



THE POST PATRIOT

KITCHEN'S OPEN!

- HOURS
Thurs. thru Sat. 4pm—9pm
Sun. 1pm—9pm
- Full Menu Fri. & Sat.
- New Football Menu
Thurs. & Sun.
- New Fall Menu!

UPCOMING BANDS 8:00 PM—MIDNIGHT

Sept 21	SYRPLUS
Sept 28	Full Tilt
Oct 5	Roof Rockers
Oct 12	South Street
Oct 19	Groove Dawgz
Oct 26	Maxwell Project Post Halloween Party
Nov 2	Pocket Full O' Soul
Nov 9	Screamin' Daisys
Nov 16	F Bombs
Nov 21	Roof Rockers
Nov 23	TBD
Nov 30	Johnny King Dance Band

COMMANDER'S NOTE

Here we go again! Another year off to a great start at the Post as well as the 10th District. I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership so far, we are definitely on pace for another 100% year! On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their support as I transitioned to the Post Commander and also 10th District Commander positions. Your support of not only myself but the Post and District has not gone unnoticed. We have a lot planned for the coming year and are looking forward to

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...

...on the way to victory in WWII.

On a cold December morning in the Pacific Islands, Christmas was fast approaching and one Sgt. Delong was on patrol when he heard an aircraft flying overhead. His next memory is waking up to learn he had a concussion. Turns out, the friendly aircraft were dropping turkeys for the troop's holiday dinner. One such turkey in its decent hit a



sharing with our Legion Family members the spirit of that which the Legion was founded on.

Let us all serve with Pride!

Jim Vollrath

American Legion

Post #34 Commander

coconut tree dislodging a huge coconut which, in turn, landed squarely atop Sgt. Delong's head and rendering him unconscious.

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SAL CORNER



A LOT TO TALK ABOUT

We've had a great summer at Post #34! A lot has happened. Jessie, our club manager and Post #34 Finance Officer, married her finance Kevin. Congratulations to them! Our Legion Riders held a successful Pancake Breakfast and Poker Run, and we of the SAL elected new officers (see box below).

You'll notice we now have a Junior officer! His enthusiasm and involvement thus far have been inspiring. We would like to see more young Sons in our Squadron. We recently helped send one to Paris, France as part of a high school project. There are many other benefits young men can take advantage of such as scholarship programs. Most importantly though, your sons and grandsons will learn about what drives us in the SAL—our mission to honor our fathers and grandfathers and show respect and appreciation for the sacrifices they made for us to live as free Americans.

Our **Cell Phones for Soldiers** collection effort has brought in **nearly 400 phones!** Remember that



From Left:

Jim Vollrath, Post #34 and District #10 Commander; Christopher Foland, Post #34 SAL Jr. Sgt. At Arms; and Craig Kauffman, SAL Detachment Chaplain and District #10 SAL Advisor

each phone donated provides one hour of talk-time for active service men and women to call their loved ones. Drop your old and/or broken phones in the collection box today!

Good news! We've officially selected **November 3rd** as the date for our **2nd Annual Post #34 Legion Hop!** Tickets are **\$40 each, \$75.00/couple.** Price includes beer and refreshments on the bus. There are also **T-Shirts available** for purchase in advance this year! Add \$15/shirt to the price of your ticket and provide size and quantity information at purchase time. Only 50 tickets available in total so get yours today!

The Son's of District #10 will hold their first county-wide fundraiser on November 10th. This event is being coordinated by all 10 Squadrons. Tickets are \$12/each or \$20/couple and include food, beer and entertainment. Proceeds will be distributed between various Lancaster County Veterans' needs.

Thank you for all you do
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Bill Middleton

American Legion
Squadron #34 SAL Commander

SAL OFFICERS

Commander William "Bill" Middleton

1st Vice Commander: Todd Lovell

2nd Vice Commander: Gary Fickes

Adjutant: Gary Vollrath

Chaplain: Ken Deaven

Finance Officer Ben Williams

Historian: Jeff Lane

Sgt. At Arms: John States

Sgt. At Arms: Dave Sloat

Jr. Sgt. At Arms: Christopher Foland

AUXILIARY ALLEY



2013 MEMBERSHIPS

You will be receiving your membership renewals in the mail during the month of September. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. There will be a return envelope for mailing directly to our Membership Chairman, Karen Axe. Renewal and member-

ship fee for 2013 is \$20.00. This is an increase of \$5.00 from years past as Department and National increased our dues to them by \$4.00.

We achieved almost 120% membership during 2012. **Let's do it again this year!**

MEETING DATES

Let us all remember why we joined the American Legion Auxiliary: To help in the rehabilitation of our disabled veterans, to support children and youth activities in our community and to serve our community through volunteerism.

Scheduled Meeting Dates*

- September 5, 2012
 - October 3, 2012
 - November 7, 2012
 - December 5, 2012
- Christmas Party in the Banquet Hall

*All at 7:00pm in the Pool room unless otherwise noted

THANK YOU!

A special "thank you" to Carol Sears and Sharon McNece for the great job they did with baskets and helping with food at the Legion Riders' Pancake Breakfast!

BINGO SNACK BAR—NEW HOURS!

Our major fundraising project is our Bingo Snack Bar that operates every Tuesday evening. We are hoping that by **limiting our hours to between 5:00pm to 6:30pm**, we will be able to have more of you willing to volunteer your time to help us. We are hoping to form four groups of three mem-

bers each which will result in working one Tuesday per month. We also appreciate donation of food items to sell. All of the proceeds from the Snack Bar are donated back to our veterans and community projects. Please sign up at our September meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 20th—22nd:** POW-MIA Remembrance Day, Penn Square, Lancaster, PA
- **September 24th—5:00pm:** Feed the homeless from Victory House dinner in the Post #34 banquet hall
- **October 21st—1:00pm:** Children's Halloween Party at Post #34
- **October 22nd—5:00pm:** Feed the homeless from Victory House dinner in the Post #34 banquet hall
- **November 10th:** Veterans Day Fundraiser for SAL District #10 at Post #34. See SAL members for tickets



RIDERS ROAD

Fellow Veterans and Supporters,

As the newly elected President of the American Legion Riders of Post #34, I am looking forward to working with you and the other Legion Family members. I understand the commitment and hard work this position dictates as I work alongside my fellow officers.

On Sunday, August 19th the Riders held a Pancake Breakfast and Poker Run. It was successful due to the support of the Riders, Legion Family groups and Post #34. I am pleased with our accomplishment and look forward to more



successful endeavors.

One of our goals for this year is to find a project to support our veterans. I am honored to be the President and am looking forward to a productive year!

Dave Fluke

American Legion
Chapter #34 President

RIDERS OFFICERS

President: Dave Fluke

Vice President: Curtis Rager

Chaplain: John States

Sgt. At Arms: Dave Miller

Treasurer: Chet Buohl

Secretary: Ann Marie Fluke

Road Captain: Robert Klingseisen



Above: Riders Officers from left.

Dave Miller, Curtis Rager, Ann Marie Fluke, Dave Fluke and Chet Buohl.

Below:

Participants in the Poker Run gather in front of a tank at the Ephrata AMVETS Post # 136.



VETERANS SERVICE CORNER

**YOU MAY BE ELIBIGLE TO ENROLL
IN THE VA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM!
TO FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY VISIT WWW.VA.GOV.AMIELIGIBLE
CALL 1-877-222-VETS OR SEE BILL SCHULZ**

VA HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for VA health care is dependent upon a number of variables, which may influence the final determination of the services for which you qualify. These factors include the nature of a veteran's discharge from military service (e.g., honorable, other than honorable, dishonorable), length of service, VA adjudicated disabilities (commonly referred to as service-connected disabilities), income level, and available VA resources among others.

Regulations now allow VA to enroll certain Priority Group 8 veterans who applied for enrollment and who may have been previously denied enrollment in the VA health care system because their income exceeded VA's income thresholds. These Veterans would qualify if their household income does not exceed the current VA income thresholds by more than 10%. To see if you are eligible and to access a calculator to see how you stand against the income thresholds, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/cost/income_thresholds.asp. If you have any enrollment or eligibility questions, you may call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Generally, you must be enrolled in VA health care system to receive benefits offered in the Medical Benefits Package. To apply for VA health care benefits, including enrollment you must fill out an application.

We use the application to determine:

Whether you have qualifying service as a veteran

What your veteran status is so that you can be placed into one of the priority groups

For more details on the individual priority groups, visit www.military.com.

**VIETNAM VETERANS
CALL 1-800-526-0401
VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Veterans * Wives * Widows * Families

Agent Orange, Help for Children,
Health Issues, PTSD, Family Problems,
Drug & Alcohol Counseling & VA Benefits

Statewide information and referral service

Vietnam Veterans Family Assistance Program
The American Legion
c/o VA, 19 -27 Main St
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Monday—Friday 8:30am—4:30pm

VETERANS SERVICE CORNER (CONTINUED)

VA MAKES FILING CLAIMS EASIER AND FASTER FOR VETERANS

As part of Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki's, effort to break the back of the backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reducing the paperwork and expediting the process for Veterans seeking compensation for disabilities related to their military service. "These reductions in paperwork, along with other improvements to simplify and speed the claims process, symbolize changes underway to make VA more responsive to Veterans and their families," said Secretary



Shinseki.

VA has shortened application forms to reduce paperwork for Veterans. The new forms, which are being made available on VA's Web site include:

A shortened VA Form 21-526 for Veterans applying for the first-time to VA for disability compensation or pension benefits. This form has been cut in half – from 23 to 10 pages. It is immediately available to Veterans via Web download, and will be available through VA's online claim-filing process later this summer.

VA Form 21-526b for Veterans seeking increased benefits for conditions already determined by VA to be service-connected. This new form more clearly describes the information needed to support claims for increased benefits.

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"THANK A VET" PROGRAM

The Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds, Bonnie Bowman, is proud to announce the "Thank a Vet" discount program. We salute the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, as well as those who wear the uniform and defend our country today. This program will provide a photo ID to Lancaster County veterans who have their DD-214 honorable discharge papers filed on record in our office.

This program is a way for our community to express its gratitude and recognize the service and sacrifices made by our veterans. Participating merchants agree to honor the card by providing special discounts on purchase or services when pre-

sented with the "Thank a Vet" photo ID card. Information regarding participating merchants and sponsors are available at www.lancasterdeeds.com. The site will be updated monthly, and upon request a printed copy will also be available.



VETERANS SERVICE CORNER (CONTINUED)

CLAIMS: *Forms*

(Continued from page 6)

In order to make the claims process faster, VA has also introduced two new forms for Veterans participating in the Department's new fully developed claim (FDC) program, which is one of the fastest means to receive a claims decision. Gathering the information and evidence needed to support a Veteran's disability claim often takes the largest portion of the processing time. If VA receives all of the available evidence when the claim is submitted, the remaining steps in the claims-decision process can be expedited without compromising quality. To participate in the FDC program, Veterans should complete and submit an FDC Certification and VA Form 21-526EZ, "Fully Developed Claim (Compensation)," for a compensation claim, or a VA Form 21-527EZ, "Fully Developed Claim (Pension)," for a pension claim.

The forms were designed specifically for the FDC program. These six-page application forms include notification to applicants of all information and evidence necessary to "fully develop" and substantiate

their claims. With this notification, Veterans and their representatives can "fully develop" their claims before submission to VA for processing. Along with the application and certification, Veterans must also submit all relevant and pertinent evidence to "fully develop" their claims. A claim submitted as "fully developed" may still require some additional evidence to be obtained by VA, to include certain federal records and a VA medical examination.

VA provides compensation, pension, education, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and insurance benefits to Veterans and their families through 57 VA regional offices. Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a Veteran for disabilities that are a result of -- or made worse by -- injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty training. Pension is a benefit paid to wartime Veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. For additional information, call VA's toll free benefits number at 1-800-827-1000.

VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP)

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs and the Dept. of Labor are working together to roll out this new program which offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans from 35 to 60 years old who received an other-than-dishonorable discharge. In addition, these veterans must not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation or Employment Assistance), not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployment, and not be enrolled in a federal or state job-

training program. VA began accepting VRAP application May 15. The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1 through Sept. 30, and 54,000 from Oct. 1 through March 31, 2014.

The Veterans Opportunity Workforce (VOW) website, www.benefits.va.gov/vow, has a wealth of information on the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, including details about VRAP, tax credits for employers, vocational rehabilitation services, transition assistance programs and Dept. of Labor resources. Qualified veterans can apply for VRAP on the site.

MEMBERS MEMORIES



Above: Anabelle shows some disappointment over Lilly's vine-to-mouth picking strategy.

Left: Lilly is so satisfied with the fruits (and vegetables) of her labor, that pepper will never make it to a salad.



Anabelle and Lilly Huffman, daughters of our wonderful bartender Sammy, put their little green thumbs to the test with the Operation Military Kids Seed Packets.



Our ever hard-working American Legion Auxiliary recently provided and served a meal to Veterans from Coatesville VA Medical Center. **At right,** the Vets are greeted as they arrive.

Above from left: Marianne Windel, Sue Shellenberger, Sharon McNece, June, Linda Boyer, Anne Rickets, Cathy Brenner and Carol Sears.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **September 11th**—Patriot Day
- ◆ **September 20th**—POW-MIA Recognition Day
- ◆ **October 14th**—Columbus Day
- ◆ **October 16, 1962**—Cuban Missile Crisis Begins
- ◆ **October 23, 1983**—US Invasion of Grenada
- ◆ **November 11th**—Veterans Day
- ◆ **December 7th**—Pearl Harbor Day
- ◆ **December 16, 1944**—Battle of the Bulge
- ◆ **December 31, 1945**—Official End of WWII



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Saturday, September 22nd:** 2012 Ride to the House. Ronald McDonald House of Hershey, PA. All bikes and cars invited. Ride leaves from New Holland Legion at 10:00am. Registration begins at 8:30am. Rain or shine.
- ◆ **Saturday, September 22nd:** American Legion 19th District Commander Ride. Departs from Post 998 (Harrisburg, PA) at 10:00am. 20 minute stops at 8 Legion Posts. Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House and the Wounded Warrior Fund. Rain date 9/29/2012. Contact Charles Oakley at (717) 829-4465.
- ◆ **Saturday, October 6th—11:00am to 4:00pm:** Chicken Dinner Bridge Bust. Post #372 (Columbia, PA) SAL Fund-raiser. \$7.50/ticket includes 1/2 Chicken , potato, apple sauce and roll. See Post #372 SAL member or bartender for tickets.
- ◆ **Sunday, October 14th:** 5th Annual Boy Scout Camp Motorcycle Benefit Ride. Sponsored by Mill Creek Sportsman Assoc. Registration from 9:00am—10:30am. Ride departs Bashore Scout Reservation at 11:00am. Hot/cold refreshments and a hot meal will be served at the end of the ride. Proceeds benefit Bashore and J. Edward Mack Scout Reservations. Contact Harold Robinson at (717) 284-8985 or daddyamy@aol.com.
- ◆ **Sunday, October 14th—10:00am to 4:00pm:** Toys for Tots 17th Annual Motorcycle Ride. Sponsored by Lancaster County Marine Corps League Detachment #294. Start/Finish at Glatfelter Field, Columbia, PA. Registration from 10:00am–11:30am. \$10.00/bike OR 1 new unwrapped gift (valued at \$10.00). Free Meal provided to rider and passenger and food available for purchase to others. Children's Activities plus a visit from Santa (between 1:00pm and 4:00pm). Benefits Lancaster County Toys for Tots. Rain or shine.
- ◆ **Sunday, October 21st—1:00pm—3:00pm:** Post #34 Children's Halloween Party
- ◆ **Saturday, November 3rd—11:30am:** 2nd Annual Post #34 Legion Hop. **Only 50 tickets available.** \$40.00/ticket or \$75.00/couple. T-shirts also available—add \$15.00/shirt to ticket price. See an SAL member or bartender for tickets.
- ◆ **Saturday, November 10th—1:00pm—9:00pm:** District #10 SAL Fundraiser. \$12.00/ticket or \$20.00/couple includes food, soda, draft beer and entertainment by Johnny King Dance Band (5:00pm—9:00pm). Door prizes, raffles and 50/50's. Proceeds benefit District #10 SAL Veterans Programs.
- ◆ **Sunday, December 16th—1:00pm—3:00pm:** Post #34 Children's Christmas Party

AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 * LANCASTER, PA

1388 Arcadia Road
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717-392-9350
Website: www.al34.com

Feedback Welcomed!

Have an idea, suggestion or something to contribute to a future issue?

Bill Schulz, Editor
Post #34 Veterans Service Officer
Alison Gordon, Layout & Design

JOIN THE CLUB!

The American Legion is the largest veterans organization and **WE WANT YOU!** Are you a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces? Has your parent, grandparent, sibling or spouse served? We have 4 membership types available to you.

The Legion Family

Legionnaires: Veterans & Active-Duty Members
Sons of the American Legion: Male family members
Auxiliary: Female Family Members

Don't fit one of these categories?
Get your Social membership today!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS. MAKE YOUR MEETINGS!
EVERY MONTH AT POST:
Legionnaires
1st Wednesday—7:00pm
SAL
2nd Wednesday—7:00pm
Auxiliary
1st Wednesday—7:00pm
Legion Riders
3rd Wednesday—7:30pm

FUNNY: Coconut clunker

(Continued from page 1)

Explain that Purple Heart to your Battle Buddies!

Moral of the story: If you're in combat and you hear aircraft overhead, look to the sky or something "fowl" may fall upon you!

This true story was shared with me by Mary Delong (AKA Little Mary), Sgt. Delong's daughter.

Bill Schulz
American Legion
Veteran's Service Officer

BINGO!

Hi. My name is Paul and I operate Tuesday night BINGO at Post #34. Proceeds generated through weekly BINGO go towards veterans near and far, scholarships and improvements here at the Post. I'm asking for your support to keep this game going, and for your help working the floor on Tuesday evenings—either all night or half of the time. If interested, stop in any Tuesday at 4:00pm and see me.

Thank you,
Paul Frymyer
American Legion
Post #34 1st Vice Commander