MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY HANUKKAH

POST NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

GREETINGS LEGION MEMBERS,

DECEMBER IS HERE AND WE ARE ALL BUSY GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS.

WE HAVE HAD QUITE A BUSY NOVEMBER—THE VETERANS BREAKFAST THAT AMBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND STATE STREET SCHOOL PUT ON FOR US WAS ENJOYED BY A FEW OF US. IT'S GOOD TO SEE OUR YOUTH LEARNING ABOUT OUR VETERANS AND AMERICANISM.

OUR POST SPONSORED THE VETERANS DAY PARADE IN BEAVER AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A GREAT JOB WAS DONE BY ALL.

IN NOVEMBER WE CELEBRATED THE USMC BIRTHDAY, AND HAD A PARTY IN THE CANTEEN.
BE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, AGES 12 AND UNDER, FOR THE POST CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 9TH, FROM 11 AM TO 1 PM.

THE ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY IS DECEMBER 16TH, FROM 3 TO 6 PM, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE.

JUST A REMINDER—THE BEAVER COUNTY CHRISTMAS VETERANS TOUR WILL BE COMING UP AND WE NEED HELP, DATE TO BE DETERMINED. JUST GET HOLD OF MYSELF OR TOM STACHURA ABOUT HELPING OUT…

AND TO ALL OF YOU, MY HOPE IS THAT YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Have a Blessed Christmas!
Gerry States, Commander
Baden American Legion Post 641

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Post

No meeting this month

Women's Veterans Committee

To Be Determined

County

No meeting this month

Home Association

No meeting this month

Auxilary

December 12, 7 pm

SAL

December 12, 6:30 pm

Legacy Riders

December 5, 6 pm

VVA

December 20, 1 pm

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1, 1941 - Civil Air Patrol Birthday 82 years

Dec. 7, 2023 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 13, 2023 – National Guard Birthday -387 years

Dec. 16, 2023 – National Wreaths Across America Day

Dec. 20, 2023- Space Force birthday 4 years

CIVIL AIR PATROL
82 years "young"

The Civil Air Patrol isn't viewed as one of the branches of the U.S. military, however they are considered the auxilary of the U.S. Air Force.

But when looking up important dates in military history for each month, the birthday of the Civil Air Patrol came up. Since I personally didn't know (or remember) much about this organization I thought it was worthwhile to go over their history and what they provide still

The origins of Civil Air Patrol date to 1936, when Gill Robb Wilson, World War I aviator and New Jersey director of aeronautics, returned from Germany convinced of impending war. Wilson envisioned mobilizing America's civilian aviators for national defense, an idea shared by others.

In Ohio, Milton Knight, a pilot and businessman, organized and incorporated the Civilian Air Reserve (CAR) in 1938. Other military-styled civilian aviation units emerged nationwide, training for homeland defense.

In 1941, Wilson launched his perfected program: the Civil Air Defense Services (CADS). That summer, tasked by Fiorello H. LaGuardia (New York mayor and director of the federal Office of Civilian Defense and also a World War I aviator), Wilson, publisher Thomas H. Beck and newspaperman Guy P. Gannett proposed Wilson's CADS program as a model for organizing the nation's civilian aviation resources.

Their proposal for a Civil Air Patrol was approved by the Commerce, Navy, and War departments in November, and CAP national headquarters began operating Dec. 1 under the direction of national commander Maj. Gen. John F. Curry. Existing CADS, CAR and other flying units soon merged.

Their proposal for a Civil Air Patrol was approved by the Commerce, Navy, and War departments in November, and CAP national headquarters began operating Dec. 1 under the direction of national commander Maj. Gen. John F. Curry. Existing CADS, CAR and other flying units soon merged under the CAP banner. Public announcement of CAP and national recruiting commenced on Dec. 8.
In January 1942, German submarines began attacking merchant vessels along the East Coast. With the military unable to respond in force, CAP established coastal patrol flights to deter, report and prevent enemy operations.
From March 1942 through August 1943, armed CAP aircraft at 21 coastal patrol bases extending from Maine to the Mexican border patrolled the waters off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Their success in thwarting submarine attacks and safeguarding shipping lanes led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 9339 on April 29, 1943, transferring CAP from the Office of Civilian Defense to the Department of War.
At its establishment, CAP made no provision for the participation of youth. On Oct. 1, 1942, CAP leaders issued a memorandum creating the CAP Cadet Program for boys and girls ages 15 to 18. The cadet program proved to be a powerful force for imparting practical skills and preparing teenagers for the military and other wartime service agencies.
CAP's male and female volunteers engaged in an array of wartime missions. These included aircraft warning, southern liaison patrol duty along the Mexican border, courier service, missing aircraft searches, disaster relief, tow target and tracking operations, forest patrols and many others.
CAP's wartime record ensured its postwar future. On July 1, 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 79-476, incorporating the organization. Following the creation of the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of the armed services, Truman signed Public Law 80-557, establishing CAP as the Air Force's civilian auxiliary on May 26, 1948.
Post-World War II, CAP focused its efforts on three core programs – Cadet Programs, Emergency Services and Aerospace Education. In 1948, CAP began participating in the International Air Cadet Exchange, and in 1949 it introduced its first aerospace education literature for use by CAP units or school teachers.
When the first cadets entered the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1955, 10 percent were former CAP members. As the Cold War crystallized in the 1950s, CAP closely aligned with the Air Force and civil defense organizations. CAP search and rescue missions became routine, and civil defense officials used CAP radio networks to coordinate relief efforts during natural disasters.
CAP assisted in training the Air Force's Ground Observer Corps, conducted aerial radiological monitoring of nuclear fallout and participated in Operation MOONWATCH by optically tracking artificial satellites. The 1973 law making Emergency Locator Transmitters mandatory in aircraft vastly expanded CAP's search and rescue capabilities.
In 1975, for the first time, a civilian volunteer became CAP's national commander, signaling a shift in the CAP-Air Force relationship.
The latter half of the Cold War witnessed the further expansion of CAP roles and capabilities. In 1979, CAP began flying Military Training Route surveys for the Strategic Air Command and the Tactical Air Command. A 1985 agreement with the U.S. Customs Service saw CAP conducting counterdrug reconnaissance missions for law enforcement.
CAP once again began delivering parts for the Air Force and flew human tissue and organ transplant missions with the American Red Cross. The Federal Emergency Management Agency worked with CAP during and after a slew of disasters: the Exxon Valdez oil spill; hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, and Floyd; and the Oklahoma City bombing. Modernized equipment, including GPS navigation, internet-based communications and handheld two-way radios improved coordination with federal authorities and search and rescue performance.
The final decades of the 20th century brought key changes to CAP, including a corporate-owned fleet of aircraft and vehicles.
The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, ushered CAP into a new era of homeland defense. The following day, a CAP Cessna 172, the only nonmilitary aircraft allowed in the nation's airspace, provided emergency management officials the first high-resolution images of the World Trade Center site. Nationwide, CAP volunteers transported blood and medical supplies, provided communication and transportation support and assisted state and federal officials.
With increased federal funding and creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, CAP received new technologies for its emergency services, including hyperspectral imaging, improved airborne communication, forward-looking infrared systems, GPS-equipped glass cockpit avionics and geospatial information interoperability. CAP aircrews train alongside government officials and military personnel in air defense intercept missions, communication exercises and cybersecurit

On May 30, 2014, President Barack H. Obama signed legislation into law awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the approximately 200,000 World War II members of CAP. The medal is the country's highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. On Dec. 10, 2014, Speaker of the House John Boehner presented the medal to CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Vazquez and former U.S. Rep. Lester L. Wolff, himself a wartime member of the New York Wing.
This medal commemorates the organization's unusual contributions in World War II. On its obverse, Stinson Voyager 10A aircraft armed with demolition bombs escort an oil tanker. The aircraft in the foreground has the coastal patrol roundel and the number "65," representing the CAP members killed during the war. To the left, two civilian volunteers, a male coastal patrol observer and a female pilot, both vigilantly scan the sky.

On Aug. 28, 2015, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force chief of staff, announced CAP officially as a member of the U.S. Air Force's Total Force, joining the regular, guard and reserve forces as American airmen.

DECEMBER 7
PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.....how many of us heard this in history class-and how many will never hear or learn about this date.

With each military date in history that is covered in the newsletter, I try to find information that might be new to some of us, or just a "memory refresh" for many of us. I have learned a lot when I research a particular historical date and quite a bit I realized that I already knew about, just needed a refresher myself. But when it came to Pearl Harbor, the day that launched the U.S. into war with Japan, there is so much that has been written, it was very difficult to decide what information to print. Scratch that, this was the most difficult to do, and unless I wanted pages and pages I had to make a decision. So while it may seem like I am glossing over one of our most important dates of our history, I decided to let our veterans tell us their stories about that devastating day.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military and naval forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered

3,435 casualties and loss of or severe damage to 188 planes, 8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, and 4 miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes, and 5 midget submarines.

Ken Potts was in Honolulu when he heard people shouting. Then he heard a loudspeaker blaring for "all Navy personnel to get back to their ships." The 20-year-old found a taxicab that sped him to his battleship, the USS Arizona, and he quickly got to his station as a crane operator. It was early morning, Dec. 7, 1941.
"I don't know what hell is like," remembers Potts, now 100, "but I guess that morning would be as close as you can get." As the attack progressed, "the whole harbor was afire. Oil was leaking from the ships that were hit by torpedoes."
Some 15 minutes into the attack, a Japanese plane dropped a large bomb on the Arizona. Fuel stores and ammunition magazines exploded, and the massive battleship erupted in flames. "I was on the stern of the ship. Everything was in turmoil after that. It was like the whole country was burning. The word was passed to abandon ship, and those who could get off jumped into the water. It was a mess."
Potts survived by leaping into the churning harbor. He was one of just 334 from the 1,511-man crew who got off alive. Among the dead were Potts' best friend, a Minnesotan named Merritt Cameron Helm. The Arizona's death toll was nearly half of all Americans killed that day. Potts was able to reach a launch headed toward nearby Ford Island. He and other survivors "pulled a lot of people out of the water. Everybody was doing anything they could do to help." After the attack, Potts drew the grim task of retrieving bodies of his Arizona crewmates.
Ken Potts was 100 when he was interviewed for this story.

Interviewed and written by Alex Kershaw

Published November 30, 2021 AARP Magazine

2LT Louis Gustav Moslener Jr.

Aug 8, 1918-Dec 7, 1941

It was important to include 2nd LT Moslener's story because he was a Beaver County resident and was the first Beaver County resident killed in WWII and some believe was the first casualty of WWII. Thank you Jerry Fisher for bringing his story to my attention.

"Lt. Moslener, son of Louis G. and Blanche Moslener of Monaca, was assigned to the 88th Reconnaissance Squadron that was part of a secret mission to photograph Japanese military bases in the Marshall and Caroline islands.....
In late November, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commanding general of Army forces in the Far East, ordered two crews of the 88th Reconnaissance's 7th Bombardment Group stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah, to fly to Sacramento Air Depot to pick up planes being specially modified with reconnaissance cameras and then fly to Hamilton Army Airfield in Novato, Calif.
The night of Dec. 4, 1941, Moslener, a navigator, departed the airfield aboard a Consolidated B-24A Liberator (40-2371) with eight other crew members and headed across the Pacific Ocean to Hickam Field on Oahu.....
The night of Dec. 4, 1941, Moslener, a navigator, departed the airfield aboard a Consolidated B-24A Liberator (40-2371) with eight other crew members and headed across the Pacific Ocean to Hickam Field on Oahu.
1st Lt. Ted Faulkner piloted the bomber, which arrived the next day, but upon landing, officials realized the plane had "insufficient armament for combat – only one .30 caliber and twin .50 caliber guns in the tail, and was without ammunition for the guns that were installed.....which required them to remain for additional armaments to be installed.
Moslener and crew were performing a pre-flight check on their B-24A that sat outside Hangar 15 when the first bomb fell on Hickam, setting the plane on fire.
Moslener, 23, was killed along with Pvt. Daniel J. Powloski, 36, of New York, another crew member. Four others were wounded."

Article written by Marsha Keefer, with The Times online, published Dec 4, 2019

"So the next morning, on December 7th, I woke up, had a cup of coffee, and about 7:50 I hear this tremendously loud clang, clang, clang followed by the bugle call, which was our signal to go to battle stations," Art recalled.
Radioman Second Class Art Montagne raced to his battle station, high above the main deck, on the flag deck to join the Admiral's staff.
Seemingly out of nowhere, the first wave of 353 Japanese bombers, fighting planes and torpedo planes darkened the clean blue sky.
"I could look out and see the Japanese planes, which were just airplanes to me. I thought it was just a drill that nobody told us about," Art said.
"I saw two of them approaching us just about the level of my eyes across the harbor, and they obviously were two torpedo planes. And about half the distance across the harbor they dropped their torpedoes.
"Then I started watching the rivulets of the torpedoes coming and approaching the ship. And then they disappeared from my view, and a fraction of a second later they hit the side of our ship. The ship shook. Water blew 50 feet in the air above the sides. And immediately the ship started easing to the port.
"The planes, as they got to the ship, they had to fly over it, they zoomed up. And here were these great big red balls on the bottom of the wings. And that's when we knew this was no drill."
"It was a kind of crazy scene where planes were going here and there and you look up and say, 'OK, where are our planes?' You know, what I expected to see, like the movies, our planes come sailing down out of the sky and start chasing these guys and shooting them down. There wasn't a plane."
"But I looked back and the USS Oklahoma had capsized and all I could see was the bottom of the vessel, totally tipped over. And the men on the Oklahoma, all you could see were their heads bobbing and pretty soon a lot of small boats were dashing out there to help rescue all these men. There were literally hundreds of men out there swimming. Several hundred of them never escaped.
"About that time, that's when the Arizona blew. And when the Arizona blew up, it was several explosions, just tremendous sounds. And we couldn't see too much back there because of the black smoke, and by this time the oil in the harbor started burning."
Those two battleships accounted for *most of the 2,403 deaths that morning.*

As described by Art's dtr Renee Montagne

UPDATED DECEMBER 7, 202210:13 AM ET
This story was originally published on Dec. 7, 2021. From the NPR website HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

George Walters was a civilian who operated a huge crane next to the USS Pennsylvania battleship at Pearl Harbor. He was 50 feet up in the crane when the attack was launched. He was one of the first Americans to see the Japanese planes coming, and alerted the sailors aboard the Pennsylvania.
Walters then repeatedly swung the crane back and forth to shield the ship from Japanese fighter planes as U.S. sailors aboard the Pennsylvania attempted to return fire. But the sailors manning the guns on the battleship had trouble seeing the Japanese planes because they were in dry dock.
"The water had been pumped out, dropping their decks to a point where the high sides of the drydock blocked most of the view," author Walter Lord wrote in his book, "Day of Infamy."
So Walters used the crane's boom to point out incoming Japanese planes.
"After a 500-pound bomb exploded nearby, damaging the crane and stunning Walters, he nearly fell from the crane. But Walters had moved the crane just in time to avoid a direct hit from the bomb, which left a 17-foot crater," according to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Walters has since been credited by many with helping save the ship. He operated cranes until 1950 and retired in 1966.

Source: Honolulu Star-Bulletin, History.com

Doris Miller's skin color usually relegated him to the role of cook and laundry attendant aboard USS West Virginia, but when the ship was struck by multiple bombs and torpedoes on December 7, he became one of its most vital crewmembers. Miller had rushed to his battle station amidships as soon as the shooting started. Finding it destroyed, the amateur boxer sprinted to the quarterdeck and used his hulking frame to help move the injured. Miller was among the men who carried the ship's mortally wounded skipper to safety, and he then helped pass ammunition to the crews of two .50 caliber machine guns. Despite having no weapons training, he eventually manned one of the weapons himself and began blasting away at the Japanese fighters swarming around the ship. "It wasn't hard," he later remembered. "I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine...I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us."
Miller continued to operate the gun for some 15 minutes until ordered to abandon ship. His actions earned him the Navy Cross—the first ever presented to an African American—and he was widely hailed as a war hero in the black press. He later toured the country promoting war bonds before being reassigned to the escort carrier Liscome Bay. Sadly, Miller was among the 646 crewmen killed when the ship was later torpedoed and sunk in 1943.

Article by Evan Andrews for History.com
Updated August 22,2023; original December 2, 2015

On December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered this "Day of Infamy Speech." Immediately afterward, Congress declared war, and the United States entered World War II.

Mr. Vice President, and Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that Nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American Island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.
Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.
Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

DECEMBER 13, 2023
NATIONAL GUARD
BIRTHDAY--387 Years

On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts. Based upon an order of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's General Court, the colony's militia was organized into three permanent regiments to better defend the colony. Today, the descendants of these first regiments - the 181st Infantry, the 182nd Infantry, the 101st Field Artillery, and the 101st Engineer Battalion of the Massachusetts Army National Guard – share the distinction of being the oldest units in the U.S. military. December 13, 1636, thus marks the beginning of the organized militia, and the birth of the National Guard's oldest organized units is symbolic of the founding of all the state, territory, and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today's National Guard. (1)

Uniquely existing as both a state and federal force, as per the U.S. Constitution, Guard units may be called on to preserve public safety, order and peace at home in times of emergency and may also be deployed to serve as essential parts of America's forces abroad.

"The National Guard stands separate and distinct from the other federal reserve forces of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines," writes Michael Doubler in I Am The Guard: A History of the Army National Guard. "National Guard troops serve at the direction of the state governors until the U.S. president orders them to active federal service for either domestic emergencies or overseas service." (2)

(1) reprinted in full from the website--
https://www.nationalguard.mil/About-the-Guard/How-We-Began/
(2) written by Lesley Kennedy for the History.com website, on January 19, 2019

Pre-dating the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the nation's first organized fighting force, originated on December 13, 1636, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, when three militia regiments were formed to defend against members of the Pequot Tribe and provide security and structure for the early settlements. Men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join, and the original three Massachusetts regiments continue to operate today.

The Guard's first aviation unit was established on November 1, 1915, and, three decades later, on September 18, 1947, with the creation of the Air Force, the Air National Guard was formed. Since then, members of the Air Guard have seen combat in the Korean and Vietnam wars, Persian Gulf crisis, 9/11 terrorist attacks, hurricane relief efforts, the war in Afghanistan and other operations.

Today, only the U.S. Army boasts more members than the National Guard, and while 10 presidents, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, were part of state militias, Harry S. Truman (Missouri Army National Guard) and George W. Bush (Texas Air National Guard) are the only two presidents who served in the branch in modern times. (2)

U.S. Space Force
December 20, 4 years

The U.S. Space Force, while meriting mention on the list of important military dates in history, doesn't have a lot of history to talk about. It is still very new and is still focused on building up its manpower and designing methods of defending space, beyond the reach of our standard air defense.

The U.S. Space Force was established Dec. 20, 2019 when the National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law (with bi-partisan support), creating the first new branch of the armed services in 73 years. The establishment of the USSF resulted from widespread recognition that Space was a national security imperative. Access to and freedom to operate in space underpins our national security and economic prosperity.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY DECEMBER 16

"To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst that can happen... to be forgotten is the worst."
— Pierre Claeyssens (1909-2003)

HOW IT ALL STARTED

The Worcester family of Harrington, Maine, owns their own tree farm. In 1992, they had a surplus of wreaths during the holiday season, so the family patriarch, Morrill – who had long felt indebted to our fallen veterans – got help from a Maine politician to have those spare wreaths placed beside graves in Arlington National Cemetery in areas that received fewer visitors each year.

As plans were underway to transport the wreaths to Washington, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington D.C., helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

This remained a small yearly tradition for nearly 15 years until a photo taken at the 2005 ceremony went viral. Almost immediately, thousands of people wanted to know how to help or how they could begin a similar tradition in their states.

By 2006 – with the help of some civic organizations and volunteers, including in the trucking industry – there were 150 simultaneous ceremonies held across the country. By 2008, the movement to remember, honor and teach had grown so much that Congress had declared the third Saturday in September National Wreaths Across America Day.

By 2014, the now-nonprofit Wreaths Across America had reached its goal of placing a wreath at all 226,525 graves in the cemetery.

The event continues to grow. By 2018 the organization shipped a staggering 1.75 MILLION wreaths to 1,640 locations that will hold ceremonies across the U.S. A few dozen locations overseas will participate. The organization said this was the first year they were granted permission to place wreaths at Normandy to honor those who died during World War II's D-Day invasion.

Veterans and Gold Star families are many of the roughly 2 million volunteers who prepare the wreaths, ship them across the country and put them on the graves.

FROM THE U.S.DEPT OF DEFENSE website Dec. 14, 2018 | By Katie Lange

LAST YEAR SEVERAL MEMBERS OF OUR POST HELPED LAY WREATHS AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY OF THE ALLEGHENIES. TALK TO ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS AND THEY WILL LET YOU KNOW WHO IS PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR AND HOW TO BE PART OF THIS INSPIRING HONOR...AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS..AN HONOR...

ALSO, IF ANYONE KNOWS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN INTERRED AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY OF THE ALLEGHENIES, PLEASE GIVE THAT INFORMATION TO KURT LARSON. you can send him the information to his email, at kipawakurt@gmail.com

.....LEGION FOOD OFFERINGS.....

Food...food....
....food....LET"S
EAT.....
Food....FOOD.....
food
food....food.....
chow...FOOD...
let's eat....

MENU

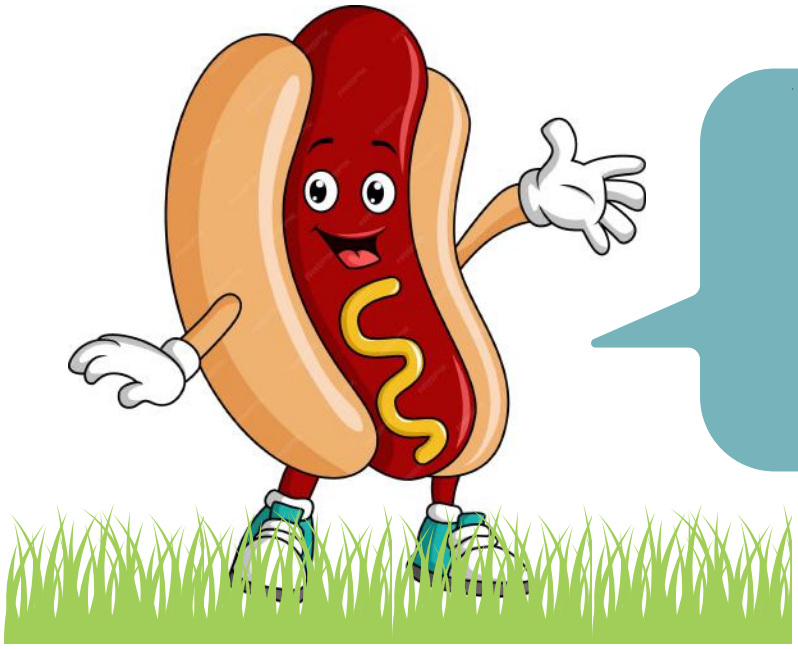
TACOS

HOT DOGS

FISH FRY

TACO
TUESDAY
Dec 14

11:30
UNTIL
GONE....



WEENIE
WEDNESDAY
Dec 15
11 am until
SOLD OUT...

AUXILLARY
FISH FRY

FRIDAYS

11 am until 6 pm
or until sold out..

NO FISH FRY ON DECEMBER 15, 22 OR DECEMBER 29 DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS..IT WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 5, 2024

BAR BINGO THURSDAY EVENINGS-7 PM...starting with a **MOMENT OF SILENCE** *to honor our departed veterans and non-military who gave their lives in support of our nation*

AUXILIARY HAPPENINGS...

The junior auxiliary is really getting off the ground. We now have 6 members and are currently being mentored by auxiliary members Sue Dunlap and Rachel Cafrelli.
Those lucky 6 just received their first junior auxiliary t-shirt.

Right now our junior auxiliary members are putting together a beautiful patriotic night lights for the veterans Christmas gift bags.

They are enthusiastic and hard-working and exemplify the best of our future. We are happy to have them join us as we work to support and honor our veterans.

The Baden American Legion Junior Auxiliary
Is having a hoagie fundraiser to raise money to make Christmas gifts for our local Veterans who will be spending their Holidays in Nursing Homes throughout Beaver County.

All orders must be placed and paid for by December 7th. They will be available for pick up in the Baden American Legion kitchen window on December 14th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM.

Descriptions of the hoagies from J&J's Catering is below.

Thank you for supporting our local Veterans!

Turkey & American
Fresh Carolina Oven Roasted Turkey Breast piled on a Mancini Italian roll, topped with yellow & white American cheese. $10.00

Italian Deluxe
Margherita Genoa Salami and Sandwich Pepperoni, Cooked Ham, Ham Capicola, and sliced Provenello cheese on a fresh baked Mancini Italian roll makes this sandwich the "Real Thing" $12.00

Traditional (The one that started it all!)
Margherita Genoa Salami, Kahns Bologna, Isalys Chopped Ham, American Cheeses on a fresh baked Mancini roll $9.00

Italian Pizza Hoagie
Margherita Genoa Salami, and Sandwich Pepperoni topped with fresh sliced provolone on a Mancini roll.. Top it off with an Italian sauce packet.as a heat and eat pizza bread! $10.00

Pepperoni & Cheese Rolls
Sliced pepperoni, mozzarella and provolone cheese baked into a fresh white bread dough. Each roll measures approximately 6 inches. $4.00 each
2 for $8

Baked Ham & American
We use fresh baked ham and top it with yellow American cheese. $10.00

TOYS FOR TOTS®

Christmas is coming which means the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign is in full swing....keep filling that donation box!!!

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

THE PARADE

THE BREAKFAST

Ambridge Middle School and State Street School hosted the veterans for a Veterans Day breakfast. They provided a wonderful breakfast and even though only a few of us showed up, it was appreciated. It would be great to see more of us there next year!!

OUR VETERANS

On Friday November 10, Franciscan Manor hosted a program for their resident veterans and asked if a few members of the Baden American Legion would attend. Three of our women veterans were able to be there, and were honored to meet with a wonderful group of veterans.

We were also asked to help present certificates and pins in celebration of the service and sacrifice these men gave to their country. There was laughter and tears, and we were blessed to spend time with these men.

DON'T FORGET

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 9
11 AM TO 1 PM
MAKE SURE YOU ARE PRE-REGISTERED!!!

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 14
3 PM TO 6 PM

BEAVER COUNTY NATIVE TRAVELS WORLD THROUGH MARINE CORPS

This article reprinted in full from
the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
5 November 2023
By Vanessa Orr

When Ashley Kowtko joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 2007, her family wasn't surprised. After all, her father, Carl Curtis, was a 20 year veteran of the Corps, and she'd grown up in that lifestyle. "I didn't want to go to college at that time, and it was a better option," she explained. "It didn't come as much of a shock."

While most of her childhood was spent in Beaufort, SC, where her dad served, the family moved back to Beaver County after he retired in 2004. After graduating from Ambridge High School, Kowtko headed to boot camp at Parris Island, followed by Marine Combat Training at Camp LeJeune. She then trained as an intelligence analyst in Virginia Beach before being stationed at Camp LeJeune, where she worked for four years. During this time, Kowtko was deployed to Iraq for 10 months and to Afghanistan for a year. She also got married—to a Marine—and later moved to Yuma, AZ, where she worked with the F-35 Bravo Squadron from 2012-16. She moved to Quantico, VA to work with Marine Corps Intelligence Activity for the next three years before going to Okinawa, Japan to serve with the 3d Intelligence Battalion. She recently returned to Quantico this past January, serving as a first sergeant and senior enlisted advisor.

"As an analyst, a lot of the work is reading reports and compiling the information to give leaders and decision-makers a well-rounded picture of what's going on in the battle space," Kowtko explained. "I also worked in the intelligence collections cell, working with aircraft and satellite images to protect our troops on the ground in Afghanistan.

"As the intelligence chief for the First Marine Corps F-35 Bravo Squadron in Yuma, I helped it go from a brand new unit with no aircraft to a fully operational and deployable unit in the four years I was there," she added. "I enjoyed that."

One of the perks of military life is the travel, and Kowtko appreciates that she's been able to see a lot more of the world than she would have if she'd stayed in Beaver County. "Supporting my nation and serving the country are important, but I enjoy being able to travel as well," she said. "You get to meet so many people from all walks of life, from different countries, who grew up in different ways. The Marine Corps has given me a lot of experiences that I would not have had if I'd gone to college.

"The hardest part is being separated from family and friends," she added. "Every three to four years you're moving or your friends are moving. Because you can't always return home, the people you serve with become your family." Kowtko currently lives with her husband and sons Brantley, 10, and Ethan, 8, and is eligible to retire in four years when she's reached the 20-year mark. "I'm still on the fence if I should stick around or move onto something else," she said. "As a woman, I am 6 percent of the 10 percent," she added. "Only 10 percent of people join the Marine Corps, and a small percentage of that number are female. But I'd definitely recommend it, because it empowers you. It's not easy, but it is definitely worthwhile."

NEWS FROM THE VA

One Million Strong: VA's Million Veteran Program makes history

VA's largest research program committed to improving health care for all Veterans

The Million Veteran Program (MVP) just made history: 1,000,000 Veterans have joined VA's largest health research effort.

More than a decade ago, the MVP team had a dream to build the nation's largest research program dedicated to improving Veteran health care. It started with the vision of enrolling one million Veterans so that researchers could better understand how genes, lifestyle, military experiences and exposures affect health and wellness.

What started as a vision is now a reality as MVP is one of the largest and most diverse research programs of its kind.

As the first VA research program to reach a recruitment milestone this large, MVP is paving the way for improved Veteran health and wellness. Veterans across race, gender, age and service branch are coming together for one mission: to advance Veteran health care.

Terrence Hayes, VA's press secretary and an Army Veteran of 20 years, knows his calling is to help other Veterans. "I served in the military for 20 years, fighting alongside my battle buddies, and I want to do that in this field as well. I want to be able to raise my hand, be a part of some research that can be groundbreaking for men and women just like myself who have served," Hayes shared.

Helping future Veterans is one of the main reasons Army Veteran Benjamin Flynn decided to join MVP. "I look at it as a way to do my part and make sure that the men and women that served alongside me, before me and after me are all properly taken care of," Flynn said.

Their reasons for joining may differ but one thing remains consistent: Veterans helping Veterans.

Since MVP launched in 2011, the program has already made discoveries in health care areas that matter to Veterans, such as:

Diabetes
Heart disease
Cancer
Osteoarthritis
Tinnitus
Mental health, including PTSD and depression
Suicide risk

While achieving the million milestone is significant, MVP's mission and research do not stop here."I'm encouraging every Veteran, no matter where they're from, no matter what demographic: If you are thinking about helping other folks, if you want to continue your service, sign up for MVP. This will help us really make some groundbreaking efforts for our health, " Hayes added.

What kind of discoveries will MVP make on the road to its next milestone? Join today to find out and help us continue making a difference in the future of Veteran health care. Sign up at www.mvp.va.gov or call 866-441-6075 to make an appointment at a participating VA facility. You don't need to receive your care at VA to participate.

November 15, 2023
By Alexis Oriel
Senior Communications Consultant, VA's Million Veteran Program

VA calls on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 17, 2023

WASHINGTON — Helping Veterans and their families stay in their homes is a top priority at VA. Over the past year, we've been able to help more than 145,000 Veterans and their families retain their homes and avoid foreclosure. Even in the dynamic housing market of the last several years, rates of foreclosures of VA-backed mortgages are among the lowest in the country. And at the same time, we know that there are still Veterans struggling to make their payments.

To ensure these Veterans can stay in their homes, we are taking two steps:

We are calling on mortgage servicers to pause foreclosures of VA-guaranteed loans through May 31, 2024. During this pause we will work with servicers on workable home retention solutions for Veterans; and
We are extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program through May 31, 2024. This extension will allow Veterans to obtain a zero-interest, deferred-payment loan from VA to cover missed payments and modify their existing VA-guaranteed loan to achieve affordable monthly payments for the duration of this extension.
By pausing foreclosures and extending the COVID-19 Refund Modification program, we can continue assisting Veterans with their loans while we launch our newest home retention option, the VA Servicing Purchase (VASP) program. Through VASP, VA will purchase defaulted VA loans from mortgage servicers, modify the loans, and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans. This will empower us to work with Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship to adjust their loans – and their monthly payments – so they can keep their homes.

We want every Veteran with a loan to know that VA is here to help – and we encourage any Veteran who is struggling with making their payments to visit the VA Housing Assistance website or call us at 877-827-3702. We have loan technicians working with Veterans to help them stay in their homes, including discussing available home retention options such as repayment plans, special forbearance, loan modification, and more. And we will continue to actively review our portfolio of loans and work with loan servicers to do everything in our power to keep all Veterans and survivors with a VA-guaranteed mortgage in their homes.

Look for more information on the VA home loans website.

Both of the above press releases are copied directly from the VA Dept website

The holiday season always sees an increase in depression, isolation and loneliness, so this time of year is when those **BUDDY CHECKS** are even more important than ever!! If you know of someone, especially a fellow veteran, that you normally see on a regular basis but haven't recently, please--call them..stop by.

LET'S TALK SCHOLARSHIPS...

ORATORICAL CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. ////////////////////////

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over $203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a $25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home $22,500, and third gets $20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a $2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional $2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

ESSAY CONTEST SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to the above scholarships, The American Legion of Pennsylvania holds an annual essay contest, with 1st prize being $3500 scholarship monies.
For information on this scholarship contest, go to https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/essay-program/

There are several stages to the scholarship contests, beginning with the Post level. Progressing on to County, District, then Interdistrict. From then it goes onto Western District and then State. At EVERY stage there is a cash prize, so it is to the benefit of our young people to at least enter, because even at the earliest point, they will benefit.

SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

Worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of $5 million to be administered by The American Legion in 1996. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. As of 2023 the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded more than $7.2 million in college scholarships to 2,422 recipients since its inception in 1996.

Scholarship applicants must complete and submit their online application prior to 11:59 (local time) of Day 1 of their respective American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. All applications must be submitted using the online application system and may not be modified after the due date or given a deadline extension under any circumstance.

Scholarship applications are limited to students between their junior and senior years of high school who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. Stepchildren and legally adopted children are considered direct descendants of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.

Presently our legion has one applicant for Keystone Boys State

THE ABOVE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALL OFFERED BY NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN LEGION, GO TO THE WEBSITE: https://www.legion.org/scholarships

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON
.....from the Auxillary

The Auxiliary has 3 different scholarships available to our seniors: CHILDREN OF WARRIORS NATIONAL PRESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP, THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP, AND THE JUNIOR MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP.
If you know a family with a senior who qualifies for one of these scholarships, direct them or their family members to the following website for details and information on requirements and application. The money is out there for our kids, let's do what we can to get it to them.

Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship
It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices of our servicemembers who preserve our freedom, but that is not enough. The sacrifices of the children of those who served should also be honored. Providing funds to assist these children so they can pursue higher education is a concrete way of showing how much we, as a nation, care.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship to support the children of our warriors. These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

Completed applications are DUE ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 11:59 PM Eastern

Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund
The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members, another for the Honorary National Junior Division Vice Presidents, and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.

The American Legion Auxiliary annually provides one Junior member in each of the five American Legion Auxiliary divisions with a $5,000 scholarship.

Applicants must present the completed application to their local American Legion Auxiliary unit president ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1.

Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship
American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of $2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college student. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant; not a loan.

Applicants must present the completed application, along with the other required materials specified on the following page, to the president of their American Legion Auxiliary unit ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
Getting a job or staying competitive in today's workplace involves showing employers you have the skills and experience to get the job done. In many cases, returning to college is a must. The American Legion Auxiliary's goal is to do all we can to make that happen, and that's what the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship is all about. The Baden American Legion Auxiliary is now taking applications for the $2,000 Non-Traditional Scholarship from members of the auxiliary, Sons of Legion and American Legion members. Please contact Jeannie Murray or Sue Dunlap for further information.

As a side note, our own Tysh Wagner was the recipient of the 2023 Non-Traditional Student Scholarship Award.

FOR DETAILS AND APPLICATION, PLEASE DIRECT THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE WEBSITE: https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships

FINAL THOUGHTS.....

None reported

VETERAN AFFAIRS CONTACT INFORMATION

VA health benefits hotline
877-222-8387
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

My HealtheVet help desk
877-327-0022
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET

MyVA411 main information line
800-698-2411
Hours: 24/7

VA benefits hotline
800-827-1000
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

Veterans Crisis Line
988, Select 1
***Hours:* 24/7**

BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK

and finally....never forget...and leave NO soldier behind....