



The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 December 2020

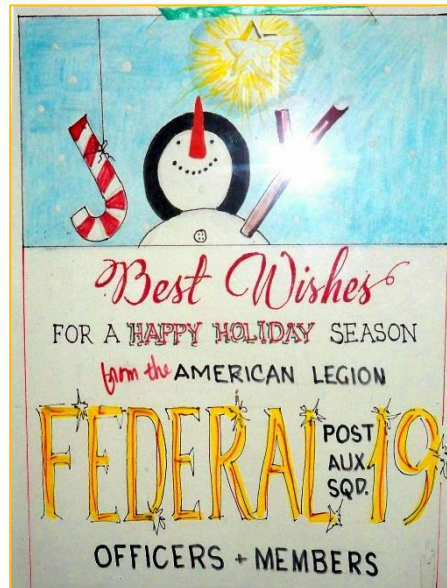
Respectful disagreement cannot divide us

National Commander Bill Oxford asks us to consider this 1964 message from then National Commander Daniel Foley: "At a time of rapid change and recurring crisis in national affairs, one factor remains constant. The loudest noise and the most confused counsel continue to come from extremists.

"By extremists, I mean those individuals who would save America by forsaking its free institutions ... who openly assail our system but, more especially, those who, in the conviction that theirs is the only right view, have lost sight of – and faith in – the fundamental processes of self-government.

"They claim to have the one true answer to every problem. They talk of setting aside the law when the law offends them. They are quick to cry treason, slow to admit error, and indifferent to arguments and facts that do not support their beliefs. They are not really leftists or rightists – but simply modern anarchists – though many of them would be shocked at the idea.

"There are two basic flaws in this brand of extremism. It violates the spirit and traditions of real Americanism. It seeks a course of action that is bound to fail. As Legionnaires, we bow to no one in our concern and zeal for the future security and greatness of America. We share a special responsibility to uphold the institutions which alone can be the means of realizing that future.



"Now, more than ever before, Americans need to keep their values in clear focus. Our resort must be to reason, not to emotion; to persuasion, not to violence; to perseverance, not to panic.

"It isn't necessary or desirable that we all think alike. It is essential that we espouse our differences reasonably with good will and due regard for other opinions. Honest disagreement honorably expressed cannot divide Americans.

"The citizen who seeks recourse to hatred or violence as the answer to the nation's problems is turning away from an acceptable and workable American solution. The American Legion has always asserted its right to speak out vigorously and candidly on public issues. At the same time, I assure you that our criticism will be constructive and responsible.

"We champion the needs of disabled and aging war veterans whose past services are too soon forgotten by many of their

**General Meeting
Saturday, December 6,
4 pm at the Post**

countrymen. But our difference with those who oppose us is one of judgment, not of patriotism; and the best hope for our cause lies in education and persuasion, not vindictiveness. This is the American way.

"Ours is a big country with big and perplexing problems. The answers do not come easily. They will not come at all if substantial numbers of Americans permit themselves to be led into extravagances of hate and fear."

Peace on Earth

As we embark upon new endeavors and a new year, may you continue to support the work of our very fine organization. Let's continue to make a positive difference to veterans, seniors, youth and the community. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with peace and happiness. Faith makes all things possible; hope makes all things work, and love makes all things beautiful. May you all be blessed with peace, love and joy. May your love for Post #19 continue to shine.

Cmdr. Larry Little

Post #19 to host virtual Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

This year, [Federal Post #19](#) is hosting a Virtual Ugly Sweater Contest. The contest will be open to any member of Post, Unit, or Squadron #19, and the rules are simple. Put on your ugliest Christmas sweater or outfit and post a picture to our Facebook page: [American Legion FederalpostNineteen Baltimore Facebook](#).

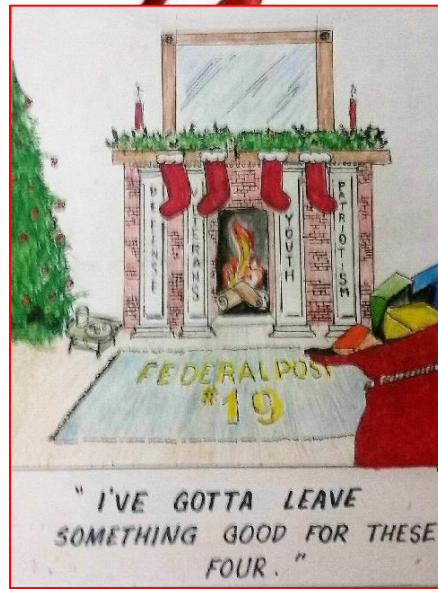


We are lucky to have three icons of fashion to judge the contest, our 2nd Vices, Harriette Gross, Trishera "Tee" Diggs, and Roscoe Holley. Please, do not try to unduly influence them in any manner. The deadline for posting will be Saturday, January 19, and we'll announce the winners on Sunday, December 20 when we draw the raffle ticket winners. First place will be \$25 with two second place winners at \$10 each.

Christmas Raffle to benefit building fund; drawing Dec. 20nd

On Saturday, December 20, the [Federal Post #19](#) family will present our Annual Cash for Christmas Building Fund Raffle with all proceeds to benefit the building fund. The drawing will be at 9 pm, and winners need not be present to win. First prize is \$250, 2nd prize \$150, and 3rd Prize \$50. Tickets are \$1.00 each. See any Legionnaire, Auxiliary member, or Son for tickets.

Our building is more than 100 years old and is in constant need of repair. Our Building Fund Campaign was relatively successful last year and contributed to us getting a new and



much needed roof, going beyond our original goal of just making repairs.

This year, we hope to use the funds to help make our backyard more accessible and entertaining for members and guests, especially giving us more room to social distance and be comfortable. We still need to upgrade our furniture throughout the canteen and the second floor. The funds raised by the Cash for Christmas Raffle will help us to achieve these goals. We're asking each member to sell or purchase at least 25 tickets to help our home.

Post #19 Family delivers Thanksgiving Dinner to veterans, seniors, and first responders



Kitchen and serving crew: Tangi Turner, Lasharan Wallace, and Rokeysha Witherspoon. Not pictured: Betty Bonds, Robert Bonds, Barbara Washington, and Woody Wallace.



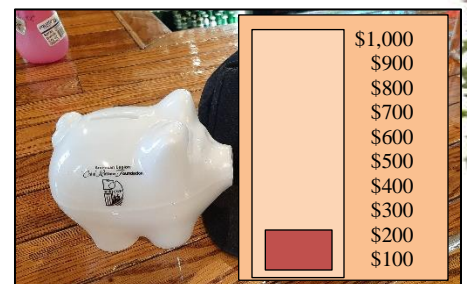
Delivery crew: Kendall Cooper, Larry Little, Margaret Conaway, LeCount Grace, and Thomas Russum. Not pictured: Kermit Brown, Kevin "Dready" Hall, and Wanda Coe-Stewart.



DJ Rico kept us company all day.

On Saturday, November 21, [Post #19](#) hosted our Annual Seniors, Veterans and Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post, a tradition that dates back to the 1930's. We delivered more than 190 Thanksgiving dinners to veterans, seniors, and first responders in the community. While keeping socially distanced, we served more than 25 dinners at the Post and more than 25 take outs. Commander Larry Little wants to "thank all the volunteers and donors who helped make the day successful especially in this time of need. Our dinners not only brought food but also cheer to those who are most vulnerable to the pandemic."

"Feed the Pig" Fundraiser for Legion Child Welfare Foundation





The Scoop salutes our World War II veterans

As we commemorate Pearl Harbor, December 7, a National Day of Remembrance, let us not forget the women and men from Post #19 who valiantly served in World War II. *The Scoop* would like to give a special salute to the World War II veterans still on our roster: **Comrades Joseph Berry, David Coleman, James Elliott, Roosevelt Grandy, Winfred Jackson, John Markham, Elmer Moore, Madison Murray, Leon Nowlin, Emmett Pope, and Leon Snyder.** While your numbers grow smaller with the passage of time, your impact and contribution to Post #19, the community, and the nation remain immortal.

During World War II, African Americans from Maryland served in every branch of the service and as members of the “Double Victory” campaign that fought racism at home and fascism abroad. Comrades of [Federal Post #19](#) were counted in every branch of military service. We served on ships like the *U.S.S. John Pope, AP 10*, which transported troops throughout both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. We also served with the 6888th Postal Battalion, the only black WAC’s to serve in Europe.

Those who became members of our [Post #19](#) family joined the Montford Point marines, the first black marines in U.S. history. They

were a part of the 92nd Infantry who encountered extensive action in Europe; the 93rd Infantry who served in the Pacific; the 95th Engineers who helped build the strategic Alaskan Highway in the extreme cold; and the “Red Ball Express” who supplied Patton and fought their way across Europe to defeat Germany and fascism.

After the war, WWII veterans helped swell the ranks of the Post to more than 300 members. They became an integral part of the Post family and helped to sustain us in good and bad times. Thirty years ago, they were still the backbone of the Post, always saying “young people for war, old people for counsel” and instilling us with a sense of pride and duty. Meaning that we, the Vietnam generation, had to pick up the mantle. We have much to thank them for, and again, *The Scoop* would like to give a hearty salute to those who made up the “greatest generation.”

- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands often
- Keep safe distances



On Veterans Day, SAL Baltimore District Commander Irvin Johnson, Post #19 Color Guard member LeCount Grace, Baltimore District Commander Reggie Baker, and SAL District Vice Commander John Wynder (not pictured) plant flags and salute the fallen at Baltimore National Cemetery.

**Bring Holiday Cheer,
Make A Buddy Check!**



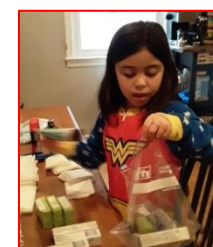
Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

Unit #19 collects winter gear and toiletries for the homeless



This Christmas season, [Federal Unit #19](#) is collecting winter gear, gloves, hats, scarves, and so forth, for the homeless community in Baltimore. They are also putting together care packages for the homeless. Assisting them is Paige Bacon, a volunteer from the Women’s Voters League, and her granddaughter Rosalie Ortiz.

[Unit #19](#) member Wanda Coe-Stewart has worked closely with Paige on voter registration drives. Paige was curious about [Post #19](#), and Wanda explained some of the community service that we do. So,



Paige and Rosalie (pictured making care packages) decided to lend a hand and make around 14 care packages for us to give out to the

homeless. The packages are both male and female and consist of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitary napkins, wash clothes, and so forth. [Unit #19](#) proves that when you do good things, people want to help.

[Federal Unit #19](#) President Gina sends her “Greetings, this is the time

of the year to spend time and create memories with family and friends. As we celebrate our many reasons to be grateful, let us continue to keep those who are less fortunate in our thoughts. Our mission is SERVICE NOT SELF, and the [Post #19](#) family has always sponsored many activities to live up to this goal. Please, have a happy, healthy and safe holiday and don't forget 'IT ONLY HAPPENS AT POST 19.'"



A Word from the Sons

Federal Squadron #19 welcomes three new members

At their November General Meeting, [Federal Squadron #19](#) welcomed three new members, James Brown, Andre Clark, and Kevin Hall, who were also greeted with 25 Christmas Building Fund raffle tickets to sell.

[Squadron #19](#) Commander William Pinder wishes his SAL comrades and the entire [Post #19](#) family a safe and happy holiday.

[Join to Serve](#)

Detachment to restart this year's Commander's Project; focus on Catch-A-Lift Fund

[SAL Detachment](#) Commander Bob Manzo has restarted this year's Commander's Project with a focus on supporting the [Catch-A-Lift Fund](#). The [Catch-A-Lift Fund](#) is a non-profit that has helped thousands of post-9/11 combat wounded veterans regain their mental and physical health



through gym memberships, in home gym equipment, personalized fitness and nutrition programs, and a peer support network.

Commander Manzo still wants Squadrons to support local charities that need assistance from COVID shutdowns as part of the Commander's Project. Rather than send requests and donations to [Detachment](#), Squadrons should make donations directly to local charities and send copies of your checks to Detachment Adjutant Bill Matoska to be recognized on the Commander's Project report.

VA Corner

AL Dept of MD donates to the VA Medical Center

The [Department of Maryland](#) recently donated \$2,000 to the VA Medical Center (VAMC). On behalf of the Department, Veterans Affairs Commission Chair Reginald Jordan thanked "the Medical Center staff for their continuing efforts to provide our veterans quality care and service."

The VA Commission is seeking to expand [Department](#) support to the VAMC Greene Street, Loch Raven, and Perry Point locations.

Recognizing the impact of COVID on our female veterans who provide caregiver services in the home, the Commission is also expanding efforts in [Women's Health and Caregiver](#) related services.

Post Notes

Take the online [Basic Training Course](#) on the [National](#) website.

All members are asked to help keep the Post clean, clearing tables, getting up spills, and generally policing the building, inside and out.

The Scoop salutes ...

[Unit #19](#) members Cheryl Crawford, Jean Robinson-McCauley, and Tangi Turner for decorating the Post for the Christmas season;

Past Commander and event coordinator Betty Bonds and all the members and guests who volunteered and donated to the successful Seniors, Veterans, and Community Dinner.

Sick Call

Greg Hall
Louis Hardy
Freda Holley
Jimmy Johnson
Verlon Mills
Emmett Pope
Warren Scott
Lincoln Stokes
Abby Wilson

Post Everlasting



Thomas Wiggins