



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

UPCOMING BANDS 8:00 PM—MIDNIGHT

Jan 8	Love Haters
Jan 15	Ghost Light Radio Show
Jan 22	Underground Hotel
Jan 29	NO BAND
Feb 5	Screamin' Daisys
Feb 12	Pocketful O'Soul
Feb 19	Mama Tried
Feb 26	Carmen & Friends
Mar 4	Uptown Band
Mar 11	SYRPLUS
Mar 18	Memory Lapse

COMMANDER'S NOTE

As we begin a new year, I want to thank everyone for their dedication of time and hard work in 2015. Without all that you do, we wouldn't be nearly as successful a Post as we are. We consistently have a positive impact on past, present and future veterans and I am proud to be among you. Please continue to attend meetings and share your ideas.

Hoping everyone had a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Jere Axe

American Legion Post #34 Commander
10th District



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Santa asked me to thank all of his Post helpers for making the 2015 Children's Christmas party another great success. 100 kids attended this year! There was one special little girl who told Santa that she wanted him to leave money for her Mom for Christmas because she doesn't have any. After hearing this and having seen the same wish in her letter, Santa discovered that the lack of funds would not allow the family to have gifts or a holiday meal for Christmas. With much assistance and organization from Santa's favorite elf, Sharon McNece, within one hour our Post #34 family provided a full Christmas dinner, a tree with all the trimmings (see photo below right), toys for the children, and food and gift cards for future meals. In addition to that family, our Home Association provided for the needs of a family of 6 who were struggling during the season. THANK YOU POST #34 for touching the lives of these individuals and making their Christmas a little brighter. You make Santa proud!

On another note, I would like to welcome Cheryl Deaven to our Post Patriot staff. You will find in this issue two new features called Local Treasures and Lancaster County: Serving Veterans. Cheryl will continue to provide articles of interest for our newsletter going forward. Welcome aboard, Cheryl!



(Continued on page 14)

SAL CORNER



The new year is upon us. Brand new opportunities for helping our Veterans and our local community awaits us in 2016!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the SAL a larger and stronger force within our Post, District and Detachment during 2015. It is thanks to all of you that we were able to do such wonderful things last year.

As you likely know by now, I had to make the difficult decision to step down from my position as Commander of the Sons. It was not an easy decision nor one made without great contemplation. I am very fortunate to have been an officer for 8-1/2 years with this outstanding organization. Moving forward, Dave Sloat will be the acting Commander for the rest of the term. I know that the Sons are in capable hands. Dave, I wish you the best in your new role.

That being said, please remember that elections are coming up in May and we will be looking for new faces and fresh ideas to continue in the leadership roles moving forward. We are over 300 strong and need everyone involved to grow even bigger and better. Remember that the reason we join the Sons is to help Veterans and their families first and foremost!

As you may have heard, the truck raffle had to be terminated, unfortunately, for various reasons. Primarily, the dealership we were working with was

SAL OFFICERS

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

sold to new ownership and consequently our connection was lost. Refunds for tickets purchased are ready to go. We will soon be posting dates of when you can pick up your envelope at the Post. Please have your ticket stubs with you to obtain your refund.

In closing, I must say that it is with a heavy heart that I conclude my final letter for our award winning newsletter. So many of you have taught and shown me the true definition of friendship, loyalty and leadership. You will still find me at the canteen from time to time, as well as helping with Sons activities in the future.

Proud to be an American,

Todd Lovell

Past Commander

Sons of the American Legion

Squadron #34



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) SQUADRON #34 * DAVE SLOAT, COMMANDER



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AUXILIARY ALLEY



Hello from the American Legion Auxiliary!



Our role here at Post #34 is to support and promote patriotism and to be advocates for our Veterans. Our goal is to support our military and their families and to assist in any way our Veterans that have

served and are currently serving. We are a very active group who share a common goal to do what is best to achieve our objectives. Our roles and goals overlap each other as we work to inform, educate and promote Americanism and Patriotism. We support the Coatesville VA Medical Center by providing holiday meals, summer picnics, and personal supplies for male and female patients and we fundraise to provide big ticket items the Center may be in need of. Our Children and Youth Committee is very active and through our Americanism programs we are able to reach out to our local schools to make a positive difference in a young people's lives.

In September the Auxiliary held a Summer Barbeque Picnic for the Coatesville VA and they loved every minute of it. The Veterans were outside joking with some of our ladies, hassled our cook and just loved the smell of the barbeque. They talked, laughed and told stories and just enjoyed not being thought of as patients. They left with their bellies full, warm clothing items for the impending weather and goody bags full of snacks, personal items, paper, pencils and other items we sometimes take for granted. They had fun playing bingo, winning prizes and said they were excited for our holiday meal in December.

On Monday, December 21st, we provided a sit down dinner of homemade food and trimmings to fill their bellies, with love and conversation to fill their hearts. Bingo was a favorite and they loved the challenge to win. Goody bags full of holiday treats and needed items were also distributed.

Our fundraising efforts in 2015 were very successful thanks to everyone that participated in some way. Some of you sold tickets, some of you bought tickets and the best ones are the ones that do both!! The Auxiliary could not do what we do without everyone's help.

In October we had the "Friends Helping Friends" Boscov's event and in November we started the "Save a Soldier" cash raffle with three cash prizes. The winning tickets were pulled in December. What a nice addition to the holiday cash flow for the lucky winners!

On a personal note, I want to express my sincere thanks for every Auxiliary member's support and dedication. I am very proud of each and every one of you. I stand proudly, yet humbly by your side as we work together, moving forward to make a positive difference in our community. Every child has a dream, every adult has a dream, and we have the power together to make those dreams come true.

Yours In Service,

Ann Marie Fluke
President
Auxiliary Unit #34



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- President:** Ann Marie Fluke
- 1st Vice President:** Kim Kirchner
- 2nd Vice President:** Vacant
- Secretary:** Lisa Sanders
- Treasurer:** Karen Axe
- Chaplain:** Marian Walters
- Sgt. At Arms:** Helen Bunteman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #34 * ANN MARIE FLUKE, PRESIDENT



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

10% of ALL purchases for Post #34 members!
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RIDERS ROAD

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our last months of 2015. In October we had our Chili Cook-Off and we had a great time. Challenges were made for the best chili ever to be tasted. We tasted many types and some of our cooks won bragging rights!!

One Saturday in November we held a Chicken Barbeque take-out event that went very well, thanks to all of the support we received at Post #34.

On November 11th, Veteran's Day, the AL Riders decided to provide food for our Post #34 family. We wanted to say "thank you" to all of our Veterans that served and deserve to be thanked, those who are still serving and the families and loved ones who continue to support our fundraising efforts. Your ongoing support enables us to provide funding to our local Veterans in need and their families. We could not do what we do without you. All of the Post #34 Riders wanted to show their appreciation for each of you. Thank you again for your support!

This year, we will plan more rides and I challenge each Rider to bring an idea to our meeting. It can be a short or long trip, but we need to begin planning for the anticipated warmer riding weather. We also have some fundraising events planned which is great because we can help our Veterans, but we are AL Riders and we need to ride!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 17th at 11:00pm - 12:00pm.

RIDERS OFFICERS

President: Dave Fluke
Vice President: Curtis Rager
Chaplain: Sue Shellenberger
Sgt. At Arms: Dave Miller
Treasurer: Chet Buohl
Secretary: Ann Marie Fluke
Historian: Sherri Rutherford
Road Captain: Mark Shepherd
Road Captain: Dick Wilkensen



If you are interested in becoming an American Legion Rider ask one how to join or speak to me. If you know someone that is interested please invite them to one of our meetings.

Respectfully,

Dave Fluke
 American Legion
 ALR Chapter #34 President

Legion Riders journey,
 Into the sunrise and sunset.

Flowing roads, flashes of scenery,
 They ride into the unknown.

The roar of the engine is their life's blood,
 Their hearts beat for their love of the road.

Always together,
 Always as one.

They share a bond respecting a freedom,
 Remembering those who gave all.

Loving life, living their life,
 Riding and working together,
 They all become one.



NAME THAT VET!

Do you recognize this Post #34 member and veteran?



LEGION UPDATE



NOVEMBER 12, 2015: Greetings Legion family. I am frequently asked how I like being Department Commander. I can't use enough adjectives to describe it. I LOVE IT! The only downside is that I only have so many months left to serve you. I am not saying there aren't any challenges; there are more than a few.

I cannot stress enough the importance our programs have on our membership. The more we explain and describe our programs such as Oratorical, KBS, Essay, Scouting, SPYW, Scholarship programs, the more Veterans will understand what we do and want to be a part of our great organization.

I would like to express my opinion and concern about VA Health Care System. There are those who would, if they could, do away with the VA Health Care as we know it.

I believe this would be a grave mistake. Legion family, the VA Health care system is far from perfect. News reports exposing some irregularity are far too frequent. Complaints received range from delayed appointments, missed diagnosis, malpractice etc. The news media is ever so eager in reporting any patient care neglect. However in the private sector, the courts are backlogged with malpractice suits against doctors, nurses and hospitals. The private sector cases are rarely reported as news worthy regardless of local or national existence.

Let's look at our VA Health Care System compared with private sector health care. First, VA only serves Veterans. We as veterans, get private and preferential treatment at VA facilities. How many private sector institutions have specialist with experienced medical staff in treatment diagnosis such as, PTSD, TBI, various agent defoliants, Gulf War Syndrome, Prosthetics, specialized mental and physical therapies related to military trauma episodes, suicide prevention and so on. I assure you not many.

When a veteran enters a VA Health Care Facility, he/she is someone special. You are a veteran treated in many cases by prior military personnel. If a veteran has a

complaint with any facet of his VA treatment there are many avenues to open an investigation. A Veteran can turn to an American Legion or any other veteran service organization. They can also go to the news media or their local politicians. Our politicians are quick to pounce on any VA irregularity. However, with no VA Health Care System, if GI Joe enters the Metropolitan health care, Any City, USA and he is not satisfied with treatment then the only recourse is to file a complaint with the State Insurance Commission.

In the VA Health Care System, a GI is integrated with fellow veterans, many with the same symptoms. The more a medical staff observes the same symptoms and disease, the more familiar they are for recognition and treatment. Spread veterans throughout our nation in private sector health system and more often than not their symptoms would receive bewildered looks.

This is not to say the private sector wouldn't attempt to provide good care but would you take your Cadillac to a KIA dealer for service.

Veterans are a select part of our society; less than 1% have ever worn the uniform of our nation. Why would anyone consider surrendering a system founded for the best interest of veterans for a system with less concern for veterans?

VA Health Care is nonprofit system. Few, if any private sector health systems are nonprofit. Think about it. Private sector health would initially offer same rates as VA and promise low cost veteran care. Then before you realize it, your premiums and copay have risen to that of any other private sector insurance.

VA Health System costs are regulated by our federal Government which has been promised to take care of our veterans. Private sector health care has not promised and is not under any such obligation.

As a veteran voting block we represent a positive effect on our elected leaders. They understand our numbers.

Two years ago our National Commander called for the resignation of VA Director. Political pressure applied an VA Director "Resigned."



(Continued on page 9)

VETERANS SERVICE CORNER

PA GULF WAR VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR CASH BONUS

OCTOBER 16, 2015: Gov. Tom Wolf on Friday signed into law a three-year extension of the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Act. The law provides a cash bonus to eligible Pennsylvania veterans of the Gulf War. Those who served on active duty between Aug. 2, 1990, and Aug. 31, 1991, can receive up to \$75 per month for every month of active Gulf War service. Families of those killed in action in the Gulf War are eligible for a \$5,000 bonus.

The Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has processed about 11,000 claims totaling more than \$3.5 million since the program's inception in 2008.

VA MAKES CHANGES TO VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1, 2015: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced a number of changes to make participation in the Veterans Choice Program easier and more convenient for Veterans who need to use it. The move, which streamlines eligibility requirements, follows feedback from Veterans along with organizations working on their behalf.

"As we implement the Veterans Choice Program, we are learning from our stakeholders what works and what needs to be refined," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "It is our goal to do all that we can to remove barriers that separate Veterans from the care they deserve." To date, more than 400,000 medical appointments have been scheduled since the Veterans Choice Program went into effect on November 5, 2014.

Under the old policy, a Veteran was eligible for the Veterans Choice Program if he or she met the following criteria:

- Enrolled in VA health care by 8/1/14 or able to enroll as a combat Veteran to be eligible for the Veterans Choice Program;
- Experienced unusual or excessive burden eligibility determined by geographical challenges, environmental factors or a medical condition impacting the Veteran's ability to travel;
- Determined eligible based on the Veteran's current residence being more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility.

Under the updated eligibility requirements, a Veteran is eligible for the Veterans Choice Program if he or she is enrolled in the VA health care system and meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Told by his or her local VA medical facility that they will not be able to schedule an appointment for care within 30 days of the date the Veteran's physician determines he/she needs to be seen or within 30 days of the date the Veteran wishes to be seen if there is no specific date from his or her physician;
- Lives more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician;
- Needs to travel by air, boat or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home;
- Faces an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, a medical condition, the nature or simplicity or frequency of the care needed and whether an attendant is needed. Staff at the Veteran's local VA medical facility will work with him or her to determine if the Veteran is eligible for any of these reasons; or
- Lives in a State or Territory without a full-service VA medical facility which includes: Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire (Note: this excludes New Hampshire Veterans who live within 20 miles of the White River Junction VAMC) and the United States Territories (excluding Puerto Rico, which has a full service VA medical facility).

Veterans seeking to use the Veterans Choice Program or wanting to know more about it, can call 1-866-606-8198 to confirm their eligibility and to schedule an appointment. For more details about the Veterans Choice Program and VA's progress, visit: www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

HACC SUPPORTS VETERANS AND ACTIVE-DUTY PERSONNEL

As the second largest active military and veteran population among public colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, you have:

- More than 1,200 active military and veterans attending HACC with you
- 500 online classes for you to continue your education anywhere
- VetSuccess on Campus to provide support for easing the transition to academic life
- More than 150 programs to earn an associate degree, certificate or diploma
- Options to transfer credits to four-year colleges

Choices for your high school juniors or seniors to use military benefits for dual enrollment at HACC to earn high school and college credit simultaneously

Options to receive three physical education credits or two physical education credits and one wellness credit if the basic training date occurred after 1993

Please contact HACC's Military and Veteran Affairs Office (MVAO). This office will provide an MVAO education briefing about:

- GI Bill® and Military/Dependent education benefits eligibility
- GI Bill® and Military/Dependent payment process
- HACC's certification process
- Student responsibility and academic progress

You'll also receive assistance with:

- The required VA application paperwork
- Submitting the VA Form 22-1990 for new students
- Submitting the VA Form 22-1995 for transfer students
- Completing the VA Form 22-5490 or 22-5495 forms for individuals receiving chapter 35 or Fry scholarship benefits
- Information on Education Assistance Program (EAP) for Guard
- Information on Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for Reserve or Guard

YOUR MVAO offices:

- Gettysburg Campus 717-337-3855 ext. 113034
- Harrisburg Campus 717-780-2331
- Lancaster Campus 717-358-2954
- Lebanon Campus 717-270-6346
- York Campus 717-718-0328 ext. 513226
- For immediate assistance, please call 717-780-2331 or email vaoffice@hacc.edu.

Apply and enroll in HACC. Our MVAO staff has served or is currently serving in the military. They are here to help you with applying and enrolling.

According to Act 46 of 2014, HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College is required to provide course scheduling

(Continued on page 8)



LANCASTER COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

Services

We help veterans, their families, and survivors with securing the benefits they have earned. We handle claims for:
Aid and attendance

- Dependent indemnity compensation (DIC)
- Help for homeless veterans
- Non service connected pension for wartime veterans
- Service connected death
- Service connected disability
- Widows death pension

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Veterans Benefits include:

- Application to state veterans home county benefits
- Emergency assistance for loss of income due to job loss, death, etc.

Lancaster County Benefits include:

- \$100 burial and headstone allowance
- Grave markers and grave flags

Transportation to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center

We provide transportation to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Lebanon, Monday through Friday. The ride departs from Lancaster at 8 a.m., and departs from the VAMC at approximately 12:30 p.m. We have information available on most Veterans Affairs benefits.

Assistance With Records & Applications

We can assist with application to the Veterans Affairs Medical System, home loan guarantee eligibility, requesting a new DD 214 discharge document, or service medial records.



HACC: *continued*

(Continued from page 7)

preference for veteran students. Per this Act, HACC established a veteran as: a person who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component and National Guard; and was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable. Current members of the National Guard, Reserves and Active Duty (Active Duty service members must provide a copy of their PCS orders) are also included in this definition.

Course scheduling for approved veteran students will start one (1) week prior to HACC's priority scheduling for returning students. Veteran students must provide documentation to the MVAO at least one (1) week prior to veteran priority scheduling. In addition, new HACC veteran students must complete New Student Orientation (NSO) and meet with an academic advisor prior to course scheduling, NSO can be completed either face-to-face, on campus or online through HACC's orientation system. Each student who qualifies under the law as a "veteran student" (current or new) will be coded by the MVAO office, which will allow students to register in person or online during the priority registration period. Current veteran students must meet the same academic standards as other students to have priority registration in HACC's competitive programs. Students are responsible for following the process outlined in this policy. Students who do not meet the deadlines will be placed into HACC's regular enrollment process.

LEGION GREETING: *continued*

(Continued from page 5)

Water this down to 1% and spread it throughout our Nation's health care system. Where would our influence and clout be if our health care was provided through the regular health care system?

Legion family, I am a member of the VA Health Care System and use it on a regular basis. I recommend it for all veterans. It is "A SYSTEM WORTH SAVING."

God Bless You and God Bless America.

Dennis Haas

Commander

American Legion

Department of Pennsylvania

VETERANS ARE LOOKING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

DECEMBER 9, 2015: American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett expressed frustration Wednesday after a congressional hearing that addressed accountability issues in the Department of Veterans Affairs in the aftermath of relocation compensation paid to executives implicated in a VA Inspector General's report last month.

"Our veterans are looking for accountability at every echelon of the Department of Veterans Affairs," Barnett said after today's hearing. "American taxpayers want to give veterans the best health care possible for veterans. However, they expect VA to be fully accountable to provide that care without waste, fraud or abuse of government funds. It appears that VA has a long ways to go before achieving this mission."

VA MOVES ARE 'AN INSULT AND A DISGRACE'

NOVEMBER 20, 2015: The head of the nation's largest veterans service organization reacted with disappointment about VA's refusal to terminate two senior executives that were at the heart of the latest scandal involving exorbitant relocation allowances.

"After the congressional hearing investigating the matter, I believed that VA was finally understanding the need to hold people accountable," said American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett. "Principal Deputy Under Secretary Danny Pummill admitted that VA had an accountability problem, and, as they say, the first step in rehabilitation is admitting that you have a problem. But now we find out that VARO Directors Diana Rubens and Kimberly Graves are not being terminated, but are just being demoted. After embarrassing the department and, according to the IG, inappropriately using their positions of authority for personal and financial benefit, they are still allowed to draw generous paychecks and continue employment in an agency that was created to serve veterans. This is an insult and disgrace to all veterans. Any promises that VA officials make about accountability in the future need to be taken with a grain of salt."

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.



Dale Barnett
National Commander
American Legion

LANCASTER COUNTY: SERVING VETERANS

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL DEAVEN

Do you have a love for horses? Do you have a desire to serve Veterans? Triangle Therapeutic Riding Center may be the place for you to serve! Laura Rutledge, Executive Director of Triangle Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. shared with me recently of their mission to serve our Veterans. This is an all-volunteer organization who serve our Veterans and I think Laura can say it best by her testimony:

"Our last group that we finished was coined as the Elite Group. All four men were part of the residential program at the Lebanon VA. All of them were from different areas of the services. Terry, Andrew, Rick and Lee were 4 completely different men with their personalities and backgrounds. My first thought was how are we ever going to get these guys to work together. I had the staff turn the 6 horses loose that we use in the program. We let the horses run around and play "who wants to be boss", while the Veterans watched the horses from the observation room behind the one way mirror. I listened to who said what about each horse and what their thoughts are regarding the horses' looks and personality. After the horses settle down, we all go inside the arena so they can "pick out" their horse. But before they could go I told them a brief history about each horse's background, personality and what they do best. Then I have the guys tell me why they think the horse they chose is the best match for them. They have to tell me first if their horse was a motorized vehicle what it would be and what kind of vehicle do they most want at the moment. They had to stop and think about this instead of rushing out to the horse that they originally wanted to run out and grab. Plus they have to tell us indirectly a little something about themselves in a not so threatening manner. Ice is broken. The guys start leading their horses and learning how to guide them through an obstacle course. Next they



Above: Terry riding Cody

have to earn the horses trust. A horse will only do that if you are a confident leader otherwise they take control over the current situation. Now we can see some frustration that they have to work through, and they have to take a good look at themselves in the mirrors to see what the body language is saying to the horse. Horses read body language very well because that is how horses communicate. The men realize that in order to get his assignment done, they have to learn horse language and they have to change their outward body language that is currently displaying anger, aggression and fear.

During our 4 weeks of two hour sessions, the guys were able to progress really fast. The one Veteran who in my opinion made the most change was Terry. Terry was going through a separation from his wife in conjunction with chronic pain issues. He also later shared how he wanted to make up with his dad as they had a rift in their relationship many years ago. His dad always wanted to him to help on their family ranch in Colorado and he in turn did not appreciate that idea years ago. He presently really wanted to positive change in his life, he thought the horses would be the motivation to actually make him do it. He admitted that he really never even learned to ride well, but he had ridden a little only when he had to with his dad. During the 4 weeks he was determined to be able to groom his horse the best, tack up his horse the fastest, and ride the best in his group. (Only thing was, all the other guys had the same goal). Ironically Terry rode a horse named Cody that was a very sensitive but at times stubborn and grumpy horse that wanted to do things his way. Turns out Terry and Cody were very much alike. Neither one of them were the type to give in. Guess who learned to give and make change Terry the person. To - watch Terry change from a rough, tough and mean, ready to start a fight kind of guy transform to a want to work as a horse and rider team, and a unit team leader for the guys in our group was a big leap to say the least.



Above: The group at graduation

These guys were so driven by competition that they all performed top notch. These

(Continued on page 12)

MEMBERS' MEMORIES



Above: Gavin Lehman, son of bartender Jenn, sits with Santa at the Post #34 Children's Christmas Party.

Below: SAL Commander, Dave Sloat, hosted a table at the 2nd annual Lancaster Veterans Expo & Job Fair at Spooky Nook Sports on November 13th. It was a successful day of information sharing and advertisement of the American Legion and Post #34



Above: Mary Delong is notorious for spilling food on herself, so Bill Schulz had a special bib custom-embroidered for her.

LOCAL TREASURES: CHRISTMAS CENTER

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL DEAVEN

Lancaster County is filled with so many treasures that our tourists may know, but many of us "locals" are not aware of what is in our neighborhood. Beginning with this issue, we are going to take you on a journey through Lancaster County and invite you to visit a specific attraction which may have historical value or offer our Veterans a discount. In this issue we want to tell you about the National Christmas Center. Yes – National! Christmas 2015 may be over, but here you can celebrate the holiday year round! This treasure is located right on Route 30, 3427 Lincoln Highway, Paradise, PA.

You will experience a Journey like no other as you explore the Magic & Memories, History & Traditions of Christmas as you journey through wonderful memories of Christmases past and present, near and far.

I know when I visited the Center, I felt like I stepped back 60 years or more, especially when I walked into the F. W. Woolworth' 5 and 10 Cent Store! It is a very affordable experience for you plus Veteran's will get a discount!



Visit their website: www.nationalchristmascenter.org for more information . The photos shown here are just a small sampling of what you will experience when there – Enjoy this journey!



DATES TO REMEMBER



- ◆ January 18th—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- ◆ January 27th, 1973—Vietnam Cease-Fire
- ◆ February—Americanism Month
- ◆ February 7th—Four Chaplains Sunday
- ◆ February 15th—President's Day
- ◆ February 24th, 1991—Start of Operation Desert Storm
- ◆ February 28th, 1991—End of Operation Desert Storm
- ◆ March 9th—American Legion Birthday
- ◆ March 19th, 2003—Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

◆ Veterans Club Meetings at Oak Leaf Manor (Landisville):

- * Navy Club—1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm
- * Korean War Club—1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm
- * Susquehanna Valley Mariners Chapter—2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm
- * Vietnam Veterans of America—3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm
- * Battle of the Bulge—3rd Thursday of every other month at 12:00pm (Note: MILLERSVILLE location)



TAPS



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

- **Ronald E. Little**—Passed October 21st
US Marine Corps veteran & AL Post #34 Member
- **Robert C. Rottmund**—Passed November 6th
US Army veteran & AL Post #34 Member
- **Jesse J. Rodenboh, Jr.**—Passed November 3rd
US Army veteran & AL Post #34 Member
- **Joseph Z. Zaranka**—Passed November 23rd
US Navy veteran & AL Post #34 Member

HORSES: *continued*

(Continued from page 10)

men were not just walking on their horses, but trotting and cantering. So when it came time to the drill team, they all excelled. What normally takes weeks for riders to do, this group did it in 2 hours. To watch them beam with a sense of pride and accomplishment was very rewarding. The therapist who came with them from the Lebanon VA had told me how important this part of their treatment was so that they could focus on something rewarding while working through all the failures and negatives of this part of their lives. The PTSD, drug and alcohol, chronic pain, divorce, loss of jobs, thoughts of suicide, the whole long list of "negatives" that created the black cloud of not being able to feel as though they can gain control of anything would be overwhelming for anyone. Maybe learning to control a 1,200 pound horse would encourage to them and give them confidence to regain pieces of their lives. During each session we were able to discuss how to control the horse better by breaking our goal into smaller objectives. The goal of performing an advanced drill team pattern while riding a horse seemed unobtainable even to me their first day. So by breaking it down together into objectives, they gave an advanced and perfect performance. This performance was the best of any group that has come through so far. I think that Terry had a lot to do with that as a team leader influencing the other guys. "

This mission is in great need of volunteers. If you would like to provide transportation, help with horses and riding, or any other way, please contact Laura Rutledge at TriangleTR2005@gmail.com or telephone at 717-371-3654. Visit their website to learn more at: <http://www.triangletr.org>.

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members welcome.

SAL

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Auxiliary

1st Wednesday—7:00pm

Legion Riders

3rd Sunday—11:00am

EDITOR: *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

Lastly, mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 3rd. At 7:00pm, Chief Sadler of the Lancaster City Police Department will be at Post #34 to address our membership. All members are invited to attend. Please come out and show your support for our local police. I would like to have a speaker of interest at each Legionnaire meeting the 1st Wednesday of each month in hopes that this will increase attendance.

I hope everyone enjoyed a merry Christmas and I wish all a happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Bill Schulz

American Legion

Post #34 Veterans Service Officer

Post Patriot Editor



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Feedback Welcomed!

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

Bill Schulz, Editor

Post #34 Veterans Service Officer

Cheryl Deaven, Contributor

Alison Lovell, Layout & Design

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