

Orland Memorial Post 111

For God and Country

THE POST

Website: www.orlandpost111.org



November 26, 2008



Volume VIII Issue XI

VETERAN'S DAY 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Veteran's Day
2. From the Desk of the
Commander
Adjutants Corner
Prayer Corner
3. You Ain't Gonna
Like Losing (repeat)
- 4 Chuckle
5. You Ain't Gonna
Like Losing (cont)
Idiot Sighting in
Food Service
6. Watch Out
More Idiot Sightings
7. 1/2 Boy 1/2 Man
8. From the Senior Vice
Commander
1/2 Boy 1/2 Man
(Cont)
9. AD Page
10. On the Horizon



Ready, Aim, Fire



Warren Koerner and his Uncle

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMANDER

I would like to take this moment to thank each and everyone of you who took the time to participate in the events scheduled during the numerous ceremonies honoring Veterans. From Park and St. Michaels schools, at the Orland Civic Center and the presentation at Smith Crossings a strong "esprit de corp" was observed as many legionnaires came forward to offer their time and service.

Appreciation must also be extended to the honor guard officers at these events who coordinated these represented functions. Dave Kemp, Matt Piwowarski, and Sal Estrada carried out their duties in an exemplary manner. It was also an honor to have a "father and son" team from the post have their names placed on the Villages Veterans Memorial. Warren and Jeff Koerner can be proud of their service and having their names inscribed.

It was sad to learn the passing of fellow member Ray Szara. However we made sure that our departed comrade received a proper and final military farewell. It is always nice to see a Navy man doing something for the Army. This year as tradition John Hennessy and his regiment of "bell ringers" will assist the Salvation Army in their annual kickoff of the holiday season. Please see John for the date and time. He might need some more legionnaires to step up.

Finally I had the privilege of addressing The Daughters of the American Revolution during their meeting at Trinity Christian College. They are a prestigious group whose membership traces their lineage and ancestry back to the American Revolution. The regent herself's relative was George Washington. I was joined by Frank Jerz and Sal Estrada. The topic was the funding and staffing of VA nursing homes. The ladies were very enthusiastic with their applause and it reached a crescendo when I mentioned that rumor had that we too had a member Sal Estrada who was in the same boat with George Washington when it crossed the icy Delaware river on that cold wintry night!

Take care and have a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Dean Morrell

Commanding Officer

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

Maurice Fernandez	Father Leo Lyons
Sean Kasper and family	Karen McCurdy (wife of Ralph)
Arlene Manring (wife of Ray)	Gene Sinclair
Henry Callahan	John O'Rourke
Ralph Bechtold	Richard Parker
	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.

This article came from a gentleman in his 80's (and a DEMOCRAT!) who actually lived thru those (and these) times. Whether you agree or disagree, this is a powerful statement!!! And I don't think you will have to look it up on fact or fiction either!

Everyone has a different opinion on the war, and our current President, but this article makes sense! Read it and give it some thought. What a difference 60 years makes!!!

You Ain't Gonna Like Losing

President Bush did make a bad mistake in the war on terrorism. But his 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 their 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 the Pledge of Allegiance, and with prayers for our country and our troops!!!

Back then, no newspaper would have dared to 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.

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. **(continued on page 5)**

CHUCKLES

Barrack Obama, Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey were flying on Obama's private plane

Obama looked at Oprah, chuckled and said, 'You know, I could throw a \$1,000 bill out of the window right now and make somebody very happy

Oprah shrugged her shoulders and replied, 'I could throw ten \$100 bills out of the window and make ten people very happy

Michelle added, 'That being the case, I could throw one hundred \$10 bills out of the window and make a hundred people very happy

Hearing their exchange, the pilot rolled his eyes and said to his co-pilot, 'Such big-shots back there

I could throw all of them out of the window and make 56 million people very happy.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

We had to have the garage door repaired.

The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not.' Four is larger than two.' We haven't used Sears repair since.

IDIOT SIGHTING

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'you gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me! to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said 'We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing.

The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

From Kingman, KS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

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 Gomorrah and the land of Oz. We did unite for a short while after 9/11, 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.

So...we either win it -or lose it - and you ain't gonna like losing!!!

Today, for many folks, America is not at war...the military is at war...and America is at the mall.

NO LONGER A CHRISTIAN NATION

As I was listening to a news program last night, I watched in horror as Barack Obama made the statement with pride: 'We are no longer a Christian nation; we are now a nation of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists.' As with so many other statements I've heard him (and his wife) make, I never thought I'd see the day that I'd hear something likem that from a presidential candidate in this nation!!!

To think that our forefathers fought and died for the right for our nation to be a Christian nation - and to have this man say with pride that we are no longer that. How far this nation has come from what our founding fathers intended it to be!

IDIOT SIGHTING IN FOOD SERVICE:

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce. From Kansas City, KS

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I was at the airport, checking in at the! gate when an airport employee asked 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.' Happened in Birmingham, Ala.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on. A deputy with the Dallas County Sheriffs office, no less.

(Article Shared by John Hennessy)

Thought I would share my experience with you in the hope of helping you avoid the same fate. I was ticketed by an officer in a van with a digital set up and radar system in early May traveling 61 MPH in a 45 MPH construction zone on I-88 near Naperville, IL. I received my MUST APPEAR citation, a close-up photo of me, a close-up photo of my car, and a close-up photo of my license plate, all time/date stamped. My court date was this week. I was probably 1 of 200 or so people in the courtroom (a makeshift courtroom at the Downers Grove American Legion, in the Bingo Hall). I was asked how I pleaded. I plead guilty and asked the court for supervision. My fine broke down like this; \$465.00 fine, \$285.00 court costs for a total of \$750.00. Court Supervision for me was granted. The Judge actually apologized before proceedings to all present for the high court costs that would be assessed, but stated that Governor Blago had raised court costs 3 times last year and once already this year. The state has many of these unmarked vans in operation and moves them around the state. If you are issued a citation there is no way out of it. You may get supervision, most people did. But many of the people tried ahead of me were also cited for driving at a higher speed, driving without their seat belt on, driving with expired plates, following too close, operating an unsafe vehicle, improper lane usage and driving too fast for conditions. Some people were asked to provide proof that they had insurance at the time the citation was issued and if could not, their case was continued. I saw people fined so much money they were crying when they wrote the check. Some people were back in court for the second time because they could not pay when convicted at an earlier date. They asked another continuance. Some were granted it and some were handcuffed and hauled off - one with his wife and two kids standing in the back of the courtroom crying. Some people brought their attorney, it didn't matter, they wasted their money on that. This is a real money maker; I saw fines as high as \$10,000. Heed my warning, this can cost you a lot of money! Bottom line: I should not have been speeding in a construction zone. Neither should you! Also ...be aware some intersections are now photo ticket zones like 111th and Harlem. If you stop past the large white line you get a ticket. If you do not make it thru the intersection before it turns red you get a ticket. If you do not make a full stop behind the white line before making a right turn on red you get a ticket. All tickets are timed with your photo, license plate, and violation. You cannot beat the system. All tickets are \$467.00 fines.

Bottom line! Be careful!

~ Margie/Mom/Aunt Margie

IDIOT SIGHTING:

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker. She was leaving the company due to 'downsizing.' Our manager commented cheerfully, "This is fun. We should do this more often.' Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare. This was a lunch at Texas Instruments.

IDIOT SIGHTING:

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the drivers side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'its open!' His reply, 'I know. I already got that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in Canton , Mississippi.

Very well written and so TRUE.

1/2 boy 1/2 man

If you read this, you WILL forward it on..

You just won't be able to stop yourself.

The average age of the military man is 19 years.

He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend

his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.

If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands.

He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short life time. He has wept in public and in private, for friends

who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking.

In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

(CONT ON PAGE 8)

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

. 123 MEMBERS PAID MEMBERSHIP AS OF 10-29-08

. 38 MEMBERS UNPAID

1 TRANSFERRD IN

. 162 TOTAL MEMBERS

NOTE; BRING A FELLOW VETERAN TO OUR COFFEE CLUTCH ON MONDAYS OR FRIDAYS FROM 0945 TO 1200 NOON

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE— SAL SR. VICE COMDR

(CONT FROM PAGE 7)

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy.

He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot. . .

A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets..

Prayer Wheel

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.

Protect them as they protect us.

Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

Amen.'

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our ground troops in Afghanistan , sailors on ships, and airmen in the air, and for those in Iraq , Afghanistan and all foreign countries.

There are no strings attached

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EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

- Nov 29 Salvation Army Bell
Ringers @ Jewel 94th and
159 See John Hennessy
- NO OFFICERS MEETING
- Dec 10 General Membership
Meeting & Post Christmas
Party Orland Chateau

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



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