

American Legion Post 179
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**American Legion
Post 179**
Charleston, South Carolina

REVEILLE
THE POST 179
NEWSLETTER

A Publication From:
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MARCH 2017

The American Legion

98th Birthday

2017

Carry the Legacy Forward. It's the theme chosen by National Commander Charles Schmidt during his year leading the nation's largest and most influential veterans organization.

And as we observe the 9th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, we would be remiss not to reflect on the momentous struggle that redefined the world and ultimately gave birth to the organization that we honor today.

World War I was the war to end all wars. At least that's what many hoped its legacy would be. With technological advances such as machine guns, poison gases and explosives of greater intensity ... with nearly 10 million killed worldwide...with almost 30 million wounded and injured, surely nations would be too sensible and too decent to repeat such a horrific tragedy.

Captain Roy Hudson was a dentist from Killeen, Texas. During the war, he commanded a medical detachment in France. In a 1918 letter to his wife Kate he wrote, "the American public will never know, for words cannot express the awfulness this present war means and what our boys as well as the Allies have gone through and put up with...I will have to tell you later."

Fortunately, Captain Hudson was able to tell his wife what he experienced, for he did return home, where he became an early member of American Legion Post 76 in Austin, Texas.

As a Legionnaire, Dr. Hudson recited the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution which included the pledge to "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great War." The promise was later pluralized to include World War II and subsequent wars, the only change ever made to that eloquent mission statement.

Like Roy Hudson, Legionnaires everywhere were able to share their memories with Americans in their communities. Post 76 attracted a crowd of 25,000 at a 1937 Fourth of July picnic, according to the Austin American Statesman. By comparison, in an age of modern transportation and greater population, the average attendance at an NBA basketball game last season was just more than 17,000.

Those early Legionnaires, the veterans whose legacy we are entrusted to continue, had a missionary zeal to ensure that no veteran, no widow and no orphan would do without the care and comfort of a grateful nation because of the sacrifice that they had made.

One of the most prominent Legionnaires of that era was Harry Colmery, the primary author of the GI Bill. He had started a law practice in Utah when he enlisted in the Army Air Service in 1917. Immediately commissioned as a lieutenant, he became a combat pursuit pilot and logged more than 500 hours in the air. He didn't deploy because he was instead assigned to training other World War I aviators.

This experience using early "combat flying machines" led to a lifelong advocacy of proper equipment and safety for U.S. military personnel. It also unleashed the leadership potential of the young veteran who would later be elected National Commander of The American Legion.

Numbers, dedication and tenacity are the reasons that Commander Colmery and The American Legion wielded enough influence to pass monumental legislation such as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

The American Legion was born in Paris, France, in March 1919, after a caucus in St. Louis was held. The organization was chartered in September and held its first convention in Minneapolis in November 1919.

Virtually unknown due to its infancy, The American Legion had more than 843,000 dues-paying members by the end of its first year. This was an especially remarkable feat in a world without the Internet, televisions, telephones and other media that we take for granted today. There was no interstate highway system and car ownership was still not widespread.

Yet The American Legion grew to become the largest and most powerful veterans organization because its message resonated. While many veterans groups and other associations prohibited women from joining, The American Legion was open to all eligible wartime veterans regardless of gender, race or religion. Women were able to vote for the National Commander of The American Legion before they could legally vote for the president of the United States.

Founded on the Four Pillars of care for veterans, strong national defense, Americanism, and the wholesome development of youth, The American Legion offered its members the opportunity to continue to serve America long after they hung up their military uniforms for good.

It is service that continues in communities throughout the country today. Last year, American Legionnaires volunteered more than 645,000 hours to the VA Voluntary Service Program. Posts of The American Legion sponsored more than 2,400 Scouting units benefiting approximately 61,000 young people. More than 75,000 pints of blood were donated by Legionnaires, according to the latest consolidated post reports. Post service officers also processed 149,216 benefit claims for veterans, free of charge and regardless of American Legion membership status.

Ninety-eight years is a remarkable stretch of service for an organization whose founders hoped that it would one day have to close due to the end of all war. That idealism was replaced by realism and while veterans love peace, they love their country more.

But even something as destructive as a world war was able to produce a light. That light shined upon four pillars and a large group of veterans who continued to serve their communities. Those veterans were called Legionnaires and For God and Country we associate ourselves 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 the Great 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 consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Not a bad legacy. It's up to us to carry it forward.

Thank you, God Bless America and Bless The American Legion.

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our Sons of the American Legion, their **Oyster Roast** went without a hitch, they packed both parking lots. A big thank you to their **Commander Paul (Squeak) Jaeger, Jim Bo, Clint, and Greg** who served up a delicious chili and of course “**the collector**” **Norm**. What a job!!!

Congratulations also to our Auxiliary, their **Frogmore Stew** cooked by **Patti Gregory** and **Karen Miller** was just delicious and once again loaded up the Post. Thanks to **Jan Pittman** for being their “collector”.

I would also like to thank **Sam Dykstra** and his son, **Jim Mathis** and his daughter, **Jim Pearce** and **Ralph Mallard** for helping out during the Post's exterior cleaning. Hopefully we will have a greater showing next time around.

Everyone had a blast at the **Cards against Humanity** game, hopefully we will be able to make the crowd a bit bigger next time.

Overall an exciting month, it is a pleasure to see more and members and their families either helping or supporting our Post.

Effective November 11, 2017 (Veterans Day) all veterans will be able to make purchases at the Army/Air Force Exchange through their web site only. This will not apply to the Commissary.

Construction planning for our new Post is moving right along.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following members of the Legion Family during the February 22, 2017 General Membership Meeting for their continued support of Post activities: **Kate Evans, Mark Gilbert** and **Chastity Hymes**.

Should any member need to contact me please feel free to do so at 843-991-6308 or via email at alpost179@gmail.com, remember however that matters pertaining to the Post are best brought up at your General Membership Meeting.

For God and Country,

John Coy

Commander



FROM THE ADJUTANT

The Post Membership stands at 317 active members. Thank you for your response on renewals. We received a couple of renewals and now are at a 91 percent renewal rate for 2017 which exceeds last year's renewal rate. If you haven't renewed yet please do so. We need 40 renewals to reach 100%. The efforts of all are appreciated.

For God and Country,

Dave Lloyd

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen had a great month. Auxiliary breakfast was a success, as usual. Wing Night continues to be great thanks to all our volunteers who make it that way. We do need more volunteers, so if you can, contact Liz. Auxiliary's Frogmore Stew, broke a record for our canteen and then the SAL Oyster Roast broke that one. Both raised a great amount for their causes. Thank you to all our awesome members and supporters for showing up and making this happen.

In March we are having a birthday party for our Commander, John Coy. It will be on the 4th @ 6:00 PM. Legionnaires are cooking breakfast on the 5th. St. Patrick's Day, we will have Corn Beef and Cabbage, free to our members, until gone. Our Legion Riders are having a free Sloppy Joe night on the 25th @ 5:00 PM. We will be playing Cards against Humanity that night as well. We had a blast playing last month, it's a fun game. Come and join us, you will love it.

Canteen Manager: *Liz Johnson*

Bartenders: *Liz, Kate, Cynthia & Courtney*

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

1st of all we would like to send our condolences to the family of **Elaine Mellis**. You will be missed.

Welcome to our new members **Heather Bealer** and **Jan Pittman**.

What can I say about our **Frogmore Stew** function, we had a great turnout and thanks to all of you that came out to support us. **Patti Gregory** and **Karen Miller** did a great job cooking, **Carla Matthews** did great at taking in the food money and **Bonnie Dykstra** did great for her first time at 50/50.

Congratulations to **Shannon Ross** for winning the **California Dreaming** gift card. A special shout out to **Luke Johnson** and **California Dreaming** for the donation.

Also a special shout to **Carla Matthews** and **Harris Teeter** for the donation of the shrimp.

Craig Crowe was the 50/50 winner.

The **District meeting** will be held at American Legion Post 147 on Saturday, March 18th, 2017 @ 10:00 AM. The address is 968 Folly Road, Charleston, SC 29412. If you like to join me at this meeting, please let me know, the more the merrier. Registration is from 9:30 to 9:45. Lunch will be offered for \$7.00.

Membership is at 110%. Let's applaud ourselves ...

Jill Comar

President



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

First off, we would like to congratulate, **Curtis Samson**, on being named “2016 Legionnaire of the Year” for our Post 179. Congratulations, Sir!

Please take a moment and remember **Lt. Col. Eileen Hadbavny**. She embodied just about everything that the Legion could and should be about. What a woman!

Now, I would like to apologize to all for the weather we incurred at our Annual SAL Oyster Roast held last Saturday. We specifically ordered cold and cloudy, but Nooooo...we got saddled with upper seventies and blue skies. I mean there were people in shorts, spring dresses and the like for crying out loud!

Everyone should know that we host this event to make money for us at the SAL, to be donated to our various charities throughout the year and that is all well and good, however, what we have come to find out over the, last I don't know, how many years, is that this is an event that brings crowds of us at the American Legion together and the community around us for a really special afternoon. Thank you all!

Speaking of thanks, this would not happen if certain individuals had not stepped up, like: **Eddie Richards & Clyde** for going up to **Carolina Seafood**, who by the way, supplied us the best Bulls Bay Oysters they could find; **Paul & Clint** and **Jimbo & Ms. Teresa**, cleaning, cooking and delivering all those Oysters to the masses. That was certainly a massive undertaking and one we don't take lightly. And thank you. Greg Ingalls, for cooking the delicious Chili for those who don't eat Oysters. Thank you once again, y'all! Oh yes, also **VFW Post 445** for the tables and barrels!

The bartenders, **Liz & Courtney** did a bang up job, during the day, and **Kate** came in to finish the evening. They are always great, so what more could you say.

Mushroom Norrrm, that's me incidentally, did a fine job, if I do say so myself, at the door, so to speak. And I can tell, you all, this was by far, our best year. Once again, Thank You All!!

Tony Fiem won the best 50/50 that I have seen in, like, forever.

And finally, whew you say, the tickets are out for May's \$50 a day drawing with a \$500.00 last day prize. Only 300 tickets will be sold! Ask an **SAL member, Jill Comar**, or **one of the bartenders**.

The SAL meets the first Thursday of the month at 1800 hours. Please come and help us make this another banner year.

Norman W. Meyer, Jr.



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

I just checked my oil and tire pressure, did you?

We, the American Legion Riders, Squadron 179, wanted to tell all of y'all at our Post 179 how much we appreciate your support for our group. However the music and the general atmosphere was too much for us soft spoken types, we decided to feed y'all instead! **THAT'S RIGHT...**Free Sloppy Joe dinner with potato salad and pork & beans and little brownie squares on the 25th of March at 1700 till we are out.

That should say appreciation with a heaping dose of Thank You!

The ALR was able to give mightily to three very good organizations this year: giving to the **Legacy Scholarship**; **The Fisher House**; and the new **One80 Place**, \$500.00 each.

Each month we seem to get another rider on our books. Welcome **Diane Fiem** when you see her.

Due to un-foreseen circumstances, we had to change our meeting in March to the 21st, a Tuesday at 1830. We will be discussing our up and coming elections. It would behoove as many members to show for this, as we might nominate you if you don't show up.

LOL, I crack myself up sometimes!

Norman W Meyers, Jr.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 179

**WILL BE HOLDING A
BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR
COMMANDER JOHN COY**

SATURDAY

MARCH 4TH @ 6:00 PM

**EVERYONE IS ASKED TO
WEAR RED, WHITE & BLUE**

**WE WILL HAVE
CAKE – FOOD – DRINKS**






MARCH 17TH
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
FREE CORN BEEF & CABBAGE
(TILL ALL GONE)



MARCH 25TH
FREE SLOPPY JOE DINNER AND
CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WING WEDNESDAY EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING 5 PM TO 8 PM WINGS & THINGS			6:30 PM AUXILIARY MEETING <small>ASH WEDNESDAY</small> 1	6:00 PM SAL MEETING 2	3	6:00 PM JOHN COY BIRTHDAY PARTY 4
9-11 AM SAL COOKING BREAKFAST 5	6:00 PM HONOR GUARD DRILL 6	7	6:00 PM CANTEEN COMMITTEE 7:00 PM E-BOARD MEETING 8	9	10	11
 Spring forward Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.			AMERICAN LEGION 98 YEARS OLD 15		 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18
12	13	14		16	17	
19	6:00 PM HONOR GUARD DRILL  20	6:30 PM ALR MEETING 21	7:00 PM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 22	23	24	5:00 PM FREE ALR DINNER & CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY 25
26	27	28	APRIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE TODAY 29	30	31	

MARCH

2017

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26	27	28					23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

FEBRUARY 2017

APRIL 2017

NOTES:

POST/CANTEEN HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY: 4 PM — 10 PM

FRIDAY: 12 NOON — 12 MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY: 12 NOON — 12 MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY: 12 NOON — 10 PM

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: 12 NOON — 10 PM