



American Legion Post 639 (Vietnam War Memorial) Springfield, Missouri

SEPTEMBER 2022



REMEMBER

From the Commander ...



I can't believe it's already time for another newsletter, time sure flies. I hope this finds you all well. The new Post officers have begun settling into their new roles at our Post. And we are ready for whatever the next year holds for us.

I am proud to announce that in a little over 5 months, with hard work and generous donations, we were able to raise the funds to accomplish our goal of a new program-mable digital sign to replace our current one down by Scenic Ave. We are close to ordering our new digital sign to catch people's attention so they can come and enjoy Post 639 as much as we all do. We will finalize the plans during E-Board and report at General Meeting.

We have been drawing great crowds on Wednesday's for our Queen of Hearts (currently over \$16k) and for the best Bike Night in the Springfield. Our lunch crowd has been steady, if you haven't made it by for lunch yet M-F 11-2 you should. Our events slow down during the Winter so we need you stop by. Thank you.

Remember to pay your dues as soon as you can. Post 639 was awarded a certificate for 2022 we were the only Post in Missouri that made 100% membership. I am proud of all the hard work we have put in to make that happen.

Stop by anytime you can, meet our employees, volunteers and the best group of veterans around. Please remember to always be respectful to everyone while you are here. I am not only proud, but humbled to be involved with this organization. Stand tall, remember our fallen, fly your Flag and be a proud American.

Mike Goforth

Commander

Legion Post 639



Enjoy the new banner for the Shockley Stage !! Thanks to **Debrya Faria** for making this happen !!!!!

Post Adjutant



I posted this communication in August, but I feel it bears repeating this month. The Legion 2023 Dues Notices are causing a significant amount of confusion due to a printing error at the National level.

BE ADVISED, the “**Member Since**” field (shown below, right side, circled in **RED**), **erroneously** reflects 2022 for all recipients. Your **CORRECT** number of years as a Legion Member will show accurately on your 2023 Membership card.



AMERICAN LEGION POST MO 0639
2660 S SCENIC AVE
SPRINGFIELD MO 65807-3224

2023 DUES NOTICE

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| AMOUNT DUE | \$45.00 |
| PLEASE REPLY BY | August 5, 2022 |
| Member ID# | 202996664 |
| Member Since | 2022 |

28MO N1
AS OF: 05/20/2022 23-1A

Sorry for the confusion. **Thanks for being patient as we work through this.**

Tom Newsom

Post 639 Adjutant

Chaplain



During the month of August, we finally got either “a little” or “much” rain for some, thanks be to God !!

This month of September, we have one holiday, we hope cooler weather, and the leaves will start to

change.

The motorcycles will be out in force, so watch out for them. It could be a friend of yours and they could get in a bad accident.

As always, I keep the members of Post 639 in my prayers.

Post 639 Chaplain

Auxiliary



With the dog days of summer behind us, except for the temperatures, ALA is gearing up for fall and we are starting September off with our Fall Raffle Basket. The basket will be on display at the Post so watch for tickets to go on sale very soon.

Our 3rd Annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony and Spaghetti Dinner will be Friday, September 16th. Dinner will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and the Ceremony will follow. Watch for our flyers for more details. Our Ceremony is performed by members of ALA and their presentation is always from the heart. Join us as we honor those who served.

Mark your calendars for the District meeting on Sunday, September 11th at Kimberling City, meeting starts at 2:00 p.m.

General meeting on Tuesday, September 6th, ALA will open our meeting with the Undraping Ceremony of our Charter, in remembrance of our sister Gail Wright. We will also have a guest speaker from Upward Bound who will share information with us on their organization and how they are helping our veterans.

There are several events this month at the Post, during the weekends, which makes it a perfect time to join your Legion family and friends for a relaxing good time. Come out and support your Post.

ALA would like to take this opportunity to thank Officers and members of Post 639, SAL and ALR for all of your support. We can only hope that we are reciprocating the same support to you!

Thank you, ALA members, for all you do for your Unit, for your Post, for your brothers and sisters of SAL and ALR and your service to our veterans. You are, without a doubt, the backbone of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 639!

In Spirit of Service, not Self

Diana Cooperider

President, Post 639 Auxiliary

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion are looking for New and Past Members!

The Sons are made up of male descendants of Veterans who served in the US Armed Forces. Show your appreciation for your family members Service, and keep the memory of those brave Service members alive.

Our motto is "Serving Those Who Served" this great country. We do this through our events and volunteering at the LZ 639.

Annual dues are only \$25... and you get soooo much more out of your service to these brave vets, who fought to provide the freedoms each of us enjoy every day.

We are always interested in talking with individuals who want to help our beloved LZ 639. We meet at 7PM on the last Tuesday of each month.

Come out and sit in on a meeting or talk with a few of our members

Curtis Meyers, Commander

Sons of the American Legion



WE WANT YOU!



Service Officer



Below is the notice I posted in the August Newsletter. It bears repeating, as there are so many items listed here that could make a difference in someone's quality of life

We have quite a number of medical equipment items in inventory as listed below. These items are used but in good condition and we would be pleased to make them available to anyone who needs them in exchange for a SMALL donation to the post. If you are interested please contact Bob Scott at the email address listed in this newsletter.

- Canes
- Crutches
- Wheel Chairs (both electric and manual)
- Walkers (kneeling)
- Scooters
- Walking Boots
- Bath and Shower Chairs
- Toilet Support Arms
- Bedside Commode

Bob Scott

Post 639 Service Officer

Legion Riders Chapter 639



Hard to believe we can see the end of the 2022 riding season. The weather did its best to keep us down, but to no avail. WE HAVE BEEN BUSY !!. As usual, we've been flexible, creative, productive and generous in our support of the Post and our beloved veterans. It's what we do, and I'm so proud of our Chapter in the way we continue to deliver support consistent with our ongoing mission as Legion Riders.

August was Legion Riders month for the Post 639 50/50 drawing on Queen of Hearts Wednesday nights. With the jackpot just shy of \$17,000 as of 8/25/22, with 8/31 yet to go. With Bike Nights on two Wednesdays AND a Cigar night, business was BRISK for those tickets. We have donated our proceeds in August to Kathy Davis's Suicide Awareness/Prevention organization, in the amount of \$1046 as of 8/24, with 8/31 yet to go.

Several of our ALR/Post 639 members rode to Mt. Vernon Veterans Home to help Raymond "Bud" Clauson, US Navy veteran, celebrate his 100th Birthday on 8/7. "I was on the USS Neville for 2 1/2 years," Bud said. "We made four landings while I was on there." Bud said while deployed, he went to Sicily, Maccon Islands, Eniwetok Islands, and Saipan.

We salute you, Bud, Happy Birthday !! (pictures next page)

Happy 100th Birthday Raymond "Bud" Clauson, US Navy !!!!



Our dinner ride in August was to Wire Road Brewery in Battlefield. Awesome brew, awesome food !!!



After chowing down on Not'Cho Ordinary Tacos, we headed to the airport to welcome back the Ozarks Honor Flight veterans. They arrived back at about 10:30PM, but full of life after their visit to Washington DC.



Saturday August 27th was Kathy Davis's "Ride to Live" event. Left at 10:15AM to head to Ash Grove and Mama Loca's for lunch. Back to the Post for fellowship at 6PM. (See pictures on Page 6) ***You all continue to amaze me.***

Ride safe out there

Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639

Historian/Newsletter Editor

One of the historical remembrances this month is Gold Star Mothers' Day, celebrated on September 25, 2022 this year. This holiday (not a National Holiday) represents such a significant milestone in the lives of those families who display the Gold Star banner from their windows, I thought it would be appropriate to present an overview of what this day means to them, especially the Mothers.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. (AGSM), is a private nonprofit organization of American mothers who lost sons or daughters in service of the United States Armed Forces. It was originally formed in 1928 for mothers of those lost in World War I, and it holds a congressional charter under Title 36 § 211 of the United States Code. Its name came from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a service flag in the windows of their homes. The service flag had a star for each family member in the Armed Forces. Living servicemen were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives in combat were represented by a gold star. The **Gold Star Mothers** was founded by Grace Darling Seibold of Washington, D.C.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered, requesting assignment in aviation. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. Deployed to England, he was assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps with 148th Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France. He corresponded with his family regularly. His mother, Grace Darling Seibold, began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in the hospitals. When mail from George stopped Grace assumed the worst and wrote the Army for assistance finding her son. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son.

Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of ever reaching normalcy.

But on October 11, 1918, George's wife in Chicago received a box marked "Effects of deceased Officer 1st Lt. George Vaughn Seibold". The Seibolds also received a confirmation of George's death on November 4 through a family member in Paris. George's body was never identified.

Grace, convinced that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts not only to working in the hospital but also to supporting other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service. She organized a group consisting solely of these mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home. The organization was



named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran. After years of planning, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, D.C., on June 4, 1928, to establish the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. (from Wikipedia, Gold Star Mothers)

Bob Kalwat
Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor

September VSO Activities/Info

Give Vets Hope

August was a good time for our meetings regardless of the heat. We enjoyed lots of pizza, pop and even some dessert!



I have mentioned before about regarding each other and this is a pretty difficult thing sometimes. While someone else is talking usually we are trying to formulate what we want to say next rather than responding directly to what we are being told. The other day I shook hands with a purple heart recipient and something happened that was very unusual. He not only looked at me while we shook hands but he held my gaze for just a little bit longer than usual as if trying to see me as a person, rather than a fellow veteran trying to make some kind of casual acquaintance. Regarding someone like the cashier at the grocery store, the service station mechanic, or nurse at a doctors' office means waiting just awhile to look at them, looking at you eye-to-eye, person-to-person to make an important connection with them that can change your day or their's.

One of the things we practice in our group is not interrupting. This can be difficult, however it has big payoff because not only do you get to really hear what someone is saying the person you are conversing with knows that you will probably have something to say that's important in response.

Our GIVE VETS HOPE group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, at 5:30, at the VFW Post 3404, at 1136 E. Atlantic. Our next meetings will be September 13th and 27th. Everything is free and we offer this opportunity not just for veterans but for anyone that provides support for them. Spouses, sons, daughters, mother, father and support animals are all welcome. We are inclusive but don't offer child care, sorry.

If you would like more information about the GIVE VETS HOPE group please contact me at: davidsuits25@gmail.com or call and leave a message for me at 417-773-1837. Our Facebook page is: [givevetshope/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/givevetshope/). From this page you can access our website and learn more information.

Sincerely hope to see you there.

David Suits

AmVets Post 188

November is rapidly approaching. Please mark your calendars and plan on celebrating Veterans Day with us in Willard on Sat-

urday, November 5th.

Registration for the parade is now open. We would LOVE to continue to see 100+ entries like we have had since 2017. Many activities are planned in the park after the parade, such as a flag retirement ceremony, and a live band for entertainment until approx. 5PM.

As there is limited parking at the Community Center building, we are working with the City of Willard to plan sufficient parking for the park activities so we avoid any past issues.

Please pass the word. Let's have a massive turnout for this years' event to honor our Veterans. They deserve everything we can do for them !!!

Diana Johnson, Commander,

AMVETS Post 188

EST 2017

6TH ANNUAL WESTERN GREENE COUNTY VETERANS DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

11 AM PARADE - "HONORING WOMEN IN SERVICE" - CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS (WAAC)

1:30 PM - FLAG RETIREMENT AT JACKSON STREET PARK
11:30 AM-6:30 PM - VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION-JACKSON STREET PARK

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2022
REGISTER HERE: [HTTP://BIT.LY/WILLARDVETSPARADE](http://bit.ly/willardvetsparade)
STAGING/LINE UP: WILLARD HIGH SCHOOL @ 9 AM
QUESTIONS: CONTACT DOUG JOHNSON @ 573.934.0377

20TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY
WILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4: REGISTRATION 8:30 AM / ASSEMBLY 9:30 AM

3RD ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION
4TH ANNUAL VETERANS STAND DOWN
JACKSON STREET PARK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5: 11:30 AM - 6:30 PM
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED ARTISAN VENDORS, MUSIC, VETERAN SUPPORT GROUPS, AND MUCH MORE!



SPONSORS
AMVETS POST 188
CITY OF WILLARD
WILLARD SCHOOLS



"Ride to Live" Event, August 27th



Legion Post 639 General Meeting

August 2, 2022



Run to the Wall, Perryville, MO

September 16-17, 2022



From the Bar/Galley ...

Happy Hour at LZ639 :

12PM-2PM 7 Days a Week (.50 off)

6PM-8PM, Monday thru Saturday (.50 off)

Saturday Breakfast - Morning Chow @ LZ639

1st Saturday of the Month 8AM - 10AM

Your Saturday breakfast is made possible by the following 6AM crew - **Bob Dale, Dylan Dale, Mike Chandler with support and assistance of Scotty and Robin.** Breakfast served 8AM-10AM. Drinks separate charge. No charge for salt and pepper.

Tell your friends as it's only \$8 all you can eat. Please thank the people who give up their time to support this Post 639 benefit.

Thanks to all who supported the **August Breakfast** at the Post. It was a pleasure to see Post members coming together again. Thanks, Jeff, for stepping in and helping out. Jeff is a new member in ALR. Jeff and his wife like to volunteer and be apart of giving their time to help worthy causes. He's not afraid to peel a potato either.

The 6am Breakfast crew with this short message for you.

Skippy (got peanut butter)

Your 6AM Support Team



September 10, 2022 9AM - 5PM. Come out and support the Sam Biggs Foundation to aid in the fight against Childhood Cancer.



Chad Albert Owner
308 East Republic Road 417.882.7788
Springfield, MO 65807 ciguy@computerinnovations.net

computerinnovations.net

Veteran owned (US Navy)

Veteran recommended (Sgt. Ed Fox USMC, Post 639)

Average Weather in September for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *decrease* by 11°F, from 85°F to 74°F, rarely falling below 63°F or exceeding 94°F.

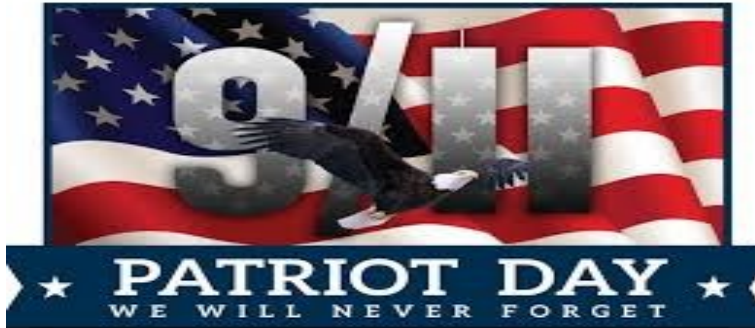
Daily low temperatures *decrease* by 11°F, from 65°F to 54°F, rarely falling below 42°F or exceeding 72°F.

Over the course of September in Springfield, the length of the day is *rapidly decreasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day decreases by 1 hour, 8 minutes, implying an average daily decrease of 2 minutes, 20 seconds, and weekly decrease of 16 minutes, 23 seconds.

The shortest day of the month is *September 30*, with 11 hours, 50 minutes of daylight and the longest day is *September 1*, with 12 hours, 58 minutes of daylight.



Japanese Official Surrender, September 2th, 1945



Patriot Day, September 11th



POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 16th



Air Force Birthday, September 18th



Gold Star Mothers' Day, September 25th

For the Good of the Legion ..

The Virtual Vietnam Wall - Faces of Freedom



FACES
of
FREEDOM

Main photograph index of those who died in the Vietnam War.

On The Virtual Wall, visitors may leave tributes, letters, poems, photos, and other memorials to someone named on The Wall for other visitors to view. The goal is to provide an environment like The Wall itself, with the dignity and respect those named on The Wall have earned. There are no flashy or noisy distractions, no commercials, no fee to publish a memorial, and no hand held out for donations.

On November 11, 2000 The Virtual Wall began the **Faces of Freedom** project to collect photographs of all those named on The Wall in Washington and use their photographs as a visual index that would lead to the detailed personal memorials of each person. Small photographs from Faces of Freedom are selected by a random process for display on the front page of The Virtual Wall.

On May 1, 2001 Ken added the **Current MIA Status** index, updated frequently and formatted for ease of use. Since opening in 1997, The Virtual Wall had received many inquiries about the status of particular men listed as Missing In Action (MIA), which changed frequently as remains were found. The most recent information was available on a government web site but in a form that was not easily readable by novice computer users.

Each name on the index pages of The Virtual Wall leads to a memorial for that person, a memorial written by someone who had a personal connection to the man or woman being remembered

On The Virtual Wall, faces of the fallen can make their memorial pages more personal. Clicking a photograph on these indexes will display that person's complete memorial page. Please also visit the thousands of personal memorials on The Virtual Wall which do not yet have photographs but may have poems, letters, and stories. All memorial pages can be found from the Last Name index, the State and City index, and the Wall Panel index pages.

On January 28, 2002 The Virtual Wall became an "Official Partner" in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Every six months, The Virtual Wall will donate a CD-ROM snapshot of the whole website of The Virtual Wall. This places all of the photographs, poems, letters, citations, and indexes into the history archives of our country, ensuring their safe keeping and availability for future generations.

"Faces of the Fallen" topic submitted by Scotty Kelly, Member, Post 639

Content taken from "www.VirtualWall.org Ltd."

Post 639 Schedule of Events September 2022

- September 2 Fri - VJ Day (Japanese Surrender)
- September 3 Sat - Post 639 Breakfast 8AM - 10AM
- September 6 Tue - Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- September 7 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-10PM
BIKE NIGHT/CIGAR NIGHT
Music - Justin Larkin
- September 8 Thu - Marine Corps League Mtg VFW 3404
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- September 10 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting 11AM
- Sam Biggs Bike Show/Poker Run 9AM
- September 11 Sun - Patriot Day
- September 13 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- September 14 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- September 16 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- Ride to the Wall, Perryville, MO
(Sept 16-17)
- Auxiliary POW/MIA Dinner/Ceremony
Dinner 6PM, Ceremony 7:30PM
- September 17 Sat - Rolling Nobles Car Show
- Masons Fish Fry
- September 18 Sun - Legion Riders Meeting, 5:00PM
- US Air Force Birthday
- September 20 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting 7PM
- September 21 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-10PM
BIKE NIGHT (Last one for 2022)
Music - Art Bentley
- September 22 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM
NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE
- Sept 23 (Fri)-24(Sat) - Post 639 Camping Weekend
- September 24 Sat - ALR Bill Maxheimer Memorial Ride
- September 25 Sun - Gold Star Mothers Day
- September 26 Mon - E-Board Meeting, 6:30PM
- September 27 Tue - SAL Meeting,, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- September 28 Wed - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-8 PM

Cigar Night @LZ639

Apr 13

May 11

June 8

July 6

Aug 17

Sep 14



“Just for Him” will be onsite for you to purchase and try a nice cigar. Live music scheduled, food/drink available.

★ BIKE NIGHT ★



@LZ639
EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAY
6:30 - 10



QUEEN
OF
HEARTS
CARD DRAW
EVERY
WEDNESDAY

FOOD
MUSIC
50/50 &
COOL PRIZE
RAFFLES



APRIL 20,
MAY 4 & 18,
JUNE 1, 15 & 28,
JULY 13 & 27,
AUGUST 10 & 24
SEPTEMBER 7 & 21

2660 S SCENIC,
SPRINGFIELD, MO



REMEMBER



Volunteer Opportunities at the Legion

As always, we have several volunteer opportunities for members and non-members. Currently, we are in need of someone with excellent administrative skills and the ability to see a task through to completion. This could mostly be done at home, but it will take some familiarization with how the business here operates.

As our buildings age, maintenance has become a growing concern. If you have any skills in any of the trades, or if you are a "Jack of ALL Trades", we could use your help. There are several projects pending.

At this time, we're always looking for those with cooking skills. Special events, cooking lunch on those days when we need a sub to fill in, etc. If you want to show off your culinary skills to the membership, please contact the Post and we'll get you set up.

If you're interested, please call 882-8639, or drop by. We'll contact you and match you up with an opportunity. **Volunteers are what allow Post 639 to function. YOU ARE NEEDED. Come work and fellowship with us !!!**



OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joshua Boley
Outreach Coordinator
Veterans Upward Bound

1001 East Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, Missouri 65802
www.otc.edu/vub

Office 417-447-7840
Fax 417-447-6925
bolej@otc.edu



A proud partner of the **american job center** network®

Ozark Region



Post 639 Lunch Menu 11AM-2PM, M-F

Burgers. Served with fries. Substitute Mushrooms or Onion Rings for \$1. Add bacon for \$1. Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Pickle on request.

- **Hamburger \$6**
- **Cheeseburger \$7**
- **BBQ Burger \$8.50**
- **Classic Cheeseburger with BBQ seasoning, and onion ring, and drizzled with BBQ sauce.**
- **Blue Burger \$8.50** - Classic hamburger with our special seasoning, topped with Bleu Cheese crumbles.
- **Brunch Burger \$8.50** - Classic cheeseburger topped with a fried egg and bacon.
- **The LZ639 \$8.50** - Classic cheeseburger with a garlic parmesan aioli and topped grilled onions.

"Smashed Sandwiches" Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1. Substitute chili or soup of the day for \$1.50.

- **Grilled Cheese \$6**
- **Hot Ham and Cheese \$6**
- **Reuben \$7**
- **BLT \$6**
- **Pepperoni Pizza \$7** - Toasted sandwich stuffed with Marinara, fresh-sliced Mozzarella and Pepperoni.

Upgraded Classics. Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1. Substitute chili or soup of the day for \$1.50

- **Pork Tenderloin Sandwich \$6**
- **Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$6** - Topped with Swiss cheese and bacon.
- **Garlic Parmesan Chicken Sandwich \$6** - Topped with Garlic Parmesan Aioli and bacon.

Soup \$3.50

- *Only one soup offered per day. Ask the Bartender for the soup of the day*

Chili \$3.50

- **Homemade by the Commander himself !!**

Soft Drinks \$2

Sprite/Diet Sprite Coke/Diet Coke Dr Pepper/Diet Dr Pepper
Unsweetened Tea Coffee

Money raised by the sale of Legion, ALR and Auxiliary merchandise is then used in their Veteran support activities. You are contributing directly when you purchase an item. Pay right at the bar !!

| American Legion | Price |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| American Legion Hats | \$15.00 |
| American Legion License Plate (Plain) | \$10.00 |
| American Legion License Plate | \$15.00 |
| Vietnam Memorial Wall Coin | \$10.00 |
| Vietnam Memorial Wall T-Shirt | \$15.00 |
| Ride For Life T-Shirt | \$20.00 |
| Christmas Par Tee | \$15.00 |
| RV Space Rental (Non-Veteran) | \$20.00 |
| RV Space Rental (Veteran) | \$10.00 |
| Legion Hall Rental | Variable |
| Legion Grounds Rental | Variable |

| American Legion Riders | Price |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ALR Auto License Plate | \$9.00 |
| ALR Auto Plate | \$11.00 |
| ALR Belt Buckle | \$30.00 |
| ALR Chapter Tapes | \$2.00 |
| ALR Decal 3" | \$3.50 |
| ALR Decal 6" | \$7.00 |
| ALR Decal 12" | \$8.00 |
| ALR Do-rag (Cotton) | \$13.00 |
| ALR Do-rag Logo (Poly/Cotton) | \$13.00 |
| ALR Do-rag (Navy or POW, Poly/Cotton) | \$13.00 |
| ALR Hats | \$20.00 |
| ALR Key Tag | \$3.00 |
| ALR Motorcycle License Plate Frame | \$8.00 |
| ALR Patch (Back - Large) | \$47.00 |
| ALR Patch - Medium | \$10.00 |
| ALR Patch - Mini | \$4.00 |
| ALR Pin | \$4.00 |
| ALR Support Our Troops Patch | \$3.00 |
| ALR Sweat Shirt | \$29.00 |
| ALR Hoodie | \$28.00 |
| ALR T-Shirt (Long Sleeve) | \$20.00 |
| ALR T-Shirt (Short Sleeve) | \$19.00 |
| ALR Windshield Decal | \$16.00 |
| ALR Zippo Lighter | \$23.00 |

| Auxiliary | Price |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Auxiliary Cook Books | \$1.00 |
| Auxiliary Hats | \$20.00 |
| Auxiliary Koozies | \$1.00 |
| Auxiliary Patches (Large) | \$8.00 |
| Auxiliary Patches (Small) | \$5.00 |
| Auxiliary Pins | \$6.00 |
| Auxiliary Necklaces | \$10.00 |
| Auxiliary Bracelets | \$5.00 |



ROONEY MCBRIDE & SMITH ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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1524 W. Walnut @ Kansas Expwy • Springfield, MO 65809



SEPTEMBER 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 LUNCH 11-2 | 2 LUNCH 11-2  | 3  BREAKFAST 8 - 10AM |
| 4 | 5 LUNCH 11-2 | 6 LUNCH 11-2  LEGION 639/AUX GEN MEETING 7PM | 7 LUNCH 11-2   BIKE/CIGAR NITE QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 10 PM | 8 LUNCH 11-2  MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MTG VFW 3404 FELLOWSHIP 6PM | 9 LUNCH 11-2 | 10  SUB VETS 11 AM  SAM BIGGS SHOW & RIDE 9AM-5PM |
| 11  PATRIOT DAY | 12 LUNCH 11-2 | 13 LUNCH 11-2  KOREAN WAR VETS MEETING 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM | 14 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS MUSIC-RICK LAMB 6 - 8 PM | 15 LUNCH 11-2 | 16 LUNCH 11-2  AUXILIARY POW/MIA — DINNER 6PM — CEREMONY 7:30PM RIDE TO THE WALL PERRYVILLE, MO | 17  RIDE TO THE WALL PERRYVILLE, MO |
| 18  ALR MTG - 5PM USAF BIRTHDAY | 19 LUNCH 11-2 | 20 LUNCH 11-2  AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM | 21 LUNCH 11-2   BIKE NIGHT QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 10 PM <u>LAST BIKE NIGHT OF 2022</u> | 22 LUNCH 11-2  FLEET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE | 23 LUNCH 11-2 | 24 |
| 25  GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY | 26 LUNCH 11-2  E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM | 27 LUNCH 11-2  SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM | 28 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM | 29 LUNCH 11-2 | 30 LUNCH 11-2 | |

Ongoing Suicide Prevention

EVERY month is Suicide Prevention month. Always be vigilant for your brothers/sisters that might need help.

Some signs of concerning behavior include:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

If you notice any signs of concerning behavior here are some things you can do:

- **Start a conversation:** Mention the signs that prompted you to talk to them. Stay calm and let the person know you want to help them. Don't leave the person alone.
- **Listen, express concern and reassure the individual:** Let the person know you care and that you take the situation seriously. Letting the person know you care will go a long way in establishing a support system.
- **Create a safety plan:** Ask the person if they have access to anything that could harm them and call for help if you feel the situation is dangerous.
- **Get the individual help:** Provide resources for the individual. **Call the Veteran's crisis line at 1(800)-273-8255.** Or if you feel the situation is severe, take the individual to the closest emergency room or call for help.



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The price is \$6.00 per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See Robin or one of the bartenders for additional information and to order.

The History of Vietnam War Memorial American Legion Post 639



What follows is the next in a series of articles that tell the story of American Legion Post 639, Vietnam War Memorial, told through the experiences of the original founders. Their experiences as Vietnam veterans form the basis of who we are today. Gary Harlan, Ron Snyder, Gary Turner, Art Stout, and Mike Chandler share their stories in the coming months. **First up - Gary Harlan, Charter Member, Commander 1983 - 1985.** Gary's essay that follows was written in 1993

May, June, July 2022 Issues - Gary Harlan's history

August 2022 Issue - Ron Snyder's history

This month - Art Stout's Interview. Art was a charter member of Post 639. This is his story

Art Stout's interview (Charter Member) – February 10, 2022

I was born in a little-bitty French town in Canada in 1953. Called "Beau Se Jour" in the province of Manitoba. My father was in the Army, and he was in Okinawa and Korea. And then when he came back after that, he was stationed up there in Canada at a radar post. And so that's why I was born up in Canada, so I had dual citizenship. I grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri as my home town, went to Elementary and Middle School. Then in 1965 when I was 12, my father died, had cancer. And that's when my mother moved us to Springfield, MO. That's where I went through High School – Central HS. Graduated in 1971.

I worked for a little while for Mono Manufacturing down there, working on the assembly line. And then I decided to join the Army in September 1972. So in order to join the Army, I had to renounce my Canadian citizenship and become a naturalized American citizen. I was at Ft. Leonard Wood for basic training. I got done with all of my training at Ft. Benning, AIT, specialized (electronics, comm equipment). My MOS was 31-Bravo 20, which was radio repair. Then I was in the 716th Military Police Battalion, at Ft. Riley, Kansas. I was in the Army until July of 1974. I was only at Ft. Leonard Wood, Ft. Benning and Ft. Riley while I was active. Then I got out with a Hardship

Discharge, because my mother had been raising 3 children by herself, and my little brother was giving her all kinds of trouble, in and out of jail. So she had to have me home to try and straighten him out.

As far as animosity I observed overall toward Vietnam/Vietnam Era veterans, very much so. A lot of guys coming out of the Army, our hair was very short, and everybody else's was pretty long. So as soon as people saw you, they knew that you were either in the military, or just got out. Whatever, you were still affiliated with the war. Lot of animosity with the dirty looks and so on. It was really hard to find a job – nobody wanted to give you help with anything, any help anywhere because they associated you with Vietnam in some way. That's pretty much the reason Post 639 came into being. Here's how I remember some of it all came together.

When I got out, I was used to running every day, because I ran, ran, ran while I was in the Army. Even after I got out I ran. I was running during the summertime, and I had been running by this bar called "The Green Beret" over on College Street. And I'd run by there every day, probably around the same time. And then one day, I decided to go in there and have a beer, 'cause I only had about 2 miles left on my run. Walked in there and walked to the bar, the guy (he turned out to be the bar owner, former Green Beret) said "Hey, how ya doin'" and all that good stuff. 'Course my hair was getting long by that time, and he said "hey, man, I've seen you run by here every day at the same time, how far do you run?" I told him 6, 7, 8 miles every day. He said, "Were you ever in the military, is that why you run?" I said, "Sure, that's it". And he said "Well let me ask you something, have you ever been down to the American Legion over there (west side toward Nixa, likely Post 676)?" and I said "Sure, I have". And he said "How did you get treated over there?" because he asked me what years I was in the Army, and I said "I got treated like DOGCRAP". I spent like 3 minutes in there, I ordered one beer, chugged it down and left. All the guys in there, they didn't speak, didn't have anything to do with me. Most of them were veterans that I had revered because of my father. They were my father's age – World War II, Korean vets. All because they associated me with Vietnam. Had to be, there was no other explanation. Except for my long hair, and they should have been used to that by now, around 1977 or so.

Then he said "Well let me ask you – what if a bunch of Vietnam Vets and yourself would start up a new American Legion, would you go and try that out? I've got a signup sheet here to start our own Chapter." And I said "SURE". And he gave me that piece of paper, and I looked at it and I said "Wait, there's no names on here yet". He said "No, you'll be the first one". He didn't want to sign it because he was a member of that Post that ignored me, and he didn't want them to know that he was the one that initiated this for some reason. I didn't know him, and I didn't ask. He had his reasons and I'm pretty sure what they were, but not going to say. Anyway, that's why my

name is the first one on the Charter Members list. And ALL because I ran by that bar every day.

Then the next day I came by and he said “Hey, me and three of the guys have signed their names under yours, and we’re gonna start meeting on Tuesday nights here at the bar (Green Beret Tavern) in the back. Would like to have you come”. I said “Sure!”. About every Tuesday, we went over there. First it was every Tuesday, then we kind of decided on once a month. We just basically became each others’ sounding boards on combat experiences – just letting it out. And that’s how the meetings started. We just drank beer and helped each other through it. Just sat around a table out back there and just talked about experiences to support each other. I was there mainly to just listen. I’d only been in the Army for a year and a half as a Spec 4, but I loved the guys that I was in with that were returning vets from ‘Nam, and I had listened to all of their stories when they came back, the MP’s from Saigon a lot, so I knew a little bit about some experiences before this, but of course I was never in country. But they pretty much treated me like one of them. The guys at the meetings were Tom (last name?), Bobby (Allen), Gary Turner and me. Tom was the more talkative one of the group. Said he had sent off all the paperwork to form a Chapter.

So I went to a few meetings, and like I said, jobs were really hard to find. And I had a half-brother that lived in Arkansas down by Fayetteville, told me to come down there and I could go to work where he was working. So I moved away in 1981. My sister stayed there in Springfield so she was there the whole time. But I worked down there at the Emerson Electric factory for a few years, met my wife, got married, had a couple of kids right quick, raised my family. Had a couple of different jobs for a while, and then in 1990 I started working at a carbide plant down there. Worked there for a couple of years, then I got into research and development department, and I kind of got back into electricity, doing something with my electronics background from the Army – finally. Started building electrical control panels for in-house machines, then they got me into the maintenance part of it, started working on machines for like 10-15 years as an electronics technician.

I would come up and see my sister and my mother, she still lived there too. I drove by the bar a few times, but I never went back in. And then in 2008, I retired and moved back up to Springfield to be closer to my sister because she also had cancer. Then her and my brother-in-law asked me “Have you ever been over to the American Legion Post?” I said “you mean the one over west?”, they said “No, there’s a new one – it’s a Vietnam Memorial Post.” I said “REALLY, it REALLY got to be?”. It really became a thing. So they took me over there. And they said, “You know your name is on a plaque over there.” NO, I didn’t know that. That’s my claim to fame. And I was moving back up there, so that’s when I started going pretty regular and getting to know everybody. So that’s pretty much my story. Had I not needed to get out with a hardship discharge, I

believe I would have stayed in the Army, because I really enjoyed it. I was only in for a year and a half, but I was already an E-4, had been for about 6 months. They were wanting me to take the E-5 Sergeant’s test. I was already in the slot, because I was like the NCIOC of all the Battalion communications equipment – radios, etc. They didn’t have anybody else to do it – nobody else had the clearance work on radios. I was the CO’s right-hand man when it came to commo stuff. He was actually an ex-HUEY pilot in Vietnam when he came back. He told me “Stout, I wish I’d had 3 or 4 of you when I was over there”.

And I joined the Legion Riders, and that’s where me and Ron Jackson got to be good brothers. He’s the best, man. I was the Director there for a bit. But he’s the best brother a man could want. It was an honor to be Director for a period.

Last time I was up to Springfield was 2015 when the Traveling Wall came through. Moved to Memphis in 2012 to take care of my wife’s mother, she had Alzheimer’s. That’s when I started working part time in security, then armed security. Then when my mother-in-law died, that’s when we decided to come down here to the coast. That lasted for about 5 months and I said “Look, I’m going stir-crazy, I gotta find something to do” so I went back to working security again. We now live in Long Beach, Mississippi just outside of Gulf Port.

I really enjoyed my time at the Post, never spent a bad day there at all.

October - Gary Turner (Charter Member, former Commander)

History in September

September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.

September 1, 1983 - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 100 miles off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.

September 2, 1864 - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherrnan’s Army. “Atlanta is ours, and fairly won,” General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.

September 2, 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.

September 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on

Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier

September 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network

September 4, 1609 - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson

September 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

September 6, 1757 - Marquis de Lafayette was born in Chavaniac, France (as Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier). He came to America in 1777 to volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.

September 7, 1940 - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.

September 7, 1533 - Queen Elizabeth I was born in Greenwich Palace. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne in 1558 at age 25. During her reign, Britain became a world power by defeating the Spanish Armada. The Anglican Church was also fully established.

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.

September 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians

September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

September 9, 1943 - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.

September 10, 1943 - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then

crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was also diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overpower the terrorists on board.

September 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a re-unified Germany.

September 13, 1814 - The Battle of Fort Henry in Baltimore Harbor occurred, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship. He watched the British attack overnight and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort, inspiring him to write the verses which were later coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song and became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

September 14, 1741 - Composer George Frederick Handel finished *Messiah* after working on it nonstop for 23 days.

September 14, 1901 - Eight days after being shot, President William McKinley died from wounds suffered during an assassination attempt in Buffalo, New York. He was succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt.

September 14, 1930 - The Nazi Party became the second largest party in Germany following a stunning election triumph by Adolf Hitler.

September 15, 1776 - British forces under General William Howe captured New York during the American Revolution.

September 16, 1620 - The *Mayflower* ship departed from England, bound for America with 102 passengers and a small crew. The ship weathered dangerous Atlantic storms and reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21st. The Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth on December 26th.

September 17, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegates from twelve states voted unanimously to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution.

September 17, 1862 - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history occurred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate ar-

mies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.

September 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service

September 19, 1676 - Jamestown, Virginia, was attacked and burned during a rebellion led by Nathaniel Bacon against the Royal Governor, Sir William Berkeley.

September 20, 1873 - The New York Stock Exchange was forced to close for the first time in its history as a result of a banking crisis during the financial Panic of 1873.

September 22, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* appeared in Boston, Massachusetts. However, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression.

September 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.

September 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

September 26, 1898 - Composer George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including *The Man I Love*, *Strike Up the Band*, *I Got Rhythm* and the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.

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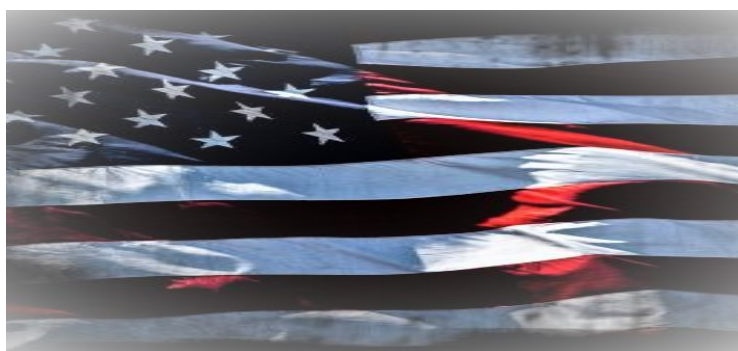
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Vietnam War Memorial
American Legion Post 639
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www.americanlegionpost639.org

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