

Orland Memorial Post 111

*For God and Country*

# THE POST

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



Volume VIII Issue XII

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

I would like to take this time to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. It seems like just yesterday we were celebrating last years holidays. I guess there is truth in that saying "the older you get the faster time moves".

The past edition of the American Legion magazine had a very poignant article concerning the plight of some of our homeless Veterans. That saying "there by the grace of God go I" has some meaning in our lives. Most of us are blessed to have comfortable homes and loving partners and families to enrich our lives. We are very fortunate. Others are not as lucky.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families of our members who have lost a loved one, spouse, or legionnaire during this calendar year. The holidays always weigh a little heavy under those circumstances. I hope the time of the season will allow you to remember the good moments shared together that have shaped our lives.

As I mentioned at our last general meeting our finances are strong and if any member has an emergency need we are there to offer what assistance we can during these trying economic times. Sometimes pride and embarrassment prevent us from reaching out and asking for assistance. Do not let that be the case if circumstances beyond your control are making your life difficult.

Finally legionnaire Palucki has graciously volunteered to play Santa again. I hope we are able to get a photo of Sr. Vice Commander Estrada sitting on Mr. Claus's lap and asking him for his Christmas present. God Bless all of you and your families during this holiday season. Sue and I wish you nothing but the best!

Dean Morrell  
Commander

### ADJUTANT'S CALL

#### PLEASE PAY ANY UNPAID DUES ASAP.

Department will be sending out renewal forms on July 1, October 1, 2008, January 10, March 15, and May 1 2009. Often times if you have not yet 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

Maurice Fernandez	Father Leo Lyons
Sean Kasper and family	Karen McCurdy (wife of Ralph)
Arlene Manring (wife of Ray)	Gene Sinclair
Henry Callahan	John O'Rourke
Ralph Bechtold	Richard Parker
	Eloy Heniff

### R.I.P

Daniel Kahovec	Ray Szara
Albert 'Toots' Morrell	Kathy Sharp (wife of Victor Sharp)

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

***A CHRISTMAS POEM (Pass it On)***

*LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN  
30th Naval Construction Regiment  
OIC, Logistics Cell One  
Al Taqqadum, Iraq*

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.

My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.  
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.

The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.  
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the  
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.  
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.  
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"  
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..

Cont next page

To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."  
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.

No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.  
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."  
My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.  
I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..  
Who stand at the front against any and all,  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

" So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."  
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

## CHUCKLES

The real story:

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce Toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure. Then Mrs. Claus told Santa her mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where. Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered. So, frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum.

When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drank all the cider and hidden the liquor. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped The cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said Very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

### **And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas Tree**

Very quietly I confided to my husband on the eve of our 50th anniversary, that I was having an affair.

He turned to me and asked, 'Are you having it catered?'

**And that, my friend, is the definition of 'OLD'!!!!**

---

A couple had been married for 50 years. They were sitting at the breakfast table one morning when the wife says, 'Just think, fifty years ago we were sitting here at this breakfast table together.' 'I know,' the old man said. 'We were probably sitting here naked as a jaybird fifty years ago.' 'Well,' Granny snickered. 'Let's relive some old times.' Where upon, the two stripped to the buff and sat down at the table.

'You know, honey,' the little old lady breathlessly replied, 'My nipples are as hot for you today as they were fifty years ago.'

**'I wouldn't be surprised,' replied Gramps. 'One's in your coffee and the other is in your oatmeal.'**

**If Money Is The Root  
Of All Evil, Why Do  
Churches Beg For It?**

## THOMAS JEFFERSON

The material below is shared by Legionnaire Gene Sinclair.

**I believe we have arrived at the destination Jefferson warned us about.**

**Jefferson in some cases could be called a prophet.**

**When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe .**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#)**

**To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.**

**[Thomas Jefferson](#) SEE PAGE 7**

## Navy Petty Officer Mike Monsoor



PO2 (EOD2)(Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Mike Monsoor, a Navy EOD Technician, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for jumping on a grenade in Iraq , giving his life to save his fellow Seals.

During Mike Monsoor's funeral in San Diego, as his coffin was being moved from the hearse to the grave site at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, SEAL's were lined up on both sides of the pallbearers route forming a column of two's, with the coffin moving up the center. As Mike's coffin passed, each SEAL, having removed his gold Trident from his uniform, slapped it down embedding the Trident in the wooden coffin. **SEE PAGE 8**

### Very Interesting Quote (CONT. FROM PAGE 6)

In light of the present financial crisis, it's interesting to read what Thomas Jefferson said in **1802**: ***'I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered.'***



The slaps were audible from across the cemetery; by the time the coffin arrived grave side, it looked as though it had a gold inlay from all the Tridents pinned to it. This was a fitting send-off for a warrior hero.

This should be front-page news instead of the crap we see every day.

## **FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

### **MEMBERSHIP;**

- . 129 MEMBERS PAID
- . 34 MEMBERS UNPAID
- . 1 MEMBER TRANSFERRED IN
- . - 1 MEMBER DECEASED
- . 163 TOTAL MEMBERS

**NOTE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO OUR POST BUT ALSO TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. EACH YEAR , THE NUMBER OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND COMMUNITIES ARE REPORTED TO CONGRESS. TRULY, THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.**

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## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Jan 19 Officer's Meeting  
Veteran's Center 2000Hrs.
- Jan 28 General Membership  
Meeting Veteran's Center  
2000Hrs

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



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