

KEEPING POSTED

American Legion Post #43 Naperville, IL

www.naperlegion.org



Volume 17 Issue 2 February 2019

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Don Chasteen - Post Commander

Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, and Legion Riders,

At all of our Socials we set up a POW/MIA table, and at all of our meetings we place a POW/MIA flag on an empty chair "as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of Liberty, and a full accounting of those missing". So have you ever wondered who and how this is accomplished, I have. I will admit that I do not get the chance to read very much, but in September last year while on vacation I read "You Are Not Forgotten" by Bryan Bender. This book chronicles the disappearance of a WWII Marine pilot over Papua, New Guinea, and the 21st Century soldier that end up assigned to JPAC with a mission to repatriate the pilot's remains. This gave me an



insight into what takes place in the recovery of MIA's, but on 12-January this year I attended a presentation that answered many more questions. This presentation was presented at New Covenant Community Church in Joliet and was titled "Fallen, But Not Forgotten". The presenter was Retired Army Colonel Ward Nickisch, who's last assignment was as the Director of Casualty and Memorial Affairs for the U.S. Army. In 2003 this unit became part of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), which was then reorganized into the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in January 2015. Colonel Nickisch's presentation included slides, videos, data on MIAs, political problems involved, the new technologies used, and personal stories of repatriation missions. As you can probably tell by now that I was pretty impressed with this presentation. So, what did I come away with? The U.S. still has over 80,000 MIAs with WWII, accounting for the majority (70,000+), and the Air Force and the Army provide the brunt of the numbers. Lastly, Illinois MIAs account for 3000+.

February has many dates to remember. Let us hope the Ground Hog does not see his shadow, and we have a shorter Winter! Don't forget your sweetheart on Valentine's Day (you know they are your biggest supporter). On a more serious note, let us remember our religious leaders on 3-February, which has become known as the Four Chaplains Day due to the selfless acts of four Chaplains: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic); who comforted the wounded and directed others to safety during the sinking of the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester on February 3, 1943. They even gave their personal life jackets to four young men, to give them a better chance of survival.

The Post is still in need of Legion Callers, a Chairman for the Gifts to the Yanks program, and a Chairman for the Junior High School Oratorical contest.

For the Good of the Legion,

Don Chasteen Commander, Naperville American Legion Post 43

Sr. Vice Commander

Joining the American Legion...As we arrive at our 2nd month of 2019, we also remain at a crossroads with our nation politically. Now I am not going to take sides today, that is red or blue. I am going to take the side of Veterans though. The American Legion is one of the most powerful lobbyists on behalf of Veterans in Washington DC and beyond. By being a member of the American Legion, you strengthen the efforts of the American Legion on behalf of Veterans....ALL VETERANS....not just combat Veterans.



Jack Amberg

I decided to surf the internet a little bit and find out, what exactly the American Legion is and what they do. I found that, "The American Legion is a non-profit organization that has great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state, and nation, drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership. The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives." Where has the American Legion helped Veterans via their Lobbying?

The efforts of the American Legion helped put into law the ability of the Secretary of Veterans Administration to fire ineffective employees. One of the real problems with VA service does come from the fact that many employees have so much job security that they don't have to perform, yet can keep their jobs. The American Legion helped change that.

There is a more streamlined appeals process for Veterans when they are trying to gain the benefits that they have earned. Remember that the dilemma is the VA employee not only grants the benefits, but also stewards the people's money. Therefore, they must be on guard for fraudulent claims. It is unfortunate that some people submit fraudulent claims, but the American Legion took steps to fix that and your membership helps strengthen that work.

The GI Bill 15-year limit was also removed through direct efforts of the American Legion. In fact, the law is named after Harry W. Colmery, a past American Legion National Commander. The law also protects Veterans from predatory higher education institutions.

So you see, just by being a member, you are helping fellow Veterans. OH!!! If you are reading this, and you are already a member, who have you asked to join so that they can also help? MEMBERSHIP

Senior Vice Commander, Jack Amberg

Jr. Vice Commander

As you may already know, unfortunately our January Dinner/Social was cancelled due to the forecasted snow storm. This is especially saddening as I've been missing my Post 43 friends, since I haven't seen you all since November! I hope you'll join us at the February 16th Dinner/Social, which is the yearly "Salute to Our Youth" dinner. The menu is prepared by the wildly successful Kendall Cooks and includes mouthwater-



Jennifer Slown

ing prime rib, potatoes, vegetables, and out of this world dessert generously donated by Nadia Rios and Stacey Harrison of Prima Sweets! The program will recognize Naperville area youth with a variety of awards and recognitions. The program takes most of the evening, so there will not be any additional entertainment.

An additional event in February to note. Georgetown Elementary in Aurora has invited any and all veterans to read to their students kindergarten to fifth grade on February 22nd from 9am to 10am. The event purpose is to encourage love of reading while connecting local students with veterans. You may bring a special book, or choose one in the classroom. Light refreshments will be served and guests are encouraged to wear their post cover or some other veteran identifying article of clothing. Maria Mink is a teacher at this school and is the wonderful lady who makes quilts every year for our veterans so it would be great to have a huge turnout. To volunteer for this event, please email me at jenniferbslown@gmail.com or call me directly at 630-803-2251 and I will confirm your attendance. Hope to see you there!

Semper Fidelis! Jennifer Slown Jr Vice Commander

Anniversary Dinner set for June 15, 2019

Save the date! As part of the celebration of the American Legion's 100th Anniversary, Post 43 will host a dinner at VFW Hall on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Menu, times and other details will be announced in coming months.



Contact: Joe Strebel at 630-369-3846 or jstreb1943@gmail.com



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

For the Post 43 Riders this time of Winter is very cold and cruel. Streets are either snow packed or so salted that we dare not risk rusting our bikes by venturing out. On the bright side the days are slowly getting warmer and we are dreaming of spring and of what events we can attend to support our Post and all veterans.



The newly elected Legion Riders Officers for 2019 are:

Director Tom Dillon

Asst. Director Steve Strickland

Finance Bob Burch Sgt. at Arms Don Doty

Safety Rich Tamborski
Chaplain Doug Askren
Legislative Liaison
Secretary Rick Rollings

The Ride Coordinator is a new position and his duties are basically to plan rides and notify the Riders of other rides that support Veteran Programs, that we might be interested in attending. Rick Rollins, as some of our other members, was attending another Legion Post but became involved with Post 43 as his local Post did not have a Legion Riders group. We now have over 50 Legion Riders associated with Post 43.

Recently your Riders are attending monthly visits to our veterans who reside at Brookdale Senior Living Center and have added the 2019 Honor Flight schedule to our calendar. Planning is also ongoing for our motorcycle ride in support of the DuPage Veteran's Foundation Fundraiser scheduled for 4 May 2019. We are also discussing plans to attend the 2019 Legacy Run which now, for the first time, also includes fundraising rides in Illinois. The Illinois rides will be much shorter than the National ride which may allow more Legion Riders to participate.

Of great note is that our friends at Texas Roadhouse restaurant, Naperville recently gave our group 47 Roadhouse meal gift cards with a total value of \$935.00 to be given to needy veterans. We are still deciding how to distribute these meal cards but rest assured they will go to other groups that deal with needy veterans. Thanks to Texas Roadhouse! If you go to the Naperville location at 2856 Patriot's Lane 60563 please thank them for this wonderful gesture.

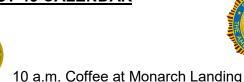
Remember that our monthly meetings are generally the 4th Wednesday of the month and are held at the Patio of the VFW/Legion Hall. Interested individuals are always welcome at our meetings. The February meeting is being held on 27 February and begins at 7:00pm.

Tom Dillon Director ALR Chapter 43 630-803-2047

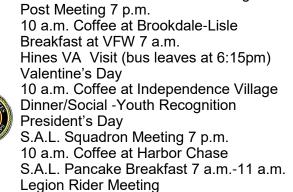


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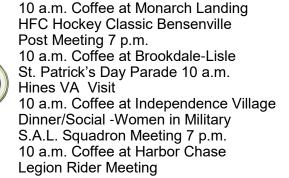
<u>AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR</u>













Post Meeting 7 p.m.
10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
Hines VA Visit (bus leaves at 6:15pm)
Strength and Honor Luncheon
10 a.m. Coffee at Brookdale Plaza-Lisle
7th & 8th Grade Speech Contest
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 p.m.
10 a.m. Coffee at Independence Village
Dinner/Social - Past Commanders
Legion Rider Meeting
10 a.m. Coffee at Harbor Chase
Troop 106 Spaghetti Dinner 4 - 7p.m.







WILL YOU NOMINATE NAPERVILLE'S CITIZEN(S) OF THE YEAR?

Naperville American Legion Post 43 began naming a Citizen of the Year in 1986. Five years ago the program was expanded to consider naming a Citizen of the Year in up to three categories— Service to the Community, Service to Youth, and Service to Veterans.

Citizen of the Year

We are again asking for community assistance to identify deserving candidates in each category and we especially want input from our own Legion and VFW members.

Nominees must be <u>Naperville residents</u>; and their service must have been performed in a volunteer capacity, rather than as part of compensated employment.

Anyone may nominate a candidate by sending a letter or email that includes a comprehensive description of the services the nominee performed, the time frame, duration, and significance of the service to others, and the category they are being nominated for, along with the name and contact information for the nominee and the person offering the nomination. Letters from others endorsing the nominee are encouraged.

Naperville is blessed with people who serve their fellow citizens. Typically, the judges have a very difficult task. Comprehensive information-attachments and endorsements may be included-are of great help to them in selecting the winners. They may be mailed to American Legion Post 43, Citizen of the Year, Post Office Box 4, Naperville, 60566 or emailed to vahlej@comcast.net to arrive by March 20, 2019.

Winners will be announced in the local media and honored at the Legion's Awards and Recognition Banquet on April 20, 2019.

So, fire up your keyboard; sharpen your pencil; and make sure the selection committee knows about your candidate.

Questions? Want information on recent Citizens of the Years and their contributions? Contact:

Jim Vahle (630) 864-7183 vahlej@comcast.net



VA Hotline 855-948-2311 8:00 am to 5:00 pm EDT



Save the date: Sunday, Feb. 24TH
Sons of the American Legion Squadron 43 Fundraiser!





Meal Includes: Pancakes, Sausage, OJ, Milk, Coffee

Location: VFW Hall, 908 W Jackson Av, Naperville, IL

Portion of the proceeds will help out a Veteran Organization

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 43

The Sons of the American Legion will be hosting our first ever Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. The breakfast will be on Sunday, February 24th and will be held at the VFW from 7:00AM until 11:00AM, so please mark your calendars. We will be asking for the Legion's support to make this a successful event.



Our stated S.A.L. meeting is every third Tuesday at 7:00PM. We meet in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. Our next stated meeting is scheduled for February 19th, 2019 and all members of the Legion and Legion Riders are encouraged to attend.

Chris Lance Squadron 43 SAL Commander (630) 926-1177

-----SAVE THE DATE-----



Mark your calendar for Saturday May 4th and plan to come to our 8th Annual DuPage Veterans Foundation fundraiser for Honor Flight Chicago. As in the past 7 years it will be held again at the John Calamos hanger at the DuPage Airport. All WWII and Korean Era Veterans will again be our guests. Last year's proceeds of \$40,000 went directly

to Honor Flight Chicago and we hope to surpass that number this year. To do that, we need more donations and volunteers. Feel free to help spread the word especially if the company or organization you work for or with. We take donations from anyone, and yes we are a "501c3" not-for-profit organization!!!!!

Thanks-Wayne

Coffee "and"

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The February dates are:

Feb 2 - Monarch Landing

Feb 9 - Brookdale - Lisle

Feb 16 - Independence Village

Feb 23 - Harbor Chase

Don't forget our monthly visits with veterans at Monarch Landing, Brookdale - Lisle, Independence Village, and Harbor Chase. Join us on the 1st Saturday at Monarch Landing, the 2nd Saturday at Brookdale in Lisle, the 3rd Saturday at Independence Village, and the 4th Saturday at Harbor Chase.

Remember, all are welcome!

An American Legion Post 43 Hero



Much history can be told from the ranks of American Legion Post 43. A prime example is the background and military experiences of *Bill Howland*, who recently celebrated his 94th birthday. Born in New Brunswick, Canada, he moved as an infant, with his parents to Miami. After schooling in the Miami area, he was a student at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, when the Dec 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor took place.

Drafted in April, 1943, he had ambitions to become a pilot, but was told there were no openings for training classes. Basic training at Camp Wheeler near Macon, Ga., gave him an MOS as rifleman. In October, 1943, a troop ship took him to Casablanca, French Morocco, then by rail to Oran, Algeria, and finally by boat to Naples, Italy.

Upon arrival, he was ordered to relinquish his rifle, and was told that he would now become a combat medic, even though he had received no medical training. His first duties as a medic would be as a litter bearer, as he would attempt to acquire additional medical knowledge with no skills, limited supplies, no plasma, and under battlefield living conditions.

The "Gustav Line" in Italy was constructed of a series of German and Italian military fortifications, stretching from northeast to southwest across the boot, and terminating about 40 miles north of Naples. The Gustav Line was eventually broken, but effectively slowed the Allied advance for months between Dec 1943 and June 1944. Bill spent most of that time in the center of that hell.

In August of 1944, he left Italy for an invasion of the south of France. This newsletter does not include enough space to adequately describe his complete story. In March, 1945, he was captured by the Germans and be-

came a POW, escaped after a couple of months, and soon thereafter the war ended. The awards and citations for Bill can tell the rest of the story, with your imagination: Combat Medic Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V, Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster, French Croix de Guerre, French Legion d'honneur, and others.

He returned home and was discharged in September, 1945. We must all be forever grateful to those veterans of the "Greatest Generation", for their bravery, dedication, and sacrifices!!





Hope you enjoyed the holiday season and now that the Bears are out of the playoffs! (OUCH! That missed field goal really hurt!) I would like to ask all of you an important question. What is the greatest threat facing our nation at the present time? Is it the non-productivity of our political process during the government shutdown, moral decay in values; which

ultimately brought Rome down and in whose footsteps our nation seems to be following. Is the greatest threat coming from North Korea, Iran, China, Russia, or from terrorists who may be entering our country undocumented. Are outdated strategic defense systems in which our enemy's like China could exploit with killer satellites or the new Mach 6 missile gun systems which could be a real threat to our Navy in the South China Sea. Could our mounting 22 trillion debt which is actually over \$100trillion if you include entitlement programs risk a collapse of our economic system? According to ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, Dr. Peter Pry, Chief of Staff of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the US from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack and Dr. William Forstchen, expert and in demand national speaker and proponent of bolstering our energy and communications infrastructure against attacks on our nation's power grid; the greatest threat now facing us is an unexpected attack on our nation's power grid or "electromagnetic pulse attack" which could shut down the nation's electronic systems while shutting down our power grids, sources and supply mechanism. These men sternly warn that an EMP attack could cripple our nation for a significant period of time. Time after time legislation has been introduced since 2004 to "harden our grid" but senator after senator has killed the bill in committee because it is not regarded as a great enough threat to be taken seriously. The cost to harden our grid would be about \$2billion or \$20-100 per US citizen or less than half the cost of building a border wall along the border with Mexico! Your Chaplain agrees that the word needs to get out to the right people to take seriously this national threat because right now China, North Korea, Russia have and soon Iran will have EMP weapons and delivery systems to threaten our nation.

I have followed this threat for the last 3 years and have decided it's time to take some personal action. So, with the support of Commander Chasteen, I am drafting a letter to be sent to President Trump. However, it is doubtful he will ever read my letter of concern, so a better tactic would be to first forward my letter to the National Commander of the American Legion. Have him present it to the Executive Committee for approval as a resolution of the American Legion. Once the resolution is voted on and approved, then it would be presented to President Trump. Except now the entire American Legion, a membership block that Trump supports, respects and listens to would be backing the idea that funds should be allocated to harden a grid, that is now over 100 years old and vulnerable to attack! So, Post 43 veterans, family members and friends, let's all be in prayer that this letter gets approved and adopted by Trump. I have been told that I don't have much of a chance of getting this approved. Then what? Wait until the event occurs! Then it will be too late! Any major viable threat to our national security must be taken seriously and this is that kind of a threat. These men that are warning of this threat believe that it is already inconceivable that such a reasonable cost to protect our country has been voted down 14 years in a row!

Finally, some facts about EMP's. An EMP attack can originate after a high altitude nuclear explosion or a coronal mass ejection from the sun. A nuclear electromagnetic pulse is the abrupt pulse of electromagnetic radiation from a nuclear explosion. All of the components of the EMP pulse are generated outside of the weapon. Much of the damage from a high altitude explosion is generated where gamma radiation waves from the explosion hits the upper atmosphere and can disperse across a wide area. In the Starfish Prime Test in 1962 a 1.44 megaton warhead was detonated 250 miles into space. The pulse knocked out street lights and damaged telephones in Hawaii. Gamma rays hitting the atmosphere eject electrons which are then deflected sideways by the Earth's magnetic field. The EMP is then radiated over a massive area which can burn up electronics, navigation, communication, and shut down or severely reduce effectiveness of our national security systems.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Chaplain's Notes Continued from Page 10)

Transformers would be shorted out, not just telegraph wires, and estimates in replacing the larger transformers (currently made in China could be in years, not weeks or months). Also, EMP's can be delivered to our earth by our sun. A coronal mass ejection from the sun if it directly hits us could have the same effect as the nuclear explosion. Several years ago the United States barley missed two direct hits from the sun that missed the earth by less than 50000 miles. Satellites that had not been hardened would melt and burn up in the heat. China also has new killer satellites which also pose an added threat. In 1859 an event called the Carrington effect caused by a direct hit of a coronal mass ejection from the sun fried our telegraph wires and lit up the sky for sizeable distances. If that happened today your car would not work. Water reclamation plants would stop. There would be no cell phone, radio or TV use and trucks could not get food to stores or medicines to pharmacies or hospitals. Remember, the cost to make sure none of this happens is \$2 billon to harden the entire grid system. The magnetosphere which protects our planet would be rolled back by such an EMP attack leaving the world unprotected from deadly gamma ray radiation. Hopefully, it will not take an actual EMP event or attack before our government recognizes that hardening the grid is a top security priority!!

Chaplain Dick Komarek



Recently Mike Barbour has gotten several calls from Veterans about finding transportation to Hines and the Aurora Outpatient Clinic. These requests are coming from older Veterans who can't drive or due to a medical procedure won't be able to drive.

What he is trying to establish is a network of our members in both the American Legion and VFW who would be willing to drive these Veterans to their appointments at Hines or Aurora and wait for them. It doesn't happen that often but when it does he would like to have a network he can call on.

If you can help Mike, please email him or call him to give him your contact info.

Contact:

Mike Barbour VFW Service Officer

American Legion Service Officer Email: mbarbour@wowway.com

Phone: 630.240.1645



Come Join Us!

G.I. Yoga is free to all Veterans and their family members. G.I. Yoga teaches stress relief methods by using the practice of Yoga to ease aches and pains, lower blood pressure, and increase strength, flexibility, and balance. G.I. Yoga also teaches participants how to use Yoga to manage symptoms of PTSD and TBI. All classes are taught by certified Yoga Instructors. The Wednesday morning 9:30 am Yoga class at the VFW is led by Kate Fleming. Kate also has Yoga classes for Veterans on Monday (Wheaton), Wednesday (Oswego), and Friday (Winfield).

There is also a Saturday morning class at 9:30 am in the Rubin Center in Naperville, led by Chitra Singh: mailofchitra@gmail.com.

For additional information, contact: Kate Fleming at giyoga@osotamerica.org

Schedule of Classes: www.giyoga.org G.I. Yoga is a program of osotAmerica.org



William R. Feder
Terrence "Terry" Jelinek
Edward L. Brown
Carl E. Westerlund
Eugene F. Rados
Charles "Chuck" Biegel
Charles A. Reichle
John "Jack" Dalton
Thomas Dabrowski
Robert L. Clark

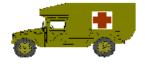




Paul Hogan Mike Walczak

Peter J. Krug

Dick Knosher Lee Lindberg



American Legion Post #43

PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566



MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM, at the VFW Hall, 908 W. Jackson Naperville, IL

Boy Scouts and Special Meetings are at Post Home, 10 W. Chicago Ave., Naperville, IL

www.naperlegion.org

Post Officers

Commander	
Don Chasteen	630-833-6102
Sr. Vice-Commander	
Jack Amberg	630-544-6452
Jr. Vice-Commander	
Jennifer Slown	630-803-2251
SgtAt-Arms	
Glenn Granat	630-209-2834
Finance Officer	
Bob Colby	630-301-2664
Service Officer	
Mike Barbour	630-240-164 <u>5</u>
Chaplain	
Dick Komarek	630-983-6043
Historian	
Lee Lindberg	239-537-3189
Joe Strebel	630-369-3846
Judge Advocate	
<u>Don Hennessy</u>	630-355-4679
Adjutant	
Nadia Rios	630-728-7519
Immediate Past Commander	
Doug Deetjen	630-719-1133
Public Relations	000 004 7400
Jim Vahle	630-864-7183
Bugler	000 000 0444
Rich Yndestad	630-698-6444
Legion Rider Director	000 000 0047
Tom Dillon	630-803-2047
Honor Guard - Chair	000 057 4000
Jim Oftedal Color Guard - Chair	630-357-4030
	620 224 6202
Jim Sarns	630-234-6292
Sons of the American Legion	620 026 1177
Chris Lance	630-926-1177

Legion Callers







630-420-1244

Legion Trustees of Post #43

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Bob Colby
Wayne Fischer
Ken Garhan

Doug Deetjen
Jim Vahle
Jim Stoffregen

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<u>Please send your reports to Rich by</u> <u>February 15th for March Newsletter</u>

Post 43 Webmaster Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com







The American Legion 100th Anniversary float in the Rose Parade on January 1st, 2019 from Pasadena, California.