



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

MAY 2022



REMEMBER

From the Commander ...



Hope this article finds all of you well. May is looking to be a busy month for us at Post 639. Our fundraisers are in full swing. We have started another gun raffle, so check the flyer on **page 7** of this newsletter. Our

Wednesday Queen of Hearts and Bike Nights @LZ639 are always a great time. Also we have some St Louis Cardinal/Cub tickets we will be raffling soon. On May 14th in conjunction with Renegade Harley Davidson, we will be having a Bike Show at their location 3980 W Sunshine. We will need volunteers to help make this a successful event. Contact me, if you have any questions on how you can help. Thank you in advance.

Our Harvest Host Camping has really taken off. I have got the chance to talk with several campers and they have all been pleased with our facility. Thanks Mike, Mia, Robin, Chey and Alicia for handling this and representing Post 639.

Let's not forget to thank our volunteers that stepped up to make our events flow. Marsha, Diana, Joyce, Susan, Curtis, Thomas, Noel, Larry, Skippy, Chuck, Bob, Mary, Scotty, Ron and many others. Thank you all.

Tom has told me that we have reached 100% of our membership goal set by State. So if you haven't renewed your membership please do. Post 639 election is coming up on June 7th and you will need to have your 2022 card.

We have had a great 9 months since our officers have taken office. I am humbled by the generosity and work ethic of our employee's, members, and friends. Together we can accomplish so much. One person cannot keep Post 639 running and moving forward it takes all of us. Thanks for helping to make our Post and facility a great place.

As always it's an honor to serve you all as Commander. Looking forward to see what the next year brings. Stand tall, fly your Flag and be proud.

Commander Mike Goforth

Post Adjutant



2022-2023 Post Office nominations commenced in April, with the following names placed during the General Meeting on April 5th:

Commander	Mike Goforth	1st Vice	Justin Adamson
2nd Vice	Mike Chandler	Adjutant	Tom Newsom
Finance	Open	Judge Adv.	Jim Cooper
Sgt. at Arms	Ron Jackson	Svc. Officer	Bob Scott
Quartermaster	Barry Greene	Chaplain	Rex Krasche
Historian	Bob Kalwat	Member AL	Bob Dale
Member AL	Darin Dobbs	Member AL	Don Weiss

Nominations are open through the month of May, with the Post Election being held during the General Meeting on June 7th.

Post 639 Membership renewals have reached 100% for the first time in many, many years. Total membership is now very close to 500.

Tom Newsom, Post 639 Adjutant

Judge Advocate



The revised By-Laws for Post 639 are again provided for your review and input on pages 18-20 of this newsletter. Vote for acceptance by the general membership will be taken during the Post 639 General Meeting on June 7th.

Please review and provide any input you have to me, or contact me with any questions/comments/concerns.

Jim Cooper
Post 639 Judge Advocate

Chaplain



Easter has come and gone. I hope everyone had a good holiday. I'm tired of the weather being cold, then warm, then rainy. I feel like I should have webbed feet.

May is coming, and another holiday. I hope the weather will turn around and be like Spring.

All for now, as always, the Post and its' members are in my prayers.

Chaplain Rex Krasche

Auxiliary



WOW and just like that April is gone and May is here! May brings us Mother's Day and we will be making a floral/fan arrangement for our female Veterans at Mount Vernon and deliver them along with other tokens of our appreciation for their service to our Country.

Saturday, May 14th, you will find us at the Dirty Dozen Bike Show hosted by Renegade Harley Davidson helping to raise money for a digital road sign for Post 639. Food, drink, 50/50 raffles and live music. An after-event party will be at Post 639 at 6:30 with live music. We could use your help and support so come see us and be sure to let Renegade know we thank them for their support!

May also brings us the National Poppy Day which is Friday, May 27th and our Poppy Drive Coordinator, Charlotte Kelly, has worked very hard on finding a business who will let us set up a booth for our drive and her persistence has prevailed. We will be at the new Hy-Vee store at 2150 E. Sunshine Street on Saturday, May 21st, Armed Forces Day, and Sunday, May 22nd. Stop by, pick up a poppy and support Hy-Vee to show them our gratitude for their support. Thank you, Miss Charlotte, for your dedication to this project!

May is Post 639's 50/50 month at the Queen of Hearts every Wednesday. ALA's food service this month is May 18th. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped with our April 20th food service, Hallie Scott, Susan Heppard, Marsha Crom, Mikayla Criger, Terra Cooperider and a special shout out to SAL members Noel Heppard, Thomas Long, Curtis Meyer, Post member Bob Scott and ALR member Mike Wallace. Thank you, thank you to all of you!

The April rain showers sure did give a great start to the Rose Garden. The rose bushes look healthy and happy and the added touch of flowers to the front entrance makes it very inviting. Please take the time to thank Miss Debrya Faria, Rose Garden Coordinator, the next time you see her, for the wonderful job she has done with our Garden.

The Floral/Plant Coordinator, Lindy Dobbs, has begun her planning for livening up the flower and plant landscaping around the Post. Lindy and her husband Darin are a force to be reckon with when it comes to all things green and pretty. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us in the weeks to come. If you would like to give a monetary donation to this project, please contact ALA or the Post Finance Officer, Paul Doelger. Lindy is in need of gardening tools/materials and of course plants.

ALA is placing a big focus on our Junior program to end the 2021-2022 year. Our newly appointed Junior Advisor of Unit 639 is Mikayla Criger. Mikayla is excited for this new chapter of ALA. Junior members of ALA are a special classification of members under the age of 18. Junior members hold their own meetings, establish Officers, hold fundraisers, ceremonies, prepare an agenda to meet their mission statement and complete National and State requirements to obtain their grade level Patch Program. We are asking for your help. If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of this organization, please let us know. We will check their eligibility as defined in the ALA Constitution and By-laws. The future of ALA Unit 639 and Post 639 starts with our junior members who will learn the importance of Americanism which is the major focus to teach patriotism, citizenship and loyalty to America. Helps us to secure 639's future!

n the Spirit of Service, not Self

Diana Cooperider,
President, Auxiliary



Welcome new ALA Members - **Lindy Dobbs (pictured). Not pictured are Kim Goforth, Karen Doelger, Mia Harvey, Ann Theurich**



Congratulations to the winner of the ALA Gift Basket Raffle - **Paula Maxheimer !!!!**

Wednesday starting May 4th.

Come out and look at the bikes !! Better yet, show off that two-wheeled stallion of yours. It wants to be out of the garage, and there is no entry fee !! Dust off that saddle and join the fun ... you might just discover a new accessory that you didn't know you were missing.

As always, we could definitely use your help. If you have a few hours of free time, we would love to talk with you about the Sons of the American Legion. We are proud to be "Serving Those Who Served".

Please talk with me if you have any questions, or would be willing to donate a few hours of your time.

Shout-Out to Big O's Washing and Staining, Nixa, MO.



SAL donated the supplies, Big O's donated the labor. This is how it's done - "Together Then, Together Now".

Service Officer

Hearing Aid Assistance



Since January 1, 2022 Medicare has been providing financial assistance for hearing aid users. This program is said to be available through all Medicare Supplemental Insurance plans and is independent of the Veterans Administration. In some cases there is no copay; in others it is small. While there are dozens of such plans we have only been able to confirm that it works through Aetna's Medicare Plan, Anthem's Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Plan, and United Health's Medicare Plan. If you try it with another plan please get back to me at bscotttrf@gmail.com and let me know how it worked so I can pass the word.

Here's the process! Call the phone number on the back of your insurance card and ask for the benefit. They will set up an appointment for a hearing exam with a hearing clinic of your choice. We have had good experience with **ENHANCED HEARING** at 3829 South Campbell (417) 323-6180. Ask for Grace Gateley. She is very knowledgeable about the program and is a Missouri Licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist. She will conduct a hearing exam and if it indicates a need for hearing aids she will order them. The hearing aids will be shipped to Enhanced Hearing and fit by them including follow up visits. There may be a small copay.

Bob Scott, Post 639 Service Officer

Sons of the American Legion



The Sons of the American Legion would like to remind you ... It's BIKE SEASON AGAIN !! Please be on the lookout for our two-wheeled friends.

With Bike Season ... comes Bike Nights at POST 639 !!!
Bike Nights will be held during Queen of Hearts, every other

Legion Riders Chapter 639

This time of year is always a riding challenge - cold weather is replaced by WET weather and wild swings in the temps. But we are a PATIENT bunch. Things will level off and we'll start logging SERIOUS miles.

Our March ride to Pizza Cellar in Rockaway Beach was cancelled due to low temps, but we made up by making it our April 23rd ride instead. Finally caught a break with the weather. We will do Gaston's in Lakeview Arkansas later this year. We're experts at rolling with the punches.



The final count is in for the Vietnam Veterans Day lunch on March 29th. **We served 27 FREE meals to the veterans**, and sold another 22 meals to guests that day. Great success !!!

April was ALR month for 50/50, and we were honored to donate the monthly proceeds to the family of Dustin Brandhorst, Ebenezer Fire Protection District firefighter who was killed on March 18th. As of 4/20, we were honored and humbled to provide \$500 to the family to help with their expenses during this unbelievably tough time.

At our April 17th, it was decided to move the May ALR monthly meeting to Tuesday, May 24th due to absence of a number of officers. We'll have a dinner meeting at my home, normal start time of 6PM. Please make plans to attend !!

We will need cooks willing to work a 2-hour shift to support the Dirty Dozen Bike Show on May 14th at Renegade Harley-Davidson. Proceeds will go toward a new digital street sign on Scenic. Contact me if you want to pitch in.

We found out that **Sue Reis** will be leaving us July 1st, moving home to Illinois to be closer to family. **WE WILL MISS YOU SUE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

2022-2023 ALR Chapter 639 Officer nominations commenced in April with the following names placed:

Director	Marsha Crom
Asst. Director	Kathy Davis
Secretary	Bob Kalwat
Treasurer	David Turner
Ride Captain/Sgt. Arms	Ron Jackson
Judge Advocate	Will Ogden, Mike Brooks

Nominations will continue until the election in June.

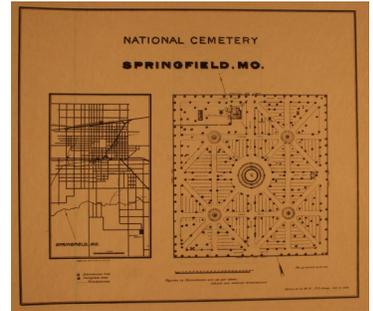
Ride safe out there

Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639

Historian/Newsletter Editor

In honor of Memorial Day, I thought it would be appropriate to review the history of our very own Springfield National Cemetery. Many of us have driven past it often, and have visited it numerous times during Memorial Day observances in past years, but I wonder how many of us are familiar with how it came to be. (Taken from https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/national_cemeteries/missouri/springfield_national_cemetery)

Springfield National Cemetery was established in 1867 on prairie land south of Springfield, Missouri. Today, the cemetery's 18 acres are bounded by residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. Initially created as a final resting place for Union soldiers



who died in battle near Springfield, the cemetery now contains the remains of veterans from other wars, including the Revolutionary War, Spanish-American War, and World War II. The Springfield National Cemetery also includes a six-acre portion established by the Confederate Cemetery Association in 1871. An act of Congress in 1911 authorized the Secretary of War to accept the Confederate cemetery as a part of the Springfield National Cemetery.

Although Missouri voted to stay in the Union, Confederate sympathies ran strong throughout the state. On August 10, 1861, the first major Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River occurred ten miles south of Springfield. More than 5,000 Union troops and 12,000 Confederate forces clashed at Wilson's Creek. The battle ended in a Confederate victory, but disorganization and bad planning prevented Southern forces from capitalizing on their success. The battle is significant, marking the first death of a Union General in combat; Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon died during a Union charge, felled by a Confederate bullet. After the Civil War, the city of Springfield purchased 80 acres of prairie for a cemetery, and granted the U.S. government the privilege of selecting a plot for a national cemetery. Five acres were selected on the highest ground and purchased for \$37.50 an acre. The Springfield National Cemetery was officially established in 1867, and many of the men who died in the Battle of Wilson's Creek were buried there. Additionally, the remains of Union troops buried in several Missouri counties were removed and reinterred in the new cemetery.

In 1871, a Confederate cemetery was established adjacent to

the national cemetery, containing roughly six acres total with an area of 2.7 acres enclosed by a wall. In March 1911, Congress authorized the Secretary of War to accept the Confederate cemetery as part of the Springfield National Cemetery. A deed restriction prevented the burial of anyone other than Confederate military veterans within the boundaries of the old Confederate cemetery.

After World War II, the Department of the Army expanded the national cemetery, receiving approval from the Confederate Cemetery Association to use areas within the boundaries of the old Confederate cemetery but outside the enclosed area. In the 1980s, given the many unoccupied graves within the area restricted for Confederate burials, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Confederate Cemetery Association of Missouri agreed to allow burials of all veterans in the area within the enclosure wall. In 1984, the Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated a plaque on a monument in the old Confederate section, stating that the area's "use by all veterans and their dependents serves as a symbol of unification of purpose for memorializing those who have honorably served this great nation...."

The national cemetery's original five acres were laid out in a square pattern, with evenly spaced paths crossing perpendicularly and diagonally. A limestone wall, capped with sandstone slabs, lines the perimeter of the original grounds. The wall, constructed in 1874, replaced a wooden picket fence. At the center of the original grounds is a circle with a flagpole and four artillery monuments. Immediately west of the front entrance gate stands the cemetery's administration building, a two-story brick structure with a slate hipped roof. Built in 1940, the brick building served as a home and office for the cemetery's superintendent. Renovated in 1996, the building today is used solely for administrative purposes. At the northwest corner of the original cemetery grounds stands a brick service building constructed prior to 1933; it has been extensively modified since it was built.

Also located on the grounds of the cemetery is a rectangular stone-block rostrum. Built between the Confederate and Union portions of the cemetery, the rostrum resembles a miniature Greek temple and features speakers' lecterns on both sides for patriotic and memorial observances. Bronze plaques on the rostrum's south side face toward the Confederate graves. One plaque references the Confederate soldiers buried there and the battles in which they died, notably the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The other plaques state the establishment dates of the Confederate cemetery and the installation of the cemetery's carillon in 1979. On the rostrum's north side, facing Union graves, a single plaque is inscribed with a memorial to the veterans of the Vietnam War.



Other notable burials in the Springfield National Cemetery include five Buffalo Soldiers. Members of African American army regiments created after the Civil War, the "Buffalo Soldiers" protected settlers moving west, built and renovated Army posts and camps, and maintained law and order in the western expanses of the country.

Springfield National Cemetery is also the final resting place of five recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, given for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

May VSO Activities/Info

Don't forget to tune into Vietnam Vet Radio -

The Music You Remember, The Respect You Earned

Vietnam Vet Radio is an internet only radio station dedicated to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War, their families, and friends. We are incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit veterans ministry organization. With a few exceptions all the songs played are from the Vietnam War era. We also play the authentic jingles and public service announcements that were played on AFVN (American Forces Vietnam Network) Radio.

While Vietnam Vet Radio is neither political or religious, in the normal sense of the word, it is most certainly a pro-America and pro-military radio station that acknowledges that we are a blessed people. No anti-war rhetoric or anti-war songs; there are other sites on the internet for that. Our mission is to heal, not open old wounds.

Please contact us with suggestions on how Vietnam Vet Radio can better serve you.

Donations

Donations are NOT required to listen to Vietnam Vet Radio. However, many of you have asked how you can contribute to the cost of reaching thousands of Vietnam Veterans around the world with VVR - this is how you do it. All who work with VVR are volunteers, no one is paid. Vietnam Vet Radio is a 501(c)3 non-profit veterans organization. Your donations are used to pay music royalties, internet fees, office supplies, and to purchase broadcasting equipment. Checks or money orders can be sent to:

VIETNAM VET RADIO
8181 S 4230 RD
Chelsea, OK 74016

Welcome Home!

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

vietnamvetradio.com "Welcome Home"



Give Vets Hope

We finally have good news. We have restarted our group! On April 26th we had our first meeting since last fall when we met twice between COVID variant outbreaks.



We had a good turnout for our meeting with plenty of pizza and pop for everyone.

A major part of our group and mission has to do with listening. Mark Twain once said “God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we could listen twice as much as we talk.” Those words are particularly important regarding interpersonal relationships. If you want to find out about someone just try listening to them, not interrupting, and really try to think about what they are saying. You might ask a question about what they are saying. Like “How did you find that out?” or “Can you tell me more?” They have chosen you to listen to something that is on their mind right now and there’s a reason for that.

It comes down to “regarding” each other helping them feel heard, seen and understood.

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. Everything is free and we offer this opportunity not just for veterans but for anyone, that offers support for them. Spouses, sons, daughters, mother, fathers 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.

Attention : All Army Engineers



**US Army Corps of
Engineers**

Birthday Celebration

Date: June 16th, 2022

Location: American Legion Post 639

Time: 6:00PM/1800 hrs

Point of Contact - Bob Hoaglin

Mark your calendars NOW !!!!!!!

Kid’s Easter Party, April 12th



From the Bar/Galley ...

Want to make sure you know your Bar Service team by name when you come in. L to R -

- Alicia Stiles
- Mia Harvey (Bar Manager)
- Robin Fare
- Chey’Amber Hyde
- Melissa Wilson



Happy Hour at LZ639 :

12PM-2PM, Monday thru Saturday (.50 off)

6PM-8PM, 7 days a week (.50 off)

Food Trucks on-site at Post 639 for May ...

May 6th - Doggy Style

May 13th - I Love Tacos



May 2022 FUNDRAISER Legion Post 639



April 2022 Winner - AR-9 9mm

Ron Jackson



Sig Sauer P365XL

200 tickets available at \$10 each

Drawing to be held after all tickets are sold

Firearm: Sig Sauer P365XL with night sights and 2 12-round magazines.

Optic: Holosun 507K



Next Raffle Prize: Sig Sauer P365XL

Winner must be at least 21 years old with a valid US government issued ID and complete a 4473 background check.

Donations of \$10 for each ticket. Only 200 tickets will be sold. The more tickets you purchase, the better your odds of winning. Raffle Winner will be notified by phone and Post 639 Newsletter.

Proceeds will be used to make upgrades to our property and make us more visible by installing a new digital sign to replace our outdated sign that is visible from South Scenic Ave.



Make check payable to American Legion Post 639, Springfield, Mo.

Or pay by Credit Card () Visa () Master Card

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____ V-Code: _____

You need not tear the page out of the News Letter magazine. You may copy the page and send tickets with your payment to: Vietnam War Memorial, American Legion Post 639, 2660 South Scenic Ave., Springfield, MO. 65807. Phone: (417) 882-8639.

You may also purchase tickets in person by contacting our friendly bartender at Post 639.

Return with ticket and donation of \$10

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Return with ticket and donation of \$10

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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 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 !!!**

Cigar Night @LZ639

July 6

Apr 13

May 11

June 8

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.

MAY 14TH, 2022

The Dirty Dozen

BIKE SHOW

SUPPORTING THE VIETNAM VETERANS
HOSTED BY RENEGADE HARLEY DAVIDSON



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
boleyj@otc.edu



★ 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



SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY

★ MAY 1ST ★

HONORING OUR WOUNDED, ILL,
& DYING SERVICE MEMBERS



Silver Star Service Banner Day - May 1st



Military Spouse Appreciation Day - May 6th



Children of Fallen Patriots Day - May 13th



Armed Forces Day - May 21st



Memorial Day - May 30th

Post 639 Schedule of Events

May 2022

- May 1 Sunday - Silver Star Service Banner Day
- Motorcycle Awareness Ride, KSU 1PM
- May 3 Tuesday - Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- May 4 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-7:30PM
BIKE NIGHT
- May 6 Friday - Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 10 Tuesday - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- May 11 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-7:30PM
CIGAR NIGHT
- May 13 Friday - Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- May 14 Saturday - Sub Vets Meeting 11AM
- Dirty Dozen Bike Show 11AM
(Renegade Harley Davidson)
- May 15 Sunday - Peace Officers Memorial Day
- May 18 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-7:30PM
BIKE NIGHT
- May 21 Saturday - Armed Forces Day
- May 24 Tuesday - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting. 7PM
- SAL Monthly Meeting, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- Legion Riders Meeting, 6PM
(Director's Home)
- May 25 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-7:30PM
- May 26 Thursday - Fleet Reserve Assoc. Meeting, 6PM
NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE
- May 30 Monday - Post 639 E-Board Meeting 6:30PM
- Memorial Day
- June 3-5 Fri—Sun - Hangin' Dice Car Show

Springfield National Cemetery will be welcoming volunteers to set flags on all graves from May 24th-May 27th from 8AM until dusk. A Memorial Day service will be held at 10AM on Monday, May 30th, hosted by Gold Star Mothers.



Missouri Veterans Cemetery will be placing of flags at headstones on May 26, 2022 starting at 1:00 pm. All volunteers welcome and encouraged to assist. There will be a Memorial Day Celebration at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery on Monday, May 30, 2022 at 1:30P.M. The ceremony will end at approximately 2:15 P.M. and guests are invited to tour the cemetery.

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For The Good of the Legion ..

The P-3 Orion, US Navy aircraft.

The Orion flies into hurricanes, the same as the C-130 aircraft for the USAF. The P-3 operates under a government agency - NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

The P-3 operates in a worldwide range, with up to a 13-hour mission. The P-3 is powered by 4 turboprop engines, the same as the C-130. The engines turns up 10,300 RPM at all times, however, the propellers can't take the high RPM's, because if the propeller tips travel at supersonic speeds, they begin to slip in the air.

At the Legion, Bob Scott was a pilot on the P-3. He said there are up to 13 crew members - the pilot, co-pilot, radio and telegraph operators and several more working together for the mission. The P-3 is based in Pensacola, Florida, with a worldwide mission. A lot of comparison is made of the P-3 and the C-130, because they do the same job and use the same power plant - the Alision T56-A-15 engines, from the Alison plant in Indianapolis, Indiana. Bob Scott and I have a friendly argument as to who mounts the reduction gear box upside down.

The P-3 and the C-130 both fly through the wall of the storm. They fly inside, gather information and sent it to the Miami weather center. Miami puts the hurricane sign on your TV.

Maintaining the storm airplanes is a major and full-time job. Repairs, inspection, and tech order changes are often, and yearly maintenance/overhauls are costly.

Overall, the P-3 and C-130 both do a good job letting us know where the storm is and where it is going, so we won't be blown away.

Charlie Weaver (Budroe)

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



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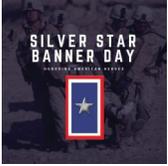
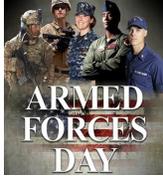
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MAY 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 LUNCH 11-2  SHOCKLEY STAGE 7-8:30PM	3 LUNCH 11-2  POST 639/AUX GEN MEETING 7PM	4 LUNCH 11-2  BIKE NIGHT & QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-10 PM	5 LUNCH 11-2	6 LUNCH 11-2 	7
8	9 LUNCH 11-2	10 LUNCH 11-2  KOREAN WAR VETS MEETING 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE MEETING VFW 3404 5:30PM	11 LUNCH 11-2  CIGAR NIGHT & QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	12 LUNCH 11-2	13 LUNCH 11-2  CHILDREN OF FALLEN PATRIOTS DAY MAY 13	14  SUB VETS 11 AM  BIKE SHOW 11AM
15 	16 LUNCH 11-2	17 LUNCH 11-2	18 LUNCH 11-2  BIKE NIGHT & QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-10 PM	19 LUNCH 11-2	20 LUNCH 11-2  VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 -7 PM	21 
22	23 LUNCH 11-2	24 LUNCH 11-2  AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE MEETING VFW 3404 5:30PM  ALR MTG 6PM	25 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-8 PM	26 LUNCH 11-2  FLEET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	27 LUNCH 11-2	28
29	30 LUNCH 11-2  E-BOARD MTG 6:30  MEMORIAL DAY	31 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.



Average Weather in May for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *increase* by 7°F, from 71° F to 79°F, rarely falling below 60°F or exceeding 86°F.

Daily low temperatures *increase* by 9°F, from 52° F to 61°F, rarely falling below 40°F or exceeding 69°F.

Over the course of May in Springfield, the length of the day is *increasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day increases by 48 minutes, implying an average daily increase of 1 minute, 36 seconds, and weekly increase of 11 minutes, 14 seconds.

The shortest day of the month is May 1, with 13 hours, 44 minutes of daylight and the longest day is May 31, with 14 hours, 32 minutes of daylight.



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LZ639 Pizza Company will make available to our members of Post 639 and families your choice of 12 different pizzas that we offer to area bars. There is a minimum order of 6 pizzas and they will only be made when we are making orders for our wholesale customers and will be **take out only**.

The price is \$6.00 per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See Mia 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 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

INTRODUCTION

July 2, 1993, was a truly momentous occasion for Vietnam War Memorial Post 639. For that was the day of the official dedication of our home. Sitting on twenty-four secluded acres along a street appropriately named "Scenic", the property is more than any of the original organizers would, or even could, have imagined.

But even more amazing than the place we call home is the contributions we have made to the community in the past decade. None of the original six organizers would be surprised at the contributions we've made to individual veterans and veterans causes. But who could have imagined that we would be a major sponsor of Project Graduation? Or that we would donate thousands of dollars sponsoring youth sports, including track and field, Little League baseball, American Legion baseball, soccer, and the Special Olympics? Or that we'd organize a benefit concert in support of an Ozarks environmental group?

This is the story of **Vietnam War Memorial Post 639**, of the American Legion. It is a history built by individuals sharing a common bond: they served their country in time of war. Despite the name of our post our membership is not restricted to Vietnam veterans. We have a number of World War II vets, including my Dad, Dale Harlan, an Army Air Corps pilot. Among our most active members is Walter Swope, a man who survived three ½ years in a Japanese POW camp. His story appears in these pages.

It would be impossible to have the words "Vietnam War" in your name without confronting controversy from time to time, and we have confronted our share of it the last twelve years. But from a controversial beginning, something very positive has emerged, and it is my goal in these pages to trace the events that make up our history, giving credit to those who made it happen.

Speaking of our name, it should be mentioned that instead of naming the post in honor of a servicemen who was killed in action, we named it Vietnam War Memorial Post, in honor of the sum total of sacrifices made in that war, by all sides.

I need to say right up front that with respect to writing the story of the post, I am not the detached, objective chronicler of events. The fact is, the last twelve years of my own personal history overlaps with the post's history so much that it's almost too scary to think about. Nevertheless, it has been the vehicle with which I have come to reconcile my combat experience as a Marine grunt in Vietnam with present-day civilian life. It didn't happen overnight. In fact, it took almost exactly as long as it did for us to build our own home.

One major step along the way took place on Veterans' Day, 1984, when the post approved a motion to pay my way to Washington to attend the unveiling of the statues, "Three Fighting Men" at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Thanks to the Post I not only got my first opportunity to experience the healing effect of the Wall, but got to reunite with two of the Marines I served with in Vietnam.

I am one of many whose personal history overlaps with the Post's history, and many others have made significant strides in their personal growth as a result of being a member. If asked for one reason why we organized Vietnam War Memorial Post 639, it would be the same answer you would receive if you asked why the Wall was constructed : to heal wounds.

As of this writing, the post has had seven Commanders in thirteen years. The only one not with us today is Ronnie Mitchum, elected Commander in 1986. Ronnie did not complete his year in office, as he died of natural causes while working on an oil rig in Louisiana. It hit us all HARD.

This is dedicated to the memory of Ronnie Mitchum.

1 . BORN IN A TAVERN

Like every new organization, Post 639 began with an organizational meeting. Our first organizational meeting, like the Marine Corps first one, took place in a tavern. It was the Green Beret Tavern, located on College Street in Springfield. The building has since been torn down, but in early 1981, six of us met there, and signed the petition with which to apply for an American Legion charter.

The organizing committee was made up of four Army Vietnam combat vets - Ron Snyder, Ron Miller, Gary Turner, Jimmy Wood, and two Marine Vietnam combatants - Bud Darby and myself.

A complete and thorough answer to the question of why we chose to form a post would require six separate accounts. Nevertheless, there was one motive shared by all, and it had to do with the public's image of the Vietnam veteran. To put it bluntly, we were sick and tired of the caricature of us that had evolved over the years: the Vietnam veteran as whacko.

You might recall seeing him on the TV cop shows back in the 70's. He appeared regularly on all of them. Let's face it, he was a perfect tool for giving the story suspense. We need only see him in the early scenes of the show – unshaven, disheveled, the crazed look in his eye. His filthy, raggedy fatigue shirt lets us know who the “Boys in Homicide“ would be up against this week: the crazed, probably heroin-addicted Vietnam whacko.

But television shows aside, the negative stereotype of Vietnam veterans was fostered and perpetuated by journalists - both print and television. Even today, when someone goes berserk and kills a few people, the fact that he is a Vietnam veteran will be the first thing that is revealed about him. This would not be nearly so objectionable, if it were not for the fact that it is only in connection with a violent crime that reporters ask - whether the suspect is a Vietnam combat veteran. Why doesn't it ever occur to them to ask whether the middle-aged fireman who saved an infant was a Vietnam vet?

A recent illustration of what I'm talking about can be found in comparing two stories that appeared in the Springfield paper only weeks apart, in 1992. One of them involved a man who went on a killing spree, identified in the headline as a Vietnam vet. The other story involved a City Utilities worker who risked his life during a bad storm. Interviewed afterwards, he flatly denied that he deserved the title of hero, that he was simply doing his job.

My intuition was that he was a Vietnam veteran, but there was no mention of it in the article. They didn't think to ask him. So I made my own inquiry, and I learned that he was a Vietnam vet. I asked whether he would be receptive to being honored at our next Post meeting, but with consistent modesty, he declined.

The Vietnam Veteran's movement, from the late seventies to the mid-eighties, consisted of local organizing efforts like ours going on in communities across the country. It was a national movement based on the concept of self-help, which meant organizing ourselves for the purpose of addressing a range of problems, including joblessness, adjustment problems of all kinds, Agent Orange, substance abuse, and a suicide rate that had exceeded the 58,000 names on the Wall.

It was an organizing effort that brought together those who were functioning in society and those who existed outside the mainstream. In 1982 the federal government established the VVLP, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, setting up chapters in a number of cities, including St. Louis. The goal of this program was to accomplish the very thing we had been doing in Springfield since 1980: establishing a network of successful Vietnam Vets who were willing to work with some of their brothers needing one thing or another - job training, job counseling, or maybe just encouragement and being there for him.

We chose the American Legion as our vehicle for change for one basic reason: numbers. Had we made it an organization exclusively for Vietnam combat vets, we would be turning our backs on a good many of those veterans willing to be part of that network.

Consider the numbers: there were twenty-seven million draft-age

males during the Vietnam War. Nine million wore the uniform during that time, including active duty and reserves. Roughly two and-a-half million served in Vietnam. Of this number, one million or so saw action.

Though each of the six organizers served in the combat zone, our view was based on the fact that the guy who got drafted was a guy who had reason to fear that he would be sent to Vietnam. If he ended up getting sent to Germany, or Alaska, or where have you - more power to him. The fact remains that he didn't run away from service, and if he wants to join us now, all we could say was, welcome aboard!

The idea of bringing together both mainstream and out-of-the-mainstream vets was not something any of us thought of. It simply evolved from the individual efforts of two disabled Vietnam combat vets, neither of whom knew each other, nor even what the other was doing. One of them was Don Alexander, and the other, Ron Snyder. Don's efforts began first, and though he was not among the six who met at the Green Beret that day, the history of Post 639 can be traced to his contribution.

It was June 1979. I saw a flyer at the downtown Y with the heading, “VIETNAM VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP”. The flyer said that the group would run for six weeks, and would be limited to twelve participants. It said that "The group is open to Vietnam vets who might wish to talk about where they are now and how Viet Nam has affected their lives.

I had moved back to the Ozarks the previous year, with a Master's degree in philosophy, and the desire to be a freelance writer. During my eight years studying and teaching philosophy, I never knew any Vietnam vets. Having been exposed to the media stereotype for years, I was curious to know how extensive the readjustment problems of Vietnam vets really were. What I ended up learning had less to do with the problems of others, and more to do with a lot of emotional baggage I hadn't realized I had been carrying for over a decade.

Don Alexander was the facilitator of the group. Employed as a counselor at the Burrell Clinic, Don persuaded management to sponsor the group. Serving as a career Marine NCO. in Vietnam in 1966, Don's military career ended when an AK47 round shattered his right pelvis. The night he introduced himself he told us that he had chosen the field of psychological counseling in order to learn to deal with the rage he felt - rage fueled by a series of painful operations, long stays in VA hospital wards, VA drugs, and finally the memory of walking through O'Hare Airport, in uniform and on crutches, and someone screaming at him, "You deserved it!"

Including Don, only four of us participated in the first group. Three of us were jarheads, and the fourth a man who had served with the 82nd Airborne. The third Marine was Bud Darby, the officer of the bunch. Bud had served in Vietnam as a Marine tank commander, which is why Don's brother, Tom, who served with the 26th Marines at Khe Sanh, called him T C. Tom never participated in the group.

In the early days we joked about the two brothers, how Don made a career of helping guys with post-traumatic stress disorder while Tom denied there even was such a thing, but was living it out. But the joking didn't last long, and no one was laughing a couple of years ago when we buried Tom. He died of alcohol poisoning.

That's the way it's been. We've had casualties along the way, involving substance abuse, and involving suicide, but had success stories. Gary Turner participated in Don's second group, and later became our first Post Commander. He served with the 82nd Airborne in '68 - '69. We were there for Gary when he drank, and we're still there for him now, as he approaches his tenth year of recovery. The Post has sponsored Gary's efforts to organize a special AA group for Vietnam vets, and we have made the building available for their meetings.

The same is true for John Bross, a post member and officer for ten years. John served with the America I Division in Vietnam. He is also closing in on ten years of recovery. There are plenty of examples of members who chose to turn things around for themselves, and proceeded to do it.

Though most of the original organizers had participated in Don's group, the one exception was Ron Snyder who, while serving with the 11th Cav in 1968, lost his right eye. He was the one who suggested that we infiltrate the American Legion. But that was a year after he first came on the scene.

In December of 1979, Ron read about a national organization called "Vietnam Veterans in Business", which was devoted to helping Vietnam vets who already owned their own businesses, and ones who wanted to start one. He contacted the national office, and by January 1980, he was heading up a chapter in the Ozarks.

Shortly before reading about that organization, Ron had read another Vietnam vet story. It was a six-page article I had written for Springfield!, a local magazine. The first half of the article dealt with my combat experience - specifically, Operation Utah, the first major engagement between Marines and NVA. The last half focused on Don Alexander's support group. My goal in writing the article was to encourage other Vietnam combat vets to participate in the rap groups.

I don't know for sure whether anyone ever participated in a group as a result of reading that article. But I do know that one guy read it, Ron Snyder. I also know that he was the only reader I needed, because as a result of his response to that article, we had a dedication for a building on July 2, 1993.

II. THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

As 1980 rolled around I had completed my second year working as a postal clerk in Springfield. The pay was great, and it allowed me to write and learn photography. I hoped to someday work my way out of the Post Office with my writing. But I gave up that comfortable job in order to join the Vietnam Veterans Crusade. The irony is, when I finished that Springfield! piece, I thought I had written my last words on the subject of Vietnam, that I had,

so to speak, "gotten it all out", and was writing fiction when I met Ron Snyder.

It was February 4, 1980, when I received a call from James Ingle, who I hadn't talked to since high school. I had heard that James was a talented drummer, but I didn't know that he also served with the Marines in Vietnam. James said he knew a guy named Ron Snyder who had read my article, and wanted to meet me. So I met him later in the week. He told me about Vietnam Veterans in Business, saying that he had organized a workshop in January and had another one scheduled in a couple of weeks. He asked if I would write about it, and I agreed.

The workshop, held in a large meeting room at the Hilton, drew a lot of veterans. What struck me was that a great many of them not only were not businessmen, but did not entertain any ideas about becoming businessmen. They were there because it was a Vietnam veterans meeting, and they wanted to be with fellow Vietnam vets. Jimmy Wood was one of them. So was Pat Williams, who drove through a snowstorm all the way from Ava to attend the first workshop.

Due to our dissatisfaction with the national leadership of Vietnam Veterans in Business, we broke away shortly after the second workshop. Ron was only involved with them for three months, but several key things had been accomplished during that time. We had the nucleus of an organization, for one, since we had the names and addresses of every vet who attended the workshops.

It also brought us online with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at its very inception. That happened at the end of January, when Ron accepted an invitation to a small business conference for veterans, sponsored by the White House Veterans Coordinating Committee. While he was there, he met Mike Watson, a Carter appointee working in the White House. Mike had served a 13-month Marine tour in Vietnam, carrying the M-60 machine gun.

In March, Mike visited the Ozarks for the purpose of discussing the possibility of establishing a business relationship with Ron following his job with the White House. Two months later, an amazing thing happened. Mike called, telling me that the Congress was in the process of designating the exact site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, on the Mall, and that there was a commemoration ceremony scheduled for Memorial Day at the proposed site. He said that President Carter had assigned him the responsibility of representing the White House, and wanted to know if I would come to Washington, and write the speech for the occasion.

Thanks to the support of Ron Snyder, I went to Washington and helped Mike with the speech. Jim Mayfield, a charter member of the Post, and a professional photographer, went with me, and documented the event.

Memorial Day, 1980, Constitution Gardens

Jan Scruggs: "Our next speaker is Mr. Mike Watson, Deputy

Director of the White House Veterans Coordinating Committee. His purpose here today is to present a personal message from the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter. Mr. Watson served in Vietnam as a Marine. Ladies and gentlemen, Mike Watson."

Mike Watson: *"Thank you, Jan. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests: on behalf of the President, I bring greetings."*

We stand together today to honor a generation who served. They served amidst much protest, but they served nonetheless.

Phil Caputo has said that "There are no monuments to the heroes of the Vietnam War, for monuments are reminders, and they make it harder for the country to sink into the amnesia for which it longs."

For which it longs. This longing has diminished the American spirit.

There are increasing signs that America is disenchanting with its forgetfulness. America is awakening to the fact that its survival is contingent upon its remembering.

William Corson, a distinguished writer and warrior, has written: "I love my country, but it is of no service to it, nor its people, to gloss over the rough facts of its mistakes. In dealing with something so provocative and demoralizing as failure, it is easy to get thrown off the track by the transient, and miss the enduring and the significant."

Our purpose is to overcome the consequences of failure. Marble monuments are still inappropriate to the Vietnam War. For Vietnam is not a symbol for emotional gratification, as is the Iwo Jima monument. We perceive the war as a defeat. We were not defeated. We failed. We must begin to examine ourselves. We must be willing to accept the consequences of failure just as we would success. It is this spirit that makes America unique.

One hundred years from now, given what is presently written in the history books, will the truth be known about Vietnam, and how a nation responded? If not, is that how we wish to be remembered for posterity?

This memorial is the first step towards showing that victory does not always go to the victor.

The White House is looking forward to the Congress resolving the site dispute, and the President is eager to sign the bill. God bless all who served. And let us all reconcile."

No one present that day had any idea of what would be standing on that piece of ground. The nationwide call for design proposals had just been issued, Nevertheless, Jan Scruggs and company provided a preview of the Wall at the close of the ceremony. They invited anyone who wished to remember someone who died in the Vietnam War to speak that person's name in the microphone. So many people lined up. Mothers, fathers, wives, girlfriends, neighbors, high school classmates,

and of course, their brothers on the battlefield. Emotionally speaking, it was the audio version of the Wall.

Despite our lobbying in Washington and Jefferson City, the federal government did not install an outreach center in the Ozarks, and we got nowhere with the state. However, our efforts in 1980 accomplished a couple of things. We had established contact with, and became part of an extensive network of Vietnam vets from coast to coast, for one thing. For another, we had, in a short amount of time, received a valuable, yet fairly inexpensive education on how to work within the system.

Locally, our numbers grew steadily. Many came from Don Alexander's groups, which were also getting larger. It was from my own participation in a group in the Summer of 1980 that I brought on board the man who would be our first Commander, Gary Turner. We had been teammates in basketball at Parkview High. with at Parkview High.

"Harlan! You were in Nam? "

"What do you mean was I in the Nam? You were in the Nam, Turner?"

In terms of our individual interests, it is highly unlikely, perhaps impossible, that Gary Turner, Ron Snyder, and Gary Harlan would have ever found themselves associating with one another, were it not for a commitment, a commitment we shared with Vietnam veterans across the country. It was a commitment based on the belief that we survivors of the Vietnam War had a moral obligation to our fallen comrades as well as our fellow survivors. Survival was the issue in Vietnam, and survival was the issue in 1980. It was still a case of physical survival, but it was also a case of emotional survival and economic survival.

That is why we chose "Together Then, Together Now" as our motto.

Today, as we approach 1994, most of our members are unacquainted. with Ron Snyder, because Ron now lives in Branson, operating his business, Hey Mon Coffees. But in 1980 Ron Snyder put the resources of his business where his mouth was, and was asking Vietnam veterans how they saw themselves in ten years. How did they want to see themselves in ten years? He was focused on the issue of economic survival, while Don Alexander focused on their emotional survival.

Thinking that we might meet our goals by working within an established organization, Ron and I joined a local American Legion Post. But by the end of the year, we knew that the only way to really get something going was to start our own organization.

In the June 2022 Post 639 Newsletter,

PART 3 - "IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS CHAOS"

PART 4 - "THE PIG ROAST CONTROVERSY"

PART 5 - "THE VETS CENTER - A MEMORIAL TO LINDEN"



American Legion Post 639

By-Laws



Article I – Name

Section 1. The Post existing under these By Laws is to be known as **Vietnam War Memorial Post 639**, an American Legion facility, under the American Legion Department of Missouri.

Section 2. The objectives of this post are set forth in the National American Legion Constitution.

Article II - Management

Section 1. The Executive Committee Members are as follows: Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Post Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Sergeant at Arms, Service Officer, Judge Advocate, and 2 members at large.

The members of the executive board are those nominees and candidates who were elected at the June Post meeting for the position elected by the highest vote count. The result of the vote count will be announced to the attending members. Only paid up dues members will be allowed into the meeting to vote. Only current paid up members who present their cards will be allowed to enter the building and be eligible to vote.

Section 2. Vacant positions on the Executive Board will be filled by nomination from the Commander and approved by the remaining Executive Board members with a majority vote of acceptance. The person filling the vacant position will complete the remaining term period. A vacancy can occur due to resignation, inability to perform position duties, transfer from Post, or absent from 3 consecutive Executive Board Committee Meetings without approval of the Board.

Article III Elections and Eligibility of Officers

Section 1 No person shall be nominated for office who has less than two (2) years membership at Post 639.

Section 2 Nominations will be opened at the April General Meeting and shall remain open until the June General Meeting, at which time the election of Officers shall be conducted. Additionally, a nomination list shall be posted at the Bar for “write in” candidates.

Section 3 Only current paid up members who present their cards will be allowed to enter the building and be eligible to vote.

Section 4 The Commander shall solicit volunteers to act as a nominating/vote counting committee. The Committee shall consist of three (3) persons who are not standing for Office.

Article IV – Executive Committee

Section 1. Commander -Within 10 days after the election the Commander will hold an Executive Committee meeting to welcome new Officers and discuss the Direction of Post planned. Also discuss any business requiring attention at the time. The monthly scheduled Executive Board meeting will be the last calendar Monday of the month. A special meeting of the Committee can be called at the discretion of the Commander. A quorum of 7 members must be present to hold a authorized meeting .

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall approve the hiring needs of the Post. The Department manager and/or the Commander will conduct the hiring interview for paid positions.

Article V – Duties of Executive Committee Officers

Section 1. Commander – Preside over the Post General meeting and Executive Committee meetings and general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post . The Commander shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the year and recommendations for the ensuing year. A copy will be given to the Adjutant as a post record. The Commander will also perform duties that require the post to maintain operations *that are not covered by other officer’s duties*.

Section 2. 1st Vice Commander – Perform the duties of the Commander when called upon or shall succeed the Commander in the event of absence due to death, resignation or removal. Carry out the Post Children and Youth programs such as Candidates for Boys State, Cadet Patrol Academy and Support of the Oratory Program. Head the entertainment committee .

Section 3 2nd Vice Commander – Set up programs to increase post membership and retain current membership levels. Ensure the Post is active in community events such as Memorial Day community events as well as Veteran’s day parades or other patriotic activities.

Section 4 Post Adjutant - The Adjutant is charged with the keeping of complete and accurate minutes from General Post meetings and Executive Board meetings. This position maintains records outlined by current District, State, and National for reporting requirements. The Adjutant is the person who maintains the members’ information for purpose of American Legion qualified membership, mailing membership renewal cards, Post Newsletter, or other notifications important to the membership of the Post. Adjutant also records membership numbers at Post level for Post planning as directed by the Commander. All financials (Adjutant Checking Account) to be controlled by Finance Officer.

Section 5 Finance Officer – In charge of the Post financial records and tracking. The finance officer reports to the Executive Committee and Post membership the financial health of the post at Executive Board meetings and the Post General meeting. The Finance Officer is the receptor of all monies and is responsible for financial institutions deposits in a timely manner. The Finance Officer also ensures all bills and required licenses are up to date and paid as well as Post IRS tax filing is done within proper filing time frame.

Section 6 Judge Advocate – Post Parliamentarian familiar with the ‘Roberts Rule of Order’ which are used at meetings. Ensure leadership roles have been changed with all State and Local Authorities/Ensure Licenses are up to date.

Section 7 Service Officer – Shall be familiar with the laws, process, benefits entitled to veterans as set forth by the Veterans Administration. Advise and assist members on where and how to get resolution to their question(s) or issues. Responsible for Veterans affairs and rehabilitation matters.

Section 8 Historian – Responsible for the formation and distribution to members a monthly post newsletter. A copy of these newsletters should be maintained in a binder for future reference. Also the Historian will maintain the newsletter information on the post website americanlegionpost639.org. The information obtained for the newsletter may require the Historian to attend Post activities and obtain information and photos. Responsible for the collection and disposition of all donated historical pieces to the post.

Section 9 Chaplain – Duties are to perform prayer at the beginning and ending of the Post general meeting, prayer at the Executive Board monthly meeting. The Chaplain is the person who has the honor of spiritual welfare of the post members. The Chaplain will offer divine non-secular services at dedications, funerals, and/or public functions. The Chaplain shall adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National and Department headquarters from time to time.

Section 10 Sergeant at Arms – Shall be the duty of the Sergeant at Arms to retain possession of the Post Banner and to post it and the US Flag at each General meeting as well as the Executive Board meetings. Shall inform the Commander of all visitors/guests at General meetings and maintain order during the meetings. The Sergeant at Arms is also responsible for ensuring those entering at the election meeting are eligible to vote and enter the building..

Section 11 Members at Large – These 2 persons are elected at the Post General Election to represent the membership at Executive Board meetings. Assigned to fulfill the duties as new member greeters and assist them for at least 90 days. If approved to reduce from 3 to 2 Members at Large then create new position of Quartermaster.

Section 12 Quartermaster – Backup for the Finance Officer and has check signing authorization. The Quartermaster will be a member of the Finance Committee, member of the Bar Committee and responsible for the entertainment/gaming activities. Other duties and responsibilities to be determined by the Post Commander and Finance Officer upon the needed addition.

Article VI Post Finances (new addition)

Section 1. Revenue of the Post shall be derived from annual dues, and other sources as approved by the Executive Committee. Surplus funds of the Post shall be invested by the Finance Officer under the direction and approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Commander shall appoint a Finance Committee and such Finance Committee shall prepare a proposed budget of anticipated income and expenditures which will be printed in the Post newsletter at least thirty days prior to the beginning of the Post’s fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be specific and as detailed as reasonably possible

and shall be based upon anticipated income and proposed expenditures.

Section 3. The Finance Committee shall prepare and present a proposed budget to the Post Executive Committee prior to the start of each fiscal year and the proposed budget, once it has been prepared and published in the newsletter, shall not be changed or altered without the consent of the Finance Committee, or in the absence of such, by a two-thirds vote approval of the Executive Committee. No active person of the Executive Committee can serve on the Finance Committee.

Article VII Standing Committees

Section 1. The Commander shall appoint the Standing Committee chairpersons for Americanism, Children and Youth, Finance, Entertainment/Public Relations, Membership and Post Everlasting.

Section 2. Bar Committee –The Commander shall appoint the leader of the Bar Committee who shall report to the E-Board. The Bar Committee governs the activities of the bar to include events, cost adjustments and bar/kitchen activities as well as hours of operation.

Article VIII Resolutions

Section 1. The Post General Meeting will be held at the Post on the first calendar Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Section 2. The Commander or majority of the Executive Committee can call a special meeting at any time.

Section 3. Upon written request of 7 members, the Executive Committee can call a special meeting of the Post.

Section 4. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

Article IX Notices

Section 1. The membership shall furnish the Adjutant with their mailing address, email, and phone number.

Section 2. The Adjutant shall make available to the Historian voting date, and requirements for eligible voting. To be published in the Post newsletter.

Article X Limitation of Liabilities

This post assumes no liability nor obligations from any other Post, group of persons, or members of the American Legion, individuals, Corporations or organizations.

Article XI Amendments

These By-Laws maybe amended at any regular Executive Board meeting by a two-thirds majority vote. At the next General Post meeting, copies of the old and new changes must be made available to the attending members. Members of the Post must be informed that changes are being made at least 5 days before the old and new changes are presented to the membership. The attending membership will vote to accept or not to accept the new changes. A two-thirds majority approval accepts changes as presented.

This document is the accurate By Laws of American Legion Post 639 to the best of my Knowledge as Commander of Post 639. Feb 2022

Commander _____ Date _____

Adjutant _____ Date _____

History in May

May 01 1960 – Cold War: An American U-2 spy plane flown by Francis Gary Powers is shot down while conducting espionage over the Soviet Union. The incident derailed an important summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev that was scheduled for later that month.

May 02 1863 – Civil War: Stonewall Jackson is wounded by friendly fire while returning to camp after reconnoitering during the Battle of Chancellorsville. He succumbs to pneumonia eight days later leaving Gen. Robert E. Lee without his most able lieutenant.

May 02 1945 – WW2: Approximately 1 million German soldiers lay down their arms as the terms of the German unconditional surrender, signed at Caserta on April 29, come into effect. Many Germans surrender to Japanese soldiers—Japanese Americans. Among the American tank crews that entered the northern Italian town of Biella was an all-Nisei (second-generation) infantry battalion, composed of Japanese Americans from Hawaii.

May 02 2011 – Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, is killed by U.S. forces during a raid on his compound hideout in Pakistan. The notorious, 54-year-old leader of Al Qaeda, the terrorist network of Islamic extremists, had been the target of a nearly decade-long international manhunt.

May 03 1942 – WW2: Battle of the Coral Sea - The first modern naval engagement in history, called the Battle of the Coral Sea, a Japanese invasion force succeeds in occupying Tulagi of the Solomon Islands in an expansion of Japan's defensive perimeter. It was the 1st sea battle fought solely in air. Although Japan would go on to occupy all of the Solomon Islands, its victory was a Pyrrhic one: The cost in experienced pilots and aircraft carriers was so great that Japan had to cancel its expedition to Port Moresby, Papua, as well as other South Pacific targets.

May 03 1946 – WW2: In Tokyo, Japan, the International Military Tribunals for the Far East begins hearing the case against 28 Japanese military and government officials accused of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity during World War II.

May 04 1942 – WW2: Civilians issued first ration books—War Ration Book Number One, or the "Sugar Book" through more than 100,000 schoolteachers, PTA groups, and other volunteers.

May 04 1970 – Vietnam: At Kent State University, 100 National Guardsmen fire their rifles into a group of students, killing four and wounding eleven. This incident occurred in the aftermath of President Richard Nixon's April 30 announcement that U.S. and South Vietnamese forces had been ordered to execute an "incursion" into Cambodia to destroy North Vietnamese bases there. In protest, a wave of demonstrations and disturbances erupted on college campuses across the country.

May 05 1864 – Civil War: In an inconclusive 3 day battle the

forces of Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Robert E. Lee clash in the Spotsylvania County Wilderness forest in Virginia. Lee had hoped to meet the Federals, who plunged into the tangled Wilderness west of Chancellorsville, Virginia, the day before, in the dense woods in order to mitigate the nearly two-to-one advantage Grant possessed as the campaign opened. The battle kicks off Grant's Overland Campaign in Virginia. Casualties and losses: US 17,666 - CSA 11,125.

May 06 1941 – At California's March Field, Bob Hope performs his first USO show.

May 16 1943 – The Holocaust: *The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising ends* » In Poland, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising comes to an end as Nazi soldiers gain control of Warsaw's Jewish ghetto, blowing up the last remaining synagogue and beginning the mass deportation of the ghetto's remaining dwellers to the Treblinka extermination camp.

May 16 1968 – Vietnam: *Navy Corpsman receives Medal of Honor for action* » Donald E. Ballard, Corpsman U.S. Navy, is awarded the Medal of Honor for action this date in Quang Tri Province. Ballard, from Kansas City, Missouri, was a corpsman with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division.

May 18 1863 – Civil War: *The 47 day Siege of Vicksburg begins* In a series of maneuvers, Union Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee crossed the Mississippi River and drove the Confederate Army of Mississippi, led by Lt. Gen. John C. Pemberton, into the defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

May 18 1989 – Cold War: *One million protesters take to the streets in Beijing* A crowd of protesters, estimated to number more than one million, marches through the streets of Beijing calling for a more democratic political system. Just a few weeks later, the Chinese government moved to crush the protests.

May 20 1940 – WW2: The Holocaust – The first prisoners arrive at a new concentration camp at Auschwitz.

May 20 1969 – Vietnam: *Battle for Hamburger Hill ends.* After 10 days and 10 bloody assaults, Hill 937 in South Vietnam is finally captured by U.S. and South Vietnamese troops. The Americans who fought there cynically dubbed Hill 937 "Hamburger Hill" because the battle and its high casualty rate reminded them of a meat grinder. U.S. military command had ordered Hill 937 taken primarily as a diversionary tactic, and on 28 MAY it was abandoned.

May 22 1939 – WW2: *The Pact of Steel is signed; the Axis is formed.* Italy and Germany agree to a military and political alliance, giving birth formally to the Axis powers, which will ultimately include Japan.

May 26 1940 – WW2: Battle of Dunkirk – In France, Allied forces begin a massive 9-day evacuation from Dunkirk, France. Casualties and losses: Allies 51,000 + 50,000 vehicles + 9 destroyers + 200 marine vassals + 177 aircraft – Ger 20 to 30,000 + 100 tanks + 240 aircraft.



Vietnam War Memorial
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Member at Large	Jeff Wurtz	