



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

JUNE 2022



REMEMBER

From the Commander ...



This weather sure has been putting a damper on our Spring. I hope everyone is doing well. Remember that our Post election is June 7th hope everyone can make

it out.

Our raffles are still going on, 1 for a Sig 9mm (see Page 21 for details) and the other for 2 Cards vs. Cubs tickets for a June 26th game. Swing by our clubroom and get in on the fun.

So many things going on at Post 639. We had a Bike Show at Renegade Harley Davidson to raise money for our sign replacement, raised \$3000. Thanks for all our volunteers from ALA, ALR, SAL and our members for coming out to support this cause. We are starting a 1st Saturday of the month breakfast on June 4th, come in give it a try. Please check the calendar in this newsletter for our events.

We are a volunteer organization so if you have some time get with us and help us keep this machine rolling. Thank you in advance.

It's been a great year being your Commander. Our team has made progress and we have many more things in the works. I am looking forward to another year of hard work and betterment of our Post.

Stand tall, fly your Flag, pray for Texas and may God Bless America.

Commander Mike Goforth

Post Adjutant



2022-2023 Post 639 Officer nominations commenced in April, with the following names on Page 2 placed during the General Meeting on April 5th.

No new nominations were placed at the May General Meeting. A final solicitation of nominations will be made before the election at the General Meeting on June 7th.

Remember, you will be required to present your 2022 Legion Membership card to participate in the Post election.

To Date nominations for 2022-2023 ...

Commander	Mike Goforth
1st Vice	Open
2nd Vice	Mike Chandler
Adjutant	Tom Newsom
Finance	Teri Daniels, Frank Messley
Judge Adv.	Jim Cooper
Sgt. at Arms	Ron Jackson

(cont'd)

Svc. Officer	Bob Scott
Quartermaster	Barry Greene
Chaplain	Rex Krasche
Historian	Bob Kalwat
Member AL	Bob Dale
Member AL	Darin Dobbs
Member AL	Don Weiss

Post 639 Membership renewals have reached 100.6% of our assigned goal. Total membership is now very close to 500.

Tom Newsom

Post 639 Adjutant

Chaplain



A time to remember, a time to reflect.

The people that touched our lives should always be in our hearts and on our minds. Never forget.

As always, the Post and its' members are in my prayers.

Chaplain Rex Krasche

Auxiliary



It was a busy May for ALA and we kicked it off with SAL for the CVMA Scavenger Hunt event, May 4th, with a brisket lunch being provided. Linda Tenneson, Sherry Hawk and Terra Cooperider assisted Commander Myers with the lunch. Nice job ladies!

From there we went right into the next Saturday, May 14th at the Dirty Dozen Bike Show at Renegade Harley Davidson for the Post fundraising event. ALA was out in full force with members Susan Heppard, Linda Tenneson, Mikayla Criger, Sherry Jacobson, Marsha Crom, Hallie Scott, Kim Goforth, Terra Cooperider, Lindy Dobbs, Karen Doelger, Terry Chandler, Mary Krasche and Debrya Faria volunteering. AWESOME JOB ALA! Thank you, Renegade, for hosting this event for Post 639.

May 21st and 22nd was our Poppy Drive event at HyVee on Sunshine and although we were rained out on Saturday, we were



able promote our poppies for veterans on Sunday. Joyce Sanders, Marsha Crom and Terra Cooperider joined me for the drive on Sunday. Thank you, ladies, for your assistance and a big

shout out to Joyce Sanders for hauling our supplies to HyVee for us. We also thank HyVee for their support to our Unit and to our veterans for the drive and our Poppy Drive Coordinator, Charlotte Kelly, for making it happen.

Our first Bike night with SAL on Wednesday, May 18th was a success and behind every success story you will find special people like ALA Susan Heppard, SAL members Noel Heppard, Commander Curtis Myers, Thomas Long and Mike House who make it happen. While the Sugar Shack was grill-in' and servin', there was another success story going on outside of the Shack. Mikayla Criger and Terra Cooperider, were busy with jello shots and sold all they had. All 100 of them which Sherry Jacobson made for us. Thank you, Bike Night crew and Sherry!

June is going to start us off with the Pharaohs Car Show on Saturday, June 4th as we will be assisting our SAL brothers in the Sugar Shack. Watch for the flyers at the Post for this event.

Tuesday, June 7th during General meeting, we will have our 2nd round of Officer nominations and acceptance of those nominations for the 2022-2023 year. July is election and August is installation of the new Officers.

Sunday, June 12th is District meeting which Post 639 will host. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting is at 2:00 p.m.

Watch for our June Raffle Basket, "Just For Men", which we will introduce on Wednesday, June 8th at the Queen of Hearts event. As always, tickets are \$5.00, and can be purchased at the bar. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, June 29th during the Queen of Hearts.

Sunday, June 19th is Father's Day and we will be taking Father's Day gifts to our Mount Vernon Veterans and Chesterfield Village Veterans to show our appreciation of their service.

ALA thanks you for all the support you give us and we are grateful to Post 639, our brothers and sisters of SAL and ALR, for being there for us. We proudly serve with devotion and hearts filled with love for our Veterans to fulfill our mission.

In the Spirit of Service not Self.

Diana Cooperider
President
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 639

Sons of the American Legion

As always, the Sons are looking for new and former members to step up and help with events, along with minor projects to improve our beloved Legion Post 639.

Please come out and see what we're all about !!! Next meeting will be February 22nd, 7PM. Hope to see you there !!

Curtis Meyers, Commander



WE WANT YOU!



Service Officer



Illegal Aliens and the Veterans Administration

When the Biden Administration announced that they would open the Mexican border on May 23, three states (Arizona, Louisiana, and Missouri) filed suit asking for an injunction to block the opening. Judge Robert Summerhays issued that injunction in the Western District of Louisiana Court. Then the Biden Administration appealed the ruling and 17 more states joined the suit as plaintiffs. Judge Summerhays heard the appeal and let the injunction stand.

The Biden Administration had intended to use Veterans Administration staff to support the illegal aliens. If they want to appeal again they must go before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Since that takes a while our medical benefits are secure for now. In light of the last hearing and 20 states now involved as plaintiffs it will be an uphill legal battle for the administration to open the border at all. So the risk of the illegal aliens taking our medical support is now fairly low.

Bob Scott, Post 639 Service Officer

Legion Riders Chapter 639



As I mentioned last month, April was ALR month for 50/50, and we were honored to donate the monthly proceeds to the family of Dustin Brandhorst, Ebenezer Fire Protection District firefighter who was killed on March 18th.

On May 7th, riders from **Post 639, ALR and Red Knights** rode to the Ebenezer Fire Protection District firehouse to personally present donations of approximately \$1000 to Department Chief Nelson Prewitt - \$500 from ALR, \$200 from Red Knights, and a sizable on-the-spot donation from a number of the riders that made the ride. To say he was touched was a massive understatement.



The donations will be used to send the family to the Firefighter's Memorial in Kingdom City, MO, as well as to Emmitsburg, Maryland for the Memorial Service at the National Firefighter's Memorial

You all make me so proud as your Director, to watch your spirit of service and generosity in action. **Ladies and Gentlemen, this is our mission. It's our purpose, and it's what we do. And I'm humbled by the way you do it.**

Larry Tuck had planned for us to do a make-up ride on Saturday, May 23rd to Gaston's Resort in Lakeview, AR. But once again, the weather intervened with a heavy chance of rain. We'll keep trying till we get this one done and in the books.

The ALR Chapter 639 election of officers for 2022-2023 is this month at our June 19th meeting. The current nominees are as follows:

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

If you have any other nominations, please submit to either myself or Bob Kalwat prior to the June 19th meeting

Ride safe out there

Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639

Historian/Newsletter Editor

So much history to cover in June. D-Day, June 6th, 1944. June 4-7, 1942, Battle of Midway, and the list goes on. To put focus on these two particular events -

- (1) I've included, on Pages 18-19, some firsthand accounts of the Omaha Beach landing. Courage under fire of this magnitude is impossible to comprehend, except by those who were there, not to mention those among us who have experienced combat firsthand in subsequent conflicts.
- (2) **Sgt Ed Fox (Member Post 639)** shared his recollections of the Battle of Midway in our June - December 2021 Newsletter editions. These are available on our website www.americanlegion639.org under the Events section, as well as hardcopy in the Post 639 History Book on the shelf in the Clubroom. Take time to re-read if you can - well worth your time. Ed Fox will also be participating in the 80th Anniversary Memorial Service in Hawaii at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl) on June 7th. We will be streaming it live at Post 639 on June 7th starting at 2PM. **See special Happy Hour pricing on Page 6 from 2PM - 4PM in Ed's honor.** Also, watch the Post 639 Facebook page for details.

I'm sure Ed would appreciate your stopping in to share the experience with him, although from a distance. I'm sure he'll be happy to share his experience of the event with us when he returns. We are so blessed to have him as a member or our Post

Bob Kalwat

Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor

June VSO Activities/Info

Give Vets Hope

We had another good turnout for our meeting on May 10th with nearly plenty of pizza and pop for everyone.



Holly Butler and I have been trying to provide an environment where our veterans can talk about what is on their mind. Often these things aren't related to a military experience. As we talk and listen, there always seems to be a commonality among our group members that is easily recognizable. When given the opportunity there is so much we talk about that is important for each of us.

Our GIVE VETS HOPE group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, at 5:30, at the VFW Post 3404, at 1136 East Atlantic. Our next meetings will be June 14th and June 28th.

Everything is free and this opportunity is not just for veterans but for anyone, that offers support for them. Spouses, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers and support animals are all welcome. We are inclusive but don't offer child care, sorry.

If you would like more information about the "GIVE VETS HOPE" group please contact me at: davidsuits25@gmail.com or call and leave a message for me at 417-773-1837. Our Facebook page is: [givevetshope/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/givevetshope/). From this page you can access our website and learn more information.

A big thanks goes out to your editor Bob Kalwat for his help in getting these words out.

The Kitchen, Inc / Home at Last

The Kitchen, Inc. has a long history of serving our community. Sister Lorraine Biebel began the mission of The Kitchen, Inc. in 1983 when she served the first meal to the homeless and hungry. Since then, The Kitchen, Inc. has grown to one of the region's largest social service providers for families, individuals, youth, seniors, and Veterans in need.



The Kitchen, Inc. continues to honor Sister Lorraine's legacy through our vision of a community without homelessness.

Mission: We bring stability and purpose to people who are homeless.

Vision: A community without homelessness.

Values: Respect, Dignity, Quality, Service, Compassion

My name is Andrew Drescher, and I serve as the Home at Last Coordinator for The Kitchen, Inc. The goal of my company is to end homelessness and I work exclusively with veterans. I have been building a strong community to aid those in the area and have contacts to aid with employment, financial assistance, education, mental and social work, and almost anything else that could be needed. I would like to work with the local legions in the area as a resource to provide safe havens for veterans and create a large network to locate and assist any home-

less veterans in the area. Please reach out if you have any questions or need anything else.

Home at Last is a program funded by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). Home at Last/SSVF is designed to serve veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This program provides rent assistance, utility assistance, household items, case management and more to those who have served our country and now find themselves in need of a little help.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms, so it's time we come together as a community to provide them with a place to call home. The focus of Home at Last/SSVF is housing stabilization—using temporary financial assistance and community resources as a bridge to long-term stability.

To be eligible for Home at Last you must be a veteran or veteran family with an income below %50 of the average median income (AMI) and be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

To see if you qualify for this program, call Home at Last at (417) 225-7410.

If you would like to get involved in helping us eradicate homelessness in our community, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance !!!

Andrew Drescher, SSVF Coordinator, The Kitchen, Inc.
730 N. Glenstone Ave
Springfield, MO 65802
Direct:417-350-0047
Office:417-837-1500 Fax:417.225-7494

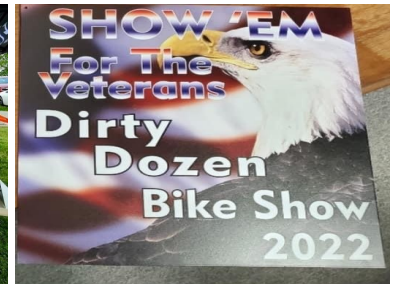
www.thekitcheninc.org
ADrescher@thekitcheninc.org

VFW 3404 Peace Officers Week

On May 14th, VFW 3404 hosted our first annual Peace Officers Memorial Day Breakfast. Thank you to those attending and those that worked very hard with the Breakfast.



Post 639 had a great day at **Renegade Harley Davidson** on Saturday, May 14th for our annual **Dirty Dozen People's Choice Bike Show 2022**. Our volunteers worked hard to feed the bikers, our sponsors did not disappoint with the custom trophies, and our friends showed up in force to support us. Thanks everyone. Special thanks to **Renegade** for allowing us to use your facilities and your donation to support our veterans.



Cigar Night @LZ639

July 6

Apr 13

May 11

Aug 17

June 8

Sep 14



“Just for Him” will be onsite for you to purchase and try a nice cigar. Live music scheduled, food/drink available.

★ BIKE NIGHT ★

@LZ639

EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAY

6:30 - 10

FOOD

MUSIC

50/50 &
COOL PRIZE
RAFFLES



QUEEN
OF
HEARTS
CARD DRAW
EVERY
WEDNESDAY

APRIL 20,
MAY 4 & 18,
JUNE 1, 15 & 28,
JULY 13 & 27,
AUGUST 10 & 24
SEPTEMBER 7 & 21

2660 S SCENIC,
SPRINGFIELD, MO



Please join us at Post 639 Vietnam War Memorial on June 7th from 2PM to 4PM for this event. Sgt Ed Fox will be in Hawaii at the ceremony to participate as the last surviving Marine who was on the island during the battle. The event will be streamed live in the Post. Special Happy Hour pricing - \$2.00 drafts, \$3.00 wells, \$1.00 off all others. Come out and honor Sgt. Ed Fox !!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
COMMEMORATION OF THE
80TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
BATTLE OF MIDWAY
HOSTED BY
THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

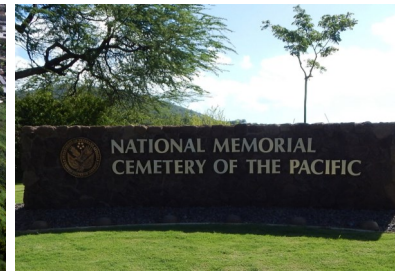
9 to 10am

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC

2177 Puowaina Dr, Honolulu, HI 96813

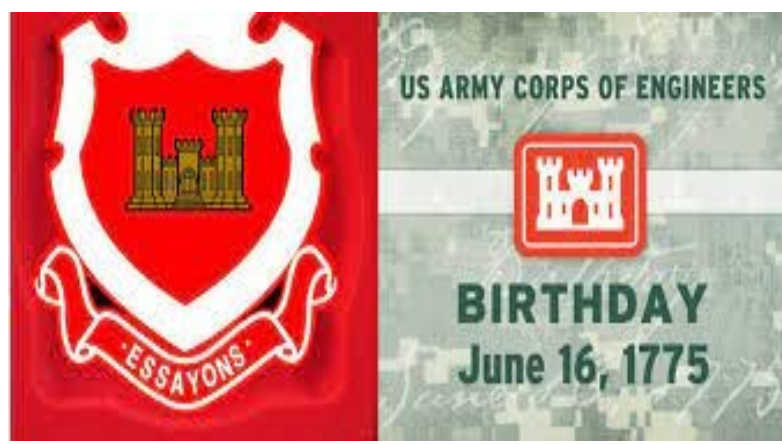
To RSVP please email
battleofmidway80@gmail.com

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA
Marine National Monument





Battle of Midway - June 4-7th, 1942



US Army Corps of Engineers Birthday - June 16th



D-Day - Operation Overlord - June 6th, 1944



War of 1812 begins - June 18th



United States Army Birthday - June 14th



Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday - June 23rd



Flag Day - June 14th



National PTSD Awareness Day - June 27th

US Army Corps of Engineers Birthday (June 16th)/History



The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works. The day-to-day activities of the three mission areas are administered by a Lieutenant General, known as the Commanding General/Chief of Engineers. The Chief of Engineers commands the Engineer Regiment, comprising combat engineer, rescue, construction, dive, and other specialty units, and answers directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Combat Engineers, sometimes called “sappers”, form an integral part of the Army’s combined arms team and are found in all Army service components: Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Their duties are to breach obstacles; construct fighting positions; place and detonate explosives; conduct route clearance operations; emplace and detect landmines; and fight as provisional infantry when required. For the military and construction mission, the Commanding General is directed and supervised by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for installations, environment and energy, whom the President appoints and the Senate confirms. Military construction relates to construction on military bases and worldwide installations.

The history of the United States Army Corps of Engineers can be traced back to the revolutionary era. On 16 June 1775, the Continental Congress organized an army which staff included a chief engineer and two assistants. Colonel Richard Gridley became General George Washington's first chief engineer. One of his first tasks was to build fortifications near Boston at Bunker Hill. The Continental Congress recognized the need for engineers trained in military fortifications and asked the government of King Louis XVI of France for assistance. Many of the early engineers in the Continental Army were former French officers.

Louis Lebègue Duportail, a lieutenant colonel in the French Royal Corps of Engineers, was secretly sent to North America in March 1777 to serve in George Washington's Continental Army. In July 1777 he was appointed colonel and commander of all engineers in the Continental Army and, on 17 November 1777, he was promoted to brigadier general. When the Continental Congress created a separate Corps of Engineers in May 1779, Duportail was appointed as its commander. In late 1781 he directed the construction of the allied U.S.-French siege works at the Battle of Yorktown.

On 26 February 1783, the Corps was disbanded. It was re-established during the Presidency of George Washington. From 1794 to 1802, the engineers were combined with the artillery as the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers.

The Corps of Engineers, as it is known today, was established on 16 March 1802, when President Thomas Jefferson signed the Military Peace Establishment Act, whose aim was to “organize and establish a Corps of Engineers ...that the said Corps shall be stationed at West Point in the State of New

York and shall constitute a military academy.” Until 1866, the superintendent of the US Military Academy was always an Engineer Officer.

USACE provides support directly and indirectly to the warfighting effort.. They build and help maintain much of the infrastructure that the Army and the Air Force use to train, house, and deploy troops. USACE built and maintained navigation systems and ports provide the means to deploy vital equipment and other material. Corps of Engineers Research and Development (R&D) facilities help develop new methods and measures for deployment, force protection, terrain analysis, mapping, and other support.

USACE directly supports the military in the battle zone, making expertise available to commanders to help solve or avoid engineering (and other) problems. Forward Engineer Support Teams, FEST-A's or FEST-M's, may accompany combat engineers to provide immediate support, or to reach electronically into the rest of USACE for the necessary expertise. A FEST-A team is an eight-person detachment; a FEST-M is approximately 36. These teams are designed to provide immediate technical-engineering support to the warfighter or in a disaster area. Corps of Engineers' professionals use the knowledge and skills honed on both military and civil projects to support the U.S. and local communities in the areas of real estate, contracting, mapping, construction, logistics, engineering, and management experience. This work currently includes support for rebuilding Iraq, establishing Afghanistan infrastructure, and supporting international and inter-agency services.

In addition, the work of almost 26,000 civilians on civil-works programs throughout USACE provides a training ground for similar capabilities worldwide. USACE civilians volunteer for assignments worldwide. For example, hydropower experts have helped repair, renovate, and run hydropower dams in Iraq in an effort to help get Iraqis to become self-sustaining.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Legion

As always, we have several volunteer opportunities for members and non-members. Currently, we are in need of someone with excellent administrative skills and the ability to see a task through to completion. This could mostly be done at home, but it will take some familiarization with how the business here operates.

As our buildings age, maintenance has become a growing concern. If you have any skills in any of the trades, or if you are a “Jack of ALL Trades”, we could use your help. There are several projects pending.

At this time, we’re always looking for those with cooking skills. Special events, cooking lunch on those days when we need a sub to fill in, etc. If you want to show off your culinary skills to the membership, please contact the Post and we’ll get you set up.

If you’re interested, please call 882-8639, or drop by. We’ll contact you and match you up with an opportunity. **Volunteers are what allow Post 639 to function. YOU ARE NEEDED. Come work and fellowship with us !!!**

Post 639 Schedule of Events

June 2022

- June 1 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-10PM
BIKE NIGHT
- June 3 Friday - Doggy Style Food Truck
- June 3-5 Fri—Sun - Hangin' Dice Car Show
- June 6 Monday - D-Day, Normandy Operation Overlord
- June 7 Tuesday - Battle of Midway Ceremony 2-4PM
- Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- General Election of Post Officers
- June 8 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-7:30PM
CIGAR NIGHT
- June 11 Saturday - Sub Vets Meeting 11AM
- June 14 Tuesday - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- Flag Day
- United States Army Birrhdya
- June 15 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-10PM
BIKE NIGHT
- June 17 Friday - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30—7PM
- June 19 Sunday - Legion Riders Meeting, 6:00PM
- June 21 Tuesday - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting. 7PM
- SAL Monthly Meeting, 7PM
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- June 22 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-7:30PM
- June 23 Thursday - Fleet Reserve Assoc. Meeting, 6PM
- Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE
- June 27 Monday - National PTSD Awareness Day
- June 29 Wednesday - Queen of Hearts / 50-50, 6-10PM
BIKE NIGHT

Motorcycle Awareness Ride - May 1st, leaving from Post 639



CIGAR NIGHT @ LZ639 , May 11th WITH "JUST FOR HIM"



For the Good of the Legion ..

M1 Garand

The legendary M1 Garand was used by US soldiers and Marines across the globe in WWII and Korea. The rifle was very efficient, being clip fed. The clip would hold 8 rounds of 30.06 ammunition.



When the last round of the clip was fired, the rifle would eject the clip, making a “PING” noise. The enemy learned to listen for the ping to locate the shooter.

The rifle was 43” long, which would come up to the shoulder of an average man. It weighed about 10 lbs. It was rugged, and would fire in water or sand. .

I had an Uncle who served in the Korean War, and he explained all the parts to me, and how they operated. One has to insert the clip into the receiver, and you had to withdraw your thumb very quickly or else get it damaged by the bolt.

The rifle was easy to operate and maintain. It could be cleaned with little effort.

The rifle is used by the rifle team that fires the salute at a funeral, using blank rounds. It is used by many drill teams, ceremonial teams and for sport hunting.

I was privileged to fire the rifle at a shooting range at Missawa AFB, Japan. It was accurate, smooth-shooting and it handled well. I was able to hit a milk jug at 100 yards.

The Government sold some of the rifles, but you had to be a dealer to buy one. They were \$416 each. (now sell for \$2000 on average).

The rifle has gone down as a legend in its time.

Charlie Weaver (Budroe)



**OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Joshua Boley
Outreach Coordinator
Veterans Upward Bound

1001 East Chestnut Expressway
Springfield, Missouri 65802
www.otc.edu/vub

Office 417-447-7840
Fax 417-447-6925
boleyj@otc.edu

Post 639 Lunch Menu 11AM-2PM, M-F

Burgers. Served with fries. Substitute Mushrooms or Onion Rings for \$1. Add bacon for \$1. Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Pickle on request.

- Hamburger \$6
- Cheeseburger \$7
- BBQ Burger \$8.50
- Classic Cheeseburger with BBQ seasoning, and onion ring, and drizzled with BBQ sauce.
- Blue Burger \$8.50 - Classic hamburger with our special seasoning, topped with Bleu Cheese crumbles.
- Brunch Burger \$8.50 - Classic cheeseburger topped with a fried egg and bacon.
- The LZ639 \$8.50 - Classic cheeseburger with a garlic parmesan aioli and topped grilled onions.

“Smashed Sandwiches” Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1. Substitute chili or soup of the day for \$1.50.

- Grilled Cheese \$6
- Hot Ham and Cheese \$6
- Reuben \$7
- BLT \$6
- Pepperoni Pizza \$7 - Toasted sandwich stuffed with Marinara, fresh-sliced Mozzarella and Pepperoni.

Upgraded Classics. Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1. Substitute chili or soup of the day for \$1.50

- Pork Tenderloin Sandwich \$6
- Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$6 - Topped with Swiss cheese and bacon.
- Garlic Parmesan Chicken Sandwich \$6 - Topped with Garlic Parmesan Aioli and bacon.

Soup \$3.50

- *Only one soup offered per day. Ask the Bartender for the soup of the day*

Chili \$3.50

- Homemade by the Commander himself !!

Soft Drinks \$2

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

Money raised by the sale of Legion, ALR and Auxiliary merchandise is then used in their Veteran support activities. You are contributing directly when you purchase an item. Pay right at the bar !!

American Legion	Price
American Legion Hats	\$15.00
American Legion License Plate (Plain)	\$10.00
American Legion License Plate	\$15.00
Vietnam Memorial Wall Coin	\$10.00
Vietnam Memorial Wall T-Shirt	\$15.00
Ride For Life T-Shirt	\$20.00
Christmas Par Tee	\$15.00
RV Space Rental (Non-Veteran)	\$20.00
RV Space Rental (Veteran)	\$10.00
Legion Hall Rental	Variable
Legion Grounds Rental	Variable

American Legion Riders	Price
ALR Auto License Plate	\$9.00
ALR Auto Plate	\$11.00
ALR Belt Buckle	\$30.00
ALR Chapter Tapes	\$2.00
ALR Decal 3"	\$3.50
ALR Decal 6"	\$7.00
ALR Decal 12"	\$8.00
ALR Do-rag (Cotton)	\$13.00
ALR Do-rag Logo (Poly/Cotton)	\$13.00
ALR Do-rag (Navy or POW, Poly/Cotton)	\$13.00
ALR Hats	\$20.00
ALR Key Tag	\$3.00
ALR Motorcycle License Plate Frame	\$8.00
ALR Patch (Back - Large)	\$47.00
ALR Patch - Medium	\$10.00
ALR Patch - Mini	\$4.00
ALR Pin	\$4.00
ALR Support Our Troops Patch	\$3.00
ALR Sweat Shirt	\$29.00
ALR Hoodie	\$28.00
ALR T-Shirt (Long Sleeve)	\$20.00
ALR T-Shirt (Short Sleeve)	\$19.00
ALR Windshield Decal	\$16.00
ALR Zippo Lighter	\$23.00

Auxiliary	Price
Auxiliary Cook Books	\$1.00
Auxiliary Hats	\$20.00
Auxiliary Koozies	\$1.00
Auxiliary Patches (Large)	\$8.00
Auxiliary Patches (Small)	\$5.00
Auxiliary Pins	\$6.00
Auxiliary Necklaces	\$10.00
Auxiliary Bracelets	\$5.00



ROONEY McBRIDE & SMITH ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Jennifer R. Hargis
Attorney at Law

jhargis@rmsattorneys.com

1445 E. Republic Road, Suite 300
Springfield, Missouri 65804
(P) 417.708.9681
(F) 417.708.9682
rmsattorneys.com

"Express your love...with the finest"

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(417) 869-8336 • 1 (800) 346-9875

Email: springfield@wommackmonuments.com

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



JUNE 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 LUNCH 11-2  BIKE NIGHT QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 10 PM	2 LUNCH 11-2	3 LUNCH 11-2 	4  BATTLE OF MIDWAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY
5	6 LUNCH 11-2 	7 LUNCH 11-2  POST 639/AUX GEN MEETING 7PM POST ELECTION	8 LUNCH 11-2  CIGAR NIGHT QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM	9 LUNCH 11-2	10 LUNCH 11-2	11  SUB VETS 11 AM
12	13 LUNCH 11-2	14 LUNCH 11-2  KOREAN WAR VETS MEETING 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE MEETING VFW 3404 5:30PM	15 LUNCH 11-2  BIKE NIGHT QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 10 PM	16 LUNCH 11-2  US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BIRTHDAY	17 LUNCH 11-2  VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 -7 PM	
19  ALR MTG 6PM	20 LUNCH 11-2	21 LUNCH 11-2  AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE MEETING VFW 3404 5:30PM	22 LUNCH 11-2  QUEEN OF HEARTS 6-8 PM	23 LUNCH 11-2  FL EET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE	24 LUNCH 11-2	25
26	27 LUNCH 11-2  E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM	28 LUNCH 11-2	29 LUNCH 11-2  BIKE NIGHT QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 10 PM	30 LUNCH 11-2		

Ongoing Suicide Prevention

EVERY month is Suicide Prevention month. Always be vigilant for your brothers/sisters that might need help.

Some signs of concerning behavior include:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

If you notice any signs of concerning behavior here are some things you can do:

- **Start a conversation:** Mention the signs that prompted you to talk to them. Stay calm and let the person know you want to help them. Don't leave the person alone.
- **Listen, express concern and reassure the individual:** Let the person know you care and that you take the situation seriously. Letting the person know you care will go a long way in establishing a support system.
- **Create a safety plan:** Ask the person if they have access to anything that could harm them and call for help if you feel the situation is dangerous.
- **Get the individual help:** Provide resources for the individual. **Call the Veteran's crisis line at 1(800)-273-8255.** Or if you feel the situation is severe, take the individual to the closest emergency room or call for help.



Average Weather in June for Springfield

Daily high temperatures *increase* by 7°F, from 79°F to 86°F, rarely falling below 71°F or exceeding 93°F.

Daily low temperatures *increase* by 6°F, from 61°F to 67°F, rarely falling below 52°F or exceeding 73°F.

Over the course of June in Springfield, the length of the day is *essentially constant*.

The shortest day of the month is *June 1*, with 14 hours, 34 minutes of daylight and the longest day is *June 21*, with 14 hours, 44 minutes of daylight.



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The price is \$6.00 per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See Mia or one of the bartenders for additional information and to order.

The History of Vietnam War Memorial American Legion Post 639



What follows is the next in a series of articles that tell the story of American Legion Post 639, Vietnam War Memorial, told through the experiences of the original founders. Their experiences as Vietnam veterans form the basis of who we are today. Gary Harlan, Ron Snyder, Gary Turner, Art Stout, and Mike Chandler share their stories in the coming months. **First up - Gary Harlan, Charter Member, Commander 1983 - 1985.** Gary's essay that follows was written in 1993

Last month (May issue) -

INTRODUCTION.

I. BORN IN A TAVERN

II. THE WASHINGTON CONNECTION

III. IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS CHAOS

In the middle of May, 1981, at the Teamster's Hall in Springfield, we received our charter, thus becoming an American Legion Post. District Commander Ed Edgar installed our first officers. Gary Turner was elected Commander. I never told him this, but Gary should have received a medal of some sort for his year of service as post commander.

Gary Turner had no way of knowing what he was in for. For one thing, our meetings in the early days had absolutely no resemblance to the orderly monthly gatherings that we know today. We are talking about a group of guys who had never joined any organization before, most of us loners, and none of us having the slightest interest in learning Roberts Rules of Order.

Our meetings got chaotic at times. It seemed to me, during the first few months, that the group was comprised of those who were drunk and those who were half-drunk. In light of this beginning, it makes me proud to observe our meetings today. Even though we have our own bar, the members conduct themselves in manner fitting to deal with the Post's business. During a recent Congressional election, Representative Mel Hancock

accepted our invitation to address our meeting. Though Mel found out that no one was shy about asking direct questions, and that we were as politically diverse as any group he had ever encountered, he also found us to be orderly and respectful.

But a decade earlier it was still the pre—Wall days - pre-Vietnam documentaries and movies days. The whacko image still prevailed. We were standing alone, and most of us were angry and depressed. We had each lived a decade alone, knowing from the moment we got discharged that it would be best not to let people know that you were a Vietnam veteran. Nowadays it's not uncommon to hear about some middle-age guy trying to pass himself off as a combat individuals who Dr. John Wilson, author of "The Forgotten Warrior Project", characterized as a group of survivors struggling to return to the mainstream of society. " We were there to honor the memory of our brothers who fell on the battlefield , and for our brothers who were falling on the battlefield of everyday life .

IV. THE PIG ROAST CONTROVERSY

In my 1979 magazine article, I spoke derisively about television. I wrote that the experience of combat forced me to see the difference between seeing things as they are, and "TV perception." Ironically, that article led to my becoming a spokesman on TV.

Only three months after receiving our charter, the post was thrown into a controversial situation. As mentioned already, Ron Snyder and I had spent 1980 networking. Among our contacts was a group of St. Louis Vietnam vets whose organization was NACV, the National Association of Concerned Veterans. In August 1981, we received a fateful call from the group.

They said that they had planned a national symposium and pig roast, to last four days, scheduled around the upcoming Labor Day weekend. They had an agreement with the owner of the Buena Vista Ranch, located just outside of Springfield, to have the event held there. But at the last minute, the owner had been persuaded that a wild, crazy group would show up, and tear up his property. Consequently, they were desperate for a new site, and appealed to us to help them secure one.

So that's how I got my start as a spokesman on the local

TV news, making an appeal for some I and on which to have the event. In less than twenty-four hours, we received an offer from J. T. Williams, a World War II vet in Douglas County, who offered his one hundred sixty acre farm for the symposium and pig roast. However, by the next day, his neighbors had organized, hired a lawyer, and we were ordered to appear for a hearing in Ava.

The day before the hearing, we met with J.T.'s neighbors. We tried to assure them that it was going to be a peaceful event. One of the neighbors expressed the fear that motorcycle gangs would come and destroy their property.

The discussion did not assure them. With only three days before the event was scheduled, we went to court. For a nominal

fee of \$200, Springfield attorney Loren Honecker represented us. The neighbors were represented by Don Bonacker. The paper quoted Bonacker as saying that his petition to stop the event was based on "fears that neighboring property would be damaged by beer drinking participants."

So, with four days left before the scheduled event, in a packed courtroom, filled with our opponents, the match of Honicker versus Bonacker commenced at nine in the morning. It didn't end until one o'clock the next morning. This excerpt from the Springfield paper should tell you something about the thirteen-hour ordeal:

"Throughout the hearing, Honecker voiced objections to questions from (Douglas County Prosecuting Attorney) House and Bonacker which he said did not pertain to the hearing.

"While Honecker said such questions were "chasing wild geese", and "bringing in everything under the sun", some of the veterans were not as charitable .

"G--D--- bull---" one veteran muttered while sitting in the rear of the courtroom during the afternoon's testimony.

So, with the event now three days away, I returned to the airwaves and newspaper, issuing our second appeal. Again, this from a newspaper article at the time:

"Whoever donates use of land for the event can expect adequate security and cleanup, Harlan said."

"If another site is found, proceeds from the pig roast and symposium on the effects the Vietnam conflict had on veterans will be used to set up an outreach center for an estimated 15, 330 Vietnam-era veterans living in an 18-county area in Southwest Missouri, he said."

Once again, a World War Two vet responded, only this time the farm was close to home, just east of Springfield. Bob Young said that he would make his 117-acre farm available. A headline in the paper, two days before the event, read "Veterans Pig Roast Gets Green Light. " In that same edition, the newspaper spoke out in our behalf. Here is an excerpt from their editorial:

"It is most unfortunate that the hassle over the pig roast should have developed. The Vietnam veterans have been undeservedly discriminated against and they are understandably puzzled. All other U.S. war veterans have been welcomed home as heroes. But because of the internal strife that developed during the Vietnam War - and because politics prevented them from winning the war - they come as hapless victims of a strife not of their choosing.

"Many Vietnam veterans need help. Many have problems stemming from the horrors of their duty. The least the rest of us can do is to give them our fullest support, our respect - and a little room to get together for a pig roast and symposium. Let's welcome them to Springfield and Greene County with open arms and warm hearts."

However, the headline in the next day's paper read "Complaints Dampen Roast Hope." With one day before the symposium was to commence, and two days before the pig roast, this excerpt reflects the level of frustration we felt:

"If the expected crowd of 2,500 people is denied the opportunity to gather together for the three - day event, Harlan said, it's a pretty straightforward Constitutional rights violation. The article continues:

"Greene County officials, including the Sheriff, Planning and Zoning and County Court have been receiving calls in opposition to the event. The highway patrol also received several complaints, said Lt. George Cumberland.

" 'We've had some calls asking what we're going to do about it, Cumberland said Wednesday morning, before the meeting between the veterans and law enforcement officials was scheduled.

As of now, we don't know what we're going to do," Cumberland said. If there's no violation of the law, my God, it's still a free country. Thanks for reminding them, sir.

The meeting between the veterans and the law took place, and after Gary Turner and I agreed to sign a document stating that should any of the many possible violations that were listed on the document occurred, that we would be held liable.

An article also appeared in the paper that day with the headline, "Actor joins vets at pig roast. The article read as follows:

"David Carradine, Country Joe McDonald, The Grass Roots and 40 roast pigs will be part of the celebration this weekend at the Vietnam Veteran's Pig Roast, east of Springfield.

"But Gary Harlan, post adjutant of the Vietnam War Memorial Post 639, is hoping for more than just a good time. "

"The ultimate aim of this event is to unite Vietnam veterans to educate ourselves about the problems facing Vietnam veterans today and to find solutions to those problems," Harlan said.

"The pig roast Saturday is sponsored by The National Association of Concerned Veterans, based in St. Louis. The movie, which stars and is directed by David Carradine, will be shown Friday, 5:30 PM, at the North town Mall Theater. The movie is about a veteran who comes home.

"Country Joe McDonald and The Grass Roots will perform at the pig roast that will last until midnight."

The pig roast was held on Saturday. Here is part of the article appearing in the newspaper the next day:

"Vietnam veterans came from California and Maryland, from Wisconsin and Georgia, to be part of this weekend. "

"Saturday was a day for drinking beer and listening to live music; a day for veterans to begin to reach out and communicate with one another. The serious work of making voices heard will begin today and continue Monday with the symposium."

"Despite a lot of public concern, there was no unruly behavior. Security people with orange armbands roamed the site, but their most serious concern seemed to be a young man who was passing out petitions for a truck weight-limit bill in Missouri. He was asked to leave."

It was a thoroughly peaceful event, which I knew it would be when I signed the prosecuting attorney's document. Naturally, all the furor guaranteed a low turnout. I have met many people since then who told me that all the fear generated that week had scared them off. I've also met a good many Vietnam vets who told me that the treatment we were getting during the pig roast fiasco generated considerable anger in them. Just the same, since it was not our money that funded the event, it was an inexpensive education. And what an education it was!

Not only did we establish a working relationship with law enforcement agencies and city and county government, but we also picked up some new members, some of whom would help us reach our goal of having an outreach center. One of them was John Hagler, a Vietnam veteran who would eventually facilitate our support groups, and who would train volunteers for the Vets Hotline.

David Carradine also became a charter member of the Post that weekend. His movie, "Americana", was never a big box office hit, probably because it is a thoughtful movie that portrays a non-violent Vietnam combat veteran. He settles in a town in Kansas, at tempts to live a peaceful life, but is met with suspicion and hostility. After the week that we had just been through, it could not have been a more appropriate plot.

V. THE VETS HOTLINE: A MEMORIAL TO LINDEN

Linden Stearns was a Vietnam veteran who served with the Marines in Vietnam up near the DMZ. Although he saw a lot of heavy combat, his responsibility was not to kill NVA soldiers. His mission, as a Navy Corpsman, was to save the lives of wounded Marines.

There are a good many of us ex-Marines in the Ozarks who have fond memories and a deep respect for the guys we called 'Doc'. Two of them are Don Alexander and I. Though we met Linden separately, in different circumstances, we each felt a special bond with the man.

Linden met Don when he began attending the counseling group that Don was still running at the Burrell Mental Health Center. He was one of nearly a half-dozen veterans in the Wednesday night group, in the fall of 1981. Several of them, including inden, made regular visits to the VA hospital in Columbia. Linden had been diagnosed as suffering the symptoms of PTSD, "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder".

Through Don's group, Linden heard about the Vietnam veterans Post, and learned that we met downtown, at Post 69's building. The night he joined the Post, the issue under discussion was fundraising. All we got out of our Jeff City lobbying was a Proclamation from the Missouri legislature, which I had

the honor of writing. So by that fall we were resigned to the fact that we would have to raise the funds ourselves for establishing a Vets Center staffed with qualified Vietnam veterans. The goal was to have a storefront operation in which any Vietnam veteran in the Ozarks area could walk in off the street and receive counseling and/or job assistance, free of charge.

Linden came to the October meeting with a fundraising idea of his own. He announced that he had persuaded his boss at Wal-Mart to donate a shotgun to our cause, and suggested that we find other businesses willing to donate goods or services, and then hold an auction. We approved a motion to schedule a fundraising event for Veterans ' Day weekend. To the grief of his friends and family, Linden never saw his idea realized.

On Monday, October 12, 1981, Linden Stearns made his final visit to the VA hospital in Columbia. As usual, he traveled with a buddy of his from the group at Burrell. Both men were being treated for PTSD. Along with counseling, both were prescribed medication. In Linden's case, the medication was the instrument of his death.

Just before writing out Linden's prescription, the doctor treating Linden that day asked him a peculiar question. According to Linden's friend, who discussed it with him on their way home, the doctor asked Linden, "Are you feeling suicidal these days?" to which Linden, quite naturally, replied, "No. "

The question was highly peculiar under the circumstances, considering that Linden was being treated for a recognized emotional disorder whose symptoms - depression, isolation, rage, survivor guilt, etc., were causally connected with the suicides of over 50,000 Vietnam veterans.

The doctor's question turned out to be tragically ironic. For he had asked Linden that question to save Linden the time and hassle of making so many trips to Columbia. He filled out a month's supply of a drug, half of which, taken at one time, would be fatal.

On the following Friday, October 16, 1981, Linden Stearns took an overdose of the prescribed drugs, and died the same night.

The Wednesday following his funeral, certain members of the Post, along with Linden's widow, Karen, were invited to the Wednesday night group. There was a heavy feeling of despair and grief in the room. It was evident that the other members of Linden's group were especially affected by the loss.

The feeling of helplessness that we shared was intensified by what turned out to be attempts by Linden to reach out to a couple of members of the group. But as Don Alexander pointed out ' the signs were so subtle that only a trained counselor or therapist would have recognized the significance of his final calls and visits to friends, and even then there would have been no guarantee that they would be recognized as critical signs.

Our mutual sense of helplessness was further intensified by the fact that Linden drove himself to the emergency room that night, in an apparent effort to reverse the consequences of his

action.

One of the post members who participated in that group was John Hagler. Like Linden, John never dreamed of serving with Marines in the combat zone. In fact, he was a Marine Lance Corporal in the Marine Reserves, when, knowing that his unit was going to be activated (the only one to be activated during the war) he joined the Air Force. With his college degree, he received a commission.

His first set of orders read: Postal duty, Clarke AFB, Philippines. It sounded pretty good to John - a Second Lieutenant with a routine, no-stress job in the tropics. But as soon as he arrived, he received a new set of orders, this time for Vietnam. He was assigned duty as a courier, and not only that but in I Corps, with the Marines. In fact, he worked with a Marine Gunnery Sgt., who made it clear that he was in charge. As they got acquainted, the Gunny told Hagler that there was nothing lower than a Lance Corporal defecting to the Air Force.

Of course, John let the group know that it was also the Gunny who took care of him the day he received his second combat wound. Walking across a rice paddy, the Marine walking in front of Hagler tripped a wire to a personnel mine. The Marine was killed, and John was wounded seriously enough to get out of the Nam for good. He told the group that the Gunny did not want him moved, ordered the Corpsman to take cover, and stayed with John in the exposed area until the medivac chopper came for him.

Like Don Alexander, Hagler got a degree in guidance and counseling for personal reasons. At the time of Linden's death, John was involved with Crisis Care, a suicide prevention agency. He served as a training assistant and telephone volunteer. He and Linden had joined the post the same night. As a result of Linden's death, John suggested that we establish a Veterans Hotline, modeled after the suicide crisis hotline.

One month after her husband's death, Karen Stearns came to the North Town Mall for the fundraising event generated by Linden's participation. We were pleased to inform Karen that plans were underway to set up a Vets Hotline, a 24-hour-a-day, 7 days-a-week telephone service for Vietnam veterans. The first priority of the Hot line would be crisis intervention, a human mechanism designed to respond to desperate situations like Linden's.

Training for the first volunteer training class for the Veterans Hotline took place on January 28, 1982, with fourteen volunteers. They included Bob Allen, an Army combat engineer in Vietnam. Marcia Allen, Bob's wife, was also a volunteer. The course required a minimum of fifty-four hours of training - including lectures and role-playing. Other professionals from the mental health community were brought in from time to time to assist with the training.

By October 1982, one year after we lost Linden, four training groups had been completed, and we had twenty-four active Hotline volunteers. Though most of the volunteers never knew Lin-

den, those of us originals knew that Linden's death was the turning point in our two-year effort to establish an outreach center. As Post Commander Gary Turner observed about the impact of Linden's death, "Things got very serious at that point. We knew that we were not playing some game. The problems were real, and our solution was real.

The viability of our solution was borne out by veterans who came to the counseling groups, saying that when they called the Vets Hotline, they were felling extremely suicidal.

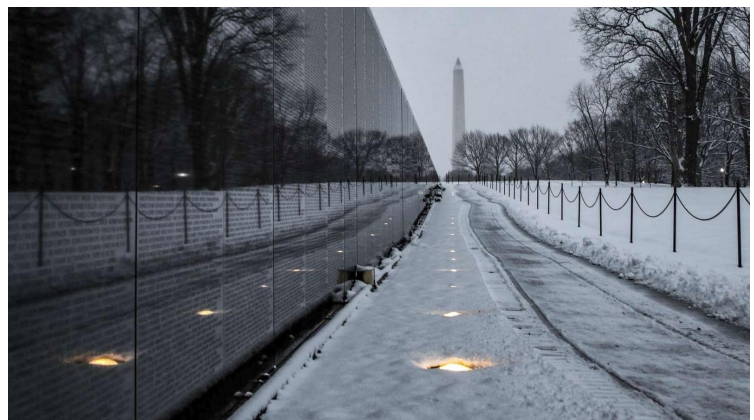
There were also veterans who admitted that they were on the same course as Linden, and that they would have arrived, had they not walked into the Vets Center, which you'll read about next.

In the July 2022 Post 639 Newsletter,

PART 6 - "THE OZARKS VET CENTER"

PART 7 - "BINGO !! "

PART 8 - "JEAN AND WALTER"



Invasion of Normandy, June 6th, 1944

On the Beach - Living History Recollections

The Allied invasion of Hitler's "Fortress Europe" began in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944 when American and British paratroops dropped behind the intended invasion beaches to disrupt German communications. At dawn, the sea invasion began as an Allied Armada disgorged thousands of troops at five beaches along France's Normandy coast.

By the end of the day, the Allies had achieved a tenuous toehold that would be laboriously expanded over the next weeks and would lead ultimately to the Nazi defeat in the West.

"I screamed at Butch, 'Get up and run!.. .' "

Robert Edlin was a member of the 2nd Ranger Battalion that joined the first wave of the assault on Omaha Beach. We join his story as he his assault craft becomes mired on a sandbar:

"Our assault boat hit a sandbar. I looked over the ramp and we were at least seventy-five yards from the shore, and we had hoped for a dry landing. I told the coxswain, "Try to get in further." He screamed he couldn't. That British seaman had all the guts in the world but couldn't get off the sandbar. I told him to drop the ramp or we were going to die right there.

We had been trained for years not to go off the front of the ramp, because the boat might get rocked by a wave and run over you. So we went off the sides. I looked to my right and saw a B Company boat next to us with Lt. Bob Fitzsimmons, a good friend, take a direct hit on the ramp from a mortar or mine. I thought, there goes half of B Company.

It was cold, miserably cold, even though it was June. The water temperature was probably forty-five or fifty degrees. It was up to my shoulders when I went in, and I saw men sinking all about me. I tried to grab a couple, but my job was to get on in and get to the guns. There were bodies from the I I6th floating everywhere. They were facedown in the water with packs still on their backs. They had inflated their life jackets. Fortunately, most of the Rangers did not inflate theirs or they also might have turned over and drowned.

I began to run with my rifle in front of me. I went directly across the beach to try to get to the seaway. In front of me was part of the II6th Infantry, pinned down and lying behind beach obstacles. They hadn't made it to the seaway. I kept screaming at them, 'You have to get up and go! You gotta get up and go!' But they didn't. They were worn out and defeated completely. There wasn't any time to help them.

I continued across the beach. There were mines and obstacles all up and down the beach. The air corps had missed it entirely. There were no shell holes in which to take cover. The mines had

not been detonated. Absolutely nothing that had been planned for that part of the beach had worked. I knew that Vierville-sur-Mer was going to be a hellhole, and it was.

When I was about twenty yards from the seaway I was hit by what I assume was a sniper bullet. It shattered and broke my right leg. I thought, well, I've got a Purple Heart. I fell, and as I did, it was like a searing hot poker rammed into my leg. My rifle fell ten feet or so in front of me. I crawled forward to get to it, picked it up, and as I rose on my left leg, another burst of I think machine gun fire tore the muscles out of that leg, knocking me down again.

I lay there for seconds, looked ahead, and saw several Rangers lying there. One was Butch Bladorn from Wisconsin. I screamed at Butch, 'Get up and run!' Butch, a big, powerful man, just looked back and said, 'I can't.' I got up and hobbled towards him. I was going to kick him in the ass and get him off the beach. He was lying on his stomach, his face in the sand. Then I saw the blood coming out of his back. I realized he had been hit in the stomach and the bullet had come out his spine and he was completely immobilized. Even then I was sorry for screaming at him but I didn't have time to stop and help him. I thought, well, that's the end of Butch. Fortunately, it wasn't. He became a farmer in Wisconsin.

As I moved forward, I hobbled. After you've been hit by gunfire, your legs stiffen up, not all at once but slowly. The pain was indescribable. I fell to my hands and knees and tried to crawl forwards. I managed a few yards, then blacked out for several minutes. When I came to, I saw Sgt. Bill Klaus. He was up to the seaway. When he saw my predicament, he crawled back to me under heavy rifle and mortar fire and dragged me up to the cover of the wall.

Klaus had also been wounded in one leg, and a medic gave him a shot of morphine. The medic did the same for me. My mental state was such that I told him to shoot it directly into my left leg, as that was the one hurting the most. He reminded me that if I took it in the ass or the arm it would get to the leg. I told him to give me a second shot because I was hit in the other leg. He didn't.

There were some Rangers gathered at the seaway - Sgt. William Courtney, Pvt. William Dreher, Garfield Ray, Gabby Hart, Sgt. Charles Berg. I yelled at them, 'You have to get off of here! You have to get up and get the guns!' They were gone immediately.

My platoon sergeant, Bill White, an ex-jockey whom we called Whitey, took charge. He was small, very active, and very courageous. He led what few men were left of the first platoon and started up the cliffs. I crawled and staggered forward as far as I could to some cover in the bushes behind a villa. There was a round stone well with a bucket and handle that turned the rope. It was so inviting. I was alone and I wanted that water so bad. But years of training told me it was booby-trapped.

I looked up at the top of the cliffs and thought, I can't make it on

this leg. Where was everyone? Had they all quit? Then I heard Dreher yelling, 'Come on up. These trenches are empty.' Then Kraut burp guns cut loose. I thought, oh God, I can't get there! I heard an American tommy gun, and Courtney shouted, 'Damn it, Dreher! They're empty now.'

There was more German small-arms fire and German grenades popping. I could hear Whitey yelling, 'Cover me!' I heard Garfield Ray's BAR [Browning automatic rifle] talking American. Then there was silence.

Now, I thought, where are the 5th Rangers? I turned and I couldn't walk or even hobble anymore. I crawled back to the beach. I saw 5th Rangers coming through the smoke of a burning LST that had been hit by artillery fire. Co!. Schneider had seen the slaughter on the beaches and used his experience with the Rangers in Africa, Sicily, and Anzio. He used the smoke as a screen and moved in behind it, saving the 5th Ranger Battalion many casualties.

My years of training told me there would be a counterattack. I gathered the wounded by the seaway and told them to arm themselves as well as possible. I said if the Germans come we are either going to be captured or die on the beach, but we might as well take the Germans with us. I know it sounds ridiculous, but ten or fifteen Rangers lay there, facing up to the cliffs, praying that Sgt. White, Courtney, Dreher, and the 5th Ranger Battalion would get to the guns. Our fight was over unless the Germans counterattacked.

I looked back to the sea. There was nothing. There were no reinforcements. I thought the invasion had been abandoned. We would be dead or prisoners soon. Everyone had withdrawn and left us. Well, we had tried. Some guy crawled over and told me he was a colonel from the 29th Infantry Division. He said for us to relax, we were going to be okay. D, E, and F Companies were on the Pointe. The guns had been destroyed. A and B Companies and the 5th Rangers were inland. The 29th and 1st Divisions were getting off the beaches.

This colonel looked at me and said, 'You've done your job.' I answered, 'How? By using up two rounds of German ammo on my legs?' Despite the awful pain, I hoped to catch up with the platoon the next day."

References:

This eyewitness account appears in: Astor, Gerald, June 6, 1944: The Voices of D-Day (1994; Keegan, John, The Book Of War (1999); Ryan, Cornelius, The Longest Day: June 6, 1944 (1975).

"Invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944: On the Beach" EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2010).

John Houston, US 101st Airborne Division [1]

"Left foot forward, on the edge of the door to push off, swing the right leg out to make a half turn, and get your back to the prop blast, feet together, knees bent, arms on the reserve chute, head

down. The static line jerks and the chute snaps open perfectly. We are so close to the ground that there is no time to do any sightseeing on the way down. Hands on the risers to pull up against the shock of landing. The ground is coming fast. Thump, one roll. This is France...

Each man in the division had been issued a little cricket snapper to use in place of a password. One click is the challenge and two clicks the answer. I hear someone moving along the hedgerow and click the cricket. Two clicks come back, and Shedio and Spitz come out of the shadows. We whisper together for a minute. There is no firing nearby, but we don't want to announce that we are here. Mac hears us and joins the group. We move along in the direction of the flight of our plane, and soon gather fifteen men."

Donald Burgett, US 101st Airborne Division [2]

"What's your plan?" one of the men asked. After a little thought the Lieutenant answered, "A head-on attack and the sooner the better, so let's go." He jumped up and started running toward the group of houses across the field, yelling as he went. We all jumped up and followed him, yelling and screaming at the top of our lungs. We automatically spread out and fired as we ran through the fields, apple orchards and right up to the houses themselves. I saw my first Kraut running through the trees on an angle toward our right flank. I stopped, took a good sight on him and squeezed the trigger. The rifle bucked against my shoulder. I don't remember hearing the shot or feeling the recoil, but the German spun sideways and fell face first out of sight in the grass. Another Kraut stepped around the corner of a building, stopped and just stood there looking down at the spot where the first soldier fell. He was facing me. I had a good straight-on shot at his chest and took careful aim. Again the rifle bucked against my shoulder, and he too fell face forward."

Meanwhile, as British and American paratroopers landed behind enemy lines during the early hours of the 6th, their nations' navies were forming the most formidable armada the world had ever seen. At around dawn the ships began their bombardment of German positions above the beaches...

Sergeant Richard W. Herklotz, US 29th Division [3]

"As we got closer to the beach we saw that casualties were floating in the water just like refuse in a harbor. There was this and that equipment floating, soldiers, sailors – it was very disheartening. For hours off the coast we watched the tide bring out the debris and the bodies of those who had died."

The landing at Omaha was going terribly. Hundreds of the initial assault waves lay dead. Indeed, by the end of the day, over 2,000 Allied men had been killed on the beach. And yet sheer weight of numbers and a steely determination meant that soldiers eventually began making inroads up the hill towards the German bunkers...

(1) 'D-Day to Bastogne', 1991, cited in 'D-Day As They Saw It', 2004, edited by Jon E. Lewis, pp.79-80.

(2) 'Screaming Eagles', 1962, cited in 'D-Day As They Saw It', 2004, edited by Jon E. Lewis, pp.85-86

(3) Interview with Jon E. Lewis, 1993, cited in 'D-Day As They Saw It', 2004, edited by Jon E. Lewis, p.105.

History in June

June 4th - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American Revolution was directed.

June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft

June 11, 1994 - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. .

June 14, 1775 - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.

June 18, 1812 - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favor of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.

June 19th - Baseball great Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was born in New York City. He played in 2,130 consecutive games and seven World Series for the New York Yankees and had a lifetime batting average of .340. He contracted the degenerative muscle disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, now called 'Lou Gehrig's disease,' and died on June 2, 1941.

June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

June 28, 1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.

June 30, 1997 - In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.

BIKE NITE @LZ639
APRIL 20. MAY 4 &
18. JUNE 1, 15 & 29.
JULY 13 & 27.
AUGUST 10 & 24.
SEPT 7 & 21.

From the Bar/Galley ...

Congratulations to Post 639 on receiving the Platinum Club Award from Missouri Lottery for 2022.



Happy Hour at LZ639 :

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

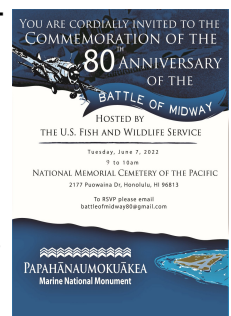
6PM-8PM, 7 days a week (.50 off)

Saturday Breakfast is BACK !!!!

Need some early Saturday morning chow? C'mon in to 639 on Saturdays beginning June 4th. All you can eat for \$8.00. 8AM - 10AM

June 7th Battle of Midway Commemoration

We will be live-streaming the 80th Anniversary Battle of Midway commemoration from the Punchbowl National Cemetery from Hawaii. Starts at 2PM. Our own Sgt. Ed Fox will be participating in Hawaii. Come out and support him. Special Happy Hour pricing (2PM - 4PM) - \$2.00 drafts, \$3.00 wells, \$1.00 off all other drinks.



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



June 3rd - Doggy Style

June 2022 FUNDRAISER

Legion Post 639

Next Raffle Prize:

Sig Sauer P365XL



April 2022 Winner - AR-9 9mm
Ron Jackson

GUN SUPPLY
OUTLET

VETERAN
OWNED BUSINESS



Sig Sauer P365XL

200 tickets available at \$10 each

Drawing to be held after all tickets are sold

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

Optic: Holosun 507K



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You may also purchase tickets in person by contacting one of our friendly bartenders at Post 639.

Return with ticket and donation of \$10
Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
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Vietnam War Memorial
American Legion Post 639
2660 South Scenic Ave
.Springfield, MO 65807
www.americanlegionpost639.org

(417) 882-8639



OFFICE	OFFICER	EMAIL ADDRESS
Commander	Mike Goforth	commanderlz639@gmail.com
Adjutant	Tom Newsom	menehune66@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Justin Adamson	sfcadamson@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander	Mike Chandler	chandlermp1@gmail.com
Finance Officer	Paul Doelger	pauldoelger@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Jim Cooper	mcccoop@sbcglobal.net
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Service Officer	Bob Scott	bscottf@gmail.com
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	rexdk10@sbcglobal.net
Historian	Bob Kalwat	historianeditorlz639@gmail.com
Member at Large	Don Weiss	
Member at Large	Barry Greene	
Member at Large	Jeff Wurtz	