

Orland Memorial Post 111

For God and Country

THE POST

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ORLAND DAYS 2008

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Front Row (l to r) Commander Matt Piwowarski (partially hidden). Catherine Foster, Dave Kemp Back Row (l to r) Dean Morell, Tim Kut, Ralph Bechtold

REMEMBER:: We have the food service duty at the Farmer's Market on July 11 and 18. We need help in passing out the pop and chips, as well as the cookies. This is a profitable day for us (10 AM to 1PM) and anyone who can help is welcome!!!

ALSO at Taste of Orland we will be collecting non-perishable food for the Orland Township food pantry. The township has been very supportive in the past and we would like to help our community.

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

I wish to thank all those who attended the wake for Donna Koerner, wife of Warren Koerner. His family was very appreciative of our presence.

Our next big fund raiser is the Farmer's Market. The dates for the Farmer's Market are on Fridays, the 11 and 18 July. The Club House will may be opened those days. We will need help on those days. If you wish to come just for the market be there about 10:00 A.M. on those dates. We will be there from 10:00- 1300 Hrs.

The Taste of Orland will be held from 1-3 Aug. We will need individuals to man our booth. We will have a game for the kids to play as well as flags, pins and other items for sale. So if you can sign up at this or the next meeting.

As you know our Poppy Days sale was the best this year. Thanks to our chairman Sal Estrada. Great Job to Sal and all of the individuals who helped out at the different sites that we manned. I hope that next years Poppy Days will be just as great or better.

ADJUTANT'S CALL AND CHAPLAINS CORNER

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.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Donna Koerner

Maurice Fernandez

POST EVERLASTING

Sgt-At-Arms Jack Bath

Bruce Sindewald

Corwin Funkey

Edward Von Clay

R.I.P. fallen brothers

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

From The Senior Vice Commander

Two years ago legionnaire Palucki brought a shipmate from the U.S.S. Norfolk to the Veteran Center. His name was Terrence Brown and he was injured in action during the Korean War. He sat in a wheel chair with no teeth, torn clothing, in a state of being a little confused, but happy to be in the company of fellow Veterans sharing a cup of coffee and a donut. He had no family in the area and was constantly being shuttled from one nursing home to another. Now here was a prime candidate for a VA nursing home.

A week later Ray Manning, Warren Koerner, Bob Lewis, and myself would make a mission to the nearest VA nursing facility in Manteno to drop off supplies. We got a little tour of the facility. It was clean and the patients seemed well taken care of. The only thing that was puzzling was that there were 85 to 100 beds empty and not in use. Thus would begin a two year odyssey of unraveling a complex puzzle of lies, innuendo, and legislators voting to remove funding from the 4 VA nursing homes in the state.

First there were no nurses to be had said the rep from the Illinois Dept of Veterans Affairs. What he did not say is that the governor had mandated funding at 80% leaving 400 beds at any time empty, unstaffed, and unfunded. Then there were some of our elected officials who in their wisdom when Illinois ranked 49th out of 50 states in providing for their Veterans decided to remove over 5 million in funding from these homes when it was needed the most and distribute those funds into dubious political projects.

When a local legislator was identified as participating in this fund sweep of Veterans money he sought and found amnesty and sanctuary from district Legion officers who should have been fighting for their members, identifying the problems with these homes, and flexing their muscle instead of currying favor with those who policy in Springfield was to stick it in our back.

However history has shown that when a few good men band together for a common and just cause positive things happen. A prominent journalist from a major paper after months of prodding did a powerful investigative report on the shoddy treatment given to "men of honor" in this state. Politicians who voted to remove funding had a change of heart and decided to "do the right thing". Over 800,000 thousand dollars was channeled into the Manteno facility to fund and staff the over 100 beds that lay empty 6 months ago. 9 million was appropriated to staff the 80 brand new beds at LaSalle. A powerful investigative report from a major media outlet has put the pressure on the governor NOT to play with Veterans funding as he has in the past.

The founding members of the American Legion fought in the trenches of WW1. When an officer blew a whistle thousands of men would rise from these trenches with fixed bayonets to attack German positions. They charged through barb wire, machine gun fire, land filled with bomb craters, and poison gas to push the Germans back. Historians credit these American "doughboys" with turning the tide of that conflict. After that horrific war they founded a military organization devoted to standing up for Veterans. They should be proud, there are still those of us who follow in their footsteps and their Post is Orland Memorial #111.

CHUCKLES

SPEEDING IN MISSOURI

A Desoto, MO policeman had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting many. Then he discovered the problem. A twelve-year-old boy was standing up the road with a hand-painted sign, which read 'RADAR TRAP AHEAD'. The officer then found a young accomplice down the road with a sign reading 'TIPS' . . . and a bucket full of money. (And we kids used to just sell lemonade!)

2) Better:

A motorist was mailed a picture of his car speeding through an automated radar post in St Peters , MO. A \$40 speeding ticket was included. Being cute, he sent the police department a picture of \$40. The police responded with another mailed photo of handcuffs.

3) Best:

A young woman was pulled over for speeding. As the Missouri State Trooper walked to her car window, flipping open his ticket book, she said, "I bet you're going to sell me a ticket to the State Troopers Ball." He replied, "Missouri State Troopers don't have balls." There was a moment of silence while she smiled, and he realized what he'd just said. He then closed his book, got back in his patrol car and left. She was laughing too hard to start her car.....

Why were hurricanes usually named after women?

Because when they arrive, they're wet and wild, but when they go, they take your house and car.

An old man goes to the Wizard to ask him if he can remove a curse he has been living with for the last 40 years.

The Wizard says, "Maybe, but you will have to tell me the exact words that were used to put the curse on you."

***The old man says without hesitation,
"I now pronounce you man and wife."***

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOOL AWARDS

During the latter part of May and early June, 2008 Officers and representatives of the American Legion from Orland Memorial Post #111 participated in six Honors Award assemblies and Graduation Commencement Ceremonies at local school in its community service area encompassing Orland Park, Orland Hills, and Goodings Grove to present its annual American Legion School Award medal designed to recognize students deemed most worthy of the high qualities of Citizenship and of true Americanism. This award is the highest honor awarded American youth by the American Legion.

The American Legion is an organization dedicated to the service of God and Country. It believes that one of the best ways to perform this service is to take an active interest in the preparation of our youth, so that they will become patriotic, freedom-preserving citizens.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2008. Recipients of the awards and their schools are as follows:

Sarah Smith and Michael Imrie of Saint Michael Catholic Grade School

Julia Kuda and John Arvin of Christian Hills Church Grade School

Jeanna Serici and Derek Hevel of Orland Junior High School

Sweta Soni and Matthew Gouwens of Century Junior High School

Candice LaPrairie and Dennis Lynch of Norbert Jerling Junior High School

Gianna Patrizi and Sean Connelly of Cardinal Joseph Bernadin Catholic Grade School

Joseph L. Raftery Jr.

Past Post Commander/Finance Officer

(708)633-7964

Reason Why It's So Hard To Solve A Redneck Murder:

All the DNA is the same.

The reason congressmen try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

WISDOM - FROM MILITARY MANUALS

'If the enemy is in range, so are you.'

- **Infantry Journal**

'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.'

- - **U.S. Air Force Manual**

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

- **General Mac Arthur**

'You, you, and you .. Panic. The rest of you, come with me.'

- - **U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery SGT.**

'Tracers work both ways.'

- **U.S. Army Ordnance**

'Five second fuses only last three seconds.'

- **Infantry Journal**

'Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.'

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.' -
Unknown Marine Recruit

John McCain's Sons

There were no cameras or press invited to what you are about to read about, and the story comes from one person in New Hampshire.

One evening last July, Senator John McCain of Arizona arrived at the New Hampshire home of Erin Flanagan for sandwiches, chocolate-chip cookies and a heartfelt talk about Iraq. They had met at a presidential debate, when she asked the candidates what they would do to bring home American soldiers - - soldiers like her brother, who had been killed in action a few months earlier.

Mr. McCain did not bring cameras or press.

Instead, he brought his youngest son, James McCain, 19, then a private first class in the Marine Corps about to leave for Iraq. Father and son sat down to hear more about Ms. Flanagan's brother Michael Cleary, a 24-year-old Army First Lieutenant killed by an ambush ... a roadside bomb.

No one mentioned the obvious: In just days, Jimmy McCain could face similar perils. 'I can't imagine what it must have been like for them as they were coming to meet with a family that' Ms. Flanagan recalled, choking up. 'We lost a dear one,' she finished.

Mr. McCain, now the presumptive Republican nominee, has staked his candidacy on the promise that American troops can bring stability to Iraq. What he almost never says is that one of them is his own son, who spent seven months patrolling Anbar Province and learned of his father's New Hampshire victory in January while he was digging a stuck military vehicle out of the mud. Two of Jimmy's three older brothers went into the military. Doug McCain, 48, was a Navy pilot. Jack McCain, 21, is to graduate from the Naval Academy next year, raising the chances that his father, if elected, could become the first president since Dwight D. Eisenhower with a son at war.



MEMORIAL DAY 2008



ORLAND DAYS 2008



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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON.

EVENTS TO COME

- July 11 Farmers Market
Civic Center 9:30 AM
- July 18 Farmers Market
Civic Center 9:30 AM
- July 21 Officers Meeting
Veterans Center 8 PM
- July 25, 26, 27
Veterans Commission Book Sale
Veterans Center
- July 30 General Membership Meeting
Veterans Center 8 PM
- Aug 1 to 3 Taste of Orland at Civic
Center

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



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