



# American Legion Post 639

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.

– G.K. Chesterton

This concept has been coming to my mind as we prepare to host the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in just a few days. Each one of the men and women named on that Wall demonstrated their willingness to sacrifice their own lives for their friends, for their country, for complete strangers halfway around the world, to help secure freedom. Through their sacrifice, each of them demonstrated a love for their fellow man in a way that is difficult to comprehend for those who have never faced the real possibility of such a sacrifice. As we prepare to host the Wall for our community, the first thing I would ask you to do is to remember that we are doing this to honor the service and sacrifice of all of those who are on that Wall, and for all who went before and after them. Prepare yourself and conduct yourself accordingly, as it will be tempting to get caught up in the details and lose sight of our purpose while the Wall is here.

We are hosting the Wall not only to honor them, but to give everyone who visits the opportunity to learn, understand, honor, appreciate, and reflect on the sacrifices made by our brothers and sisters, in Vietnam, and everywhere around the world where we have been called upon to defend freedom. I truly believe that this is part of our calling as veterans and as members of the American Legion: to educate the public, especially the youth in our community, about the meaning of true sacrifice for a greater cause, to promote patriotism and a sense of duty, honor, and loyalty to our country and the freedom for which it stands. Hosting the Wall is a perfect opportunity for us to do this. The second thing I would ask you to do as we prepare for the Wall is to use this chance to educate the community and our youth about those concepts that each of us was willing to sacrifice our lives for. Let's be grateful and respectful of all those who visit. Answer their

questions, direct them to the traveling museum, and be willing to take the time to have a conversation with any who want to.

Our duty to honor the sacrifices of our fallen brothers and sisters continues beyond the Wall. As veterans, we understand the importance of freedom, sacrifice, duty, and honor in a way that others don't. Looking around at everything that's going on in our country today, it's clear that our youth need leaders in the community who will step up and teach them about the importance of character, honor, valor, and sacrifice, and of the Constitution, and why freedom and the principles that founded our country are so important. Hosting the Wall will provide us with more opportunities to step up, reach out, and be leaders in our community. We cannot let this opportunity pass, and I will be calling upon all of you to help us as we step into our mission to promote patriotism, educate children and youth, help our fellow veterans, and provide for defense of our country.

The Wall will be arriving here July 1 and departing July 6. Even if you haven't signed up for a specific task, we can use your help. We will be operating the kitchen and bar during the entire event, and will need help throughout the property. We will also need help in the days before it arrives with cleaning, and a million other small tasks that are sure to come up. If you have some free time and can lend a hand, please come by and see what you can do to help.

Semper Fi,  
Darin Hargis



## CHAPLAIN

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is coming in on July 4th weekend.

As members of the Post 639 you need to come out and support this event.

These are our brothers in arms that have lost their lives for freedom.

The families of their loved ones are on the wall, and out of respect for them

We request you come and support them.

The Post and its members are in my prayers,

Chaplain Rex Krasche

## FINANCE

Even with local restrictions on how many persons can be in a building, we have been able to serve our members and guests. Food is available most of the day and we hosted an outdoor fundraiser for the return of the Vietnam War Traveling Wall. The music groups and car show brought out many spectators and participants.

Missouri Lottery pull tab machines activity has increased after the reopening. Prior to the shutdown, a roll of tickets would last for 10 days to 2 weeks. Now, they last for about 6 days, requiring frequent roll changes. Our Buildings and Grounds chairman, Ron Jackson, has been a great help in learning about the machines and permitting your Finance Officer to take a break from servicing them.

Our bank accounts are healthy due to the additional activity. Our budgeted income goal for the return of the Traveling Wall has been exceeded due to the fundraisers and numerous generous donors.

Several volunteers have been busy with final preparations for the Traveling Wall. More RV electric panels have been installed, a stage has been constructed near the Wall location and new lighting for the Wall is being installed.

Thanks to all who have helped Post 639 by having food and beverages, playing the Lottery games, and working on the preparations for the Wall return. There is more smiling at the Finance Office when the bank accounts are reviewed.

Gary Bockman

## ALR

The aging process makes it necessary to start new chapters in our lives to keep up with the demands of life. As many of you know, I have started a new chapter in mine. I retired for the second time from health care. It was time. I will concentrate on some of my other responsibilities with our post as your Director.

July 1st, we will escort the Vietnam Wall from Thayer MO with KSU at 8a.m. from the post. Breakfast will be served at 6:30 until departure. We need all hands on deck that evening to help assemble the museum.

July 2nd, we will begin to set up the Vietnam Wall at 8am for viewing later that day. Opening ceremony for the wall will be at noon. The Wall will remain open until July 5.

On August 29th, we have the 104.7 The Cave Bike Rally

On August 30th, we have the Motorcycle Awareness Ride.

ALR riders, please watch your emails, we are going to be busy.

Thank you, to all of the volunteers that help make our post the best !!!!!!!

Marsha Crom, ALR Director



Donated by Anna Day and ALR

## ROCK FOR THE WALL and SHOW EM FOR THE WALL FUNDRAISER

As many of you know we had a very successful weekend on May 29<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> with our Rock for the Wall concert and our Show 'em for the Wall car, truck, and bike show here at Post 639. We had more than 150 entries in the competition. The public voted for the best cars, trucks, and bikes, and the winners went home with one of our trophies custom-made for the event. The weather was perfect for our outdoor venue. We had great

food, cold beer, and amazing live entertainment from seven different bands.

All this was a collaborative effort to bring The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to Springfield July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>. All the proceeds went towards this endeavor. We raised some serious money, thanks to all of you who attended and brought friends and family.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, too numerous to name, who helped cook, serve, organize, direct parking, sell tickets, and so much more. We are truly thankful to have so many who were willing to help make this weekend a success.

We will need more volunteers to help when The Wall arrives on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and throughout its stay. Please contact Darin Hargis if you are willing to volunteer. make this event as special for our community as it was when The Wall visited in 2015.



Fundraiser for The Wall car, truck, and bike show



Wall fundraiser event, Membership Table



Auxiliary Sales Booth

## MESSAGE FROM NOLAN

Thank you all for your part in this huge event coming up in 15 days. It has been a good year in the making and I have tried not to bore you with a ton of meetings (c19 not counted on). We still have things to do but all are manageable at this point. As you all know stuff happens at the last minute so we don't need to panic. Only two more Monday meetings until The Wall arrives, so any items you are working on, please confirm completion. I have 82, four-hour slots for the Directory Tent and have 72 filled so I have a few more folks to ink in.

**Special Thanks to Ron Jackson for his MANY hours of hard work around the LZ getting ready for July 1st.**

Nolan R. Moody  
Semi Retired (LOL)  
AmVets Dept of Mo. PRO  
American Legion Post #639 2nd Vice

## VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL

On July 2-July 6, the American Legion Post 639 will host The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in Springfield. The Wall will arrive at the post on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, making its way into town with a motorcycle escort, before it reaches the post, located at 2660 S. Scenic Ave in Springfield. Opening ceremonies will be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. The museum exhibit "Through Their Eyes" will accompany The Wall, and ceremonies will be held to read the 1,417 Missouri servicemen and women who were lost in the Vietnam War. Volunteers will be on site to assist visitors in finding their friend or loved one's name. The American Legion's mission is to inspire

patriotism and educate the public and the great sacrifices made by our service members and veterans. To that end, American Legion Post 639 is bringing The Wall to the Ozarks so that veterans, their families, and the general public can visit and pay their respects. For many veterans, this is the only chance they will have to see The Wall. The original monument is located in Washington, D.C. The American Legion is dedicated to making The Wall accessible to those who may not be able to travel or who might otherwise have difficulty visiting the Vietnam War Memorial in our nation's capitol.

This is not the first time American Legion Post 639 has brought the 60% scale monument to town. In 2015, The Wall attracted nearly 30,000 visitors. The Legion is hoping for a similar turnout this year.

“We view this as a way to educate the public and honor our fallen servicemen and women. We want to afford everyone in the community the opportunity to experience this great memorial,” stated Post Commander Darin Hargis.

Admission is free and open to the public.

## AUXILIARY

This is my last article for the Newsletter this year. So, I'd like to thank some special people that have enriched my life through the seven active months of my year as President. Mary Krasche, made me a better person by showing me a cuss jar isn't necessary when you improve yourself through thought. Sharon Richardson, whose perseverance (in the kitchen) showed me that no matter how bad a situation looks you can overcome it. Dianna and Terra Cooperider, taught me that whenever there is confusion it can be cleared up easily. Paula Maxheimer: call and she'll be there. Marsha Crom, best sounding board around. Mary Foss showed me how to cut dozens of potatoes with perfection. Donna Hayden showed me even the shyest person can show that no matter how bad a situation looks you can overcome it. She also showed me even the shyest person can show their qualifications as the perfect Santa's Elf. Gail Willey showed me what true loyalty is when she continued as treasurer when it would've been easier to pass it on. Thank you to all who supported me helping with kids'

parties, the float and various other projects. Thank you for all your support. My heart is with the Auxiliary.

We will be having our Election on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Please attend and vote. Installation will be August 4, 2020 at our regular meeting. Jaretta Murphy will be here to Install our New Officers. I will have refreshments for all who attend. Please come and celebrate our New Officers for 2020-2021 year.

Janey Tuck

President Unit 639

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Post Elections are July 7<sup>th</sup> at the General Meeting. To vote you must show your 2020 membership card.

Wall Fundraiser Event Photos



The background of the entire poster is a stylized, semi-transparent American flag. The stars are white and five-pointed, set against a light blue field. The stripes are red and white, with a slight wavy effect. The overall tone is patriotic and solemn.

# **VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL**

## **JULY 2 - JULY 6**

**American Legion Post 639  
2660 S. Scenic Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65804**

**60% scale replica of actual Memorial Wall  
Help available in finding your loved one's name.**

**Including Vietnam War Museum  
"Through the Eyes"**

**Opening Ceremony July 3rd, 6pm**

**Open to the Public**

**Admission is free**

# July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01 Jul Wall Escort KSU 8:00am	02 Jul 8am Wall Set-up	03 Jul 6pm Opening Cer- emony	04 Jul 6pm MO Names read from Wall
05 Jul 6pm Closing Ceremony	06 Jul 8am Disassem- ble of Wall	07 Jul <b>General            Meeting            7pm            Election of            Post Officers</b>	08 Jul Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	09 Jul	10 Jul	<b>11 Jul            Sub Vet Meeting            1pm</b>
12 Jul	13 July	14 Jul	15 Jul Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	16 Jul	17 Jul	18 Jul
19 Jul <b>ALR Meeting 6pm</b>	20 Jul <b>Aux E-Board</b>	21 Jul	22 Jul Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	23 Jul <b>Fleet Reserve Meet-            ing 5pm</b>	24 Jul Newsletter ARTICLES Due 8am	25 Jul
26 Jul	27 Jul	28 Jul <b>E-Board            Meeting 6:30</b>  News Letter Crew 12 Noon	29 Jul Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	30 Jul	31 Jul	01 Aug
02 Aug	03 Aug	04 Aug <b>General            Meeting            7pm</b>	05 Aug Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	06 Aug	07 Aug	08 Aug

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American Legion Post 434 (Nixa)

Funeral Honor Guards

In need of volunteer Legion and Auxiliary members

Do Not need to be a member of Post 434.

Contact Glen Smith (417-849-8522)

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

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



Vietnam War Memorial  
 American Legion Post 639  
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[www.americanlegionpost639.org](http://www.americanlegionpost639.org)

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Member at Large	Ed Fox		

