

February 2018
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

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I hope you are impressed as I am with the reading of the winning submissions for the Voice of Democracy contest. A few days after our Post meeting, Seedy, Bruce and I attended the District awards night, where Marguerite (Margo) Striegel won second place at the District level. Anne, Margo and Jordan provided a needed dose of inspiration with their efforts. I'm looking forward to hearing our Patriot's Pen submission next month. Congratulations go out to all who entered as well as many thanks to the Education Committee!

Significant events on the horizon include, but are not limited to:

- Post Elections
- Buddy Poppy Days
- Post Parade

That's in addition to the hospital visits and RCF residents' trips. There is always much to do. So if you are still reading this column, I'm asking again for your help in any way possible. Many hands/light work. Even attending our meetings would be welcome, as we average 20 members a month (or so). We need everyone's thoughts and help to keep our Post moving forward.

Save the Dates

Feb. 8th – Hospital Visit
Feb. 13th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Feb. 16th – deadline for March newsletter
March 13th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Can't make a meeting but have a great idea? Contact me or one of the officers.

Have a great pre-Spring!

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 1/9/18:

Post General Fund	\$17,648.72
Post Relief Fund	667.14
TOTAL:	\$18,135.86

We've gifted \$1,800 towards the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners last month. We've also purchased poppies for \$650.

Semper Fi!

SVC/Service Officer Stuff

By Chuck Bosko

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So, seems there is a rather big OPPTS for the article in January's edition of the newsletter. Everyone knows by now- it seems that the info regarding Lee Marvin, Capt. Kangaroo and Mr. Rodgers are all what is known as "urban legend." Okay, folks, a fellow veteran (who is a USMC vet) visiting my office brought the article to my attention in mid-December so I thought, how interesting especially for me, an Army guy. So, I simply did a cut and paste. Mind you, I did indicate in the first paragraph of the article that in the process, I inadvertently omitted the author and source so the story could not be verified. Well, as Steve Martin was fond of saying on Saturday Night Live years ago, "WELL, EXCUUUSSEEE MMEEEEEE!" Geez already.

How about a short story from the annals of a day in Vietnam? Glad you asked. Here goes- an example of true leadership from both the Commander and the 1SG of F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. March 5, 1970, around 1100 hours, 1SG Willie Johnson was getting a haircut from a Kit Carson scout (a former NVA who defected to the south). During the hair styling moment, the third platoon medic took a quick photo- just for the heck of it. The rest of the day was rather quiet for the most part. F Troop was assigned the area close to Tay Ninh near the Cambodian border in III Corps.

Later that evening, about 2230 hours, the medic for third platoon was resting on the back of an APC, getting ready for his turn for "guard duty" behind the M 50. Suddenly, a blast threw the medic off

his APC and more incoming began to saturate F Troop. The medic quickly climbed back on his APC and got behind the right side mounted M60. When a telltale flash of another RPG was noticed, the medic quickly began firing toward that spot and noticing three NVA running – began to fire in their direction. Suddenly, the cry for medic rang loud. Someone grabbed the medic and told him the old man was hit and was in the CP. Arriving to render medical care, the medic noticed that the Captains' legs were shredded from shrapnel, hip to boots. As the medic cut the pants and bandaged the wounds, the Captain continued to utter, "Where's Top, where's top, fire ball, where's top? Go find him, go find him."

Once the old man was cared for, the medic ran back to the area where the captain and 1SG were when hit. The medic did find the 1SG- with the left half of his head and shoulder ripped apart. All the medic could do at the moment was to throw a tarp or poncho over him and tend to other wounded troopers. The enemy continued to attack throughout the night. Turns out that Troops F & C and H Company were targeted by the NVA.

What does the above story have to do with leadership? Simply this- Captain William Bailey (West Point) and First Sergeant Willie Johnson (20 years, third tour) were performing their jobs during a lull in the fighting; they were going from APC to APC checking for any wounded or if the troopers needed ammo. The fire ball the old man referred to- a RPG hit the corner of an APC while both were on their rounds. The 1SG got the blast, the captain a lot of shrapnel. These two soldiers were taking care of their troopers and both paid a price. Two leaders –leading. A total of five soldiers

were killed that night. Nine Purple Hearts were issued.

Facts check for this story- yes, the battles really did occur for that medic was me. I put the 1SG in a body bag along with the others. And yes, I received one of those Purple Hearts as well. I have a copy of my orders, just in case facts want to be verified. Further, from Dec. 2, 1969 – Aug. 2, 1970, 15 troopers of F Troop and three other American soldiers paid the price. Each of those fellow Americans had my name on their body tags. I still have their names on a list just so I have it for each visit to the traveling wall. By the way, about three weeks after the attack, I received a packet of photos back. Yea- you guessed it- 1SG Willie Johnson's photo was included.

Continuing the campaign medals

This month features the four medals for participants of WW II: The Europe, Africa and Middle Eastern Campaigns, the Asiatic and Pacific Campaigns, American Campaign and the American Defense Service Medal. Rather interesting. The image is located elsewhere in the newsletter.

This may very well be my last article submission. I trust we had fun through the years. As Jerry Garcia muttered, "What a long strange trip it's been!"

Allons & Airborne!
Chuck Bosko

Is It Too Late to Get a Flu Shot?

The 2017-18 flu season is dangerously bad. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 20 children have died of complications from the flu this year, and that the illness has spread rapidly across the continental U.S.

You might be wondering if it's too late yourself, your spouse, your children or grandchildren to get the flu shot. The answer is, no, it's never too late in the season.

"It's not uncommon with parents that time just passes, and even if you religiously get the shot early every year, you might forget this year," Flor M. Munoz, MD, associate professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Baylor College of Medicine, and co-author of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations on flu prevention, tells Real Simple. "Though the best time to get the vaccine is before the flu season starts, you should definitely still get it for your kids now."

People should get a flu shot even if they feel healthy to help protect others who might be at a higher risk, such as pregnant women and people with a chronic disease, suggests Jennifer Caudle, DO, an osteopathic family physician, in a segment on Megyn Kelly Today.

Talk to your physician about getting a flu shot if you haven't already received one.

Sources: Real Simple, Megyn Kelly Today

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGN MEDAL

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941 - Nov. 8, 1945



ANY MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES WHO RECEIVED the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal or the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal is eligible for VFW membership.

But the American Defense Service Medal and the American Campaign Medal can cause confusion. One reason may be their names, which can conjure up images of being stationed stateside. However, in order to be VFW-eligible, a veteran who received either of these two medals must have served outside the continental United States, which included Alaska and Hawaii at that time.

To verify overseas duty for the American Defense Service Medal, recruiters must look for certain clasps attached to it.

The Army awarded a "Foreign Service" clasp. The Navy and Marine Corps awarded "Fleet" and "Base" clasps. Coast Guardsmen received a "Sea" Clasp.

Members of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard who served on the 179 vessels or with three naval air groups that operated in actual or potential belligerent contact with Axis forces in the Atlantic during the specified time frame also are eligible to wear a bronze "A" on the ribbon.

For veterans to be VFW-eligible based on receipt of the American Campaign Medal, they must have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days outside the continental limits of the United States, but within the American Theater of Operations. Naval personnel received one star for each operation—such as escort, anti-submarine or armed guard duty—they participated in. Recruiters can verify this information on discharge papers.

American Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941-March 2, 1946



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
Dec. 7, 1941 - March 2, 1946



American Defense Service Medal
Sept. 8, 1939 - Dec. 7, 1941



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