern of all Veterans. We must remain extremely diligent in this area. Although congress has appropriated a record amount of funding for the Veterans in this country making sure it finds its way to where it is needed the most has been and always will be a challenge. Just recently Executive Officers Frank Jerz, Sal Estrada, and I attended a congressional Veterans Health Forum hosted by Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson and ranking member of the House Committee of Veterans Affairs Bob Fillner. There were many good questions from the Veterans in attendance. Most and myself included wanted to know we can get some relief from the travel and wait times at Hines plus the congestion there. plans in the works to use that facility in sort of manner to alleviate the overcrowding at Hines. . **Cont page 5**

### ADJUTANT'S CALL

#### PLEASE PAY ANY UNPAID DUES ASAP.

Department has sent out renewal forms on July 1, They will be sending them out on October 1, 2009, January 10, March 15, and May 1 2010. Some times even if you have paid your dues you will get one. Please make sure that any notice you get is addressed back to the Post at P.O. Box 413, Orland Park, Il.

### PRAYER CORNER

Father Leo Lyons	John Cranston
Sean Kasper	and family
Arlene Manring	(wife of Ray)
John O'Rourke	Henry Callahan
Richard Parker	Gene Sinclair
Ralph Bechtold	Bob Lewis

All our brothers and sisters far from home and in harm's way and their loved ones

### R.I.P

Albert 'Toots' Morrell	Robert Suhs Jr.
Kathy Sharp	(wife of Victor Sharp)
Harold Moss	Eugene Pertile



CONT FROM PAGE 3

I told him yes, I know exactly where Normandy was, and I know what D-Day was. At that point he said "I also made a second jump into Holland , into Arnhem ." I was standing with a genuine war hero . . . . and then I realized that it was June, just after the anniversary of D-Day.

I asked Shifty if he was on his way back from France , and he said "Yes. And it's real sad because these days so few of the guys are left, and those that are, lots of them can't make the trip." My heart was in my throat and I didn't know what to say.

I helped Shifty get onto the plane and then realized he was back in Coach, while I was in First Class. I sent the flight attendant back to get him and said that I wanted to switch seats. When Shifty came forward, I got up out of the seat and told him I wanted him to have it, that I'd take his in coach.

He said "No, son, you enjoy that seat. Just knowing that there are still some who remember what we did and still care is enough to make an old man very happy." His eyes were filling up as he said it. And mine are brimming up now as I write this.

Shifty died on June 17 after fighting cancer.

There was no parade.

No big event in Staples Center .

No wall to wall back to back 24x7 news coverage.

No weeping fans on television.

And that's not right.

Rest in peace, Shifty.

## **EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 50**

**Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags.**

**Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)**

**After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.**

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CONT from Page 2

Unfortunately that can take not only months but years. Some do not have that time.

Finally it has been my honor to serve as your Commanding Officer during the past Legion year. I intend to give maximum effort to make sure that we leave no Veteran behind during the months to come.

Dean Morrell

Post Commander

**They walked in tandem, each of the 92 students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing... and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.**

**Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears. This class would NOT pray during the commencements ---- not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.**

**The principal & several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational & challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance & no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine .... until the final speech received a standing ovation.**

**A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still & silent for just a moment, and then, it happened.**

**All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED!!!**

**The student on stage.. simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU, each and every one of you!' And he walked off stage...**

**The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the courts approval.**

**Isn't this a wonderful story? Pass it on to all your friends.....and GOD BLESS YOU!!!**

**This is a true story; it happened at the University of Maryland**

While in attendance at the National Membership Meetings in Indianapolis last week we were informed about an increase in the rates charged for Paid Up for Life "PUFL" applications. The rate increases will take effect as of October 1, 2009, **in order to beat the increase your application must be in to and processed by the Department of Illinois prior to September 1st, 2009.**

The across the board increase will be approximately **\$200**

**A few important points if you apply after September 1st;**

**You will need to provide a copy of your DD 214 or separation papers or current active duty papers**

**The time payment plan will be changed from 12 payments to 36**

**So if you were thinking about getting a PUFL "NOW" is the time to do so!**

## FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

( AUG 2009 TO JULY 2010 )

- . 87 MEMBERS PAID
- . 84 UNPAID
- . 173 TOTAL MEMBERS

NOTE, THE START OF A NEW LEGION YEAR,  
BE ALL YOU CAN BE - BRING IN AN ELIGIBLE  
VETERAN TO THE NEXT POST MEETING OR  
POST COFFEE.

Hundreds of motorcyclists will took the concept of "veterans helping veterans" to a new level last week when The American Legion Riders kicked off the fourth annual American Legion Legacy Run to raise money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program.

The riders, who are wartime veterans themselves, traveled 1,200 miles to make possible a college education for the children of those who have died defending our freedoms since September 11, 2001.

National Commander of The American Legion David K. Rehbein led the American Legion Legacy Run which I began in Indianapolis and ran through seven states to the 91st Annual National American Legion Convention in Louisville which convened on August 25.

According to Rehbein, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program is one way for all Americans to show their deep appreciation for those who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

"As an unfortunate consequence of America's war on terror, many children of our military personnel are now members of single-parent families," he said. "In most cases, this also means their chances to attend college have greatly diminished. Children of our heroes who die on active duty are entitled to receive some money toward a college education, but it is not enough."

The Riders' goal was to raise \$400,000 for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund.

"We are raising funds to ensure that higher education will be a reality for these families," Rehbein said. "Providing for the children of our military personnel left behind is our civic duty, and an education is a powerful way to show our thanks."

According to American Legacy Run event planners, more than 237 motorcycle riders and 53 passengers were expected to make the entire four-day journey. Legionnaires at posts along the route provided support in the form of food and bottled water.

Rehbein has also asked American Legion posts and Legion Riders from all over the country to conduct a national fundraising effort on behalf of The American Legacy Scholarship Fund.

"This is something that all Americans can support," said Rehbein. "If you ride a motorcycle, join us. If you don't, become a 'non-rider supporter,' get your patch and help these children."

Rehbein planned to stop in every state to collect donations from riders, American Legion family members, business leaders and members of the public. Stops and events planned included:

- Monday, August 17 - Pre-Run Rally - Indianapolis.
- Tuesday, August 18 - Indianapolis to Wheeling, WV
- Tuesday, August- Tour of Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum, Dayton, OH
- Wednesday, August 19 - Wheeling, WV to Front Royal, VA
- Wednesday, August 19- Flight 93 Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony, Shanksville, PA
- Thursday, August 20- Front Royal, VA to Charleston, WV
- Friday, August 21 - Charleston, WV to Louisville, KY

On Sunday, Aug. 23, at 4 pm, The American Legion Riders led the 91st Annual National American Legion Convention Parade on Main Street in between Brooks and 7th Streets in downtown Louisville.

A small delegation of American Legion Riders will formally present the national donations for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund directly to Commander Rehbein onstage at the National Convention.

## **Mojave Desert Cross Crusaders Honored to Assemble Vietnam Wall**

**To: Everyone who is fighting to protect our Memorials!**

What a tremendous honor this is for me personally to end up being so involved with all of you.

I am an Aux. & American Legion Rider at Post #105 Phoenix, Arizona. One of our legionairs brought the Save the Mojave Cross situation to my attention.

“The Mojave Desert Memorial Cross has stood proudly for over 75 years, honoring our American war dead. Or it was until the ACLU stepped in and got a judge to rule the memorial to World War I veterans unconstitutional. They covered the cross with a bag, and when that didn't work, they boarded it up in a plywood box. Now, they're threatening to tear down this national monument because they don't believe America should have religious imagery anywhere on public property.

If they win and succeed in tearing down this monument, what's next? Imagine what could happen at the Arlington National Cemetery. Will they put bags over all the crosses that mark the graves of our fallen heroes? What about the 20-foot Canadian Cross of Sacrifice? We believe America should remember and honor her veterans; and were taking our case to the U.S. Supreme Court to tell the ACLU that they can't tear down our freedom! “

I found out that 9-10 of our active duty soldiers in Iraq (Who I have dubbed "The Cross Crusaders") decided to teamed up with Liberty Legal (Dallas,Tx) in order to help bring attention to the fight against the ACLU. These Soldiers are planning a caravan from Ft. Polk, La, to The Mojave Desert Cross. 9/14 - 9/21

I have been working with our soldiers & Liberty Legal to plan Welcomes, events, news coverage, lodging etc...along their route but especially here in Arizona.

Our post #105 ALR has been asked to escort "The Wall" from Anthem to Phoenix Memorial Cemetery on 9/15/09 which meant the "Wall" was going to be assembled here, on the day that these fine soldiers were in town, I just knew it was meant to be in order to bring honor to both of these Memorials!

So I contacted the wonderful people of Phoenix Memorial Park, VFW post 9400, it's Womans & Mens Auxiliaries and asked if they would honor us by allowing "The Cross Crusaders" to assit them with the assembling of the “WALL” on 9/16/09 before they continue on to the Mojave Desert Cross. They said that they would be honored to have us. We need to support these traveling walls so that no EVER forgets what our Freedom has cost us.

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Realtor

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Email: matthewpiwowarski@yahoo.com  
www.chicagofinest.com

Phone: 708.645.8500  
Fax: 708.645.8098  
Cell: 708.308.5369

 

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### EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Sep 21 Officer's Meeting 8PM  
Veteran's Center
- Sep 30 General Membership  
Meeting 8PM Veteran's  
Center
- Nov 8 Veterans Commison  
Steak Fry Civic Center  
DETAILS FORTHCOMING

Federal Benefits Booklet (2008) for Veterans and Spouses is currently on line at: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



Orland Memorial Post 111  
P.O. Box 413  
Orland Park, IL 60462