# POST 641 NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

## *JUNE MEETING DATES*

**POST**

June 25, 7 pm

**COUNTY**

June 18, 7 pm
Hookstown Post 952

**DISTRICT (CAUCUS MTG)**

June 22, 1 pm
Zelienople Post 474

**WOMEN VETERANS**

TBD

**SAL**

June 11, 6:30 pm

AUXILIARY

no meeting

**HOME ASSOCIATION**

June 17, 7:30 pm

**GOLD STAR RIDERS**

June 25, 6 pm

**VVA**

June 19, 1 pm

## POST ELECTIONS

**Post elections will be held during the Post meeting on May 25th, at 7 pm. All post 641 legion members are encouraged to attend and vote! Please have your valid membership card with you to be eligible to vote. See next page for nominations and further details.**

## Important Military Dates in June

| | |
|---|---|
| D-Day | June 6 |
| Women Veterans Day | June 12 |
| Army Birthday | June 14 |
| Flag Day | June 14 |
| Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday | June 23 |
| PTSD Awareness Day | June 27 |

**BADEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 641**
**NOMINATION RESULTS**
**MAY 28, 2024**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| COMMANDER | GERALD W STATES | UNOPOSSED |
| 1ST VICE COMMANDER | PETE PONINSKY | UP FOR ELECTION |
| (choose 1) | DAN GILARNO | UP FOR ELECTION |
| 2ND VICE COMMANDER | GENE REES | UP FOR ELECTION |
| (choose 1) | BEN GINGERELLA | UP FOR ELECTION |
| FINANCE OFFICER | DANNIELLE RIPPER | UNOPPOSED |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | GEORGE FLEMING | UP FOR ELECTION |
| (choose 3) | PETE PONINSKY | UP FOR ELECTION |
| | KARL LUDWIG | UP FOR ELECTION |
| | RANDY GLEASON | UP FOR ELECTION |
| | BEN GINGERELLA | UP FOR ELECTION |
| DELEGATES | GEORGE FLEMING | UNOPPOSED |
| (choose 5) | KARL LUDWIG | UNOPPOSED |
| | TOM STACHURA | UNOPPOSED |
| | DAN GILARNO | UNOPPOSED |
| | PETE PONINSKY | UNOPPOSED |

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 25, 2024, AT A REGULAR POST MEETING STARTING AT 7pm. ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE PROVIDED TO ACTIVE MILITARY, NURSING HOME AND IN HOME DISABLED VETERANS. ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE POST ADJUTANT TOM STACHURA AT 271 STATE STREET, BADEN, PA 15005 ONLY. ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE TO THE ADJUTANT NO LATER THAN NOON, JUNE 25, 2024, NO EXCEPTIONS.

ANONE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A POST COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTACT THE POST COMMANDER, GERALD W. STATES BEFORE THE NEXT POST MEETING.

AT THE NEXT POST MEETING, A VOTE WILL BE TAKEN TO DECIDE IF ALL MEMBERS SHOULD KEEP OR TAKE OFF THEIR COVERS WHEN INSIDE THE BUILDING.

# MEMORIAL DAY 2024

Thanks to all to came out and helped get things ready for Memorial Day. And thank you to those who were able to make it to the Memorial Day Parade. Here are some snapshots of the workers on Friday, May 24th and parade marchers on May 27th.

## Memorial Day Program, May 17th, hosted by Alex Pompeo, SAL Chaplain and 7th grader at Ambridge Middle School

As I mentioned in May's newsletter, Alex put on a Memorial Day program at his school, Ambridge Middle School. Speakers included Gerry States, Jean Murray, Gene Miketa, and Nancy Hoffman. Unfortunately, Larry and I were out of town and unable to attend, but I was told it was a great success. There were approximately 100 students that attended and many had questions for the speaker and veterans who attended. According to those legion members who were there, Alex did a great job helping to educate his classmates about Memorial Day and the history behind it. Students were given poppies and from what Alex told me, he saw many of them wearing their poppies proudly.

Great job Alex!!

# JUNE IS PTSD AWARENESS MONTH
# JUNE 27th is PTSD Awareness Day

PTSD  Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder.  In the past it was referred to as shell shock, battle fatigue, or combat stress reaction, it became known as PTSD in 1980, when it was recognized as an official mental health disorder.

Personally, I think society has become a bit too comfortable with using PTSD as a catch-all phrase for when something happens to upset them. I over-heard a couple of teen age girls last year complaining about having PTSD because one of them went to prom and another girl was wearing the same prom dress. She was so upset, she "was gonna have PTSD from the trauma". She really said that, which is why it stuck with me. These kinds of things trivialize what PTSD is.

PTSD became a diagnosis with influence from a number of social movements, such as Veteran, feminist, and Holocaust survivor advocacy groups. Research about Veterans returning from combat was a critical piece to the creation of the diagnosis. So, the history of what is now known as PTSD often references combat history. (1)

Accounts of psychological symptoms following military trauma date back to ancient times. The American Civil War (1861-1865) and the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871) mark the start of formal medical attempts to address the problems of military Veterans exposed to combat. European descriptions of the psychological impact of railroad accidents also added to early understanding of trauma-related conditions. (1)

Initially PTSD was considered to be an "anxiety-related" disorder, but over the years after research and increased knowledge about those who suffered with PTSD, it was moved to the category "trauma and stressor-related" disorders. To be diagnosed with PTSD an individual will "present with four different types of symptoms: reliving the traumatic event (also called re-experiencing or intrusion); avoiding situations that are reminders of the event; negative changes in beliefs and feelings; and feeling keyed up (also called hyperarousal or over-reactive to situations). Most people experience some of these symptoms after a traumatic event, so PTSD is not diagnosed unless all four types of symptoms last for at least a month and cause significant distress or problems with day-to-day functioning."(1)

Just as the criteria for a diagnosis of PTSD has evolved over the years, so has the treatment.  The VA has been working diligently to develop multi-focused treatment options. The National Center for PTSD was created by an act of Congress in 1989. Some veterans have tried "out-of-the-box" treatments to relieve their symptoms, because conventional therapies haven't worked for them, or only worked for the short-term.

If you believe that you, or someone you know is suffering from PTSD, there is help out there. The first step is recognizing the symptoms. They may include:

1 .**Reliving the event (also called re-experiencing symptoms).** Memories of the traumatic event can come back at any time. They can feel very real and scary. For example:

- You may have nightmares.
- You may feel like you are going through the event again. This is called a flashback.
- You may see, hear or smell something that causes you to relive the event. This is called a trauma reminder, cue or trigger. News reports, seeing an accident, or hearing fireworks are examples of trauma reminders.

2. **Avoiding things that remind you of the event.** You may try to avoid situations or people remind you of the trauma event. You may even avoid talking or thinking about the event. For example:

- You may avoid crowds because they feel dangerous.
- You may avoid driving if you were in a car accident or if your military convoy was bombed.
- If you were in an earthquake, you may avoid watching movies about earthquakes.
- You may keep very busy or avoid getting help so you don't have to think or talk about the event.

3. **Having more negative thoughts and feelings than before the event.** The way you think about yourself, and others may become more negative because of the trauma. For example:

- You may feel numb—unable to have positive or loving feelings toward other people—and lose interest in things you used to enjoy.
- You may forget about parts of the traumatic event or not be able to talk about them.
- You may think the world is completely dangerous, and no one can be trusted.
- You may feel guilt or shame about the event, wishing you had done more to keep it from happening.

**PTSD Sypmtoms, cont'd**

4. Feeling on edge or keyed up (also called hyperarousal). You may be jittery, or always alert and on the lookout for danger. You might suddenly become angry or irritable. For example:
o You may have a hard time sleeping.
o You may find it hard to concentrate.
o You may be startled by a loud noise or surprise.
o You might act in unhealthy ways, like smoking, abusing drugs or alcohol, or driving aggressively.

The above list of symptoms is taken directly from the National Center for PTSD. If you recognize these symptoms in either yourself or someone else, GET HELP. Talk to your primary care doctor, your VA doctor.
·PTSD Treatment Programs
All Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers provide PTSD treatment, and many locations around the county offer specialized PTSD programs.
·Care for Women Veterans
Many VA Medical Centers offer mental health programs specifically for women Veterans. Learn about these services and the role of the Women Veterans Program Manager, the advocate for women's care at every Medical Center.
·Vet Centers
Many Veterans and their families use Vet Centers, often staffed by Veterans, for support. These community-based centers focus on counseling and services to help with the transition from military to civilian life or after military trauma. Learn more about Vet Center programs and ways to connect.
·VA Benefits and Claims
The claims process can be complicated, but don't let that stop you from applying for the VA benefits you may be entitled to. There are Department of Veterans Affairs, nonprofits, and state agencies that can help.

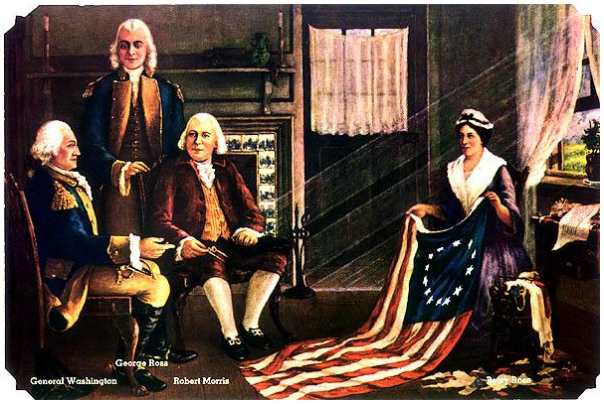
June may be PTSD awareness month, but we should always be aware of PTSD and how it affects our veterans and their families as well. Keep in mind that when we treat the veteran, we are also treating their family members. And as we treat and support the family members, they are better able to support the veteran who is coping, or trying to cope, with PTSD. Finally, it needs to be said that anyone dealing with PTSD needs the support of the community. There is a saying that's been around for a LONG time--it takes a village to raise a child. Well in reference to helping to heal from PTSD, that veteran, and family members, need the support and caring of the community. That truly can make the difference in their journey to healing/recovery for veterans/family members.

*(1) Matthew J. Friedman, MD, PhD*
*Senior Advisor and former Executive Director, National Center for PTSD*

*The list of symptoms and information on getting help is reprinted in full from the NATIONAL CENTER FOR PTSD website.*

***And remember that a loved ones' suffering with PTSD also affects you, the spouse, child, sibling, parent, friend...it affects the community because you are part of the community!!***

**For those veterans who feel there is no help, please, don't give up. There is someone out there who has likely been where you are and CAN help you, or get you the help you need. DON'T MAKE THAT FINAL CHOICE THAT YOU CAN'T COME BACK FROM, AND THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL *NEVER* RECOVER FROM!!**




**FLAG DAY**
June 14
since May 30, 1916

## THERE WILL BE A FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY AT THE POST ON JUNE 14, AT 6 PM

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the colonists weren't fighting united under a single flag. Instead, most regiments participating in the war for independence against the British fought under their own flags. In June of 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to create the Continental Army—a unified colonial fighting force—with the hopes of a more organized battle against its colonial oppressors. This led to the creation of what was, essentially, the first "American" flag, the Continental Colors. For some, this flag, which was comprised of 13 red and white alternating stripes and a Union Jack in the corner, was too similar to that of the British. George Washington soon realized that flying a flag that was even remotely close to the British flag was not a great confidence-builder for the revolutionary effort, so he turned his efforts towards creating a new symbol of freedom for the soon-to-be fledgling nation.

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white," and that "the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Over 100 years later, in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.

*above information reprinted from an article written by Jennie Cohen; updated June 12, 2023/original June 14, 2018*

## Flag facts

**What do the American flag's colors symbolize?**

1. RED symbolizes strength and valor
2. WHITE symbolizes purity and innocence
3. BLUE symbolizes vigilance, perseverance and justice

As we all know, the 50 stars on the American flag represent the 50 states of the United States of America. This hasn't always been the case, though. The American flag had fewer stars more than a century ago, during which it had fewer states.

In 1912, the number of stars on the American flag grew to 48, thanks to the addition of New Mexico and Arizona. This remained the country's official flag for the next 47 years, making it the country's longest running flag in its history.

It wasn't until August 21, 1959 when President Eisenhower ordered the American flag to be updated with 50 stars. Since then, the American flag has remained with 50 bold stars neatly arranged in the upper left-hand corner, with one star for each of its 50 states.

In addition to representing the 50 states, the 50 stars on the American flag also represents a "divine goal." In 1977, the House of Representatives published a book in which it described the American flag's stars as being a *"symbol of the heavens and the divine goal to which man has aspired from time immemorial; the stripe is symbolic of the rays of light emanating from the sun."*

## Standard Proportions of the Flag

| | |
|---|---|
| hoist(width) of flag - 1.0 | fly of union - .76 |
| fly (length) of flag - 1.9 | diameter of star -.0616 |
| hoist of union- 7/13 | width of stripe - 1/3 |

# D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944--80 years ago

Without the brilliant planning and heroic sacrifices of the D-Day invasion, the Allies may have never defeated the Nazi forces in Europe. On June 6, 1944, more than 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops stormed 50 miles of Normandy's fiercely defended beaches in northern France in an operation that proved to be a critical turning point in World War II.

**1. D-Day Meaning: The 'D' in D-Day doesn't actually stand for anything.**

Unlike V-E Day ("Victory in Europe") or V-J Day ("Victory over Japan"), the "D" in D-Day isn't short for "departure" or "decision." As early as World War I, the U.S. military used the term D-Day to designate the launch date of a mission. One reason was to keep the "On June 6, 1944, more than 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops actual date out of the hands of spies; another was to serve as a placeholder until an actual date was chosen. They also used H-Hour for the specific time of the launch.

**2. The D-Day invasion took years of planning.**

**3. D-Day was the largest amphibious invasion in military history.** "Operation Overlord," combined the forces of 156,115 U.S., British and Canadian troops, 6,939 ships and landing vessels, and 2,395 aircraft and 867 gliders that delivered airborne troops.

**4. Allied forces carried out a massive deception campaign in advance of D-Day.** The idea behind the ruse was to trick the Nazis into thinking that the invasion would occur at Pas-de-Calais, the closest French coastline to England. The Allies used fake radio transmissions, double agents, and even a "phantom army," commanded by American General George Patton, to throw Germany off the scent.

**5. A D-Day dress rehearsal was a fiasco.** Two months before D-Day, Allied forces conducted a disastrous dress rehearsal of the Normandy invasion on an evacuated English beach called Slapton Sands. Known as "Exercise Tiger," 749 U.S. troops lost their lives after a fleet of German E-boats caught wind of the mock invasion and torpedoed American tank landing ships. Survivofs described the Exercise Tiger fiasco as more terrifying than the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach.

**6. Germany had fortified France's coast.**

**7. The U.S. shipped tons of supplies to the staging area in England.** Since Operation Overlord was launched from England, the U.S. military had to ship 7 million tons of supplies to the staging area, including 450,000 tons of ammunition.

**8. Bad weather delayed the invasion.**

**9. D-Day was carried out along five sections of beachfront.** "Utah," "Omaha," "Gold," "Juno" and "Sword."

**10. Paratroopers launched the operation before dawn.**

**11. More than 156,000 Allied ground troops stormed the beaches.** At Omaha Beach, only two of the 29 amphibious tanks even made it to land on their own power (three were later transported to the beach). At Utah Beach, the American troops included 14 Comanche "code-talkers" who relayed critical tactical messages in their Native American tongue.

**12. The toughest fighting was on Omaha Beach.** Around 2,400 American troops were killed, wounded or unaccounted for after the fighting at Omaha Beach.

**13. Canadian troops at Juno Beach captured the most territory.**

**14. All five beaches were secured by Allied forces by June 11.**

**15. The D-Day invasion marked a turning point in the war.**

The total Allied losses at Normandy are estimated to be at least 4,413. Total Allied casualties in the Battle of Normandy, which dragged on until August, topped 226,000. But thanks in part to the massive influx of troops and equipment, D-Day marked a decisive turning point in the war. Less than a year later, on May 7, 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender

*above article reprinted in full from the HISTORY.com website; written by Dave Roos, updated March 13, 2024/original March 12, 2019.*

# WOMEN VETERANS DAY
# June 12, 1948

As it states on the American Legion website, "a veteran is a veteran", and there is to be no distinction between race, religion or gender.

As many women veterans will tell you, they want to be seen as veterans, not women veterans. So why a "WOMEN VETERANS DAY"?

"Women have served in America's wars and conflicts throughout America's history and performed many jobs, playing vital roles in the Revolution, serving as soldiers, raising morale, and spying on the enemy. More than 400 women fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff, such as the Hello Girls, formally known as the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit. In World War II, 140,000 women served in the Women's Army Corps (WACs) performing critical jobs, such as military intelligence, cryptography and parachute rigging. In August 1943, the WAFS and WFTD merged into a single unit for all women pilots and formed the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), who flew more than 60,000 miles in two years. During this time, the 6888th Battalion was formed as the first and only all Black Female Women Army Corps (WAC) unit to be deployed overseas during WWII. Their nickname was "Six-Triple Eight" and their motto was "No Mail, Low Morale."

Today there are still many women Veteran history lessons to be taught. The first Women Veterans Day was celebrated on June 12, 2018, and is currently a state-recognized commemoration in California, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin.

There are currently almost two-million women Veterans in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Territories/Foreign, according to VA. We're working hard to ensure that women Veterans are treated with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve. To help achieve that goal, VA Secretary Dennis McDonough has made it clear since assuming his new role that all VA staff, patients, families, caregivers, survivors, visitors and advocates must feel safe in a workplace free of harassment and discrimination.

The Center for Women Veterans was established by Congress in November 1994 by Public Law (P.L.) 103-446 to monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care, benefits and services, and programs for women Veterans. CWV serves as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military, and to raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect. The Center is promoting cultural transformation to #BringWomenVeteransHome2VA with initiatives such as: I AM NOT INVISIBLE (IANI), 2021 Women Veteran Trailblazers, naming of VA Spaces after women Veterans, and partnerships with many internal and external partners.

Women Veterans Day is not a separate day for women Veterans, it is a tribute to a groundbreaking day when women were acknowledged as essential to the war efforts and could serve in the regular armed forces".

***Article reprinted in full from the VA/news, written by Messina Schallus, a Navy veteran, and communications director for the VA's Center for Women Veterans***

# Women of WW2

Nearly 350,000 American women served in uniform, both at home and abroad, volunteering for the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs, later renamed the Women's Army Corps), the Navy Women's Reserve (WAVES), the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS), the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS), the Army Nurses Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps. General Eisenhower felt that he could not win the war without the aid of the women in uniform. "The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day was a sine qua non of the invasion effort." (Ambrose, D-Day, 489)

Women in uniform took office and clerical jobs in the armed forces in order to free men to fight. They also drove trucks, repaired airplanes, worked as laboratory technicians, rigged parachutes, served as radio operators, analyzed photographs, flew military aircraft across the country, test-flew newly repaired planes, and even trained anti-aircraft artillery gunners by acting as flying targets. Some women served near the front lines in the Army Nurse Corps, where 16 were killed as a result of direct enemy fire. Sixty-eight American service women were captured as POWs in the Philippines. More than 1,600 nurses were decorated for bravery under fire and meritorious service, and 565 WACs in the Pacific Theater won combat decorations. Nurses were in Normandy on D-plus-four.

***This article reprinted from the website "WWII THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM" New Orleans***

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE U. S. ARMY
## June 14, 1775 249 years

"I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said Army." This is the original oath of enlistment in the Continental Army.

June 14, 1775, is the birthday of our Army. After British regulars and colonial militiamen exchanged gunfire at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, in April 1775, three other colonies sent men to assist the Massachusetts minutemen, and the situation became real. The colonies were in revolt.

Luckily, colonial leaders had been preparing for an armed conflict for years before the 1775 outbreak of violence. The four forces met in Boston, forming a loose regional force that laid siege to the British troops at Boston. But militiamen weren't trained or equipped for a protracted siege.

The colonies needed a force of professional soldiers who were trained, funded and equipped for extended military maneuvers. They appealed to the delegates of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. On June 14, 1775, the Congress passed a resolution forming the Continental Army....."Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia ... [and] as soon as completed, shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army.

The Continental Army would have seven birthdays after its foundational June 14, 1775, congressional resolution. Washington had ideas to develop the new U.S. Army further, but they were ignored by Congress. The Continental Army was disbanded, save for a handful of soldiers of Fort Pitt and West Point in 1783.
Almost immediately, the Army was reinstated, as the need for a national defense made itself apparent on the American frontier. The U.S. Army has been rolling along ever since.

***Above article written by Blake Stilwell, published on the website MILITARY.com, on June 14, 2021***

## COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY
## June 23, 1939 85 years

**This year,** the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary celebrates a major milestone with its 80th anniversary on Sunday, June 23, 2024.
**What is** today the Auxiliary began life as the Coast Guard Reserve, which was authorized by an act of Congress on June 23, 1939. A response to the increase in the number of recreational boaters in America, the move gave the Coast Guard a legislative mandate to use civilian volunteers to promote safety on and over the high seas and the country's navigable waters. At its creation, the Coast Guard Reserve was a non-military service comprised of unpaid, volunteer citizens who owned motorboats or yachts.
**Two years** later, Congress amended the 1939 act by passing the Auxiliary and Reserve Act of 1941 on Feb. 19. The new legislation designated the Reserve as a military branch of the active service, and designated civilian volunteers as the Auxiliary.
**When America** entered World War II, many Auxiliary members became temporary members of the Coast Guard Reserve. As many as **50,000 Auxiliarists joined the war effort**, guarding waterfronts, carrying out coastal picket patrols and rescuing survivors from scuttled ships, among many other heroic acts. Many of the Auxiliary members had their private vessels pressed into service, as well.
**In 1976,** a study commissioned by the Coast Guard concluded that the Auxiliary was one of the Guard's, and the country's, greatest assets.
**Twenty years** later, Congress expanded the Auxiliary's role to allow members to assist in any Coast Guard mission, except those that involved direct law enforcement and military operations. This enabled Auxiliarists to begin examining commercial fishing vessels, flying in C-130 aircraft and working in Coast Guard offices, among other new prerogatives.
**Today's** Auxiliary members also perform free Vessel Safety Checks, teach boating safety to boaters of all ages, perform harbor and pollution patrols and serve an important role in the Coast Guard Search and Rescue team.

*Reprinted from an article dated June 21, 2019, on the AFBA website*

# UPCOMING EVENTS TO CHECK OUT

***LEGION GOLFERS WELCOME***

Pennsylvania American Legion
77th Annual Golf Tournament
June 21st to June 23rd
White Deer Golf Course
Montgomery, Pa
**HOSTED BY THE WILLIAMSPORT AMERICAN LEGION**

FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN...

Kurt Larson has been a participant in the Wreaths Across America and would like to be sure that any legion member interred at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies receives one of these wreaths yearly.

If anyone knows of any veteran buried there, could they please get that veteran's name and any information to him: **You can email him at Kurt Larson,, kipawakurt@gmail.com.**

**Support Our Troops Rally at the gazebo in Irvine Park, Beaver on SUNDAY, JUNE 9th, at 3 pm**

**VA Town Hall, to be held at the Economy Fire Dept Banquet Hall, June 27th, from 3 pm to 6 pm**

Tango Alpha Lima, The American Legion's podcast, appears each week by 9 a.m. Tuesdays. Go to mylegion.org, enter tango alpha lima in the search bar and it will tell you how to listen.

LIVE BAND at the Baden American Legion--***"THE COVERS"***, on May 15th, from 8 pm to 11 pm. The kitchen will be open!

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## *MAY 16th, 2024*

# AUXILIARY NEWS

The auxiliary recently had election of officers, as follows

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Jean Murray |
| 1st Vice | Sue Dunlap |
| 2nd Vice | Cheryl Rees |
| Secretary | Dee Tavern |
| Treasurer | Jackie Mehera |
| Sgt-At-Arms | Linda Bryner |
| | Toni Cillo |
| Chaplin | Cheryl Rees |
| Historian | Sue Dunlap |

Additionally 17 new members were welcomed into the American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 641

# SAL NEWS

No information received

# LEGACY RIDERS

June 22nd is the annual Gold Star Families Memorial Bike Run. Please see attached flyer.

# AMERICAN LEGION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

If you have a student that is going to be a junior next year, contact the Baden American Legion Post 641 about scholarship options and qualifying information!

# Service Officer Information

**If you need help**

The PSO should have various resources in the local area, that could be beneficial to veterans and their dependents. Resources can include Department of Veteran Affairs contact information, including phone numbers and website addresses, county/local representatives with American Legion accreditation and senior agencies. Information for various benefits including health and dis-ability and so much more.

***Your Service Officers are:***
***Larry McGown and Randy Gleason***
***Hours: Wednesdays, from 1 pm to 4 pm***
***Location: Bar area (by the flag placque***

***On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.--Dan Lipinski***

TO THEIR LEGACIES
GOLD STAR RIDERS
LEGACIES ALIVE
Annual Gold Star Families Memorial Bike Run
Saturday June 22nd, 2024
Baden American Legion
271 State St. Baden PA, 15005
Rider: $15
Passenger: $5
Registration: 9am to 10:45am
KSU: 11am
Join the Gold Star Riders and Legacies Alive for the Annual Gold Star Families Memorial Run! The run will begin and end at the Baden American Legion. There will be Food, Drinks, 50/50, Auction Baskets, DJ and much more!
Scan the QR code for more details!

AMERICAN LEGION

BE THE ONE

*IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, ASK A POST OFFICER!!*

## Keystone Boys and Girls State

It's getting to be that time of year. We currently have 1 candidate for Keystone Boys State and another possible candidate.

**The Samsung American Legion Scholarship online application process is now open. Use the link at the bottom of this page. Please read through the requirements of this page before applying.**

**Deadline**

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.

Applicants who are direct descendants of Korean War Era Veterans will receive three bonus points.

**Messiah University, Mechanicsburgh, Pa. 6/16-6/22/24**

## BAR BINGO

## Thursday evenings at 7 pm

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WILL BE OBSERVED BEFORE BINGO FOR OUR DEPARTED SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN AND THOSE NON-MILITARY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATION

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL SCHEDULE
# THROUGH WEEK 6-JULY 8, 2024

**WEEK 2**

**June 3** @ 6:00 pm
Hopewell @ Ambridge
New Brighton @ Laurel
Center-Monaca @ Beaver
Blackhawk Off

**June 5** @ 6:00 pm
Beaver @ New Brighton
Laurel @ Hopewell
Ambridge @ Blackhawk
Center-Monaca Off

**WEEK 3**

**June10** @ 6:00 pm
New Brighton @ Blackhawk
Center-Monaca @ Ambridge
Beaver @ Laurel
Hopewell Off

**June 12** @ 6:00 pm
Laurel @ Center-Monaca
Ambridge @ New Brighton
Blackhawk @ Hopewell
Beaver Off

**Week 4**

**June 17** @ 6:00 pm
Ambridge @ Beaver
Blackhawk @ Center-Monaca
Hopewell @ New Brighton
Laurel Off

**June 19** @ 6:00 pm
Laurel @ Blackhawk
Beaver @ Hopewell
Center-Monaca @ New Brighton
Ambridge Off

**June 21** @ 6:00 pm
Hopewell @ Center-Monaca
Blackhawk @ Beaver
Ambridge @ Laurel
New Brighton Off

**WEEK 5**

**June 24** @ 6:00 pm
Ambridge @ Hopewell
Laurel @ New Brighton
Beaver @ Center-Monaca
Blackhawk Off

**June 26** @ 6:00 pm
New Brighton @ Beaver
Hopewell@ Laurel
Blackhawk @ Ambridge
Center-Monaca Off

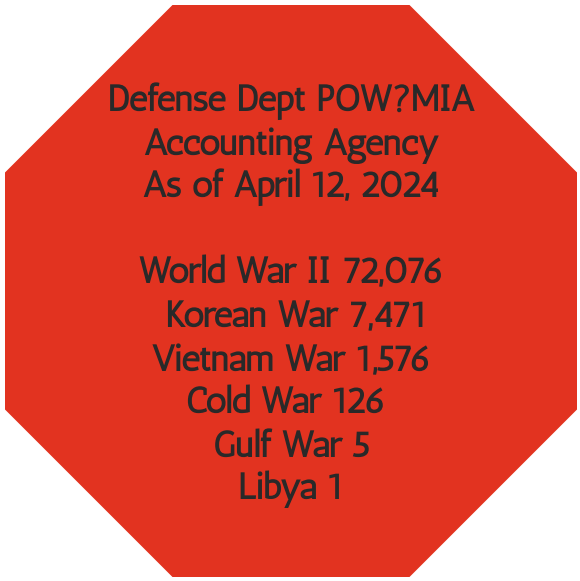
**WEEK 6**

**July 1** @ 6:00 pm
Blackhawk @ New Brighton
Ambridge @ Center-Monaca
Laurel @ Beaver
Hopewell Off

**July 2** @ 6:00 pm
Center-Monaca @ Laurel
New Brighton @ Ambridge
Hopewell @ Blackhawk
Beaver Off

**July 8** @ 6:00 pm
Beaver @ Ambridge
Center-Monaca @ Blackhawk
New Brighton @ Hopewell
Laurel Off

# POW/MIA NEWS




## POW/MIA SERVICEMEMBERS THAT WERE RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR

According to the DPAA website, 15 missing servicemembers were officially accounted for in May, including 11 from WWII and 4 from the Korean War.

While many were identified and accounted for prior to May, their information and official accounting wasn't released until May 2024. One of these was a young man from Pittsburgh, Nathan Baskind, who was listed as MIA in WWII.

from the website "Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

# ONE MORE WWII SOLDIER COMES HOME

## *U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Nathan B. Baskind*

**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant Nathan B. Baskind, 28, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 8, 2024.**
**In June 1944, Baskind was assigned to Company C, 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion, as a platoon commander of four M-10 tank destroyers. According to historical war records, 1st Lt. Baskind and another man from his company were scouting ahead of their tank destroyers when enemy forces descended upon them in an ambush. The other soldier, heavily wounded, escaped the firefight and made his way back to the main U.S. force, believing Baskind was killed in the attack. Several attempts were made to retrieve Baskind's body from the ambush point, but they could not locate his remains.**

**Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. Investigators discovered a death and burial report for 1st Lt. Baskind among the foreign records recovered from the Germans, evidently filed after the war on May 29, 1945, in Meiningen, Germany. The record revealed 1st Lt. Baskind was captured and later died at a hospital for German air force personnel near Cherbourg on June 23, 1944. German forces then buried him in the military cemetery in the city. In early 1948, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent the U.S. Army one of 1st Lt. Baskind's identification tags. It is believed the German government likely submitted the tag to the ICRC, along with a death and burial report, following the war.**

**1st Lt. Baskind's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.**

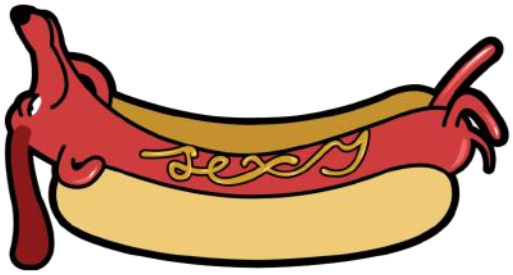
*Above information reprinted from the DPAA website ....PRESS RELEASE/May 10, 2024*

# LEGION FOOD OFFERINGS

## TACO TUESDAY

No taco Tuesday this month

## WEENIE WEDNESDAY



Once a month... this month it will be on June 19th, beginning at 11 am, until sold out

# VA NEWS FOR MAY 2024

There were a couple of different pieces of information coming out of the VA that I wanted to be sure you all heard about...

## VA calls for extension of Veteran foreclosure Moratorium through Dec. 31, 2024

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 29, 2024*

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued guidance to strongly encourage mortgage servicers to implement a targeted moratorium on foreclosures for Veterans with VA-guaranteed loans through December 31, 2024. This will help Veterans and their families stay in their homes beyond the end of the current foreclosure moratorium, which will end on May 31.

This new, targeted foreclosure moratorium will help ensure that Veterans and their families are able to stay in their homes while mortgage servicers implement the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program – a new, last-resort tool for qualified Veterans experiencing severe financial hardship. Through VASP, VA will purchase qualified Veterans' modified loans from their loan servicers and then place them in the VA-owned portfolio as direct loans – making the loans more affordable for Veterans. VASP officially launches on May 31 and mortgage servicers must have it fully implemented by October 1, 2024.

Veterans facing financial hardship should contact their mortgage servicer and work with them to explore all available home retention options. For additional assistance, Veterans can always contact VA directly by calling 877-827-3702, option 4, or by visiting the VA Home Loans website for additional information.

## Through 2027, Veterans no longer need to pay Copays for their first three outpatient mental Health care visits of each year

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 29, 2024*

**WASHINGTON** — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veterans no longer need to pay copays for their first three outpatient mental health care and substance use disorder visits of each calendar year through 2027. This benefit expands Veterans' access to mental health services and lowers their out-of-pocket costs.

This copayment exemption benefits dates back to June 27, 2023 and—by law—will end Dec. 29, 2027. To be eligible for this exemption, the outpatient visit must be with a qualified mental health professional at VA or provided through VA's network of community care providers. VA will automatically refund Veterans for any copays paid to VA on or after June 27, 2023 for these appointments, with no further action required by those Veterans.

In addition to this copayment exemption, VA launched a new policy in 2023 allowing eligible Veterans and certain former service members in acute suicidal crisis to go to any VA or non-VA emergency facility for no-cost emergency health care. Since then, more than 60,000 Veterans and former service members have used this benefit — providing them with lifesaving care and saving millions of dollars in health care costs. The policy increased access to no-cost emergent suicide care for up to 9 million individuals, because eligible individuals do not need to be enrolled in the VA system or go to a department facility to use this benefit.

AMERICAN LEGION

BE THE ONE

Find out about this program by going to the legion website https://www.legion.org/betheone/about

## BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK BUDDY CHECK

# IN MEMORIAM

Michael Schmidt, USMC
November 21, 1951 ~ May 4, 2024

"My final salute
I render today
I'm still a soldier
I'm just on my way"

final verse from the poem "I'm Still A Soldier" by Timothy Emmons

# 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

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

***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

## *EMAIL AND WEBSITES*

**www.badenpost641.org District 26 FB https://www.facebook.com/PALegionDistrict26**
**Women Vets of Beaver County https://www.facebook.com/SisterhoodVets**
**Email:** legionbaden@comcast.net
**AMERICAN LEGION website: mylegion.org**
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FB PAGE https://www.facebook.com/Baden641auxiliary**