



# The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for Federal Post #19 of The American Legion  
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 February 2025

## Lowman Post #109 to host NCR District 4 Four Chaplains Service on February 4

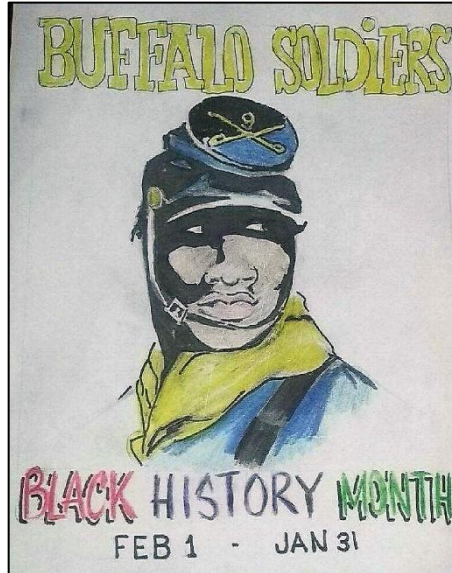
On Sunday, February 2, 2025, [Dewey Lowman Post #109](#), 1610 Old Sulphur Spring Rd, 21227 ([map](#)) will host the Northern Central Region District 4 Four Chaplains Ceremony at 10 am. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

On February 3, 1943, the SS *Dorchester*, an Army transport ship, was steaming ahead in the icy waters of Newfoundland on a voyage from New York to an American base in Greenland. Sailing the waters of the North Atlantic was extremely dangerous as German U-boats preyed on American ships.

A part of a three-ship convoy, the *Dorchester* had 902 military and civilian personnel on board including four army chaplains—George L. Fox, Methodist; Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, all first lieutenants.



Early in the morning at 12:55 am, the *Dorchester* was torpedoed by a German submarine. Men jumped into the ocean and were swept away. Overcrowded lifeboats capsized, and men drowned. Aboard ship, panic and chaos ensued, and through it all, the four army chaplains provided calming



voices through prayer, hymn, and encouragement.

When the ship ran out of life jackets, each of the chaplains removed their lifejackets and gave them to others. As the ship sank, the four chaplains were seen still on board with their arms linked and still offering prayer and singing hymns. Acts of valor and sacrifice as theirs can never be forgotten, for they truly earned the name “Immortal Chaplains.”

For more info on the four chaplains, see the [Four Chaplain Memorial Foundation](#) website.

## Black Coast Guardsman also sacrificed self to save lives

The transport convoy of the ill-fated *Dorchester* was accompanied by three Coast Guard cutters, which immediately went into action when the ship was torpedoed. One of the Coast Guardsmen who volunteered to help with the rescue was African American

**General Meeting**  
Sunday, February 2, 4 pm  
at the Post

**NCR Meeting**  
Sunday, February 9, 1 pm  
Daily-Lodgson Post #17 ([map](#))

**DEC Meeting**  
Sunday, February 16, 1 pm  
Greenbelt Post #136 ([map](#))

Charles Walter David, Jr., who joined the Coast Guard in 1941 shortly before the war and was assigned to the USCGC *Comanche*.

Aboard the *Comanche*, David performed menial labor, but on that night as part of the rescue effort, David jumped into the frigid North Atlantic waters to personally save two of his crewmates and assist his crewmates in saving 93 of the 230 survivors from the *Dorchester*. He contracted pneumonia from his efforts in the water and died less than two months later from his illness.



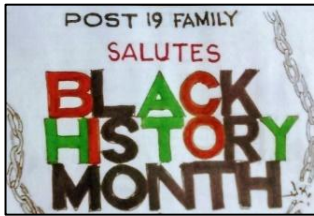
The Coast Guard posthumously awarded David the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. In 2010, the Coast Guard named a Sentinel-class cutter the USCGC *David* in his honor. David made the ultimate sacrifice to save others, and his bravery and valor are indeed immortal.

# BE THE ONE

## Post #19 hosts African Attire/Dashiki Night for Black History Month

On Tuesday, February 25, [Federal Post #19](#) will celebrate Black History Month with an African Attire/Dashiki Night at 7 pm at the Post. Everyone is asked to wear traditional African attire that acknowledges our heritage.

This year's theme for Black History Month is "African Americans and Labor." From slavery through freedom, work and working continue to play profound roles in helping to



shape the varieties within African American culture and life.

For instance, as we approach our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, members have asked why are we named "Federal." The short answer is that our history says that we were found during the Great Depression in 1930 by federal employees.

While our Post history does not state it, a black veteran in 1930 who was a federal employee was very likely a postal employee. By 1930, African Americans comprised nearly 24 percent of the postal workforce in Baltimore. While considered low paid workers in larger American society, within black communities, they were part of the black middle-class with steady, dependable work that helped sustain black communities during the Depression.

As members of National Alliance of Postal Employees (NAPE), an industrial union organized by black workers in 1913 to combat growing racial discrimination and segregation in federal employment, many of these black postal workers became politically active leaders within their communities. NAACP national labor director, 1951-77, Herbert Hill noted that when he went to various cities

looking for volunteers for the civil rights struggle, "there would be the minister, the undertaker, the lawyer and the post office worker." A hearty salute to the black veterans who were and are a part of the postal workforce that helped sustain and progress our communities and Federal Post #19.

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**A posthumous salute to Comrade Dorothy Carter, Post Everlasting, who was a member of the [6888 WAC Postal](#)**



**[Battalion](#) that served in Europe during World War II and a founding editor of *The Scoop*. She was most proud of**



being chosen, marching into Paris that she helped liberate, and serving her nation. *The Scoop* recommends the new Netflix movie [The Six Triple Eight](#) for a sample of her experiences.

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**Department Commander Heredia to host the inaugural Celebration of Champions Gala**



On April 19, 2025, The Department of Maryland Legion family will host our inaugural [Celebration of Champions Gala](#) at Waters Edge Event Center, 4687 Millennium Drive, Belcamp, MD, 21017 ([map](#)), 6-10 pm, honoring those

who have served and those who have supported our mission. Cocktail Attire, Live Band "Chasing Friday, Tickets are \$100 each, \$150 per couple.

Department Commander DAVE HEREDIA chose "[We Are the Champions](#)" by Queen as the department's theme song for 2024-2025 because the song "embodies the mission and spirit of the American Legion, capturing the perseverance, gratitude, and triumph over adversity that define veterans, their families, and our Legion community. Its [lyrics](#) resonate deeply with our shared journey and inspire us to continue advocating for those who have served...We are the Champions of Hope!"

Proceeds from the event will support The American Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) and the Veterans Assistance Program (VAP), which provide critical resources and support to over 480,000 active-duty military, National Guard, Reserves, veterans, and their families in Maryland.

## NABVETS presents 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, 4-7:30 pm, members of the [National Association of Black Veterans](#) (NABVETS) will present their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet at the Tyler Ballroom, Student Center, Morgan State University. The theme for the evening is "A Tribute to Our Fathers (WWII)." The affair will feature a souvenir journal that presents the extraordinary story of our parents who served in the war to defeat "Fascism and Hitlerism" despite facing omnipresent racism and bigotry. And finally, the journal will tell the story of the 231<sup>st</sup> Transportation Truck Battalion – the only Maryland National Guard unit to serve in the Korean War. For tickets and further info, contact Comrade [Clarence "Tiger" Davis](#).

## Boys State to be held June 20-26 at McDaniel College; applications now available

This year's [MD Boys State](#) will be held on June 15-21, 2025, at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. Founded in 1935, Boys State is a summer leadership and citizenship program for high school juniors, which focuses on exploring the mechanics of American government and politics.

Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending the program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business, or another community-based organization.

In a tradition that dates to the 1940's, [Federal Post #19](#) attempts to sponsor at least one youth to Boys State. For instance, in 1951, [Post #19](#) sent one of only four African American youths of 150 total in attendance to the Boys State program at St. John's College in Annapolis. The July 7, 1951 *Baltimore Afro-American* noted that the youths were "chosen by their high schools on the basis of leadership and general character." [Apple TV is currently showing the critically acclaimed drama \*Boys State\*](#) that follows the trials and tribulations of Boys State attendees in Texas.

Applications for this year's [MD Boys State](#) are currently online. To be eligible you must be a male high school junior with at least one semester remaining in your senior year. So, if you know of anyone in our extended Post 19 family who will be in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade next year, let us know and we'll sponsor him. Apply at the [Boys/Girls State Application Portal](#).

The American Legion



Members of Federal Unit #19 and Squadron #19 attend Northeastern Squadron #285's dance benefitting the Legion Four Pillars.



## Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19



## Unit #19 celebrates 90 years of service to veterans and community

[Federal Unit #19](#) was chartered by the Department of Maryland on May 19, 1935, beginning a legacy of service. The first President was Winnie Smith, and since then, twenty-eight women have served as President of Unit #19. Throughout the years, the members of Unit #19 established and supported programs that continue to benefit our veterans and community.

Always a partner with the Comrades of Post #19 and Squadron #19, in the late 1980's, Unit #19 President Molly Alderman along with Post #19 Commander Raymond Gough, and SAL Squadron #19 Commander Jesse Curtis gathered the Post #19 family to burn our mortgage, which was completely paid off after years of perseverance.

Among their many endeavors, members of Unit # 19 collect and distribute blankets and winter gear for the homeless and Christmas baskets for those in need. They organize a Back-to-School Block Party that distributes more than 150 book bags with school supplies to neighborhood youth, and their members volunteer at MCVETS, the VA Hospital, and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen that feeds homeless veterans. They collect puzzle and word game books for hospitalized veterans to help them occupy the many hours away from home.

They also serve our first responders giving them small gifts of kindness and care from candy on Valentines Day to coffee and donuts on Patriots (9/11) Day. And of course, they take care of one another, especially those who for whatever reason can't get around like they used to. They serve as Department and District officers and on many of the Department and District committees. They help raise money for Girls State and serve as advisers for the week away at Girls State. In a word, the members of Federal Unit #19 are AWESOME! And *The Scoop* gives them the heartiest of salutes!

### Service Not Self

## Federal Unit #19 to sponsor a bus trip to New York in May

On Saturday, May 17, February 2, [Federal Unit #19](#) will sponsor a fun-filled day of shopping in Cowtown, NJ and comradery at historic [General Charles](#)

[Young Post #398](#) in Harlem, NY. The "party bus" will



have light refreshments, but you are welcome to bring your own refreshments. Buses will depart from

Post 19 at 8 am and will leave Post #398 for the return trip at 6 pm. Tickets are \$70, and for tickets and more info, contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice and Chair Pamela Hines (443-415-7795) or Co-Chair Rokeysha Witherspoon (410-210-7832).



## A Word from the Sons



**Squadron #19 Commander Irvin Johnson, Adjutant Clarence Figgs, and Historian Enrico Williams pass out reading books to pre-k students at Belmont Elementary to support the Reading is Fundamental Program.**



**Squadron #19 Adjutant Clarence Figgs and Commander Irvin Johnson deliver donations of suits and ties to the veterans at Baltimore Station.**

## Squadron #19 to host Breakfast Show in March and Mystery Ride in April

On Saturday March 29, 9 am-1 pm, [Federal Squadron #19](#)'s will host a Breakfast Show at the Post. The menu includes egg, bacon, sausage (pork and turkey), home fries, fruit salad, coffee, and much more. Tickets are \$15. For

THE AMERICAN LEGION FEDERAL POST #19 FAMILY  
presents

**A Black-Tie Affair**

Celebrating Our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and saluting Past Post and Squadron Commanders  
and Past Unit Presidents

Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

**THE FORUM**  
4210 Primrose Avenue | Baltimore, Maryland 21215

**OPEN BAR** | Featuring The Bobby Rucks Group & DJ LC Swain  
Buffet Dinner | 2:30 pm-4:00 pm

**\$95.00 per person**

All ticket holders are invited to the After Party at the Post #19 following the event.  
YOU MUST HAVE YOUR TICKET TO ENTER THE POST.

See any member of the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for tickets—Reggie Baker, Betty Bonds, Kendall Cooper, Larry Little, Wanda Coe-Stewart, Robin Kennedy, Sherry Long, Roscoe Helley, and Rico Williams.

Rodney Reid, Cmdr. | Shelby Scott, ALA Pres. | Irvin Johnson, SAL Cmdr.

more info and tickets, contact any SAL Comrade. Then on Saturday April 26, the Squadron will host a Mystery Ride, but they won't say where they're going. The bus will leave the Post at 12 pm and return at 9:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served on the bus. Tickets are \$50. Again, for more info and tickets, contact any SAL Comrade.

**Join to Serve**

### Post Notes

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

Please take time to visit or call our members who are sick and shut-in. They must not be forgotten.

Please remember to clean your own areas at the Post. Help keep all of us safe.

*The Scoop* salutes ...

Unit #19 members Cheryl Crawford and La'Sharan Wallace, Squadron #19 Comrade Kevin "Dready" Hall, and Post #19 family member Lakeitha "Tweet" Weeden for taking the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics;



Unit #19 members Tangi Turner (900) and Past Unit #19 President La'Sharan Wallace (400) for more than 1300 hour of volunteerism at VA Hospitals;

Comrade Teresa Beauchamp for serving as the administrator for our official website [federalpost19.org](http://federalpost19.org) and our Facebook page [The Real Post 19](#).

### Our Comrades and Friends

NCR Reception for the Dept. Cmdr., Dept. ALA Pres., and Detachment Cmdr., Sat, Mar 1, 2 pm, Towson Post #22, 125 York Rd. 21204

Apollo Bull, Clam, & Oyster Roast, Sun, Mar 16, 2-6 pm, Tall Cedars, 2501 Putty Hill Av, 21224, BYOB, \$65.

Gladiators 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull & Oyster Roast, Sun, Apr 13, 12:30-5:30, Martin's West, 6317 Dogwood Rd, 21207, BYOB, \$75.

NCR District #4 Bull and Oyster Roast, Sat, April 26, Howard Turner Post #276, 8068 Quarterfield Rd, Severn, MD, 21144, \$60.

**Sick Call**

**Louis Hardy**  
**Freda Holley**  
**Emmett Pope**  
**Claude Scott**  
**Bill Williams**