

**Vietnam War Memorial**

**March 2021**



# American Legion Post 639



Dear Friends,

2021 is off to a great start here at your Post. Even with the freezing cold and being closed a few days, our revenue is continuing to increase. I think people are tired of staying home, but also our pull-tab and scratcher machines have been hotter than morning PT at Twentynine Palms in August. If they get any hotter we're going to have to put fire extinguishers back there.

We also added a few new top-shelf drinks to our mix at the bar. New Riff bourbon whiskey and Son's of Erin Irish whiskey. They may be temporary editions, so if you're interested in those, don't wait to try them.

You'll also notice when you come in that we have a new beer cooler behind the bar. No more old horse trough. One of our very generous members and one of our very generous guests chipped in to buy that for us. We've needed it for about 30 years, and we are all very appreciative. I'd tell you their names, but I'm not sure they want me to.

We also gave away about \$5100 through the Queen of Heart's game a few weeks ago. We're going to start playing again next Wednesday night (weather permitting) with the new pot starting at \$1000. We have live music every Tuesday and Wednesday night here at the post, and there's never a cover. It's more fun than you think.

One thing I do feel like I need to address is our bar stools. Many people have expressed their opinions to me, so I want to let you all know when we will get them back. Currently the city of Springfield has an ordinance that prohibits sitting at bars or counters. I also know that some local bars have chosen not to follow this ordinance, and others have. A huge part of my responsibility here is to turn over the post to the next commander and the next generation of veterans in as good a position as I can, and I believe that means complying as best we can with all the applicable laws, even if we don't agree with them or

find them to be burdensome.

Personally, if it were strictly up to me they would be back. As anyone who has worked with me outdoors know, few people enjoy sitting down as much as I do.

If you're interested in this sort of compliance and regulation stuff, we have an opening on the executive committee for a Judge Advocate. Someone with legal or administrative experience would be ideal. I'd say it would be a 4 hour a week job, once you get a handle on it. Let me know if you're interested.

Don't forget that donations to our post are tax deductible, and you can make a check out in any amount to Vietnam War Memorial Post 639, Inc.

Also, remember that if you do not have a Legion membership card in your pocket that says 2021, you are most likely behind on your dues. It's \$45 to be a member of our post, and you can send your dues payment to us in the form of a check, or you can show up and pay at the bar by check, cash, or with a credit card. We try to make it easy. Tom Newsom, our Adjutant, will process your dues payment and send a card to you in the mail or you can pick it up in the club room, just let us know when you make your payment.

Also, it's about to get warm, and I am really looking forward to seeing you all again this spring. Stop by soon.

Semper Fi,

Darin Hargis

## **Historian/Newsletter**

The first month of the process to add an email version of the newsletter is behind us !!! All said, it went VERY smoothly. Out of 420 emails we had on record, only 24 came back as undeliverable. I've made attempts to contact all 24 owners. Some were just mistyped and corrected. With others, I got voicemail with the phone# we had and left a message. With yet others, the phone# was invalid. If the attempt at contact is unsuccessful, I will set the addressee to receive a hardcopy only.

To reiterate from last month, we're **VERY** aware that some of our members do not use email, and for those, this rollout will **NOT** affect them in anyway unless they choose to make the change.

If you wish to continue receiving a hardcopy newsletter, **NO ACTION IS REQUIRED.**

**If you wish to change from hardcopy to email delivery, just contact us at the email referenced below with your email address and we'll adjust the list. We will also send you both versions if that's your choice. Just let us know. Once you see the email version, you'll be glad you made the switch.**

Starting in **April 2021, for those who have an email address registered with the Post**, we'll discontinue the hardcopy and only send an email version.

**Semper Fi,**

**Bob Kalwat, Historian/Newsletter Editor**

**historianeditorlz639@gmail.com**

## **Chaplain**

It's time to reflect on the past month, and look forward to the month of March. We have had weather from nice to bad, rain to snow, good roads to bad roads. It has been a challenge just to get around and having patience in driving and watching out for the other person. That is like waiting for the Lord - time and patience. When you send prayers to the Lord, it takes time and patience for His answer. So wait for the Lord's answer.

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

**Chaplain Rex Krasche**

## **ALR**

Riding season is almost upon us, starts in April. We're currently putting together our schedule. **CANNOT WAIT** until the first KSU of the year.

Busy March coming up, we'll be hosting the National Vice-Commander on the 12th, and we'll be serving Corned Beef and Cabbage.

During the "Ride to Live" event last year, Kathy Davis's organization was able to assist a PTSD-affected veteran, Robert Byrd, with a trip to "Save a Warrior" camp. In March, ALR Chapter 639 will make a donation to assist Robert with his trip expenses. Upon his return, he will share his experiences at the camp with us. We will also send him off in style on March 3rd at Queen of Hearts.

New member - Charles Pitts !!! Charles is local and has been riding motorcycles all his life. Rides a Harley Electra-Glide. **WELCOME, CHARLES !!**

Don't forget to purchase your Legion 639 / ALR sweatshirt while supplies last. This is the main ALR fundraiser for the year, so **BUY 2 !!!**

Get those bikes tuned up and serviced, and let's ride !!

Marsha Crom

Director, ALR Chapter 639

## **Auxiliary**

March... when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade, so ALA is lighting up the Celebration tree in March to honor the American Legion birthday which is March 15th, and it will be shaded with the American Legion colors. We will celebrate the occasion at the March General Meeting with cake and ice cream prior to the meeting.

The annual ALA St. Patrick's Day dinner is on Friday evening, March 12th and we will be serving up our traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage meal. Put your green on and come out and join us as we start serving at 6PM !!

Saturday, March 27th is the Children's Easter Party from 1PM to 4PM. The Easter Bunny will be joining us this year !! At this time, weather permitting, the event will be held outside in the Pavilion area. This event is open to the public, so put the word out to family, friends, and your neighbors to bring the kids and get a picture with the Easter Bunny and the Bunny Hoppers !!

Next month, April 6th, is the ALA New Member Initiation Ceremony. We will be honoring our new members for the last two years at the General Meeting.

Remember, EBoard is always on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7PM. Any member of ALA is always

welcome to address concerns with the EBoard. Please contact me if you would like to attend so I can add you our agenda.

March is ALA 50/50 month every Wednesday during Queen of Hearts. We will be raising funds for the Children's Easter Party.

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers:

Gail Willey and family

Mary and John Foss

Debrya Faria

Janie Tuck

Reach out to ALA if you are in need. We are always here for you, its members and Post 639

In the Spirit of Service not Self

Diana Cooperider, ALA President

### **2021 50/50 Fundraiser Schedule - Every Wednesday During Queen of Hearts**

Jan - Post Feb - ALR Mar - ALA

Apr - ALA May - Post Jun - ALA

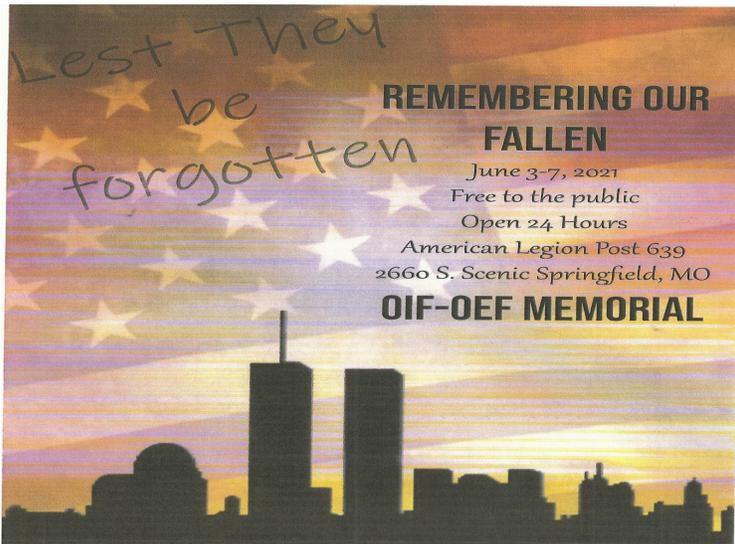
Jul - Post Aug - ALR Sep - ALA

Oct - Post Nov - ALR Dec - ALA

### **Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom**

The OIF/OEF Memorial Committee will meet Monday, March 8th at 1800 hrs. The meeting will cover further planning for the display of the OIF/OEF Memorial at the Post on June 3-6. If you would like to know more or volunteer to help, please join us !!

Mary Newsom, Committee Chair



US Naval Reserve Birthday - March 3rd



Navy Seabees Birthday - March 5th



American Legion Birthday - March 15th



National Vietnam Veterans' Day - March 29th

# Witness Markers - History's Short Stories

PAUL A. DOELGER

University of Minnesota, Crookston

This Short Story Is Dedicated to our Greatest Generation

*"They fought together as brothers in arms; they died together and now they sleep side by side. To them we have a solemn obligation — the obligation to insure that their sacrifice will help to make this a better and safer world in which to live". Fleet Admiral Chester William Nimitz*

## Prologue

The history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War has always been my passion; I read, I research and I explore. Recently I watched a documentary on "Witness Trees". A witness tree is a living tree that was present at key events in American history such as Civil War battles. Why not apply this same approach to the history of World War 2? During my travels I search for the forgotten items that everyone sees but few seem to notice; these are their stories.

## The Artillery Shell

This story begins with a large artillery shell located at the front door of the American Legion Post 639 in Springfield, Mo. This "Witness Marker" is passed by countless people entering and leaving the club each day. Few know of its historical significance. At first appearance it is showing a sign of age, its paint is chipped, and areas of exposed metal are beginning to rust. This shell is displayed on a stand made of rusting angle iron and is as inconspicuous as the marker it displays.

## The Shell



I was able to identify this marker as a Target Mark 9 blind loaded and plugged (BL&P) shell. This unique shell was used for training purposes to simulate the firing of a Mark 8 "Super Heavy" Shell. In 1939 the Super Heavy's entered military service and were intended for use on Battleships of the United States Navy. This shell was 16" in diameter and weighed 2700 pounds.

When fired the Mark 8 could penetrate 30 feet of reinforced concrete, 30 inches of side armor or 14 inches of deck armor. The Mark 8 was designated APCBC (Armor Piercing, Capped, Ballistic Capped). It was developed for (2) primary applications: an armor-piercing round for anti-ship and anti-structure work and a high-explosive round designed for use against unarmored targets and shore bombardment. The High Capacity (HC) shell could create a crater 50 feet wide and 20 feet deep. Rounds of this type could be fired at a rate of 2 rounds per minute. Each required the use of 655 lbs. of propellant and 41 lbs. of bursting charge to create the muzzle velocity of 2,500 feet per second. Colored die was added to the round so its origin was easily identifiable to the spotter. The Mark 8 was specifically designed to be fired from Mark 6 and 7 guns.

## The Guns

The Mark 6 guns were improved versions of the Mark 1 mounted on the Colorado-class battleships, the major advantage over the older guns was the Mark 6's ability to fire a new 2,700-pound armor-piercing (AP)



shell developed by the Bureau of Ordnance. At full charge with a brand-new gun, the heavy shell would be expelled at a muzzle velocity of 2,300 feet per second. When firing the same shell, the 16 in/45 Mark 6 had a slight advantage over the 16 in/50 Mark 7 when hitting deck armor. A shell from a 45 caliber gun would be slower, meaning that it would have a steeper trajectory as it descended. These guns were 50 calibers long—or 50 times their 16-inch bore diameter, which makes the barrels 66.6 feet long, from breech face to muzzle. Each gun weighed about 239,000 pounds without the breech, and 267,900 pounds with the breech. They fired APCBC at a maximum speed of 2,690 feet per second with a range of up to 24 miles. At maximum range the projectile spent almost 1½ minutes in flight. Each turret required a crew of 79 men to operate. These guns were mounted in "three-gun", not "triple", turrets. The fact they were three-gunned means that each barrel could be elevated and fired independently. The ships could fire any combination of their guns, including a broadside of all nine. The development of these weapons required the design of a new class of ship.

Next Month - The Ships



**NEW BOARD, NEW JACKPOT - \$1000**

Commander and Kathy Davis -

“We want **YOU** for Queen of Hearts”.

## 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.

If you’re interested, please call 882-8639, or drop by.

**Ron Jackson GETTIN’ IT DONE on one of the many unplanned volunteer opportunities**

Queen of Hearts Wednesday - **Veteran’s Variety Band** laying down some tunes.



## Kitchen Menu

Come try our classic Reuben, our **IMPOSSIBLY** big Chili Dog, or our Pork Tenderloin. We also have fried chicken sandwiches, chicken-fried shrimp, and your favorite hamburgers and cheeseburgers.

We also have a new item. It’s a French Dip style cheesesteak, served on a hoagie roll with grilled onions and peppers. It’s good, but it won’t be here forever.

The American Legion is free and open to the public, and our kitchen is open every weekday until 2PM, so bring your friends and encourage others to stop by and visit us. As you know, our kitchen is one of our main sources of revenue, so the more people we can get in here, the better !

We appreciate your patronage !!




**missouri job center**

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

**Ozark Region**

# March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01 Mar	02 Mar <b>General Meeting 7PM</b>	03 Mar Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	04 Mar	05 Mar	06 Mar
07 Mar	08 Mar <b>OIF/OEF Memorial Planning Meeting 6PM</b>	09 Mar	10 Mar Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	11 Mar	12 Mar <b>St Patrick's Day Dinner / Nat'l Vice Commander Visit 6PM</b>	13 Mar <b>Sub Vet Meeting 1pm</b>
14 Mar <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS— SPRING FOR- WARD !!</b>	15 Mar	16 Mar <b>Auxilliary E-Board Meeting 6:30PM</b>	17 Mar Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	18 Mar <b>Red Nights Meeting 6-8PM</b>	19 Mar	20 Mar <b>CVMA Vets Meeting 5PM</b>
21 Mar <b>ALR Meeting 6pm</b>	22 Feb	23 Mar	24 Mar Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	25 Mar <b>Fleet Reserve Association Meeting</b>	26 Mar <b>Newsletter ARTICLES Due 8am</b>	27 Mar <b>Children's Easter Party 1-4PM</b>
28 Mar	29 Mar	30 Mar <b>E-Board Meeting 6:30</b>	31 Mar Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 			

# 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 March for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *increase* by 9°F, from 54° F to 63°F, rarely falling below 37°F or exceeding 77°F.

Daily low temperatures *increase* by 9°F, from 33° F to 42°F, rarely falling below 20°F or exceeding 57°F.

For reference, on *July 25*, the *hottest day* of the year, temperatures in Springfield typically range from 69° F to 89°F, while on *January 6*, the *coldest day* of the year, they range from 26°F to 43°F.

Over the course of March 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, 12 minutes, implying an average daily increase of 2 minutes, 23 seconds, and weekly increase of 16 minutes, 43 seconds.

The shortest day of the month is *March 1*, with 11 hours, 24 minutes of daylight and the longest day is *March 31*, with 12 hours, 35 minutes of daylight.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 14th !!!**

*"Express your love...with the finest"*

## Wommack



Monument Company

Lindsey (Wommack) Laird

(417) 869-8336 • 1 (800) 346-9875

Email: [springfield@wommackmonuments.com](mailto:springfield@wommackmonuments.com)

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

Missouri | Kansas | Illinois | Nebraska | Iowa  
[www.evans-dixon.com](http://www.evans-dixon.com)

## EVANS & DIXON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4905 S. National Ave., Bldg. B  
Springfield, Missouri 65810

Main (417) 882-4700

Main Fax (417) 882-4927

Direct (417) 799-6159

Direct Fax (314) 884-4369

JENNIFER R. HARGIS  
Member  
[jhargis@evans-dixon.com](mailto:jhargis@evans-dixon.com)

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 Connie or the bartender for additional information and to order.





Vietnam War Memorial  
American Legion Post 639  
2660 South Scenic Ave  
.Springfield, MO 65807  
[www.americanlegionpost639.org](http://www.americanlegionpost639.org)



Office	Officer	Office	Officer
Commander	Darin Hargis	Adjutant	Tom Newsom
1st Vice Commander	Justin Adamson	2nd Vice Commander	Nolan Moody
Finance Officer	Nathan Carlson	Judge Advocate	Vacant
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	Service Officer	Bob Scott
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	Historian	Bob Kalwat
Member at Large	Jim Matney	Member at Large	Don Weiss
Member at Large			