



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

**JANUARY 2023**



REMEMBER



## From the Commander ...

**Happy New Year Legion Family !!** What a year we had in 2022, and 2023 is lining up to be even better. Of course it takes all of us to make our Post operate smoothly. We are making changes to better the daily operations of our Post. Please plan on getting involved in helping this year. Please join me in welcoming Jeff Gonynor as our new kitchen manager. Thank you.



As I am typing this article our new digital sign is preparing to ship. We are looking forward to replacing the existing sign and seeing the new one up on Scenic Ave. When I presented the idea to our E-board and membership it was met with some questions, but with everyone's hard work, and generosity we were able to raise the money in 8 months. That is amazing. We have the greatest group of people anywhere. Thank you for helping me make another one of my goals happen. I have several more goals on my list of things to accomplish, so get ready. Is anyone interested in getting involved and willing to join our finance committee, and our bar and kitchen committee. We are always willing to listen to new ideas, and for volunteers to help turn those ideas into a reality. Let us know.

As we reflect on last year and look ahead to this year let's not forget those who are abroad, away from family protecting our freedoms. Keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you everyone, it is an honor to serve as your Commander.

**Mike Goforth**

**Commander, Legion Post 639**

## Post Adjutant

**Brothers and Sisters**, I am running this content for a second month, as the problem still persists (although it's getting better). We're still receiving some mail-in renewals that have previously been paid. As was described last month, National sends out **Renewal Notices** quarterly and they are not paying attention to our inputs for renewals. **IF** you get a Renewal Notice, check the latest card you have and if it has **2023** on it, **IGNORE THE NOTICE**. We are returning checks as we get them and verifying your status. This has been an ongoing problem with National. The Department of MO is aware of the snafu but there is little to nothing they or we, here at 639, can do except to ask for your patience. If you have any questions about a **Renewal Notice** you may receive call me at 417-569-9871 and we will get them resolved ASAP. We're making progress, but we will have a ways to go.



**Tom Newsom**

**Post 639 Adjutant**

## Chaplain

The new year has come and gone an, it is time to reflect on and to correct what went wrong last year and fix it this year.



If you not right with the lord last year it is time to correct it this year. Merry Christmas to all our members, and remember to keep those deployed in your prayers.

**As always the post an its members are in my prayers.**

**Rex Krasche**

**Post 639 Chaplain**

## Auxiliary

And just like that it's a new year. Hello 2023! ALA wishes you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. We are looking forward to our service to our Veterans, Post 639, our community and to our partnerships with SAL and ALR in 2023. If you made any new year resolutions, I hope that you added "getting involved" at our Post. We are in need of membership involvement, even if it's just an hour or two, every now and then. Every hour helps.



2022 was a VERY busy year for us. Meetings, Queen of Hearts food service, St. Patrick's Day dinner, dessert auction, new member initiation, Children's Easter party, Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts to Mount Vernon, Poppy Drive, food service for Car Shows, Raffle Baskets, POW/MIA Ceremony and dinner, food service for Bike Nights, Jello shots, Children's Halloween party, Veterans Day luncheon, Paddle Party/Meat Raffle, and assisting our brothers and sisters from SAL and ALR with events and food services to numerous to mention. WHEW! What a year! We have logged a lot of volunteer hours in 2022 and we were only able to do so because of the dedication and devotion of our members. **THANK YOU FOR EVERY HOUR YOU GAVE!**

We welcome some much-needed down time in January. It's a time to re-group and set our goals and events for the upcoming year. We will be returning some of our annual events and have plans for hosting community events this year. So, stay tuned, ALA will be coming at ya soon.

ALA is grateful for all the support and help we received last year from the Commander, Post members and employees, Director Marsha Crom and members of ALR and Commander Curtis Meyers and members of SAL. Your support helped us with our achievements and we are thankful for all of you!

As always, if you are in need, reach out to your Auxiliary. We are here to help.

**In Spirit of Service, not Self**

**Diana Cooperider, President, Post 639 Auxiliary**

# Sons of the American Legion

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

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

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

Annual dues are only \$25... and you get soooo much more out of your service to these brave vets, who fought to provide the freedoms each of us enjoy every day. Service with fun / fellowship - that's what you get !!

We are always interested in talking with individuals who want to help our beloved LZ 639. We meet at 7PM on the last Tuesday of each month.

Come out and sit in on a meeting or talk with a few of our members. Jump in and find your spot in SAL. Service and fellowship memories that will last you a lifetime ...

**Curtis Meyers, Commander**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**NOTE: See the Poster on Page 5 for the 2nd Annual SAL Chili Cookoff !!!! Enter your best and try EVERYTHING else !!!!**

## Service Officer

**The PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. It adds to the list of health conditions that VA assumes are caused by exposure to these substances.

It will;

- \* Expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.
- \* Add 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- \* Add more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- \* Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- \* Help the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures



WE WANT YOU!



If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. But for some conditions, the VA automatically assumes (or "presumes") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions." If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

**Bob Scott**

**Post 639 Service Officer**

## Legion Riders Chapter 639

We made it to year-end !! You just don't realize how busy we've been until you look back over all the events/activities we've been involved in (see the Historian column).



We had a good number of you all participate in the Toys for Tots run. It was somewhat warmer this year vs. previous years. A little change in destination this year, as they headed to the Prime, Inc Training Center (vs. the Oasis Convention Center), but the results were the same - THE KIDS WON !! 653 bikes by one count, and thousands of toys to kid who would otherwise not have one for Christmas. Heavy Metal Thunder for the kids. **(See Pictures on Page 6)** Post 639 was again at the forefront, with Bloody Mary's and Breakfast Burritos on the front end, Chili and live music on the backend. Thanks to Jeff Gonyon and Bill Gulley for picking up the Ride Captain/Coordinator duties !! Plan now for December 3rd, 2023 when we can do it all again !!!

Our ALR 639 family celebrated with a Christmas Party following the monthly meeting on December 18th. Great turnout, and **a HUGE shoutout to Melissa Wilson, daughter Jessica and bar staff member Trish Wheeler** for adopting us for the evening. Trish was "ON THE SPOT" keeping us "beverage rich", while Melissa and Jessica catered our meal with a Mexican feast and it was the equal of ANY catered meal in Springfield. WELL DONE, and THANKS so very much !!! We are privileged to have you all on staff at Post 639. **(See Pictures on Pages 6-7)**

Plans are now being laid for an exciting 2023. Fundraisers, membership opportunities are all under consideration, so please come to your monthly meetings and provide input so we make this the best year yet. We simply cannot have a super-successful year without **EVERYONE's** participation and contributions. It takes ALL of us.

Our Ride Schedule for 2023 was selected from suggestions by the membership, and was voted on at the December 18th meeting. Mark your calendars with the following:

1. **Pizza Cellar, Rockaway Beach, MO, April 22**
2. **The Boathouse, Stockton, MO, May, 27**
3. **Ozark Cafe, Jasper, AR, June 24**
4. **Sam's Cellar, Neosho, MO, July 22**
5. **Back 40, Mtn. Home, AR, August 26**
6. **Myrtie May's, Eureka Springs, AR, September 23**
7. **Gaston's Resort, Lakeview, AR, October 28**

PLUS Annual Supplemental Events:

**ALR State Convention, February 18th.**

**Annual Motorcycle Awareness ride, May 7th.**

**Toys For Tots Ride December 3rd.**

Also, remember we do a number of Dinner Rides the Tuesday after our Monthly Meetings on the 3rd Sunday. Start thinking about some of your favorite places where we can support a local business.

Hopefully, the weather in 2023 will cooperate more than it did in 2022. We will persevere no matter what happens however.

Please, enjoy your time with your families this Christmas. The time you spend with them is more valuable than anything else you might do. Memories last a lifetime, all else is temporary. Remember the past, but relish the possibilities of the future. Rest up, and let's hit the ground riding in 2023.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !!!!

**Marsha Crom, Director, Chapter 639**

## **Historian/Newsletter Editor**

As I often do during January, I look back over the past years' activities and take stock. - of what happened, what didn't happen, and the reasons for both. All to try and ensure that the coming year is better than the last. We don't realize the scope and breadth of what's happened unless we review the details. Here's a list (lengthy, but still not completely inclusive) of what went on during 2022 at Post 639 .....



01/07/22 Ed Fox Birthday

01/08/22 Frosty Balls Ride

01/18/22 ALR Dinner Ride Pizanos Willard

02/20/22 SAL Jesse Grantham BSA Crossover

02/22/22 ALR Dinner Ride Missouri Mike's

03/12/22 SAL 639 Chili Cookoff

03/19/22 AUX St. Patrick's Day Dinner

03/22/22 ALR Dinner Ride Galloway Grill

03/29/22 Vietnam Veterans Day Lunch

04/09/22 Kids Easter Party

04/23/22 ALR Ride Pizza Cellar Rockaway Beach

05/01/22 Motorcycle Awareness Ride

05/07/22 Ebenezer Fire Department Run

05/10/22 Ozarks Honor Flight Welcome Home

05/11/22 Bike/Cigar Night

05/14/22 Dirty Dozen Bike Show

05/21/22 AUX Poppy Drive

05/28/22 ALR Ride Ozark Café Jasper AR

06/03/22 Hangin' Dice Car Show

06/14/22 VFW Flag Day Presentation

06/21/22 ALR Dinner Ride Bricktown Brewery

06/21/22 Jared Duff Retirement Party

07/04/22 July 4th Parade Springfield

07/09/22 ALR Sue Reis Sendoff

07/15/22 AUX Officer Installation

07/19/22 ALR Dinner Ride Hot Cluckers

08/02/22 Post 639 Officer Installation

08/07/22 100th Birthday Celebration Mt Vernon Veterans Home

08/10/22 Bike Night with the New Stage

08/13/22 Route 66 Poker Run

08/23/22 ALR Dinner Ride Wire Road Brewery

08/27/22 Ride To Live Event

09/01/22 SAL Officer Installation

09/07/22 Sam Biggs Bike Show/Poker Run

09/11/22 September 11th Remembrance Ceremony

09/16/22 Post 639 POW/MIA Ceremony

09/16/22 Ride to the Wall / Perryville

09/20/22 ALR Dinner Ride Missouri Mike's / Ozarks Honor Flight

09/21/22 Bike Night at Queen of Hearts

09/23/22 Post 639 Camping Event

09/24/22 ALR Bill Maxheimer Memorial Ride

10/10/22 Bob & Ike's Bike Show

10/15/22 AUX Kid's Halloween Party

10/20/22 Skylar Clark Visit (Meet 5000 Veterans)

10/25/22 ALR Dinner Ride Missouri Mike's / Ozarks Honor Flight

10/28/22 Pancake Supper Fundraiser

11/01/22 AUX Birthday Celebration

11/05/22 Veterans Day Parade Willard

11/11/22 Veterans Day Lunch

11/12/22 Ruck 'n Run Event

11/19/22 AUX Paddle Party / SAL Meat Raffle

11/24/22 Thanksgiving Day "Feed the Troops" Dinner



11/27/22 Toys for Tots Kick-off , Elks Lodge

12/04/22 Toys for Tots Run

12/18/22 ALR Christmas Party

12/25/22 Post 639 Christmas Day Brunch

This is long list, made possible by countless hours invested by the Post 639 Staff/Organization (ALR, Auxiliary, SAL) Officers, and teams of Volunteers. The takeaway from this review - **THANKS** to all who contributed to 2022, and a simple message - if you're not involved with 639, **WE NEED YOU**. By engaging as a volunteer, you'll receive way more than you give - in love, fun, fellowship, camaraderie, and new friendships. Join us in serving our Veterans and community, you won't regret it.

**Bob Kalwat**

**Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor**

## **December VSO Activities/Info**

### **Give Vets Hope**

A good cold and windy morning to all! We had an excellent turn out for our group meeting on the 13th and another good time together on December 27th.

The weather has indeed played an important part in how well our meetings are being attended.

The holiday seasons can bring about an incredible amount of stress. Practically everyone is even more involved in what is going on with themselves and thinking of others can literally be the last thing on their minds, if thinking of others is there at all.

Veterans and their families have a special relationship, one that can make the time of absence and distance even more difficult. In our group we can talk about situations like this and learn more about ourselves and others in the process. Listening proves an integral tool for helping us and others. Silence is indeed golden and one of the things I must work on constantly.

Respecting others is another important tool for us to use in our group meetings. We don't have to be the smartest person in the room, the one with the most to say or even make any comments at all in our group to have a positive learning experience.

Our group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 5:30 to about 7:00, at the VFW Post 3404 on 1136 E. Atlantic. We welcome anyone who has a relationship with a veteran to attend. Sorry no children. You may contact David Suits at 417-773-1837 and leave a message if you have any questions.

David Suits

**Founder/Co-facilitator**



**2nd Annual SAL Chili Cook-Off**

**Sons of the American Legion  
Chili Cook-Off**

**Cash voting**  
Put your money where your mouth is and vote for your favorite chili!

**Saturday Jan. 14 2023**  
**Chili Served at Noon**  
**Voting Closes at 2:30**  
**Awards at 3**  
**Dessert Auction throughout event**

**To enter:**  
Bring chili in warming pot to legion post between 11 and noon  
\$20 entry fee

**American Legion Post 639**  
**2660 S Scenic Avenue**

**Questions? Call or leave a message at**  
**(417) 840-7154**

Winning chili gets a trophy and choice between \$100 or entry paid to Sertoma Cook-Off (\$300 Value!!!)

**Son's of the American Legion**  
"Serving Those Who Served"

All proceeds go to support SAL projects serving veterans and post 639



**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



**Springfield  
Marine Corps  
Reserve**

# TOYS FOR TOTTS

## 42nd ANNUAL MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Corwin Ford 324 S. Glenstone to 2788 N Packer Rd,  
Springfield, MO.

### 12/04/2022

### RAIN OR SHINE

Change of the route this year. There is no rain date.  
Run will leave from Corwin Ford 324 S. Glenstone at 2:00pm  
on Sunday December 4th and travel through Morris Worth to Kenner Street East  
to Packer Road, and ending at 2788 N Packer Rd. Prime time Ice Training Center  
at the right side of the road. The ride is open and encouraged by donation.  
This event is open to all motorcycles and riders.  
The ride will take rain, snow or shine!

**Extra Special Thanks to Jerry Gray for 42 Years of Service!**

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- USMC, Kevlar "Bear" Morgan & Corwin Ford
- Thompson Garage - James Hill-Hillman-Robertson
- Mustang Printing & MC's Heavy Duty - Plastic Truck Components
- Mark Winters of H&D Truck Repair Inc. - Motorcycles
- Glen's Chemical Towel Rental - Riggs Right Machine
- Larry's South of Main Services - Rusty's Bar-B-Que
- Pete's Garage - Mike's Garage - Joe's Motorcycle Hub
- PW Racing - Stables Inc - Pines Inc.
- www.motorcycleparts.com - www.motorcyclemagazine.com
- Vince Hamilton of Thompson Bikes LLC-Guildford

#### After Run Parties

Interview Post #19	Glen's Bar
6666 North Street	201 S. Westmoreland
	Fredrick Mealy Bar
	300 E. Wichita St.
	<b>FREE FOOD</b>

In Memory of Kirby Whitham

#### Sponsors

- "Giving Love MC" H. Francis "Mc" Donnell Dallas MC"
- "Yarnies Vee MC"-Hibg, Apple Valley MC-Tribe of Jollys MC"
- "Shoguns MC"-Lancaster of the Children's Trust Cause Ride
- "Large B" House, Corner Honda of the Border, Don and Sue Cude-
- Lisa L. Glendon & Out Cavendish Green Coast Freigh'

# BIKERS BE THERE

Street Legal Vehicles Only



## ALR Christmas Party-December 18, 2022





with perjury and obstruction of justice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**January 24, 1972** - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

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

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

**January 28, 1915** - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

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

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

REMEMBER



# Vietnam Vet Radio



The Music You Remember and The Respect You Earned

**VIETNAM VET RADIO (vietnamvetradio.org)**

**8181 S 4230 RD**

**Chelsea, OK 74016**

**Contact: Bennie P. Blount**

**SFC, US Army, Retired**

**Chu Lai 1969, Long Binh 1970, Vung Tau 1971-72**

## PARTY TIME!

**Friday 7PM Central Time USA**

**JIM COOPER**



**VietnamVetRadio.org**



## Average Weather in January for Springfield .....

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

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

Over the course of January in Springfield, the length of the day is *increasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day increases by *40 minutes*, implying an average daily increase of *1 minute, 21 seconds*, and weekly increase of *9 minutes, 26 seconds*.

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

## 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 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 with choice of cheese, topped with a fried egg and bacon.
- **The LZ639 \$8.50** - Classic with a choice of cheese, garlic parmesan aioli and topped with grilled onions.

**"Smashed Sandwiches"** Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Grilled Cheese \$6**
- **Hot Ham and Cheese \$6.50**
- **Reuben \$7.50** - Corned Beef, Sauerkraut, Swiss Cheese, 1000 Island Dressing
- **BLT \$6**

**Upgraded Classics.** Served with fries. Substitute mushrooms or onion rings for \$1.

- **Pork Tenderloin Sandwich \$7.50**
- **Grilled Chicken Sandwich \$8-** Topped with Swiss cheese, garlic aioli and bacon.
- **Patty Melt \$8.50** - Choice of cheese, Grilled Onions, T Texas Toast

**Soft Drinks \$2**

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

**Classic/Specialty/Extra Specialty Pizzas** - see table menu for selections/prices



Chad Albert Owner  
308 East Republic Road 417.882.7788  
Springfield, MO 65807 ciguy@computerinnovations.net

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Veteran owned (US Navy)

Veteran recommended (Sgt. Ed Fox USMC, Post 639)



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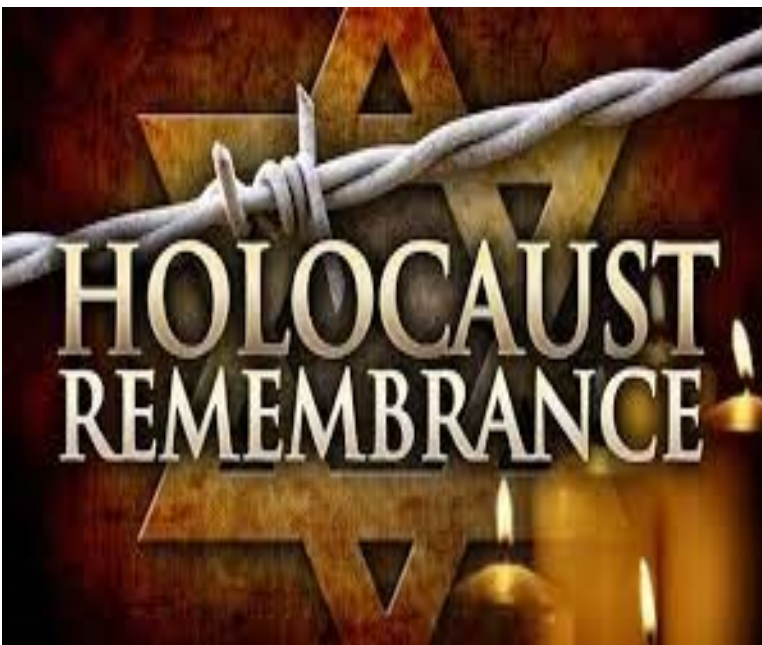




Operation Desert Storm - January 16th



Vietnam War Ceasefire - January 27th



Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27th

## For the Good of the Legion ...

### **A Sailor Died Today (submitted by Tom Newsom)**

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the FRA, telling stories of the past.

Of wars that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, everyone.

And though sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a  
joke, all his naval buddies listened, for they knew whereof he  
spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Jack has passed away,  
and the world's a little poorer, for a Sailor died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,  
for he lived a very ordinary and quite uneventful life.

Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way, and  
the world won't note his passing, though a Sailor died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state, while  
thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were  
young, but the passing of a Sailor goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land, a guy  
who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife, goes off  
to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives are some-  
times disproportionate to the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Sailor who offered up his all, is paid off with  
a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago, that the old  
Jacks of our Country went to battle, but we know,

It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys, who  
won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?

Or would you prefer a Sailor, who has sworn to defend his  
home, his kin, and his Country, and would fight until the end?

He was just a common Sailor and his ranks are growing thin,  
but his presence should remind us we may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we find the Sailor's part  
is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,  
then at least let's give him homage at the end of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say, our  
Country is in mourning, for a Sailor died today.





# Post 639 Schedule of Events

## January 2023

- January 1 Sun - New Years Day
- January 3 Tue - Legion 639/Aux General Meeting, 7PM
- January 4 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- January 5 Thu - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30PM
- January 7 Sat - Post 639 Breakfast 8AM - 10AM
- January 10 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM  
- Post 639/Aux Gen Meeting, 7PM
- January 11 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- January 12 hu - Marine Corps League Mtg VFW 3404  
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- January 14 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting, 11AM  
- SAL Chili Cookoff, 11AM—3PM
- January 15 Sun - ALR Meeting, 5PM
- January 16 Mon - Desert Storm Anniversary
- January 17 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting, 7PM
- January 18 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- January 20 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- January 24 Tue - Sons of the American Legion Mtg, 7PM  
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404 5:30PM
- January 25 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-8PM
- January 26 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM  
- Newsletter Content Due
- January 27 Fri - Holocaust Remembrance Day  
- Vietnam Ceasefire Anniversary
- January 30 Mon - Post 639 E-Board Meeting 6:30PM



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## From the Bar/Galley ...

### Happy Hour at LZ639 :

12PM-2PM 7 Days a Week (.50 off)

6PM-8PM, Monday thru Saturday (.50 off)

### Saturday Breakfast - Morning Chow @ LZ639

1st Saturday of the Month 8AM - 10AM

The 6am Breakfast crew with this short message for you  
.....

Your Saturday breakfast is made possible by the following 6AM crew - **Bob Dale, Dylan Dale, Mike Chandler** with support and assistance of **Scotty and Robin**. Breakfast served 8AM-10AM. Drinks separate charge. No charge for salt and pepper. Tell your friends as it's only \$8 all you can eat. Please thank the people who give up their time to support this Post 639 benefit.



Thanks to all who supported the **December Breakfast** at the Post.

**Jim "Skippy" Cooper (got peanut butter)**

**Your 6AM Support Team**





# JANUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 	<b>2 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>3 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>LEGION/AUX GENERAL MTG 7PM</b>	<b>4 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM</b>	<b>5 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>6 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>BREAKFAST 8 - 10AM</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>10 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>KOREAN WAR VETS 1PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5PM</b>	<b>11 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM</b>	<b>12 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>FINANCE COMMITTEE 6:30PM MCL 993 6PM-8PM</b>	<b>13 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>SUB VETS MTG 11AM SAL CHILI COOK-OFF 11-3PM</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>ALR MEETING 5PM</b>	<b>16 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>DESERT STORM ANNIVERSARY</b>	<b>17 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>AUX E-BOARD MTG 7PM</b>	<b>18 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8 PM</b>	<b>19 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>20 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>VFW 3404 FISH FRY 5:30 - 7 PM</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>24 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>SAL MTG 7PM GIVE VETS HOPE VFW 3404 5PM</b>	<b>25 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS 6 - 8PM</b>	<b>26 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>FL EET RESERVE ASSOC. 6PM NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</b>	<b>27 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>E-BOARD MTG 6:30PM</b>	<b>31 LUNCH 11-2</b>				



# 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.





## JB's

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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 **Robin** 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, Mike Chandler and John Bross share their stories in the coming months.

May, June, July 2022 Issues - Gary Harlan's history

August 2022 Issue - Ron Snyder's history

September 2022 Issue - Art Stout's history

October 2022 Issue - Gary Turner's history

November 2022 Issue - Mike Chandler's Story

December 2022 Issue - USS Solace, by Paul Doelger

***This month - John Bross's Interview. John is a member of Post 639 / Former Commander. This is his story.***

## **January - John Bross (Former Commander)**

I was born in Kansas City, then we moved out to Raytown. Went to high school at Raytown South. Graduated in '68 and joined the Army. Wasn't drafted, I enlisted. I didn't realize at the time that you didn't have to be a college graduate to be a helicopter pilot. If you enlist, you get to pick what you want to do. So since my Dad was in the Signal Corps in World War II and Korea (and for a while I was an Army brat down at Ft. Gordon), I figured I'd just go Signal Corps too. THEN I found out later you didn't need a degree to fly helicopters. Damn.

My Dad lacked two years of making 20 years, and he got out. And he's kicked himself in the ass ever since then. But he had a family and a newborn baby (my sister). Back then, the military really didn't pay that much, like \$50/month.

Went to basic at Ft. Campbell, and went to AIT down at Ft. Gordon. At the time I enlisted, I only weighed 116 lbs. In basic training, the 30-yard man-carry was the hardest part I had to do because there was nobody my size to carry. The guy I carried

was 30 lbs. heavier than me. But I made it. The Airborne guys came to us and tried to get guys to join the Airborne. They told how much the parachute weighed, then also the lightest-weight guy in the string gets shackled with the pod that carries the machine gun and all the extra ammo. Purpose is so he can travel down at the same speed as the others. So I'd be jumping with more gear weight than I weighed myself. So I didn't go Airborne. MOS was 31-M20, Radio Relay carrier. Basically the big dish-up radios and the other comm equipment. You could hook anything up to it, could even hook a TV up to it and broadcast. We used B-Bands to communicate with each other, but we could have even hooked up a J-Band up and talked direct to the Astronauts.

I went twice to Vietnam, with the Ameircal 23rd Infantry Division. Me and my buddies Steve and Dave would take nature walks out and around the LZ. One time, the hair went up on the back of our necks, and all of a sudden, a woman in a white shirt was out in the field, zig-zagging to keep our attention. Then one teenaged boy popped up on our left, then a "walking straw pile" came up on our right. We made a "tactical withdrawal" before their buddies got there. Later, a woman in the village told me we were going to get killed out there, so she knew what happened. I could tell when VC were around because she would have rice balls hanging up like bunches of grapes.

Every now and then, Steve, Dave and me would want a cheeseburger. Down at Quang Ni, there was a SOG (Special Operations Group) base there, and they had a hamburger stand. So we'd hitchhike down Hwy 1 to Quang NI just to get a cheeseburger. One time on the way down there, we were going through the village just north of the Quang Ni bridge, there was a little boy, about 5 years old, being talked to by a South Vietnamese National policeman – white shirt, black pants. All of a sudden, the little boy took off running from him, and he pulled his pistol out and shot him. Bothered me for a long time. I found out later that the mixed-breed kids, fathered by Americans, were not treaded well by the Vietnamese. The thing that bothered me at the time, though, was that I'd gotten so cold and calloused the episode didn't really bother me the way it should have. A young teenager who might be the enemy, maybe, but a 5-year-old kid?

One of our members here, Roger Bennett, his son was on the body recovery team – going over to Vietnam and recovering American remains to bring back. He came in here one night to give us a talk about what he was doing over there. He told us there was a Viet Cong POW camp right there in Quang Ni, and they were uncovering American remains right there in that POW camp. I was thinking, I hung around Quang Ni, and here all the time there was POW camp right where I was. The Special Operations Group didn't even know about it – right next to them.

Once, I saw a .50 cal duel. Charlie arched his .50 like an artillery piece and rained rounds down on the LZ Buff. We could see them, they were about 2 ½ miles from us – we could see them. Then somebody on the LZ Buff arched a .50 cal up and shot back. Tracers were criss-crossing back and forth. Our LZ was taking fire from the northside, and all of a sudden, a Cobra about 40-50 feet over my head came in and fired a rocket, ending that



episode.

Once, the VC jammed all of our radios with Vietnamese music for about a week. Then one night, a hilltop within sight erupted. We had the artillery on the LZ, but it didn't fire. I think it was a B-52 strike, because I didn't see any of our fighter bombers. Charlie was knocked off the air.

We were in Chu Lai during the 2nd Tet Offensive. They'd throw rockets in on us during the middle of the night, get everybody up. Our weapons were locked up a mile away from us on top of Signal Hill. We'd have to jump in trucks, drive on the bunker-line road to pick our rifles up, and then go man the line. And then nothing would happen. So we'd go put our rifles away, go back to the hooches. Charlie was out there watching us with the binoculars, and about the time you got to sleep again, three more rockets would come in, and we'd do it all over again. Was irritating as all hell. And from our hooches, we could see the barbed wire, they were right on the other side of the barbed wire, and my weapon was a mile away. I ran into a guy that offered to sell me an AK, so I bought it off of him. They found out I had the AK, and so they said "if you want to go somewhere where you can keep your rifle, we'll send you somewhere." So they sent me to LZ Dottie.

I got Malaria while in Vietnam. I was chopper'ed back to Chu Lai, and the minute they put me on a rubber mat and started pumping cold water through it, I passed out. I don't know how many days I was out with a 107 temperature. I used to get a disability check until the VA stopped paying for anything under 30%.

I went back for a second tour. Came home for 30 days and then went back. I was thinking about reenlisting, and if you reenlisted while you were in Vietnam, the re-enlistment bonus was \$10,000 tax-free. But after my second time there, I said, "Nah ...". I had 6-7 months left to do, so they sent me to Germany. Came back in 1971. Experienced some animosity when I came back, even from relatives. The My Lai massacre episode was fresh in the news, and I was in the same LZ where Lt. Calley operated out of. So it was like guilt by association. Me and my buddy Steve, when I was home on leave, went down to the Kansas City Plaza, setting there in an outdoor café' drinking some coffee. Two gals were setting behind us, and I heard one of them say "He smells funny." And I thought about it. When we first got over to Vietnam, the Vietnamese people smell funny, kind of musty. But after we were there for a while, didn't notice it any more, because we were smelling that way too.

After I got out of the Army in '71, went to work for the telephone company as an installer putting phones in buildings. They ran out of work in Kansas City, and they said there were openings down in Houston, TX. They didn't transfer me because I hadn't been there long enough to qualify for a transfer. But if I wanted to go down there on my own, there was a job waiting there for me. So I moved down to Houston, and ran into other guys that went down there from Kansas City. They experienced the same thing – the guys already in Texas didn't like the idea of outsiders coming down there, and we got treated kind of poorly by the other work-

ers. Sabotaged our work, etc.'". It took three weeks for me to get my first paycheck when I went down there, so I wasn't eating very good. After about a year or so, I said "To heck with this, I don't need this crap".

So I quit and went back to Raytown. That was back in my drinking days, I was a terrible drunk. Jobs I held were short term. Went to an airframe powerplant class and finished airframe, but after a while, I got tired of that class, quit it, and moved out to Wichita and worked for Beech Aircraft. Got tired of Wichita too, so I quit that and joined the Navy in '74. I had a cousin in the Navy, and he told me about flying in the P3 airplanes chasing Russian submarines. Sounded pretty nice to me. After two tours in Vietnam, sounded pretty cushy. But the first base they sent me to was Oceana – there wasn't a P3 anywhere.

I was supposed to get OJT until my class date, was supposed to be in class within 12 months. I had to lose one paygrade to switch over (I was a Spec4 when I got out of the Army). But I was still drinking, so a lot of stuff had to do with the drinking. I couldn't get a security clearance. I also had a cousin, Tom, in the Air Force, and he was having the same problems. We had relatives in the government in Yugoslavia, relatives we'd never met. But my grandmother (from Yugoslavia) was living with us, and we were getting mail from Yugoslavia coming to the house. That was holding up my security clearance. I finally transferred over to a P3 squadron. Went up to Kennebunk up in Brunswick.

Of course, they couldn't let me look at the books, I couldn't take the exam because I didn't have clearance. Those P3's carried atomic weapons, low yield, looked like a 20-gallon drum. Atomic depth-charge. So shortly after my 13th month, I got tired of this and said I wanted out. They said OK.

So I got out in '76 and bummed around. Now we're getting into the timeframe when I met up with the early guys of the Post. Originally, the Veterans Outreach program was how a lot of the early guys met up. Gary Turner ran that. Had couches in there with a coffee pot – a lot of guys came there because they had no place else to go. That's basically what the Post formed from, was that program (the Veterans Center the others referred to). I recently found some of the flyers in the barn that I used to put up around Christian County. With those was a picture of me, Linda Baker and Gary Harlan – the last staff of the Vet Center.

By this time, I'd stopped drinking – got totally clean, I had to. Had a choice of "get clean or go to prison". I had too many DWI's. Out of all that, I became the Substance Abuse Counselor. I was on 24-hour call for those circumstance if they came up out of the Vet Center. Springfield Police had my number, and when a Vietnam vet would cause a disturbance (not an arrest/jail situation), they'd call me, in the middle of the night sometimes.

Mainly the homeless guys, that would migrate north and south. Sometimes, they'd get a bottle of whiskey, get drunk, go into a furniture store, lay down on a bed and go to sleep. So I'd get a call, go in, and the police would be waiting for me. They (the veteran) knew how the system worked. They were from out of town, but they knew about the Sigma House treatment cen-



ter. I'd say "Do you want to go to Sigma House?", and they'd respond as best they could in their current state of mind. So the police would turn them over to me and we'd go to Sigma House. I kept a puke bucket I kept in my truck. Usually happened on a Friday night. But if they checked themselves in, they could check themselves out as well. Sigma House had washing machines where they could do their laundry, get a shower, get fed, get a shot of B4, a bed to sleep in for the weekend, and by Monday morning they'd be out on the road again, going down to the next town. That was the way they lived.

One time I had this female vet, and she must have weighed over 300 lbs. You didn't take these folks in the front door, you had to take them in the back and go up this flight of stairs. She couldn't hardly walk, and I had to push her up the stairs.

Had a guy wielding a knife come into the Vet Center one time (when we were at Planned Parenthood), so he had to be talked down. Sometimes guys would do that just to get the attention they needed – sometimes they were suicidal.

My first meeting with the original members was over at Post 69, right off the square. The original meetings were chaos, a free-for-all. A beer fest. That was when we were deciding whether we were going to be Legion, VFW or Veterans of the Vietnam War. I didn't want to go American Legion. I wanted to go Vietnam Veterans, but the others didn't want to go that direction because eventually it would be a dying Post as the Vietnam Veterans got older and older, so we decided on American Legion.

We operated there at Post 69 for a couple of years. The reason 69 allowed us to operate there was that it was two American Legions working in the same building. Most veterans groups folded within the first couple of years. So they were hoping we'd fail and they could absorb our members, at least that's what I think.

Regarding Post 69 dissension with us, one of the members (who'd had too much to drink) told me one time, "You Vietnam veterans are a bunch of crybabies". And I said "Well, we shouldn't have been babies when they sent us there". He was a WWII vet.

After a while, we started up our own Bingo operation there at Post 69. Right off the bat, me and Bud Darby both said we could feel the tension, we decided we need to start saving money for our own Post building, and so we started a building account. But still, the "powers that be" at the time were still wanting to give money away, donate to all kinds of things. It was like "Here, have some money. We're Vietnam veterans. Like us." Purpose was to gain acceptance. We had one guy one night just walk into Bingo. Wasn't even a veteran. Said he needed a new clutch in his car. So they gave him some money. "Like us."

After a while, Post 69 really started treating us bad. Even though we had rented the night for our Bingo, they set up tables out in the halls and were selling pull-tabs, which is illegal by state law, for one thing because they were only allowed to do that one night a week. But they were cutting into our profits, so we decided to get the hell out of there.

After we left Post 69, they tried to sue us. We had no written con-

tract, but they tried to sue us for breach of contract. My Uncle Bill, who was a Legion state-level official, told them "One American Legion SHOULD NOT be suing another American Legion." Told me he had been down here to investigate that Post three different times.

So we left a moved to the Moose Lodge to work our Bingo there. But it turned out a lot of Post 69 members were also members of the Moose Lodge. So we got asked to leave there as well. And that's when we moved to where the old "Wooden Nickle" used to be up on Glenstone. And we operated there for several years. Everybody smoked in there, it was terrible. That's when a prominent member ripped us off for a sizeable sum of money. Then from there, we shared a building with Planned Parenthood again, across from where Bass Pro is, next block over. There for a long time.

Before we got this site, we found another piece of property out on Norton Road. A church was moving to a different location and was selling the site. At the City permit hearing, the public got together and talked the City out of giving us the site. Didn't want a bunch of crazy drunk Vietnam vets in their back yards. Then a real estate agent named Bobby Allison found this property for us. He spread the rumor that Dayco used this as a dump site for chemicals. So when it came up for auction, we were the only ones, and we got this property for \$60K. Tom Gammon worked for an architectural company, so that company built the building. Before the building was even built, we'd have makeshift BBQ's out here out here under the trees.

The City of Springfield was holding us up on our building permit because they wanted a strip of our land along the railroad tracks. They wanted to connect it to Sunset St, but we didn't want to split our property. So Tom Gammon, plus the Commander at the time and several other members had a meeting with the City. It took some persuasive "maneuvering and convincing", but we got our building permit.

Prior to my stint as Commander, it seems to me that the Post drifted away from our mission as a Veterans Organization. It had the feel of something akin to a "high school reunion". Anybody could come to the Post and claim to be a veteran. Some claimed to be Navy Seals, and one claimed to be a Major, then a General. I called him Gigadier Brindle. He later committed suicide by hanging himself. We've had 3 suicides and one attempted.

My years as a Commander had some interesting incidents to deal with. Regarding the above situation, I said that anyone wanting to renew their membership had to have a DD214. I was booed loudly, and we lost about 100 members.

Back in those days, everything depended on Bingo – the building, land, the bar room, liquor license fee, all depended on Bingo. There were a couple of instances of "cash shortages". And you could pretty well tell when the bar needed to be audited because all of a sudden a rumor would start – "The Bingo people are stealing". The people at the bar wanted to call all the shots, but they wouldn't get off their barstools and DO anything. Turned out the bar staff were the culprits that were stealing, but you couldn't convince the bar folks of that. Bingo CAN'T steal, it's so highly regu-

lated by the state of Missouri. Every night after Bingo, Rodney Miller (who ran the Bingo operation) would have to fill out the report on how much we took in, how many packets we used, etc. And they'd (the commission) would come in and dig through our records, even while the Bingo game was going on. And that was fine. But after a while, the Gaming Commission almost wanted Rodney to come and work for them, he was so good at running the operation. He eventually got tired of constantly being accused of stealing. Finally said, "I quit. I don't need this".

A local company bought the land behind the ball diamond, developed it and wanted to use our water retention/drainage ditch. They sent a proposal that even a layman like me could see that it was giving them the ditch, 30 feet along that border - I refused it. They cut the berm and connected to the ditch anyway. I went to law enforcement and filed a complaint against them, but they said it was a civil matter. That ended that. Screw the Vietnam Vets again !!!

We had a USO show here during my years. Several of the "Marquee Big Name" performers said they would be there, but they all backed out except one - Jennifer Wilson, Miss USO. She was once married to a cousin of mine from Moberly. I think the Branson bunch thought they could make money off of the Vets, so that's when all those veterans shows started in Branson - "\$70 bucks - me love you long time". I think Mike Chandler, with his connections, got a bunch of local talent to perform, and as for that even, it was a big success anyway. When our Post got really active, got things cleaned up, starting doing things, Mike Chandler had a lot of connections with the music business. He drove a lot of those bands around. He was a good events chairman. Had a good number of big name acts here over the years.

We had big fireworks displays on July 4th. One of our members was licensed to shoot of the big stuff. Fireworks were illegal in Springfield, but the Fire Marshall gave us a permit. He was a veteran, too. It was great fun for all members. They brought their kids and grandkids to shoot fireworks also. We did that for a couple of years, but our Insurance Co. stopped that, so it was fun while it lasted.

Lots of drugs, had a firearms incident. Had a guy chasing people around with a machete - he was a POW in Laos, nickname was "Woody". Just before I took command, I got a phone call from a law-enforcement agency because it was obvious what was going on over here. "You either clean that place up or we will". So I went to the Highway Patrol and told them what the problem was. They already knew. He gave me his Drug interdiction personal card. Some of the law enforcement people joined the Post. Busted the bartenders selling drugs right over the counter while we were having Bingo. And part of the bar rules were "No bartenders - no bar." So when they got hauled out of there, the bar had to shut down.

Also during my stint as Commander, Bobby Allison (real estate agent mentioned above), contacted me and said he had a buyer for our property. We had about \$500K invested here. He said he had a chemical company that would give us \$1.5M for the property. So I brought it up to the general membership. I'd already found another piece of property out by Millwood. 14 acres, at the time, it was out-

side of the city limits, right across the highway from the Missouri Cemetery. Looked like it would be just right for us. But the membership voted it down. Didn't want to lose their bar. So that was the last year I held any office here.

Lots of dealing out in the parking lot. Me and several other members started the cleanup, using our Highway Patrol contacts and influence to do it. A lot of those members who helped clean things up were future Commanders.

This Post was dedicated by the American Legion organization. If the criminal activity got bad enough, they could pull our Charter. Then the Legion would own this building and property. We'd be out operating out of the trunks of our cars.

If it seems I had an issue with others, that was because in the early years of the Post, we got kicked around A LOT !!

Gary Turner started the effort for the Vietnam War monument up at the capital in Jefferson City. He borrowed money from his mother - seed money. 30K. Then he started a fundraising campaign from all of the other surrounding posts. A group up in St. Louis wanted the honor of doing it. They started badmouthing Gary Turner. He had to go to court to prove his innocence. After he raised the money, he gave his mom her 30K back. They ran him through the ringer and took control of that. It really had a bad effect on Gary, hurt him really bad. I think he's been here once since then. He doesn't come around.

Two Commanders we don't have pictures of, Kirk Winters and Nelson Butler. Nelson came right after me, he only lasted 6 months and he resigned - we never saw him again. A gentleman by the name of Burl McCullough designed the Logo for the Post (Together Then, Together Now), he just passed away last year. Charlie Payne carved the wooded sign hanging above the models of the USS Missouri and the GATO submarine. I think he's passed away. He used to stop by my house for a visit about once a year, and he'd also visit Bud Darby, who lived in Monett.

## Next Month - Don Alexander, Charter Member







## **Legion Post 639 Officers, 2022 - 2023**

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Mike Goforth</b>	<b>commanderlz639@gmail.com</b>
<b>1st Vice Commander</b>	<b>Mike Chandler</b>	<b>chandlermp1@gmail.com</b>
<b>2nd Vice Commander</b>	<b>Adam Jamieson</b>	<b>fixxer560@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Tom Newsom</b>	<b>menehune66@gmail.com</b>
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Frank Messley</b>	<b>lizzard1955@hotmail.com</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Jim Cooper</b>	<b>mcccoop@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Ron Jackson</b>	<b>ronjackson417@gmail.com</b>
<b>Service Officer</b>	<b>Bob Scott</b>	<b>bscotttrf@gmail.com</b>
<b>Quartermaster</b>	<b>Barry Greene</b>	<b>ibbeg@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Rex Krasche</b>	<b>rexdk10@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Bob Kalwat</b>	<b>rkalwat@gmail.com</b>
<b>Member at Large</b>	<b>Bob Dale</b>	<b>justbob94@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Member at Large</b>	<b>Darrin Dobbs</b>	<b>dobbster64@gmail.com</b>



## **Post 639 Legion Riders Officers, 2022 - 2023**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Marsha Crom</b>	<b>mjcrom54@gmail.com</b>
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<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Ron Jackson</b>	<b>ronjackson417@gmail.com</b>
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<b>Ride Coordinator</b>	<b>Ron Jackson</b>	<b>ronjackson417@gmail.com</b>
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## Post 639 Auxiliary Officers, 2022 - 2023

<b>President</b>	<b>Diana Cooperider</b>	<b>dlcooperider77@gmail.com</b>
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## Post 639 Sons of the American Legion Officers, 2022 - 2023

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Curtis Myers</b>	<b>curtis74myers@gmail.com</b>
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**(417) 882-8639**

**Post Hours:**

**Mon - Sat 11AM - 8PM**

**Sunday Noon - 6PM**

