

**February 2023
Post Newsletter**
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Bruce Harken
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February is here! Short month, usually snow and cloudy days! As per notice sent last month, please contact Commander Bruce Harken at brhed@aol.com or Adjutant Derya Keskim at 708-420-0173 with either your email address or if you want the printed mailed version.

We continue to work with other veteran and civic organizations to help fund the our pizza program. It is now funded through March 2024! Thanks to all who have contributed.

We have our Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day program. I will let Chuck Bosko put the information out.

I am looking forward to connecting with the Western Springs Park District and its 100 anniversary, the VFW Volunteer Day and Poppy sales in May. Lets get more boots on the ground in May to sell poppies!

Semper Fi!
Bruce Harken
Commander

Save the Dates

Feb. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**
Feb. 17th – deadline for March newsletter
March 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner
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Statement of funds as of 1/10/23

Post General Fund	\$1,628.86
Post Relief Fund	6,057.34
TOTAL:	\$7,686.20

Semper Fidelis!

Memorial Day Parade

By Chuck Bosko
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*“Those who expect to reap the blessings
of freedom must, like men,
Undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”*

--Thomas Paine

This year, the Memorial Day parade and observance will be on Monday, May 29, 2023. Our Grand Marshall is Allen J. Lynch, a gentleman I became acquainted with in 2014. Al volunteered at the Veterans of Viet Nam of America while I worked at the American Legion located at the VA Regional Office in Chicago. We were both Veteran Service Officers.

The Citation for Al Lynch's CMH will be included in the Memorial Day program. However, a brief is included:

During an engagement with enemy forces on Dec. 15, 1967, Al's unit, Company D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav Reg, 1st Cav Div, Specialist four Lynch saved three wounded fellow soldiers and single handedly defended the position until friendly forces arrived.

The entire citation will be forthcoming.

More Parade stuff

Vince Huml is our guy on the ground responsible for organizing and moving the parade participants. We are requesting two or three fellow members to assist Vince with this awesome task. Consider this – as you read this newsletter around the beginning of February, the parade will be in 20 weeks! DO not hesitate, do not defer-should you, the reader, like to lend a little time at the beginning of the parade, stand up, hook up, shuffle to the door, jump out and count to four! Or- do not wait, act now!

Allons and Airborne!
Chuck
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Valentine's Day Fun Facts

St. Valentine wasn't just one person.

There's one Valentine who was a priest in third century Rome who defied a ban on marriage, illegally marrying couples until he was caught and sentenced to death. Another legend suggests another Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome.

Cupid has its roots in Greek

mythology. The charming cherub that appears on Valentine's Day cards can be traced back to 700 BC and the Greek god Eros. This handsome, immortal man had the power to make people fall in love. It wasn't until 4th century BCE the Romans adopted Eros into an image of a cute little boy with a bow and arrow.

Mass-produced valentines didn't go out until the 1840s.

People started exchanging cards and handwritten letters to both lovers and friends during the 17th century, but it was in the 1840s the first Valentine's Day cards were mass-produced in the U.S. Esther A. Howland is credited with commercializing Valentine's Day cards.

Americans send out 145 million Valentine's Day cards each year.

And that's not even counting all the cards kids exchange at school! This makes Valentine's Day the second biggest holiday for exchanging cards after Christmas. Needless to say, we've come a long way since Hallmark produced the first Valentine's Day card in 1913.

Source: Good Housekeeping

