

Orland Memorial Post 111

*For God and Country*

# THE POST

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



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## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

They say that America is "the land of the free and the home of the brave". We certainly may have our freedoms but as the spectre of "political correctness" spreads throughout our society I am not too sure of the latter. We see that a monument in the shape of a cross honoring the men of WW1 for making the ultimate sacrifice in combat has been covered and it's fate will rest in the hands of the Supreme Court.

I believe all of this legal nonsense originated with the ACLU. My own personal opinion is that we should take the members of the ACLU and those on our highest court who may be predisposed to remove this monument from its hallowed ground and have them dig out a trench. We should then place a machine gun nest approx 400 yards from this trench. To duplicate the courage that our founding fathers of the legion had when their officers blew a whistle summoning the troops to rise from the trenches and attack these positions let us see how much courage these justices and lawyers have to rise up and stare death in the face.

These men fought for "God and Country". Apparently that is something not understood by a small but powerful faction in our country. Let us pray that this monument will be unsheathed and allowed to remain on its consecrated ground so all future generations of American can be proud of these fighting men.

We see that English as a second language is being taught in some school districts. What ever happened to the customs and culture of this country being learned. Past generations of immigrants were proud to do so. We have no flag amendment. Let me get this straight. Certain individuals want the freedom to burn and desecrate it but do not want to fight for it. They want to enjoy the great perks that this country has to offer but desire to spit on those who made their freedoms possible.

Recently pop icon Michael Jackson passed away. I like some of the songs of his music catalog. The very Liberal Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to her credit refused to bring to the floor of Congress legislation to honor this man. She showed great courage in standing up to elements of her own party who wanted to glorify a man whose private life contained several episodes of impropriety in it. However that did not stop the state of Illinois for officially honoring him down in Springfield with legislation in the official record of this state. **Continued on page 3**

### 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
Harold Moss	Robert Suhs Jr.

### R.I.P

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.

Finally some Islamic splinter group whose members advocate the over throw of capitalism and replacing it with a universal muslim caliphate had their annual meeting at the Hilton in Oak Lawn. Great nations do not decline from the outside but rather from within. There was an award winning movie 2 years ago called "No Country for Old Men". It dealt with drugs and murder. We should be very diligent in protecting our values and standing up for our way of life or else that movie title will become an appropriate description about us.

Dean Morrell

Post Commander

**(continued from page 5)**

When the public was spitting (taking their personal safety into their own hands) at Marines on the streets of Southern California during Vietnam, Colonel McMahan was taking Marines off the streets and into his posh Beverley Hills home. I spoke to a retired Marine aircrew member the day Colonel McMahan died and he personally remembered seeing McMahan at numerous Marine Air Bases in California in the 1960s. He was known for going to the Navy hospitals and visiting the wounded Marines and Sailors from this country's conflicts, even in the last years of his life.

Colonel McMahan presented awards and decorations to fellow Marines and attended many a Marine ceremony and the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. He stayed true to his Corps as a board member of the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund and as the honorary chairman of the National Marine Corps Aviation Museum. After retiring from the Marine Reserve, one night on the Johnny Carson show, members of the California Air National Guard came on stage.

Colonel McMahan was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Air Guard in front of millions of Americans who watched it happen live. You will not see anything like that on TV anymore.

The three core values of a United States Marine are; honor, courage and commitment. This is what a Marine is taught from the first day of training and this is what that Marine believes. That was Colonel Edward P. McMahan Jr. USMCR Retired. Before he was a national figure he was a true combat hero and a patriot the nation needed then and this country needs now. Your war is over. Thank you Colonel McMahan. Semper Fi sir.

23 June 2009

Major Van Harl USAF Ret.

## FARMERS MARKET



Legionnaire Matt Piwowarski is flanked on his right by Legionnaire Mike Kolesar and on his left by Legionnaire Gene Sinclair. In the background is Post Commander Dean Morrell.

### **The Farmers Market**

Each summer the Village of Orland Park sponsors a Farmer's Market on Fridays from 7am until 1pm. From 11am until 1pm food service is provided. Village staff purchases the supplies (typically hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken along with chips and cookies. To provide continuity Village staff cooks and serves the food. Each week a local non-profit organization is allowed to raise funds by taking the orders and passing out the pop, individual bags of chips, and cookies. Since the service organization is not required to furnish any inventory, the situation is extremely profitable. Typically, the POST is allotted two dates each summer. Our first date this summer produced a profit of close to \$800. While the second date was not quite as profitable it is still one of our better fund raisers and we are grateful to the Village for the opportunity.

# COLONEL ED HAS DIED

He wanted to be a Marine fighter pilot. The US was building up their military force, but they were not at war yet and the Navy required all its potential Navy and Marine pilots to have two years of college. So Ed started classes at Boston College.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked the Army and the Navy both dropped the college requirement and Ed applied to the Marines. His primary flight training was in Dallas and then he went to Pensacola, Florida. He was carrier qualified, which means he knew how to perform a controlled crash of his single engine fighter, onto the rolling deck of a Navy floating runway.

It took Ed almost two years to get through all the Navy flight training. His problem was he was a very good pilot and the Marines needed flight instructors. He had a great command presence and public speaking ability, which landed him in the classroom, training new baby Marine pilots.

His orders to the Pacific fleet and the chance to fly combat missions off a carrier came in the spring of 1945, on the same day the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Of course his orders were changed. He never went to sea and he was out of the Marines in 1946.

Ed stayed in the USMC as a reserve officer. He became a successful personality in the new TV medium, after the war. His Marine command presence helped. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. He never got to fly his fighter aircraft, but he saw his share of raw combat. He flew the Cessna O-1E Bird Dog, which is a single engine slow-moving unarmed plane. He functioned as an artillery spotter for the Marine batteries on the ground and as a forward controller for the Navy & Marine fighter / bombers who flew in on fast moving jet engines, bombed the area and were gone in seconds. Captain Ed was still circling the enemy looking for more targets, all the time taking North Korean and Chinese ground fire.

He stayed with the Marines as a reserve officer and retired in 1966 as a Colonel.

The world knows Ed as Ed McMahon of the Johnny Carson, Tonight Show. One night I was watching the show when the subject of Colonel McMahon earning a number of Navy Air Medals came up. Carson, a former Navy officer, understood the significance of these medals, but McMahon shrugged it off, saying that if you flew enough combat missions they just sort of gave them to you. McMahon flew 85 combat missions over North Korea; he earned every one of those Air Medals. The casualty rate, for flying forward air controllers in Korea sometimes exceeded 50% of a squadron's manpower. McMahon was lucky to have gotten home from that war.

Once a Marine, always a Marine. (Please see page 3)

**First-ever virtual 'march' on Washington for disabled vets REPEATED**

<http://march.dav.org/default.aspx>

The DAV is organizing a march on Washington to raise public awareness and let lawmakers know voters care about veterans. But you won't need to travel to participate and have your voice heard.

This march is going to be completely online, the first-ever Virtual March on Washington for Veterans. The DAV is working to ensure this will be the easiest and most convenient way ever to stand up for veterans. Together, we will generate greater public awareness and support for strengthening federal policies that provide health care and other earned benefits to disabled veterans.

To sign up to participate in the Sept. 15 virtual march, simply visit <http://march.dav.org/default.aspx> and enter your e-mail address at the top of the page. Your ZIP code will also be needed so lawmakers know which constituents care about the needs of veterans and their families. DAV will send you an e-mail the night before the "march" as a reminder. DAV will not share your e-mail address with or sell it to anyone, nor will DAV use it to solicit donations.

Remember, after you sign up, please help encourage others to do the same. Forward this e-mail, post links on your social networks, blog about it and tell everyone you know

**FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**

( 2009 MEMBERSHIP AS OF JULY )

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF IL

RECORDS, WE AT 167 MEMBERS.

- . 143 POST MEMBERS
- . 7 TRANSFERED IN
- . 7 NEW MEMBERS
- . 1 CARD THIS PERIOD
- . 167 DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

Note, Bring in an Eligible Veteran to the next

Post Meeting or Coffee, Sal

- . 7 TRANSFERED IN
- . 7 NEW MEMBERS
- . 1 CARD THIS PERIOD

## MY 65th D-DAY ANNIVERSARY TRIP

by gene sinclair

Bill and Donna Pittz, and I left Chicago O'Hare on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 10:00 PM, arrived in Paris, France at 5:00 PM on June 2nd via Frankfurt, Germany. We were picked up at the Charles de Gaulle airport by my son, Kirk and his wife Sharon. Bill and Donna are Sharon's Mom and Dad. From there we travel by train to Paris and our hotel for the first night

Early the next morning with our luggage we traveled about 45 minutes by train to Versailles. We stored our luggage in the van we rented across the street from the station and off we went to tour the Chateau de Versailles and its gardens.

After about 4 hours and lunch in the garden we were off to Normandy and the Lemamour B&B. This B&B building is shaped like a backward F and built in three attached sections. A small 2 story farm house was built in about 1690. It is used for a shed now. The next attached section was added in about 1750, and is used as today for the kitchen and dining room. The final section has nine bedrooms on the second floor and was completed by a French Barron in 1885.

After breakfast on June 4<sup>th</sup> we began our tour of the Normandy/Brittany District. The next 4 nights would be spent at the White Cross Manor owned by an English couple, Penny and Keith Estlin. The cost is 40 euro per night with breakfast and Keith's home made apricot & lemon marmalade with brandy added after the cooking. I brought a jar home, it's awesome.

Keith is a retired one star Admiral from the British navy. I don't think they use stars in the British navy, but you know what I mean. After retirement he ran and was elected the mayor of an English town. He moved to France in 2002 and married Penny in 2005. Keith does get around.

Kirk and Sharon had quite a program planned for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. I will tell that we saw or did, but not necessary in order that it happened.

In the movie Longest Day, Red Buttons played the part of a paratrooper who has landed on roof of a church and was hung up there. The paratrooper's name was John Steel and it happened in the village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise. To this day there is a parachute and a mannequin in paratrooper's uniform suspended from that church spire, just as it was in the movie.

In front of the church we listened to a band play good old fashion American marching music that ended as usual with the playing of Stars and Stripes Forever. At the point in that music where we always clap, the lady in front of me began to clap. Before the music ended you knew where every American was in the audience. The band, it was the American Legion Band from Holland, Michigan.

La Cambe, France is one of the largest German military cemetery of WW II. There are 21,139 German soldiers laid to rest there. Originally it was an American cemetery opened on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1944 by the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. German and American soldiers were buried there together.

In 1945 we began to remove our people to the Normandy American Cemetery and then deeded our interest in La Cambe to the Germans. They in turn removed their people from other cemeteries all over France to La Cambe. We attended a joint French-German memorial service held in honor of the German soldiers who died there.

Normandy American Cemetery near St. Laurent-sur-Mer is one of 14 permanent American WW II military cemeteries on foreign soil. It contains 172.5 acres. France has granted us the use of this land, in perpetuity without charge or taxation. Interred are the remains of 9,387 services men and women. 307 of which are unknown, 3 with Medal of Honor and 4 women from 49 states, Washington D C and Guam. There is also a wall listing the names of 1,557 known missing in action, but whose remains have not been recovered or positively identified. Also included a set of twin brothers, 37 set of brothers and one father and son

We went to Omaha Beach and its museum in the morning. Most of the beach has been cleaned up and I did not see that any bunkers had been left. There was some WW II military equipment around. Jeeps, motorcycles, Ducks and a LST. Some of the Norman French dress in our WW II GI uniforms on every June 6<sup>th</sup>. I feel it is a comple-

From there we went to Utah Beach in the afternoon. I have a friend who requested some sand for her son from Utah Beach. A picture of me filling a small bag with sand was taken just to prove to her I did not take it from Lake Michigan beach. Omaha Beach had sand, pebbles but no shells. Utah Beach had sand, shells but no pebbles. I found that strange since the two beaches are only about 11 miles apart.

Keith invited us to what they call the "River House". It was about one short block from the Le merderet bridge. This is a bridge you would need to use if you wished to cross the area that had been flooded just before the invasion. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Division put up a fight to hold that bridge. The River House was used as a machine gun emplacement protecting that bridge. The flood water came up to about 20 feet of the house.

The fields are dry now. There were 550 British, American and German paratroopers making a parachute drop in the field just north of the bridge. This drop was in honor of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division that made the jump on H hour and many had drown. I watched the drop standing on that bridge. The French and Americans had a small service on the hill next to Iron Mike Monument. He defended and held the bridge until our troopers were able to get in place to hold it. For Iron Mike it was too late.

To drive to the River House we had to have a pass with a WW II veteran in our van. Guess who had to sit in the front seat with his American Legion hat on. My son and I talked to a number of American soldiers. He thought I was nuts when I would see 15 or 20 GIs together and would call out "Who is from Illinois?" After a while he saw it was a good way to break the ice.

I saw two American Legion hats in front of me. I walked up to them and introduced myself. They turned out to be Anthony A. Di-Pietro and Willa Marcoff. Mr. Di-Pietro is the Commander of the American Legion, Riviera Post 5, Department of France. I have a picture with them, with Commander Di-Pietro American Flag tie.

Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> we were up early. After breakfast with Penny & Keith we left the White Cross Manor and its Palm tree for Le Havre. On my first trip to France I walked in from the ship Thomas H. Berry, on about 100 yards of floating pier to a rail road siding. Three nights and two days in a box car, but that is another travel story. It was easier to get into France in those days than it is now. No Passport necessary.

A night in a B&B near Tour, France, with a 3 ½ hour dinner in an old mill built in the early 1600. The next morning the van was returned to its rental office across the street from the Tour railroad station. Took the high speed RTR train to Paris for our last three days

Cab to the hotel where we first stayed with two days to see the Eiffel Tower, the Arc Detriophe, Merina de Bercy dinner cruise, the Louvre and Cathedrale Notre Dame, with all its funny faces. (This Notre Dame does not have a football team.)

Bill, Donna and I left Paris France, on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 at 11.10 AM , arrived in Chicago, Illinois at 6:15 PM, same day, via Munich, Germany. Very good time was had by all.

NOTE: I refer to the German and American WW II cemeteries. Both we and they have WW I cemeteries still in France from 1918. The Army's Graves Registration service was in action by the eve of June 6<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division opened La Cambe on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1944. The Germans were on the run so they left their dead for the Army to bury with our soldiers. In 1945 the U S Government began moving remains from La Cambe to American cemeteries in France or if requested sent the remains to the states. As requested, my friend Bill Long was returned to Chicago. There is a section in the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where there are head stones but no bodies. There are two Sailors and one Marine from December 7, 1941 there.

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## EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- July 31-August 2 Taste of Orland  
ENJOY
- Aug 17 Officers Meeting 8 PM  
Veterans Center
- Aug 26 General Membership  
Meeting 8PM Veterans  
Center

**NOTE:** As we did this month we will precede the meeting with a barbeque at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 8 PM

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



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