



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



June 11, 2010

☺ SMILE ☺

**Doing nothing is the most tiresome job in the world,
because you can't stop and rest.**

Congratulations to the following for achieving 100% in membership:

Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Cape Elizabeth Post 152

Documentary on The American Legion

A new documentary detailing the 91-year history of The American Legion has just been released and is currently available through the organization's Web site and Flag & Emblem Sales division. History of The American Legion: A National Legacy" was produced by Blackhorse Productions, a California-based company that specializes in military documentaries. Narrated by actor Neal McDonough (*Band of Brothers*), the movie traces the World War I roots of The American Legion and follows its history from its founding through its support for the military during the Global War on Terrorism.

"The American Legion has been the leading voice for veterans and the military since 1919," National Commander Clarence E. Hill said. "While many people know that The American Legion played a pivotal role in the creation of the GI Bill, they don't necessarily know the fascinating history behind it. From the elevation of the VA to cabinet-status to the administration of some of the most successful youth programs in the country, The American Legion has too many noteworthy accomplishments for me to mention here. I am pleased that we now have a DVD that brings the illustrious history of The American Legion to life. This would make a great gift for any Legionnaire and a great educational tool for the general public."

The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 6 during its October 2008 meetings, which authorized The American Legion to cooperate with Blackhorse Productions in the creation of the documentary. The project was completed at no cost to The American Legion, with a portion of the sales proceeds being allocated to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, Child Welfare Foundation and National Emergency Fund.

"Preserving history and teaching viewers about the contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans is a passion for Blackhorse Productions," said Jason Heit, Executive Producer and CEO. "We were extremely

excited to not just tell the great story of The American Legion, but to include the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders.”

The DVDs cost \$19.95 each and are available online at www.emblem.legion.org or by calling 1-888-453-4466. The stock number is 755.906.

With a current membership of 2.5-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and the mentoring of youth. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

U S Flag

One sure way to light up The American Legion’s switchboards is for an overzealous homeowners association to ban the display of Old Glory within its community. While these disturbing incidents seem to be on the rise in recent years, I find it completely ironic that while a ban can exist on flying the flag of our country, no such ban is allowed to exist on desecrating it.

“Sorry, Mr. Veteran, you’re not allowed to fly the flag on your private property, but the Constitution says you can urinate on it, spit on it, and burn it all you want,” is what the government seems to be telling us. The American Legion finds this unacceptable. In fact, for 21 years now, dating back to the Supreme Court’s flawed *Texas v. Johnson* decision, we’ve been pretty fired up about it. In that case, a narrow 5-4 majority ruled that flag desecration was permitted by the First Amendment. Essentially, a margin consisting of one Supreme Court Justice invalidated flag protection laws enacted by 48 states and the federal government. The high court removed from the people the right to protect their nation’s foremost symbol – a right that the people have enjoyed since the birth of this nation.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist usually voted on opposite sides, but they were both right about flag desecration. “In my considered judgment, sanctioning the public desecration of the flag will tarnish its value – both for those who cherish the ideals for which it waves and for those who desire to don the robes of martyrdom by burning it” Stevens said. “That tarnish is not justified by the trivial burden on free expression occasioned by requiring that an available, alternative mode of expression – including uttering words critical of the flag ... be employed.”

Rather than “free expression,” Rehnquist compared flag desecration to an “inarticulate grunt,” and wrote, “I cannot agree that the First Amendment invalidates the Act of Congress, and the laws of 48 of the 50 states, which make criminal the burning of the flag.”

Fortunately, there is something we can do about it. Measures sit in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives that would allow for a narrowly drawn constitutional amendment which would return to the people the right to protect Old Glory. It simply says “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” Flag protection amendments have passed the House of Representative six times in the past, only to fall short of the necessary two-thirds supermajority required in the Senate. Flag Day during an election year represents the perfect opportunity to urge your congressional delegation to vote to protect our flag, the embodiment of what Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf called our “national identity.”

While the Constitution is supposed to protect us from the tyranny of the majority, a strong case can be made that protecting flag desecration as free speech represents a “tyranny of the minority.” Polls repeatedly show that

Americans support this amendment. Fifty state legislatures have called for the amendment's passage. Overwhelming majorities in Congress have passed it in the past and the amendment fell only one vote short last time in the Senate. When is the last time that 66 percent of the Senate *agreed* on anything of substance?

Don't be swayed by phony arguments about desecrating red, white and blue neckties, underwear or beach towels. These are not flags. Would anyone consider putting these items on the caskets of our fallen heroes? Would you run a scarf up a flagpole? The beauty of the flag amendment is its narrowness – it covers the flag, not its likenesses. It also covers “desecration,” not the respectful “burning” of it during its retirement, as opponents would have you believe. The amendment is worth repeating: “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.” Nothing more, nothing less. By encouraging Congress to support **House Joint Resolution 47** and **Senate Joint Resolution 15**, we can make the statement that our flag is important and that “We the people” matter. You can reach your members of Congress by calling the U.S. Capitol, toll free, at 1-877-762-8762. It's time to make somebody else's switchboard light up.

Convention Correction

The memorial service will be Saturday afternoon and not Sunday morning as stated in the June 4th SMILE. Both DEC meetings will be at the Civic Center with the Legion DEC commencing at 9 a.m.

Employment Opportunity

Please find an announcement for a Veterans Service Representative position, GS-0996-07 with promotion potential to GS-11: Announcement Number 402-10-23EXT. This announcement is open to Status Candidates. A copy of this announcement can be found at this USAJOBS.GOV link:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88575392&JobTitle=Veterans+Service+Representative&q=representative&where=augusta%2c+maine&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=Y&FedPub=Y&x=0&y=0&AVSDM=2010-06-09+09%3a22%3a00>

If you have questions regarding the announcement or how to apply for this position, or know of someone that would like to inquire about employment at the Togus Regional Office, please contact me. My contact information is provided below. Thank you and have a great day.

Very Respectfully,

Barb Worden

Human Resources Liaison, Togus Regional Office 1 VA Center (402/21), Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 626-4788 X5077, Fax: 621-4898, Email: barbara.worden@va.gov

Weekly Newsletter The SMILE

Due to the State Convention, the SMILE will not be published on Friday, June 18, 2010.

Virus

We have been informed of a computer virus involving Brenda King's e-mail. Please do not open any e-mail from Brenda as this is a scam.

District Meetings

District 15 – Washington: June 13, Calais Post 3, 2 p.m., installations

What's Happening?

Breakfast: June 12, Palermo Post 163, 7 - 9 a.m., \$5, all you can eat. FMI, please call Clayton York at 993-2589.

Stockholm Post 136 Benefit Supper: June 14, Stockholm Post 136, 6 p.m., to benefit cancer patient, \$8.

Swedish Mid-summer Supper: June 18, Stockholm Post 136, 6 p.m. Entertainment to be provided. \$10.

Roast Beef Supper: June 19, Palermo Post 163, 5 – 7 p.m., \$7 for adults, under age twelve, free. All you can eat. FMI, please call Clayton York at 993-2589.

Father's Day Breakfast: June 20, Winthrop Post 40, hosted by SAL, 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. \$6 Adults, \$3 Children, kids under 3 free. All you can eat at our "world famous buffet", eggs, bacon, corned beef hash, hash brown potatoes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, fruit juice, fresh fruit and coffee, open to the public, members and guests. FMI, please call 592-1203.

Donations

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Charlie Bennett, Dept. Sergeant-At-Arms (donations received)
PDC Donald Simoneau
Matthew Jacobson
Madison Post 39
District 17 – Northern Aroostook
Strong Post 78
Leroy Knowlton

\$32 – Cemetery Flags
\$150 – Cemetery Flags
\$100 – Cemetery Flags
\$1,000 – Special Olympics
\$50 – Maine Blind Camp
\$50 – Maine Blind Camp
\$100 – Maine Blind Camp

Sick Call

Mary Stoddard, Post 181. Cards may be sent to her at 65 Easy St., Litchfield 04350.

PDC Donald Stone is at Collier's Nursing Home. Cards may be sent to him at 33 Birch Ave., Room 205, Ellsworth 04605.

Letters

Dear Lloyd and Members of The American Legion James V. Day Scholarship Committee

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the American Legion, James V. Day Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

I am eager to begin my college career next fall at the University of New England. I will major in biology and I look forward to becoming involved with many extracurricular activities, beginning with the golf team. After graduation, I plan to apply to dental school and pursue my graduate degree in dentistry. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to achieving this goal.

By awarding me the American Legion James V. Day Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden, which will allow me to concentrate more of my time on learning. I plan to work hard in college and to maintain a high grade point average. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and to give back to my community. Once again, I offer my sincerest thanks for your generous support.

Sincerely,
Andrew Emery

P.S. I regret not being able to receive this award in person at the 92nd Annual State Convention in Bangor on June 19. I am leaving for Ohio the day after my high school graduation for a trip that has been planned since February. However, my grandfather, Bob Emery Sr. who will be at the convention would be honored to receive this award on my behalf. Thank you and May God Bless our troops who are in harm's way and all the veterans who have made our nation great.

Sons of The American Legion Detachment News

There are still 145 members that have not paid their 2010 dues or maybe they have but your membership guy has not transmitted them yet to Detachment. Gentlemen, we go to convention in just seven days. That is just one week to make 100% membership before convention. Our Detachment pride is on the line, guys. Talk to those delinquent members and work with them to get their dues up to date. Then get those transmittals done and mailed to: **Detachment of Maine, P. O. Box 155, Woolwich, ME 04579**. Speaking of convention, I hope that all squadrons have chosen their delegates. We meet in the Mezzanine of the Bangor Civic Center. Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. If you did not pre-register, we can handle that then. The important thing is that your squadron be represented.

The country music show in Waterville was definitely a success. Vice Commander Danforth is quite a promoter as it turns out. The Post 5 Legion, Auxiliary & Sons were gracious hosts for the event. Squadron 21 Color Guard performed admirably for the occasion. A big Detachment "thank you" goes out to Debbie Myers, Sonny Perry, Bob Elston and their bands for wonderful performances and donating their talent to benefit homeless veterans. I thank all involved for a job well done. We should have the final tally at convention.

I was elected your Detachment Commander at our 33rd convention in 2008 and was re-elected in 2009. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this organization for two years as I got to work with a lot of great people doing some really good things. We've done things like provide soldiers with a little piece of home, assisted our

veterans in various ways, helped the blind to go to summer camp and special needs kids to compete in their own Olympics. We've done all this and more by working together like a family. I'll be stepping down which means this is the last **FROM THE SONS** that I will pen for the **SMILE** as the new commander takes up the pen on June 25th. I've truly been blessed and I look forward with excitement to see the good things coming in the new Legion family year.

Yours in Service,
Bruce Pierce
Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

We are a week away from State Convention and I truly don't know where this year has gone. It not only has flown by, but has been full of exciting events and happenings that will stay with me for years to come. One of the most exciting happenings is to see the Auxiliary working together for the benefit of our Veterans, Community and Children & Youth. Our public relations have improved 100% over past years and the work done on membership speaks for itself. Though shy of the 100 mark, your efforts prove that with a little team work and drive we can meet the goals we set.

To the Program Chairmen who have met the goals you set with the National Chairmen, I applaud you. To those of you who didn't reach that point, but gave it your all, I also applaud you. Next year can be as rewarding with all of us working together - I'm up for it, how about you?

I do hope that a great many of you **will** be attending Convention, as well as, as the Officers' Appreciation Banquet. Lots of fun and surprises are planned. Come and support your District on June 18th.

A reminder - memberships can still be sent in, so don't give up on our push to "Station 100".

-----WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS RESULTS-----

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ALA-Dept. President
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Best Wishes,

Lloyd Woods,
Department Adjutant

**Maine American Legion Baseball
2010 State Tournament
Wainwright Farm Complex**

Date	Game	Teams	Times
Wed. July 28			
	Game 1	Zone 3 Winner vs Zone 4 Winner	10:00 a.m.-Field A
	Game 2	Zone 2 Winner vs Runner-up*	11:00 a.m.-Field B
	Game 3	Zone 5 Winner vs Runner-up*	2:00 p.m.-Field A
	Game 4	Zone 1 Winner vs Runner-up*	4:00 p.m.-Field B
Thur. July 29			
	Game 5	Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2	10:00 a.m.-Field A
	Game 6	Loser Game 3 vs Loser Game 4	11:00 a.m.-Field B
	Game 7	Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2	2:00 p.m.-Field A
	Game 8	Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4	4:00 p.m.-Field B
Fri. July 30			
	Game 9	Winner Game 6 vs Loser Game 7	11:00 a.m.-Field A
	Game 10	Winner Game 5 vs Loser Game 8	1:00 p.m.-Field B
	Game 11	Winner Game 7 vs Winner Game 8	3:30 p.m.-Field A
Sat. July 31			
	Game 12	Loser Game 11 vs Winner Game 9 (Note 1)	11:00 a.m.-Field A
	Game 13	Winner Game 11 vs Winner Game 10	3:00 p.m.-Field A
Sun. Aug 1			
	Game 14	Winner Game 12 vs Winner Game 13 (Note 2)	12:00 Noon Field A
	Game 15	Winner Game 12 vs Winner Game 13 (if necessary)	3:30 p.m.-Field A

Playoffs for last two Runner-up spots will be played at Wainwright Farm Complex in South Portland, officials for the games will be assigned by the umpire in charge for the State Tournament, Zone Commissioners for teams to supervise the games. Host will collect at the gate to pay for officials and retain the profits if any or teams will share the cost. Teams will also provide balls equally.

Pairings for first round games will not have two teams from the same zone meeting until the 3rd round (day).

Note 1—Pairings for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents unless absolutely necessary.

Note 2—If three teams remain after Game 13, the Winner of Game 11 will receive the bye in Game 14.

Northeast Regional- Middletown CT, August 05-09, 2010.

World Series – Spokane Washington, August 13-17 2010.