

October 2017 Post Newsletter

WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

Joebarker104@gmail.com

I think everyone who could attend LT's Salute to Service game would agree it was a very nice event. Perfect weather, welcoming atmosphere, topped with a victory. Thanks to those who coordinated the effort, it was the best one yet. It also marks the first time in my short memory where the VFW and the Legion worked together to this extent.

Two bigger events on the horizon: The U.S. Navy birthday is on Oct. 13, and the U.S. Marine Corps Birthmonth all of November. Celebrate accordingly.

Senior Vice Commander

By Chuck Bosko

(708) 205-3541 (cell)

chuckbosko@att.net

In our continuing series of campaign ribbons and medals, October's feature is the Navy and Marine Expeditionary Medals (the sheet is somewhere in this newsletter- go find it). Anyway, I know you Navy & Marine types will read that page, but I'll mention a few tidbits anyway. The medals were created in 1919 (MCEM) and 1936 (NEM) and retroactive to 1874. Some 65 operations

Save the Dates

Oct. 10th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Oct. 12th – Hospital Visit
Oct. 13th – deadline for November newsletter
Nov. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

in 29 countries later, the listings cease at the current campaigns.

A campaign of significance for me, well actually for a veteran I assisted a couple of years ago, is for Thailand, May 16-Aug. 10, 1962. The veteran claimed he was in Viet Nam during that period and, of course, the VA denied his claim due to his service in Nam could not be verified. Even with a corrected DD 215 indicating the awarding of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (last month's feature). After some calls and assistance from LTC O'Connell (Noble street JROTC) and calling the folks at the NPRC, it turns out, this Marine vet was assigned to a service company that was sent to Thailand and then to an area in the Mekong Delta to support a Marine helicopter unit, which was transporting ARVN soldiers. Once all this was verified and resubmitted to the VA, the

vet was finally granted service-connected disabilities, which he desperately needed.

A couple more thoughts for consideration. Should any reader notice a campaign you were involved in, share your story! Send it to me and I'll incorporate that in this column. And, keep in mind, these ribbons qualify a vet for membership in the VFW.

Allons and Airborne
Chuck Bosko

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

(708) 829-0069

Gonakadet@att.net

	<u>Statement of funds as of 9/12/17:</u>
Post General Fund	\$18,230.43
Post Relief Fund	5,841.77
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$24,072.20

By the Numbers

One in Five Amount of Americans who will develop a mental illness. Connect to support at Mental Health America, mentalhealthamerica.net and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, nami.org.

This is also the amount of Americans who will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. On women, the most common spots are legs and arms. For men, it's head, neck, back and torso. Check out skincancer.org to recognize the warning signs.

12% How much fewer calories people ate during the three hours after a meal made with plant protein, such as beans and peas. The fiber in vegetable protein helps you stay fuller longer.

45 Percent of dog owners who take their pups with on vacation. Check out bringfido.com or gopetfriendly.com to locate pet-friendly hotels, restaurants and events.

55 Percent of Americans who don't know when credit cards start charging interest on a purchase. It begins the day after payment is due.

Source: Better Homes & Gardens

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NAVY & MARINE EXPEDITIONARY MEDALS

Navy Expeditionary Medal



Campaign (post-WWII)

Inclusive Dates

Operation Determined Response (USS Cole).....	Oct. 12, 2000 - Dec. 15, 2002
Eritrea (<i>Operation Safe Departure</i>).....	June 6 - 23, 1998
Rwanda (<i>Operation Distant Runner</i>)	April 7 - 18, 1994
Liberia (<i>Operation Sharp Edge</i>)	Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
Panama* (pre- and post-invasion)	April 1, 1988 - Dec. 19, 1989
	Feb. 1 - June 13, 1990
Persian Gulf (USS Stark, etc.)	Feb. 1 - July 23, 1987
Libya (<i>Operation Prairie Fire</i> , etc.)	Jan. 20 - June 27, 1986
Lebanon	Aug. 20, 1982 - May 31, 1983
Indian Ocean Contingency Operation/ Iran Hostage Crisis	Nov. 21, 1979 - Oct. 21, 1981
Gulf of Aden/Yemen	Dec. 8, 1978 - June 6, 1979
Thailand.....	May 16 - Aug. 10, 1962
Cuba ("Bay of Pigs" and before and after)	Jan. 3, 1961 - Oct. 23, 1962

*Only Marines received a medal.

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal



MEMBERS OF THE SEAFARING SERVICES OFTEN intervene in distant corners of the world. Those who perform this dangerous duty seldom gain notoriety. The Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals (N/MCEMs) are the nation's method of recognizing their sacrifices.

Created separately—MCEM (1919) and NEM (1936)—the medals were both made retroactive to 1874. Since then, 65 operations in 29 different countries have been recognized. In most cases, both medals were awarded in each operation.

Since World War II, participants of 13 operations are authorized to wear the medals. One battle of WWII is covered, too: Wake Island.

From Dec. 7-22, 1941, the 1st Marine Defense Battalion, Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-211, 69

Navy and six Army Signal Corps personnel, as well as some civilian construction workers, took on the Japanese Fourth Fleet and Special Naval Landing Force on that Pacific island.

Though seriously outnumbered, the Americans managed to repulse—for the first and only time during WWII—a major amphibious landing. The valiant effort earned the sailors and Marines a special device to be worn on their medals—a silver "W" on the ribbon bar and a clasp inscribed "Wake Island" on the suspension ribbon.

More recently, during the 1990s, medal recipients have landed in West, Central and East Africa to protect U.S. citizens and threatened embassies. They have also countered terrorism.



Membership Department • 406 West 34th Street • Kansas City, MO 64111 • 816/756-3390 • fax 816/968-2728 • www.vfw.org

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