

Orland Memorial Post 111

For God and Country

THE POST

Website: www.orlandpost111.org



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IN THIS ISSUE

1. Orland Days Parade
2. From the Desk of the Commander
Adjutants Call
Prayer Corner
3. Commander (cont)
Norm Meyers Day
4. Sal and Dean meet
with Congresswoman
Biggert
5. From the Editor
Sal and his Baby
6. Legion School Awards
From the Senior Vice
Commander
7. D-Day Gene Sinclair
8. D-Day (cont)
Virtual March DAV
9. AD Page
10. On the Horizon

ORLAND DAYS PARADE



Post Color Guard passes in front of the Veteran's Center on West Avenue.



Followed closely by Sal and some friends

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

We have been very busy the last several weeks. There are over 25 legion posts in the district we are a part of. There are good men and women that belong to them. However I can assure you that no one is more active than we are and makes a bigger contribution in it's community and for Veterans than Orland Memorial Post #111. Our members were present at Norm Meyer Day during the recent Orland Days Festivities. They were present to assure that special children and adults throughout the Southland were able to enjoy a full day of rides and enjoyment.

When sadly Village trustee Jim Dodge's father passed (a Korean War Vet) we turned out a full honor guard squad to make sure that he received a fitting and proper military farewell. We had a full contingent for the Memorial festivities at Orland Hills Christian Church, the remembrance ceremony at the Lutheran cemetery by Silver Lakes golf course, the traditional observance at Orland Park, and I was able to make an appearance at the Smith/Crossing assisted living facility to participate in a program that honored their facilities Veterans.

Toss in our poppy days fundraising and cap it off with our participation in the annual Orland Days Parade where we had the honor of marching down the the street being led by the father and son team of long time Post Adjutant Tim Kut and his active duty Marine Corp Captain and post member Jason carrying the colors and you have a whole lot of activity compressed over a small period of time.

I want to thank each and every member who generously donated their time and continue to give service to live up to the Legion motto "For God and Country". I always talk about the "Me Factor" and I am not discussing selfishness but rather the ability to give "MAXIMUM EFFORT" regardless of one's age. I am always impressed by some of our members while not in the best of health willingness to participate and assist in any way that they can.

CONT NEXT PAGE

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

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

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.

COMMANDER CONTINUED:

Every member can be proud of our post. We send 6 of our members to participate in the honor guard at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. They insure that every Veteran receives a fitting and final military goodbye. They are out there for their love of country and dedication to duty. Neither rain or snow, heat or cold stops them. One of our members received a prestigious award from a former president for her humanitarian efforts to assist the underprivileged throughout the world. We have a top flight legislative team that makes sure that Veterans are given the respect from their elected officials that their service of honor requires. Finally we possess a honor guard second to none that if asked can make sure that any Veteran not being interred at the VA cemetery in Elwood can receive the same high quality farewell.

However we cannot take time to rest. The VA long term care facility at Manteno had its admissions frozen due to concerns over "patient irregularities". It has 340 beds but only 249 are currently filled. There are hundreds of Veterans on it's waiting list. Yet sadly, the rest of the beds are unstaffed and left open because the State of Illinois will not fund them. We have an obligation to make sure that the state remembers that besides Memorial and Veterans Day that the rest of the days in the year require an equal amount of affection and attention to those of us who have served this nation with honor.

Sr Vice Commander Estrada and I recently travelled to the congressional offices of Congresswomen Judy Biggert and Debbie Halvorson. We were treated with courtesy and respect. Our purpose was to advocate for the bringing of a VA outpatient clinic to the Orland area. The need is great and as everyone knows although the care at Hines is good the travel, wait times, parking congestion, and various other issues result in the bringing of such a facility to our area a number one priority. The charter of The American Legion states that we were founded "to advocate in the arena of government for the purpose that the Veterans of this nation be treated and accorded with the respect and care their service has warranted". I know of one Commanding Officer who takes that seriously.

Dean Morrell

Post Commander

NORM MEYERS' DAY

On May 28, 2009 Henry Callahan, Milton George and Gene Sinclair were volunteer food services for the "Norm Meyers Special Day for Special People". For the volunteers the day begins about 8:30 AM and ends at 1:30 PM.

The volunteers assist the Special People on the carnival rides and when necessary ride with them. Then a lunch is served of hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza.

This is a special day for them but a very special day for the volunteers.

AN IMPORTANT VISIT



L to R: Past Commander Sal Estrada and Commander Dean Morrell met recently with Congresswoman Judy Biggert to discuss Manteno, the possibility of an Orland Park VA Clinic and other veteran's issues.

Actual Exchanges Between Pilots and Control Towers

Tower: "Delta 351, you have traffic at 10 o'clock, 6 miles!"

Delta 351: "Give us another hint! We have digital watches

A student became lost during a solo cross-country flight. While attempting to locate the aircraft on radar, ATC asked, "What was your last known position?"

Student: "When I was number one for takeoff."

A DC-10 had come in a little hot and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down.

San Jose Tower Noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadeloupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."

FROM YOUR EDITOR

While I was in Florida, I obtained what is referred to a computer air card. It was to get a Newsletter out. You have seen them. Bill Curtis uses them to challenge celebrities to a computer race to the Internet. No permanent installation is necessary. It cost about \$100 and \$66 dollars a month. It would be cheaper to turn it in and pay the contract penalty of \$200 then pay \$66 per month for another 18 months, since I currently have no need for it. However it does provide access from the Center so I thought I would hold it for a while. That would allow discussions about the Internet followed by one on one or two on one training (maybe 3 at a time) I will put a sign up sheet in the center. Once we get a few names we'll try it out. Make sure to sign up with contact info.



Senior Vice Commander Sal Estrada displays his personal jeep at the Flag Day Ceremony at the Joliet Airport at a Flad Day celebration on June 14,2009

ANNUAL LEGION SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2009. Recipients of the awards and their schools are as follows:

Hannah Mathew and Lucas Stevenson of Christian Hills Church Grade School

Claire Bessette and Mitchell Siwa of Cardinal Joseph Bernadin Catholic Grade School

Clare Allison and Brendan McGovern of Saint Michael Catholic Grade School

Aneta Rychtarczyk and Daniel Fleming of Norbert Jerling Junior High School

Paige Dauparas and Ben Marks of Century Junior High School

Shannon McKane and Tyler Hartman of Orland Junior High School

Joseph L. Raftery Jr.

Past Post Commander/Finance Officer

(708) 633-7964

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

2009 MEMBERSHIP AS OF JUNE

. 149 2009 TOTAL

. 7 TRANSFERED IN

. 3 CARDS THIS PERIOD

. 7 NEW MEMBERS

. 166 TOTAL MEMBERS IN POST

NOTE, ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF IL

WE ARE AT ABOUT 94.90 % PAID AT THIS TIME.

(Bring in a New Member and get your Membership Pin)

/ for more info call sal at 708-479-7795

D-DAY PLUS 65 YEARS

Some thoughts and observations from Gene Sinclair

The cruiser USS Quincy was assigned to Utah Beach as part of the Western Task Force commanded by Rear-Admiral Kirk. The beach was about a mile and one half wide. Battleships and cruisers were some 11,000 yards (6.20 miles) from the coast operating in lanes parallel to the shoreline so they could maneuver. Their task was to silence the German shore batteries. The destroyers on the other hand were anchored within 5,500 yards (3.10 miles) of the shoreline.

RAF #2 Group was to lay down a smoke screen to provide some protection for the bombarding ships and the landing crafts as they neared the shore. Fighter aircraft were used to spot for the ships and control their fire.

It was planned that the opening bombardment by the Western Task Force would start to fire at 5:50 AM. H-hour or the invasion on Utah was to be at 6:30 AM.

As it happened, it was the Germans who fired first. With the coming of dawn they began to spot ships. At 5:05 AM a German battery opened fire on the destroyers USS Fitch and Corry anchored in front of and a little to the right of the Quincy. 20 minutes later the German batteries engaged minesweepers operating off the same beach. At that point the British cruiser HMS Black Prince returned their fire. The Black Prince was three ships to the right and protecting the right flank of the Quincy. At 5:36 AM we began our bombardment.

At 6:10 AM the aircraft began to lay down a smokescreen, but the plane that was to cover Corry was shot down. This left her the only vessel exposed to the full weight German shore batteries. In the maneuvering by the Corry to avoid there fire she struck a mine and sank. By now all ships of all five Allied naval forces were engaging the German shore batteries.

Utah Beach was the responsibility of General J. Lawton Collins. He decided that the initial landing would be made by just one reinforced Regimental Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division. Eleven miles from shore the troops boarded their landing craft. On their way one of the patrol craft responsible for guiding them to the French shore was sunk.

It was well for the attackers that the German 709th division were dazed from the bombing and naval bombardment for the the 4th Division had to wade through some 100 yards of water. This landing was led by Assistant Divisional Commander, Brigadier-General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. veteran of North Africa, Sicily and WWI. He realized that none of the features of the beach were recognizable because they had landed 2,000 yards south of where they should have been.

(Continued on page 8)

Roosevelt reacted quickly and adjusted his attack plans and moved on. General Roosevelt died two weeks later of a heart attack.

With the landing 2,000 yards to the right of Quincy and the Utah Beach landing zone I am sure some adjustment had to be made to bombarding orders. With a small adjustment it could be that the HMS Black Prince and HMS Ancon and USS Tuscaloosa would be firing over the Quincy and battleship USS Nevada. I was told by a member of the Quincy crew that the noise was deafening

RE: The D-Day Atlas

Gene Sinclair

Charles Messenger

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

<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.

On Sept. 15, the official day of the march, there will be video messages posted from a variety of veterans, family members, veterans' advocates, lawmakers and a few surprises. There will be opportunities to chat with those leading efforts to better the lives of veterans. And there will be easy-to-use tools for you to directly contact your representatives in Washington, D.C. If you cannot visit the site the day of the march, don't worry; it will all remain online.

Business Card Size \$200/year

Available Call Matt 708-308-5369

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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Jun 20 Officers Meeting
Veterans Center
8PM
- Jun 26 Farmers Market
Civic Center
10:30AM
- Jun 29 General Membership
Meeting 8PM
Veterans Center
- Aug 7 Farmers Market
Civic Center
10:30AM

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



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