

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

NOVEMBER 2022



REMEMBER

From the Commander ...



Happy November everyone. As we approach the holidays, I hope everyone has a plan to visit with and spend time with your families. And let's not forget the Post 639 Thanksgiving meal. We will need volunteers to cook and serve our family. So please let us know if you can help. Thank you.

I want everyone to know how proud I am of our employees and volunteers' hard work and dedication to our Post. There is no way we could make it without them. I can't name them all but anyone who attends our meals and events **know** who they are. Please thank them when you have an opportunity.

A few months back in my article I wrote about how we as officers, members, volunteers and friends need to promote positivity, not only at Post 639, but promote positive things about 639 while out in the community. It's easier and just human instinct to point out mistakes and have conversations about issues, and the word always gets back to me by emails, phone calls and in-person meetings. It definitely hurts and makes us, as a group, look divided. I know I have made mistakes in the roll of Commander, I've been roughed up and knocked down. But no matter what, I've owned it, gotten up, dusted off, apologized and worked even harder to do better in the future.

I recently had a member come to me and tell me they weren't going to renew their membership. Of course I asked why, and their reason was the incident at the Q of H back in September. It was an awkward conversation, I made the attempt to talk them out of it but they had made up their mind. I feel like I did what I could do. Post 639 is a family - my family. I didn't sleep much that night thinking about that conversation. But after pondering it, I came to the conclusion that things happen for a reason, maybe their needs can be better taken care of at another VSO. I'm pretty sure there is no one that hasn't made a mistake in their life. We are supposed to use mistakes as a lesson and move forward to better things, and not to make that same mistake again. I feel we did that. So moving on.

Be sure to check the calendar for our upcoming events. Stand strong, do something good for a stranger, pray for our troops and may God Bless America and Post 639.

Mike Goforth

Commander, Legion Post 639

Chaplain



Veteran's month is coming. Time to remember the one's that have gone before us, and the one's that are still with us.

Thank a veteran when you see and meet one, and help him when you can in spirit.

Thanks to all veterans past and present.

All for now as always the post and its members are in my prayers.

Rex Krasche

Post 639 Chaplain

Auxiliary



Chaplain Tammi Grantham, who is our Community Services/Veteran Affairs Coordinator, arranged for us to have two guest speakers at our October general meeting. Leah Houchin from Treehouse Vet and Mike Brown from K9 for Camo gave presentations on their organizations.

Treehouse Vet empowers America's Heroes with mental health resources and the great outdoors. They are currently working on creating a 24-hour contact network for veterans. If you would like to help this new and upcoming organization, they are in need of food items which they prepare for the veterans during their events, such as fishing and hunting trips and much more.

Mike Brown from K9 for Camo explained the mission of their organization which places trained service dogs with veterans. Dan Holman and his service dog, Nikko, were also present. Dan explained his relationship with Nikko and the important role that Nikko plays in Dan's everyday life. K9 for Camo is in need of foster homes for their service dogs before they are placed with their veterans.

We thank both of these organizations for the educational experience we received during their presentations. If anyone needs contact information about these groups, please reach out to me.

Our Children's Halloween Party which was Saturday, October 15th, was blessed with approximately 40 kids. Chaplain Tammi Grantham was instrumental in obtaining donated pumpkins from Hy-Vee on E. Sunshine Street. The kids enjoyed an afternoon of pumpkin decorating, games, snacks, including home-made themed decorated cookies by Kayla Ortega and of course, they all received candy. We would like to thank Manager Kyle A. and staff, from Hy-Vee, for their generous donation of pumpkins and a big shout out to Tammi and Frank Grantham for delivering them to the event. Also, we are grateful for the volunteers for the event, ALA members: Susan Heppard, Event Co-Coordinator, Hallie Scott, Sherry Hawk, Kayla Ortega, Linda Tenneson, Connie Austin, Tammi Grantham and Terra Cooperider, Event Coordinator. We are also grateful for the assistance we received from SAL members:

Commander Curtis Meyers, Frank Grantham and Noel Heppard.

Saturday, November 5th is the Western Greene County Veterans Day Parade in Willard. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. Anyone who has registered for the parade or is a participant with an organization needs to be at the Willard High School for parade line-up at 9:00 a.m. They are asking for groups to assemble

offsite and arrive at the school, together, for staging. ALA/SAL will have our float in the parade. Watch for more details on where we will meet, offsite, to assemble before heading to the High School for staging.

Our annual Paddle Party will be Saturday, November 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This year we are featuring a new twist by partnering up with SAL to include a Meat Raffle. This will be a fun-filled afternoon with vendors, food, swag bag, giveaways and shopping. It will be a great time to do some early Christmas shopping for family and friends with the vendors who will be there and you will have plenty of time to check their booths out to find something for him and her this year. Kim Goforth is our Paddle Party/Meat Raffle Coordinator and she is going all out this year. You will not be disappointed! This event is open to the public and for further details, see our flyer on **page 7** of this newsletter.

I would like to give a Special THANK YOU to ALR Director and ALA member Marsha Crom for preparing a delicious meal of Chicken and Dumplings on Wednesday, October 5th for the Queen of Hearts event and to ALA Member-at-Large Lindy Dobbs for providing assistance with the food service. Nice job ladies!

Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends. It's a time for remembering to appreciate our blessings. This year, while you are surrounded by family and friends, I ask you to remember those who served our country, and those who cannot be with their families or friends. Pray for them and be grateful for them as they have BLESSED you with your freedom.

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.

WE WANT YOU!



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

Curtis Meyers, Commander

Sons of the American Legion

Service Officer



EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

If you need emergency medical or mental health care the VA encourages you to seek help without delay. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency facility. In most instances you are able to receive VA authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergency within 72 hours of the start of care.

It is important that your visit to a community facility be reported to VA as soon as possible in order to coordinate and pay for the care.

Step 1 - Inform your provider to report your emergency treatment by calling 844-724-7842 (In most cases they will already know the phone number.)

Step 2 - The provider also needs to contact the local VA medical center to coordinate follow-on care and transfer activities, if necessary.

Step 3 - The Veteran, or someone acting on the Veteran's behalf, should check to see the notification has taken place.

Bob Scott

Post 639 Service Officer

Legion Riders Chapter 639



November already. How can that be possible? Time for some cold weather riding for those among us who are diehards (As many of us are !!!)

Ron and I have been on vacation out west for the last half of October, and we'll be back the 2nd week of November. So much is going on, and we've missed being part of it all. But I'm comforted in knowing our team handles everything smoothly and thoroughly. You all are rock stars.

Our ALR Chapter, along with Post 639, Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, is teaming up with VFW 3404 to collect cold-weather gear for homeless Veterans from October 25th December 3rd. **SERVICEABLE** Coats, jackets, gloves, scarves can be donated at the Post 639 in the drop boxes provided. All donations will be given to The Kitchen, Inc for distribution to the homeless Veteran community. **See the flyer on Page 6.**

Per Chuck Duff - if you are a deer hunter, consider donating your deer hides to the Elks Club. Hides are put through an extensive process to convert them into gloves for veterans in

Historian/Newsletter Editor

wheelchairs. If you harvest a deer, prepare the hide for donation by salting it, rolling it up, putting it in a plastic bag and freezing it. Contact Chuck, and he will get it to the Elks Lodge to start the process.

Thanks to **RON JACKSON** for securing new fryers **AND** a new pizza oven for the Post !!!! The old fryers were old when we got them from a fast-food restaurant. THANKS RON !

We pulled a repeat of our August Honor Flight schedule on 10/25 - Dinner ride at Missouri Mike's, moving over to the Airport to welcome these veterans home after a VERY long day. Only difference this time is that our own Nolan Moody was among the group. **See pictures on Page 5, bottom.**



At the General Meeting on November 1st, we will once again fulfill one of our key objectives - support to the community. Earlier in October, we were contacted by an ALR member, Victor Pavano, from ALR Chapter 234 in Souderton, PA about joining them in support of a firefighter in Nixa - Chris Haring. Victor and Chris's Dad were Marines together during active duty. Chris and his family (wife and 9-year old daughter) lost their home and all their belongings recently to a fire. Post 639 and 639 Legion Riders embraced the opportunity, and as a result, Chris and his family will be at our November 1st General Meeting to receive the combined support from the ALR 234, ALR 639 and Legion Post 639. Teamwork on a national level - it doesn't get any better.

Please consider attending the 6th Annual Ruck 'N Run in Republic on November 12th to support Kathy and Bob Davis as they remember their son, U.S. Marine Kindall Davis. Kindall is honored at the 2.2 mile marker. Come and stand with them in support. **See the flyer on Page 6.**

Toys for Tots on December 4th is fast approaching. **(Flyer is on Page 6)** Make plans now to ride. This year's effort has an additional related event, - the Elks Lodge is hosting a Kick-off fundraiser celebration on November 27th. **(See the flyer on Page 10)**. The Wings of Swing Big Band will perform a Christmas concert from 4-6PM. Our 639 ALR Chapter Secretary, Bob Kalwat, performs with this band. Come out and start your Holiday Season off with a BANG !!

We enjoyed our time away, but it will be great to get back and get in the flow again. Missed you all !!!!!!!!

Ride safe out there

Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639



November is the anniversary for the **American Legion Auxiliary**. Their history below is taken from their website - legion-aux.org

Founded in 1919, The American Legion Auxiliary's mission is to support The American Legion, and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

A Legacy of Service Not Self is Born

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I were asked to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans, which we know today as The American Legion.

The original purpose of The Legion was to "preserve the memories and incidence of our association in the great war," helping those who had served in foreign wars to reintegrate into their hometowns while still remaining connected to those with whom they had served abroad.

The Legion served as a support group, a social club and an extended family for former servicemen. After two planning caucuses held by a committee of officers who had the confidence and respect of their military comrades, they designed a constitution to govern the group and set up headquarters in New York City to begin work on its programs of relief, employment and Americanism.

After the formation of The American Legion, a number of women's organizations wanted to become the official affiliation of The American Legion. The women who had served so faithfully during the trying days of the war wanted to continue to serve.

After careful consideration, the committee agreed that a new organization should be made up of the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion, and that these women would serve with the Legion, in peace as they had in war.

The committee decided to build a new organization from the ground up, so the Auxiliary could then carry forward the phases of Legion activities more suitably performed by women.

In less than one year, 1,342 local units of the Women's Auxiliary to The American Legion had been organized in more than 45 states.

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

I am **EXTREMELY** proud of our Auxiliary. We would not be who we are without them. They love serving our Post, its members, and anyone who walks through the front door. They are some of the hardest-working folks you'll find anywhere. Please, take time to say thanks to these all-stars whenever you get a chance, and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUXILIARY !!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Kalwat

Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor

August VSO Activities/Info

Give Vets Hope

It's hard to believe it's already October! I hope you are all well and staying healthy. Our group has been going strong and we have had some new members this month. Although I was absent from the previous meeting, I was informed that they had a great group.

Speaking of this, Give Vets Hope will be included in the Veterans Stand Down event this year. This will be held at the VFW Post 3404 on 1136 E Atlantic from 10:00am to 4:00pm. I'm excited that our group is participating this year along with other organizations to help other veterans utilize resources within the community. **See the flyer and further detail at the end of this article.**

Our next group will be November 8th, 2022 at VFW Post 3404 on 1136 E Atlantic from 5:30 to 7:00pm. If you need any further information, please contact David Suits at 417-773-1837. Pizza and soda will be provided. We do apologize but we do not provide childcare at this time. Service animals are welcome!

In closing, I am so grateful to have this group and be able to provide a safe environment for veterans to be heard and listened to, along with becoming great listeners for their peers. I want to end this with a quote that I found about listening and it's from Calvin Coolidge, "It takes a great man to be a good listener."

We have great men and women in our Give Vets Hope group that are all great supporters and listeners! Stay safe and healthy and we hope to see you all soon. Have a great month!"

Holly Butler

Founder/Co-facilitator

Veteran Stand Down

A Veteran Stand Down event is being held on November 23rd from 10:00am – 4:00pm at VFW Post 3404 in Springfield (1136 E Atlantic Street). We are seeking volunteers for the day of the event. You or your group are welcome to volunteer for the

entire duration, or for any amount of time you can spare the day of the event. It is the hope of the planning committee to serve a minimum of 100 veterans on this day. Without your support this isn't possible!

This one-day event will allow veterans to learn about resources and services available to them in their communities. Veterans will have access to services such as homeless outreach, training and employment, counseling, housing, and other community resources like health screenings, vaccinations, legal services, food pantries, and more. Before the veteran leaves they will be offered a backpack, cold weather clothing, and food items to supplement a Thanksgiving meal.

This event is being organized in partnership with VFW Post 3404, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, The Kitchen, Veterans Administration, and Ozark Technical Community College.

To confirm your participation at the Stand Down event, please contact Stephanie Arterberry at either 417-444-3261 or sarterberry@ccsomo.org. Please confirm your participation no later than November 1st. Thank

Ozarks Honor Flight Welcome Back

October 25th, 2022



Post 639 Kid's Halloween Party

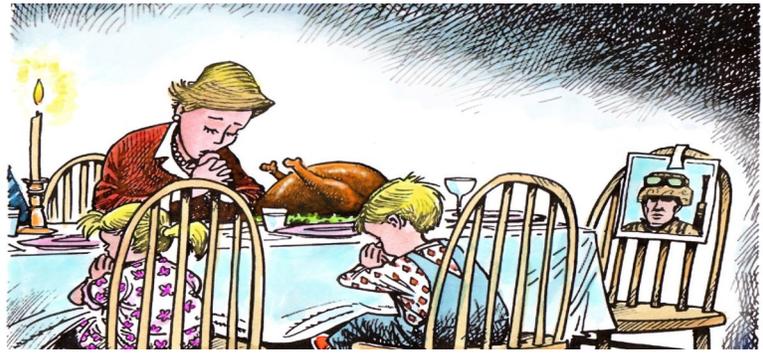
October 15th, 2022



Skylar Clark's visit in his mission to meet 5500 Veterans, October 20th, 2022



Remember the Deployed on Thanksgiving



WANTED

Winter Coats

For Homeless Veterans



October 25th - December 3rd

Have an extra coat, jacket, hat, gloves or scarf in your closet you haven't worn in a while and can spare? There's a homeless Veteran in our community who could use these items for warmth this winter. **American Legion Post 639, 639 Auxiliary, 639 Legion Riders, 639 Sons of the American Legion and VFW Post 3404** are combining forces with The Kitchen, Inc. Springfield, whose mission is to serve the homeless in our community. Drop boxes for your donations will be available at Legion Post 639 and VFW Post 3404. Collected items will be transferred to The Kitchen, Inc. for distribution to the homeless.

BE GENEROUS. THE NEED IS GREAT.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A HOMELESS VETERAN'S LIFE





**Springfield
Marine Corps Reserve**




**42nd Annual
MOTORCYCLE RIDE**

CORWIN FORD TO OASIS CONVENTION CENTER

12/04/2022

RAIN OR SHINE

There is no rain date.

Run will leave from Corwin from Ford, 3241 S. Glenstone at 2:00p.m. on Sunday December 4th and travel North to Oasis Convention Center 2546 N. Glenstone. Bring a new unwrapped toy for donation. This event is open to all motorcycles and all riders. The ride will take place rain, snow or shine.

Bob & Ike's Parking Lot Party

Bike Show Event / Winners

1st - Katherine Morrow Robinson

2nd - Jason Garrison

3rd - Teddy Fleck

Military, Shriners & Emergency Responders Admitted FREE

\$15 TICKET

Bob & Ike's
WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD
Parking Lot Party Benefit

BOB & IKE'S
 EST. 2015
 NEIGHBORHOOD BBQ

OCT. 9TH
 1946 S Glenstone
 12pm to 9pm

VINO ALAN
 THE RIVERSIDE BAND
PHAT MIKE AND THE BARTENDERS

**DJ | AXE THROWING | PICKLEBALL | CORNHOLE
 BIKE SHOW | BUDWEISER TRUCK | DRINK SPECIALS
 FOOD TRUCK | 50/50 RAFFLE | GIVEAWAYS**

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT: SHRINERS AND THROUGH COURTNEY'S EYES

SPONSORS: SHRINERS, WHOLE HOG CAFE, BLUE ICE VODKA, TWISTED TEA, AMERICAN LEGION POST 639,
 US FOODS, BREAKTHROUGH BEVERAGES, BUDWEISER, SOUTHERN GLAZER'S WINE AND SPIRITS
 WHOLE HOG CAFE WILL HAVE THE SMOKER ONSITE HANDING OUT SAMPLES.

PADDLE PARTY AND MEAT RAFFLE

Annual ALA Paddle Party

Featuring a bonus
 Son's Meat Raffle.

NOV 19TH 3-7
AMERICAN LEGION
POST639
2660 S SCENIC
SPRINGFIELD, MO.65802

We get to paddle
 some meat.! Wait...
 what?



VENDORS
FOOD
SHOPPING
SWAG BAG
GIVEAWAYS
ENTERTAINMENT
FOR EVERYONE.



Vietnam Vet Radio



The Music You Remember and The Respect You Earned

VIETNAM VET RADIO (vietnamvetradio.org)
 8181 S 4230 RD
 Chelsea, OK 74016

Contact: Bennie P. Blount
 SFC, US Army, Retired
 Chu Lai 1969, Long Binh 1970, Vung Tau 1971-72

8TH ANNUAL RUCK 'N' RUN WALK/RUN

NOVEMBER 12
 REPUBLIC, MO

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

SFC JOSEPH JAMES
 (U.S. ARMY, RETIRED)

- ★ 4X COMBAT DISABLED VETERAN
- ★ BRONZE STAR & PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT
- ★ VETERAN ADVOCATE
- ★ ADAPTIVE ATHLETE
- ★ ENTREPRENEUR



RUCKNRUN.ORG

VVR Program Schedule

Starts Sunday 30 October

Monday-Friday

- 0700 VVR From The Central Command Studio w/Bennie Blount
- 0900 VVR From The Southwest Illinois Studio w/Stan Maroon
- 1100 VVR From The Battalion Aid Bunker w/"Doc" Gardner
- 1300 VVR From The Springfield, Missouri Studio w/Jim Cooper
- 1500 VVR From The Belle Studio w/Peter J Sammon
- 1700 VVR From The Heart Of Dixie w/John Pruett

Evening Programs at 1900 Hrs

- Mon Country Classics w/Bennie and Delight
- Tue Stateside Countdown w/Peter J Sammon
- Wed Malt Shop Memories w/Bennie and Delight
- Thu Soul City Soul w/John Pruett
- Fri Party Time w/Jim Cooper

Saturday

- 1000 Saturday Stateside Countdown w/Peter J Sammon
- 1900 Motown w/"Doc" Gardner

Sunday

- 0800 Sunday Morning Praise 1900 VVR Chapel



United States Marine Corps Birthday - November 10th



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.

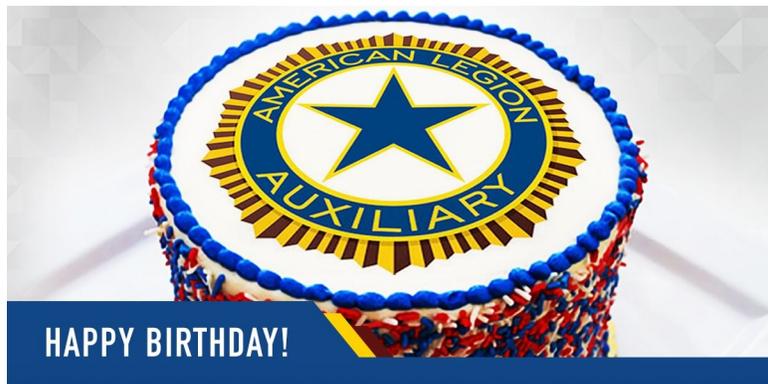


Tell your friends as it's only \$8 all you can eat. Please thank the people who give up their time to support this Post 639 benefit.

Thanks to all who supported the **October Breakfast** at the Post.

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

Jim "Skippy" Cooper (got peanut butter)



American Legion Auxiliary Birthday - November 10th



Veterans Day - November 11th



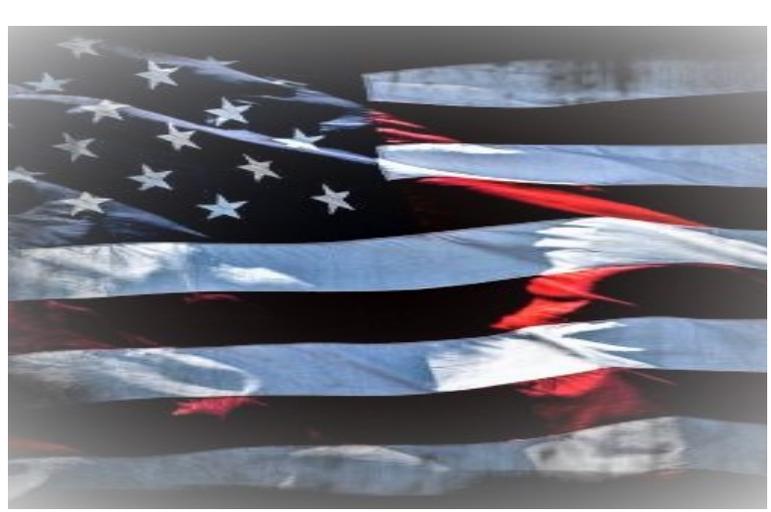
Armistice Day - November 11th



Post 639 Schedule of Events

November 2022

- November 1 Tue - Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- November 2 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- November 4 Sun - Daylight Saving Time Ends
- November 5 Sat - Post 639 Breakfast 8AM - 10AM
- November 6 Sun - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
- November 8 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- November 9 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- November 10 Thu - US Marine Corps Birthday
- Legion Auxiliary Birthday
- Marine Corps League Mtg VFW 3404
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- November 11 Fri - Armistice Day
- Veterans Day
- November 12 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting 11AM
- November 15 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting 7PM
- November 16 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- November 17 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM
- November 18 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- November 20 Sun - Legion Riders Meeting, 5:00PM
- November 22 Tue - SAL Meeting,, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- November 23 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- November 24 Thu - THANKSGIVING
- November 28 Mon - Post 639 E-Board Meeting 6:30PM



The Salvation Army is putting together the schedule for Bell Ringers for the coming season. The need is so great that ringing at certain locations will start as early as November 4th. **Sign up online at registertoring.com, or call the Point of Contact, Brook Mathews at 417-862-5509.**

Average Weather in November for Springfield

Daily high temperatures **decrease** by 12°F, from 63°F to 51°F, rarely falling below 37°F or exceeding 75°F.

Daily low temperatures **decrease** by 10°F, from 44°F to 34°F, rarely falling below 20°F or exceeding 57°F.

Over the course of November in Springfield, the length of the day is **decreasing**. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day decreases by 49 minutes, implying an average daily decrease of 1 minute, 41 seconds, and weekly decrease of 11 minutes, 48 seconds.

The shortest day of the month is November 30, with 9 hours, 49 minutes of daylight and the longest day is November 1, with 10 hours, 38 minutes of daylight.

Daylight saving time (DST) ends at 1:00 AM on November 6, 2022, shifting sunrise and sunset to be an hour earlier.

The average sliding 31-day snowfall during November in Springfield is **increasing**, starting the month at 0.2 inches, when it rarely exceeds 0.6 inches or falls below -0.0 inches, and ending the month at 2.3 inches, when it rarely exceeds 8.1 inches or falls below -0.0 inches.



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-5:00PM - VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION-JACKSON STREET PARK

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 31, 2022

REGISTER HERE: [HTTP://BIT.LY/WILLARDVETSPARADE](http://bit.ly/willardvetparade)

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 - 5:00 PM
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED ARTISAN VENDORS,
MUSIC, VETERAN SUPPORT GROUPS, AND
MUCH MORE!



SPONSORS

AMVETS POST 188
CITY OF WILLARD
WILLARD SCHOOLS



9/28/22, 5:48 PM

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<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox?projector=1>

1/1

Elks Lodge #409 & the United States Marine Corps present...

Toys for Tots Benefit Fundraiser.

A Christmas Concert, featuring

"The Wings of Swing Big Band"

Donations encouraged * Open to the public

Colors presented by the United States Marine Corps

100% of the donations going to area

Children for Christmas Gifts

Sunday November 27th, 2022,

4:00pm to 6:00pm

2223 E. Bennett St. Springfield, Mo.



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 !!!**

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 with choice of cheese, topped with a fried egg and bacon.**
- **The LZ639 \$8.50 - Classic with a choice of cheese, garlic parmesan aioli and topped with grilled onions.**

"Smashed Sandwiches" Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Grilled Cheese \$6**
- **Hot Ham and Cheese \$6.50**
- **Reuben \$7.50 - Corned Beef, Sauerkraut, Swiss Cheese, 1000 Island Dressing**
- **BLT \$6**

Upgraded Classics. Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Pork Tenderloin Sandwich \$7.50**
- **Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$8- Topped with Swiss cheese, garlic aioli and bacon.**
- **Patty Melt \$8.50 - Choice of cheese, Grilled Onions, T Texas Toast**

Soft Drinks \$2

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

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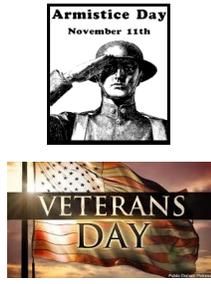
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NOVEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 LUNCH 11-2  LEGION 639/AUX GEN MEETING 7PM	2 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	3 LUNCH 11-2	4 LUNCH 11-2	5  BREAKFAST 8 - 10AM
6  DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	7 LUNCH 11-2	8 LUNCH 11-2  KOREAN WAR VETS MEETING 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM	9 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	10 LUNCH 11-2  HAPPY BIRTHDAY!	11 LUNCH 11-2  VETERANS DAY	12  SUB VETS MTG 11AM
13	14 LUNCH 11-2	15 LUNCH 11-2  AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM	16 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	17 LUNCH 11-2  FL EET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM	18 LUNCH 11-2  VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 - 7 PM	19
20  ALR MTG - 5PM	21 LUNCH 11-2	22 LUNCH 11-2  SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM	23 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	24 LUNCH 11-2  HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25 LUNCH 11-2	26
27	28 LUNCH 11-2  E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM	29	30			

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, Mike Chandler and John Bross share their stories in the coming months.

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

August 2022 Issue - Ron Snyder's history

September 2022 Issue - Art Stout's history

October 2022 Issue - Gary Turner's history

This month - Mike Chandler's Interview. Mike is a member of Post 639 / Former Commander, and currently 1st Vice Commander, This is his story.

November - Mike Chandler (Former Commander)

Community Climate – “Let me go back as far as I can with stories I heard. This Post was formed by Marine/Army veterans who came back, and I think what they did was they went down here to 676, and found out they were just basically going to be shut out of everything. When they came back from the war, they wanted to be, so to speak, “Large and in charge”. People still had a negative view of Vietnam veterans. Even when we bought this property in 1991, we faced a horrible situation at the county hearings for us to purchase this piece of property.

The guys were getting together, in the beginning, at a bar down on College Street, called “Green Beret Tavern”, and they decided to go ahead and go for a charter. Charters, from what I understand, were really hard to get (and maybe they still are), but they managed, somehow, to get a charter, and name it “The Vietnam War Memorial”, and the reason they didn't name it after an individual (like most Posts are named) was because they all felt like they lost too many friends to name it after only one. Was like “Who could be worthy of it?” So they named it

the “Vietnam War Memorial”, and as far as I know, we may be the only Post in the country that isn't named after an individual. I don't know that for a fact, but if you look around, they're all named after people – deceased people.

So they formed this place, got a charter, and they started doing things. One of the first things they tried to do, was out here around Marshfield, they tried to do a big Pig Roast. They got shut down, by the county, etc. I'm not sure, but they couldn't pull it off, and it was gonna be big, They couldn't pull it off because of the residents in the area. They met a lot of opposition. And to be honest, it probably would have been a pretty wild thing back then. We're talking early '80's. Some of the names I can remember being involved are Gary Harlan (from the beginning).

My contact with the Post probably started in October of 1985. And the first thing that I did that had anything to do with the Post was I started working Bingo. They arranged things to where I could start working immediately. But they needed help, there was just a few of them. About 25 people when I got involved. And the main characters were like Danny Melton, Bobby Allen, Gary Harlan, John Bross. Jerry Orr and Tom Gammon came in about the same time I did. Jerry ended up running the Elks for a long time till he died. But he was an active member of our Post, and when we first opened this place, he was real active in helping us do the kitchen and all of that.

Right before October of 1985, I met a friend of mine at a bar who was an active member, and he said “I want you to get involved and meet these guys”. I was TOTALLY against it. I did NOT want to have anything to do with anything related to the military. I was drafted, I didn't like it, hadn't had anything to do with it in 10 years. He said “Man, you will fit in, you will like these guys, you need to show up at Bingo on Friday night”. And I showed up at Bingo that Friday night, they put me right to work, and I never missed a Bingo. After that, immediately got involved. Within the first year, I think I was Sergeant at Arms, something like that, I was an Officer.

Our meetings were at our Bingo parlors that we rented. All we had at the time. Rented them from Planned Parenthood, who sub-letted to us and other organizations. At that time you were only allowed to have 3 Bingo's a week at any one location, and so we were very fortunate. When I first started, we were doing Bingo over there where Sutherland's is now, in one of those buildings. Then we moved to where Purple Burrito is. Then the guy who ran Planned Parenthood came to us and said “If I can get you guys to go along with it, I've got somebody who will build us a building if we'll sign a 5-year contract.” That way he'll have it paid off in 5 years. He's willing to build us a Bingo parlor. That's when the building got built that's on Bennett and Kansas, now a Country night club. 100 x 100. We opened that place. We were doing 400-450 people a night at our Bingo, and we broke even at about 150 people, so we were making a pile of money.

Kirk Winters was our Commander at the time. Danny Melton was doing the Bingo stuff. When I became Commander, Danny immediately turned all the Bingo stuff over to me, and I ran Bingo for about 3 years. And we made tons of money. In 1991, we started looking for this place. We had about \$250K in the bank. But nothing else, and we were still meeting at the Bingo parlor. So we bought this property in 1991, and paid cash for it. Bought it at absolute auction out here on the railroad tracks. Auctioneer we bought it from was now-Congressman Billy Long. He was our auctioneer. Bought it for \$62K – 21 acres at the time, but it was not a legal tract of land. In order for us to not come under a ton of laws and restrictions by the city, we had to have a legal tract of record. City would have made us put a road in w/sewer and traffic lights. Would have cost millions we did not have. At the closing, I asked the sellers if they had a legal tract of record. They left the room for a short meeting, came back and said “No”. I said “My understanding is then that we can’t do whatever we want, we’ll be under a whole lot of restrictions.” They said “You’re right, give us a couple of days”. They went out and found the guy that owned the 3 acres, Ernie Helmeck, and he agreed to sell us that 3 acres for 20K. After that sale, we had a legal tract of record, and we could basically build whatever we wanted.

We made our investment of \$82K back in about a year, solely from Bingo. We had architectural drawings made up for this place, and paid cash for the excavation, had to put in water detention. Was almost \$100K for the excavation. Dirt pulled out from the excavation stunk to high heaven from the manure that built up from cows being on it for years prior. So we bought the property in 1991, built the building in 1992, and opened for business in 1993. Didn’t even have 100 members at that time. As soon as these doors opened, they poured in, and they were just hand over fist. And it was great, we were growing fast and we felt good. But with growth comes, you know, a lot of riff-raff. We had a lot of that. Had a lot of fights in there. Not the same crowd that was around when they first started the Post in ’81. Mostly what we found was that from the surrounding area, there were veterans who would just drive by and “WOW”, and they’d come in here and they’d join because it was so close to their house. So we got a lot of members just from right around here. That’s what I saw, and it worked well for us.

The peak of membership was probably 600+. When you count the Auxiliary, Sons and all total, we had close to 1000 members here at one point. And it shrunk from that, because it’s hard to retain membership. Really hard. But it’s leveled out. Nothing here but the building, no pavilion, sugar shack, that’s all there was. Just the main building. The main hangout for the wild ones was “the tree”. If you hung out at “the tree” you had a bad reputation. Someone would see you out there and say “ah, he’s one of THOSE guys”. The whole year we built this place in ’92, that’s where we hung out, underneath the tree. I was the Commander, and it was my responsibility to keep a cooler full of beer out there 24 hours a day. And we did. Kept it iced down. Anybody who drove up was welcome, but it was mostly

Vets. And that was where we hung out for that first year.

Regarding the choppers and the conning tower, had many people come in and tell us “I’m gonna do this, I’m gonna do that, etc etc.”, a gentleman came in, kind of a new member, and he says “I’m gonna get you guys a helicopter.” I looked him right in the eye and said “Bullshit”. I have heard too many BS lies about this and that. “Prove it.” So after he got the helicopter, of course he was in my face saying “So tell me bullshit now.” Ken Boltz was his name. He’s the one that got the helicopter – the first one. And then the second one, the Huey, they had to truck it in. It came in pieces, in like two trucks. Then AvCRAD (Aviation) people got involved, from out here at the airport. And they came up the Huey and then the Cobra. One night I came in here after Bingo, and there was a guy in here, didn’t know him and I introduced myself to him. “I’m from the Civil Service (civilian part of the government that everything goes to after it’s decommissioned). Here’s what I can tell you. By what I’ve seen out here with what you’ve done with these helicopters, you can have anything you want. You want a tank, whatever.” I said, “Well let us see if we can take care of these two things first.” Biggest problem we had was keeping the pigeon crap off of them, to the point where we put the sound of a hawk going to scare the birds away. Scared the crap out of the people walking on the sidewalk. Then, Rick Stevens (who’s still involved) and some Submariners got a name for a group called the Ozark Runners. They came to the Post, some were members, some were not, and said, “We’re trying to get a sub, if we get it can we get a piece of property out here to put it on?” I said, under one condition – if we get it out here, you take care of it, it’s not gonna be the Post’s responsibility, it’s gonna be the submariner’s responsibility. And they have. It looks better than the helicopters. The Sub Vets group that meets at the Post once a month.

Rick Stevens pulled a fifth-wheel out here and the whole time this thing was being dug (goes down in the ground 15 feet at least, columns poured with rebar) Architecture and engineering had to be approved by the City for us to put that in, just like the helicopters. City had to approve the construction of the base. I can remember seeing guys down in the hole, one of the major guys that was involved in actually hands-on putting that thing in, his name is Ed Voorhees.

Let’s go back to just before we bought this property. We came up on a piece of property and a building that was an old schoolhouse, called Ritter Springs Schoolhouse, close to Lowe’s on Hwy 13. I think it’s a City Park now. When you purchase a piece of property like that, you have to go before the County for hearings. They put up signs for public notice. They had two hearings. When we showed up for the hearings, and both times they (the public) got up and talked against us, saying “*We don’t want them people here*”. We had put up a down payment of like 5 grand. After the hearings, we had our own meeting and decided that even if we lose our money, even if the County Commissioners go ahead and vote in our favor, we’re not gon-

na do it. Somebody got in the ear of one of the Commissioners and said “we decided not to buy”. Two of them ended up in tears, and they BLASTED that community for what they had said about us, and talked against us. So we just walked away from that whole deal. The community’s perception was that we were gonna come in there and turn it into a drunken Biker Bar type deal, destructive, rowdy, etc. We were accused of everything. We were like “WOW”. We had no idea. Personally, I think that God steered us away from that property, and I believe that God brought us to this piece of property, because how else would we have made such a good deal? I went to my Realtor that I knew well, and told her what we bought this property for, and she goes “You STOLE that property. That property is worth 3-4 times what you paid for it – right now.” And I kinda felt that way.

I’ve been involved since 1985, and I’m PROUD of where we have come to, proud of the guys that show up and take interest in us, become one of us. We are blessed to have you guys. Without you we would be nothing. I’ve always had this place. The minute I retired, Mike Goforth came to me and said “I need you to run my kitchen”. I went for about 3 years, from age 62 to 65, I ran the kitchen. I was in here about 40-50 hours a week. Every party, every Bike night, it wore me out. For me it was 6 days a week, sometimes 7. To be honest with you, though, I loved it. I felt very good about everything I’ve done. The Commander before me (Kirk Winters), after I became Commander, sat me down and looked at my eyeball to eyeball, and said “What do YOU want for the Post, what is YOUR goal?” I said, “I want every person in this community to know who we are.” We didn’t get there right away, but we are now. After the Wall being here, the Blues Festival, etc, we’re pretty much a household name. We’re called the Vietnam Vets. A lot of people still call us a VFW, and we’ve ALWAYS fought that. They’ve announced on TV before “The VFW this and that”. WE’RE NOT THE VFW. We’re the American Legion. Pretty sure the Legion is bigger than the VFW. I don’t even qualify for the VFW, but we’re very welcome over there.

The Post goes on. Commanders, administrations, people come and go, but the Post goes on. Whatever we do, do it for the benefit of the Post.

Some of the biggest changes I’ve seen over the years are that we’ve mellowed out a lot. We’ve gotten older. I’ve seen an influx of GOOD people. People that don’t work for the benefit of the Post generally don’t last a long time. Bad people get rid of themselves. I’ve put my heart into the Post 100%. I love the Post.

When we first got the property, I recognized that there were THOUSANDS of things we could do with it. And I wanted to do something BIG. So I got together with Scott Ossley, Gary Harlan and I had a friend who could put me in contact with Country Joe McDonald. Called him up, asked if he could come do a concert and how much he would charge. He said “Well I

gotta charge something. How about \$500 and a plane ticket out there and a hotel room?” We were like “well YEAH !!”. This is a guy that was at Woodstock, played with Janis Joplin. So we put this concert together, and I booked “Minute Pause” and another really happenin’ band. Great bands, local bands. Had them open, and I thought, after these bands, there’s gonna be a guy get up on stage with a guitar, harmonica, and sit on a stool? I’m afraid we’re gonna crash. He got up there and kicked ASS. He had the crowd going, young people were up dancing, it was AWESOME.

Another time, I got together with Car-Fi, next to what used to be Cartoon’s and I’m pretty sure we brought in Rare Earth. Had a BIG stage out there, all the way at the back of the ball field. I was out the night before, stage was set up and the lights were on, a cop (a young cop) saw the lights and came over to see what was going on, said “What are you guys up to?” I said, we’re gonna have a concert here tomorrow. He said “You know you’re gonna have to have the music shut down by 11PM, right?” I said, right no problem. Rare Earth didn’t come on till 11PM. As soon as I saw the cop pull in, I started hiding. He chased me all over the place, “Where’s Chandler, where’s Chandler?”. Once he found me, he said “You gotta shut this concert down RIGHT NOW.” I said we’re right in the middle of the concert. What can you do to me? Cop said “Well we can fine you.” I said well how much would the fine be? He said “Well about \$300.” I said GIVE IT TO ME. He left.

In December, we will pause for one month to publish a Pearl Harbor article by Paul Doelger about the USS Solace. John Bross’s interview will appear in the January 2023 issue ...

For the Good of the Legion ...



F80 T-33 Shooting Star Sub-Sonic Jet Trainer

The T-33 was the first jet trainer that the USAF ever had. First there was a single-seat jet fighter known as the Shooting Star.

Pilots were coming back from WWII with propeller-driven engines and moving to flying jets. They were crashing because of the difference between propeller-driven and jets. As research reveals, they modified a F80 to train pilots on the jet operation. In time, they began to build a two-seat jet trainer that became known as the T-33 jet trainer.

The T-33 had the same aircraft style as the F80, the difference being the extended version of the F80 but with the 2nd seat included. They used this version to begin training pilots on the operation of a jet. The 33 was a single engine, but with a canopy over both seats.

The 33 had straight wings and had a fuel tank mounted on each wing tip. It was a sub-sonic jet, with a top speed of just over

500MPH. It was powered by a jet engine that was a centrifugal-flow air through the engine, and it was not a supersonic-speed aircraft. The engine was simple to work on, either in the shop or on the flight line.

The T33 served the USAF for many years, training pilots and serving for pilots to get their "stick time" in, and it was the cheapest aircraft to operate for this purpose.

The flight control stick worked the same in both cockpits, and could be controlled by either one. Each person had their own parachute in case they had to eject due to failure of the engine operation, or any other justification. On the left side of the seat was a D ring. You pulled it up, and it armed the system. On the right side was a ring with a trigger on it, and when you pulled the trigger you would be ejected.

I was privileged to go up in a T33 three times, and I had to go to Egland AFB in N. Florida to complete a two-day school to train you how to the ejection system worked when it was needed.

For the engine mechanic, maintenance was not all that much trouble either on the flight line or the shop. However, it took several Tech Order books for inspections, tech order changes and the routine maintenance forms had to be maintained and updated. There were periodic inspections, minor repairs, and ISO inspections plus flight line troubleshooting and repair.

Then the engine forms must be kept updated. The forms had a signoff system - a red dash indicated a minor problem and a 5-level mechanic could sign it off. Next, a red diagonal would indicate a more serious problem, and it took a 7-level mechanic to sign off. Then there was a red X problem that would ground the aircraft until a 9-level would have to sign off.

This is a skeleton sketch about the T33, its purpose, its operation and its history of service, enabling the USAF to train and maintain jet pilots with the cheapest cost of operation.

Charlie Weaver

History in November

November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

November 4, 1862 - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as

part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 11th - Celebrated in the U.S. as Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) with parades and military memorial ceremonies.

November 12, 1948 - Japanese General Hideki Tojo and six others were sentenced to death by an Allied war crimes tribunal.

November 15, 1777 - The Articles of Confederation were adopted by Continental Congress.

November 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Famed orator Edward Everett of Massachusetts preceded Lincoln and spoke for two hours. Lincoln then delivered his address in less than two minutes. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

November 22, 1963 - At 12:30 p.m., on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade slowly approached a triple underpass. Shots rang out. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38 p.m., Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President.

November 25, 1783 - At the end of the Revolutionary War, the last British troops left New York City.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.



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