

June 2015
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Mike Winner

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Fellow Veterans,

Thanks once again for selecting me to command our Post. It is an honor and a privilege. Thank you!

As you read this newsletter, we will have had another successful Poppy Drive and a memorable Memorial Day service. Now, we get to look forward to breaking bread with one another at our Installation Dinner; several generations of former and current soldiers with their families under one roof sharing a hot meal, a luxury that was far from the dark places we have all been. So, let's enjoy the food, enjoy the atmosphere, but let's especially enjoy the camaraderie. The only reason we are able to enjoy life living in a free country, is because of your sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifices of our fallen and missing companions.

Semper Fidelis,
Mike Winner

Save the Dates

June 3rd – 6:30 p.m. **Post Installation Dinner** at Czech Plaza restaurant
June 11th – Hospital Visit
June 12th – Deadline for July newsletter
July 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Member Seedy Ulrich Honored for over 2,000 Volunteer Hours

By Walt Bergenthal

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Statement of funds as of 5/12/15:

Post General Fund	\$14,132.78
Post Relief Fund	820.83
Post Dues Reserve	123.25
TOTAL:	\$15,076.86

On April 16, Wendall A. (Seedy) Ulrich was honored at the annual Hines Hospital Volunteers Recognition Ceremony Luncheon held at Brookfield Zoo for his 2,227 hours and 19 years of service. Another case of a veteran helping veterans.

Our sympathy to the family of Mike Marshall, who passed away in late April. Mike served in both the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy during

World War II as a Lt. jg in the Navy. He was aboard ship in the Pacific Theatre from October 1944 to December 1945.

Don't forget to send in your reservation and check for our annual Installation Dinner, being held Wednesday, June 3, at Czech Plaza restaurant.

New Siberia Japanese Detainee Documents Found

By Carol Anne O'Donnell
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The following information was taken from the Jan. 10, 2015, National Alliance of Families publication Bits N Pieces:

“Previously undisclosed documents on Japanese soldiers and civilians detained in Siberia and elsewhere just after World War II are being stored at a Russian public records office in Moscow, it has been learned. It is believed that the revelation about the records preserved at the State Archives of the Russian Federation will help in the gathering of information on those detainees whose fates are still unknown. In April, the Japanese Government is to launch an investigation of the documents prepared by the former Soviet Union's repatriation office and stored in 700 files.

Immediately after the war's end in 1945, former Soviet troops sent Japanese soldiers and civilians from northeastern China, Sakhalin and other locations to detention centers in the Soviet Union, Mongolia and elsewhere, aiming to have them engage in heavy labor. Those detainees total an estimated 575,000, about 55,000 of whom died, according to the government.

According to a preliminary survey by the Japanese Government, the documents in question include information about the Japanese who died while detained and those whose fates have remained unknown. The documents also include journals and notes written about their daily lives at the detention centers. The State Archives Office declassified the records in 2012.

Takeshi Tomita, a professor emeritus at Seikei University, looked at some of the documents to quote portions in his book and other writings. After learning of the documents existence in 2013, the Japanese Government asked Russia to cooperate in restarting investigations into the detainees. In December 2014, the two governments held talks on the issue and reached a broad agreement to start the investigation in April. After transferring the data onto DVDs by the end of this year, the Japanese and Russian Governments plan to conduct a full-fledged investigation starting in 2016. Ahead of the Japanese Government's investigation, the Archives Office released some documents written in Russian to The Yomiuri Shimbun. The names of the Japanese who died at the Nakhodka camps in Siberia were typed in Russian ... with the dates and causes of death, places of internment, prefectures of birth. ... (It) also said the bodies were buried without coffins before August 1949—indicating that no humanitarian considerations were made for prisoners of war.”

Please remember all our POW/MIAs and their families in your prayers. As you see information is still being uncovered.

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

