



Vietnam War Memorial



Post 639



Commander's Message:

The American Legion is dying. People tell me this all the time. “Younger veterans aren’t interested in joining.” “We don’t do anything but party and drink beer.” “This place has a bad reputation.” “The other veterans groups that have sprung up in the last few years do more than us.” I’ve heard all this, and I don’t believe it, but I’m also not going to dismiss it out of hand. This input is valuable, because it helps us understand how people see us. Clearly, if I believed it was true, I wouldn’t be devoting so much of my time and energy to our Post and the American Legion. I’m not going to say that we don’t have problems. We do. All the Veterans Service Organizations are facing them, but the problems aren’t new. When I joined the VFW at age 21 and then the American Legion at age 25, the talk was the same, and it all comes down to this: How do we get veterans interested? I didn’t know the answer then, and I don’t have a succinct answer now, but I have thoughts on the future of our Post and the American Legion that I think we can all see if we look back over the history of our organization, why each of us joined and why we stay. When I came back from the Gulf, I didn’t want to get involved in the veterans organizations. I imagined how it would be, and I wasn’t interested in listening to a bunch of older guys tell me how much harder their war was than my war. I was trying to figure out what I was going to do with my future, and I wasn’t interested in dwelling on my service, or swapping sea stories with people I didn’t know. I wanted an education, a job, a wife, a house... all the things that men in their mid-20s are concerned

about. Sergeant Major Jess Abney, USMC, was a Boy Scout leader I knew from the time I was a kid, and he continued to be a friend and mentor. He took me to the VFW and paid my first year dues. It wasn’t bad. They had their regulars, 90 cent draw beer, and Wheel of Fortune was a staple on the single TV above the bar. I started hanging out there more often, after class or at the end of drill weekends. People were friendly, and I didn’t have to deal with the idiots I encountered at every other bar in town that catered to people in their 20s. It was a great place to drink with good guys and not get in trouble. I got a lot of good advice there, too. Invest in real estate. Stay out of debt. Finish college. Buy life insurance. Take care of your teeth. The things your parents tell you, but it seems to have a different impact when it’s coming from a guy who landed at Normandy. Anyway, I liked it. I liked the feeling of being at home. I liked the people, even though we were from different wars, with different weapons, and most of them were my grandparents’ age. Being around the guys there gave me some perspective on my war and my service. And I could relate to them, because there’s something about preparing your last will and testament at 18 or 19 that has an impact. Going to war as a teenager puts some things about life into perspective that most of my peers at SMSU couldn’t grasp. They thought a bad grade on a history test was the end of the world. They had no idea what a bad day really was. That’s just my story, but I’m certain it isn’t unique. We all share that story, in one form or another. We all joined at least in part because we share a common bond that those

who are ineligible for membership here can never understand. That bond is unique. It is an essential element of being a Veteran in America, and it is our duty to preserve and pass on the opportunity to the generations of Veterans that will follow us. That’s why I’m doing what I’m doing here. But there’s more, too. We could close our doors except to our members. I get this suggestion a lot. I tell people that we need to stay open to guests because we need the business, but that isn’t the real, deeper reason. The real reason is too complicated to explain over a beer, but it’s this: The reason we must engage the public, the reason they must come in here, is because we are the leaders of our community and our country. Not by Act of Congress or some informal rule, but because those who didn’t serve designated us so. We are role models of service, integrity, character, and selflessness to them. They are grateful. Everyone who is eligible to join us has pledged their lives to preserve the freedom of those who didn’t serve, and they know it. They come in to honor us and to learn from us, and we should not shut them out. This is why we are a Veterans Service Organization, not a Veterans Social Organization. Sure, the beer is cheap and cold, and the dinners are nice, but you know, and I know, and they know, we are so much more than that.

Semper Fi,

Darin Hargis

Chaplain

The loss of Bill Maxhieimer will be a vacant spot at our Post . Bill did a lot to help out in the kitchen and other events we have had. I didn't know we shared the same birthday's , we had something in common. Bill will be missed. Your Chaplain is cooking on the 3rd weekend sat. of the month, so come by and have breakfast and we can chat. Our calendar looks full in the month of July so come by and enjoy our post. All for now, if you need your Chaplain for prayer or a chat give me a shout.

Chaplain Rex Krasche

Finance

In reviewing our savings account activity during 2019, it has been discovered that we started this year with a balance of \$8,157.61 and as of June 18, our balance is \$17,648.16. We have more than doubled our savings in less than 6 months.

Several factors have made this increase possible, including increased activity with our Missouri Lottery games, our Queen of Hearts game operated by volunteers, volunteer help instead of paid help in the kitchen, pizza sales at LZ639 and to local businesses, friendly bar staff, friendly members, and our usual summer events.

It is appropriate for the finance office to extend thanks to all those who help by working or by patronizing LZ639.

Keep up the good work and KEEP SMILING!!

Gary Bockman Finance Officer

ALR

Thanks to the Saturday Breakfast crew for coming in really early to feed those of us who were riding to Whiteman AFB and the Car show people June 15th.

Ride your own ride, and enjoy the Wind Therapy, **Your ALR Director, Marsha Crom**

Ladies Auxillary

Good Morning ladies, as I write this, it is the first day of summer..... ahh... hot dogs, watermelon, swimming pool, HOT!!!! Happy 4th of July!!! Happy July birthday Ms Suanne and Ms Janey Hope all stays cool and excited for a new adventure. And remember, NO Friday night dinner from the ladies on the 5th. This month is our election, new officers, new faces, new ideas! All great things to happen! Please come and vote, for your voice to be heard and represented. Thank you to all who got the message and still attended the quickly changed venue of the District Meeting. (We are amazing!) and Thank you to all who got educated at the Health class. Test taken—Test Tackled-- 100%!! Yaaaay... And some reminders, Please see Nolan if you want to participate in the Mid-town parade on the 4th of July, great little parade! And we will be cooking for the Saturday, July 20th Suicide Awareness ride. Please come out to show our

support for this very important cause. I hope to have our new shirts in by then..??? and possibly new caps as well. I would like to Thank ALL the ladies for all the unsung tasks that gets done with no mention of gratitude. Diana and the rose garden and flowers, Ms Connie for all she does every day, all the Ladies who work the Q of Hrts each Wednesday, Ms Marsha always cooking and the Director of ALR, and everyone who donates their time for desserts EVERY Friday night, Yes, you are appreciated!!! I would also like to send a special thank you to all who took the time to send prayers, show comfort with a hug, and to honor Ms Paula and her family with her requests to lay to rest our beloved Bill. Our hearts are with you then and always.

Jo Lena

President Ladies Auxillary

SAL

If you know anyone who qualifies to join the SAL here at 639, please bring them in and sign them up. \$20/year. The meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 1830 hrs. We need as many members to attend our meetings as possible since we will start planning Spring and Summer events in the coming months. If you are a dual member please join us at our meetings. The SAL is proud to serve Post 639 and will continue to do so as long as there are members involved in its activities.

SAL is selling glasses for\$10
Jared Thompson
SAL Commander



Landing Zone Bar



We at the bar are here to assist you with your food orders and drinks. Thanks for letting us serve you.

Connie Johnston, Bar Manager

The Galley

(To Go) orders will be prepared fresh from the kitchen. Please support our post. Enjoy our food. Friday night dinners 6-8pm . **As always open to the public to attend and eat.**



Tues Through Friday your New Lunch Cook is Kevin Doty. He has been tested by our finance officer 4 times already and Gary Hasn't anything to say but Excellent. Welcome Kevin and may the stove be with you.

If you haven't already verified your email address with Tom (Adjutant) then you need to complete it soon.

**Send Articles to:
historianeditorlz639@gmail.com**

The newsletter is also on our website

americanlegionpost639.org.

Saturday Breakfast

8—10am(Except Holiday weekends)

Brothers and Sisters, it's been a long time since I wrote a newsletter column for building and grounds, here at Post 639. The good thing is that, for the most part, everything has been going along smoothly. Some additions to our Post are the stage being re-decked. With the help of a couple of guys, we removed the old, rotted decking and smoothed out the joists from the glued down, first layer of decking. The Shockley Stage now sports a 2X6 treated deck and steps. Thank you Scott and Skippy, for helping out on this project. I had been kinda 'ducking' this job for a couple years now, but it's done and use-able now.

The other big event occurred on Saturday night or Sunday morning, last weekend. I came in about 09:00 Sunday morning only to find water running across the sidewalk on Scenic and cascading down the driveway, just South of the drive. After some effort I was able to get the water shut off and contacted the Commander. This is the day we were hosting the 17th district meeting. That had to be moved to Bolivar post . We were closed Sunday and Monday because of not having water. A quick call the DeLong Plumbing had us on the schedule, for first thing Monday morning. After a bunch of searching we finally located the problem and dug up the broken pipe. a fitting had broken and was allowing a 1-1/2" pipe to flow water, for how long, I don't know. City Utilities will adjust some of the bill for us. Our normal water usage is 24 to 28 cubic feet of water. The reading



from the month of the break our usage was 103 cu.Ft. About 4X the usage. Today (6/18/19) the Commander brought in a replacement convection oven for our kitchen. It's almost the same as the one we currently use. Just in better shape. It will be installed in the near future.

I want to thank the people and groups who have held events at our post lately. Andy and Stacey Jenkins held their wedding here and the Volkswagen club held the June Bug jamboree, also, the Shriners car club held a car show here. ALL these events were successful, and they cleaned up the grounds to better condition than before their events. Thanks to all involved.

Ron Jackson, the building and grounds guy.

Heads up American Legion Post #639 Members.

We have started planning for "The Wall 2020" coming July 2nd through July 5th 2020. The Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, CVMA and VVA will be lead units for the many different activities to accomplish this task. Please contact your organizations leaders to sign up to take part in this mission to Honor the Fallen of the Vietnam War. SF.



June 16th Farewell Bill Maxheimer Post Member Elite

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American Legion Post 639

Thursday July 11, 2019

2 to 6 Pm



July 2019 LZ639 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Jun	01 Jul	02 Jul Legion & Aux General Meet- ing Dinner 6pm (Sons) Meeting 7pm	03 Jul Wings Queen of Hearts 	04 Jul   Independence Day	05 Jul No Dinner 6-8	06 Jul No Breakfast
07 Jul	08 Jul	16 Jul SAL Meeting 6:30pm KWVA Meeting 1pm	10 Jul CVMA Queen of Hearts 	11 Jul Job Fair See page 4 for de- tails	12 Jul Dinner 6-8pm	13 Jul Sub Vets Meet- ing 11 A.M.
14 Jul	15 Jul	16 Jul	17 Jul Queen of Hearts 	18 Jul	19 Jul Dinner 6-8pm	20 Jul Suicide Preven- tion Event See Pag3 7 CVA Meeting 5 pm
21 Jul ALR Meeting 6PM —	22 Jul Ladies Eboard Finance Meeting	23 Jul	24 Jul Queen of Hearts 	25 Jul	26 Jul Dinner 6-8pm Newsletter arti- cles due by 8am	27 Jul
28 Jul	29 Jul	30 Jul E-Board Meet- ing 6:30pm Dept Heads 5pm Newsletter Team 12 Noon	31 Jul Queen of Hearts 	01 Aug Fleet Reserve Meeting 6pm	02 Aug Dinner 6-8pm	03 Aug
04 Aug	05 Aug	06 Aug Legion & Aux General Meet- ing Dinner 6pm (Sons) Meeting 7pm	07 Aug Queen of Hearts 	08 Aug	09 Aug Dinner 6-8pm	10 Aug Sub Vets Meet- ing 11 A.M.

Battle of Midway Veteran Sergeant Ed Fox and his daughter Debbie Fox, arrived late in the evening of June 2, 2019 to attend the 77th commemoration of the

Battle of Midway.

Seventy-five years ago, John Miniclier and Edgar Fox were young men serving their country on one of the most remote military outposts in the world. They did not imagine that the events unfolding around them would bring them back to the sandbeaches of Midway three-quarters of a century later.

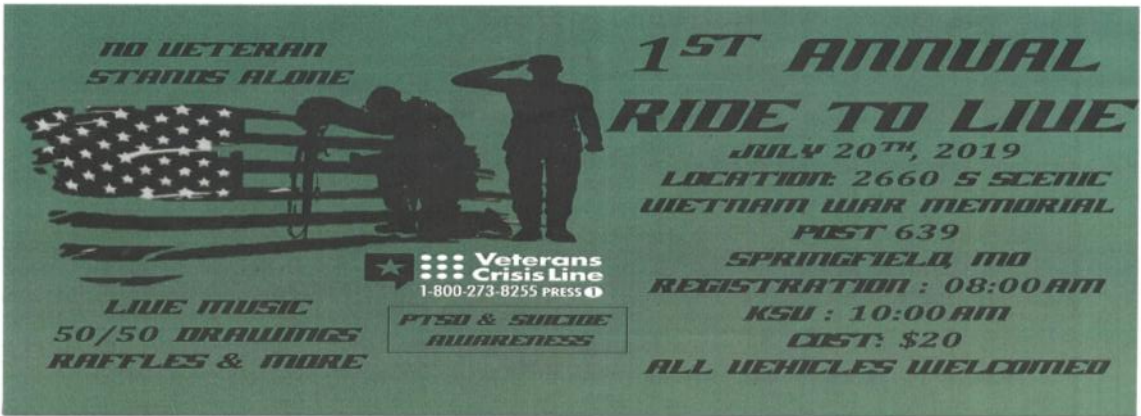




Post 639 at National Cemetery
Memorial Day 2019



Volkswagon Rally
June 1st





Vietnam War Memorial
American Legion Post 639
2660 South Scenic Ave
.Springfield, MO 65807
www.americanlegionpost639.org

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Springfield, MO 65801

Permit Number 451

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For The Adjutant

Office	Officer	Office	Officer
Commander	Darin Hargis	Adjutant	Tom Newsom
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Finance Officer	Gary Bockman	Judge Advocate	Rusty Shalla
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	Service Officer	John Foss
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	Historian/Editor	Jim Cooper
Member at Large	Bill Maxheimer	Member at Large	Bryan Shelton
Member at Large	Ed Fox		

LZ 639 - Mess Hall

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**.

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