



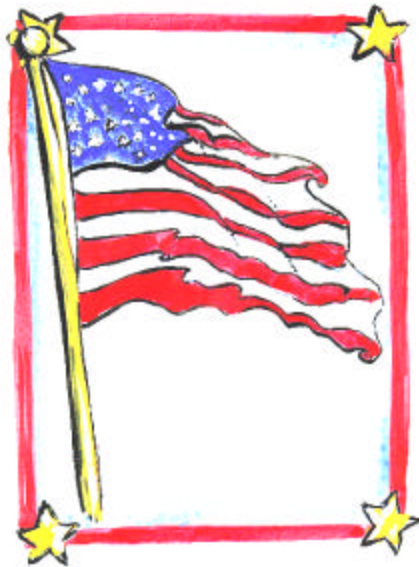
AMERICAN LEGION - POST 639 VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

The Veterans Voice

July 2007 MEMBERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7



“July, Independence Day”



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

First, I would like to congratulate all the new E-Board members on their elections, June 5th, as officers of our post. New officers include 1st Vice Commander, Cindy Forrest, 2nd Vice Commander, Tom Newsome, Members at Large, Jack Martin, Bill Evans and Dean Agnew. I am confident they will do their best to keep Post 639 the best American Legion Post in Missouri. The August newsletter will have a full list of officers for 2007-2008.

I am putting a list in this month's newsletter on the back of the) of all the people that worked so hard to put together our Post Armed Forces Remembrance celebration. There are some of you that put in many hard hour to make it a success. There are some that contributed a lot, and some that put in a little less, but it was all appreciated. Some of you deserve a special recognition, because of the time and effort you expended, but if I would list you separately, someone might feel like they hadn't received enough recognition, but most of you know who put in the most effort. I would like to say "thank you" very much for all you do for our post. You have shown that you are not selfish and you have the best interest of the post at heart.

Here's wishing a happy belated birthday (229) to the U.S. Army. As Chief of Staff, Peter Shoemaker said, the uniforms, equipment and formations have changed since it was founded on June 14th, 1775, but it's values that helped win the nation's independence have not. Two hundred twenty-nine years is a long time and a lot has changed since George Washington took command of the Army. Soldiers

have always answered the call to defend the United States believing in the same values, placing freedom first in more than 120 countries today. These values are represented in the U.S. Army Flags 175 campaign ribbons. Stand proud U.S. Army.

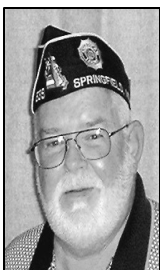
The Ladies Auxiliary did a great job for Father's Day with the Mount Vernon Veterans, and I would like to thank all that come out to enjoy the Vets, they enjoyed the time immensely. Thanks ladies, great job as always.

July is a family and vacation month and the post does not have many activities planned for the month, but please come by and support the post during July. We worked hard on trying to put on a fireworks show for the 4th of July, but the cost of fireworks and insurance for that is "cost prohibitive". Independence day is a very important day for all Americans, so everyone have a happy day and enjoy.

For God and Country
Al Powers, Commander
busy day to present a nice speech. Department of Missouri Commander Marvin Harper thank you so much for

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taking time out of your busy schedule to share in our Remembrance Day celebration. I enjoyed visiting with Commander Harper Friday night and Saturday, and I assure you all, the American Legion is in great hands with Commander Harper as our leader. A thank you to the National Guard for the helicopter fly-in. I seen a lot of big eyes when the chopper began it's landing approach. How about Sherri Brandenburg singing our National Anthem, Beautiful job Sherri, Thank you. The car show was impressive, and what can you say about the ALR. They escorted the Mt Vernon Veterans motorcade from Mt Vernon to our post, and what a of beautiful display of motorcycles they had. ALR Chapter 9 you make our post proud. Post 639 kicked off it's support for the Jessie Harden returning veterans college fund Foundation. Jessie Harden was a young Marine home from Iraq who tragedy lost his life to a impaired driver in downtown Springfield. Cooper Davis and Lee Ganaway founder and co-founders of the foundation were on hand to speak. Post 639, the ladies Aux and the 40/8 showed their support by making donations to the foundation. I would like to thank Cooper Davis



personally for having the vision to start such a wonderful program for returning war veterans. In closing the only dark side I seen, was in the proc-

ess of cleaning up of the grounds, we found a lot of stuff that shouldn't have been there, doors, window frames, brush and trash. I hope this stuff wasn't dumped by our members, we should take pride in our post and keep it clean. If anyone sees anyone dumping, they should stop them. Bringing fire wood is all right, but should be split or cut small to burn, and please stack it by the bar-b-q pit. Again, thank you to all members whether you worked or participated, WHAT A GREAT DAY !

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

AL Powers

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE:

Hope all you ladies had a wonderful Mother's Day !

George Baker, Gone to Post Everlasting in April 07. George joined our Post 1n 1998, and was a paid up for life member. We will surely miss his stories and his contagious laughter. Good Bye Brother.

Keep our military men, women, POW's and MIA's in your thoughts and prayers.

Bob Carroll

ALR CHAPTER 9

After returning yesterday from our "Ride For The Rockies", trip all I can say is if you didn't go, you missed some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. The route picked by Paul Kennett [no doubt with help from Jeannine] led us across Kansas to Pueblo for our second night on the road. That's where the adventure really started. An early start led us to Walsenburg for the first climb to a mountain pass. Snow was visible on

the mountain tops all around us but the weather stayed dry. Most of the bikes struggled some to pull the long steep grade, but all made the pass without braking down. As we topped out at Wolf Creek Pass [ele.10,850'] ,we stopped for pictures. The snow was still piled up on the slopes above us but the road was clear. At the turn-out at the top we met a guy on a bicycle. Not knowing strangers, we started visiting with him. The rider noticed the USMC patch on Paul's vest and asked if he was a USMC



vet. Turns out Ed, the bicycle rider, was doing a coast-to-coast ride to honor America's disabled vets. We exchanged greetings, stories, best wishes, and business cards. I gave him my card and invited him to stop in Springfield at our Post if his route brings him this way. I hope he takes me up on it. Very interesting guy. The road down Wolf Creek Pass was just as steep and twisty as the one going up but now we get a small shower from above. Didn't last long enough to justify pulling on the rain gear. At a stop just on the west side of the pass we stopped at a waterfall for pictures. A couple other bikes there had Missouri tags on and one guy was wearing a shirt from 'Cartoons' in Springfield. Talk about a small world. He was from right here and the other guy with him was from Greenfield in Dade County.

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draw a crowd on Tuesday evenings and we get to enjoy each others company.

Ron Jackson Let's ride, Safely, Asst. Dir. Ch. 9 ALR

Remember: Life may begin at 30, but it doesn't get real interesting until about 60 mph.

Ride Safe !!



LADIES AUXILIARY:

Thank-You Ladies!

There are not enough words to express how

much all of you are appreciated!!! This has been a really exceptional month of May!! We really pulled together and made it happen. A special thanks to Dorothy Howard for getting our ladies room painted!! A bunch of us have pulled together and it looks fantastic!!

We had our best year with Remembrance Day!

Thanks to everyone working hard and together!!

Special thanks to Sam and Al. We all had a great time.

Our Mt Vernon Vets were very happy when they were here and when they left they were thanking all of us! They were entertained and had an old fashioned picnic!! It was so much fun!! That was worth it all!! Come to this meeting to hear all the details!

Ladies, don't forget we will have our Mt Vernon Vets back for our Yearly Father's Day celebration. Thanks Peggy for helping us cook this year. As always the Garbonzo's will entertain us. We will have

them out on June 23rd at 11am that is a Saturday, Come join the fun.

This June meeting is our yearly elections please consider a position; still some to fill ; give me a call @ 881-7387 or call the post at 882-8639 if interested ,also please come vote and join our meeting. We would like to see the members and meet the new members; we are growing!!

Please take a moment to remember all of our men and women who serve and protect us each day.

Thanks a lot, Terri Chandler

Bar & Kitchen Report:

Whoa Nellie what a month to remember, especially the weekend of the 19th "If you didn't go... You wouldn't know" Lots of memories that will not be forgotten and tales that will be continued to be told. As Bob Hope would sing, "Thanks for The Memories"

I would like to take the time to thank all your bar staff that worked very hard



all weekend long to make sure all our members and guests felt welcomed.

The service they gave was outstanding, and to all you true blue members that didn't hesitate to pitch in and help us.

Our hats are off to you all!

The bar and kitchen continues to grow, with your support. Also, A great big Thank you for being a part of Post 639 Remembrance Day weekend.

See You Soon,

Joyce

Jamin' At The Post

Sunday Summer Sessions

Noon Till ?

Vietnam War Memorial Post 639
2660 S. Scenic

The Post will be offering it's outdoor stage, sound system and facilities, Sundays, thru the month of July, for Jamin' We will even throw in a little KARA-OKE just for you singers out there.

So, if you're new, or, have been around awhile, fee welcome to come out and have a good time with music.

Sign up in advance by calling 417 882-8639, or put your name on the list Sunday.

Every effort will be made to give all some time on stage.

The Post grounds will be open to all. Bring your family, bring your friends and plan on having a good time.

NO COVER.... BUT DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED...For the Buildings and Grounds Fund.

Weather Permitting, we will begin SUNDAY, July 1st and continue on the 8th 15th 22nd and the 29th

Thank you All, Commander Al Powers and all that the team that worked together to make May 19th 07 happen. A great Day to remember.

Thank you each and everyone of you that was at Post 639. Most of all the men and woman over seas You're forever In Our Prayers.

American legion Post 639 2007

Beverly Miller.



Our third night found us in Durango, Colorado. Finding rooms was just a bit more difficult but accommodations at Days End motel were comfortable and just across the street from the trolley stop. The only rain we encountered the entire trip was on our "lay-over" day in Durango on Tuesday. Six of us wanted to go to Mesa Verde to see the Indian ruins but just a short time out of town it started raining as we made our way up the mountain to the pass. About 10 miles out of town I called a halt and we discussed the situation. Consensus was to turn and go back. The weather was getting colder and one rider thought he saw sleet on his windshield. Back at the motel finally, we changed to dry clothes and with the rest of the group caught the trolley to downtown Durango. Of course the sun came out now and it was another spectacular day for the balance of it. We talked to a couple other riders that came in from the same direction we started to go and they reported snow flurries and BAD road conditions near Mesa Verde. Once again, "discretion is the better part of valor". Wednesday found us loaded up and headed for Silverton Colorado. The pass into Silverton took us up over 10,000' again only to descend to a little mining town at the end of the railroad tracks. There say at one time there were over 40 "play houses" in this town. Those miners had to spend their gold on something when they came to town. The towns people are still trying to separate visitors from their money, just not quite the same way now. We ate at a BBQ restaurant that claims "the best Bar-b-Que over 9000 feet". I almost found a new career there too. The ride from Silverton to Ouray was undoubtedly the most spectacular on the entire trip. Red Mountain pass tops out over 11,000' and then winds down into the town of Ouray. Several stops along the road led us to meet other bikers and exchange photography skills. We took theirs and they took ours. What a part of our Country to live in and ride often. Once we hit Ouray the high country was over for the day. The road into Montrose followed a river valley most of the way. Not quite as intense as the high country but beautiful none the less. That night found us in Montrose, Colorado. At Montrose we had to say good-by to a couple of our new friends from Phoenix. Ann and Keith headed towards Bryce Canyon park enroute home. They rode from home to visit Ken and Deanna Sandridge in Forsythe and to ride back west with us. I think we all enjoyed their company and look forward to seeing them again. Also at Montrose we lost Jack McKee from our band. He received word that his Father had passed away the night before and headed out on his own to make a blitz run back to Springfield. Our sympathies go out to Jack and his family. He called on Friday to let us know he made it home safely and to give us details on services.

Along the way Ken & Deanna decided to make a side trip to Crawford to see Joe Cocker's bar there. Should have done a little more research on it. They found out it has been closed for about 3 years. Nice ride anyhow. Enroute to Canon City we visited Black Canyon park. The view around the rim is amazing. The ride to the bottom of the canyon can only be described as 'intense'. The signs warned of 16% grades for about 8 miles. As luck would have it the road had just been re-paved. At the bottom we stopped and allowed the bikes to cool off a bit before starting back up. First gear was the order of the day going down, in order to not burn up our brakes. Second & third gear brought us back to the visitor center and to those of our group that didn't go down to the bottom.

One more pass to pull had us leaving the high country for the last time. Monarch Pass at over 11,300' was the "top" of our trip. Again we avoided the gathering rain clouds for a beautiful day.

After staying at Canon City overnight we lost Ken, Deanna, & Lowell Miller who wanted to practice for an Ironbutt Rally. They headed home alone and left 8 of the original 14 riders who started out still together. We visited Royal Gorge park for several hours and left for the "Flatlands", around 2pm. The rest of the ride was a bit anti-climatic after the intense scenery of the previous week but the smell of the feed lots in Kansas will stay with me for a while. Arriving back at our Post about noon on Sunday had us checking our individual mileages. Totals ran from 1900 miles to over 2100 miles.

Paul & Jeanine, OUTSTANDING JOB, of planning this run. Thank you for doing a great job. You can bet there will be a ton of pictures floating around our Post for a while to come.

Ron Jackson, Asst. Dir.

Chapter 9 ALR

Biker wisdom : A long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

O boy, has the weather finally gotten right for riding or what !! Our chapter has been taking full advantage of the GREAT weekends lately. On April 21 we had 11 bikes with 15 people headed for Van Buren for a great day ride. We picked up 2 more members at Seymour and Made our merry way to Carter County for lunch. The folks at the restaurant made us feel at home and fed us real well. After lunch we stopped at Big Spring Park. It's a pretty site with one of the largest springs in the country located there. Statistics escape me right now but suffice it to say it's a LOT of water. Made all the ladies want to make a pit stop before we left. While stopping in Willow Springs for fuel we had our only problem of this trip. Brother Jim got Brother Mike's clutch working again and Sister Dottie got to ride home in style. On George's GoldWing. Hey mike, when you get over the H-D thing, you might want to look to the East for a new

ride. Just a thought.

The next weekend found your chapter officers headed for Jeff City for yet another State ALR meeting. About 1/2 of the 15 chapters were represented as well as the "Department of Missouri". David Jenneman, the dept. Commander was giving us his "vision" of ALR in Missouri. Lets just say there is a difference in what we are willing to accept and his "vision". The good thing coming out of the meeting is we got to meet the in-coming State Commander Marvin Harper. He seems like a straight shooter and on the day before Remembrance day he will be at our post. Your officers are planning on meeting with him and discussing the situation between the "vision" and what we are willing to accept.

The next day found about 10 of us headed to Jasper Ark. for a funeral Our dinner rides continue to **LADIES**

AUXILIARY

We have a very busy month ahead!! 1st I'd like to say a

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to all the mom's, have a special day!!

REMEMBER WE HAVE A SPECIAL DAY, MAY 19th COMING UP REMEBRANCE DAY !!! WE WILL NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET !!! ALL OF YOU ARE INVITED TO WED. NIGHT MEETINGS @ 7PM. WE WILL HAVE MEETINGS EACH WEDNESDAY UNTIL MAY 19TH! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!! Thank You Sam McGowan for all you are doing! we appreciate it!!

Please attend the monthly meeting this May 1st. We have officer nominees with elections @ June 5th meeting. Please let Mary or Marlene know if interested in an office this year; contact the Post and leave a message. ALSO, if your interested in helping out for the Remembrance Day and can't make it to a meeting or wanting to set up a BOOTH that day, May 19th call the Post @ 882-8639 and leave a message for Terri; thanks a lot!!! We will be discussing our booth set up and all the activities with the Mt Vernon Vets and Kids for Remembrance Day, @ at this May Meeting. Ladies, if you can, bring a dessert that night and come for the meal @ 6pm. We all enjoy your company!!

Hey !! A Big Thank-You to all the Ladies, Men and Kids that came to and helped with the Easter Party. We had such a good time. Congratulations!! to the Bike Winners they are: Audrey Albanac, Cayden Harmon, Alyssia Hopper, Logan Phillips, Angela Modar and Devin Clark. Congrats to the Golden Egg winners; Darvin, Jacob, Dillion, Jared, Lanneashia, Shelby, Travis and Ricky!!

We had such a success, I know we can make another great day at the Remembrance day activities for our Kids and Families. We Love having all of you come to our