



THE POST PATRIOT

KITCHEN'S OPEN!

- Social Quarter Hours
Mon. thru Thurs. 2pm—10pm
Fri. 2pm—1am
Sat. 12pm—1am
Sun. 12pm—10pm
- Kitchen Hours
Wed. thru Sat. 4pm—9pm
- Wed.: Made-To-Order Pasta
- Thurs: Wing Night
- Full Menu Fri. & Sat.
- Sun.: Football Menu
- **Karaoke! Sat. 8pm—12am**
Kitchen Open. Closing based on attendance
\$1 Draft Specials

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!
WWW.AL34.COM

UPCOMING BANDS **8:00 PM—MIDNIGHT**

Jan 17	Love Haters
Jan 24	Kat & The Mad Dogz
Jan 31	NO BAND—District Meeting
Feb 7	Screamin' Daisys
Feb 14	Pocketful O' Soul
Feb 21	SYRPLUS
Feb 28	Underground Hotel
Mar 7	SilverHawks
Mar 14	Roof Rockers
Mar 21	John King Dance Band
Mar 28	Flashback

COMMANDER'S NOTE

To all Legion Family members and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year! The Children's Christmas Party was a great success and I would like to thank everyone that made that possible. Another big thank you to goes to everyone who attended the Commander's Ball to thank Jere Axe for a job well done during his tenure as Post Commander.

As we begin this new year, let us keep our sights set high and continue to do everything we do in true Post #34 style!

Our Post has been selected to host the National Commander's testimonial dinner in March. More information will be posted closer to the date of the event. Plan to attend and show the National Commander our Post #34 pride!

In closing, I would like to thank you all for another great year, even though we may have encountered some bumps along the way, and I look forward to another successful year in 2014. Let's keep up the great job and remember to thank the Legion staff. They work hard to make your experience at Post #34 a positive and memorable one.

Respectfully,

James R. Vollrath

American Legion Post #34 Commander
10th District



Happy New Year!

Our Post boasts a great group of members, many who put forth a tremendous effort to make our events and fundraisers a success. We have much to be proud of as 2013 was coming to a close and there are several people to thank for our successes.

First, to Sharon McNece for coordinating another year of fantastic Halloween and Christmas parties for our children! In spite of the inclement weather, the Christmas party had a great turn out and a good time was had by all! Santa's Helpers—Jere & Karen Axe, Jessika Hiepler, Bobby Johanning, Roy and Skye McNece, Lisa Parker, Jennifer Paparo and Helen Spiker—also contributed hard work and time making this a very special day for the kids. I know for a fact Santa had all of you on his nice list this year.

Thank you to Sam Wilson for procuring two loaded skids of various cereals and snack items that were sorted into six smaller skid loads and distributed to the Victory, Beacon and Milagro Houses as well as the Lampeter United Methodist Church Food Bank. Those receiving of the donations were extremely grateful.

SAL CORNER



Happy New Year!

2013 proved to be another great year not only for the SAL, but for the Post as a whole.

We were very fortunate to raise over \$8,000 for the PA Wounded Warrior fund, distributed over six skids of donated food to several veterans' causes and directly helped other veterans with our own physical labor.

While the past year was indeed a good one, I look forward to all the exciting things to come in 2014. We will be hosting a benefit in May for the Fisher House. More details to come. There will also be a benefit for Stevens Greenland Cemetery in July. Hope to see a great turnout at these events!

I would like to thank the Legion Family and friends who make what we do so successful. With all of us working as a team, we can help so many



SAL OFFICERS

Commander Todd Lovell
1st Vice Commander: Gary Fickes
2nd Vice Commander: Dave Sloat
Adjutant: Gary Vollrath
Chaplain: Ken Deaven
Finance Officer Gary Wilson
Historian: Jeff Lane
Sgt. At Arms: Sam Ricketts
Jr. Sgt. At Arms: Christopher Foland

veterans in need. Please remember to keep spreading the word to current members and also potential new members. There is strength in numbers!!

Todd Lovell

American Legion

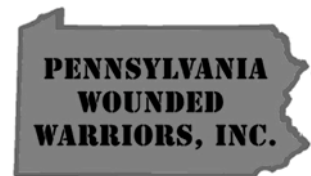
SAL Squadron #34 Commander

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **May 17th**—Fisher House Fundraiser
- ◆ **July 12th**—Stevens Greenland Cemetery Fundraiser

DON'T FORGET!: SAL Meetings at Post #34. Every **2nd Wednesday. 7:00pm.** Need to see more members there!

Left: SAL District #10 Adjutant, Bill Middleton, and Jason Brinkley of ABC Auto Auction hold a check representing a \$4,000 donation made to the PA Wounded Warrior fund.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) SQUADRON #34 * TODD LOVELL, COMMANDER

931 Harrisburg Ave
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717.397.2828

This coupon entitles you to
10% off your next order!

INDOORCITY
FLOORING AND DESIGN
481 Harrisburg Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17603
www.indoorcity.com

Robert E. Commerce
CEO
phone: 717-397-5234
cell: 717-278-9234
fax: 717-397-6528
email: bob@indoorcity.com

AUXILIARY ALLEY



I'm sure I am not the only one that can't believe it's 2014 already. Having fun or otherwise, time always seems to fly by. That said, as I look back over the past year at Post #34, I believe there was a lot of fun had by many at our functions and fundraisers, group activities and of course during regular leisure time spent with good friends at the Post. There was also a lot of good accomplished by all the Legion Family groups last year and I feel confident saying that our Post continues the mission of the American Legion proudly and effectively!

The Auxiliary kept busy in 2013 with various efforts supporting Veteran causes and coordination of Post events. Most recently Sharon McNece did a tremendous job with the children's Halloween and Christmas parties. While I was unable to attend either, I received or overheard numerous positive testimonials about how much fun they were for kids and parents alike. I also saw several photos that evidenced that as well. Thank you to Sharon for her efforts and the hard work of all the other Auxiliary and Post members who helped keep things running smoothly during those events. They would not happen without you.

On the fundraising front, Auxiliary members sold Boscov's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes for \$5 with 100% of that going to the Auxiliary funds for veteran support. We sold over 250 passes raising \$1,260! Participation in selling passes was not as high as we hoped it would be, but we still consider it a great success! Just think how well we could do next year with 100% participation! That is something we hope to see.

Auxiliary members also continued to show excellent participation in the monthly Coatesville VA dinner. For those unaware of this, I'll give you a brief rundown. **On the 4th Monday of every month, the kitchen at Post #34 prepares a meal for veterans from Coatesville VA who are bused to our facility for the evening. Members from all Legion families are encouraged to participate** by either gathering in the back to greet the vets as they arrive around 5:30pm, staying to help serve their meal or simply by moving around the room and talking with men during their stay. I have been told by more than one person how much that is appreciated. If you ever find yourself at the Post on one of these Mondays or available to stop out even

The American Legion Auxiliary is the **most influential patriotic women's organization in the world**. It maintains its own unique identity while achieving important goals for both the Post and the community.

for a short time to participate, I guarantee you will brighten someone's day and make our Post proud!

Looking to the year ahead, the Auxiliary is looking for fundraising ideas or recommendations for organizations and/or charities that could use assistance. While we will continue supporting our regular causes, we're willing and eager to spread the goodness further if the opportunity or need is there. Please share your ideas, should you have any, with any Auxiliary member.

Lastly, we've discussed holding a Christmas Bizarre next winter in the banquet hall where stand/table space could be "rented" and items sold—crafts and other handmade items, baked goods, etc. If you have interest in this or feedback on such an event, please let us know as we continue to evaluate the idea.

In closing, I'll just mention briefly that Marilyn Miller Pew ultimately resigned as our President due to family obligations. We miss her hard work and dedication dearly, but are continuing our Auxiliary business with some shuffling of officers as well as some new additions (see box below). We hope to see her at our head table, gavel in hand, again in the future!

Happy New Year to all and wishes for good times and good health in 2014! To my Auxiliary friends, there's no doubt in my mind this will be another successful year full of positive impact and assistance to those who need it. Cheers to that!

Respectfully,

Alison M. Gordon
2nd Vice President
Auxiliary Unit #34

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President: Genevieve Malone
1st Vice President: Lucy Esbenshade
2nd Vice President: Alison Gordon
Secretary: Lisa Sanders
Treasurer: Karen Axe
Chaplain: Marian Walters
Sgt. At Arms: Sharon McNece
Sgt. At Arms: Ann Ricketts

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #34 * GENEVIEVE MALONE, PRESIDENT



Flowers by Paulette
www.flowersbypaulette.net

258 North Queen St
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 295-5411

10% of ALL purchases
for Post #34 members!
Like us on Facebook!

Member of the "Thank A Vet" Discount Program!



STEVEN T. HAHN
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Fast Service

Phone: 717-393-3026 Kitchen & Bath Remodeling & Repair
 Fax: 717-393-5271 Water Heaters & Boilers
 Registered Master Plumber

RIDERS ROAD

Hello fellow Riders, members and visitors of Post #34!

We have had an exciting year of friendship and fundraising activities that benefited our veterans in their time of need. To continue in the spirit of fundraising in 2014, the Riders of Post #34 will raffle off a 55" Vizio LED Smart TV with Sound Base as well as well as 3 cash prizes of \$50 each. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any Rider or bartender. A total of 300 tickets will be sold and the drawings will take place on Sunday, January 26th at the Post from 12pm - 5pm with the TV winner being drawn last at 4:30. During that time, we will be asking for a \$5.00 donation from patrons at the door who can in return enjoy food and Miller Lite draft. There will also be baskets and additional raffles to play for.

Additional upcoming events include the first Bloody Mary Bar and Mimosa Pancake Breakfast of the year on Saturday, February 22nd and the Annual Pancake Breakfast and Poker Run will take place Sunday, May 4th. Details for both events will be forthcoming.

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER #34 * DAVE FLUKE, PRESIDENT

A LESSON LEARNED (MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE)

It's hard not to have a great time at Post#34. Good people, great bartenders, some will say "cheap drinks"...but having been a member there now for over four years, I am seeing the underbelly and hearing the steady beat of what makes Post #34 so special now more than I ever have. I see that American Legions and other veterans clubs often get a bad rap. I mean no disrespect by saying that truthfully, I can identify. I was, at one point, a non-member invited to a charity event to be held in the banquet room of our beloved Post. I read over the invite and turned my nose up a bit when I saw where it was, picturing a small, dark, smoky environment where "old men" go. Take no offense and please bear with me...I was so wrong! It was an unresearched, pre-conceived notion.

My desire to reconnect with an old friend brought me to the Post that night. When the event ended, I wasn't ready to stop the fun. She offered to sign me in up front, but I was hesitant. Those of you who know me may or may not

Please join and support us on January 26th to kick off our new year of friendship, fellowship and fundraising for our veterans.

Hoping you all had a happy holiday and wishing you a joyous New Year!

Respectfully,

Dave Fluke

American Legion

ALR 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

be surprised by the fact that I'm somewhat socially awkward and, more often than not, don't relish meeting new people. She managed to talk me into it and we walked up to what is now a familiar sight to me. The canteen at Post #34. I met, that evening, more "strangers" than I'd probably exposed myself to at one time in years and never once met one person who didn't welcome me with a smile and a friendly hello. I felt immediately comfortable, intrigued and wanted to know more what it was all about.

Even today, I am stunned by how my initial opinion of the American Legion was so blatantly off-base. To speak on every moment I have experienced that has gradually opened my eyes would take forever. But I'll go back to that underbelly and steady beat of the Legion...veterans...veterans...veterans! The heart and soul is the drive to honor and serve our veterans. It's right there in our ever-present moment of

(Continued on page 8)

LEGION UPDATE



NOTE FROM OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Now that the holiday season is upon us, we are surrounded by distraction – the endless shopping list, the tempting sales in stores and the many parties to attend. Sometimes, this distraction can cause us to forget that there are still 60,000 U.S. troops deployed overseas. We must remember to honor these men and women who fight for our freedom while we enjoy the holidays in the comfort of our home, with our family and friends.

Remembrance can be shown by sending care packages or by providing the deployed servicemember with a piece of home, which the Illinois Legion Family has fulfilled for the past seven years in partnership with Operation: Military Kids by giving Illinois deployed servicemembers and their families with family photo pillow cases. The pillow case project is conducted during deployment ceremonies that Illinois Legion Family members attend in effort to take photos of each servicemember and his or her family, print the photo out on special transfer sheets, iron it onto pillow cases, and present one photo pillow case to each person in the family. The servicemember takes his or hers overseas, and each family member gets one of their own to keep at home and enjoy the comfort of a "hug" from their deployed loved one.

For the holidays this year, Illinois Legion Family members pro-

vided more than 200 Illinois Army National Guard men and women deploying to Afghanistan with pillow cases to take with them. The pillow cases are free of charge to the servicemember and the family as a way of saying, "Thank you for all you do!" said Cheri Stanton, a member of Post 136 in Monmouth, Ill. "It's such a rewarding program, and we do it to show them that we still care. That we are all veterans wanting to help out."

Since 2006, more than 16,000 pillow cases have been made for Illinois deployed servicemembers.

I'm proud of our Legion Family members for this simple act of generosity, which shows our servicemembers and their families that they are remembered, especially during the holidays. As you gather with your loved ones this month, remember the deployed troops and their families by reaching out to them and showing your support. Show them that you still care.



Dan Dellinger
National Commander
American Legion

SENATE BILL WOULD EXPAND VA ELIGIBILITY



In its written testimony submitted Oct. 30 to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, The American Legion expressed support for draft legislation sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that would "expand and enhance eligibility for health care and services through the Department of Veterans Affairs."

Sanders' bill would take into account the varying income levels among counties in any given state, and also establish new statewide income thresholds, in determining veterans' eligibility for VA health care.

The bill further stipulates that all required modifications for implementation of the new income criteria must be completed within five years of enactment.

Currently, VA applies a nationwide Geographic Means Test (GMT) to a veteran's personal income, regardless of where

he or she lives. If the income level is at or below the GMT, veterans are eligible for Priority Group 7 status; if the income is higher, they are assigned to the Priority 8 Group.

If they agree to pay the applicable co-payments, Group 7 veterans may enroll in VA health care. Group 8 veterans with non-service connected conditions whose incomes are higher than the GMT are not eligible for VA enrollment.

The American Legion supports the aim of Sanders' bill, and is also urging Congress to enact legislation that would direct VA to automatically enroll eligible veterans into its health-care system as soon as they leave active duty in the military – supported by Resolution 75, passed at the Legion's 95th annual convention in Houston last August.

Other Legion-backed bills pending in the Senate include:

- Rural Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Acts (S.1155 and S.1411)

(Continued on page 7)

VETERANS SERVICE CORNER

SHOULD I APPEAL THE VA'S DECISION ON MY CLAIM?

I encourage claimants to appeal an unfavorable decision if their representing service officer identifies information that VA missed that could result in a definite grant of benefits. However, there are cases where there is no legal basis for either appeal or reopening of the claim.

An initial appeal is referred to as a Notice of Disagreement (NOD), and it is imperative that you have accredited representation when filing a NOD. If you file a NOD without a representative, you may not be able to gain representation once the appeal process has begun, resulting in you being responsible for self-representation in the hearing.

When filing the appeal form, the claimant must tell VA that they disagree with the decision, and they must state if the disagreement is regarding one contention or multiple contentions listed on the same written decision. The claimant must also provide a reason for disagreement and cite evidence which supports their position.

The NOD must take place within one year from receipt of rating decision. At this point, the claimant becomes the

appellate. The appellate is encouraged to utilize VA Form 21-0958 or VA Form 21-4138 as a secondary option. A NOD does not have to be packaged in either one of these forms in order to be accepted by the VA regional office (VARO). The NOD could be written on paper as long as it fulfills the requirement of informing the VA of disagreement and what is disagreed upon.

After proper receipt of the NOD, VARO will send correspondence to the appellate to determine if he or she desires a hearing, or a De Novo Review, taking into account all evidence while giving no consideration to the previous decision.

The upside to a NOD is that it preserves the effective date of a claim, meaning if a grant of benefits is achieved on appeal the appellate will be paid retroactively back to the date the claim was originally filed.

Cajun Comeau

Service Officer

American Legion North Carolina Department

NEW RETROACTIVE BENEFIT

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans filing an original Fully Developed Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation may be entitled to up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits. The retroactive benefits, which are in effect August 6, 2013, through August 5, 2015, are a result of a comprehensive legislative package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama last year.

"VA strongly encourages Veterans to work with Veterans Service Organizations to file Fully Developed Claims and participate in this initiative, since it means more money in eligible Veterans' pockets simply by providing VA the information it needs up front," said Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits. "At the same time, it helps reduce the inventory of pending claims by speeding the process."

Filing an FDC is typically the fastest way for Veterans to receive a decision on their claims because Fully Developed Claims require Veterans to provide all supporting evidence in their possession when they submit their claims. Often, this is evidence that VA legally must attempt to collect on

the Veteran's behalf, which is already in the Veteran's possession, or is evidence the Veteran could easily obtain, like private treatment records.

When Veterans submit such evidence with their claims, it significantly reduces the amount of time VA spends gathering evidence from them or other sources -- often the longest part of the claims process. While VA will still make efforts to obtain federal records on the Veterans' behalf, the submittal of non-federal records (and any federal records the Veteran may have) with the claim allows VA to issue a decision to the Veteran more quickly. Typically, VA processes FDCs in half the time it takes for a traditionally filed claim.

FDCs can be filed digitally through the joint, DoD-VA online portal, eBenefits. VA encourages Veterans who cannot file online to work with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) who can file claims digitally on Veterans' behalf. While submitting an FDC provides a faster decision for any compensation or pension claim, only

(Continued on page 7)

VETERANS SERVICE CORNER (CONTINUED)

RETROACTIVE: *continued*

(Continued from page 6)

Veterans who are submitting their very first compensation claim as an FDC are potentially eligible for up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits under the newly implemented law.

FDCs help eliminate VA's claims backlog because they increase production of claims decisions and decrease waiting times. Also, VA assigns FDCs a higher priority than other claims which means Veterans receive decisions to their claim faster than traditional claims.

VA continues to prioritize other specific categories of claims, including those of seriously wounded, terminally ill, Medal of Honor recipients, former Prisoners of War, the homeless and those experiencing extreme financial hardship. As part of its drive to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015, VA also gives a priority to claims more than a year old.

In May, VA announced a new partnership with Veterans Service Organizations and others known as the "Community of Practice," an effort that seeks to reduce the compensation

claims backlog for Veterans by increasing the number of FDCs filed by Veterans and their advocates.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department's goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. In May, VA announced that it was mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices to increase production of compensation claims decisions through the end of FY 2013. In April, VA launched an initiative to expedite disability compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have a waited a year or longer.

As a result of these initiatives, VA's total claims inventory remains at lower levels not seen since August 2011. The number of claims in the VA backlog – claims pending over 125 days – has been reduced by 17 percent compared to the highest point in March 2013.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits, and the FDC program.

SENATE BILL: *continued*

(Continued from page 5)

- A bill that would "prohibit the use of the phrases GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill to give a false impression of approval and endorsement by the Department of Veterans Affairs" (S.1211)
- Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act (S.1216)
- SCRA Enhancement and Improvement Act (bill number TBD)
- A bill that would require VA to inform veterans who file benefits claims electronically that "relevant services may be available from veterans service organizations" (S.1295)
- Servicemembers Electronic Health Records Act (S.1295)
- Mental Health Support for Veterans Families and Caregivers Act (bill number TBD)

A FUNNY THING...

"Well," snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman. "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and piss on my grave."

"Not me, Chief", the Seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"



MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

silence. If that 6:00pm moment is missed by even a few minutes, more than one person notices and prompts the bartender to handle it. Our collective group never forgets why we chose, and still choose, to be a part of such a worthy organization. Since that first night at the Post, I've joined the Auxiliary and gotten more involved. I've attended fundraisers, watched food, toys or clothing drives for veterans causes bring in hugely needed contributions and served food to homeless Vets and their families who always express their gratitude to me when I am the one that wants to thank THEM. I've shaken the hand and thanked numerous active duty service people who visit us and I always get such joy from every cell phone that turns up in our Cell Phones for Soldiers collection box because I know that, even in its discarded state, it will allow an American soldier to call their family and friends for FREE. Wow!

The crowd at our Post is evolving and I am more and more often meeting visitors from other Legions with nothing but

positive feedback. The "oldies but goodies" of the Post are still around (thank goodness, because they are loved), but there is new blood in the room. That may displease or make some people nervous. I personally think it is exciting! We've got an amazing foundation established. New people and, as some look at it, "the younger crowd" don't necessitate any change other than the change we as a Legion Family can instill in them. The appreciation for not only a fun place to hang out, but the belief in our mission - to honor, respect and serve, in any way we can, those who gave all, those who gave and live and those who still serve our country today.

On a personal note and in closing, I thank all of you who have welcomed and befriended me over the past four years. You have warmed my heart and continue to inspire me. I look forward to every opportunity we have to continue our good conversations, good times and, most importantly, good works for the men and women who give us our purpose at American Legion Post #34.

Alison M. Gordon
2nd Vice President
Auxiliary Unit #34

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 7:00pm:** Holes for Heroes Cornhole Tournament at Post #34. **Open to the Public!** \$5 entrance fee. Teams are chosen randomly. Doors open at 6:00pm for practice. Games begin at 7:00pm. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams plus raffle tickets are sold each week for a chance to play the "Money Shot."
- ◆ **Various Dates:** Sunday Breakfast at American Legion Post #56, Lititz, PA. \$7/person. Proceeds benefit Post #56 SAL.
2014 Dates: 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8
- ◆ **Sunday, January 26th 12:00pm—5:00pm:** Legion Riders' 55" LED TV & \$50(3) Drawing. Food and Miller Lite Draft plus additional basket and other raffles. \$5.00 donation requested.
- ◆ **Saturday, February 22nd:** Legion Riders' Bloody Mary Bar & Mimosa Pancake Breakfast.
- ◆ **Sunday, May 4th:** Legion Riders' Annual Pancake Breakfast & Poker Run



ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Susquehanna River Waterfowlers Association Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran Outreach.** Are you an Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran who would like to meet others or become involved in PA's waterfowl community? Would you like to help the Susquehanna River Waterfowlers Association with youth, habitat or education projects? Contact us at (717) 504-6153 or visit www.srwasrwt.org
- ◆ **The Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat** in Harrisburg, PA is offering **FREE ADMISSION on any 45 minute Public Sightseeing Cruise** during the 2013 season to veterans, active duty members of the military, and their immediate families, with appropriate ID. Cruises occur from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends in the Fall.
- ◆ We continue to collect old and/or broken phones at Post #34 for **Cell Phones for Soldiers**. Each phone donated provides **1 hour of free call time to an American soldier**. To date we've collected **over 730 phones**. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped get us to that point. Keep them coming!!

I AM YOUR FLAG: BY MARINE MSGT. PERCY WEBB

I am your Flag
 I was born on June 14th, 1777.
 I am more than just cloth shaped into design.
 I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people.
 I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.
 I am the emblem of the greatest
 sovereign nation on earth.

I am the inspiration for which American Patriots
 gave their lives and fortunes.
 I have led your sons into battle from Valley Forge
 to the bloody swamps of Vietnam.
 I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead,
 to their final resting place beneath the silent
 White Crosses, row upon row.
 I have flown through Peace and War,
 Strife and Prosperity,
 and amidst it all I have been respected.

My Red Stripes....symbolize the blood spilled
 in defense of this glorious nation.



My White Stripes....signify the burning tears
 shed by Americans who lost their sons.
 My Blue Field....is indicative of God's heaven
 under which I fly.
 My Stars....clustered together, unify 50 states as one,
 for God and Country.
 "Old Glory" is my nickname,
 and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me
 with your lives and fortunes.
 Never let my enemies tear down from my lofty position,
 lest I never return.
 Keep alight the fires of patriotism,
 strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.
 Worship Eternal God and keep His Commandments,
 and I shall remain the fortress of peace
 and freedom for all mankind.

I am your Flag.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **January 20th**—Martin Luther King, Jr. day
- ◆ **January 27, 1973**—Vietnam Cease-Fire
- ◆ **February**—Americanism Month
- ◆ **February 2nd**—Religious Emphasis Week & Four Chaplains' Sunday
- ◆ **February 17th**— President's Day
- ◆ **February 24th, 1991**—Start of Operation Desert Storm
- ◆ **February 28th, 1991**—End of Operation Desert Storm
- ◆ **March 15**—American Legion Birthday
- ◆ **March 19, 2003**—Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom

TAPS



*"All is well, safely rest, God is nigh..."
 Remembering the veterans we've lost.*

- **Fredrick F. Hiepler**—Passed September 12th
 US Army Veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict
- **Arthur "Red" L. Best, Sr.**—September 14th
 US Army Veteran of WWII
- **Barry L. Labezius**—Passed September 22nd
 US Army National Guard
- **Thomas P. O'Connor**—Passed September 25th
 US Air Force Veteran
- **Paul M. Seiple**—Passed October 4th
 US Army Corps of Engineers Veteran of WWII
- **Robert R. George**—Passed October 9th
 US Marine Corps Veteran of the Korean Conflict
- **Edward B. Weber**—Passed October 22nd
 US Marine Corps Veteran of WWII
- **Staff Sgt. Patrick H. Quinn**—Passed October 13th
 Killed in Afghanistan
- **Robert E. Thiel**—Passed November 30th
 US Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict
- **Thomas R. Jenkins**—Passed November 1st
 Post #34 Member
- **Captain Derek Gantz Henson**—Passed November 29th
 US Army R.O.T.C Instructor—Drexel University
- **George W. "Bud" Shuman**—Passed November 29th
 US Navy Veteran of WWII
- **Donald Elwood Killian**—Passed December 11th
 US Air Force Veteran of Vietnam
- **Mervin G. Hoch**—Passed December 11th
 US Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict

MEMBERS MEMORIES



Above: The staff of Post #34 get their costume on at the Post #34 "Adult" Halloween Party. **From Left:** Ann Marie Fluke, Lara Lew, Starla Russell, Jessika Hiepler, Erin Merrill, Judy Landis, Drew Nields, Jacque Wilson and Robin Caffey.



Above and below: There is always a sea of smiling faces at our children's holiday parties. This year's Halloween Party was no exception. From princesses to pumpkins to Mario and Luigi, a great time was had by all (parents included)!



Above: A great group of Auxiliary and Riders members volunteered their time to greet, serve a meal to, and talk with Vets from Coatesville Medical Center at the monthly dinner.



Left and below: Two huge skids of cereals and snack items were donated, sorted and distributed to the Victory, Beacon and Milagro Houses as well as the Lam-peter United Methodist Church Food Bank. **Below from left:** Bill Schulz, Ken Deaven, Todd Lovell and Alison Gordon sort the food items into smaller groups for distribution.



Left: At the Children's Christmas Party Santa Claus asks Taryn Scout Dunkle, granddaughter of bartender Robin Caffey, what she wants for her first Christmas. Taryn Scout was born November 14th.



OUR THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



HOME & BUILDING INSPECTIONS LLC

Wayne F. Murray
Certified Inspector

- Prepurchase Home Inspections
- Septic, Well, & Radon Testing
- State Licensed Termite Inspections
- Water Test & 203K Consulting

(717) 394-5454
(610) 273-9977
1-800-624-0555
Fax (717) 284-5758

wayne@tri-m.net/www.tri-m.net



30 Years Experience
Licensed & Insured
Estimates & Inspections

Riehl Improvements
Residential / Commercial
Roofing / Painting / Carpentry

Ron Riehl
General Manager / Owner
Office: (717) 475-6869

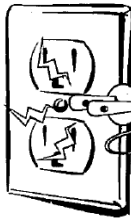
Fax: (717) 390-8862
riehl improvements@verizon.net
riehl improvements.com

REALTY SETTLEMENT SERVICES, INC
INDEPENDENT TITLE INSURANCE AGENCY

WWW.REALTYSETTLEMENT.COM

CLOSING AGENTS: 1550 LITITZ PIKE
ROBERT HORST LANCASTER, PA 17601
DOROTHY HORST PH: (717) 295-5400
BARBARA NIXDORF FAX: (717) 295-4511

TODD ESHLEMAN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR



TODD ESHLEMAN
148 PARK PLACE
LANDISVILLE, PA 17538

Phone: 717-898-7209
CELL: 717-475-7209
E-mail: ESH7209@GMAIL.COM

Quality Service in Refrigeration & HVAC



Bob Wilk
EPA Certified
Insured


Phone: (717) 475-9576
Fax: (717) 569-6766
PA LIC. # 059687

GABE LAFOREST LANDSCAPING
127 St. Thomas Rd. Lancaster, PA 17601
Phone 717-569-9394 Cell Phone 717-615-0514
gabelaforest@comcast.net

- *Mowing Contractor
- *Landscaping
- *Edging/Bed Shaping
- *Snow Removal
- *Aeration
- *Mulching
- *Pruning
- *Stump Grinding

FULLY INSURED

Tom's Home Improvements
No Job Too Small



Tom Myers
Owner
3061 Todd Lane
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-224-6240

FRANK WILE & SONS
BUILDING & REMODELING

Bill Wile

255 Mt. Hope School Road
Willow Street, PA 17584

Tele: (717)284-4616
E-mail: fwsbr@comcast.net

HIC No. PA013392

Pat's
HOME IMPROVEMENTS
Interior & Exterior

Roofing | Siding
Windows | Carpentry
Painting

Patrick Baxter
717.341.9412
Lancaster, PA

30yrs Exp.
Free Estimates
Insured



George H Lovell, III
Account Executive

1200 Corporate Blvd
Suite 20A
Lancaster PA 17601

717-285-5722
800-444-7851
717-285-5733 fax

george.lovell@klingbros.com

Insurance at Work

Ruffino's
Pizza

572 CENTERVILLE ROAD
LANCASTER, PA 17601

HOURS
MONDAY - THURSDAY
10:30AM - 10:00PM
FRIDAY - SATURDAY
10:30AM - 11:00PM
SUNDAY
12:00 NOON - 8:00PM

Vets & American Legion Members
Get 10% OFF with this coupon!

For Fast Pick-Up Call
898-0212

PROVIDING QUALITY PRINTING SINCE 1922



The Art Printing Co., Inc. of Lanc. • 446 Lafayette Street
t 717.397.6029 f 717.397.4294
artdept@apc446.comcastbiz.net M-F 8-4:30

- Stationery Packages
- Logo Design & Development
- Flyers • Posters
- Postcards • Booklets
- Programs • Brochures
- Business Forms
- Calendars • Tickets
- and much more!

PROFESSIONAL GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES • OFFSET & DIGITAL PRINTING

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEW PRINT SPONSOR, ART PRINTING!

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 Sunday—11:00am

EDITOR: *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

You will notice we have a few new sponsors of our Post Patriot beginning with this issue. Please take note of them and remember to support all of our Legion's business owners when you can!

Bill Schulz
American Legion
Post #34 Veterans Service Officer
Post Patriot Editor



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

BINGO Every Tuesday At Post #34!
Doors Open at 4:00pm ♦ Games begin at 6:30pm ♦ Auxiliary Snack Bar Open from 5:00pm—6:30pm

ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS! Remember that the Snack Bar is our major fundraising project. Proceeds directly benefit veterans and community projects. PLEASE consider making a food donation or volunteering your time to work.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #34 * LANCASTER,
1388 Arcadia Road
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717-392-9350
Website: www.al34.com

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
- Riders:** Legionnaire, SAL or Auxiliary member or legal spouse of a Rider in our Chapter

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

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



Enjoy your Freedom... Thank a Veteran for their service!