



# The Legion Scoop

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

## Commander's Call

### Legion emphasizes Buddy Checks during time of crisis

I want to take this time to check on everyone. I pray all are well. Please do not hesitate to contact me or someone from your Post family should you need assistance or just someone to talk with. Whatever that can be done to assist you, we will do. I encourage everyone to pick up the phone and check on members. You have time to do it now. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers

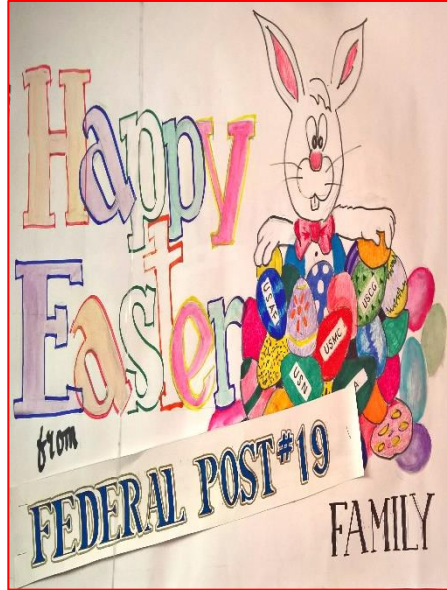


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The Post is now officially 90 years old, and our sold-out Black Tie Affair was going to be a gala celebration because of the support of members and guests. I would like to say thank you to all who purchased tickets for the affair. And thank you Anniversary Committee; your hard work is highly appreciated. We had to postpone; a new date has not been scheduled as of yet, but at some point, we will be celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Because of our great officers, staff, and volunteers, the Post is in fairly good shape, and with God's help, we will get through this—better, stronger, and more united.

Again, please remember that we are "social distancing" as well as "stay at home" by an executive order. Please continue to be safe, be aware, and don't forget to do buddy checks by phone or social media. You



can contact me by email: [elevationtoit@yahoo.com](mailto:elevationtoit@yahoo.com) or by phone: 443-621-6740. I look forward to seeing everyone ... hopefully in the near future. In due time, this too shall pass. Until then, God bless and keep you, and God bless Post #19.

### Department shuts down during emergency; some services move online

At this time, Department has suspended operations of our HQs and will remain closed for the same period as the school closures remain in effect in Maryland. The Department passed a resolution in 1995 resolving that all Posts are to obey all local, state, and national laws, rules, and regulations. Post canteen are closed and meetings are limited.

Membership can be submitted online still through MyLegion portal, but Department asks that Posts not send membership through the mail until the offices reopen. The online

**No General Meeting until further notice**

webstore for Convention items remains open as well, and all the items are available on the website [www.mdlegion.org](http://www.mdlegion.org) on the left hand side under Dept Convention Webstore.

Our Service Officers will have reduced functionality and contact by email only during the closure. The Department Officers have reduced or eliminated their travel schedules during this state of emergency.

Finally, the Department understands that these are trying times and that decisions are not easily made. Each Post corporation must make decisions based on the best available information, and each Post should consider the health ramifications. The Department urges caution and continued vigilance.

### National Commander Bill Oxford announces April a month of hope for children and youth

April is the month we raise attention to American Legion programs and services for children and youth. For Children & Youth Month this year, we need to raise more than attention. The



coronavirus pandemic has created an urgent need to financially assist military and veteran families with children at home, whose lives have been turned upside-down in recent weeks. They need our help

now, and they will need it for months to come.

American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants provide immediate debt-free cash for military and veteran families with minor children at home when food, shelter, utilities, clothing or other basic needs cannot be obtained,

due to hardships beyond their control. And this pandemic has been beyond anyone's control.

Military and veteran spouses who have lost jobs or business income due to the coronavirus outbreak are now trying to figure out how to put food in their refrigerators and keep a roof overhead while a loved one serve in uniform, or did so honorably when called upon in the past. There is no doubt these patriotic American families need and deserve our help.

We can only provide that help through the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. The foundation supplies the funds necessary to assist needy military and veteran families with children at home.

In times like these, The American Legion Family steps up. I am asking all of us to do just that this month – American Legion Children & Youth Month—because the only thing kids and parents across our nation can count on in the coming weeks is uncertainty, financial and otherwise. Let's turn April from a month of uncertainty into a month of hope.

Please help us help those who need us most with a tax-deductible gift to the [American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation](#). Or visit [www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate).

[Follow this link to check out the Department's Black History Month Pamphlet](#)



**Federal Post #19 Family celebrating Black History Month at Unit #285 R&B Dinner Dance.**

### **Post #19 family leadership launch campaign for Maryland Food Bank**



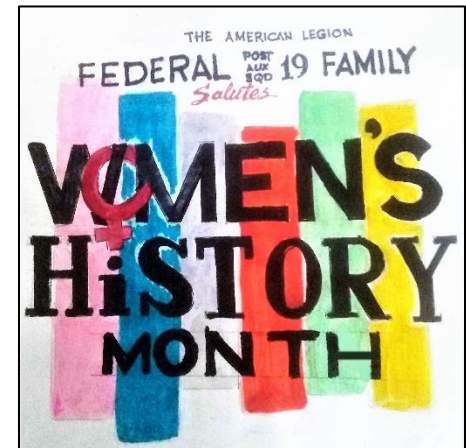
**Volunteers pose for picture after collecting and sorting donations.**

Post #19 Commander Betty Bonds, Unit #19 President Gina Jones, and Squadron #19 Commander Dwayne Washington have launched a “Pandemic Food Drive 2020” to help the Maryland Food Bank, which is in “dire need of food and toiletries,” as Bonds acknowledges. They are calling on our Post#19 family to “please show your love and care for others by donating to this needed and worthy cause.”

The campaign is for two consecutive Saturdays, and this past Saturday April 18, volunteers collected cash and donations for a real good start. The campaign committee will collect donations again this **Saturday, April 25, 1-5 pm**. The Post will not be open for business during this time. The committee, which also includes Joyce Brown, Kendall Cooper, Wanda Coe-Stewart,

Wallace “Jay” Hunter, Lasharan Wallace, Kevin “Dready” Hall, Ernie Bell, and Roscoe Holley, want to thank everyone for your continued generosity in this hour of need.

[Join to Serve](#)



### **Women's History Month honors “Valiant Women of the Vote”**

March 2020 was Women's History, and much like Black History Month, the theme revolved around the right to vote, “Valiant Women of the Vote” with much emphasis on the Suffrage Movement. August 18, 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that earned women the right to vote.

In many ways, the women's rights movement in the U.S. sprang from the abolitionist movement of the 1830's-60's. Hoping to create a better society, women began to form societies to reform the nation and end slavery.

In 1848, reform minded women organized the Seneca Fall Conference to demand suffrage and equal rights for women. African American women like former American slave Sojourner Truth, who advocated both anti-slavery and women's rights, were a part of the women's rights movement from the beginning.

Nevertheless, because of segregation, black women organized their own suffrage organizations and later participated in the women's club



movement that swept across the nation in the 1870's-90's. Women like journalist and founding NAACP member Ida B. Wells

(pictured), who initiated an anti-lynching crusade that exposed the causes of racial and domestic violence, established both political and social welfare organizations.

In 1896, Wells, Mary Church Terrell, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Frances E.W. Harper, Harriet Tubman, and others founded the National Association of Colored Women, "Lifting as we Climb," the oldest continuous civil rights organization in the U.S. They protested and marched with white suffragists for equal rights for both women and African Americans.

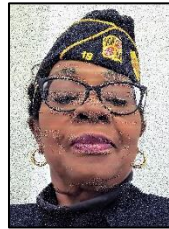
In 1931, black women, under the leadership of Mary McLeod Bethune, who served in FDR's "Black Cabinet," formed the National Council of Negro Women to improve the lives of black Americans. From 1940's through the 60's, Septima Clark, Ella Baker, Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Baltimore's Lillie Jackson, and many, many other black women provided leadership and labor for the civil rights movement.

These women and countless others led the way for black women to break barriers and serve in the military. One such women who broke barriers in the military is Federal Post #19 comrade Gertrude C. Nobles, who in 1999 became the first African American woman to be promoted to Command Sergeant Major in the Maryland National Guard.

Comrade Nobles, described as having a "gentle tone," had a successful and rewarding career in the Maryland National Guard. Thirteen

years after graduating from Carver Vocational Technical High School, Nobles followed her career goal and joined the military. With a "hunger for promotion," Noble rose steadily through the ranks with a career that included computer operator for data processing; assessing nuclear, biological, and chemical threats; and information systems chief, becoming the first woman sergeant in the DISCOM unit.

A cancer survivor, Nobles with the help of her aunt did not allow her illness to stop her and continued to contribute as a valued member of the Maryland National Guard. Her commitment to duty, leadership, and triumph over challenges continue to break barriers for future generations. The Scoop gives a hearty salute to Comrade Nobles, the women veterans of Post #19, and all the women warriors who have served and continue to serve their nation, state and communities.



## Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

### Unit #19 President Gina Jones wants everyone to stay safe

Hello auxiliary members. I hope everyone is doing good and is coping with this quarantine. I miss seeing your faces and laughing and joking with everyone. Please stay safe and keep your prayers going up.

This is report time, and I would like for you to email me all the work you've done to contribute to



community service and veterans and anything else you've done to help the auxiliary to show that we care about our veterans and community and each other. Please email me at [7522gmj@gmail.com](mailto:7522gmj@gmail.com). Thank you and God bless.



## A Word from the Sons



Comrades of Squadron #19 take a photo at their successful, sold-out annual January Cabaret Dance.

## Squadron #19 Commander Dwayne Washington continues the "stay safe" message

My fellow SAL comrades, my number one message to all of you is to stay safe. Please take the current situation serious because it is no joke.



We will be together soon, but for now, please follow all of the recommendations that the city and state have issued. Don't

forget to reach out and check in on your SAL Comrades to make sure that everyone is well. If you or any Comrade is in need during this time of crisis, please contact me at 410-622-2864.

We are still trying to figure out how to conduct elections so please bear with us. In addition, the 47th Annual Detachment Convention, scheduled for June 26-28, 2020, has been postponed. Plans are in the works for a One-Day Convention in September at the Southern Maryland District Youth Camp.

## VA Corner

### **To All VA Maryland Health Care System Veteran Patients & Visitors**

As the situation evolves, we want to keep you informed on the latest safeguards that we have put in place to protect you and others from the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to maintain a safe and healthy environment. Listed below is important information. Please scroll down the list to see the latest updates regarding masks, visitor guidance, and the closure of the Perry Point campus in red:

**--Outpatient Clinics Closed:** All VA Maryland Health Care System outpatient clinics are closed until further notice to protect against the spread of COVID-19. All routine outpatient clinic visits will be conducted via a telephone or video visit or rescheduled as appropriate, **except for oncology, radiation oncology and other specialty care clinic visits that are medically necessary. You will be contacted by your clinical team if you are still scheduled for a face-to-face visit.**

**--Universal Masking Policy:** Patients are required to wear a mask at all times when visiting a VA Maryland Health Care System facility for a scheduled, onsite clinic appointment. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, patients that refuse to wear a mask will not be allowed to enter a VA facility or will be asked to leave if they do not wear a mask while waiting for an appointment or

traveling throughout a VA facility. Patients with a scheduled, onsite clinic appointment will be issued a mask when entering the VA facility.

Veteran patients in the community are reminded to stay at home, practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, call the Telephone Care Line if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Please refer to the following CDC website for options for how to make a cloth mask without sewing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>.

For a full listing of all COVID-19-related updates and guidance from the VA Maryland Health Care System, please visit [www.maryland.va.gov/COVID-19.asp](http://www.maryland.va.gov/COVID-19.asp). You can also receive COVID-19-updates by calling our VA Maryland Health Care System COVID-19 Information Line at 410-605-7384. (This is a recording only and does not accept voicemails.)

During the closure of VA outpatient care clinics to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this is a great opportunity for Veterans to learn about virtual care options and how to access your VA health care information online. Here are a few tips you can use to get started:

--Learn about the benefits of virtual care by watching the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMM28tySPaA>.

--Learn more about VA Telehealth Services at [telehealth.va.gov/](http://telehealth.va.gov/).

### Post Notes

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

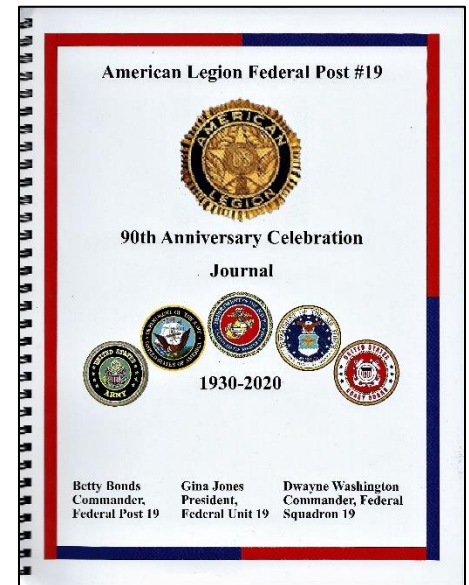
Please take time to visit or call our members who are sick and shut-in. They must not be forgotten.

Still collecting unserviceable flags for our Flag Disposal Ceremony on Flag Day.

*The Scoop* salutes ...

Dept. Adjutant Russell Myers for his wonderful [Black History Month Pamphlet](#);

the committee and all of the donors and **volunteers** of the [Post #19](#) family who are participating in the "Pandemic Food Drive 2020" for the Maryland Food bank;



Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal has arrived and will be on sale for \$10.00 when we return to some level of normal. The Journal is 80 pages, full color, and features our Post History, individual pictures of more than 200 members of our Post family, contributions from our patrons and sponsors, a Post Family Everlasting salute, and lots and lots of memories.

### **Sick Call**

**Louis Hardy  
Freda Holley  
Jimmy Johnson  
Kim McCoy  
Emmett Pope  
Warren Scott  
Franklin Smith  
Thomas Wiggins  
Abby Wilson**