



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

## AUGUST 2021



REMEMBER

## From the Commander ...

Can you believe it's already August. 2021 is really flying by. The rest of this year looks to be a busy one for Post 639. I've already had the pleasure of speaking with several of our Post 639 family about keeping all things moving forward, building our membership, staying financially strong and, most of all, having fun doing it. I am impressed with how many people I've spoken with that are motivated to help us accomplish just that. I've already heard many great ideas, and I haven't even been sworn in yet. Please keep them coming. Plan on attending general meetings or even sitting in on E-board meetings. It takes a team to make this machine work.

I would like to thank our employees, support groups, volunteers and the existing E-board members for their hard work. With that said, to the incoming E-board, let's strap 'em up and get to it. Our membership depends on us.

I would like to congratulate the SAL for getting back to full strength. We look forward to working with you all. I went to the SAL installation, and Curtis Myers, the SAL Commander, made a challenge during his speech. He challenged everyone to bring a friend every time you come out and introduce them to our Post 639 family, what we stand for, how much we appreciate our veterans, and love our Country. Most of all, show them how much fun we have serving our veterans and our community. All of us should attempt to do the same thing.

Thank you all for the opportunity to represent you. Feel free to call me at 417-225-2650, or email me at commander-lz639@gmail.com.

Stand tall, work hard and always keep up the good fight. Show people you are a Patriotic American, fly your flag and be proud. God Bless America !!!

Commander Mike Goforth

## Post 639 Election Results for 2021-2022

The following candidates were elected to serve as Post 639 Officers for the 2021-22 year. Officers-elect will be installed at the General Meeting on **Tuesday, August 3rd**. Congratulations to the new Leadership Team !!!

Office		Office	
Commander	Mike Goforth	Service Officer	Bob Scott
Adjutant	Tom Newsom	Chaplain	Rex Krasche
1st Vice Commander	Justin Adamson	Historian	Bob Kalwat
2nd Vice Commander	Mike Chandler	Member at Large	Don Weiss
Finance	Paul Doelger	Member at Large	Barry Greene
Judge Advocate	Jim Cooper	Member at Large	Jeff Wurtz
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson		

## Farewell from Darin Hargis ...

Dear Friends,

The time has arrived. This is my last newsletter article as your Commander, an office I've held for three years. What's next? As I write this, I know I'm going to enjoy some time traveling with my wife, picking up on where I left off on the house renovation, and doing a lot of other personal business I have neglected. Beyond that, I don't know. I do know that the Coase Institute, the non-profit that I manage, is working on plans to return to Europe and South America next year for in-person meetings. I don't imagine I will get bored.

Many of you have asked whether Jenni and I will still hang out at the Post. Our answer has been and is that as long as it's fun and we have friends there, we'll be there, just like we were before I was Commander.

I've been asked many times about the future of the American Legion and our Post. It's widely known that the membership of the American Legion in general is declining, and that many posts around the country are closing or consolidating as it becomes more and more difficult to retain and attract new members. The membership in general is aging, and we are not replacing them with younger veterans. Thanks to the numbers of veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan for the last 20 years, there are now more people eligible for membership in the American Legion than ever. And yet, our membership numbers continue to decline.

Why? The answer to this question has intrigued me for years. As someone with a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management, I'm interested in figuring out why these types of nonprofits are in decline. The American Legion is not alone. Similar fraternal and community groups, like Kiwanis and Rotary, struggle with the same issues. Not only are younger eligible members busy with their families and building their careers, these types of groups just aren't appealing to them. At the same time, veterans' organizations like Folds of Honor and Wounded Warrior Project (despite its scandals) are thriving. So, it's not that people aren't drawn to veterans groups and causes.

Studies have shown that the younger generations want to be involved in groups that are active in community service, that have a clear mission, and are working to accomplish that mission. They are able to 'socialize' on their phones from their couches, so they are more mission-oriented when it comes to their community involvement. They want to see the results of their work.

That said, our post is doing better than many other veterans organizations when it comes to community involvement, and for that reason I think we will continue to do better locally than the American Legion does nationally. Except for COVID, we never close, and we've constantly had projects in the works and in the rear-view mirror. We are truly an active post with an active mission. I sincerely believe Post 639 is stronger than the American Legion itself.

During my time as Commander, I wanted Post 639 to be a place where all veterans would be comfortable hanging out, welcome to be here, and would be proud to bring their spouses

and families. Effecting cultural change in an organization isn't easy, and requires a leader to make decisions that aren't popular in the short term for the good of the organization in the long term. I am proud that we've had many new members and visitors who've told me how friendly our Post is, and how comfortable they feel in our clubroom.

Those of you who know me well and have seen me in action at the Post know that I have worked at the Post and for the Post at least 40 hours most weeks, and have done everything from cooking and dishes, to swabbing the deck, to conducting meetings, hosting events, managing relationships with vendors and contractors, and counting money. What very few of you have seen has been the mental work, the strategy, the long conversations with our members and executive committee, with the clubroom staff, with others in the community, and with my wife at 3:00 a.m. about the future of the Post, planning and strategizing about cultural change, finances, and the mission of the organization. The Commander and E-Board team are totally volunteer, so this work goes with the territory of leading a volunteer organization as big as our Post. Jenni and I have donated the time, money, and gifts of equipment, furniture, and other things to the Post because we care about the Post and its mission, and want to see it succeed.

I leave our Post in a very strong financial position, with a better clubroom and kitchen, and with an atmosphere where folks of every age, war, and background are welcome and feel safe and comfortable. I hope to see our Post build on this, and continue to grow and thrive. I do want to make a request of you all for the future. Please support your new Leadership team and all of the volunteers who make our Post run each day. Build each other up with regular encouragement and express your appreciation - OFTEN. Avoid criticizing, condemning, and complaining about your fellow Members, Post Leadership, and all the other volunteers. It will mean more than you can imagine. We need more volunteers constantly. They are the life-blood of the Post. If folks see that volunteers are appreciated, they'll want to join the team.

In my last article I mentioned a lot of the people and groups who have contributed to the success of the organization in the last three years, and who were instrumental in getting us through the COVID shutdowns. I won't go through that list again, but I do want to tell you all that I appreciate the kind words from many of you, and I do genuinely value the support and love from this community during the passing of my parents last year. I've made friendships that will last a lifetime, and I wouldn't trade this experience for anything.

Thanks to everyone who helped, and I'll see you all around.

Semper Fi,  
Darin

## **Chaplain**

I can't believe it's time again to give you my words of wisdom, but here goes.

I can't believe the killings, shootings, and the way we treat others and are being treated. God wants us to respect one

another like we would treat Him. Not with hate, but love one another as He loves us.

Let's stop the hate and love God.

All for now,

Chaplain Rex Krasche

## **Auxiliary**

And just like that it's August. Where did July go? August is a slow month for us and we welcome it. It will give us a chance to plan and prepare for a busy fall schedule.

ALA members went to Fair Grove to assist Unit 38 with a Fish Fry and ALA Educational event on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Fair Grove Unit 38 President Shelley Padgett was assisted by ALA Unit 639 members Terra Cooperider, Susan Heppard, Mikayla Criger and Joyce Sanders serving the fish fry meal. Thank you, ladies, for showing your support to our fellow ALA Unit!

I would like to express how excited I am that SAL is back! I for one, have missed them. ALA is looking towards an exciting year working with them once again! I would also like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following members, who stepped up rapidly to the call of duty for the SAL Fish Fry on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>: Mary Gerstl, Susan Heppard, Kayla Ortega, Marsha Crom, Jesse Grantham, Terra Cooperider and Joyce Sanders. Awesome job and thank you so much!! You rocked that kitchen with Chef Noel Heppard at the helm. Special thank you to Commander Hargis, Jenni Hargis, Justin Adamson and Dee Evans for helping us to make this happen!

August 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have Officer Installation at our general meeting. Our District President Jaretta Murphy will be performing the installation ceremony for us. We will end the evening festivities with cake and ice cream. We will also be celebrating the US Coast Guard birthday which is August 4<sup>th</sup>. Our celebration tree will fly the Coast Guard colors for the month of August.

### **Your 2021-2022 ALA Elected Officers:**

**Diana Cooperider, President**

**Terra Cooperider, Vice President**

**Susan Heppard, Secretary**

**Hallie Scott, Treasurer**

**Kayla Ortega, Historian**

**Joyce Sanders, Chaplain**

**Charlotte Kelly, Sergeant-at-Arms**

**Members-at-Large: Sue Reis, Mikayla Criger and Mary Gerstl**

ALA August events and information:

August 1st, Friendship Day  
August 3rd, General Meeting, ALA Officer installation  
August 7th, Route 66 Festival - **CANCELLED**  
August 17th E-board meeting at 7:00  
August 50/50 ALR month

To the ALA Unit 639 members and Officers, thank you for all you do for our Post, for ALA and our VSO brothers and sisters. Your commitment and support are shown in everything we do! As always, take care of yourself and each other!

I

n the Spirit of Service, not Self

Diana Cooperider

President, Auxiliary

## Sons of the American Legion

Just a quick update from the Sons ....

On Monday, July 12th, our new Officers for the Sons of the American Legion were sworn in by the American Legion Commander, Darin Hargis.

The Officers sworn in:

<b>Curtis Myers</b>	<b>Commander</b>
<b>Al Manes</b>	<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>
<b>Brian Klein</b>	<b>2nd Vice Commander</b>
<b>Noel Heppard</b>	<b>Treasurer/Finance Officer</b>
<b>Frank Grantham</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>
<b>Thomas Long</b>	<b>Adjutant</b>
<b>Michael Schwindt</b>	<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>

The Auxiliary graciously supplied us with a new SAL flag that we dedicated the ceremony with.

The Sons would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to the Auxiliary for not only the flag, but assistance and teamwork they offered during our ceremony.

We worked with the Auxiliary to host a fish fry at this event. And as a result, we had a great turnout and an amazing fish fry for our 1st event !!

Honestly, we couldn't have pulled it off without the Auxiliary's help. It really goes to show how much you can accomplish through teamwork. The Sons are looking forward to many, many more events in the upcoming months.

If you know someone that you think might be interested in the Sons, we would love to welcome them out to our next meeting on August 9th, 7PM at Post 639. Please help us usher in some new members. We would love to meet your friends and show them what the Sons have to offer.

One last thing .... I know some of you currently hold dual memberships with the Sons and either the American Legion or the Legion Riders. I haven't met a lot of you yet, and I would like to personally welcome you back with the Sons as well. Don't be a stranger, come back and be a part of the group. We have a lot of fun things in the works.

See you all on August 9th at 7PM !!!

Sincerely,

Curtis Myers

## Sons of the American Legion Officer Installation 07/12/21



## Legion Riders

### August greetings, Riders !!!

Hard to believe we're on the downhill side of summer already. For those of us who crave fall, we can already smell it in the air and see it in the clouds (OK, maybe a little premature). Means cool weather riding is upon us. We've done our share of hot-weather riding. Been a busy summer - just the way we like it. **July activities:**

**July 10th** - AmVets Post 116 Stockton Benefit on July 10th at AmVets Post 188 in Walnut Grove. The weather didn't cooperate with riding, but we were undeterred, and drove out to support them. Our chapter donated \$200 toward helping get them back on their feet.



**July 16th** - WWII Veteran escort for Jack Hamlin, US Coast Guard, member of Rescue Flotilla Number One on June 6th, 1944 supporting the Normandy invasion. Thanks to our ALR members Sue Reis, Michael Brooks and Jim Cooper representing us in this honor. for See Jack's story in the Historian/Newsletter section ...

**July 20th** - Dinner Ride to The Hill in Springfield.

**July 24th** - ALR Monthly Ride to Sam's Cellar in Neosho.

August is Legion Riders month for the 50/50 drawing each Wednesday at Queen of Hearts from 6PM to 7:30PM. The proceeds from the 50/50 drawing in August go directly to support ALR's efforts in veteran assistance - our \$200 donation to AMVETS on July 10th as a prime example.

If you love to ride, love to support individual veterans and veteran's causes, and love being part of a riding family, please join us !! ALR meetings are monthly at Post 639, third Sunday at 6PM (August 15th is the next one). If you're interested, please come and check us out, we'd love to meet you and talk about the many benefits of ALR membership !!!

**Remaining 2021 Rides. Update your calendars .....**

**08/21** – ALR Monthly Ride - Pizza Cellar, Rockaway Beach, MO

**09/25** – ALR Monthly Ride - Ozark Café, Jasper, AR

**10/23** – ALR Monthly Ride - Gaston's, Lakeview AR

**Ride safe out there ..**

**Marsha Crom, ALR Chapter 639 Director**

## Historian/Newsletter Editor

Over the last few months as I've edited historical content for the newsletter, I've been struck by the way the different areas of our Legion activity intertwine with each other. Let me give you an example.

August 4th is the 231st birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard, whom we honor in this issue. On July 16th, several of our Legion Riders joined with other riders to honor a 99 year-old WWII Coast Guard veteran with an escort to Springfield airport.

The recipient of the escort, Jack Hamlin, was on his way back to Normandy for the 6th time. The first time - June 6, 1944, was with Rescue Flotilla Number One. Made up of 83-foot cutters made of wood (thus their original name - "The Matchbox Fleet"), their job was to go in with the assault troops, rescue the stranded/wounded from the water, and transport them back to the hospital ships, 10 miles off shore. They were not able to travel more than 10-15 knots due to rough seas with injured aboard. Jack's cutter was 2 miles off of Omaha beach, close enough for him to experience and see firsthand the horrors of war.

In the early part of the initial assault, Rescue Flotilla One, as a whole, rescued 194 troops from Omaha Beach, 157 from Utah Beach, with 133 additional from Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches.

So, reflecting on our privilege to honor Jack at the escort, (1) our members were able to interact with a man who is "living history", (2) our Legion Riders were afforded an opportunity to serve veterans, and (3) through the newsletter, our Post is able to provide historical information about Jack's story of service/sacrifice to our membership.

May we be constantly vigilant for other opportunities such as this, and take full advantage of them when they present themselves ....

**Semper Fi .....**

**Bob Kalwat**

**Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor**

## Service Officer

We owe a great debt to the American Legion (and The Veterans of Foreign Wars) for the benefits we enjoy today. Today they are a matter of law and granted by Congress, but prior to 1944, benefits were largely given (and withheld) at the whim of the President. Some Presidents saw them as an obligation; others saw them only as political patronage. The result was that benefits were subject to change with no warning and families of the severely injured were unable to plan for their care. If you are interested in how this worked, google "Bonus Army".

After all benefits were stripped in 1933, the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars decided to take on the task of fixing this situation. The National Commander of the American Legion drafted a bill for Congress, and both organizations commenced an eight-year lobbying campaign to get it through Congress and signed by the President. They succeeded in 1944 as WWII was coming to an end and the number of veterans reached new highs. There were simply too many votes for the politicians to ignore. This legislation, now called the GI Bill, gets edited by every Congress, but the changes are minor compared to what they were prior to 1944. We need to take every opportunity to encourage our leaders to continue their support.

**Bob Scott**

**Service Officer, Post 639**

## August VSO Spotlight - AMVETS

AMVETS National Service Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit operating nationally. Our primary goal is to serve American Veterans who served our country.

Our National Service Officers help “cut the red tape” when a veteran, or a veteran’s dependent is attempting to obtain compensation and benefits from the VA. This service is always at no charge to veterans.

Our Thrift Stores offer the general public household goods and clothing at discounted prices. The proceeds from our store sales allow us to provide programs that benefit our veterans.

We offer a number of Scholarships to eligible veterans and their dependents on an annual basis to enable them to get an education.

Through our Americanism program, we work in conjunction with AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and the Freedoms Foundation to educate our youth on America’s history to instill national pride and patriotism. #PleaseStand

Our Memorial Carillon Bells are located in many National and State Veterans’ cemeteries across the nation, as well as overseas. They toll to remind us of the sacrifices made by our troops to preserve our freedom.

Our Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers work tirelessly at VA health care facilities to serve hospitalized and disabled veterans and their families with compassion.

If you or someone you know is a veteran seeking assistance, please contact our office where veterans serve veterans and “Every day is Veterans Day!”

**Local AMVETS Post 188 Contact information:**

**Commander - Doug Johnson**

**10189 W. Farm Road 60, Walnut Grove, MO  
(573) 934-0377**

**amvetspost188@gmail.com**

## New Post 639 Members WELCOME !!

May/June 2021 -

<b>Dale Yates</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
<b>Harold Van Wey</b>	<b>Forsyth, MO</b>
<b>Jay Patterson</b>	<b>Republic, MO</b>
<b>Darrell Moad</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
<b>Robert Marsh</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
<b>David Madsen</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
<b>Alice Hopper</b>	<b>Ozark, MO</b>
<b>Larry Bowman</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>
<b>Kelly Brown</b>	<b>Springfield, MO</b>

### **VA Mobile Covid-19 Vaccination Unit - July 15th, 2021**



## **Average Weather in August for Springfield**

Daily high temperatures **decrease** by 3°F, from 88°F to 85°F, rarely falling below 77°F or exceeding 97°F.

Daily low temperatures **decrease** by 4°F, from 69°F to 65°F, rarely falling below 56°F or exceeding 75°F.

Over the course of August 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, 2 minutes**, implying an average daily decrease of **2 minutes, 5 seconds**, and weekly decrease of **14 minutes, 34 seconds**.

The shortest day of the month is *August 31*, with **13 hours, 0 minutes** of daylight and the longest day is *August 1*, with **14 hours, 2 minutes** of daylight.



## Recollections of Midway - Sgt Ed Fox

In the June 2021 newsletter, Ed Fox's story of the Battle of Midway was published. As a follow-up, Ed was interviewed in

May 2021 at 639 for additional content, which included Midway, Iwo Jima, atomic bomb testing, and post-war occupation of Japan. Post 639 will publish a portion of the transcript of that interview. Last month (July), **Part 1 - "Beach Patrols - Midway Island."** This month, **Part 2 - "Preparing to repel boarders - Midway Island" .....** (*Recommendation - To get a sense of context, read Ed's original article in the June 2021 edition.*) *Be sure and check out the September 2021 Newsletter for Part 3....*

Each gun position had a string of barbed wire going off this way and going off that way, left and right. The idea, in theory was, to us, that when the enemy got tangled up in the barbed wire, they'd be down in the string of that thing, and you'd just trim your gun. There was none of this rapid crap going around. Well, we never tested it in front of us, so it was concertina and rolls of barbed wire, but the stiff and hard stuff was down off to the side of my gun position here, barbed wire go off this way, and barbed wire through this way.

Once a week we'd fire the weapons, five or six rounds, then clean 'em. That was worthless. Our water-cooled machine gun, we had asbestos gloves, we had an extra barrel. And I thought, who the hell is gonna stop the fricken' war if we get to where our barrel heats up and we have to get another barrel. You know - "Hold on, wait a minute, we gotta change barrels." Fortunately, we never did that one. But, it's a World War 1 weapon, and they were bringing that same theory in on top of us. And I thought we'd be sorry ass if we ever got to the point where we had to change a barrel on that gun.

The design of the gun position was not of my choice, because we had (I've got pictures of it), here's the gun port, here's the barbed wire, there's the beach in front of us. But right above it is soil, sand and coral. And all they'd have to do is one good shell pop up there and it would cover up our port. So I learned later on that, at Iwo (Iwo Jima), what GOOD positioning was. But we didn't know at the time.

In my position, not everybody did it, but where the machine gun was, I had it at a slant. And off to the side was a trench that was three feet deep. If anybody threw a grenade in, I would keep on firing and kick it off to the side, nonchalant. But we would practice with beer cans - throw it into that gun position. We never made it, the closest we ever got to is landing one right in the middle of the tripod underneath the gun. EOD today would pull their hair off if they saw what we did back then.

They had ammunition boxes, empties. They would pack it with nails, files, glass, shavings. We'd always scrounge from the ships that would come in for their shavings or whatever they

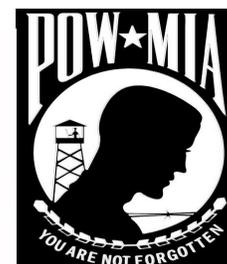
had, and they made these boxes. They'd put dynamite in there, and behind the box, facing us, was a red dot. And that's where the detonator was. So if we had to, we'd shoot at that little detonator and blow up the area. Consequently, too, it'd take out the barbed wire, but they didn't think of that. Pissed me off to no end.

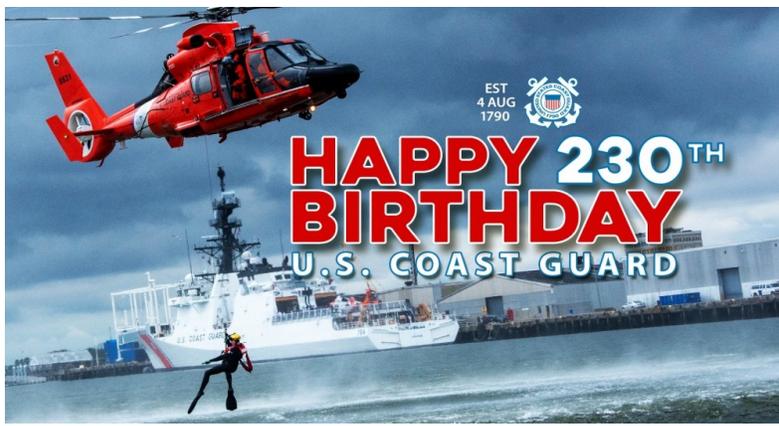
On the patrols at night, I had my weapon taken away from me by the Officer of the Day, I got relieved because I wouldn't give him the weapon, and they found out I had a round in the chamber, and you weren't supposed to load your weapon. My argument was if I'm gonna fire on somebody sneaking in to me, I'm not going to let him know where the hell I was by chambering a round. Keep that son of a bitch quiet. So I got exonerated from that one and nobody did any more (about it). But for three days I was written up and the pressure was on and I got pissed off no end. But, my time on Midway was learning. Made a lot of mistakes and a lot of enemies.

We were cross-trained on every weapon on the island, including tanks. We had two-man tanks in that era. A commander/gunner with a .30 caliber air-cooled, and the operator. And the operator was like a tractor at home. Got a chance to drive them a little bit. My platoon officer had me get in, told me what to do, and I was used to it because I'd spent time on a farm, and he stood in that damn turret. We'd go down to a point, turn around and come back, and that was what you were supposed to do. So when he said "Take off", I floor-boarded it and away we went. And what had happened, he was standing too high in the damn turret. When the tank took off, it reared back and he went back too and just laid back. When I headed back to the group I could see everybody screamin' and carryin' on. That poor officer never got a chance to stand up until I stopped. Got chewed out "You SOB Fox" .....

While we were on alert, we got hot food brought out from the mess hall. Mashed potatoes, the whole works, with mess gear. We had mermite cans (hot/cold containers for front-line troops) set up for the food. Maybe 5 or 6 gun positions would eat there. I liked the c-rations, but most of it was fresh food from the galley. We were only 1500 miles or so from Honolulu. So Navy ships came in and out, a lot of planes were in and out so there was always food.

When the ships would come in with cargo and food for the galley, all the trucks would carry a working party and an officer. They would double up the officers when that truck was carrying Class-VI (personal items), 'cause every once in a while, no matter how tight the security was, with those officers on that Class-VI truck, there was always a case or two missing by the time it got to where it was going, especially with the Seabees around. They were 1st Battalion Seabees. That's where I learned how to operate a D-9 (Caterpillar D9 bulldozer).





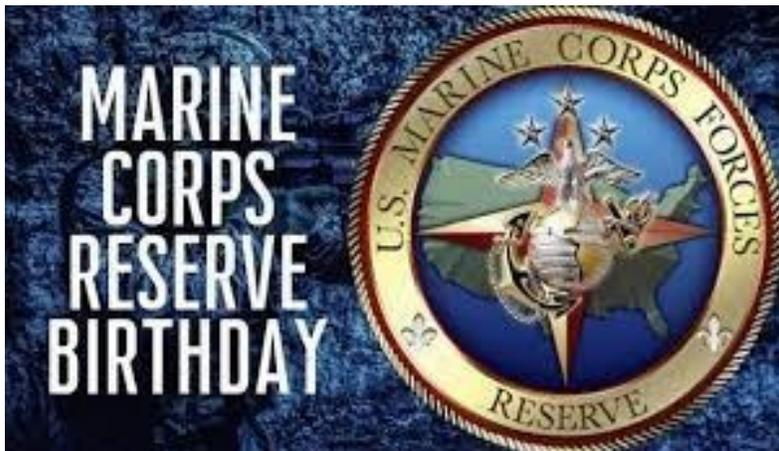
**August 4th - Coast Guard Birthday**



**August 7th - Purple Heart Day**



**August 15th - VJ (Victory over Japan) Day**



**August 29th - Marine Forces Reserve Birthday**

**Military History in August -**

Aug 01 1950 – Korean War: Lead elements of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division arrive in country from the U.S in defense of Pusan/Naktong Perimeter

Aug 01 1957 - The United States and Canada form the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD)

Aug 02 1964 - Vietnam War: Gulf of Tonkin incident - North Vietnamese gunboats allegedly fire on the U.S. destroyers USS Maddux and USS Turner Joy

Aug 02 1990 - Iraq: Iraq invades Kuwait initiating Operation Desert Shield, which became Desert Storm on 17 Jan 1991 when it became clear Saddam Hussein would not leave.

Aug 05 1864 - Civil War: Admiral David Farragut, USN, exclaiming “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead”, ran through a Confederate minefield at Mobile Bay, Alabama, and captured a defending group of Confederate ships.

Aug 06 1945 - WW2: Hiroshima is devastated when the atomic bomb “Little Boy” is dropped by the US B-29 “Enola Gay”. Around 70,000 people are killed instantly, and some tens of thousands die in subsequent years from burns and radiation poisoning. Second bomb “Fat Man” dropped on Nagasaki by the B-29 “Bock’s Car”, killing 39,000 people. This induced the Japanese to surrender

Aug 07 1942 - WW2: The U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. First American amphibious landing of the war. Guadalcanal airstrip was captured on Aug 08 1942.

Aug 10 1961 - Vietnam: First use of Agent Orange by the US Army

Aug 11 1972 - Vietnam: The last U.S. ground forces withdraw from Vietnam

Aug 13 1918 - Women enlist in the United States Marine Corps for the first time. Opha Mae Johnson is the first woman to enlist..

Aug 19 1812 - War of 1812: The USS Constitution earns the nickname “Old Ironsides” during the battle off Nova Scotia that saw her defeat the HMS Guerriere.

Aug 23 1775 - American Revolution: King George III delivers his “Proclamation of Rebellion” to the Court of St. James, stating that the American colonies have proceeded to a state of open and avowed rebellion.

Aug 26 1942 - WW2: First black Marine (Howard Perry) entered first recruit training camp (Montford Point, NC) for black Marines,

Aug 29 1990 - Iraq: Saddam Hussein declares America can’t beat Iraq.

Aug 31 1951 - Korea: The 1st Marine Division begins its attack on Bloody Ridge. The 4-day battle results in 2700 Marine casualties.

Aug 31 1864 - Union forces led by General William T. Sherman launch an assault on Atlanta, Georgia

**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

**LZ 639 Lunch Menu**

**MAINS\***

**CHEESEBURGER - \$7**

Still our signature 1/3 lb Angus beef with your choice of hot, melted American or Swiss cheese.

**HAMBURGER - \$6**

Our thick and juicy 1/3 lb Angus burger, grown in the USA. Grilled just the way you like it.

**PORK OR BEEF**

**TENDERLOIN - \$6**

Tender pork or beef battered and fried. An explosion for your taste buds.

**THE REUBEN - \$6**

Corned beef, sauerkraut, and Thousand Island dressing make this a classic. Served on marbled rye bread.

**ROSENDAHL'S BLT - \$6**

The classic: lettuce, tomato and crispy, savory bacon.

**THE CHILI DOG - \$6**

A 1/2 lb all beef Nathan dog covered in our hot, savory chili.

**GRILLED OR BREADED**

**CHICKEN - \$6**

All-white meat chicken, grilled or breaded and deep-fried to perfection.

**GRILLED CHEESE - \$6**

The grown-up version of your favorite kid sandwich.

**CHICKEN FRIED SHRIMP - \$6**

Sound crazy? Try it! Shrimp deep-fried in our top-secret breading.

**FRENCH DIP - \$7.50**

Thinly sliced rib eye on a hoagie bun with sautéed onions and green bell peppers topped with melted mozzarella cheese.

**CHILI**

(20 oz) - \$5.00

(12 oz) - \$3.50

Homemade chili simmered for hours and served with crackers, cornbread, or muffin.

\*All this stuff comes with fries!

**APPETIZERS**

**FRIES - \$3.50** <sup>Big</sup> <sup>Small</sup>

Fresh, crispy, deep-fried...nothing French about 'em.

**FRIED MUSHROOMS - \$5.15** <sup>Big</sup> <sup>Small</sup>

The best portabello mushrooms, battered and fried. Served with ranch dressing.

**CLASSIC ONION RINGS - \$5.75** <sup>Big</sup> <sup>Small</sup>

Your favorite drive-thru food, only better. Battered and fried to perfection.

**HOMEMADE SOUP (VEGETABLE or CREAM OF POTATO) - \$4**

Served with crackers or cornbread.



# AUGUST 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>3</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>GENERAL MTG</b> 7PM	<b>4</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> 6-8PM	<b>5</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>6</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>SAL MTG</b> 7PM	<b>10</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>11</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>BIKE NIGHT/ QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> 6:30 - 9:30PM	<b>12</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>13</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>14</b>  <b>SUB VETS</b> 1PM
<b>15</b>  <b>LEGION RIDERS</b> 6PM	<b>16</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>17</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>AUXILIARY E-BOARD MTG</b> 7PM	<b>18</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> 6-8PM	<b>19</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>RED KNIGHTS</b> 6-8PM	<b>20</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>24</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>25</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>BIKE NIGHT/ QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> 6:30 - 9:30PM	<b>26</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION</b> NEWSLETTER CONTENT	<b>27</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> LUNCH 11-2	<b>31</b> LUNCH 11-2  <b>E-BOARD MTG</b> 6:30PM				

# Ongoing Suicide Prevention

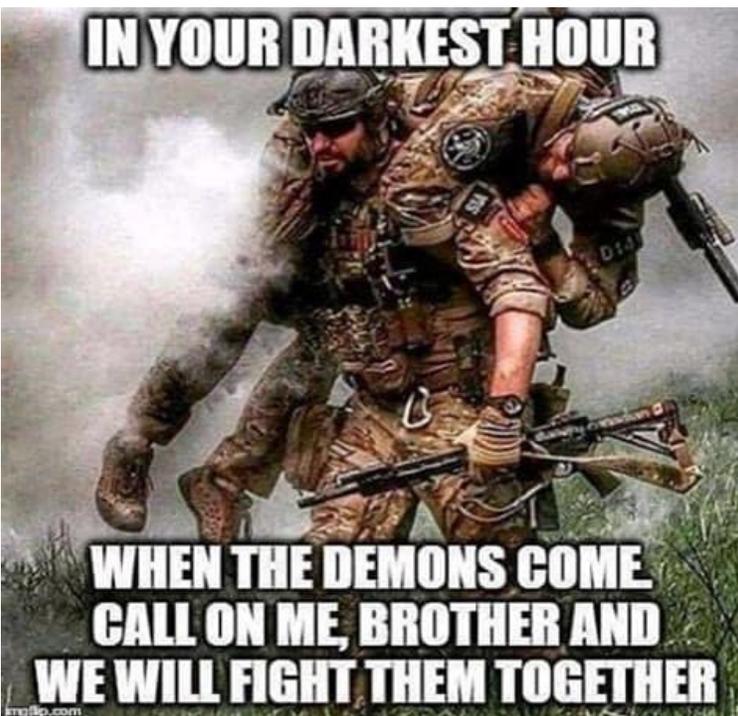
EVERY month is Suicide Prevention month. Always be vigilant for your brothers/sisters that might need help.

## 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.



# 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.

We have an opportunities for work on our newsletter by (1) contacting members who get the mail hardcopy to try and secure an email, (2) assisting with the monthly printing of the mail version, and (3) page design/editing.

If you're interested, please call 882-8639, send an email to [historianeditorlz639@gmail.com](mailto:historianeditorlz639@gmail.com), or drop by. We'll contact you and match you up with an opportunity!!!

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

**EVANS & DIXON**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4905 S. National Ave., Bldg. B  
Springfield, Missouri 65810  
Main (417) 882-4700  
Main Fax (417) 882-4927  
Direct (417) 799-6159  
Direct Fax (314) 884-4369

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



A Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) providing mission essential cyber security capabilities  
[www.foxholetechnology.com](http://www.foxholetechnology.com) - Wes Hester, CEO

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

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



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



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<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>
Commander (Eff. 8/3)	Mike Goforth	commanderlz639@gmail.com
Adjutant	Tom Newsom	menehune66@gmail.com
1st Vice Commander	Justin Adamson	sfcadamson@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander (Eff. 8/3)	Mike Chandler	
Finance Officer (Eff. 8/3)	Paul Doelger	pauldoelger@gmail.com
Judge Advocate (Eff. 8/3)	Jim Cooper	mccoop@sbcglobal.net
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	ronjackson417@gmail.com
Service Officer	Bob Scott	bscottrf@gmail.com
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	rexdk10@sbcglobal.net
Historian	Bob Kalwat	historianeditorlz639@gmail.com
Member at Large	Don Weiss	
Member at Large (Eff. 8/3)	Barry Greene	
Member at Large (Eff. 8/3)	Jeff Wurtz	