



# The Legion Scoop

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

## Federal Post #19 cautiously reopens following state and city guidelines

Recently, the Post cautiously reopened according to guidelines put in place by the state and city. Our first priority is the safety of our volunteers, members, and guests. We have thoroughly cleaned and sanitized the Post and continue to do so each evening. We ask that members help by cleaning your area when you leave. Look for disinfectant wipes in containers throughout the Post along with hand sanitizers.

To enter, everyone must wear a face mask, and for possible contact tracing, everyone must sign the book including members. We ask anyone who feels sick to stay at home. We removed tables, chairs, and bar stools to ensure 50% capacity and social distancing. To make better use of the backyard, we cleaned and added seating to the back, which also helps with social distancing.

For now, we are limiting hours to 3-10 pm on Mon-Thu and 2-12 pm on Fri-Sun. Hours are flexible according to the manager's discretion. We will not serve garnishes--lemons, limes, cherries, and so forth. No DJ or karaoke for now, but we will continue to assess our situation. The kitchen will reopen, especially for carry-out, and will follow all necessary guidelines. Members can bring in food while the kitchen is not open; just remember to clean up.

To have a successful reopen, we need all members to follow the guidelines and rules. We also need volunteers to help with the canteen as bar techs and managers. But more



important, we need you to support the canteen so that we can maintain our building and adhere to our principles as a veterans' service organization. So come by, get a drink, leave a tip, and maintain social distancing. Personal responsibility and discipline.

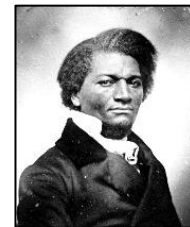
## Federal Post #19 gives a social distancing cookout for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

This year, our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July cookout this Saturday from 3-6 pm will be different from previous years. The food will be prepared ahead of time and placed in carryout trays. You can take the food with you or eat at the Post, but come in, get a drink, leave a tip, and maintain social distance. Outside seating will be available. Each tray will include a hamburger and a hot dog, chicken or ribs, corn-on-the cob, and potato salad or macaroni salad.

In 1852, abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass asked what is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to an American slave and criticized the hypocrisy of

**General Meeting  
Sunday, July 5  
4 pm at the Post**

celebrating American freedom and independence while maintaining



American slavery and inequality. He described the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations as "mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and

hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages."

Indeed, throughout antebellum America (1830-60), free African Americans in the North were excluded, sometimes forcefully, from Independence Day celebrations, and instead, some black communities held celebrations on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. Moreover, they celebrated other days of independence, naming them Emancipation Days and including the end of the international slave trade (1808), Haitian independence (1804), and the end of slavery in the West Indies (1834), the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) among more local festivals of independence

So in 2020, Douglass' question is still relevant for African Americans. Slavery is over and Jim Crow segregation has been dismantled, but racism and inequality still haunt the promise of America. As African Americans and especially as veterans, we have earned the right to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the birthday of our nation. Our ancestors earned it, we earned it, and our sons and daughters continue to earn it. So what is the 4<sup>th</sup>

of July to African Americans: liberty and equality for all, achievable goals no matter the obstacles.

## Post elections tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 2

The elections for 2020-2021 officers will be held on Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 p.m. with location to be determined. **All members** must have a 2020 or 2021 membership card to be admitted and vote. No **new memberships, renewals or lost cards** will be taken care of on the day of election. If your dues are not current or you have lost your membership card, please contact Post Adjutant Kendall Cooper.

If you want to run or nominate someone, nomination sheets are posted in the front and back of the Post. We will also accept nominations by email to Adjutant Cooper starting July 1 and, of course, take nominations from the floor. If you plan to nominate someone, Cooper says, "Please, make sure the person you nominate will accept the nomination and is willing to serve."

## Department officers emphasize Buddy Checks in during pandemic

In this quarter's [Free State Warrior](#), all of our Department officers emphasized the importance of Buddy Checks during the pandemic. Department Commander Philip Dorsey best illustrates the sentiment of the other officers. "Take a few minutes and call a Buddy by reaching out to another veterans," says Dorsey. "Those few minutes can make a world of difference; checking to see how they are doing or if they possibly need a little help could make another veteran get through this COVID-19 pandemic and realize we are all in this together. This pandemic is not only

affecting you, but our entire Legion family."

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Department Convention will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020, 9 am-2:30 pm, War Memorial Building, 101 N Gay St., Baltimore, MD 21202. The Convention will conduct essential business only with a limited agenda. Delegate fees are \$5 and an additional \$5 for late fees. The mailing of delegate registration begins in early July and is due by August 29th. The DCC is working on refreshments, lodging in the area, and other items, so look for more info in the upcoming weeks.



Federal Post #19 Comrades participate in the Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony for unserviceable flags on Flag Day, June 14.

## Department moves forward with reorganization plans

As a lead up to the Department Convention and a vote on a resolution to reorganize the Department structure, the Department will host a few discussions to allow for better information flow to all interested in learning about the proposal, those wishing to offer areas for improvement, and any other questions or comments. Please send any questions to Department Adjutant

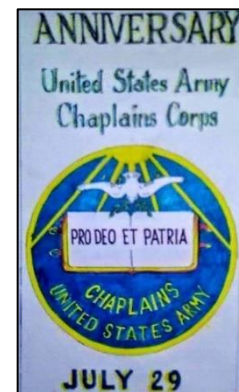
Russel Myers who will attempt to answer them to the best of his ability.

The reorganization is momentous for the Department, and the first time in nearly 50 years that the Department structure is being altered. Having a full and open discussion is necessary. The DEC has voted twice to support the reorganization plan, and will most likely have another debate/vote on the topic in August to allow as much improvement to happen as we can, and to stop the process if the DEC or the Convention decides that reorganization is not what the DEC or delegates want.

As structured now, the Department will consist of four regions with two districts per region. Federal Post #19 along with 17 other Posts would be in the North Central Region, District 3. Adjutant Myers has sent out a good deal of information on the reorganization, and so many of your questions can be answered at our upcoming July 5 General Meeting. Please bring any questions or concerns to the meeting.

## Army Chaplain Corps celebrates 245<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In 1775, The Continental Congress authorized the creation of an Army Chaplain Corps, providing one chaplain for each regiment. At the time, those who served as Army



chaplains were paid about \$20 a month and had no required military uniform. Originally entirely Protestant, the Army Chaplain Corps evolved and changed,

and over time, Catholic, African American, and Jewish chaplains were added. These additions happened

prior to or during the Civil War, but women were not granted commissions as Army chaplains until 1979.

In 1863, African Methodist Episcopal (AME) minister Henry McNeal Turner became the first African American commissioned to be an Army chaplain. Turner was assigned to Company B of the United States Colored Troop (USCT), which he helped organized. For much of the war, he was the only black officer in the USCT.



During Reconstruction in 1868, Turner was elected to the Georgia legislature as a Republican, but was denied his seat by the Democratic controlled legislature. He eventually assumed his seat, but was disillusioned with politics during the 1870's once southern Democrats regained power in the state and throughout the South.

Later, he became a senior bishop for the AME Church. Convinced that African Americans would never receive equality in the United States, Turner supported black nationalism and African emigration and organized the International Migration Society, which helped more than 500 African Americans relocate to Liberia in Africa. He also became the first AME bishop to ordain a woman as Deacon and often preached that God was Black.

Currently, more than 2,700 chaplains represent more than 130 different religious organizations with over 900 chaplains and chaplain assistants mobilized or deployed in

support of contingency operations throughout the world.

From military installations to deployed combat units and from service schools to military hospitals, Army chaplains and chaplain assistants provide religious, spiritual, and moral leadership to our armed service members and their families, and *The Scoop* gives a hearty salute and a happy anniversary to the Army Chaplain Corps.



### Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ron Holcombe achieves goals; gains National attention

Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ronald Holcombe is a tireless worker and an outstanding ambassador for Federal Post #19. One of his goal as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice was 100% return of Consolidated Post Reports by May 31. Achieving that goal earned AL National recognition for the Department of Maryland as 1<sup>st</sup> place in Consolidated Post Reports. Holcombe also gained recognition from the Department for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Post Inspection Reports.



In the summer edition of the [Free State Warrior](#), Comrade Holcombe provides insightful findings and observations he encountered as he

attempted to ensure that Posts submit their reports in a timely fashion. The number 19 really looks good on his white cap, but it would probably look on a red cap as well.

**This year's Bull and Oyster Roast cancelled.  
Black Tie Affair rescheduled for the Fall.**



### Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

### Members of Unit #19 to hold Social Distancing Outdoors Beach Cookout

No Ocean City this year, but members of Federal Unit #19 are not letting that hold them back. On Sunday, July 12, members of Unit 19, led by President Gina Jones, will be having a Social Distancing Outdoors Beach Cookout at Woodlawn Memorial Park from 3-7 pm. President Jones says "there'll be plenty of food, but BYOB and BYO chair, umbrella, and everything else." Of course, the Auxiliary will be practicing good corona courtesies—face mask, distancing, sanitizing, and so forth.

**Following ALA National and Department, the officers for Federal Unit #19 will stay in place for 2020-2021.**



### A Word from the Sons

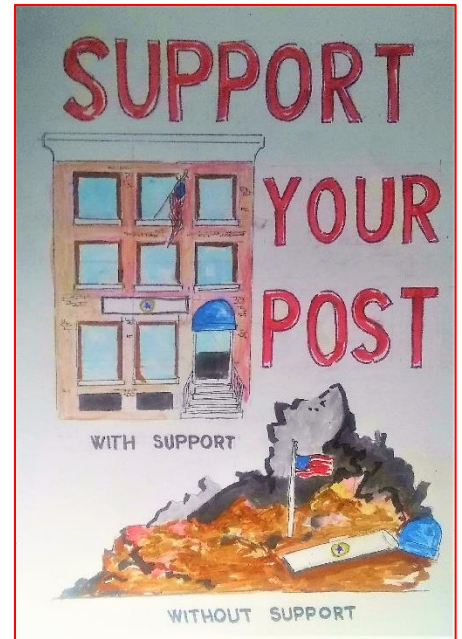
### Elections for Squadron #19 scheduled for August 16

The elections Federal Squadron #19 for 2020-2021 officers will be

held on Sunday, August 16 at 4:00 p.m. at the Post. **All members** must have a 2020 or 2021 membership card to be admitted and vote. No **new memberships, renewals or lost cards** will be taken care of on the day of election. If your dues are not current or you have lost your membership card, please contact Commander Dwayne Washington or Finance Officer George Wright

buildings will be required to complete a health questionnaire. If guests, clergy, or funeral home staff are ill, it is encouraged that they do not attend burial services.

Visiting hours will return to normal, Monday-Sunday, 8:00 AM to 4:45 PM. Cemeteries will return to normal burial schedules. However, committal services in cemetery shelters will be at 50% capacity.



Please remember to clean your own areas at the Post. Personal responsibility and discipline will help keep all of us safe.

Still collecting clothes for MCVET, which is holding a Virtual 5K Run and Walk on November 11, 2020.

Membership for 2020-2021 is currently due. We missed 100% membership for 2019-2020, so please make every effort to pay your dues in a timely fashion.

*The Scoop* salutes ...

all the members of the Post #19 family who keep us strong and united during these rough times;



Sorry we missed you in the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal; something went awry, but thank you After Five Club from the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal Committee.



## VA Corner

### MDVA Cemetery Visitation Hours Return to Pre-Pandemic Schedule

Effective June 29, 2020 all five state veteran cemeteries operate as follows: Administration buildings will be open to the public. All visitors to the cemeteries and committal service guests will be required to adhere to social distancing guidelines, if not in the same household. All visitors must wear a face covering and those entering administration

### New Check-in Process at Baltimore VA

The VA Maryland Health Care System is now offering limited face-to-face clinic appointments. Watch this [video](#) to see how to use the new check-in system for appointments at the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

The new centralized check-in process at the Baltimore VA Medical Center allows for appropriate physical distancing to help protect the safety of patients and employees. Everyone entering our facilities is screened, and visitors are limited. Face coverings are mandatory. The VA encourages you to bring your own, or you can use one we provide. Please contact the VA first before going to any of their locations. For some needs, you may be able to get care at home by phone or video.

To learn more about the measures that the VA has taken to protect the safety of patients and employees throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System, and for details on their Moving Forward Plan, visit [COVID-19 Information for Patients and Visitors](#).

### 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.

