



# The Legion Scoop

Newsletter for the American Legion Federal Post #19  
Baltimore, Maryland est. 1930 November 2019

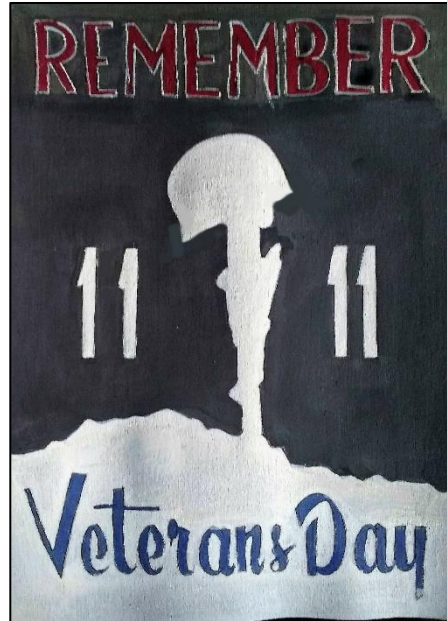
## Baltimore District co-hosts Veterans Day Ceremony at War Memorial Bldg.

The American Legion Baltimore District Council will celebrate Veterans Day in conjunction with the Baltimore City Veterans Commission on Monday, November 11, 2019 at the War Memorial Building, 101 N. Gay St. The program is from 10:00-11:30 am. The keynote speaker will be Senator Chris Hollen, and this year's recipient of the Maj. Gen. Linda L. Singh "Preserve, Protect, and Defend" award is J.D. Howard.

Comrade Clarence "Tiger" Davis, Otha Spriggs III Post #294 will offer the Welcoming from the Commission, and Comrade Thomas Zentgraf, [Southwest Post #332](#), will conduct the POW/MIA Ceremony. The Ceremonial Ringing of the Bell will be at 11 am, and Wreath Laying will be at 11:30. Expected participants include the Office of the Mayor of Baltimore City, other veterans service organizations, veterans, military personnel, stakeholders, dignitaries, and the general public.

Formerly known as Armistice Day, which marked the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 when hostilities in World War I ceased, the holiday was renamed in the U.S. in 1954 as Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

More than 11,600 African Americans from Maryland served in the Army, Navy, and Coastal Guard during the war. Most of them trained



at Ft. Meade, and many of them served in the 808 and 811 Pioneer Infantry, the 351<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, the 368<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and the 154<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. The 808, 811, 351<sup>st</sup>, and 368<sup>th</sup> served in France during the war. In Europe, they became a part of the all-black 92<sup>nd</sup> or 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. Members of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, also known



as the "Blue Helmets," assigned to the French during World War I.

In 1918, West Baltimorean John H. Evans, musician first class, 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, received the French

**General Meeting**  
Sunday, November 4  
4 pm at the Post

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**Baltimore District Meeting**  
Thursday, November 14,  
7 pm at Post #187, 1527  
Cherry Street ([map](#))

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**DEC Meeting**  
Sunday, November 17, 1 pm  
[Gold Star Post #191](#), Mt.  
Airy, MD ([map](#))

equivalent of the Bronze Star for bravery. Reports described him as "A brave and courageous soldier" who "under violent bombardment, displayed a contempt for danger" and rescued a French comrade. His *Croix de Guerre* still adorns the walls of our Post home. Comrade Evans later became a founding member of [Federal Post #19](#)'s Blue Helmet Drum and Bugle Corps. *The Scoop* salutes Comrade Evans and all the men and women who have bravely served in the United States Armed Forces.

## Tickets still available for Post #19's Veterans Day trip to DC

On Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, [Post #19](#) is taking a bus trip to visit the memorial sites in Washington D.C. Those sites include [Arlington National Cemetery](#), the [World War II Memorial](#), the [Korean War Memorial](#), the [Vietnam War Memorial](#) (The Wall), the [Vietnam Women's Memorial](#), the [Women in](#)

[the Military Memorial at Arlington](#), and the [MLK, Jr. Memorial](#).

We have seats reserved for the [Veterans Day Observance at the Wall](#) from 1:00-2:00 pm. The keynote speaker is Brig. General George Price, USA (Ret.). A Korean and Vietnam War veteran, Price served as Chief of Staff, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Army in a career that spanned 27 years. The Vietnam Women's Memorial Speaker is Marsha Four, who received the Bronze Star while serving as a U.S. Army nurse in Vietnam.

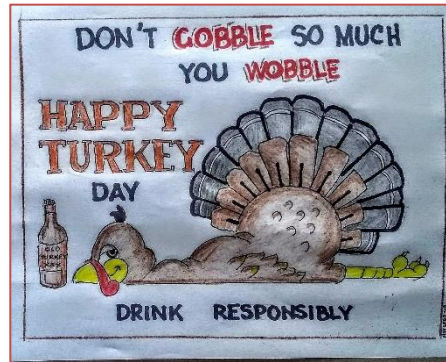
This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Three Servicemen Statue and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the In-Memory Plaque for veterans who returned home and died from war related causes. After the ceremony, we will visit [Cook-Pinkney Post #141](#) in Annapolis for food, drink, and camaraderie. Buses leave [Post #19](#) at 9 am sharp. Donations are \$45, and for more info, contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Harriett Gross.

## Annual Seniors & Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner slated for November 23

On Saturday, November 23, [Federal Post #19](#) is hosting our Annual Seniors and Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner from 2-5 pm at the Post, a tradition that dates back to the 1930's. We hope to deliver 150 to local senior citizens and serve 150 dinners at the Post but can only do so with your help and spirit of generosity. As always, we need **volunteers** and donations. We will need turkeys, hams, and all the food that goes with a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner.

We'll need uncooked food to the Post by Wednesday, November 18 and cooked food to the Post by 9 am Saturday morning. A sign-up sheet is posted at the Post that lists the things we need. Of course, monetary donations also work well. For more

info, contact 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Willie Christian or Commander Betty Bonds.



## Bull Roast a huge success; lots of food, fun, and camaraderie



Co-chairs Betty Bonds, Donna Gilchrist, and Michael Smith greet guests at Martin's West.

The Eleventh Annual Bull and Oyster Roast was well attended and proved to be a huge success. Our friends and families gathered in an afternoon of food and fun. All in all, *The Scoop* would like to salute co-chairs Donna Gilchrist, Betty Bonds, and Mike Smith for a job well done.

## Baltimore District pays tribute to four French sailors buried at St. Mary's

On Saturday, November 2 at St. Mary's of the Assumption Cemetery (233 Homeland Av.) at 11 am, the Baltimore District will memorialize four French sailors who died while their ships were docked in Baltimore in October 1918 during World War I. Northeastern Post #285 Color Guard will post Colors.



From the Federal Post #19 Family. Join us on Sun., Nov. 10 for a birthday toast. 6 pm.



Members of the Federal Post #19 family join members of Post #294 and Post #95 to celebrate the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Northeastern Post #285.



Federal Post #19 Family poses with guests from George L. Giles Post #87, Chicago, IL. Founded in 1919, Post #87 is one of the oldest predominantly black posts in the nation.



Unit #19 member Cheryl Crawford and Commander Betty Bonds deliver treat to Engine 13 for Breast Cancer Awareness.

## Department holds Annual Christmas Party at Post #109, Arbutus

On Sunday, December 15, 1-5 pm, the [Department](#) invites us to come celebrate the holidays with the American Legion Family at [Sykesville Memorial Post #223](#), 7327 Slacks Rd, Sykesville, MD ([map](#)). There will be appetizers, desserts, a cash bar, a 50/50 raffle, and plenty of camaraderie.

Holiday attire would be appropriate, and there will be an Ugly Sweater Contest, so you have a chance to finally wear that sweater that you got for Christmas ten years ago. The [Department](#) requests that you RSVP prior to December 2. To do so, contact event coordinator and [Department](#) 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ron Holcombe at 443-854-0990. Donations are \$8.00. Make checks payable to [Sykesville Memorial Post #223](#) c/o Commander John Ridgeley. Please attach a list of names attending. [Post #19](#) is planning on getting a table, so contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Harriette Gross if you wish to attend.



### Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

## Baltimore District President Pat Walker thanks Federal Unit #19's participation at the ALA Fall Conference

ALA Baltimore District President Patricia Ann Walker notes "Another fantastic American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland, Fall Conference to put in the history books."

"A very special thank you to [Unit #19](#) and Unit #187 of the Baltimore

District for showing up and participating. Shout out to [Unit #19's](#) Wandalee Brogden for our beautiful centerpiece, wreath and Children and Youth display.



They were "AWESOME."

"To our first timers, Shelley and Cheryl, I truly hope you enjoyed everything the Conference had to offer. Again, thank you ladies for an awesome weekend together. Love You All!"



(l to r) Unit #19 members Joyce Brow, Shellyarlene Scott, Rosetta Lipscomb, and Pat Dorsey get down to business at the ALA Fall Conference.



Members of Unit #19 dress for the Banquet and Costume Ball at the ALA Fall conference at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City.

## ALA celebrates 100 years on November 10

After the formation of the American Legion in 1919, several existing women's organizations wanted to become the official affiliate of the Legion. A committee decided to create a new organization made up of

the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion. During the American Legion's first convention November 10, 1919, members and officials established the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA).

Today, the ALA has three-quarters of a million members in over 8,000 communities. In 2018, the organization's volunteer hours had an impact of over \$1 billion through services to servicemembers, veterans and their families, and our communities.



### A Word from the Sons

### Squadron #19 Commander

## Dwayne Washington leads fashion crew for Cancer Foundation

Squadron #19 Commander Dwayne Washington and SAL Comrade Donnell Hughes would like to thank all of the participants at the recent Fight for Life Cancer Foundation's First Annual Fashion Show. Even more, they want to thank all of the members and guests of Post #19 and East Baltimore Elks Lodge #1043 who showed their support for the models and the brave men and

women who were honored for their battle with cancer. This was Fight for Life's First Fashion Show, but it will not be their last. As Comrade Hughes notes, "cancer is NOT a death sentence but it's an opportunity to celebrate life!"

## VA Corner

### **VA Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination**

The [Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration](#) receives applications and makes Pre-Need burial eligibility determinations on a first in - first out basis. The VA is pleased to provide this service and honored that so many view national cemeteries as national shrines commemorating service and sacrifice to our Nation.

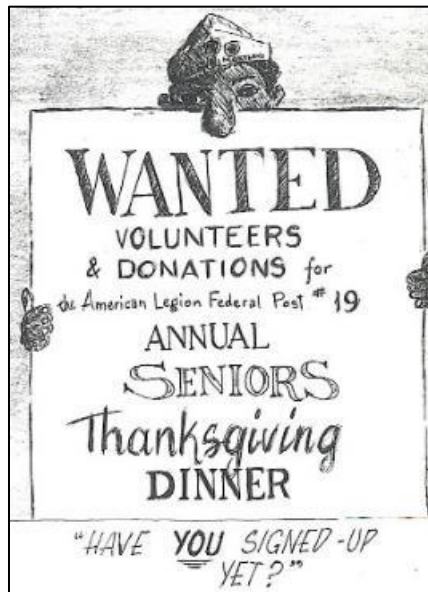
Due to the unprecedented number of applications received, the VA has temporarily shifted focus to notifying each applicant and communicating with them about expected timelines for completion of our determination. We expect to have this notification out to each applicant shortly.

The program is designed to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations to encourage Veterans and their eligible family members to plan in advance to use VA burial benefits that Veterans have earned through their military service.

Planning in advance for a Veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. Veteran families will have increased confidence that their loved ones are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery at their time of need. [Download the Application \(VA40-10007.pdf\)](#) or see [Post #19](#) Service Officer Reggie Baker.



## Post Notes



Senior and Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner, Sat, Nov 23, 2-5 pm.

Tickets are now available for our Annual Building Fund Christmas Raffle with all proceeds going to help repair our Post home.

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

Please help keep the Post clean, clearing tables, getting up spills, and generally policing the building.



**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm, Jazz at the Post with NEVEETA**

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

*The Scoop* salutes ...

all the cancer survivors and all the **volunteers** and donors who helped them celebrate life;

Comrade Warren Scott for your generous donation to our Building Fund;

[George L. Giles Post #87](#), Chicago, IL on celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary;

U.S. Marine servicemembers and veterans on your 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday; one free drink for all [Post #19](#) Marine veterans.

## Our Comrades and Friends

New Daughters Great Southern Temple #30 Grown & Classy Ladies Pre-Christmas Holiday Dance, Sat, Dec 7, 8 pm-12 am, 1528 Madison Av, \$10.

## **Sick Call**

**Wendell Garland  
Bennie Griffin  
George Harvey  
Emmett Pope  
Warren Scott  
Thomas Wiggins**

**Membership Due Now!**