



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

JANUARY 2024



REMEMBER



Post 639 Commander



What amazing year we have had at Post 639. Our members, volunteers, support groups and our community support steeped up and help us make our 639 home better than ever. I am proud of the great things we have accomplished. Thanks everyone.

With that being said, 2024 is looking to be even better. Our calendar of events is getting full, so please plan on volunteering to help us keep this momentum rolling. **The word is out about our new clubroom and venue.**

Post 639 would be nothing without our membership. When you have an opportunity, be sure to let your friends know about all our organization's groups. As with all VSO's, memberships seem to be stagnant and even declining. We have to get out the word, so thank you in advance for your help.

Chef Jeff has been turning out great meals for our M-F lunches 11-2. Bring some friends and stop in, visit with our employees and our members. They would appreciate seeing you all.

I personally want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would be **nothing** without your hard work and support. Hope you get to spend time with your loved ones during this season. Do not forget the meaning of Christmas, and share it with your kids and grandkids. Let's all remember our military men and women who are away from their families standing guard over the freedoms we all enjoy. Here is to making 2024 the best year ever.

Fly your flag and be proud

Mike Goforth
Commander, Legion Post 639



639 Chaplain



For your reflection and inspiration, I submit

“A Veteran’s Prayer”

“I’m praying this prayer for the Veterans of our Wars.
For you see, Lord, their load was a little more.

Trying to stand tall and true for all that they’d been through,
While their backs were covered with the Red, White, and Blue.

O, Lord, I think about them every now and then,
Putting their lives on the line for us, what more could we ask of them?

We lost more than just a few good men. We lost loved ones,
buddies, friends, and next of kin.

Some of them came home, but are not really here,
Some were disabled, let us keep them in our prayers.

Others had thoughts that turned to nightmares.

Help them their peace, Lord, and free them of their fears.

I think about the M,IA.’s that we have never found.
May their souls rest in peace upon that foreign ground.

Our P.O.W.’s, O Lord I pray,
Bless them extra special, each and every day.

I think about the families of the Veterans we have lost,
Bless them special, too, Lord, for memories are all they’ve got.

I pray our fellow countrymen will never forget, They did their
duty well, Lord, and be proud to have known them as a Vet.”

Yours in grace, and in the Love of Patriotic Service,

Frank Grantham
Post 639 Chaplain



Post 639 Service Officer



Did you know that provisions of the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, Section 595 of S. 3001 amended Title 36 of the US Code to allow all US military, active or veterans when not in uniform, to render the hand salute when the National Anthem is played and during the hoisting, lowering or passing of the flag if they desire. It is always acceptable to remove your hat and place over left shoulder so that your right hand is over your heart, if you don't want to salute, or if uncovered to just place your hand over your heart.

There is a bulletin board outside the kitchen entrance with important phone numbers for you. You'll find numbers for free VA appointment transportation to Burial at Sea. If you don't see a topic you need information on, please give me a call. 41 veterans or families of a veteran have been helped by me since June when I started.

Belinda Brown
American Legion Post 639 Service Officer
USN Retired
417-306-2504



639 Auxiliary President



Happy 2024 everyone! I hope your holidays were bright and merry and you enjoyed many special moments with your families and friends. It was a busy month in December at Post 639. Meetings, planning, preparing, parties and oh my goodness - the food! So very grateful to all who attended and to those who worked hard to bring joy and happiness to our hearts as we celebrated and appreciated each other.

ALA's “Christmas Dreams Come True” fundraiser was a huge success for our adopted Christmas family and that was because of you! We are beyond grateful to those that donated to this

cause. You truly made the difference in the lives of 5 young boys for Christmas. I also would like to thank some very special people who played an important role in making this happen. Robin Hopkins, who was instrumental in helping us find our family, Barbara Gonynor, Char Lackey and Char's two sons, Aiden and Austin Price, who did all the shopping for the gifts and our Junior member Libby Gonynor with the assistance of SAL member, Jessie Grantham, who took it upon themselves to personally fundraise for our event and obtained \$100.00 in less than half an hour! Finally, thank you, Terra Cooperider, for accompanying our youth on their mission. What a "Dream Come True" for our Unit and with your help we made it happen!

We will be setting our goals and planning our events for the 2024 year at our January and February meetings. The rotation schedule for the 2024 season for our Wednesday, Queen of Hearts, event has been completed and sent to the Department Heads. If you did not get it, please contact me.

Every year brings challenges to our lives and 2023 was no different. We overcame many life changing experiences, disappointments, battled health issues and coped with the loss of family members and friends. Yet, we are still truly blessed as we have each other. We are still surrounded by people who care for and love us. Those that are still here to listen and to help us. Post 639 is blessed to have its Officers, members, VSO's, employees, patrons and volunteers. When one part of this formula is missing, we fail. We don't fail each other or Post 639, as it is proven time after time that we can overcome, adapt and complete the task at hand no matter what we face. If we fail, the impact is to our Veterans, as our common goal is to serve them. Each of you plays an important role in completing that goal. No matter how much you get involved, whether it's a little or a lot, your service matters. Every hour of yourself that you give and every dime you spend makes that difference. You help to complete our goal to serve our Veterans. Together, we can conquer the challenges of what is to come with each new year that we ring in.

ALA's wish for you, in 2024, is good health, lots of happiness and your heart overfilled with love and joy! God Bless each of you, Post 639, its members and VSO's, our Veterans and God Bless the United States of America.

In the Spirit of Service not Self,

Diana Cooperider
ALA President Unit 639



Post 639 SAL Commander



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

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

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

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

Erik Duff, Commander,
Sons of the American Legion



Post 639 ALR Director



It's time to get your bikes ready for the New Year !! Riders have this time to make repairs, and do preventive maintenance needed for a successful ride season. We closed our season with a Coat Drive that warmed many veterans and families this winter. A huge "THANK YOU" to our ALA for supporting our drive this year.

This has been a tough year for our Riders - we had MANY challenges. Extreme heat and medical issues just to name a few. We are planning a great summer, so come join us for a ride, and if you aren't a member of our American Legion Riders, Auxiliary or Sons, you're missing the action.



Marsha Crom
Director, ALR Chapter 639



Post 639 Historian



As I do every year, I do a recap of what we accomplished as a Post over the last 12 months. Normally I list the individual events, but frankly, the list is too long for 2023. Total as a whole is 103. Let that sink in - **ONE HUNDRED-THREE**

EVENTS. This does **NOT** include the recurring events such as our Wednesday night Queen of Hearts / 50-50 events, combined with Bike Nights during the Spring/Summer seasons. Also not included are the monthly organizational meetings (Post 639 General, Post 639 E-Board, Legion Riders, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion) where these events are conceived, planned and coordinated. Most of these events are documented in the issues of the Post 639 Newsletter, available on our Post 639 website americanlegionpost639.org, under the **Events** section. (Current and back-issues are posted)

Our 639 Events cross the spectrum - touching our veterans, community, families and many other area VSO's. The keys to success - **our volunteers, who give tirelessly of themselves to ensure that all of these events succeed.**

If you're not already involved with these efforts, I implore you to do so. **We need you.** Everyone has a talent to contribute to these ongoing efforts. Not matter what your talent looks like, you can find a place in the Post 639 family to **fit in and contribute.** The more volunteers we have, the further our reach to provide services to those who need them. Make no mistake, we are indeed a family here. **Get involved - you'll make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.**

On The Newsletter Cover - A US Army participant in Arctic Warfare Training.

This is a two-week course, taught at the U.S. Army Northern Warfare Training Center, Fort Greely, Alaska. It teaches survival techniques in northern climates, as well as basic skills of military mountaineering.

Bob Kalwat
Post Historian/Newsletter Editor



Other VSO Activities



Give Vets Hope

Last month I began talking about the psychological effects of getting out of the service. There can be a wide range of consequences as you can imagine. I believe a lot begins with the familial relationships the veteran had during his/her time in the service. Family who has been supportive and caring helps him/her feel connected to them. We all want to feel seen and heard.

Jumping ahead to the first days off of active duty it is family members needing to be patient to understand, quiet to listen and available if the she/he decides to talk, without being judgmental. This last suggestion is probably the hardest one to carry out. I have encouraged family members to just listen to an explanation of a behavior/incident and then just say "OK." We may not understand the "why", but we can still be supportive by listening non-judgmentally.

In transitioning into civilian life these days, there are people a veteran may talk with before leaving active duty prior to their being released. Consulting regarding the "Transition Assistance Program" officer prior to their being released is one of those sources. On a website I researched for this article, it indicated that veterans have a priority need for healthcare, training programs of some kind e.g. trade school, college, or apprenticeship, and peer/peer group support once they were out of the service.

Transitioning from military to civilian life can be difficult. PTSD can still exist and most recently, while we have found out about the PACT ACT, we still don't know everything about burn pits and the consequences of exposure. There is still much to learn.

David Suits-Adjutant
Co-Facilitator of Give Vets Hope



Give Vets Hope
Help and Hope for Veterans
DAVID SUITS MS. Ed
Co-facilitator/Founder
Vietnam veteran
VFW Post 3404
1155 E Atlantic
Please call/Text for information
417-773-1837

givevetshope/facebook

Fleet Reserve Association

Sincere thanks to the **Fleet Reserve Association** for their generous \$1000 donation to Post 639 in support of our recent remodel.



Elks Lodge 409

Elks Lodge donation of \$700 to the Mt. Vernon Missouri Veterans Home.



History in January

New Year's Day - The most celebrated holiday around the world.

January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 1, 1863 - The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the states rebelling against the Union.

January 2, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Japanese captured the Philippines capital of Manila and the nearby air base at Cavite.

January 3, 1959 - Alaska was admitted as the 49th U.S. state with a land mass almost one-fifth the size of the lower 48 states together.

January 4, 1790 - President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address.

January 5, 1919 - The German Workers' Party (*Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*) was founded by Anton Drexler in Munich. Adolf Hitler became member No. 7 and changed the name in April of 1920 to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (*Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*) commonly shortened to Nazi or Nazi Party.

January 6, 1941 - President Franklin Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union address to Congress asking for support for the lend-lease program aiding Allies fighting the Axis powers. Roosevelt also defined four essential freedoms worth defending; freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

January 7, 1999 - The first presidential impeachment trial in 130 years began as members of the U.S. Senate were sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist to decide whether President Clinton should be removed from office. House prosecutors had delivered two articles of impeachment charging Clinton with perjury and obstruction of justice.

January 10, 1776 - *Common Sense*, a fifty page pamphlet by Thomas Paine, was published. It sold over 500,000 copies in America and Europe, influencing, among others, the authors of the Declaration of Independence.

January 12, 1991 - Congress authorized President George Bush to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II. At the conclusion of the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill held a joint news conference at which Roosevelt surprisingly announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

January 17, 1706 - Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Considered the Elder Statesman of the American Revolution, he displayed multiple talents as a printer, author, publisher, philosopher, scientist, diplomat and philanthropist. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the new U.S. Constitution

January 19, 1807 - Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) military leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of a Revolutionary War hero, a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years preceding the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was offered command of the Union Army, but declined and instead accepted command of the military and naval forces of Virginia.

January 20, 1945 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States. He had served since 1933.

January 26, 1994 - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

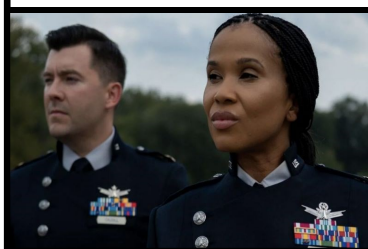
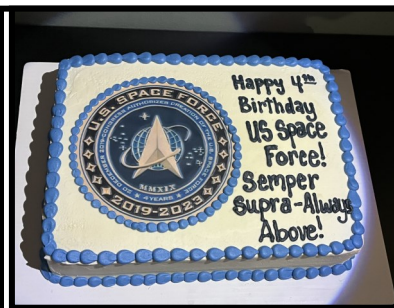
January 27, 1945 - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.

January 29, 1737 - *Common Sense* author Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England. His pamphlet, published in 1776, provided inspiration to undecided Americans that a new nation, independent from Britain, might eventually become "...an asylum for mankind!"

January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler went on to become the sole leader of Nazi Germany.

US Space Force Birthday

December 20, 2023



REMEMBER



Toys for Tots Ride (Pre-Ride, Ride, Post-Ride)

December 03, 2023

Pre Ride Get TOYS FOR TOTS Together @LZ639



After Party TOYS FOR TOTS @LZ639



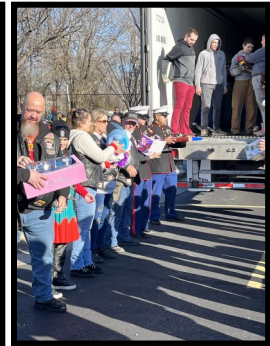
REMEMBER



Marine Corps Toys for Tots Ride

December 03, 2023

Springfield Marine Corps Reserve
TOYS FOR TOTS
43rd Annual December 3rd 2023
MOTORCYCLE RIDE
CORWIN FORD TO OASIS CONVENTION CENTER
After Party The Foshole 2350 N. CHITTON AVE.
After Party Corrie's Bar 1906 E. MEADOWS BLVD.
After Party Archie's 1817 GRAND ST.
RAIN OR SHINE
Times for 110 party starts:
Ride will leave from the ride from 7:00-8:00 AM. Registration at 5:00 PM on Monday December 3rd from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Oasis Convention Center 514 E. FM. Registration. Bring a new unopened toy for donation. This event is open to all motorcycles and all riders. The ride will follow a route, course or other.



Merry Christmas !!!

Army/Navy Game Watch Party @ Post 639

December 09, 2023



Post 639 Christmas Party

December 16, 2023



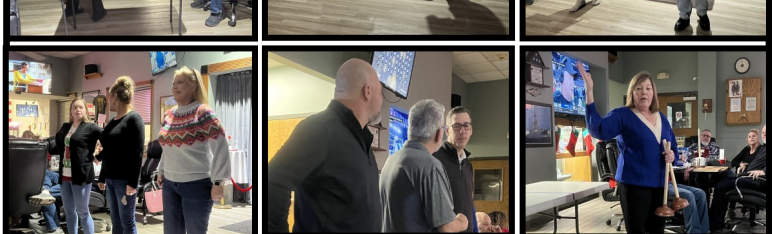
Post 639 Christmas Party
December 16, 2023 (Cont'd)



REMEMBER



Post 639 Christmas Party
December 16, 2023 (Cont'd)



Wreaths Across America, MO Vet
December 17, 2023

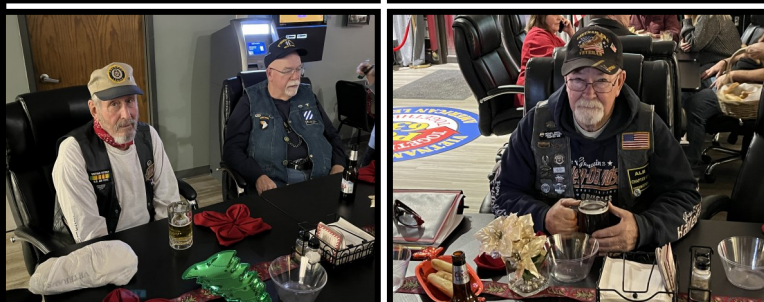
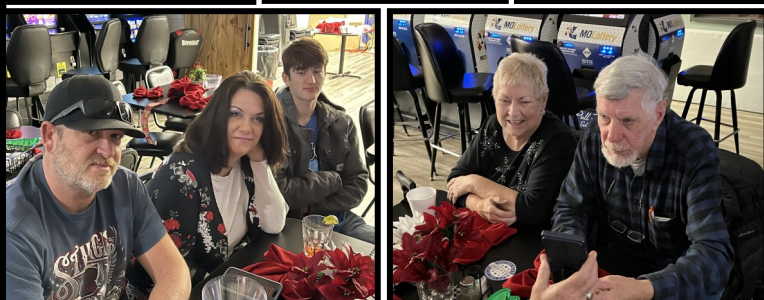


REMEMBER



ALR Chapter 639 Christmas Party

December 17, 2023

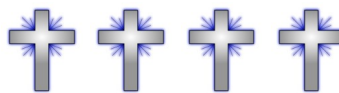


ALR Chapter 639 Christmas Party (con't)

December 17, 2023



In Memorium - Will Ogden We Miss You Brother !!!!



REMEMBER



JANUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 FROSTY BALLS RIDE KSU 10AM	2 LUNCH 11-2  LEGION/ALA GENERAL MTG 7PM	3 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	4 LUNCH 11-2	5 LUNCH 11-2	6  1ST SATURDAY BREAKFAST 8-10AM
7	8 LUNCH 11-2	9 LUNCH 11-2  KOREAN WAR VETS 1PM  GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM	10 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	11 LUNCH 11-2  FINANCE COMMITTEE 6:30PM  MCL 993 VFW 3404 6-8PM	12 LUNCH 11-2	13  SUB VETS MTG 11AM
14	15 LUNCH 11-2  MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 LUNCH 11-2  AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM 	17 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	18 LUNCH 11-2	19 LUNCH 11-2  VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 - 7 PM	20
 ALR MEETING 5PM	22 LUNCH 11-2	23 LUNCH 11-2  SAL MTG 7PM  GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5:30PM	24 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	25 LUNCH 11-2  FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	26 LUNCH 11-2	27  VIETNAM CEASEFIRE ANNIVERSARY  HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE
28	 E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM	30 LUNCH 11-2	31 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM			

For The Good of the Legion

The US Navy has a goal - to improve their equipment so they can continue to be a viable force to deal with. The Aircraft Carrier is their mainstay in the fleet. However, the Nimitz-class Carriers are now over 50 years old, so the question they must answer is whether to refurbish or build new.



USS Nimitz (CV-68)



USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7)

Securing enough money is a factor, especially since they have already spent 200M on refurbishing some equipment that is not included in the new goal.

They must survey and get the best deal for the money. They are considering going to another class of Carrier, like the Gerald R Ford, the Ronald Reagan or another modern carrier.

Time is another factor that must be considered. The small Aircraft Carrier like the LHD (an Amphibious Assault Ship) that carries Marines and their equipment to their destination, takes 4 years to build, from laying the keel to “sail away”.

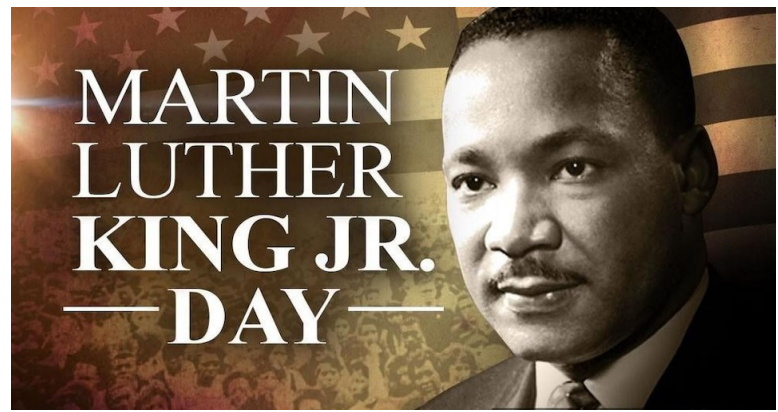
There are many processes to be completed. The local SUPSHIP (Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair) must buy the ship from the contractor, then the local SUPSHIP will sell the ship to NAVSEA (Naval Sea Systems Command) in Washington, D.C. followed by sea trials.

The Sea Trials produce a large number of “Trial Cards”, or documented deficiencies, that must be cleared by SUPSHIP. Then the Overhaul Department follows the same procedure that must be followed for the ship to be accepted.

Therefore, the Navy must do a lot of research and planning to secure a contract for the Contractor to build it.

All of this considered, the Navy has some big decisions to make about their future.

Charlie Weaver
“Budreau”



Martin Luther King, Jr Day - January 15th



Operation Desert Storm - January 16th



Vietnam War Ceasefire - January 27th



Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27th

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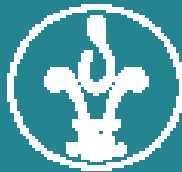
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boleyj@otc.edu

Volunteer Opportunities at the Legion

As always, we have several volunteer opportunities for members and non-members. Currently -

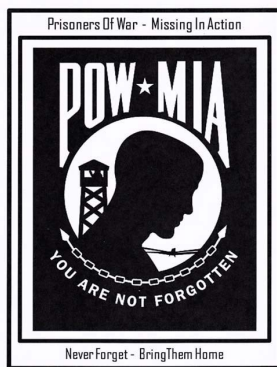
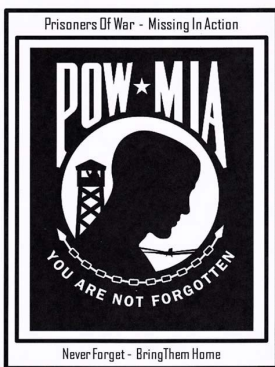
- The Post Historian is looking for someone with advanced computer skills to assist in the production of the Post 639 Newsletter.

- We get requests for Post 639 members to present awards to schools (JROTC), Senior Citizens, Community Organizations, etc. If you would like to assist with this, let us know.

- 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.

- 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.

Volunteers are what allow Post 639 to function. **YOU ARE NEEDED.** Call the Post at 882- 8639 and we'll get back to you.



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 -

Post remodeling completed. Weather is prohibiting camping out and other swimming activities. So put your water skis away and join us the first **Saturday of each month, 8-10am** for the best breakfast for your money, or somebody else's.

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

Beginning with this month's Saturday Breakfast, the cost will be **\$10 instead of the past \$8 for all you can eat.** The price of the grocery items have risen all year and we've done our best to kept the price down. However, the last increase has forced us to have to raise the price to minimize loss. The guys who come in at 6AM understand that you want to bring guests with you, and that will be fine. Remember that what you get for the price still far exceeds any other location.

Jim "Skippy" Cooper (got peanut butter)

Your 6AM Support Team



Average Weather in January for Springfield

Daily high temperatures are around 44°F, rarely falling below 27°F or exceeding 61°F. The lowest daily average high temperature is 43°F on *January 5*.

Daily low temperatures are around 26°F, rarely falling below 9°F or exceeding 41°F. The lowest daily average low temperature is 26°F on *January 22*.

Over the course of January 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 *40 minutes*, implying an average daily increase of *1 minute, 21 seconds*, and weekly increase of *9 minutes, 26 seconds*.

The shortest day of the month is *January 1*, with *9 hours, 40 minutes* of daylight and the longest day is *January 31*, with *10 hours, 20 minutes* of daylight. The earliest sunset is *4:55 PM on December 5* and the latest sunset is *10 minutes later at 5:05 PM on December 31*.

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

January 2024

- Jan 01 Mon - Post 639 Frosty Balls Ride, KSU 10AM
- Jan 02 Tue - General/Auxiliary General Meeting, 7PM
- Jan 03 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Jan 06 Sat - 1st Saturday Breakfast @ Post 639, 8-10AM
- Jan 09 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, 5:30PM VFW 3404
- Jan 10 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Jan 11 Thu - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30PM
- Marine Corps League Mtg, VFW 3404
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- Jan 13 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting, 11AM
- Jan 15 Mon - Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 16 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting, 7PM
- Desert Storm Anniversary
- Jan 17 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Jan 19 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- Jan 21 Sun - ALR Meeting, 5PM
- Jan 23 Tue - SAL Meeting, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, 5:30PM VFW 3404
- Jan 24 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- Jan 25 Thu - Fleet Reserve Meeting, 6PM
Newsletter Content Due
- Jan 27 Sat - Vietnam War Ceasefire Anniversary
- Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Jan 29 Mon - 639 E-Board Meeting, 6:30PM
- Jan 31 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM



LZ639 LUNCH MENU

AVAILABLE MON-FRI

11AM-2PM

**(ALL BURGERS AND SANDWICHES SERVED
WITH ONE REGULAR SIDE)**

SOFT DRINKS...\$2

- COKE
- DIET COKE
- DR. PEPPER
- DIET DR. PEPPER
- SPRITE
- DIET SPRITE
- TEA

REGULAR SIDES

- THICK CUT FRIES
- TATER-TOTS

PREMIUME SIDES

(UPGRADE FOR JUST A \$1)

- ONION RINGS
- MUSHROOMS
- SEASONED CURLY FRIES

**(LOAD YOUR SIDE FOR JUST A \$1 MORE WITH
NACHO CHEESE AND BACON BITS)**

**(ADD A SIDE SALAD OR SIDE OF SOUP FOR \$2
MORE)**

Seasonal Soups \$5:

Chicken Tortilla, Loaded Potato, Roasted Red
Pepper with Gouda Cheese, Broccoli Cheddar, or
Chili

BURGERS & SANDWICHES

(Add: Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, or Pickle)

HAMBURGER...\$7

CHEESEBURGER...\$8.50

Choice of cheese: American, Swiss, Provolone or,
Pepper Jack

Blue Burger...\$9

A burger topped with melted blue cheese crumbles

BBQ BURGER...\$9.50

A burger topped with two onion rings, your choice
of cheese and BBQ sauce

BRUNCH BURGER...\$9.50

A burger served with a fried egg & bacon with your
choice of cheese of cheese

LZ639...\$9

A burger topped with grilled onions served on a
toasted garlic aioli bun with your choice of cheese

PATTY MELT...\$9

A burger with grilled onions & Swiss cheese served
on Texas Toast

PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH...\$9.50

A 7oz. tenderloin

GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH...\$9

Grilled chicken breast with bacon, Swiss cheese
served on a toasted garlic aioli bun

THE REUBEN...\$9.50

Swiss cheese melted over corned beef & sauerkraut
topped with Thousand Island served on rye bread

BLT...\$7

Four slices of bacon topped with lettuce & tomato
served on Texas Toast

GRILLED CHEESE...\$6.50

Grilled Texas Toast with your choice of cheese.

HOT HAM & CHEESE...\$7

Four slices of smoked ham with your choice of
cheese served on Texas Toast.

LZ639 PIZZA MENU

(ALL PIZZAS ARE A 10 INCH CRUST)
(NO ADD ONS OR SUBSTITUTIONS)

THE CLASSICS

- Cheese.....\$7.50
- Pepperoni.....\$8
- Sausage.....\$8
- Bacon.....\$8
- Canadian Bacon.....\$8

SPECIALTY PIZZAS

- Hawaiian.....\$8.50**
Canadian Bacon, Pineapple
- Chicken Bacon Ranch.....\$9**
Ranch, Italian Seasoning, Diced Chicken, Bacon Bits
- BBQ Chicken.....\$9**
BBQ Sauce, Diced Chicken, Onions
- Alfredo.....\$9**
Alfredo Sauce, Italian Seasoning, Diced Chicken, Mushrooms, Bacon Bits
- Buffalo Chicken.....\$9.50**
Ranch, Cream Cheese, Buffalo Sauce, Diced Chicken
- Veggie Lovers.....\$8.50**

EXTRA SPECIALTY

- Loaded Hawaiian.....\$9.50**
Canadian Bacon, Bacon Bits, Pineapple, Onion
- Five Meat.....\$9.50**
Canadian Bacon, Hamburger, Sausage, Bacon Bits, Pepperoni
- Supreme.....\$10**
Canadian Bacon, Hamburger, Sausage, Bacon Bits, Mushrooms, Onions, Black Olives, Green Peppers, Pepperoni

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 one of the bar staff for additional information and to order.

Camping Services/Facilities at Post 639

Post 639 Bar Staff	417-882-8639
Adam Jamieson (24/7)	417-343-8723
Mike Chandler (24/7)	417-860-8910

Contacts for RV Site reservations:

7 Sites (2 Class A, 5 Travel Trailer), Water/Electric (30/50/20) hookups, Max size 45 ft. Available on “First come, First serve” basis. PETS WELCOME !!!!!

General Public - \$20/night, **Veterans** - \$10/night, Back-in sites only. **One night maximum.** Extended stays require prior approval. Total # of guests per party must be specified when making the reservation. **NOTE: Post 639 members and families/friends MUST notify the Post 72 hours in advance to ensure accommodation of their reservation request. Extended stays require approval.**

Stroll through our on-site Veterans Memorial Park, featuring a submarine conning tower and two Vietnam-era helicopters. Our 23-acre property is attached to the largest public park in Springfield. **Nearby attractions** - Bass Pro Shops flagship store, Wonders of Wildlife Museum/Aquarium. Springfield Cardinals baseball, Branson entertainment, Silver Dollar City (USA Today’s #1 Theme Park in America). **Post 639 is ALSO a Harvest Host participant.**



Post 639 Hours of Operation:

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Full lunch menu served daily Monday-Friday 11AM-2PM. Full Bar open during business hours. Pizzas and appetizers available during business hours. **Happy Hour** - .50 off, 12PM-2PM 7 days a week, 6PM-8PM Monday - Saturday.

Sunday	1PM - 7PM
Monday	11AM - 8PM
Tuesday	11AM - 8PM
Wednesday	11AM - 8PM
Thursday	11AM - 8PM
Friday	11AM - 8PM
Saturday	11AM - 8PM



Twenty-Three Crosses

PAUL A. DOELGER

University of Minnesota, Crookston

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona

June 2023

FOG OF WAR

Even the most carefully planned military actions have an element of risk and as the old saying goes, “the only guarantee is that nothing ever goes according to plan”. Strategists try to anticipate every situation that may impact the success of the operation. Even with this, it is difficult to foresee how the battle will unfold. Often, smaller skirmishes are fought in support of the large battle and their outcome can determine who won and who is victorious. Commanders have a name for this, it is called the “Fog of War”. The fog of war was coined by the Germans and can be defined as the uncertainty in situational awareness experienced by participants in military operations. The “Fog of War” often causes uncertainty in a commanders own capability, the enemies capability or even the objectives of the battle. This is the story of an air battle that involved a group of twenty-five unexperienced pilots and a mixed bag of obsolete airplanes. When the battle was over, the fog of war crept in and caused the enemy commander to question his next move. This moment of indecision would change the course of history.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the United States quickly declared war on the Japanese Empire. In the United States, the Joint Planning Committee, later to become the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dusted off their “Rainbow” plans. Each strategy was given the color of the rainbow that would be used in the event of a war with a specific country. These plans were drafted following the end of World War 1 by naval planners that were schooled on the theories of Alfred Mahan on Sea Power. Mahan’s concept or strategy of “sea power” refers to military command of the sea. Nations achieve sea power by defeating an adversary’s fleet in a “decisive engagement”, thereby driving the enemy’s ships and commerce from the oceans (Jamison, 2022).

The Japanese were also disciples of Mahan’s theories and had developed their own naval doctrine like the rainbow plans, they called it Kantai Kessen, “naval fleet decisive battle”. The Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 called for a 5:5:3 ratio on battleship total tonnage. The United States and Great Britain were authorized to maintain a level of 525,000 tons compared to 315,000 tons of the Japanese. This meant that in a Kantai Kessen, the Japanese battlefleet would be out-gunned and outnumbered by the United States. Being that both navies were basing their doctrines on the theories of Mahan, it not surprising that the Japanese targeted the striking power of the United States, the battleship. During the summer of 1940, the United States Pacific Battle fleet was transferred from San Diego to Pearl Harbor. This move was done to reduce steaming time to Philippines in support of War Plan Orange. The Japanese knew, War Plan Orange called for the Pacific Battle Fleet (battleships) to sail to the Philippines and engage them in a fight to the death. Having defeated the Japanese combined fleet, the U.S. Navy would then form a blockage of Japan that would force them to surrender. In a head-to-head battle the Japanese knew they were at a disadvantage because of the tonnage restrictions imposed on them by the naval treaty. To get the upper hand, they decided to strike first. As the aggressors, the Japanese launched what they hoped would be a decisive battle when they attacked Pearl Harbor. American aircraft carriers were not in port at the time of the attack so the Japanese concentrated on the American Battleships. At the time, both navies considered the Battleship their primary weapons were considered the primary threat. If they were able to defeat the American Pacific Fleet, they would be free to roam the Pacific without the threat of American interference. Admiral Yamamoto, the Commander-in-Chief of the combined fleet, told his superiors “In the first six to twelve months of a war with the United States and Great Britain I will run wild and win victory upon victory” (NEGI, 2023). By eliminating the American Battle fleet, the Japanese effectively scrapped War Plan Orange and sealed the fate of the Philippines. With the USN Pacific Fleet all but destroyed, all that remained were their aircraft carriers to continue with the fight. Regardless of the strategic direction called out by War Plan Orange, the United States Navy was on the defen-

sive in the Pacific. When the President addressed the Congress on December 8th, he detailed all the attacks made by the Japanese within the last 24 hours – “Midway, Wake, Guam, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaya – and concluded , Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive throughout the Pacific area” (Toll I. W., 2012, p. 36). There was little the United States Navy could do to stop the advances. Admiral Nimitz, the new commander of the Pacific Fleet was cautious when it came to committing his remaining forces, he needed time to rebuild. The Admiral used his forces sparingly, ordering them against targets of opportunity or known threats identified by his intelligence services. The Japanese Navy having a numerical superiority in every category of weapon were on the offensive. They were looking for the next opportunity to engage the USN with their superior numbers, technology, and skills in the one battle that would leave them the masters of the Pacific.

STRIKING BACK

Since the attack on Pearl Harbor USN forces conducted limited raids on the Marshall Islands, launching attacks on Kwajalein, Wotje, and Maloelap. On 18 April, the Aircraft Carriers Hornet and Enterprise sailed towards Japan and launched Jimmy Doolittle’s B25 Mitchel Medium bombers that bombed Tokyo. The attacks infuriated the Japanese who were unaccustomed to being challenged. In addition to strikes, the navy’s cryptanalyst (code breakers) were busy monitoring Japanese radio communications to identify and track Japanese ship movements. Using this information and other intercepted messages, the code breakers on Oahu had managed to break the Japanese Navy (JN) code. In 1942 it was estimated that approximately 60 percent of JN traffic was being intercepted and 40 percent was being read (Whitlock, 1995). Intelligence information pointed towards another Japanese thrust, this time in the Coral Sea. Admiral Nimitz was so confident in his intelligence reports that he used this information to counter Japan’s next move. Nimitz ordered Admiral Jack Fletcher’s task force consisting of the Aircraft Carriers Lexington and Yorktown to head off the assault. The battle of the Coral Sea was unique in that it was the first naval battle entirely fought with the opposing fleets never coming close enough to see each

other. The battle was fought primarily with aircraft that took the battle to the enemy. Tactically, the Japanese won the battle sinking more tonnage, including the Aircraft Carrier Lexington. Strategically it was a victory for the United States. Navy aircraft sank the Japanese Aircraft Carrier Shoho which was assigned to provide air coverage for the invasion fleet intending to land at Port Moresby. The sinking of Shoho caused the Fog of War to settle over the Japanese invasion fleet. Not knowing the disposition and the location of the enemy fleet, the Japanese commander made the decision to retreat. During the battle, the Americans had severely damaged the heavy Aircraft Carrier Shokaku which had taken part in the strike at Pearl Harbor. The damage to Shokaku was so severe it was forced to return to Japan for major repairs and it would be out of service for many months. The losses at Coral Sea had far reaching effects for the Japanese. With the sinking of the Shoho and the damage caused to Shokaku, this meant that these two ships would not be available for their next major offensive. Even though the Americans stopped that Japanese at the Coral Sea, there was still cause for concern. At the time American industry was not able to replace the lost shipping and therefore could not afford to lose another carrier. The Japanese, who were unaccustomed to losing, were infuriated by the strikes on Tokyo and the loss at the Coral Sea. Admiral Yamamoto knew he was running out of time and was anxious for another decisive battle that would leave him the master of the Pacific.

At Pearl Harbor, Naval Intelligence alerted Admiral Nimitz of another planned Japanese offensive. Navy listening posts intercepted a large volume of coded radio traffic between Admiral Yamamoto and his fleet commanders. From this information Navy listeners were able to surmise what forces were to be used and when the strike was to take place but did not know the intended target. Their intercepts referred to the target as AF but they did not know its identity. The code breakers had their suspicions it was Midway but needed to be sure. To confirm their hunch the Navy broadcast a fake, uncoded message from Midway indicating that they were having issues with its freshwater condenser. It was not long before Navy listeners intercepted a coded message indicating that “AF” was having problems with its freshwater condenser. This confirmed

that AF was Midway, eliminating the element of surprise that the Japanese had hope to achieve.

For many the Battle of Midway is known as a naval engagement between David and Goliath that turned the tide of war. The details of the naval battle are well known and have been written about by others. What is not known is the story of the air strike that took place over the island during the opening stages of the battle. In addition to the anti-aircraft batteries of the Marine Defense Battalions, there was also Marine Fighter Squadron 221 (VMF 221) that stood ready to challenge the enemy. Because of their combined efforts, they helped to create a fog that caused the Japanese to change direction during one of the greatest battles in U.S. Naval history. This is their story.

FORTRESS MIDWAY

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USN slowly began fortifying Midway. On December 17, seventeen SB2U-3's (Vindicators) of Marine Scout Bomber Squadron 231 (VMSB-231) were flown in to supplement the 6th Marine Defense Battalion in defense of the island. On Christmas Eve, the USS Wright arrived at Midway and unloaded 100 officers and men of Batteries A and C of the 4th Defense Battalion. The Marines brought with them additional artillery including an old Navy seven-inch gun and a three-inch battery that were to be installed on sand island (Battle of Midway, 2022, p. 12). On Christmas day 14 Brewster F2A-3s of Fighter Squadron 221 (VMF-221) flew in from the deck of the USS Saratoga. The following day the USS Tangier arrived and unloaded Battery B of the 4th Defense Battalion (DB) with additional machine gunners and 12 anti-aircraft machine guns from the Special Weapons Group of the 4th DB. The Tangier also unloaded an aviation contingent from VMF-221 including three officers and 110 enlisted Marines.

MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON 221

VMF-221 was originally formed in July 1941 at San Diego, California. In December the squadron moved to the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Ewa, Hawaii. Components of the squadron were then deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga as part of the Wake Island relief efforts. After the mission to reinforce Wake was aborted, elements of VMF-221 were dis-

patched from Saratoga to Midway Island. According to Colonel Dick Camp,

“Midway’s airborne defenders, Marine Air Group 22 (MAG-22)—Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron 241 (VMSB 241) and Marine Fighting Squadron 221 (VMF 221)—hurriedly reinforced the atoll’s defenses. MAG 22’s Action Report noted that on May 26, “USS Kitty Hawk arrived with 22 officers and 35 men ... also 19 SBD-2 and 7 F4F-3 aircraft. Of the 21 new pilots, 17 were fresh out of flight school” (Camp, 2013, p. 1).

The old saying that states the Army and the Navy cut up the pie and the Marines are left with the crumbs could not be truer. The Marine Fighter Squadron VMF 221 was equipped with the F2A-3 Brewster Buffalos and a few Grumman F4F-3 fighters. All the fighters outfitting the “Fighting Falcons” as they were called, were obsolete or cast-offs from US Navy Carriers that had been re-equipped with more modern designs (US MARINE FIGHTING SQUADRON 221 DEFENDS MIDWAY, n.d.). The F2A’s were nicknamed Brewster by the Marines and were the Navy’s first fighter monoplane. Introduced in April of 1939, the plane was obsolete by modern standards by the time it reached front line service. The stubby little plane was powered by a nine-cylinder Wright R-1820-34 engine which gave it a top speed of 311 miles per hour (MPH) at 1800 thousand feet (The Brewster F2A Buffalo: The little fighter the could and did, 2006). It was armed with three .50 and one .30 caliber machine guns. The United States Navy originally ordered the plane to be used as a carrier borne fighter. Unfortunately, during trials, it was found that the F2A’s landing gear could not handle the impact of a hard shipboard landing causing the plane to crash. Because of this, it was relegated to land-based service only. The aircraft was exported overseas as part of the lend lease program and was commonly referred to as the “Peanut Express” because of its small size. The British, who called the aircraft the Buffalo, realized the F2A was no match for the more modern German fighters, banished the Buffalos to their rear area outposts in the Pacific. Meanwhile, the Japanese Navy was equipped with the Mitsubishi A6M "Zero". The Japanese official designation was Rei Shiki Sento Ki (Type 0 Fighter). Type 0 referred to the year of the emperor’s reign when production of Zero fighters be-

gan in 2600 on the imperial calendar (Julian calendar year 1940). The Zero outclassed the “Peanut” in almost every category. It could fly and climb faster than the Buffalo and could outmaneuver anything in the air at the time. The Zero was also heavily armed and if an enemy was caught in its sights the outcome was all but assured. The Zero prowess was proved in the skies over China. Since its deployment in 1940 the Zero chewed up the Chinese Nationalist Airforce without losing a single plane in combat (Toll I. W., 2012). Despite the capabilities of the Zero, both the British and their American counterparts questioned the skill and techniques of the Japanese flyers. Propaganda at the time depicted the Japanese pilots as nearsighted and poorly trained. Because of this both the British and the Americans held the belief that the F2A’s could hold their own against anything the Japanese would be able to put up against it. Nothing could be further from the truth; the Japanese pilots were more than a match for anything the Allies were able to put up against them.

PILOT TRAINING

For the aspiring Japanese aviators, less than one percent of those that applied were accepted into the program. Those that were accepted entered basic training where they endured a spartan lifestyle that included courses in military training, calisthenics, and coursework including math, science, engineering, reading, and writing. They were subjected to continuous beatings called lessons, which were designed to teach candidates to unconditionally follow orders. To be kicked out of the program was a disgrace and dishonor to the entire family. It would be a year before the candidates graduated from basic training and entered the intermediate level of training. Here they learned the basics of flight training and only after successful completion of this phase would they be awarded their wings. What followed was a six-month extended education where they were evaluated and a determination made on what type of aviator they would become, carrier based or twin-engine land-based pilots. By the time these young aviators reached their front-line duty stations they had already accumulated over five hundred flight hours. Many of the newly minted pilots gained combat experience in the skies over China. According to some sources, they were far more seasoned than

their counterparts. They had flown on average 100 combat missions and had between 500-600 flight hours in the cockpit of the most advanced aircraft (Toll I. W., 2012).

In the United States, naval candidates who were selected into their aviation training program went on to Naval Flight Preparatory School. This was a course in physical training, military skills, and naval customs and etiquette. Pre-flight school was a refresher course in mathematics and physics with practical applications of these skills in flight. This was followed by a short preliminary flight training module in which the cadets did 10 hours in a simulator followed by a one-hour test flight with an instructor. Those that passed received V-5 flight badges. They were sent on to primary and basic flight training at NAS Pensacola, primary flight school taught candidates basic flying and landing skills. Basic Flight School was broken into two parts: part one taught instrument flying and night flying and part two taught formation flying and gunnery; an additional part three stage for single-engine aircraft pilots taught carrier landing. Advanced Flight Training qualified the pilot on either a single-engine aircraft which could be fighter, dive or torpedo bombers or a multiple-engine transport, patrol plane or medium bombers. Graduates were classed as Naval Aviators and received gold Naval Aviator wings. Each graduate had around 600 total flight hours, with approximately 200 flight hours on front-line Navy aircraft. Candidates that completed the program were commissioned as Navy Ensigns or Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants. Of the 26 pilots assigned to VMF-221, 16 were still 2nd Lieutenants. Promotion to 1st Lieutenant usually occurred automatically after 24 months’ time in grade which meant sixty-one percent of the squadron pilots had served less than two years in the Marine Corps, most of which was training.

Conclusion will be published in the February Newsletter Issue.





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