

**October 2016**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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Thanks for all you do. I know we say it often, however, I don't think it can be overemphasized. Two thoughts prompted me to start the newsletter this way:

- It seems there are more people who forget (or don't care about) the quote "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and instead care only about themselves and what can be done for them.
- There are people who spend more time sensationalizing disrespect to our flag than concern over the heroes who defended and continue to defend our flag. When was the last time *any* quality news time discussed the two wars we are currently fighting or the state of veteran's issues?

But not with our Post. There isn't a conversation in the group which isn't somehow centered on aiding, comforting, providing, educating others. Selfless service continues. So thanks!

**Save the Dates**

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – deadline for November newsletter  
Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

On Oct. 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a small naval force for deterrence. After the now-usual congressional shortsightedness (disbanding in 1783, re-authorizing ships in 1794), Congress established the Department of the Navy in 1798. Oct.13, 1775 is still considered the official birthday. There is no greater power projection platform in the world, non sibi sed patriae!

**Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

(708) 829-0069

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Statement of funds as of 9/19/16:

Post General Fund	\$13,756.34
Post Relief Fund	4,813.26
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$18,569.60

## **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

(708) 246-4858

Of the original 51 charter members of our Post, which was formed on Oct. 1, 1989, 17 are still with us. Keep hanging in there vets!

Our sympathy to the family of Life Member Raymond Vavra, who passed away and will be interned at the Abraham Lincoln Veterans Cemetery. Ray served in World War II as a Marine. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa, where we lost over 12,000 killed or wounded.

Calling tree changes:

1. Add telephone for Esteban Lopez (630) 765-1848.
2. Delete Ray Vavra and replace with John Dirkes (708) 784-1029.

## **By the Numbers**

**400** – How many real snakes live under the rope-and-wood bridge at the 13<sup>th</sup> Gate Haunted House in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Filled with zombies, maniacs and creepy clowns, the 13<sup>th</sup> Gate also features a crematory oven and the Slaughterhouse.

**2:14** – The elapsed minutes and seconds before the very first blooper occurred on “Saturday Night Live.” It happened during the show’s Oct. 11, 1975 debut when announcer Don Pardo called the cast “the Not for Ready Prime Time Players” instead of “the Not Ready for Prime Time Players.” The original ensemble featured now legendary comedians Chevy Chase and John Belushi.

**1,312** – Height at which the three rooms in the Skylodge Adventure Suite, the world’s first hanging lodge, hover above the Sacred Valley in Cusco, Peru. Measuring 24 feet long and 8 feet wide, the rooms hang 21 anchors off the side of a small mountain.

**40** – Minute hike the rooms are accessible followed by a zip line from another mountain (or you can climb up many metal ladders).

**430,000** – Years ago that the earliest homicide is on record. Unearthed at the Sima de los Huesos site, in Spain, the unlucky young victim, whose gender is unknown, showed evidence of two blunt frontal blows to the left side of the skull. The rest of the body was not found. Experts ruled out other causes of death, including animal attack, ritual death, accident and postmortem injuries.

