

February 2022
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Staff

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Almost Spring!

Spring time is around the corner and with spring we ramp up in our activities at the Post.

Memorial Day observance is in full swing, and it seems that a parade will be possible this year. Soon we also experience St Patrick's Day (March 17), European Father's Day (March 9), Daylight Savings Time (March 13) and so on. All activities that queue us to warmer temperatures and more engagement in the community. Do you have any ideas that can help the Post? Let us know at the next meeting. We'd like to hear from you.

VA News

The VA outlines new goals towards ending veteran homelessness

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough established new goals in the VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

Save the Dates

March 8th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

March 11th – deadline for April newsletter

April 12th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

VA asks for public input on veterans outdoor recreation experience

The Department seeks input from veterans outdoor recreation groups on how it can facilitate the health and wellness of veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors through improved access to public lands and other outdoor spaces.

VA proposes updates to rating schedule for respiratory, auditory and mental disorders

VA is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the respiratory, auditory and mental disorders body systems.

VFW News

VFW Illinois Call to Action

The VFW is asking for members to contact their State Representative to support our veterans and their families by supporting/cosponsoring the following House Bills: 35,163,390, 2378 and 2775 and Senate Bill 569 and asking to oppose House Bill 3590. The VFW is asking State Representatives to vote **YES** as soon as the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the House floor.

That's all for now. May warm days follow the soonest.

Stay Safe!
Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner
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Statement of funds as of 2/11/22

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Post General Fund | \$5,127.19 |
| Post Relief Fund | 3,885.57 |
| TOTAL: | \$9,012.76 |

Semper Fidelis!

A Thought to Share

By Chuck Bosko
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I may be thinking from my backside, however, I believe not. Have you noticed how often the American flag has been at half-mast for several years now? I certainly understand when the flags have been lowered during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Heck, most Americans understand.

Yet, there are days when I notice the lowered colors and do not know why. I am the sort of vet who will call a village to inquire "Why is the American flag at half-mast?"

The answers sometimes are understandable but not appropriate. Yet other answers range from "the park district executive died," "a local police officer died" (understood), somebody in America elsewhere died. I'm waiting for "the village sewer inspector died."

Seems to me that most often, a village desires to show respect and an intention to honor a person in some fashion. However, when the American flag is lowered, most folks do not notice or understand why it's lowered.

The lowered American flag has become so common, so routine that the original intent is quickly becoming forgotten.

Only the President of the United States or the Governor of a state or territory may order lowering of the flag upon the death of prominent government figures.

As American veterans, I sincerely believe we have a moral obligation to initiate a campaign of sorts to inform our local municipalities, schools, businesses and related entities of proper flag etiquette. Otherwise, what are doing about this?

I am including a section of Flag Etiquette from the American Legion as a reference elsewhere in this edition of our newsletter. Please keep it handy. And if desired, I'll gather the complete pamphlet from the Legion.

Allons and Airborne!
Chuck Bosko
Judge Advocate

Save the Date: Installation Dinner on Flag Day

Our annual Installation Dinner will take place on June 14 (hey Flag Day!). This year's dinner will be held at Brookfield Zoo.

Further details will be available in the April newsletter. For now, please save the date. Oh, for any member concerned, there will be no zoo animals on the menu.

If you have any questions or concerns, call Chuck Bosko at (708) 205-3541.

Shamrock Shake facts

For some, it's a March tradition right up there up with watching a St. Patrick's Day parade or taking bets how long the Chicago River will stay green.

The Shamrock Shake is back at McDonald's for a limited time. Here are some fun facts about this seasonal treat.

- Though its debut didn't come until 1970, the shake was actually first created in 1967 by Hal Rosen—an apparently St. Patrick's Day-loving McDonald's owner/operator in Connecticut.
- McDonald's has introduced a number of shake spinoffs over the years, including a Shamrock Sundae in 1980 and a Chocolate Shamrock Shake in 2017.
- In 2010, the chain made—at 24-foot-tall—the “World's Largest Shamrock Shake.”
- Despite decades of popularity, McDonald's says the shake

didn't get its first nationwide launch since 2012.

- In 2020, the brand launched a cookies-and-cream spin on the 50-year classic: the Oreo Shamrock McFlurry. McDonald's describes this Shamrock Shake-slash-McFlurry combo as “creamy, vanilla soft serve with our unmistakable Shamrock flavor and Oreo cookie pieces blended throughout for a delicious mint-chocolate dessert.”

However, the Shamrock Shake's most lasting legacy may be its ties to McDonald's iconic charity, the Ronald McDonald House. In 1974, Philadelphia Eagles tight end Fred Hill's daughter was being treated for leukemia. After noticing families had to travel for treatment but couldn't afford hotels, Hill and his wife knew there had to be a solution.

Through Jim Murray, the Eagles' general manager, the team offered its support to Dr. Audrey Evans, head of the pediatric oncology unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Evans had long dreamed of a “home away from home” for families of children being treated.

Murray also called Don Tuckerman, a friend from the local McDonald's advertising agency, and coordinated a week-long promotion around the Shamrock Shake with all profits to be donated to the cause.

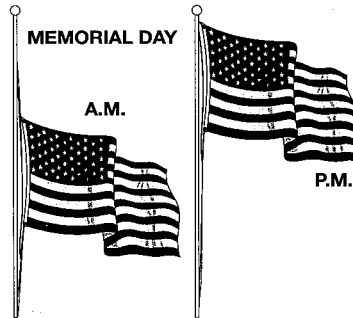
Enough funds were raised to help buy an old four-story, seven-bedroom house Evans had found near the hospital. It opened in 1974 as the first Ronald McDonald House.

Source: Food & Wine

the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker or to the right of the audience.

(l) The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

(m) The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States or the death of a member of the Armed Forces from any State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff and the same authority is provided to the Mayor of the District of Columbia with respect to present or former officials of the District of Columbia and members of the Armed Forces from the District of Columbia. When the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation under the preceding sentence that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half-staff consistent with that proclamation. The flag shall be flown at half-staff 30 days from the death of the President or a former President; 10 days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be



Q. Is it proper for a Legion Post to lower the United States flag to "half-staff" to honor a deceased member of the Post?

A. No. The lowering of the flag is only authorized on Memorial Day, from sunrise until noon, and by executive order of the President, or State Governor. If it is so desired, the organizational flag may be lowered for this purpose. (A.C.)

Q. What happens to the State flag when the flag of the United States is half-staffed?

A. The State flag or any other flag or pennant in a display is lowered or removed when the flag is at half-staff. As indicated in the Flag Code, no flag or pennant should be placed above the flag of the United States.

Q. Is the flag to be half-staffed for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7th), National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (July 27th), and Patriot's Day (September 11)?

A. In accordance with U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapter 1, the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation to display the flag at half-staff for the entire day.

Q. When should the flag be at half-staff?

A. (a) The flag is half-staffed on Memorial Day, from sunrise until noon; it is displayed at full-staff from noon until sunset.

(b) By order of the President of the United States, or by the Governor of any State, territory or possession. On occasion, heads of several departments and agencies of the U.S. Government may direct the flag to half-staff if deemed proper to do so.

Q. What is the significance of displaying the flag at half-staff?

A. This gesture is a sign to indicate the nation mourns the death of an individual(s). (Naval and Military Custom)

Q. Can the mayor order the flag to be half-staffed?

A. No, only the President of the United States or the Governor of your State may order the flag to be half-staffed.

Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.