



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

**JULY 2023**





## Post 639 Commander



What a month at 639. June was busy with our community making use of our grounds with events. Thanks to our employees and volunteers for working together and hustling to make our events successful. We couldn't do it without everyone. Thank you.

**Wanted to remind everyone that Post 639 will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, so our employees can spend time with their friends and families. Also, the General Meeting has been moved to July 11th to accommodate the holiday.**

We are closer on our new sign. The permit people for the City have held us up. I would like to personally thank Payne Sign Company for taking on the task of dealing with the red tape.

Our Wednesday Bike Nights and Queen of Hearts have been doing well. If you haven't come out, mark your calendars and come and visit us. Remember our lunches M-F 11-2, and our 1st Saturday of the month breakfast.

**REMINDER - The parking spaces on the East side of the Post are for Post Officers and employees ONLY. Thanks in advance for your compliance.**

I hope everyone gets to spend the 4th blowing up stuff, OOOO'ing and AHHHH'ing with your families.

**Thank you for your support.**

**Mike Goforth**

**Commander, Legion Post 639**



## 639 Chaplain



**To the Post 639 membership** - this will be my last monthly message to you as 639 Chaplain, since I'll be "passing the baton" over to Frank Grantham. He'll be a **GREAT** spiritual influence for the Post.

It's been an honor and privilege to serve you during my years in this capacity. Even though I'm retiring as your official Chaplain, rest assured you all will continue to be in my prayers. I'll still be around, so please pull up a chair and let's continue to catch up when we get the chance.

Love you all. Rely upon the Lord in all you do.

All for now ...

**Rex Krasche**

**Post 639 Chaplain**



## Post 639 Adjutant



The election of Post 639 Officers for the 2023-2024 year was held during the General Meeting on June 6, 2023. The following individuals are those you elected to serve:

Officer	Nominee
Commander	Mike Goforth
1st Vice Commander	Mike Chandler
2nd Vice Commander	Adam Jamieson
Adjutant	Tom Newsom
Finance Officer	Frank Messley
Judge Advocate	Jim Cooper
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson
Service Officer	Belinda Brown
Quartermaster	Barry Greene
Chaplain	Frank Grantham
Historian	Bob Kalwat
Member at Large	Bob Dale
Member at Large	Darrin Dobbs

The Officers-elect will be installed during our General Meeting on August 1, 2023. Be sure and thank these individuals for their willingness to serve when you see them.

**Tom Newsom**

**Post 639 Adjutant**



## Post 639 Service Officer



**Greetings fellow veterans!** I look forward to being your Service Officer and will do what I can to help any of you with issues or concerns. I've met with a few staff at the local VA, to get information, and to create my own network to better serve you.

The **NUMBER ONE** thing I just found out for all Vietnam Veterans is that they are **BACK DATING** all claims **ONE YEAR** filed for presumptive conditions that are filed before August 10th, 2023. They will be backdated to August 10th 2022. Which means you would get back pay automatically to Aug 2022 if your claim is approved and awarded. The 2 new Presumptive conditions are: high blood pressure (hypertension) and Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance (MGUS). There are 19 total presumptive conditions.

I will make available the conditions and locations required to confirm your eligibility. This list will be posted at the LZ639.

I cannot file for you. I am not licensed and certified to submit. These offices listed below have direct software to the VA to submit correctly and timely. Call for your appointments today to get your disability claims started.

- DAV Amanda Mashtare 417-891-4899 or 314-253-4429
- VFW Kevin Scott 417-891-4898
- AM Legion Robert Frank 417-891-4897 or 314-253-4460
- Missouri Veterans Commission: 417-895-6532

**Belinda Brown**

**Post 639 Service Officer**



We're about to start a new service year with the Auxiliary. So, I thought it would be appropriate to end the year with a reminder of the purpose and aims of the American Legion Auxiliary in this July newsletter. It will us give a chance to refocus on our founding principles as we head into another year of service .....

#### **PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on Earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity, the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

#### **Mission Statement**

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the **mission** of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

#### **Vision Statement**

The **vision** of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The

American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.

#### **Purposes**

**In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:**

- To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families.
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion.
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship.
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy.
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government.
- To increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing volunteer opportunities within our communities.
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self.

#### **Values**

**Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:**

- Commitment to the four founding principles: justice, freedom, democracy, loyalty.
- Service to God, our country, its veterans, and their families.
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship.
- Personal integrity and family values.
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members.
- Truthful, open communication in dealing with the public and our members.
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules.

**In Spirit of Service, not Self**

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



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 LZ639.

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 Myers, Commander**  
**Sons of the American Legion**



WE WANT YOU!



Back at the end of May, I knew that June was going to be crazy busy for ALR. When you look at that amount of activity bearing down on you, you take comfort in the seasoned, experienced team you have in place to handle the challenge. You all came through like champions, as I knew you would. We worked hard AND played hard - great combination. Here's the list of our activities. Most have pictures on Pages 8-11 of the Newsletter that show us in action.

Just a few highlights to mention from the list -

**June 1st** started us off with the K9's for Camo event, featuring the "Wings of Swing" Big Band. Thanks to Band Manager Rick Seals, and the **ENTIRE** band for supporting this organization. They secured sizeable proceeds toward the cost of training one Support Dog for a Veteran, which costs \$8500.

On **June 3rd**, we participated in the 1st Annual MooMoo Poker run for Veterans Suicide Prevention. We were able to provide a \$300 donation to Kathy Davis's "Save a Life, Make a Difference" organization. Besides, Ron Jackson won a "3 hours of House Cleaning" prize for being the **OLDEST** Rider in the event.

On **June 6th**, we teamed with AmVets, CVMA, Liberty Riders, Warriors Watch and several other groups in supporting the Serenity Honors "The Wall That Heals" event with a 52-bike escort from the Monett VFW to Springfield (Wesley United Methodist Church). **SINCERE THANKS** to **Post 639 Commander Mike Goforth** for organizing/coordinating the escort

with the various groups and Law Enforcement, specifically the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Republic and Springfield Police Departments. Escort support was **flawless**, as we never stopped once from Monett to Springfield (even through Republic). If anyone doubts that patriotism/Americanism is on the wain, every town between Monett to Springfield was out in force to pay respects as we passed by. Open stretches of Highway 60 were also lined with westbound traffic that had pulled off on the shoulder out of respect, many drivers having exited their vehicles to show their reverence. Many of us in the escort had trouble seeing through our tears of appreciation.

A number of our Riders worked the actual Event from June 8-11, either in the Visitor's tent, or as guides to support visitors.

Our **June 9th** ALR Fish Fry and Gun Raffle was a huge success. We sold 63 fish dinners in just 45 minutes. Thanks to David (Fister) Turner for securing the pistol, to Ron Jackson, who staffed ticket/display tables at events, and to ALL who sold individual tickets leading up to the raffle. What a team. **Congratulations to the Gun Raffle winner - Deanna Hines !!!**

Our sincere condolences to the families of the Aurora riders that were lost in the tragedy during their Toys for Tots Poker Run Fundraiser. Those of you who were able to participate in the **June 10th** Fly High Show and the **June 11th** Aurora Benefit Poker Run, I know the families and the community appreciated it very much.

We contributed to celebrating the US Army's 248th Birthday on **June 13th** with a commemorative cake, party chow, and an extended Happy Hour at the Post.

We partied on **May 30th** with a Dinner Ride to Galloway Grill, and another one on **June 20th** to B-29 Café in Ozark, AND an overnight trip on **June 24th-25th** to Alton, Illinois to see our dear friend Sue Reis, celebrating at Fast Eddie's.



**WELCOME to our newest member - Mark Wyman.** Mark is actually a returning member, being back in Springfield from New York. He rides an '08 Road King Classic and a '65 Full Dresser.

If you've not already done so, block off your calendars for the 639 Camping event - October 6th-8th. Contact Adam Jamieson to reserve a camp spot for your RV. We'll have a Friday night dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Ride (Bill Maxheimer Memorial Ride), and the BBQ Blowout on Saturday night.

Also just a reminder for **October 16th-24th**. Post 639 will be closed for new flooring installation. We'll need assistance to help move fixtures out of the Post to clear the floor for replacement, AND to bring it all back into the Post once the installation is complete. Pitch in if you're available and able to participate.

**Our 2023-2024 Election was held during our ALR Monthly Meeting on June 18th. Here are your Officers for the coming year .....**

Officer	Nominee
Director	Marsha Crom
Assistant Director	Glenn Smith
Treasurer	David Turner
Secretary	Bob Kalwat
Sgt at Arms/Ride Captain	Ron Jackson
Judge Advocate	Mike Brooks
Co-Chaplains	Will Ogden/Herman Burkett, Jr
Medical Officer (Appointed)	Glenn Smith
Membership (Appointed)	Bob Kalwat
Liaison (Appointed)	Nolan Moody

If you ride a bike of any type, and wish to join our family, please contact us through the Post. We work hard to support our veterans/community, and we party big-time. You won't find a better group to serve with. We will welcome you with open arms. **COME AND JOIN US !!**

**Marsha Crom**

**Director, ALR Chapter 639**

**2023 ALR Member Spotlight - Jim (Skippy) Cooper**

Jim (Skippy) Cooper is a long-time ALR member. He's served as Post 639's Judge Advocate for the past 2 years, and will continue through the coming year as well. He coordinates the Post's "First Saturday" breakfast, and is also a DJ for **Vietnam Vet Radio** (see program times on Page 13).



Born October 16th, 1944 in King County-Providence Hospital, Seattle, WA, he's a long-time Springfield resident. He joined the US Navy in 1962, active until January 1967 (Radioman 2nd Class).

He married his wife, Mary Catherine in 1967. "She was the only female I knew at the time who wasn't already married".

He got involved with Post 639 years ago because "it was easy to find from where I live - 1 right turn, 1 left turn and I'm here."

Jim worked at Zenith Electronics as Production Supervisor for

21 years, and at Tracker Marine Finance for 19 1/2 years as Marketing Supervisor. He and Mary Catherine have one Son and one Granddaughter.

**Hobbies** - Cryptology, DJ'ing, "creating confusion where doing business at various locations" (Ask any ALR member who's been on a Dinner Ride with him. His interactions with servers regarding "Hawaiian Money" are legendary) Hates temperatures colder than 75, and he doesn't care for air conditioning. His nickname stems from his affinity for - you guessed it - Peanut Butter. He loves it on pizza.

**Favorite Foods** - PB&J

**Favorite Drinks** - Coffee

**Favorite Color** - Blue

**Favorite Music** - Everything EXCEPT RAP !! (only good at Christmas when preparing presents". )

**Advice to younger generations** - "Pull your pants up - Be the POSITIVE person representing your generation. Love thy neighbor UNLESS she says NO !!!"



***Post 639 Historian***



June 2023 was an incredibly busy month for **Legion Post 639, ALR, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion**. I saw the schedule coming together at the end of May, and was wondering how in the world we would accomplish it all. But, as we always seem to do, we came together as a Post family and got it done for our Veterans, our community, and each other. 17 events spread across the month. Incredible.

As the Post Historian, I try to keep a short/long term perspective on our activities here at Post 639. We share our facilities, resources, time/effort, and our love/support/encouragement across the spectrum. We raise financial resources through our events so that we may use them to benefit others.

In June, we supported our veteran community through remembrance, grief support, celebration, suicide prevention and just plain old fellowship/camaraderie. I'm grateful to be part of a Veteran family that holds this scope of responsibility in such high regard.

The founders of this Post had a goal in the early days - to be widely known throughout the community for service/support. I think we've achieved that goal for all the right reasons, and that awareness continues to grow as the years pass.

The "Commander's Row" in the hallway has been updated to recognize our past/present Commanders. Please take a moment and review our updated history.

A very special **THANKS** to **Marsha Crom, Diana Cooperid-er and Barbara Gonynor** for their assistance with the US Army Birthday event on June 13th. You all made it a success !!!

For those who watch us month by month in our activities, I invite you to come check us out and join us as we serve. We are a family like no other. Find a place here and get active. You will not regret it.

**Bob Kalwat**

**Post 639 Historian/Newsletter Editor**

## *July VSO Activities/Info*

### Give Vets Hope

Our meetings continue with newer attendees. The community we have is widening with each get together.

I don't mention our website or Facebook page often, but at givevetshope/Facebook you can get caught up with what's happening and see some pictures of our group. Holly Butler, my co-facilitator, keeps it updated and does a good job.

The Facebook page also has a link to our website which is at: [givevetshope.github.io](http://givevetshope.github.io). A student at Ozarks Technical College helped set it up a few years ago. It has good community references for just about anyone. The introduction on the website was written by one of the veterans that attend our meetings. He did an excellent job.

Holly is a social worker in her "real" job and was instrumental in getting our group started back in 2019. She brings knowledge of group dynamics and interpersonal relationships to our meetings. Holly also provides an important aspect of our group by being able to connect at a professional and personal level regarding relationships, communication, and life experiences.

I am a Vietnam veteran, retired school counselor, and licensed professional counselor, having worked for 29 years in the Willard School District. I have taught some college level classes and am honored to be a part of our group. I consider myself only as the guy with a key to the building and providing dinner for our group. This group has provided some excellent learning opportunities for me.

In our group we seek to provide an environment for veterans and their families to communicate what is on their minds. This time together is for everyone to be seen and heard. "Regarding" is another way to think of what we do listening and waiting quietly.

So much of what we process is therapeutic, however, we never seek to provide therapy. We do not provide answers, argue, or present an explicit difference of opinion. Others talk and we listen showing respect.

Our group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 5:30 to about 7:00, at the VFW Post 3404, at 1136 E. Atlantic. You may contact David Suits at 417-773-1837 and



please leave a message if you have any questions.

**David Suits**

**Founder/Co-facilitator**

### Treehouse Vets

#### Our Mission

To educate, encourage and empower veterans and their families through an attachment to the natural world. We help veterans find their tribe after leaving the military, not just a group of friends or family members you can talk to, but an always growing and developing community to contribute to.



We achieve our mission through our three core pillars of support.

**Direct Veteran Engagement** Through direct engagement we bring veterans and their families together to build a community of support & understanding.

We organize multiple excursions with our veterans each year with an emphasis on a "small group, high impact" mindset.

Our direct engagement events are organized in a way that allows our guides, volunteers and veterans to establish meaningful connections that hopefully last a lifetime.

#### Wildlife Conservation & Education

We use nature to connect and heal those in our community; at Treehouse we understand that contributing to wildlife education and conservation efforts ensures these resources remain available for future generations.

We partner with conservation organizations as well as drive internal programs to keep the world around us beautiful!

#### Community & Tribe Building

Our veteran support community is overflowing with local organizations and opportunities; Treehouse seeks out partnerships and contribution efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families in the area.

From Bike Nights at your local American Legion post to connecting with local businesses that want to support veterans in the area Treehouse is always looking for ways to better serve our community.

#### About Us

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that relies on donations to make these mental health resources and trips available to our veterans. If you are interested in becoming a Treehouse partner or making a monthly donation please contact us at 417-763-5824, email address [info@treehouse.vet](mailto:info@treehouse.vet), or visit our website at: [www.treehouse.vet](http://www.treehouse.vet)

# Missouri Veterans Commission

In October 2022, MVC instituted a program to provide free Estate Planning Services to veterans. To date, we have held 34 clinics and served around 900 people. I don't have exact figures in front of me, but we have produced around 3,500 documents for veterans and their spouses saving them approximately \$1.75 million dollars in legal fees. We provide wills, trusts, advanced directives, and powers of attorney for Healthcare and finances. Additionally, I recently started offering in loco parentis powers of attorney (empowering someone to care for your child in your absence), and beneficiary deeds and personal property designations so people can keep their entire estate out of probate.



The schedule for upcoming clinics is displayed at the end of this section. Plus we have an ongoing clinic on the last Monday of each month at the Truman VA Hospital in Columbia.



June 26th	St. Louis
June 29th	West Plains
July 6th	St. Louis
July 18th	Kansas City
July 27th	Jefferson City
August 22nd	Springfield
August 28th	St. Louis
October 10th	Kansas City
October 17th	St. Louis
October 24th	Springfield

For details/questions, or to reserve a spot in any of the above scheduled events, contact Scotty Allen, General Counsel, Missouri Veterans Commission, at 573-522-4224.

# Missouri Veterans Hall of Fame

Post 639 Member Nolan Moody has been selected as an inductee into the Class of 2023 Missouri Veterans' Hall of Fame.



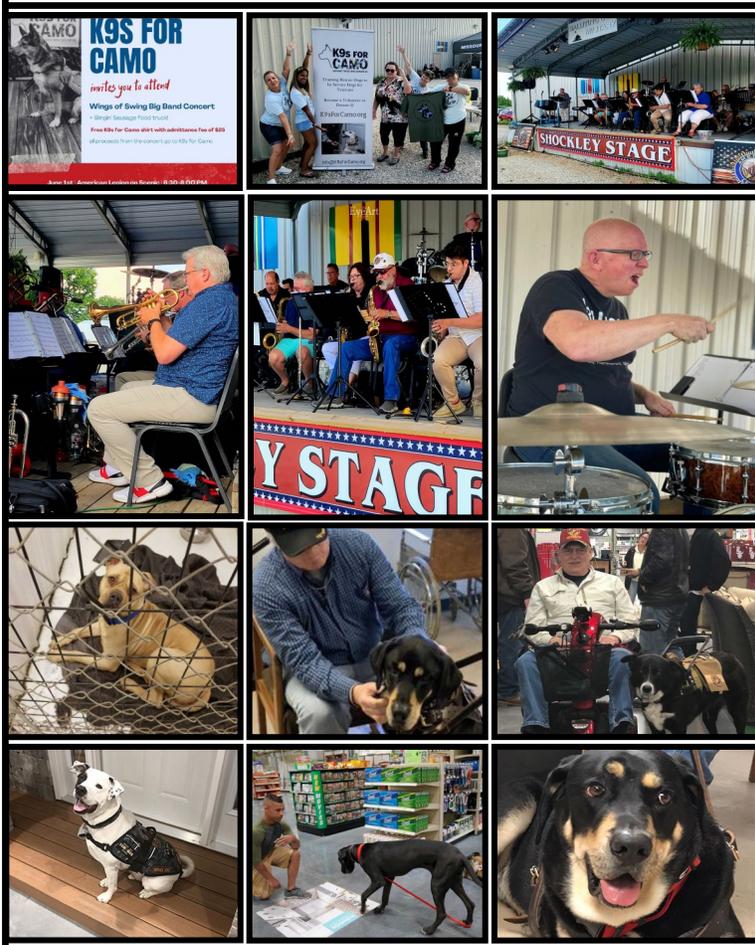
The Missouri Veterans' Hall of Fame was organized to honor those who have honorably served in the US Armed Forces, and have contributed exceptionally to community, state and/or nation. You can learn more about the Missouri Veterans Hall of Fame by following us on Facebook. Prominent members of the HOF include Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, WW1 General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing.

The 2023 Class will be first introduced at the State Fair on Military Appreciation Day (August 13th). A formal ceremony will be held on October 27, 2023 at the Missouri Capitol. There will be a reception - lunch or hors d'oeuvres followed by the ceremony. We will keep you posted on the specific details.



# K9's for Camo Benefit Concert

Jun 1, 2023



# MooMoo Poker Run

June 4, 2023





# "The Wall That Heals" Event

June 8-11, 2023

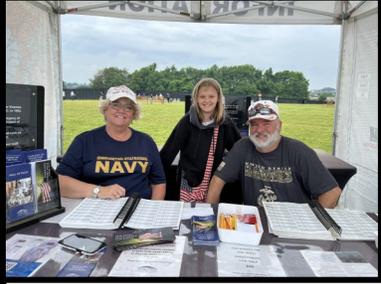
June 8-11, 2023 Open 24 Hours  
922 W. Republic Road, Springfield, MO  
( Located @ Wesley United Methodist Church )

**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
A VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICAS & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER

**Free Event To the Public!**

**SERENITY HONORS**

For more information visit us at:  
TheWallThatHeals.com  
Facebook.com/serenityhonors



## 639 Legion Riders Fish Fry

June 9, 2023



**The Smith & Wesson CSX 9mm Pistol**  
MSRP: \$699.00  
American Legion Riders

Raffle: Tickets: \$10.00 each or Three for \$25.00  
(Drawing held on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 PM)

**Product Features**

- The CSX is built on an aluminum alloy frame with interchangeable polymer backings, providing the user the ability to customize their level of concealment and ergonomics fit.
- Chambered in 9mm, the CSX holds an impressive 12+1 capacity and comes with an additional 10 round magazine for deeper concealment.
- Designed with the flexibility in mind and, despite its micro-sized frame, the CSX packs both high-velocity, 9mm velocity and manual ejection.





# Bike Night / Queen of Hearts

June 14, 2023



# Cruisin' for Tots Car/Bike Show

June 17, 2023

**CRUISING FOR TOYS CAR & BIKE SHOW**  
 RAISING TOYS FOR TOTS THROUGH U.S. BANNING  
**SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2023 10:00AM TO 2:00PM**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 639**  
 2660 S. SCENIC AVE, SPRINGFIELD MO  
 SINCE IT IS FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND, IT WILL BE A CELEBRATION  
 FOR YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS  
 FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE EVENT  
<https://www.facebook.com/cruisinforpress>  
 FOR DETAILS VISIT  
[www.americanlegionpost639.com](http://www.americanlegionpost639.com)  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
[mhfrider@americanlegionpost639.com](mailto:mhfrider@americanlegionpost639.com)



# Central Football Car Show

June 24, 2023





Happy  
4th of July

Independence Day - July 4th

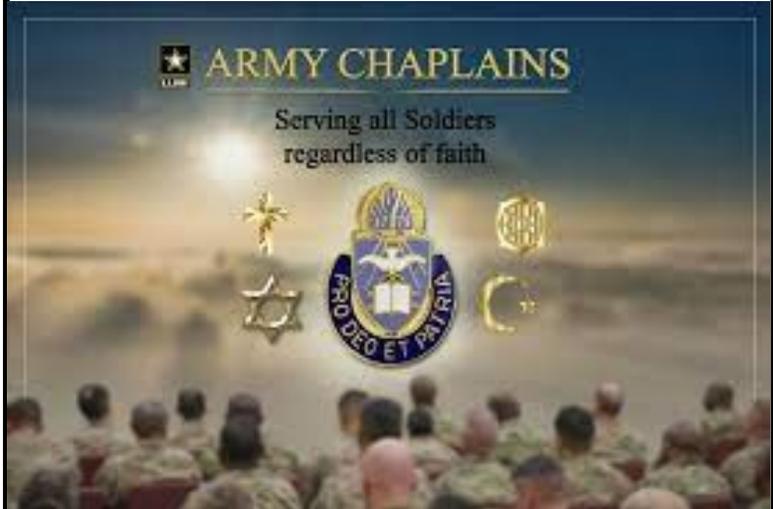


HONORING  
JULY 27

National Korean  
War Veterans Armistice Day

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

July 27th



ARMY CHAPLAINS

Serving all Soldiers  
regardless of faith

Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary

July 29th

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 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Joshua Boley  
 Outreach Coordinator  
 Veterans Upward Bound

1001 East Chestnut Expressway  
 Springfield, Missouri 65802  
[www.otc.edu/vub](http://www.otc.edu/vub)

Office 417-447-7840  
 Fax 417-447-6925  
[boleyj@otc.edu](mailto:boleyj@otc.edu)

Vietnam Vet Radio



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VIETNAM VET RADIO ([vietnamvetradio.org](http://vietnamvetradio.org))

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 Chelsea, OK 74016

Contact: Bennie P. Blount  
 SFC, US Army, Retired

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



VIETNAM VET RADIO FROM THE  
 SPRINGFIELD, MO STUDIO

WITH  
**JIM COOPER**  
 U.S. NAVY VETERAN

MONDAY-FRIDAY 1400 HRS

VIETNAMVETRADIO.ORG



Party Time!  
 Jim Cooper  
 6PM Friday Central Time USA



VietnamVetRadio.org



REMEMBER





# JULY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>  <b>BREAKFAST</b> <b>8 - 10AM</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>4 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <b>(POST 639 CLOSED)</b>	<b>5 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> <b>6 - 8 PM</b>	<b>6 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>7 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>SUB VETS MTG</b> <b>11AM</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>11 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>LEGION/ALA GENERAL MTG</b> <b>7PM</b> <b>KOREAN WAR VETS 1PM</b> <b>GIVE VETS HOPE</b> <b>VFW 3404 5PM</b>	<b>12 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>BIKE NIGHT &amp; QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> <b>6 - 10PM</b>	<b>13 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> <b>6:30PM</b>  <b>MCL 993</b> <b>6PM-8PM</b>	<b>14 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>  <b>ALR MEETING</b> <b>5PM</b>	<b>17 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>18 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>AUX E-BOARD MTG</b> <b>7PM</b>	<b>19 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> <b>6 - 8 PM</b>	<b>20 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>21 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>VFW 3404 FISH FRY</b> <b>5:30 - 7 PM</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>E-BOARD MTG</b> <b>6:30PM</b>	<b>25 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>SAL MTG 7PM</b> <b>GIVE VETS HOPE</b> <b>VFW 3404 5PM</b> <b>NEWSLETTER CONTENT DUE</b>	<b>26 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>BIKE NIGHT &amp; QUEEN OF HEARTS</b> <b>6 - 10PM</b>	<b>27 LUNCH 11-2</b>  <b>FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION 6PM</b>	<b>28 LUNCH 11-2</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

# Average Weather in July for

## Springfield .....

Daily high temperatures *increase* by 2°F, from 86°F to 89°F, rarely falling below 80°F or exceeding 97°F. The highest daily average high temperature is 89°F on July 27.

Daily low temperatures are around 68°F, rarely falling below 61°F or exceeding 75°F. The highest daily average low temperature is 69°F on July 22.

Over the course of July in Springfield, the length of the day is *decreasing*. From the start to the end of the month, the length of the day decreases by 36 minutes, implying an average daily decrease of 1 minute, 12 seconds, and weekly decrease of 8 minutes, 26 seconds.

The shortest day of the month is July 31, with 14 hours, 5 minutes of daylight and the longest day is July 1, with 14 hours, 41 minutes of daylight.

The earliest sunrise of the month in Springfield is 5:56 AM on July 1 and the latest sunrise is 20 minutes later at 6:17 AM on July 31.

The latest sunset is 8:37 PM on July 1 and the earliest sunset is 16 minutes earlier at 8:21 PM on July 31.

Daylight saving time is observed in Springfield during 2023, but it neither starts nor ends during July, so the entire month is in daylight saving time.

# 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 Jeff.** 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 **June Breakfast** at the Post.

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

**Your 6AM Support Team**

## Volunteer Opportunities at the Legion

As always, we have several volunteer opportunities for members and non-members. Currently -

- The Post Historian is looking for someone with advanced computer skills to assist in the production of the Post 639 Newsletter.
  - 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'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 !!!**



## History in July ....

**July 1, 1863** - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

**July 2, 1776** - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

**July 2, 1788** - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.

**July 3, 1775** - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**July 4, 1776** - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

**July 5, 1775** - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.

**July 6, 1747** - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

**July 16, 1945** - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

**July 16, 1969** - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

**July 19, 1863** - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.

**July 26, 1945** - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.

**July 27, 1953** - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.



## **Camping Services/Facilities at Post 639**

Post 639 Bar Staff	417-882-8639
Adam Jamieson (24/7)	417-343-8723
Mike Chandler (24/7)	417-860-8910

### Contacts for RV Site reservations:

7 Sites (2 Class A, 5 Travel Trailer), Water/Electric (30/50/20) hookups, **Max size 45 ft. Available on "First come, First serve" basis. PETS WELCOME !!!!!**

**General Public** - \$20/night, **Veterans** - \$10/night, Back-in sites only. **One night maximum.** Extended stays require prior approval. Total # of guests per party must be specified when making the reservation. **NOTE: Post 639 members and families/friends MUST notify the Post 72 hours in advance to ensure accommodation of their reservation request. Extended stays require approval.**

Stroll through our on-site Veterans Memorial Park, featuring a submarine conning tower and two Vietnam-era helicopters. Our 23-acre property is attached to the largest public park in Springfield. **Nearby attractions** - Bass Pro Shops flagship store, Wonders of Wildlife Museum/Aquarium. Springfield Cardinals baseball, Branson entertainment, Silver Dollar City (USA Today's #1 Theme Park in America). **Post 639 is ALSO a Harvest Host participant.**



### Post 639 Hours of Operation:

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Full lunch menu served daily Monday-Friday 11AM-2PM. Full Bar open during business hours. Pizzas and appetizers available during business hours. **Happy Hour** - .50 off, 12PM-2PM 7 days a week, 6PM-8PM Monday - Saturday.

Sunday	1PM - 7PM
Monday	11AM - 8PM
Tuesday	11AM - 8PM
Wednesday	11AM - 8PM
Thursday	11AM - 8PM
Friday	11AM - 8PM
Saturday	11AM - 8PM



# 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.



## Post 639 Schedule of Events

### July 2023

- Jul 01 Sat - Breakfast at Post 639, 8-10AM
- Jul 04 Tue - Independence Day
- Jul 05 Wed - Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6/8PM
- Jul 08 Sat - Sub Vets Meeting, 11AM
- Jul 11 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM  
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM  
- 639/Auxiliary General Meeting (vs. July 4th)
- Jul 12 Wed - Bike Night/Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-10PM
- Jul 13 Thu - Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30PM  
- Marine Corps League Mtg, VFW 3404  
6PM Food/Fellowship, 7PM Mtg
- Jul 16 Sun - ALR Meeting
- Jul 18 Tue - Auxiliary E-Board Meeting, 7PM
- Jul 19 Wed - Queen of Hearts, 6 -8PM
- Jul 21 Fri - VFW 3404 Fish Fry 5:30-7PM
- Jul 24 Mon - Post 639 E-Board Meeting
- Jul 25 Tue - Korean War Vets Meeting, 1PM  
- Give Vets Hope, VFW 3404, 5:30PM
- Jul 26 Wed - Bike Night/Queen of Hearts/50-50, 6-10PM
- Jul 27 Thu - Fleet Reserve Association 6PM  
- Korean War Veterans Armistice Day  
- Newsletter Content Due
- Jul 29 Sat - Army Chaplains Corps Anniversary

### For The Good of the Legion

“When troubles fall within your dish,  
And things don't tally with your wish;  
It's just as well to laugh as cry —  
To sing and joke, as moan and sigh; —  
For a pound of sorrow never yet  
Cancel'd a single ounce of debt.”



... from “Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier - The Narrative of Joseph Plumb Martin” (1760-1850)



# LZ639 LUNCH MENU

AVAILABLE MON-FRI  
11AM-2PM

**(ALL BURGERS AND SANDWICHES SERVED WITH ONE REGULAR SIDE)**

SOFT DRINKS...\$2

- COKE
- DIET COKE
- DR. PEPPER
- DIET DR. PEPPER
- SPRITE
- DIET SPRITE
- TEA

## REGULAR SIDES

- FRENCH FRIES
- TATER-TOTS
- POTATO CHIPS

## PREMIUME SIDES

(UPGRADE FOR JUST A \$1)

- ONION RINGS
- MUSHROOMS
- SEASONED CURLY FRIES

**(LOAD YOUR SIDE FOR JUST A \$1 MORE WITH NACHO CHEESE AND BACON BITS)**

**(ADD A SIDE SALAD OR SIDE OF SOUP OR CHILI FOR \$2 MORE)**

Seasonal soups or Commander's chili \$5

## Daily Lunch Specials

FOR ADDITIONAL CHARGE  
NOW AVAILABLE  
WRAPS  
BEER BATTERED FRENCH FRIES  
BYO PIZZA

## BURGERS & SANDWICHES

**HAMBURGER...\$7**

**CHEESEBURGER...\$8.50**

Choice of cheese: American, Swiss, Provolone or, Pepper Jack.

**Blue Burger...\$9**

A Burger Topped with melted Blue Cheese Crumbles.

**BBQ BURGER...\$9.50**

A burger topped with two onion rings, your choice of cheese and BBQ sauce.

**BRUNCH BURGER...\$9.50**

A burger served with a fried egg & bacon with your choice of cheese of cheese.

**LZ639...\$9**

A burger topped with grilled onions served on a toasted garlic aioli bun with your choice of cheese.

**PATTY MELT...\$9**

A burger with grilled onions & Swiss Cheese served on Texas Toast.

**PORK TENDERLOIN SANDWICH...\$9.50**

A 7oz. tenderloin

**GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH...\$9**

Grilled Chicken Breast with bacon, Swiss cheese served on a toasted garlic aioli bun.

**THE REUBEN...\$9.50**

Swiss Cheese melted over Corned Beef & sauerkraut topped with Thousand Island served on Rye Bread.

**BLT...\$7**

Four slices of bacon topped with lettuce & tomato served on Texas toast

**GRILLED CHEESE...\$6.50**

Grilled Texas Toast with your choice of cheese.

**HOT HAM & CHEESE...\$7**

Four slices of smoked ham with your choice of cheese served on Texas toast.

# LZ639

## Appetizer MENU

(AVAILABLE ALL DAY)

- Mozzarella sticks (5) .....\$5
- Fried pickles (ranch dressing) ..... \$5
- Toasted Meat Ravioli (5) ..... \$5
- Sampler Platter..... \$10  
(Fried pickles, mozzarella sticks (3)  
Toasted ravioli (4), breaded mushrooms)
- Pizza by the slice (2 pieces) .....\$4  
(Available only at certain times)
- Garlic Parmesan sticks (5) .....\$5
- Pretzel sticks and cheese (3) ..... \$5
- Chips and Salsa.....\$4
- Cheese Nachos .....\$4
- Onion Rings basket..... \$5
- Breaded Mushrooms..... \$5
- French fries.....\$4
- Seasoned Curly Fries..... \$4  
(add bacon bits and cheese for \$1 more)

# LZ639 PIZZA MENU

(ALL PIZZAS ARE A 10 INCH CRUST)

### THE CLASSICS

- Cheese.....\$7.50
- Pepperoni.....\$8
- Sausage.....\$8
- Bacon.....\$8
- Canadian Bacon.....\$8
- 3 Meat (bacon, sausage, pepperoni).....\$9

### SPECIALTY

- Veggie .....\$8.50  
Canadian Bacon, Bacon Bits, Pineapple, Onion.
- Meat.....\$9.50  
Canadian Bacon, Hamburger, Sausage, Bacon Bits, Pepperoni.
- Supreme.....\$10  
Canadian Bacon, Hamburger, Sausage, Bacon Bits, Mushrooms, Onions, Black Olives, Green Peppers, Pepperoni.

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 one of the bar staff

## Lessons Learned

### The British Attack at Taranto

November 11, 1940

Paul A. Doelger

University of Minnesota, Crookston

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

### Part 2 (cont'd from June 2023)

#### The Attack

Operation MB8, as it was called, was a series of ten operations that were to be executed between November 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. They were used in part to disguise the Royal Navy's true goal which was the attack on the Italian fleet at Taranto, code named JUDGEMENT. The reason for such an elaborate operation was to confuse the Italian High Command into thinking that there were no major fleet operations that posed any threat to the Italian Navy, just routine naval traffic.

Two waves of aircraft flew off the deck of the Illustrious shortly after dark seventy miles from Taranto. The first wave consisted of twelve aircraft and the second contained nine. Eleven of the aircraft carried torpedoes, the remaining planes carried either bombs or flares. Taranto's defenses had already been alerted when their listening devices picked up the sound of the incoming aircraft. Once detected, the harbor's anti-aircraft batteries opened up with a deadly hail of anti-aircraft fire. The first wave reached their target. The planes carrying the flares flew inland above and behind the line of defensive barrage balloons and dropped their bright-yellow parachute flares. Once successfully deployed, these flares silhouetted the ships in the outer harbor. Next up was the bomb carrying aircraft which began with an attack on the ports tank farm, seaplane base and smaller ships. The remaining aircraft carrying torpedoes began their attack runs on the Italian battleships. The torpedoes used were specially modified with a wire latch attached to the nose of torpedo and to the belly of the plane. As the torpedo fell, the tension on the wire kept the torpedo nose up so the torpedo belly flopped rather than nosedived into the water. (O'Connor, 2016, p. 6). By doing this, the RAA had addressed the issue of the harbor being too shallow for an airborne torpedo attack. The British torpedoes, armed with duplex pistols, were launched and traveled under the torpedo netting towards their intended targets. The netting was designed to protect the sides of a battleship from contact pistols but not duplex pistol armed torpedoes. The netting did not extend deep enough to prevent torpedoes from going beneath the ships (Caravaggio,

2006, p. 5). As the first wave was moving out, the second wave arrived twenty minutes after the initial attack. Their orders were to attack whichever battleship presented the best target at the time. Again, flare dropping aircraft silhouetted the ships in the harbor and the aircraft armed with bombs made runs on other targets of opportunity. The aircraft carrying torpedoes lined up on their targets and released their payload with deadly results.

### After Action Report

The Italians at Taranto unleashed everything they had on the slow, low flying Fairley Swordfish with little results. Of the original twenty-one aircraft launched during the attack, only two failed to return to Illustrious. The damage inflicted on the RMI was decisive. According to Caravaggio:

***“When the last Swordfish attack was complete, Italy’s serviceable battleships have been reduced from six to two – only Vittorio Veneto and Giulio Cesare had escaped damage – and all of this had been accomplished with cost of only two Swordfish shot down” (Caravaggio, 2006, p. 10).***

As is often the case, history describes battles in terms of ships and planes lost, not the men that had to do the fighting. For their part, the Italians defended their homeland bravely, firing thousands of anti-aircraft rounds. Despite their best efforts, they lost four battleships and over 600 men. The British Fleet Air Arm also had their unsung heroes. Imagine the difficulties of taking off and landing on a pitching, rolling aircraft carrier. Now imagine that same pilot had to perform this same task at night with an airplane fully loaded with fuel and bombs. Once airborne, his mission is to attack the heavily fortified Italian Fleet. If that wasn’t daunting enough, think of those same pilots trying to find a blacked-out aircraft carrier and attempting to land after being badly shot up. In the end, both sides did their duty and fought bravely and deserved a level of respect.

### Watch and Learn

News of the attack on Taranto was broadcast around the world in newspapers, radio broadcasts and military communications. The New York Times ran a six-column headline on page one. The Washington Post and Time Magazine also featured articles about the attack. In the House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill proclaimed that the loss to Italy of half its battleships “affects decisively the balance of naval power in the Mediterranean” (Correll, 2017, p. 1). Like all news stories, it was short lived. It wasn’t long before the headlines covered the exploits of German General Erwin Rommel and the continuing air battle over Great Britain. For some, the Battle of Taranto was just another battle in a larger war. For others it became the beginning of something much bigger.

The Japanese were keenly interest to in the Battle of

Taranto. They sent a group of Japanese naval officers to visit Taranto to gain a better understanding of what took place. Led by Rear Admiral Koki Abe, Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN), they brought with them a long list of questions and interviewed as many witnesses as they could (Correll, 2017). This information was shared with Commander Minoru Genda IJN, a military attaché in London. He would later work closely with Commander Mitsuo Fuchida IJN, and both would later report to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet.

The Americans were also interested in the details of the attack. Prior to the battle they sent a naval attaché aboard the aircraft carrier Illustrious to observe the attack. Lieutenant Commander Opie USN was given full access by the British to observe every aspect of the battle, including conversations with the pilots. After the battle he made his way to the American Legation in Cairo where he submitted a four-page report on the details of the attack on Taranto (O’Connor, 2016, p. 4). Opie carefully documented everything he witnessed and passed that information on to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI). Within a month of the attack Lieutenant Commander Opie’s reports were summarized and made their way to the desk of Admiral Husband E. Kimmel Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, based at Pearl Harbor.

### Conclusions

The attack at Taranto was a turning for the British in the battle for control of the Mediterranean. The Italians were still a formidable enemy and many of the ships sunk or disabled would return to active duty later in the war. In terms of the military thinking it marked the beginning of the end of the Battleship reign as the primary instrument of naval warfare. Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, who commanded the attack, said that the future of naval warfare:

***“Taranto and the night of November 11–12, 1940, should be remembered for ever as having shown once and for all that in the Fleet Air Arm the Navy has its most devastating weapon” (Flank, 2021).***

In addition to the change in naval thinking about the role of the battleship, the attack on Taranto also made it abundantly clear that fleets were no longer safe in their harbors. For some, this realization was apparent and for others it was still a subject for debate. On November 26, 1941, a Japanese task force of six aircraft carriers sailed under the cover of a storm across the Pacific. On the morning of December 7, 1941 Commander Genda IJN stood on the

Bridge of the aircraft carrier Akagi, and overlooked a flightdeck filled with fighters, bombers and torpedo bombers waiting to launch. In the lead aircraft was Commander Fuchida



IJN waiting for his orders to roll down the flightdeck. With a nod, Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo, the task force commander, gave the order to launch aircraft. Their target, the heavily fortified and shallow water base at Pearl Harbor, home of the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet, but that is another story.

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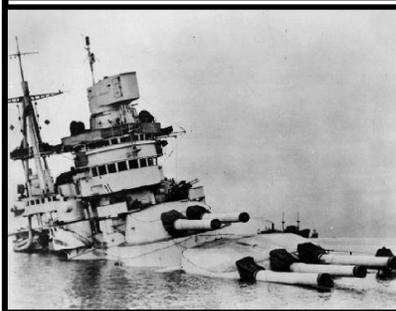
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## Legion Post 639 Officers, 2022 - 2023

<b>Commander</b>	<b>Mike Goforth</b>	<b>commanderlz639@gmail.com</b>
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## Post 639 Legion Riders Officers, 2022 - 2023

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## Post 639 Auxiliary Officers, 2022 - 2023

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<b>Member at Large</b>		



## Post 639 Sons of the American Legion Officers, 2022 - 2023

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