



# The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19  
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 March 2021

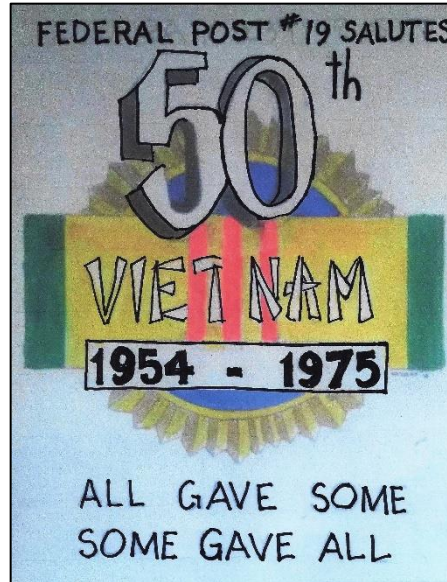
## Commander's Call

We can now see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, but we're not there yet. Many members are receiving their vaccinations, and we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. As the state and the city ease up on COVID restrictions, we will continue to abide by their mandates including social distancing, wearing masks, and keeping the Post sanitized. The Post is open at 50%, and as long as there is a seat for everyone, we are in compliance.

We have a new audio system, thanks to the COVID relief committee and a generous donation from SAL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dwayne Washington. Big salute to Comrade Tony Kennedy for helping to install it. We are also in the process of making changes and repairs to the Post. We are going to demolition the closet in the meeting room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor that is in danger of collapsing. We are also removing the blue paint and repointing the back and side walls in the back yard and replacing the security door in the back. Look for some changes to our backyard just in time for Spring.

The kitchen is open on the weekends, Friday-Sunday, and Lasharan "Poochie" Wallace is back

*"Still, we need your continued support. We're better and stronger together. The Post needs economic stimulus too!"*



to cooking. Halleluiah! Big Salute to our bar staff, Diane Jones and Desiree Harcum for providing food for the rest of the week. I'm sure they would take donations to help them out. And also, a big salute to Comrades Jesse Johnson and Greg "Scotty" Scott for keeping us up and running during these most difficult times.

We're going to slowly open the canteen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and [Unit #19](#) President Gina Jones is going to tend the bar for us for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday Fish Fry and Bake Sale. Once we open up even more, we'll have the backyard and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to help us with social distancing. Contrary to any rumors, the chairlift to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor does work. It's been tough, and we missed celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a family. Nevertheless, we're moving forward adhering to our Four Pillars. Still, we need your continued support. We're better and stronger together. The Post needs economic stimulus too!

Finally, in May 2012, President Barak Obama proclaimed May 28,

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 4 pm at the Post**

2012 through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Every year until November 11, 2025, we honor all Vietnam War era veterans especially those who served in Vietnam and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

## Federal Post #19 to sponsor Good Friday Fish Fry and Bake Sale fundraiser

On Friday, April 2, [Federal Post #19](#) will sponsor a Good Friday Fish Fry and Bake Sale fundraiser, 12 noon-6 pm at the Post. Dinners include your choice of whiting (catfish and lake trout while supplies last) and two sides—potato salad, fried potatoes, string beans, and greens.



Donations for the dinners are \$10.00, and we will deliver 5 or more dinners. We will also have assorted cakes and pies for \$2.00 a slice. See any Legionnaire for tickets.

To order ahead of time, follow this link to our Facebook page—[Order Dinner](#)—download the form, and return it to any Legionnaire. We are also looking for **volunteers** to help cook and serve, drivers to deliver dinners, and donations for the Bake Sale. If you can volunteer or make a

donation, contact Fish Fry Chair Betty Bonds or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Harriette Gross. Support the Fish Fry and support the Four Pillars.



Sgt-at-Arms Tony Kennedy and SAL 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dwayne Washington install new audio equipment at the Post.

## Department to host Virtual National Commander's Reception

On Saturday, March 27, The American Legion, [Department of Maryland](#) will host a Virtual National Commander's Reception, 6:00-7:30 pm. Due to the ongoing pandemic and varying restrictions, for the second year in a row, the Department has been forced to cancel the in person visit of our



visit of our [National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford](#). Maryland Legionnaires have not had the

opportunity to meet with the National Commander and showcase our outstanding commitment to our veterans and their families and our ongoing commitment to the standards and values that represent our Programs and the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

The online meeting with the [National Commander](#) gives him the opportunity to address the [Department](#) and in return allows us the opportunity to brag on our members and programs and bestow upon the National Commander gifts that reflect who we are and what we do. District Commanders are encouraged to

present all checks and/or gifts at one time for the entire district and please submit a list of gifts to the [Department Adjutant Russell Myers](#) by March 25, 2021.

[Department](#) Commander Phil Dorsey will open the Reception, which will include brief remarks by [SAL Detachment](#) Commander Robert Manzo and [ALA Maryland](#) President Linda Green. You can join the Reception by computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/634335373>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (312) 757-3121 Access Code: 634-335-373.

All gifts presented online will be collected at May's DEC meeting and mailed to [National Commander Oxford](#). For any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to Contact Nikki Randolph, Chairman, National Commanders Banquet for The [Department of Maryland](#).

## National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29<sup>th</sup>

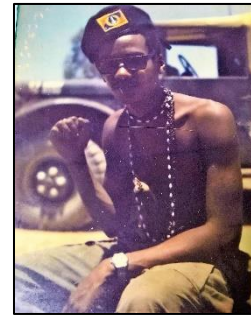
Monday, March 29, 2021 is [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#), and one of the missions for *The Scoop* is to tell the stories of veterans who served during the war. One of those stories belongs to our Service Officer LeCount Grace

Originally from Maryland's Eastern Shore, LeCount joined the U.S. Army at Ft. Holabird in March 1967 at the age of 18 under the Buddy Plan; however, his buddy went to Germany, and he ended up in Vietnam at the height of the war. After



attending pioneer training in demolition, construction, and engineering tasks, LeCount left for Vietnam where he served primarily as a mine sweeper for the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, extremely hazardous duty. He served at Chu Lai Air Base and especially at Landing Zone (LZ) Dottie.

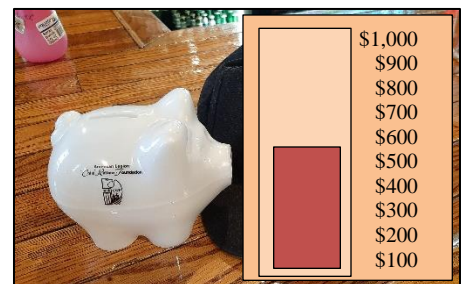
When not performing his mine sweeping duty, he went on search and destroy missions in the dangerous terrain of Vietnam. On November 23,



1969, LeCount was wounded in action while on a search and destroy mission for which he received a Purple Heart.

While acknowledging the horrors of war, LeCount says that he wouldn't trade his experiences in Vietnam for anything in the world. For him, it was an age of maturing, of forging everlasting bonds with his comrades.

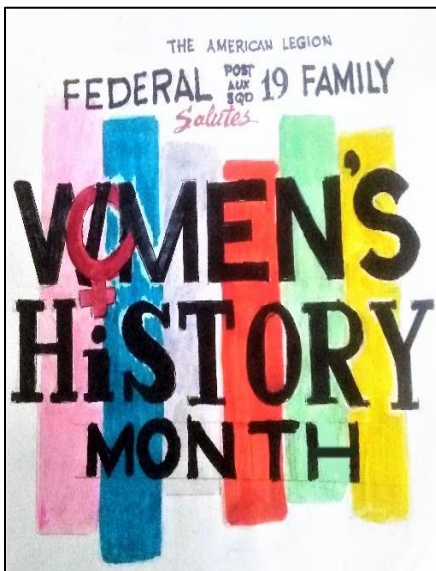
After serving 13 months in Vietnam, he returned home and eventually left the Army in June 1970. LeCount is a devoted 30 plus-year member of Federal Post #19 of the American Legion where he has served in many capacities, especially as Service Officer helping other veterans navigate the VA Health Care System. He is also a longstanding member of the [Federal Post #19 Color Guard](#) and sees his most important job as Honor Guard at funerals, standing beside fallen comrades and honoring them in their last moments on Earth. LeCount exemplifies Legion and upholds the principals that make us strong. *The Scoop* gives a hearty salute to all of our Vietnam veterans and the families that supported their service.



We're halfway home with our "Feed the Pig" Fundraiser for our American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. We have until May 31 to reach our goal of \$1,000. Every penny counts!



Applications for this year's [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. Apply at the Boys State [Student Online Application portal](#).



## Women's History Month continues to honor "Valiant Women of the Vote"

Because of the pandemic, Women's History Month is continuing last year's theme, "Valiant Women of the Vote" with emphasis on the Suffrage Movement. August 18, 2020 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that earned women the right to vote. *The Scoop* would also like to give a hearty salute to our valiant women in the military and our valiant women veterans. Your service makes us strong.



## Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

### Two Unit #19 members to serve on ALA National Committees

[Federal Unit #19](#) President Gina Jones wishes the entire [Post #19](#) family join her in congratulating two [Unit #19](#) members to positions on ALA National committees. Joyce



Brown has been appointed National Chair of Public Relations

and Yvonne Oliver will serve on the recently formed National Inclusion and Diversity Special Committee.

The objectives of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee are to examine current practices and identify opportunities for improvement; engage members in conversations about inclusion and diversity; target areas for membership diversification; develop goals and strategies to achieve these goals; create a transparent leadership selection process; identify what success looks like; and get ALA members on board.

### Unit #19 to provide Easter baskets for elementary school students; snacks for neighborhood students

[Federal Unit #19](#) is putting together at least 70 Easter baskets for students at the William Baer School. The school serves children with multiple disabilities from all over Baltimore City. The children are more dependent on medical technology, more medically fragile, and more economically disadvantaged than ever before. Baer students face multiple,

and often severe, challenges. These include orthopedic disabilities, fragile health conditions, developmental delays, and other health impairments.

In addition, on Saturday, April 3, [Unit #19](#) is going to set up a tent outside the Post around 12 noon and give out snacks to the neighborhood children. The Unit is collecting donations, including Easter baskets, candy, hot dogs, juice, and of course money for both events. Just drop your donations off at the Post. For any questions, contact President Gina Jones or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Tangi Turner.



Members of Unit #19 pose for a photo after their meeting.

Service Not Self  
We're All Legion



## A Word from the Sons

### Squadron #19 set to begin flurry of activities as COVID restriction ease

In a normal year, Squadron #19 would have already engaged in several activities including their annual cabaret style dance and their breakfast show. But because of the pandemic, much of their agenda has been cancelled or postponed. Still, as COVID restrictions begin to ease and more and more people are being vaccinated, the Squadron is considering a number of affairs including a Breakfast Show that will feature carry-out breakfast and take

advantage of expanded social distancing at the Post. They also are considering going on with their annual Mother's Day Raffle. Meanwhile, they are helping around the Post as much as possible by contributing donations and volunteers.



SAL Baltimore District Commander presents stars of patriotism to Unit #19 Treasurer Lasharan Wallace and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice Tangi Turner.

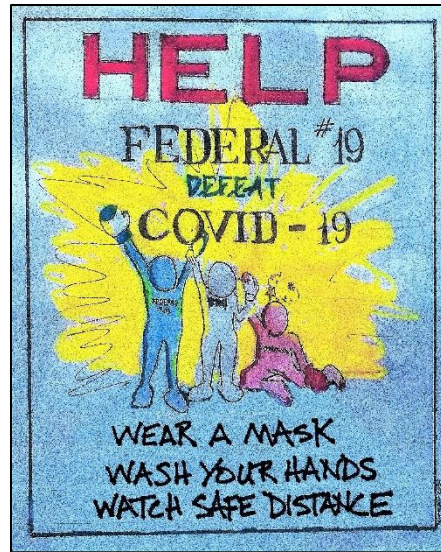


Special thanks goes out to the members of the Post #19 Color Guard, Squadron #187 Comrade Nathaniel Russell, Squadron #263 Comrade Jerry Sykes and VFW Post 8509 member Gloria McRae, all attended the funeral of Johann Wynder, son of Squadron #19 Comrade John Wynder.

## VA Corner

### VA MD Health Care System introduces Screen Pass

Screening using COVID-19-related questions is taking place at all VA Maryland Health Care System facilities. To make the screening process more efficient, they have implemented Screen Pass which allows patients to use their smartphones to answer the screening questions before coming to the VA for



a scheduled clinic appointment. VA employees can use it, too!

Here is how the Screen Pass works:

- Before coming to a VA Maryland Health Care System facility, text the word "Screen" to 53079 or visit <https://va.gov/covid19screen> on your smartphone.
- Answer the simple screening questions.
- If you pass the screening, "OK to proceed" will be displayed on your phone screen.
- When you arrive for your appointment, just show your phone to the screener and you will be given access to the VA.
- If "More screening needed" is displayed, please call the Telephone Care Line at 1-800-865-2441 for guidance.

Please note: The screening only needs to be completed once per day and your information will not be stored. For individuals who do not have a smartphone, are not familiar with Screen Pass, or forgot to answer the screening questions using Screen Pass before arriving at the VA, screeners will still be available to verbally ask the COVID-19-related screening questions.

## 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. Personal responsibility and discipline will help keep all of us safe.

Membership for 2020-2021 is currently due. We missed 100% membership for 2019-2020, so please make every effort to pay your dues as soon as possible.

*The Scoop* salutes ...

SAL comrade and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dwayne Washington for his donation to our new sound system;



Post #19 family member Tony Hodge (pictured) for his very generous donation to our Children and Youth Fund;

The family of Post #19 Sgt-at-Arms Tony Kennedy for their very generous donation to our Color Guard in honor of his beloved wife Bridget.

### Our Comrades and Friends

Monumental Elks Lodge #3 Fish Fry, Sat, Mar 27, 12-6 pm, 1528 Madison Av, \$12.

#### Sick Call

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