



**AMERICAN LEGION - POST 639
VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL**

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The Veterans Voice
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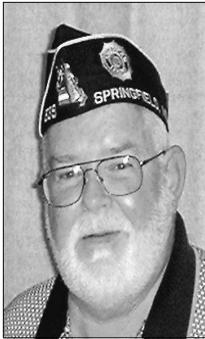
DECEMBER 2007 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12

Hey ! “We’re On The Web” WWW.Post639.com Look Us Up



the use of these two vehicles for the parade. We returned to the Post and had a wonderful dinner provided by the Ladies Auxilliary. A fun day was had by all and the Mt. Vernon Veterans enjoyed the attention.

On November 12, we had a very special day at Post 639. Governor Blunt was here along with Major General Sidwell and other members of the Missouri National Guard to present the Vietnam Medallions. We had 56 members receive this award. For those of you who applied for this medal and were unable to attend this ceremony, the medals will be mailed to you. I saw some very proud veterans standing in front of the governor receiving their medals.



**FROM YOUR
CHAPLAIN:**

I was told that George Bulke was in Cox South for surgery, he is doing fine now. Joyce our bar manager almost amputated her arm while she was cleaning out the freezer, that maybe exaggerating a little bit but she did have some stitches in her fingers. I understand that it is healing nicely.

For myself I spent several days in St. John's with a very severe leg infection. I was on antibiotics 24 hours a day for seven days. I asked what they were giving me and all they would say was it was very expensive (HA!) This really has sapped my strength but slowly it's coming back! I really appreciate all the calls and cards I received, more than once they brought tears to my eyes. All of you will never know how much I missed everybody there! Once again thank you all.

Remember our military men and women and their families and our POW's and MIA's in your thoughts and prayers.



**COMMANDER'S
MESSAGE:**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Many thanks to all the members who have had a strong impact on this post in the last year. Your dedication has been appreciated by us all.

Now as we look forward to 2008, please come in and get involved . Do whatever you can with your time and talents.

We have signed up many new members recently and I want to personally thank you for choosing Post 639 and welcome you to the American Legion. We are well over 600 members strong and growing fast.

We had the Veterans from Mt. Vernon on Veteran's Day. We started out with breakfast and then to the parade. Thank you to Shane Nelson of Heritage Chrysler Jeep in Ozark for the use of the two Jeep Wranglers. Terri and I appreciated

A very special thank you to S.A.L. Commander Lance Shockley and staff for providing a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. The place was packed and everyone enjoyed it and had a wonderful time.

December is going to be a very busy month. The weekends are booked solid with parties. There are too many to mention here, so please see the calendar for December events. Please come out, enjoy yourself and support your post. I hope everyone has a very **Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.**

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
AL POWERS COMMANDER**

Bob Carroll

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Special thanks to Heritage Chrysler Jeep and Shane Nelson for the use of 2 Jeep Wranglers to use in the Veterans Day parade. The Jeeps drew a lot of attention in the parade and in front of our post after the parade. We really appreciate their support of the vets and our post. Again, thanks Shane for the Jeeps!

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



We've been busy the past month. I've got a long letter, so pop-a-top, sit back, and hear what needs to be said.

A check for \$4000.00 was presented to Jesse Hardin Combat Soldier tuition fund, by ALR Chapter 639, at the November 6th general meeting. Cooper Davis, fund director, and Terri Kreider, Jesse's Mother accepted the money raised at the poker run held September 29th. This donation has brought the fund balance to about \$21,000. Also a donation was made to the Sons of the Legion for their assistance in providing the food at our poker run. A sizeable turn out of riders enjoyed the weather and the route chosen. We hope to continue the tradition next year.

Our second annual chili dinner was held Friday, Nov. 2nd. While not the same size crowd as last year's

dinner, we still held our own. Thanks to Dottie, Mike, Janie, and Larry for the time donated to preparation of the great tasting chili. I received many favorable comments on it. We are learning how much to cook up. Especially in estimating the beans needed. We only had one cooker left over from Friday night. After expenses, we made about \$500 dollars. Thank you one and all who worked the dinner and who enjoyed the meal with us.

Well folks, we're still a member of the state ALR. The people responsible for the unauthorized change in the wording of the proposed by-laws decided NOT to show up at the state ALR meeting on Saturday in Jefferson City. The American Legion State commander wanted to know just how upset we were. I told him we were "upset, upset", and this might be a real short meeting for us.

After a parade of State and National leaders of the Legion made their voices heard we got down to the real business at hand. First, the National Legion has finally recognized the Riders as a formal program of the Legion. A lot of people have been working on this for a long time. Our by-laws were to be presented to the Department Executive committee the next day for their "blessing". Again, a lot of people have worked hard on this and your chapter representatives were convinced not to object to the incorrect wording, but to make an amendment to be presented at the next convention in February. We shall see. I was prepared to announce chapter-639's resignation from any further participation in state ALR activities. I held off doing so, after the council of our officers with me. People, we got pretty much what we were after all along. We can make the decisions on our choice of what to wear and on what. I

know some in the chapter want to just ignore the conflict in the state ALR leadership, but it has become a challenge to me and those of us who have followed this issue. I was authorized to handle the subject as I saw fit and I'm glad you showed confidence in my judgment. If the members had instructed me to drop the subject and not pursue it further, that's exactly what I would have done.

11 of our hearty [and awake] members left the Post at 0600 enroute to the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home to escort the veterans to the Veterans Day Parade held in Springfield. No problems occurred while on the way to the home but I did have a "close encounter" of the deer kind while going to rouse Scott from his Friday night wanderings. I couldn't rouse him so I headed to the Post alone, to find Mike, Jeff Smith, and Richard already there. Thanks to Lee, Kim, Mike, Steve, Larry, Jay, Bruce, Carol, Richard, and Jack for riding along with me at this early and chilly hour. Back at the Post when we got there, were Scott and Mick. Glad you could make it on time for the parade. Joining us in the parade were Paul, Scott, Mick, Rick, Janie, Chuck Keller, Jose', and Rick Balew. We made for quite a sight going down the road. Mike actually got to ride the entire route this year. I think it's a new record, even for him.

On November 12th, the Governor presented Viet-Nam service medals to about 55 veterans for their service in the military during the Viet-Nam war. Of this number 10 recipients were members of our ALR chapter. Congratulations to Mike Chandler, Jack McKee, George Balke, Lee Bo-

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ler, Jay D'Andrea, Paul Kennett, Steve Skahan, and Dave Williams and especially to Bob Moss for the story of some of his experiences while in country. Brothers, I'm proud to be among you.

The third annual ABATE toy Run was held Sunday the 11th of November. Around 290 people on over 200 bikes made this event a huge success. This group, that has many members in common with our ALR chapter, is a motorcycle rights organization. We also donate to charitable organizations in the community. About a dozen of our ALR chapter members attended with Larry and Janie Tuck being the principal organizers of the run. Good job Larry & Janie!! Several pick-up truck loads of toys were gathered to help make the holidays happy for Christian County children.

On Wednesday morning 4 riders along with Kim Boler made a run to Ash Grove to attend the funeral of our honorary member, Logan Gouty. I had only met Logan one time but I was impressed with his spirit and his attention to detail on our bikes. He was a friend of Brother Itchy Jones, and died just before turning 48 years old. Brothers and sisters, we made this guy very happy to be named as an honorary member of our Chapter. So much so that the minister read his quote of "Being a member allows him to attend our functions....." as a part of his eulogy. Pictures of Logan, in his vest, are in the albums.

Just a quick reminder for all our riders, about the 'Toys for Tots', toy run. It's being held on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, starting at Polar Transport Co. located in the 4800 block of East

Kearney St. going to Strafford Elementary School. KSU is at 1pm. from there. If there's enough interest in going to this run as a group, we can decide at the meeting on Sunday Nov. 18, on our time of departure. Come on back to the post after the run for a chili cook-off and some "refreshments".

I'd like to welcome our newest members to the chapter. Jeff Smith, Chuck Keller, Robert Lannan Jr., Rick Balew, and Richard Quimby.

Ride Safe.

ALR Ch. 9 Asst. Director

Ron Jackson

Biker wisdom: You start the game of life with a full pot o' luck and an empty pot o' experience....

The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the luck.

LADIES AUXILIARY:



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS, ALL ACTIVE SERVICE, Families and VETERANS!!

We had a wonderful time serving and being with all the Veterans on

Veterans Day. I am sooo proud to be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. You all helped and worked sooo hard many thanks are not enough!! So come and celebrate with us this month we have several fun activities and parties to enjoy!!!

December 1st: we will be meeting @ 10:30 am to get ready for Christmas; we will be decorating and putting up the tree. December 2nd: is the Toys for Tots and make your favorite Chili

recipe to enter the Chili contest. December 4th: is the yearly gift wrapping at Mt Vernon and our general meeting. Please bring a dessert if you can to share at the meeting. December 8th: is the kids Christmas Party!!! We have several activities planned, one will be decorating cookies again for Mt Vernon Veterans and Santa will be there, bring your camera's!!! The party is from 1-3. December 9th: is the district meeting in Branson with a luncheon planned at 1 pm and meeting at 2 pm. December. 10th: Ladies party. December 13th: Do the 12 days of Christmas Party at the Post with caroling and wine tasting. Please bring a snack to be shared. December 14th: is Steak Night!! The 17th: will be the E-Board meeting, **note the Time Change is at 6pm for the Winter months!!** Dec 21st: is Fish Fry night!! and December 25th: Mick is cooking Christmas Dinner at 2pm bring desert only, Mick will provide the rest!! Thanks Mick!! December 31st: New Years Eve Party!!! Ladies please come to the meeting on December 4th we will have dinner at 6pm and meeting at 7pm as always we have a lot to look forward to this month!! We are celebrating the most precious time of the year. Thanks for all you do and Merry Christmas to all of you,

**Ladies Auxiliary President,
Terri Chandler**

Bar & Kitchen Report

Happy New Year!!!! Wishing everyone a prosperous and healthy 2008!

Santa made it here December 1st to see all the kids despite his accident with Rudolph. Thank you, Santa.

On December 13th we

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held a wine tasting. Everyone brought appetizers and we had Chris playing some of our favorite Christmas tunes. It was a lot of fun!

The fish fry will be the third Friday, January 18th, with steak night being Saturday, January 26th. Clarke is the chef both evenings. Plan to attend.

Also, Tom Mabrey is turning 80 on January 5th., so the boss is throwing a party that evening starting at 7:00. Music will be by Chris.

Come support your Post!!!
Bobby, Connie, Gretchen, Shelia and Granny Joyce.

Veterans' Day was really successful. Although, we didn't have many Veterans from Mt. Vernon, they enjoyed their visit at our Post. Thanks to the hardy Legion Riders who escorted them from and back to Mt. Vernon. I really appreciated their help in getting my food into the Post before they left at 6:00AM.

You know the day was a success because everyone involved worked hard and together. It was nice to see things go so smoothly. There are thanks that I want to extend to the ladies who helped me get the food ready. A special thank you goes to Kim Boler for the company and help until the others arrived. Marlene and Josephine were a great help in getting the prep work done. Without their help I would have been lost. Special thanks goes to Cindy for doing the dishes (which I hate). Connie and Terri did a great job decorating the hall and getting the drinks ready. Joyce was a real help in serving. It was a joy seeing our members visiting with the Mt. Vernon Vets.

For the ones who missed the breakfast and medals and awards given to our Vietnam Veterans on the 12th, you missed a great day. However special thanks goes to Marlene who worked hard to help getting ready for the breakfast. She put in some long hours over the weekend. Really all the girls did! Although it was a lot of hard work, we enjoyed being able to do something for our veterans. What made it more worthwhile was seeing the veterans enjoying and visiting with our guests and each other. It reminds us that this is why our Post was established-our home away from home where we can meet each other in fellowship and with love.

Thanks everyone for making this weekend special.

Peggy Baker, Secretary

Happy Holidays, everyone! First of all, if you made it out to the Post for the Thanksgiving Day feast, I sure hope you enjoyed yourself. We were sure happy to have served you! If you didn't, we all sure hope you had a wonderful time anyway. For those of you who came to help out, thanks very much for all your help in making the day a great day of giving for everyone.

Starting in January, on the second Tuesday of every month, @ 7pm (@ the Post, of course), we will be having our regularly scheduled meetings. I'd like to see you all there instead of just the few that come for the monthly meeting to help in the kitchen. There are so many things we NEED to do, we would LIKE to do, and so many activities we WILL be doing...BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! We've got great plans in the works, come and be a part of it, please, we need you! I

guarantee a fun and rewarding time for all. Be a proud Son!

Lance Shockley,
Commander SAL 639

