



THE POST



Website: www.orlandpost111.org

Volume VIII Issue II

February 27, 2008

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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SPRING FLING DANCE

4 April 08 from 1800-2230 hrs

Donation: \$10.00 each

Door Prizes

Staring Dave Majestic

to be held at Civic Center

For More Information contact Jerry Junkas
(708) 214-2135

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

I wish to thank all of the of those who attended Jack Bath's services. His family was very grateful to all. Those who showed for the services on the three days showed the family how much Jack was appreciated not only as a Legionnaire's but also as a very good Friend to all of us. He will be missed very much both from the Post and from his family. Come this May Jack's name will be inscribed on the Veterans Memorial Wall in Orland Park.

I also wish to thank those who contributed to help place Jack's name on the Veterans Memorial Wall.

As you see we have some ads for the New Letter, if we can get more this will be able to insure that all of our members receive a copy of the News Letter so that everyone knows what is happening with the Post. So if you know of any business that would like to place an ad with us they can contact Matt Piwowarski at (708) 308-5369.

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

The recent passing of fellow officer and comrade Jack Bath illustrates a problem that befalls most of our older Veterans who depend on the VA for their health care needs. The drive to Hines is a long one and often times it is very crowded with little parking available. A VA clinic here in Orland would help to alleviate that problem and not contribute to the logic that most of us use in that the pain is not too bad I can put up with it for awhile. We have an old membership base. A WW11 Vet in his 80's championed the cause of bringing a VA clinic to his community in Missouri. You are never to old to make a difference in the quality of a fellow Veterans life.

ADJUTANT'S CALL AND CHAPLAINS CORNER

ADJUTANT'S CALL

You should have already received your dues notice for 2007-08. Make sure the address on your bill is P.O. Box 413, Orland Park, IL. If not, contact Adjutant Tim Kut to have it corrected. Otherwise the Post does not receive your dues.
PLEASE PAY ANY UNPAID DUES ASAP.

Chaplains Corner

Gary Blummer*
Donna Koerner
Maurice Fernandez
POST EVERLASTING
Sgt-At-Arms Jack Bath
Bruce Sindewald
R.I.P. fallen brothers

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

**Gail's Husband

State of Illinois Property Tax Relief

OUR THANKS TO THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE RENEE KOSEL FOR THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

for Veterans, Seniors, Homeowners & Disabled Persons

The Illinois General Assembly overwhelmingly approved property tax relief legislation (House Bill 664) during the spring legislative sessions. The bill became Public Act 95-644. State Representative Rene Kosel (81st District) knows the importance of taxpayers—particularly our veterans and seniors—being informed about new changes in property tax relief programs offered by the State of Illinois.

The numerous tax relief provisions help the following:

Veterans

Returning Veteran Homestead Exemption: Creates a one-time \$5,000 homestead exemption for *tax year 2007* and thereafter for veterans returning home from active duty. “New Benefit”

“Veteran” includes any Illinois resident who is a member of the United States Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard, or United States Reserve Forces

The one time exemption is in addition to any other homestead exemptions that may be available for the veteran’s property.

Disabled Veteran Homestead Exemption: Creates a \$5,000 homestead exemption for veterans who are 75%-100% disabled and \$2,500 homestead exemption for 50% - 75% disabled for *tax year 2007* and thereafter.

* New Benefit”

A service-connected disability is determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

The exemption, if granted, is available to a veteran’s surviving spouse as long as the spouse holds title to the residence and does not remarry

If an exemption is granted under this provision, a disabled person’s homestead exemption (\$2,000) or disabled veteran’s Federal housing exemption

Senior Citizens

Senior Homestead Exemption: Increases to \$4,000 in tax year 2008 and thereafter. (now, \$3,500)

Available to all senior citizens (65 years of age or older) for their principal place of residence. It is not subject to any income limitations. A senior who receives this exemption also automatically qualifies for the General Homestead Exemption. (see below)

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption: Grants full assessment freeze benefits for seniors (65 years of age or older) with a household income of \$50,000 or less and eliminates the graduated exemption for household income between \$45,000- \$50,000 for the 2007 tax year. Increases the maximum income limitation to \$55,000 in the 2008 tax year and thereafter.

(now \$45000-\$50,000 maximum, with declining benefits)

Circuit Breaker Income Limitation: Increases the maximum income threshold by \$1,000 for Circuit Breaker eligibility.

(now, \$21,218/one member household, \$28,480/ two member household, and \$35,740/three or more member household)

The new maximum income limitations are \$22,218/oneperson household, \$29,480/two person household, and \$36,740/three or more member household.

The new income thresholds ONLY apply to the property tax grant and license plate fee assistance components of the Circuit Breaker program. The pharmaceutical assistance portion of the Circuit Breaker program, now known as Illinois Cares Rx, has different maximum income limitations.

(Continued Next Page)

Homeowners

General Homestead Exemption: Increases to \$5,500 in *tax year* 2008 and \$6,000 in *tax year* 2009 and thereafter.
(now \$5,000)

Available to all Illinois homeowners for their principal place of residence. It is not subject to any income limitations.

Tax Relief Awareness: Requires tax bills to include information about tax exemptions. Abatements, and other assistance programs.
(now, no current requirement exists)

Disabled Persons

Disabled Homestead Exemption: Creates a \$2,000 homestead exemption for disabled homeowners for *tax year* 2007 and thereafter.
new benefit

Proof of disability may include (1) documentation that the taxpayer is eligible to receive disability payments under the Federal Social Security Act, or (ii) an Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card that states the taxpayer is under a Class 2 disability, or (iii) an examination by a physician that determines the taxpayer is a disabled person in accordance with the same standards established by the Federal Social Security Administration.

If an exemption is claimed under this provision, a disabled veteran's homestead exemption (\$2,500- \$5,000) or disabled veteran's Federal housing exemption (exemption for homes built with Federal funds) **CANNOT** be claimed.

Tax Year indicates the year before the year property taxes are due. For example, the 2008 *tax year* affects property taxes payable in calendar year 2009.

It is important to contact your local township assessor, or chief county assessment officer to determine filing requirements for the property tax relief provisions. As always, feel free to contact Representative Kosel if you have any further questions. If you wish to receive periodic legislative updates, please send an e-mail to cheesmanr@housegopmail.state.il.us to be added to our e-newsletter list

CHUCKLES

Senior questions

Q: My wife is going through menopause. What can I do?

A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you are done you will have a place to live.

Q: How can you increase the heart rate of your 60+ year old husband?

A: Tell him you're pregnant.

Q: How can you avoid spotting a wrinkle every time you walk by a mirror?

A: The next time you're in front of a mirror, take off your glasses.

Q: Why should 60+ year old people use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they park your car.

Q: Is it common for 60+ year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem, retrieving it is a problem.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Where do 60+ year olds look for fashionable glasses?

A: Their foreheads.

Q: What is the most common remark made by 60+ year olds when they enter antique stores?

A: "I remember these."

SPECIAL ADJUTANT'S CALL

In order that the Post have the most accurate records, the information checked below is required. There are a number of ways that you can turn in the information. You may call me with the information at (708) 349-6682. You may also email the information to me at timkut@hotmail.com. Finally, you may tear out this page, fill in the information and mail it to the Post at Post 111, P.O. Box 413, Orland Park, IL. If a COPY of the DD214 (discharge papers) are required, you may mail them to the P.O. Box. If you need help making a copy of the DD214, please let me know. If you move, or your address has changed please inform the Post.

Thanks
Tim Kut, Adjutant
Orland Memorial Post 111
P.O. Box 413
Orland Park, IL 60462

PLEASE FURNISH THE INFORMATION CHECKED BELOW

| Birthday Month and Day | Year Optional |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Anniversary Date | |
| Wife's Name | |
| Phone Number | |
| Branch of Service | |
| War ERA Served | |
| E-Mail Address | |
| Copy of DD214 (Discharge Papers)** | |

** Mailed to Post 111, P.O. Box 413 or brought to a meeting. You may also bring to a Post coffee on Mon or Friday AM at the center 15045 West Ave, Orland Park

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

YOU AIN'T GONNA LIKE LOSING

Article by Bill Harrison, a retired military man

Sorry, I don't know the author of this, but it is a good one. President Bush did make a bad mistake in the war on terrorism. But the mistake was not his decision to go to war in Iraq. Bush's mistake came in his belief that this country is the same one his father fought for in WWII. It is not. Back then, they had just come out of a vicious depression. The country was steeled by the hardship of that depression, but they still believed fervently in this country. They knew that the people had elected their leaders, so it was the people's duty to back those leaders. Therefore, when the war broke out the people came together, rallied behind, and stuck with their leaders, whether they had voted for them or not or whether the war was going badly or not. And war was just as distasteful and the anguish just as great then as it is today. Often there were more casualties in one day in WWII than we have had in the entire Iraq war. But that did not matter. The people stuck with the President because it was their patriotic duty. Americans put aside their differences in WWII and worked together to win that war. Everyone from every strata of society, from young to old pitched in. Small children pulled little wagons around to gather scrap metal for the war effort. Grade school students saved their pennies to buy stamps for war bonds to help the effort. Men who were too old or medically 4F lied about their age or condition trying their best to join the military. Women doubled their work to keep things going at home. Harsh rationing of everything from gasoline to soap, to butter was imposed, yet there was very little complaining. You never heard prominent people on the radio belittling the President. Interestingly enough in those days there were no fat cat actors and entertainers who ran off to visit and fawn over dictators of hostile countries and complain to them about our President.

Instead, they made upbeat films and entertained our troops to help the troops' morale. And a bunch even enlisted. And imagine this: Teachers in schools actually started the day off with a pledge of allegiance, and with prayers for our country and our troops! Back then, no newspaper would have dared point out certain weak spots in our cities where bombs could be set off to cause the maximum damage. No newspaper would have dared complain about what we were doing to catch spies. A newspaper would have been laughed out of existence if it had complained that German or Japanese soldiers were being "tortured" by being forced to wear women's underwear, or subjected to interrogation by a woman, or being scared by a dog or did not have air conditioning. There were a lot of things different back then. We were not subjected to a constant bombardment of pornography, perversion and promiscuity in movies or on radio. We did not have legions of crack heads, dope pushers and armed gangs roaming our streets. No, President Bush did not make a mistake in his handling of terrorism. He made the mistake of believing that we still had the courage and fortitude of our fathers. He believed that this was still the country that our fathers fought so dearly to preserve. It is not the same country. It is now a cross between Sodom and Gomorra and the land of Oz. We even have the wicked witch of the West as the new Speaker of the House of Representatives. We did unite for a short while after 911, but our attitude changed when we found out that defending our country would require some sacrifices. **We are in great danger. The terrorists are fanatic Muslims. They believe that it is okay, even their duty, to kill anyone who will not convert to Islam. It has been estimated that about one-third or over three hundred million Muslims are sympathetic to the terrorists cause...Hitler and Tojo combined did not have nearly that many potential recruits. We either win it -- or lose it -- and you ain't gonna like losing.**

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1/2 Page \$500/year
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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON.

- Mar 18, 2008 Post Officers Meeting
8 PM at Veterans Center
- March 26, 2008 General Member
ship Meeting
8PM Veterans Center

EVENTS TO COME

- April 4 Dinner Dance Civic Center
info forthcoming
- April or May— Trip to Octave Cha-
nute Museum in Rantoul
- May— Heroes Day at Christian Hill
School Memorial Day at cemetery
and Civic Center
- May— Poppy Days 22, 23, 24 May
- June—Orland Days



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