

Prisoners Of War - Missing In Action



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

APRIL 2023



Never Forget - Bring Them Home



Post 639 Commander



Things are greening up. Has anyone mowed yet? Kim and I have been busy preparing our place for Spring. We are definitely ready for some warmer weather for riding, and boating season.

Business at Post 639 will be picking up also. Our outdoor venue will be hopping again this year with events. Be sure to check the calendar and don't miss out. Chef Jeff has been working to increase our lunch crowd and it seems to be working well. So make a plan to come by M-F 11-2 and grab a bite.

Progress has been made on the sign and we have received good news from the City and we are moving forward with that project. And Ron Sanders has gotten bids on new flooring for Post 639 and we are moving along on that too.

2023 is going to be a great year. Plan on joining in on the fun.

A long time member Bill Erwin passed away. Keep his family in your prayers. RIP my friend.

Thanks everyone.

Mike Goforth

Commander, Legion Post 639

Don't forget - spring hours are back !!! Monday-Saturday 11AM - 9PM. Sunday hours have been expanded to 12PM - 9PM.

Nominations for the next election cycle open in April. Open in April/May, election is at the General Meeting in June.



Post 639 Adjutant



Brothers and Sisters, I am running this content every month, as the problem still persists (although it's getting much better). We're still receiving some mail-in renewals that have previously been paid. As was described last month, National sends out Renewal Notices quarterly and they are not paying attention to our inputs for renewals. IF you get a Renewal Notice, check the latest card you have and if it has 2023 on it, IGNORE THE NOTICE. We are returning checks as we get them and verifying your status. (As of end of month January, we've returned over 100 checks) This has been an ongoing problem with National. The Department of MO is aware of the snafu but there is

little to nothing they or we, here at 639, can do except to ask for your patience.

Any Membership questions call Tom at 417-569-9871 and we will get them resolved ASAP.

We're making progress, but we will have a ways to go.

Tom Newsom

Post 639 Adjutant



639 Chaplain



It is already that time again to send out my thoughts for the next month.

These last few months have been really trying for my wife Mary and myself. Mary has been in and out of the hospital for the last 4-5 months with health problems related to her diabetes. Without the prayers from friends and family, it is hard to deal with the things that we contend with here at the hospital, and at home. Without prayer, we have no hope of any kind that things will get better.

Thank you, one and all, for your prayers and support.

All for now

Rex Krasche

Post 639 Chaplain



639 Auxiliary President



The tulips are budding and the daffodils are bursting,

Robins are singing as they build their nests.

Apple trees blossoming under the bright blue skies,

It's springtime and she's showing off her best!

At the General Meeting on March 7th, we were presented with a gift from the estate of past Post Member Joseph Roth to use in ALA's efforts to support our mission of serving Veterans. Mr. Roth was a US Navy AO2 (Aviation Ordnanceman Second Class) during WWII. **We are so blessed to receive this. (See pictures on page 6)**

For those of you who don't remember Mr. Roth, he was very nice, funny, and had a heart of gold. Joe would come to the Post with his dog "Blossom". If there was an empty bar stool next to Joe, Blossom would jump on the stool and make herself comfortable. Joe was also very fond of the ladies in the Post Auxiliary, grateful for everything they did for him and the Post.

ALA would like to thank all of those who came out and joined

us for our St. Patrick's Day dinner. We had a very nice crowd who enjoyed their meal surrounded in the "green" atmosphere. The volunteer crew that brought the luck of the Irish your way was Tammi Grantham, Terra Cooperider, Lindy Dobbs, Hallie Scott, Charlotte Kelly, Sherry Hawk, Gail Willey, Marsha Crom, Linda Tenneson and Reggie Hutson with decorating, providing desserts and food service. Special thank you to SAL members Jesse and Frank Grantham and Noel Hepard for their assistance and support. (See pictures on Pages 6-7)

By the time you read this a winner will have been drawn for our March Madness Raffle Basket. Our Raffle Basket Committee, Sherry Hawk and Paula Maxheimer, do a great job with our baskets. They never disappoint! We are looking forward to seeing what they come up with for our next basket in July. Thank you for your support with our fundraisers and congratulations to our Raffle Basket winner!



Our Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt will have come and gone by the time you read this. It was Saturday, April 1st and the Easter Bunny was here to greet our guests and start the egg hunt. Next month we will report the details of the event.

Saturday, April 22nd is the ALA Spring Paddle Party/SAL Meat Raffle. The event is from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. with paddle and ticket sales starting at 2:00 p.m. This event never disappoints with ALA Event Coordinator Kim Goforth at the helm! Once again, she brings some of our favorite vendors back as well as some new ones. See our flyer in this newsletter on Page 7

Thank you for your support and assistance to ALA. We do appreciate you!

In Spirit of Service, not Self

Diana Cooperider, President, Post 639 Auxiliary

Post 639 SAL Commander

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

WE WANT YOU!



of your service to these brave vets, who fought to provide the freedoms each of us enjoy every day. Service with fun / fellowship - that's what you get !!

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

Come out and sit in on a meeting or talk with a few of our members. Jump in and find your spot in SAL. Service and fellowship memories that will last you a lifetime ...

Curtis Myers, Commander

Sons of the American Legion

Post 639 ALR Director

Spring's supposedly here, right? After that cold snap in mid-March, it was hard to tell. Looked like Punxsutawny Phil the groundhog was right. But after a long winter wait, I know we all are "chomping at the bit" to our first monthly ALR ride on Saturday, April 22nd to Pizza Cellar in Rockaway Beach. Watch for an email from Ron Jackson on logistics, i.e, KSU time, ETA for return, etc. As always, our 50/50 rule will apply (no go if predicted high temp is 50 degrees or less, or 50% chance of rain predicted). Ron will let everyone know the status on the Friday night before.

As was announced at the March monthly meeting, Officer nominations for the 2023-2024 year open in April. After reflection and much thought, Ron and I have decided to continue on for another year as your Director / Ride Captain. Other Officers that have expressed intent to continue are David (Fister) Turner (Treasurer), Bob Kalwat (Secretary), Herman Burkett, Jr. (Co-Chaplain) Election schedule - Those names placed in Nomination must be referenced in the ALR Monthly Meeting minutes for 3 consecutive months. Election will be held at the August 20th meeting, after which the Post Commander will come and administer the oath to the newly elected team.

Our 2023-2024 year will be very busy. Everyone's help is needed to pull everything off. You all have been **STELLAR** in the past, and I need you to continue to step up, as you always have.

Our monthly ALR Dinner ride in March was to W.F. Cody's on E. Sunshine. Turnout was small, but the fellowship was **LARGE**. Please join us at these outings if you can, usually the Tuesday following the monthly meeting, during which we decide our destination.



We're offering sincere, heartfelt sympathy and condolences to our own Chuck Duff on the loss of his brother in March. Chuck, we're with you, Zella and your entire family during this

time. We've all got our arms wrapped around all of you, and rest assured we love you, Brother !!!!

Also, Bill Erwin (ALR Chapter 639 Charter Member) passed away on March 28th. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Legion Riders, CVMA and Red Knights have been asked by the family to escort Bill to his final rest in Brighton, MO on Tuesday, April 4th.

PLEASE ensure that you have your calendars updated for our Friday, June 9th Fish Fry. We will also give away the S&W CSX 9mm pistol at the event. We need everyone to be selling tickets for the raffle right up until the event. This is our MAJOR fundraiser for the year, so please dive in and help out.

During the March ALR meeting, Bob Kalwat proposed a monthly feature in the Post Newsletter spotlighting a different ALR member every month. You all may remember several months back, Ron Sanders suggested this as one of the ways we could promote our Chapter, promote volunteerism, and increase our organizational visibility/members to the Post general membership. **Participation is strictly voluntary**, and no personal information will be shared. Bob will contact you when you're up on the list, and provide you with a questionnaire to gather details for your article. We will feature our members monthly by seniority, starting with Ron Jackson below.

April 2023 ALR Member Spotlight - Ron Jackson

Ron Jackson is a Charter Member/ former Director of ALR Chapter 639, and currently serves Legion Post 639 in several capacities -

- Post 639 Building/Grounds Manager / Sergeant at Arms
- ALR Chapter 639 Ride Captain/ Coordinator



Born February 27, 1950 in Harvey, Illinois, Ron served 4 years in the US Navy Seabees as a heavy equipment operator, during which he served one tour in Vietnam. Since his military service, he's worked as a mechanic, heavy equipment operator, and is also a retired Firefighter. In addition to the Legion Riders, Ron is also a member of the Red Knights Firefighters MC. A long-time member of Post 639, He joined the American Legion to be around other Vietnam Vets and Navy Seabees.

Favorite foods - Chicken/Steaks/Seafood

Favorite drinks - Beer

Favorite music - Southern Rock, Blues

Advice to younger generations - "Make good decisions that you can be proud of the outcomes. Be responsible for your actions"

Ride safe out there

Marsha Crom

Director, Chapter 639



How do you get a **DD214**? This information seems to be a state secret so please burn this newsletter before you read it.

Just contact the National Archives. They have them; they are free; and the turn around time is only two or three weeks. That's less time than it takes to count the vote!

You can contact the National Archives: at their website (www.archives.gov) **OR**

by email (public.affairs@NARA.gov), **OR**

by mail: National Archives and Records Administration, **OR**
Room G-1, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20408
OR

by phone (202)357-5300

They have people there to help you find what you need.

Bob Scott

Post 639 Service Officer



April 5th is annual "Gold Star Mothers Day". The following description/explanation is the best I've ever seen on the meaning behind the Blue/Gold Star display (taken from "Hope for the Warriors" website, www.hopeforthewarriors.org)

"The **Blue Star Service Flag** was patented and designed by WWI Army Captain Robert L. Queisser who, at the time, had two sons serving on the front line. The flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in service.

A Gold Star Family can display a **Gold Star Service Flag** for service members who were killed or died, while serving in the Armed Forces, from causes other than dishonorable. The number of gold stars on the flag corresponds to with the number of individuals who were killed or died. **A gold star is placed over the blue star on a Blue Star Service Flag so that the blue forms a border and creates Gold Star Service Flag.** The U.S. Department of Defense also issues Gold Star lapel pins to immediate family members of a fallen service member of the military. These pins are worn by spouses, parents, and children of service members killed in the line of duty and contain a gold star on a purple circular background.."

The most moving, poignant portrayal of the spirit behind this

concept I've ever seen is in the 1998 film "Saving Private Ryan" - the story of the search for an US Army 101st Airborne paratrooper, James Francis Ryan, who loses all three of his brothers in combat shortly before/during June 6th 1944, D-Day.

Early in the film, there are two scenes that speak to the enormity of the grief when families are face with this situation.

The first scene portrays the Government typing pool where the letters of condolence are prepared for the families of the lost loved ones. The letters of all three brothers are identified, and the order to commence the search for James is ordered.

In the second, at James' Iowa farm boyhood home, his mother displays a Blue Star flag (4 stars) in the kitchen window. She's busy clearing/washing the dishes from an earlier meal. A distant movement catches her eye, and she looks up from the sink. In a distant dust trail, she sees a vehicle approaching the house along the farm road. As it gets closer, she sees the reality - an drab green sedan with a white star on door. She slowly grasps the reality of the moment, and walks to the front door as the car stops in front of the house. As she walks out on the front porch, an Army Officer and a Priest exit from the car. She becomes unsteady on her feet, and slowly lowers herself to sit down as the Priest comes up and holds her hand before the Officer delivers the news. Three of her Blue Stars are about to become Gold.

I'm including a YouTube link to the portion of the movie that contains both scenes. Describing it pales in comparison to watching the moment. It captures the very essence of what Gold Star Mothers Day is about. Even if you've seen the movie, please watch it again. Just copy/paste the link into your Web Browser and experience it for yourself in honor of April 5th, and all of the Gold Star Mothers who have gone through this experience

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwvwsdDRyXPw&t=193s>

Bob Kalwat

Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor

April VSO Activities/Info

Give Vets Hope

Our meeting on February 28th went well. Kelly Komoto, from the Alpha House, here in Springfield, was in attendance. Alpha House is a Residential Re-Entry Center for Federal Offenders. Kelly wanted to get a "feel" for our Give Vets Hope group in possibly making some veteran referrals to us. I reviewed some of the information about Alpha House and it seems they are really interested in a successful transition, to our community, for this important population.



Our introduction to the Talking Stick also was well received with just about everyone having something to say. Our group does not provide therapy; however, we are excellent listeners. We listen

without judgement or interrupting. Being in a group like this can be very therapeutic.

We had plenty of pop and pizza for everyone, we even had some dessert!

At our meeting on March 14th, we had Julie Batson MSW, LCSW, attending. She is with the VA and serves as a Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator. Her husband is a veteran, and she has a lot of experience working with veterans. She may be able to provide some assistance for us through her community work. Again, we had plenty of pizza and pop!

Our next meetings are April 11th and 25th, at the Post, from 5:30 to about 7:00/7:30. If you need further information, please call 417-773-1738 and leave a message.

David Suits

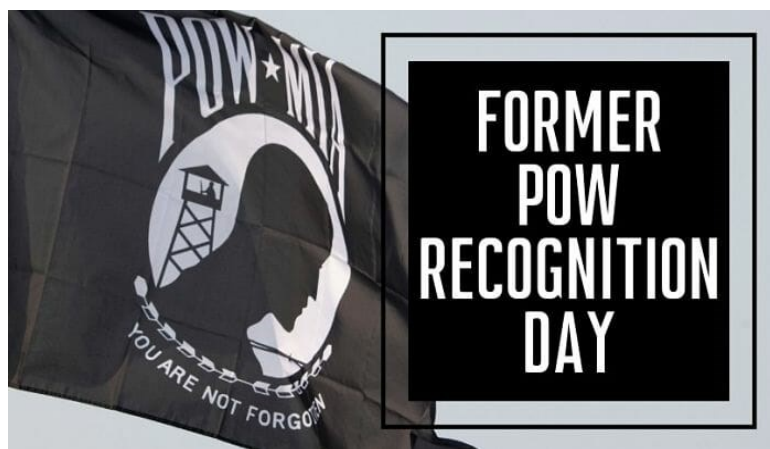
Co-facilitator for "Give Vets Hope" group

Elks Lodge #409 - Veterans Services

Nolan Moody, Legion Post 639 member, has received the "Elk of the Year" Award from Elks Lodge 409. Nolan is Chairman of the Elks 409 Veterans Committee, and serves as Liaison for Post 639 with many VSO organizations. We rely on Nolan to keep Post 639 aware and informed of other VSO's activities so that we may serve the Veteran community in the most efficient and effective way possible.

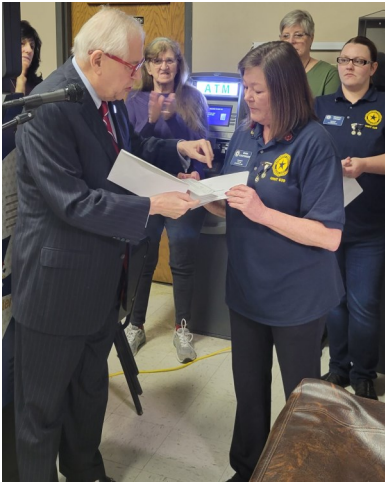


Congratulations, Nolan - Well done !!!



General Meeting AUX Presentation

March 7, 2023



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

March 18, 2023



St. Patrick's Day @ LZ639

March 17th, 2023



ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY 639 EVENT

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH
6:00 TO 7:30 P.M.

SHEPHERD'S PIE
IRISH BACON & CABBAGE
DINNER ROLL & DESSERT

\$10





ALA Paddle Party - SAL Meat Raffle



ALA SPRING PADDLE PARTY & SAL MEAT RAFFLE

Saturday, April 22nd
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

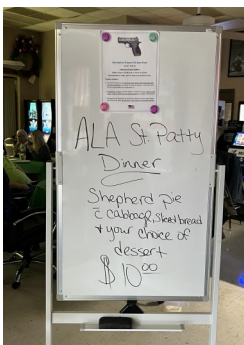
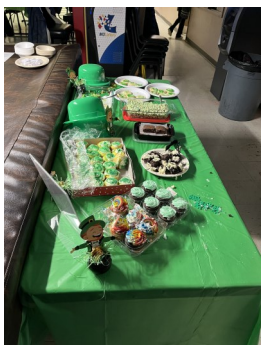
American Legion Post 639

2660 S. Scenic Avenue

Paddle and Ticket sales start at 2:00 p.m.

Featuring our Favorite & New Vendors

Giveaways, Swag, Finger food Buffet & More
DON'T FORGET YOUR QUARTERS!



REMEMBER



REMEMBER



★ BIKE NIGHT ★



@LZ639
EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY
6:30 - 10

QUEEN OF HEARTS
 CARD DRAW
 EVERY WEDNESDAY

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
19	3, 17, 31	14, 28	12, 26	9, 26	6, 20	4, 18

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MAY 7, 2023

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Registration Begins at 11:30 am
 Kickstands up/Ride Departs at 1:00pm

Ride will also end at Post 639

2660 S. Scenic

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For more info, contact:

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



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 SPRINGFIELD, MO STUDIO

WITH
JIM COOPER
 U.S. NAVY VETERAN



MONDAY-FRIDAY 1400 HRS

VIETNAMVETRADIO.ORG

Party Time!

Jim Cooper

6PM Friday Central Time USA



VietnamVetRadio.org



REMEMBER



GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY



Gold Star Mothers Day - April 5th

NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY

Former POW Recognition Day - April 9th



Civil War Commences, Ft. Sumter - April 12th

AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY



Air Force Reserve Birthday - April 14th

ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY



Army Reserve Birthday - April 23rd

For the Good of the Legion ...

The Willys Military Jeep



Willys Jeep TUG

The US Military Jeep is a small, compact-size vehicle that is used by all branches of the Military. In the early days of its construction, it was made as a convertible because it did not have a hard roof. It was made of canvas, if any at all.

The Willys Jeep was a four-wheel-drive, short in length and in height, but a good vehicle in muddy, boggy terrain. It had a spare wheel mounted on the side. It had a small, 4-cylinder engine but it was an efficient vehicle, with a speed of around 50 MPH. It was also a standard shift with a clutch. It ran a regular gas, and that made operating it economical. The Jeep, like most vehicles, had maintenance problems, and needed a mechanic

The Jeep was used by many different people - The enlisted soldiers, team-leading Sergeants, and officers. The Jeep was a common vehicle in parades as it was modified to carry the Staff flag with a plaque with the rank insignia of the passenger.

The Air Force announced it was going to sell surplus Jeeps, and wrote my Dad to ask him if he wanted a Jeep to pull the boat with, and he replied "No", so I did not buy one.

One time, I had to take my TUG (see picture above) to the motor pool to get it fixed. I asked the motor pool what they had for me to drive back, and he said "I only have the motor pool TUG, and you can't borrow that". I asked to borrow the telephone and dialed my engine shop, asked for Mr. Harvey. I said, "Mr. Harvey, this is Airman Weaver at the motor pool to turn my TUG in to be fixed, and they don't have one to loan me". Mr. Harvey said to put the man on the phone. I said "He wants to talk to you". I heard Mr. Harvey have a conversation with the motor pool. They gave me the motor pool TUG.

Charlie Weaver

"Budreau"

Average Weather in April for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *increase* by 8°F, from 63°F to 71°F, rarely falling below 48°F or exceeding 81°F.

Daily low temperatures *increase* by 9°F, from 43°F to 51°F, rarely falling below 30°F or exceeding 63°F.

Over the course of April in Springfield, the length of the day is *rapidly increasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day increases by *1 hour, 5 minutes*, implying an average daily increase of *2 minutes, 15 seconds*, and weekly increase of *15 minutes, 44 seconds*.

The shortest day of the month is *April 1*, with *12 hours, 37 minutes* of daylight and the longest day is *April 30*, with *13 hours, 42 minutes* of daylight.

The latest sunrise of the month in Springfield is *6:59 AM* on *April 1* and the earliest sunrise is *39 minutes* earlier at *6:19 AM* on *April 30*.

The earliest sunset is *7:35 PM* on *April 1* and the latest sunset is *26 minutes* later at *8:01 PM* on *April 30*.

Daylight saving time is observed in Springfield during 2023, but it neither starts nor ends during April, so the entire month is in daylight saving time.

For reference, on *June 21*, the *longest day* of the year, the Sun rises at *5:53 AM* and sets *14 hours, 44 minutes* later, at *8:36 PM*, while on *December 22*, the *shortest day* of the year, it rises at *7:23 AM* and sets *9 hours, 36 minutes* later, at *4:59 PM*.

The growing season in Springfield typically lasts for *6.6 months (203 days)*, from around *April 8* to around *October 28*, rarely starting before *March 21* or after *April 28*, and rarely ending before *October 10* or after *November 15*.

During April in Springfield, the chance that a given day is within the growing season is *very rapidly increasing* rising from *31%* to *92%* over the course of the month.



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

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

Your Saturday breakfast is made possible by the following 6AM crew - **Bob Dale, Dylan Dale, Mike Chandler with support and assistance of Scotty and Jeff.** 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 **January Breakfast** at the Post.

Jim "Skippy" Cooper (got peanut butter)

Your 6AM Support Team

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 !!!**





APRIL 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  <p>YOU DISH IT UP WE'LL DISH IT OUT</p> <p>THE BEST FED SOLDIER IN THE WORLD</p> <p>BREAKFAST 8 - 10AM KIDS EASTER PARTY</p>
2	3 LUNCH 11-2	4 LUNCH 11-2  <p>LEGION/AUX GENERAL MTG 7PM</p>	5 LUNCH 11-2  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM</p>  <p>GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY</p>	6 LUNCH 11-2	7 LUNCH 11-2	8  <p>SUB VETS MTG 11AM</p>
9	10 LUNCH 11-2	11 LUNCH 11-2  <p>KOREAN WAR VETS 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5PM</p>	12 LUNCH 11-2  <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-8PM</p>	13 LUNCH 11-2  <p>FINANCE COMMITTEE 6:30PM</p>  <p>MCL 993 6PM-8PM</p>	14 LUNCH 11-2	15
					14 LUNCH 11-2	
					 <p>AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY</p>	
16	17 LUNCH 11-2	18 LUNCH 11-2	19 LUNCH 11-2	20 LUNCH 11-2	21 LUNCH 11-2	22
 <p>ALR MEETING 5PM</p>		 <p>AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM</p>	 <p>BIKE NIGHT & QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM</p>		 <p>VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 -7 PM</p>	 <p>ALR RIDE TO PIZZA CELLAR</p> <p>ALA PADDLE PARTY SAL MEAT RAFFLE 3-6PM</p>
23	24 LUNCH 11-2	25 LUNCH 11-2	26 LUNCH 11-2	27 LUNCH 11-2	28 LUNCH 11-2	29
 <p>ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY</p>	 <p>E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM</p>	 <p>SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5PM</p>	 <p>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-8PM</p>	 <p>FLEET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</p>		
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.



Post 639 Schedule of Events

April 2023

- April 01 Sat - Post 639 Breakfast 8AM - 10AM
- Kids Easter Party / Easter Egg Hunt, 1-3PM
- April 04 Tue - Legion 639/Aux General Meeting, 7PM
- April 05 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Gold Star Mothers Day
- April 08 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting, 11AM
- April 09 Sun - Former POW Recognition Day
- April 11 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- April 12 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Ft Sumter, Civil War Commences
- April 13 Thu - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30PM
- Marine Corps League Mtg, VFW 3404
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- April 14 Fri - Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 16 Sun - ALR Meeting, 5PM
- April 18 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting, 7PM
- April 19 Wed - BIKE NIGHT/Queen of Hearts, 6-10PM
- April 21 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- April 22 Sat - ALR April Ride - Pizza Cellar, Rockway Beach
- ALA Paddle Party/SAL Meat Raffle, 3-6PM
- April 23 Sun - Army Reserve Birthday
- April 24 Mon - Post 639 E-Board Meeting 6:30PM
- April 25 Tue - Sons of the American Legion Mtg, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- April 26 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- April 27 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM
- Newsletter Content Due

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 **Robin** or one of the bartenders for additional information and to order.

June 8-11, 2023 Open 24 Hours
922 W. Republic Road, Springfield, MO
(Located @ Wesley United Methodist Church)



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

Free Event To the Public!



SERENITY
HONORS

facebook.com/SerenityHonors



For more information visit us at:

TheWallThatHeals-SerenityHonors2023.com

Facebook.com/serenityhonors

Join Serenity & the VVMF in bringing THE WALL THAT HEALS to our community.

You can DONATE online or by mail.

Make checks payable to SERENITY HONORS INC. and mailed to:

Serenity Honors * P.O. Box 128 * Nixa, MO 65714

For questions call Chris at (417) 590-7500 or email serenityhonors@gmail.com

Serenity Honors Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation.

Any contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Hello everyone - Serenity is proud to announce that her Veterans Charity, SERENITY HONORS, will be hosting The Wall That Heals in Springfield, MO on June 8-11, 2023. The Wall That Heals exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. The website for this exhibit is below:

<https://thewallthatheals-serenityhonors2023.com>

We would like to invite you and your organization to join us in Remembering and Honoring Our Vietnam Veterans. Please see the attachments for more information & sponsorship opportunities.

We are looking for help in a couple of areas:

1. We are looking for help in getting the word out to ALL of our Vietnam Veterans & community, so they can be aware of the exhibit. Would you please forward this email & attachments to all of your Veteran organizations, business, and/or individuals you are in contact with. We want to get the word out to everyone.
2. If you would like to help Serenity in bringing TWTH to our Vietnam Veterans & our community, we are looking for financial help too. We have Sponsorship opportunities available.
3. We also have volunteer opportunities available - TWTH needs to be set up, taken down, & staffed for the 4 days it is here (open 24 hours).

Please see the attached 4 page document for more information & sponsorship opportunities.

Some quick points of interest about this exhibit:

1. FREE to everyone.
2. Family and Child Friendly
3. Education Center
4. Local Vietnam Heroes will be Honored
5. No concessions, vending, souvenirs, etc, will be sold.
6. This is NOT a fundraising event.

On behalf of Serenity & Serenity Honors, thank you for your time & support

Chris McQuay, President, Serenity Honors, Inc.



The Smith & Wesson CSX 9mm Pistol

MSRP: \$609.00

American Legion Riders

Raffle Tickets: \$10.00 each or Three for \$25.00

(Drawing Held on Friday, June 9th, Need Not Be Present to Win)

Product Features

- The CSX is built on an aluminum alloy frame with interchangeable polymer backstraps, providing the user the ability to customize their level of concealment and ergonomic fit.
- Chambered in 9mm, the CSX holds an impressive 12+1 capacity and comes with an additional 10 round magazine for deeper concealment.
- Designed with flexibility in mind and, despite its micro-sized frame, the CSX packs both ambidextrous slide releases and manual safeties.



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

1/1

History in April

April 1, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Confederate troops of General George Pickett were defeated and cut off at Five Forks, Virginia. This sealed the fate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's armies at Petersburg and Richmond and hastened the end of the war

April 2, 1865 - General Robert E. Lee informed Confederate President Jefferson Davis that he must evacuate the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia. Davis and his cabinet then fled by train.

April 2, 1982 - The beginning of the Falkland Islands War as troops from Argentina invaded and occupied the British colony located near the tip of South America. The British retaliated and defeated the Argentinians on June 15, 1982, after ten weeks of combat, with about 1,000 lives lost.

April 3, 1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing the letters off to the next rider. A total of 190 way stations were located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years, ending upon the completion of the overland telegraph.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe

April 5, 1856 - African American educator Booker T. Washington was born a slave in Franklin County, Virginia. Freed by the Civil War, he taught himself the alphabet and eventually graduated from an agricultural institute. In June of 1881, he was asked to become the principal of a new training school for blacks at Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Institute began in single building with 30 students but through his efforts grew into a modern university.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 10, 1998 - Politicians in Northern Ireland reached an agreement aimed at ending 30 years of violence which had claimed over 3,400 lives. Under the agreement, Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland would govern together in a new 108-member Belfast assembly, thus ending 26 years of "direct rule" from London.

April 12, 1861 - The American Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 4:30 a.m. on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

April 12, 1981 - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of *Columbia* with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. *Columbia* spent 54 hours in space, mak-

ing 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

April 14, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded while watching a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater in Washington. He was taken to a nearby house and died the following morning at 7:22 a.m.

April 15, 1912 - In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner *Titanic* with 2,224 persons on board sank at 2:27 a.m. after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 persons drowned while 700 were rescued by the liner *Carpathia* which arrived about two hours after *Titanic* went down.

April 17, 1961 - A U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba failed disastrously in what became known as the Bay of Pigs fiasco. About 1,400 anti-Castro exiles invaded the island's southern coast along the Bay of Pigs but were overrun by 20,000 Cuban soldiers and jailed. Trained and guided by the U.S., the exiles had expected support from U.S. military aircraft and help from anti-Castro insurgents on the island.

April 18, 1775 - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

April 19, 1989 - Forty-seven U.S. sailors were killed by an explosion in a gun turret on the USS *Iowa* during gunnery exercises in the waters off Puerto Rico.

April 20, 1999 - The deadliest school shooting in U.S. history occurred in Littleton, Colorado, as two students armed with guns and explosives stormed into Columbine High School at lunch time then killed 12 classmates and a teacher and wounded more than 20 other persons before killing themselves.

April 21, 1836 - The Battle of San Jacinto between Texans led by Sam Houston and Mexican forces led by Santa Anna took place near present day Houston. The Texans decisively defeated the Mexican forces thereby achieving independence.

April 26, 1986 - At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe. A 300-square-mile area around the plant was evacuated. Thirty one persons were reported to have died while an additional thousand cases of cancer from radiation were expected. The plant was then encased in a solid concrete tomb to prevent the release of further radiation.

April 28, 1789 - On board the British ship *Bounty*, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against Captain William Bligh, setting him and 18 loyal crew members adrift in a 23-foot open boat. Bligh survived a 47-day voyage sailing over 3,600 miles before landing on a small island. Christian sailed the *Bounty* back to Tahiti, eventually settling on Pitcairn Island and burning the ship.

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.

April 30, 1967 - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.



Legion Post 639 Officers, 2022 - 2023

Commander	Mike Goforth	commanderlz639@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Mike Chandler	chandlermp1@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Adam Jamieson	fixxer560@yahoo.com
Adjutant	Tom Newsom	menehune66@gmail.com
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Member at Large	Bob Dale	justbob94@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Darrin Dobbs	dobbster64@gmail.com



Post 639 Legion Riders Officers, 2022 - 2023

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Assistant Director	Kathy Davis	kddavis258@gmail.com
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Secretary	Bob Kalwat	rkalwat@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Mike Brooks	c130mike@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Herman Burkett	eazydime@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Will Odgen	aka_freestarr777@yahoo.com
Ride Coordinator	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Membership	Bob Kalwat	rkalwat@gmail.com



Post 639 Auxiliary Officers, 2022 - 2023

President	Diana Cooperider	dlcooperider77@gmail.com
Vice President	Terra Cooperider	tlc00011@gmail.com
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Sergeant at Arms	Charlotte Kelly	
Member at Large	Lindy Dobbs	ldobbs21@outlook.com
Member at Large	Sherry Hawk	shawk47@gmail.com



Post 639 Sons of the American Legion Officers, 2022 - 2023

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1st Vice Commander	Eric Duff	jhtduff@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Al Manes	akmanes7@gmail.com
Treasurer/Finance	Noel Heppard	judstadad55@gmail.com
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Vietnam War Memorial
 American Legion Post 639
 2660 South Scenic Ave
 Springfield, MO 65807

www.americanlegionpost639.org

(417) 882-8639

Post Hours:

Mon - Sat 11AM - 9PM

Sunday Noon - 9PM

REMEMBER

