



# AMERICAN LEGION - POST 639 VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

## The Veterans Voice

January 2007

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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### Happy New Year !



On October 25, Vice Commander Gary Bockman and Historian Gene Beatty visited the school to discuss the Vietnam Era, Gene covering the work and conditions in an in-country Engineer Battalion and Gary discussing the stateside activities of an Airborne Combat Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg. Students had prepared lists of questions and a very interesting question and answer period followed the presentations.

tin visited Study Middle School to retire a damaged United States Flag and gave a short presentation concerning proper display, handling and maintenance of our country's flag.

We have a pending request from Teen Challenge of the Ozarks, the juvenile facility on Main Street, to present a class on proper display, handling and maintenance of our country's flag. Volunteers are needed to help with this project.

#### APPRECIATING AMERICAN VETERANS

is a special class that is being presented in the 2006 – 2007 school year at the Bailey Alternative School in the Springfield R-12 school district. Russ Stephenson, the teacher who developed and is teaching the class is seeking volunteer speakers to describe their experiences during military service. Classes meet Wednesdays from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. The first quarter of school covered the Vietnam War era and ends about the end of October. The 2d quarter will cover the Korean War era. The 3d quarter will cover the World War II era. The 4th quarter will cover the Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom eras.

Mr. Stephenson said that the more viewpoints presented, the better his students would understand life in the various periods of conflict. He and the students would greatly appreciate hearing from any or all of you who served during the conflict periods listed.

#### This is a time when veterans are popular – now is the time to enjoy working with the young future veterans.

You can sign up on a list at the bar in Post 639 or contact Gary Bockman at 877-0611 office, 827-1901 cell, or by email at [gjbockman@bockmanengineering.com](mailto:gjbockman@bockmanengineering.com). You can also contact Mr. Stephenson directly at 523-2706 or [rstephenson691@spsmail.org](mailto:rstephenson691@spsmail.org).



Branch of service, gender of veteran and whether they served in-country or stateside does not matter - the idea is to give the students a broad viewpoint of those time periods as they affected various people.

We have also had two other events at Springfield Middle Schools on October 9. Mel McNeal and Tom Newsom participated in the Cherokee Middle School Veteran's Day assembly, where Tom's presentation earned a standing ovation. Gary Bockman and Jack Mar-

**COMMANDERS MESSAGE**



I want to thank everyone for his or her help and support in making this another successful year. Your dedication is appreciated by all.

There are many that helped with the numerous amounts of projects throughout the year and it's because of you that we had a successful year. We can always utilize more volunteers from time to time, so let me know when you want to participate. Now as we look forward to 2007, let's be aware of the need for getting involved at **Post 639**. You don't need to keep a change of clothes here, just do whatever you can with your time and talents.

We have a big New Years Eve party planned for everyone. Lance Shockley and the Rockin L's will provide the entertainment, starting at 7:00. After the midnight celebration is over, we will be serving a Champagne breakfast, Biscuits and gravy, and eggs any way you like them scrambled, Courtesy of Past Commander Richardson. Also, for your protection we will have two designated drivers to get you home safely in the event you might over indulge.

A big thank you to the Ladies Auxilliary for always being there when you are needed the most. Without you it wouldn't be possible.

Our Toys For Tots party was good but not great like it has been in the past, thanks to old man winter. Even though the day was cold, and the roads slick, we had a big turn out. Because of the icy

roads the Motorcycles were quiet, except for one brave sole. Ron Jackson co-director of the American Legion riders came roaring in. Ron you have bragging rights for the entire year. Speaking of the ALR, a big Congratulations, to Mike Reiff for being elected 2007, ALR Director.

Thanks to Sam McGowan we had a wonderful band to listen to at the Toys For Tots party. The ARKAMO Rangers put on a great show, and everyone enjoyed them.

A big warm welcome to all our new members, Legionnaires, Auxilliary and SAL we're glad to have you, and thanks for selecting our post. We invite you to our upcoming events here at the post.

I want to say thanks to Gene Beatie for all of his hard work with the News Letter, Historian and Building and Grounds Committee. Gene has resigned as Editor of the Veterans' Voice.

Thanks again Gene, I'm sure there were many Veterans who received assistance from you.

I have appointed Jay D'Andrea as our new Editor and Historian.

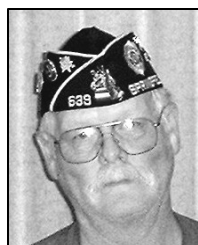
Please be careful traveling about this holiday season. I wish you the Merriest Christmas and Happiest New Year ever!

For God and Country

AL Powers, Commander



**ADJUTANTS REPORT**



New membership cards for 2007 are in. You can mail your dues in or drop them off at the Post. Special note; State dues for The Ameri-

can Legion Department of Missouri for Post 639 are now \$30.00 per year for 2007. So, by the time you are reading this newsletter it's too late to save the \$10.00 on your dues. I have been making this statement to the membership for the past six months. The New Bar Manager, Joyce Thompson, has been doing an outstanding job in making the Post a better place to come to and have fun with old friends and meet and make new friends. Thank YOU for a job well done.

Don't forget the New Years Eve Party. December 31, 2006



**CHAPLAINS MESSAGE**



Happy New Year! Ruth and I wish each of you a healthy and prosperous year. Last months newsletter was a way for me to let off steam.

Luann's picture has still not been returned, I will not say anything else about this.

December's 2006 calendar scheduled a ladies manicure night. Be sure to let your Chaplin know when you have a bikini wax night. Having a foot fetish I enjoy a good-looking pair of feet, touching, rubbing and massaging.

Ruth thinks I am a pervert. Kim Boler's mother passed away the last part of November, remember her in your thoughts and prayers. Sam McGowan slipped on the ice in our parking lot and broke his arm, bless his little heart. If you think your sphincter muscle is in the center of your body try wiping it with your other hand.

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



**Ladies Auxiliary**



Happy New Year Ladies!

What a great time; we can renew, re-start; and revitalize ourselves. I want to say a great big

THANK YOU to all of you! We had a great and productive year and none of it could have been done without the help of ALL OF YOU!! I'm excited for a new year. We had some great ideas at the meeting for projects in the next few months so come to our 1st meeting of the year, January 2, 2007 and share YOUR ideas.

The Ladies Auxiliary has 2007 calendars. We will have them in the display case along with other items, so please come out and visit and purchase a calendar for the new year.

We had a great Christmas kids party and thank you all again for helping, decorating, baking, buying, and being there. Thank you Santa and his elf, the kids loved you and so did the adults!!! I had the pleasure of going to Mt. Vernon to deliver the gifts and cookies. My husband and I got the tour and took a lot of pictures. What a great facility!!

If anyone has the time it is worth the trip to see the vets and what a great place they have.

Have a wonderful, blessed New Year!

President **Terri Chandler**

RE: Thanksgiving Dinner A Special thanks to Elva June, Mick & Dole for all their Good work in the kitchen, helping prepare the food. And Thanks to Bob Carroll for the Hams. You ladies did a fine Job preparing desserts Now after 8 years of fixing Thanksgiving Dinner, I am Stepping out so some

one else can have a chance to the dinner. Again thanks to all of you who helped over the years.

Tennessee

**Greetings from ALR Chapter 9**

We are nearing the end of our inaugural year and our chapter has prospered and made great strides. Chapter 9 now has over 60, that's right, sixty members and we continue to grow. Recruiting efforts have provided a number of new American Legion members as well as Sons of the American Legion and we continue to aggressively recruit eligible veterans for membership. We have become one of the largest and more active chapters statewide.

I am nearing the conclusion of my term as director. Elections were held at our November meeting and Mike Reiff will be installed as director, along with Ron Jackson, Assistant Director, Steve Skahan, Secretary, Dottie Reiff, Treasurer, and Paul Kennett, Ride Coordinator. I am confident under their leadership we will continue to prosper.

I would like to thank our 2006 officers, Ron Jackson, Dave Smith, and Dolores Williams for their dedication and sacrifices. With their help and the help of our charter members we were able to build a successful chapter, that is recognized as one of the strongest statewide. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Post 639 for their continued support and sponsorship.

This has been a great year and we look forward to a great 2007.

ALR Chapter 9 Director,  
**Harvey Williams**

**Bar & Kitchen**

Reflecting back before going forward. Your Post has had many changes in 2006, although I have not been here long, I realize that your Post is a lot like any other. We all want to be somewhere we see a smiling face, someone familiar. Might be your bar-

tender, your buddy that shows up around the same time everyday, heck ya might not even know their name. But, what you do know is when you walk in the door there is always good people to strike up a conversation with, have a drink with, share a joke or two with. Before you know it you are watching for Norm or Cliff to walk in. Everyone wants to go "Where everyone knows their name," Like Cheers, We've had the same faces behind the bar for over three months, Bobby, Shelia, Linda, Gretchen and me, Joyce. Us gals are seeing a lot of new faces on the other side. Thank you for your support. We have added a new girl, however not a new face to our Post, as she has worked here before. Mel is joining our team again. We are very excited that we are opening the Kitchen for lunch Monday thru Friday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Your Post will soon be known as the Best Hand Pattie Burger in Town.

Plan to come out and have lunch soon.

Also we had a nice turn out for our "Little Black Dress" wine tasting. Thank you Craig from Glazers and Gary for taking pictures, that will be hanging in the bar.

Now for January Blues.... Who says you can't vacation for an evening at your Post. Come to the Beach Party, in your attire, have a Pina Colada or Margaritas, and run your feet in the sand.

Looking forward to 2007. Hope your Holiday season is a Happy one.

God Bless, Grams to be,

Bar & Kitchen Manager **Joyce**

