

**Vietnam War Memorial**

**October 2020**

# **American Legion Post 639**



Darin's Article

Semper Fi,  
Darin Hargis



## Chaplain

When you lose a friend in death, you lose a piece of yourself. I just lost a close friend and it seems that I lost a piece of myself. Remember to tell your friends how much they mean to you.

All for now your Chaplain Rex Krasche

## ALR

### RIDE TO LIVE

Suicide awareness event was September 12<sup>th</sup>.

We had great food that started with Jennifer Hargis and Dyllan Dale serving breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

and continued to serve great food the rest of the day with help from several members of the Auxiliary. The truck, car, bike, and tractor show had some amazing entry's. I have to admit the tractors were my favorite. Brandi Almy did an awesome job of organizing and managing that part of the event.

Overnight security was provided by Curtis Meyer. His long night of watch is very much appreciated.

ALR and members from our post provided assistance in parking and directing the car show participants, and selling t shirts.

Marsha Crom and her crew selling raffle tickets and manning the prize table.

Janey and Paula did a great job with the 50/50 Lucky Duck pond.

There were several volunteers that are not members of the post, and they worked All Day.

Rob Freeman with Vet Support Center attended with councilors to provide information and resources for anyone that was interested.

What would we do without our Bartenders! They worked long and hard keeping everyone "hydrated".

We also had some amazing music provided by Swagger and 3 for the Money. What talent!!!

The bike ride took off at 4:00 with Ron Jackson leading the way. Thanks to all that participated.

**Change a Life Make a Difference** was able to provide resources, and monetary help for a local Veteran in need. Robert Byrd was willing to share his journey with us, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the crowd.

**I want to give a special thanks to our Commander Darin Hargis for his hard work, dedication**

**and Leadership he provides. Your support and guidance is very much appreciated.**

Last and not least, I want to thank everyone who showed up, volunteered to work, or participated. It is only because of you that the event was a great success and WE were able to raise \$3000 to provide resources and prevent suicide. None of this would be possible if it weren't for all of the support we had from our Post 639.

On September 21, the bill for the universal number 9-8-8 for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis line system operated by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis line was passed by the House of Representatives. All agreed without objection. The next step will be for President Trump to approve. This is great news!

There was so much I wanted to say when I spoke during the event, and I suddenly took a different route because it was less emotional.

Most of you know my story of losing our son Kindall to suicide. He is the driving force and the reason for the nonprofit **Change a Life Make a Difference**. What a great Marine, and kind soul I wish you all could have known. I hope you read the following poem I wrote the morning of Kindall's funeral. There were so many thoughts rushing through my head and I just started writing down the words.

My heart hurts, my eyes wet.

That dreadful day I will never forget.

I tried to run to you, to hold you, to help you, but it was too late, they held me back, said you had met your fate.

I refused to believe and waited with hopeful friends, then they told me, it was now the end.

It crushed me and your dad, and all who stood, such a sweet soul, but yet misunderstood.

I cry everyday now, wondering, wishing I could have taken your pain, you hid it well from me, but it's not in vain.

You always stood up for what you believed in, as all could see. You were a true testament to the few, the proud, a Marine.

So when you look down on us, and see our fight, it's all for you and the 22 plight.

You will always be with me, my warrior, my protector, my little boy, my pride and joy. As you wish, We will change a life and make a difference.

Peace on earth as it is in heaven.

I love you too Kindall Wade...we will miss you too, forever.... You'll be in my heart...

Love Mom

--Kathy Davis

We lose approximately 22 veterans a day. Please reach out if you are struggling, there is help available. Veteran Crisis line 1-800-273-8255 and press 1

## Auxiliary

WOW! Where did September go? September kept us busy helping with the Ride To Live event and the Bill Maxheimer Memorial Ride and BBQ.

September's ALA event was the POW/MIA ceremony and Spaghetti dinner. If you were unable to attend you missed a great meal and a beautiful ceremony. We appreciated all the compliments we received. It was a wonderful evening. A HUGE shout out to Susan Heppard, Hallie Scott, Janey Tuck, Suzanne Igou, Mary Krasche, Makayla Anderson and Terra Cooperider. You guys ROCKED IT ! Thank you so very much ! Also, a special thank you to Larry Tuck and Justin Adamson who assisted us. We would not have been able to do this ceremony without the help from Doughboy Military Museum of Springfield, Robert Eckenrode of Clever, and Mr. Ed Fox of Post 639, for donating the use of their military covers. Thank you so very much !

Beginning October 6th at the General Meeting, ALA will present its' Punch Board Raffle game. Tickets go on sale at 5:30 to 6:30. Tickets are \$5.00 each and we will draw one number at 6:45. The winner will punch the board and receive the prize hidden in the punch bowl. Grand prize is \$200.00 cash. Other prizes included: kitchen countertop appliances, gift cards, garage tools, other cash prizes and an assortment of gifts, gadgets and more. Every punch is a winner. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning !

We are doing a children's Drive Thru Trunk or Trick on Saturday, October 17th, from 1:00PM to 3:00PM.

Come join us and decorate your trucks, car, and bikes. Put on your costumes for the kids and hand out some treats. We will have pre-made trick-or-treat bags for the kids. Let's help them celebrate Halloween despite COVID-19.

October 24th at 7:00PM is our VSO/USO show. Area VSO's have been asked to join us and compete for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies. The audience votes for the winners. We will also be serving food from the LZ639 Shack starting at 5:30PM and we will be needing help to man the Shack that night. There will be a meeting on Sunday, October 4th at 6:30PM to learn more information about the show and sign up to compete. Don't be shy, sign up and show off your hidden talents! We have a lot of fun doing this show. Come join us !!

We have registered for the Willard Veterans Day Parade, sponsored by the City of Willard and AmVets Post 188. We will be entering a float in the parade and we will be doing the 50/50 in October, at Queen of Hearts on Wednesdays, to raise money for the materials we will need for the float. We would appreciate your support for the float as we will be representing Post 639.

As always, reach out to us for help. We are here for you, our Veterans and military servicemen/women and their families, our Post and our fellow VSO's.

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self

Diana Cooperider

ALA President

We appreciate your patronage!

## **Fundraiser to Benefit Our Kitchen**

We are currently attempting to raise money to benefit our Post's kitchen. As we all know, our kitchen helps bring much-needed revenue to the Post. We have been fortunate enough to have an anonymous donor pledge \$16,000 towards this project. The donor has challenged us to raise another \$10,000. This is a goal we can certainly reach, with the help of our many members. Please take the time to donate to this worthwhile cause.

## **Our Response to the Springfield Mask Ordinance**

As many of you know, Springfield issued a mask ordinance on July 16, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Legion, we plan to follow this ordinance unless our members have some condition that excludes them from wearing masks. In these instances, we leave it up to you to determine whether or not a mask is needed. If you enter the Legion without a mask, we will assume that you have a qualifying condition that prevents you from wearing one.

Thanks for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you soon. Stay well.

## **Kitchen Success!**

We recently changed our lunch menu and added some items. With our new range of options, you can be sure we have something for every taste.

Come try our classic Reuben, our impossibly big chili dog, or our pork tenderloin. We also have fried chicken sandwiches, chicken fried shrimp, and your favorite hamburgers and cheeseburgers. All entrees are served with fries.

We also have terrific appetizers! Stop by and grab some onion rings or fried mushrooms while you sample our drink selections.

The American Legion is free and open to the public, and our kitchen is open every weekeday till 5PM, so bring your friends and encourage others to stop by and visit us. As you know, our kitchen is one of our main sources of revenue, so the more people we can get in here, the better!

We appreciate your patronage!

## **MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR POST 639 LEGIONNAIRES AND AUXILLARY**

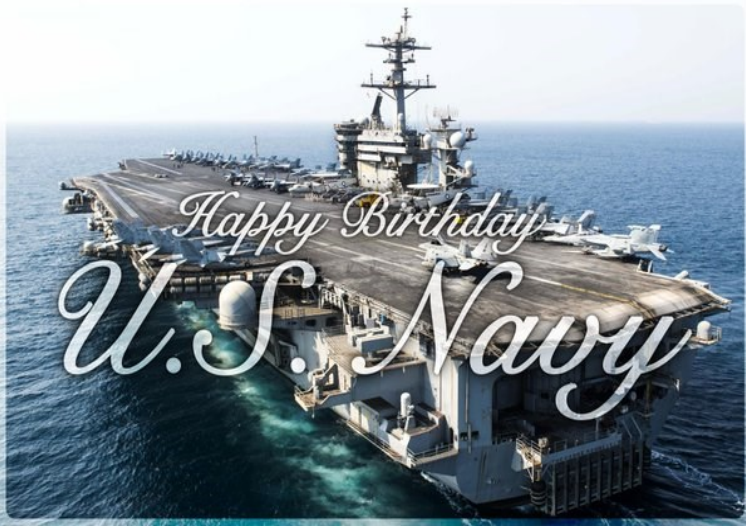
**07/07/2020 12/01/2020**

THE FIRST PARTICIPANT THAT SIGNS UP 3 NEW MEMBERS TO POST 639 (OFFICIALLY RECORDED W/AM. LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND PAID 1st YEAR DUES & ACKNOWLEDGED BY ADJUTANT) WILL RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO JIMM'S STEAKHOUSE OR WHISKEY TANGO (WHICHEVER AVAILABLE)

SPONSORED BY LEGIONNAIRE ROBERT PRICE

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Anytime you are looking for something to do, consider **VOLUNTEERING** here at the post. We always need help in the kitchen if you like to cook, clean, or assist. Maybe the kitchen is not your thing. If not, there are plenty of service opportunities available.



Junior ROTC posting the Colors

## October Weather, Springfield, MO

Daily high temperatures *decrease* by  $11^{\circ}F$ , from  $73^{\circ}F$  to  $63^{\circ}F$ , rarely falling below  $49^{\circ}F$  or exceeding  $83^{\circ}F$ .

Daily low temperatures *decrease* by  $10^{\circ}F$ , from  $53^{\circ}F$  to  $44^{\circ}F$ , rarely falling below  $31^{\circ}F$  or exceeding  $65^{\circ}F$ .

Over the course of October in Springfield, the length of the day is *rapidly decreasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day decreases by *1 hour, 8 minutes, 16 seconds*, implying an average daily decrease of *2 minutes, 49 seconds*, and weekly decrease of *15 minutes, 49 seconds*.

The shortest day of the month is *October 31*, with *10 hours, 39 minutes* of daylight and the longest day

## National Day of the Deployed

### October 26, 2020

Day of the Deployed is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for the bravery and sacrifice they are making for our country. Supporters of the military are urged to get personally involved in activities that send care packages, offer messages of encouragement, and other morale-boosting activities to those currently deployed overseas and the military families of the deployed.

#### Ways to Bring Awareness to Deployed Troops:

- Look to local chapters of veteran-supporting groups such as the American Legion, Veterans Of Foreign Wars, USO, Disabled American Veterans, etc. for ways to aid and assist.
- Send care packages
- Donate money to send a care package
- Make a donation to a Military Support Organization
- Connect with Soldier's Angels, which has many programs for supporting deployed troops.
- Display a yellow ribbon. Yellow ribbons are a remembrance of the men and women who serve far from home.

(Continued)

- On social media, use the hashtag **#DayOfTheDeployed** on October 26th to raise awareness and encourage others so support deployed service members and their families.
- Connect personally by reaching out to a deployed troop you know.

#### Ways to Honor Military Families of the Deployed:

- Prepare a dinner for the family on or near October 26, or anytime really.
- Assist with minor inconveniences and household tasks.
- Lend your time and skill. Handy? Fix a leaky faucet or broken fence.
- Invite the family to a party, BBQ or dinner.
- Deliver groceries, baked goodies or a care package for the spouse or kids. If you wish to remain anonymous leave it at their doorstep.
- Babysit! A military spouse has the role of two parents. Give them some me time or the opportunity to run errands.
- Better yet take the kids out for some fun while the military spouse relaxes.
- Recognize their sacrifice either personally, through social media, email or anyway you can think of.

On the Day of the Deployed, the important aspect is to honor our deployed troops and their families. No matter what type of gesture you choose, all that matters is that your gesture is heartfelt. Large or small, inexpensive or expensive, every act of kindness makes a difference in the lives of these deployed troops and their families and shows your support for them.

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 Oct	02 Oct	03 Oct
04 Oct VSO/DSO Show Meeting 6:30PM	05 Oct	06 Oct General Meeting 7PM	07 Oct Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	08 Oct	09 Oct	10 Oct Sub Vet Meeting 1pm
11 Oct	12 Oct Auxilliary E-Board Meeting 6:30PM	13 Oct US Navy Birthday	14 Oct Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	15 Oct Red Nights Meeting 6-8PM	16 Oct	17 Oct Kid's Halloween Party 1-3PM
18 Oct ALR Meeting 6pm	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	22 Oct Fleet Reserve Association Meeting 6PM	23 Oct Newsletter ARTICLES Due 8am	24 Oct VSO/DSO Show 7PM
25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct E-Board Meeting 6:30	28 Oct Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	29 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct Wall Fundraiser Halloween Party

# Ongoing Suicide Prevention

September 2020 was designated as Suicide Prevention month. But let's not lose the momentum. Make **EVERY** month 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 indi-



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

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

The price is **\$6.00** per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See Connie or the bartender for additional information and to order.





Vietnam War Memorial  
American Legion Post 639  
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