



THE POST

Website: www.orlandpost111.org

May 27, 2009

Volume IX Issue V

CONGRATULATIONS CATHERINE

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Former President Jimmy Carter presents the Lillian Carter Award to 111's own Catherine Foster on May 13th at the Carter Center in Atlanta. The award, named in honor of the former President's mother, is presented biannually to someone who served the Peace Corps at 50 and continues to make a difference. Catherine volunteered to go to Nepal at age 59 as part of a lifetime of service to others. She climbed Mt. Everest at 61 and met Mother Teresa while working with orphans in Calcutta. However, she treasures her Peace Corps service as her crowning achievement. She points to her initial time (1996-1998) in Nepal and the fact that she treasures her relationships with the Nepalese people, returning often even to teach at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. She considers the greatest gift she could give the Nepalese people was the benefit of many years of health and nursing experience. Catherine (Dr. Foster) is a decorated Army Nurse, a global humanitarian, a trustee of the Carter Foundation, a Fulbright Senior Scholar and a World Health Organization consultant.

She will be recognized by the Orland Park Village Board on Monday June 1st at their 7PM meeting and will be part of a Peace Corps presentation at the Orland Park Library on June 29. Perhaps it would be nice if some of us were present. Cont page 3.

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

As another Memorial Day is upon us we have the opportunity to thank our brethren who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms, culture, and way of life we have been blessed with. It is also a time to bow our heads in remembrance of our fellow Legionaires who have passed from our ranks during the year.

As most of our membership ages and the median age of Veterans throughout the country increases we find health care as one of the top priorities that effects us. It was only 60 days ago that the current commander-in-chief decided that it was in the best interests of Veterans and those currently serving that private insurance companies were to provide healthcare and not the government of this country who had sent the men and women of this nation into battle.

Thankfully do to the concerted efforts of the military organizations of this country our president decided to change course and for the moment drop that idea. Earlier in the month we received notification that the Manteno VA Nursing and Longterm Care facility was having it's admissions frozen due to "irregularities". It is bad enough that 90 of this facilities 340 beds remain open, unstaffed, and unfunded while hundreds of Veterans languish on waiting lists to gain admission. Now we find out that a internal investigation has revealed that patients are being strapped to chairs so that a portion of the staff can take naps. It is a sad state of affairs that an 80 year old facility in the middle of a rural cornfield with funding mandated at 89% is the only hope for some of our fellow Veterans.

Despite some of the best efforts from several of our legislators in Springfield the Land of Lincoln ranks near the bottom for providing for those of us who have served our country with honor. We now have the "Veterans Doomsday Budget" being circulated in Springfield. No need to worry about the Manteno facility because if this budget is adopted Manteno along with the other 3 longterm care facilities would be closed thus effectively putting 1000 old, tired, sick, and terminally ill Veterans unto the street. That the lives of these men, women, and their families are being used to play "legislative poker" with in Springfield is disgusting and worthy of comments not fit for public consumption.

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
Karen MCurdy	(wife of Ralph)
Arlene Manring	(wife of Ray)
John O'Rourke	Gene Sinclair
Henry Callahan	Richard Parker
Ralph Bechtold	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.	

Cont from page 2

It has been my honor to fight for you on this issue. In my communiqués with the powers that be from the governor to our local reps I have told them to go ahead and shut em down. Better that than to fund these facilities at 80 to 89% and not staff them with quality supervisors and top notch health-care professionals. However there is a caveat to that. If you do so however you might want to reconsider your public appearance schedules for Memorial and Veterans Day. Why would you want to honor the dead, when you want to bury the living!

Dean Morrell
Post Commander

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When Catherine returns to Orland Park between her overseas ventures for some R and R we are proud that she finds time to share herself with us. ONCE AGAIN CATHERINE !!!

CONGRATULATIONS

MEMORIAL DAY



More thoughts from Peter Heck about what is going on around us said better than I could say. See other works at www.peterheck.com

Obama's Judicial Dictators

Alexander Hamilton, perhaps the brightest of all the Founding Fathers, once spoke of the role of the judiciary in this way: "It may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment." In other words, judges do not determine the law, nor enforce it. They merely gauge whether actions brought to them in various cases fall within the parameters of legality established by the political branches, and then rule accordingly with no regard for the persons involved.

This responsibility is precisely why the Founders isolated judges from the political winds, giving them life tenures. Judges should not be forced to consider popular opinion or cultural fads in the course of determining what the law says. Indeed, it may be necessary for the courts to defy those very trends in order to uphold the law as written by the people through the elected branches of government. If the people wish to change their law, they do so through the ballot box, not the courtroom.

To illustrate what Hamilton meant, it is helpful to consider the role of an umpire whose responsibility is to call balls and strikes based on a predetermined strike zone. The umpire does not change the strike zone throughout the course of the game. Nor does he consider the socioeconomic, athletic, or racial background of the individual batter. He doesn't determine for himself whether it is "fair" that one team's pitcher seems to be more skilled than the other, and then seek to "even the playing field." He is a neutral party with neither force nor will, merely judgment.

It is tough to imagine someone with a more contradictory philosophy to our Founders' vision of the judiciary than the man who currently stands poised to make his first appointment to the Supreme Court. When liberal justice David Souter announced his retirement, Obama pledged to appoint as his replacement a justice who combines "empathy and understanding." While this fits perfectly with his campaign pledge of seeking judges who are "sympathetic enough to those who are on the outside, those who are vulnerable, those who are powerless," it is also an indication of contempt for the proper role of the judiciary and an affront to men like Hamilton who helped frame it.

Though a self-proclaimed "constitutional scholar," Obama's statements depict a stunning betrayal of constitutional jurisprudence. Sympathy for outsiders, the powerless and vulnerable are noble qualities to desire in legislators - those making the law. That Obama demands them of potential judges, however, shows his allegiance to the anti-constitutional practice of judicial activism.

Consider what happened in Iowa just a few weeks ago. In 1998, the people of Iowa overwhelmingly passed through their elected branches of government a law stipulating that marriage was an institution between one man and one woman only. But seven black robed lawyers just issued a decree binding on the entire state that marriage would be opened up to alternative definitions.

FROM PETER HECK

In their 69 page decree from Mount Olympus, the seven wizards of the Iowa Supreme Court audaciously stated the following: "Equal protection can only be defined by the standards of each generation." In other words, when the people of Iowa first wrote their constitution, they weren't as enlightened as they are today. Ignoring the obvious fact that this generation of Iowans already stated their definition of "equal protection" in 1998 when they said marriage is between opposite sexes, the judges threw it out and wrote their own law.

This is the exact type of judicial malfeasance that Barack Obama wishes to facilitate at the U.S. Supreme Court level. Regardless of where we stand in the social divide that separates the left and right in American politics, this abandonment of the separation of powers as defined by the U.S. Constitution should be a grave concern for all Americans.

Allowing umpires to redefine the strike zone whenever they see fit may seem like a good idea when they favor your team. But what happens when they don't? This is the problem the Founders sought to avoid, and we will too if we know what is good for us.

Our 3rd president, Thomas Jefferson, warned that such practice would make, "The Constitution a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please." Yet that seems to be exactly what our 44th president desires.

Though once political rivals, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson would find common ground today in fiercely combating the warped and dangerous judicial philosophy of Barack Obama. Perhaps that should tell us something.

POSTED BY: Peter Heck AT 07:29 pm

FROM YOUR EDITOR

It has come to my attention that there has been some rumblings about certain content in YOUR-monthly newsletter. When assigned this responsibility by then Commander Estrada it came with the typical editors responsibility for content. It did not come without problems as we paid off a settlement on an alleged copyright infringement. From that point on care was taken to insure permission to use was obtained. I have permission emails from a couple of people including Peter Heck who gave permission to use anything as long as credit was given. His website is www.peterheck.com. I recently had a conversation with Commander Morrell and with few exceptions we concluded that my best judgment would decide on content. Normally, I try to provide information that might be worthwhile to veterans, particularly seniors concerning current legislation including that on private weapons shared by John Hennessy as well as some occasional humor, with thought given to whether anyone would be offended. Those who have commented have been invited to assume the job. Not surprisingly they hid behind the excuse that they are often away. I just returned from a six month hiatus. During that time you DID NOT miss a newsletter including January for which my wife bought me an air card so I might do it from a hospital bed in New Port Richey, FL. Let me hear from you. The Commander has allowed me latitude and I can change anything within reason.

IT'S POPPY TIME

Each year on Memorial Day Weekend Post members flock to the streets to collect donations for the poppy invented by the Legion to honor those who made the utmost sacrifice. Few know that although credit is given to another organization for the invention (they did in fact run with it) that shortly after World War I the poppy was used to honor particularly those who had given all in the cause of freedom. Although it appeared initially to be associated with what was Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) more recently it has become associated with what was once Decoration Day (on which graves of fallen soldiers were decorated with flags and poppies) now known as Memorial Day. It is particularly this time of year in the spring in which the poppy is used to raise funds to aid surviving veterans. This year Post 111 folks flocked to the three village train stations on Thursday morning. Later Thursday morning, funds were collected at the Jewel at 179th St. and Wolf Road. On Friday Post personnel were once again at the Wolf Road Jewel, while on Saturday they were at the at the Orland Hills Walmart as well as the Orland Park Jewel at 159th and 94th Avenue. Sunday morning the Post was at Christian Hills Church for their annual Memorial Day Service. After the Service the congregation generously responded by taking the remainder of our poppies. Congratulations to all who helped with poppies. So far the total is @2000.00 with more to be counted.

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 2009

- . 168 OUR GOAL
- . 144 PAID MEMBERS
- . 7 NEW MEMBERS
- . 6 TRANSFERED IN
- . 167 TOTAL MEMBERS

NOTE, WE ARE AT 92 % OF OUR GOAL

AT THIS POINT - GOOD JOB, I KNOW WE

CAN DO IT, FEEL FREE TO CALL ME AT

708-479-7795 FOR MORE INFO ON MEMBERSHIP,
SAL

CAN DO IT.

A NEW PROGRAM

I have been informed by the Commander that Rep Kosel has arranged for us to have the grant that we wanted. The grant is for 20,000. Because of technicalities it will be distributed as part of a grant to the village and then passed on to Orland Memorial Post 111. The funds are earmarked to provide uniforms for a color guard which will provide honors on Wednesday when there is no Lincoln Cemetery Squad available. While 20,000 sounds like big dollars for the purpose one needs to remember that the legionnaires need to be outfitted for 12 month duty. In what can be some of the coldest winter weather possible. The Commander is committed to using any remaining funds for a project to benefit local veterans. You will be kept posted on the progress. Be thinking about whether you can participate. The cost of outfitting a Legionnaire will, by necessity, require a steady commitment.

MONTANA STATE TROOPER

In most of the United States there is a policy of checking on any stalled vehicle on the highway when temperatures drop to single digits or below. About 3 a.m. one very cold morning, a Montana State Trooper responded to a call there was a car off the shoulder of the road outside Great Falls, Montana. He located the car, stuck in deep snow and with the engine still running. Pulling in behind the car with his emergency lights on, the trooper walked to the driver's door to find an older man passed out behind the wheel with a nearly empty vodka bottle on the seat beside him. The driver came awake when the trooper tapped on the window. Seeing the rotating lights in his rearview mirror, and the state trooper standing next to his car, the man panicked. He jerked the gearshift into 'drive' and hit the gas. The car's speedometer was showing 20-30-40 and then 50 MPH, but it was still stuck in the snow, wheels spinning.

The Trooper, having a sense of humor, began running in place next to the speeding (but stationary) car. The driver was totally freaked, thinking the trooper was actually keeping up with him. This goes on for about 30 seconds, then the Trooper yelled "Pull Over"! The man nodded, turned his wheel and stopped the engine.

Needless to say, the man from North Dakota was arrested and is probably still shaking his head over the State Trooper in Montana who could run 50 miles per hour. Who says Troopers don't have a sense of humor?

MEMORIAL DAY 2009

In addition to the Poppy Drive, Post members were quite busy with other activities. On Sunday the Post participated in the annual Memorial Day service at Christian Hills church. Following a Continental Breakfast of Donuts and Coffee, the squad posted the colors in the main sanctuary, prior to the Memorial Service. As part of the service the firing squad stepped outdoors to fire the honorary volleys, while the congregation was able to watch on a screen inside..

Monday morning the honor guard gathered at Christ Lutheran Cemetery for a 10 AM Memorial Day Service. Music was provided by a small keyboard to accompany a small choir. The names of the deceased vets are read and a bell is rung after each name. Small cemetery flags are placed at each military gravesite and a ceremonial rifle volley is fired.

Monday afternoon was the annual Village of Orland Park Memorial Day Celebration consisting of remarks from Mayor McLaughlin, the reading of the names that will be added to the Ara Pace memorial. In addition, this years ceremony was enhanced by a flyover by a vintage aircraft. Three rifle volleys capped off the traditional celebration.

It's official, DD-214's are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> <<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- May 31 Orland Days Parade
gather noon OJHS step
off at 1PM
- Jun 15 Officer's Meeting
Veteran's Center
2000Hrs.
- Jun 24 General Membership
Meeting Veteran's Center
2000Hrs

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



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