



The Legion Scoop

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

Commander's Call

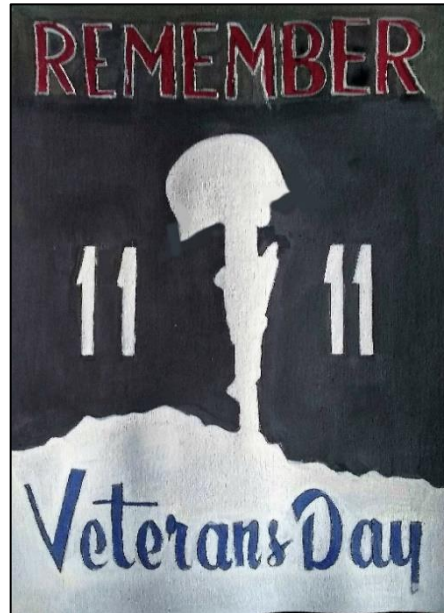
I would like to thank my comrades at [Federal Post #19](#) for having the confidence in me to allow me to serve as your Commander once again. This year, the Post and the American Legion face unprecedented challenges because of pandemic that continues to ravage our nation and the world. We simply can not return to business as usual; we must continue to do all that is necessary to protect ourselves and our loved ones.



As winter approaches, we must become even more vigilant. We've cut back on hours at the Post and, for the time being, have eliminated live entertainment. We're closed on Mondays so that we can thoroughly clean and sanitize the building. We've placed hand sanitizers and wipes throughout the Post and ask everyone to clean their area when they leave. We are also working to install acrylic barriers that will help keep those who tend the canteen safer.

"... we must continue to do all that is necessary to protect ourselves and our loved ones."

We've removed more than half of our seating to try to insure proper social distancing. We ask that members and guests do not move seating around. Indeed, the goal is to make sure that we do not create



crowds at the Post; health department capacities will be strictly adhered to.

Everyone, including members for contact tracing if necessary, must sign the book to enter. Everyone must wear a mask to enter, and they must keep the mask on when not eating or drinking. It is not only okay but necessary that we remind one another to keep your mask on. We will also perform temperature checks for everyone who enters the Post. More important, please do not come to the Post if you are feeling sick in any manner. We have to keep one another as safe possible.

Still, we are The American Legion, and our main goal this year as in every year is to perform our Four Pillars—Security, Veterans, Americanism, and Children and Youth. We are a veterans' service organization, and our commitment to veterans and community must not be halted by the pandemic. We will continue our usual agenda for the year as much as possible and hopefully

General Meeting
Saturday, November 7,
4 pm at the Post



come up with new and innovative ways to raise funds to help veterans and maintain our building. I look forward to an exciting year because together we are strong and can do anything. For God and Country, take care.

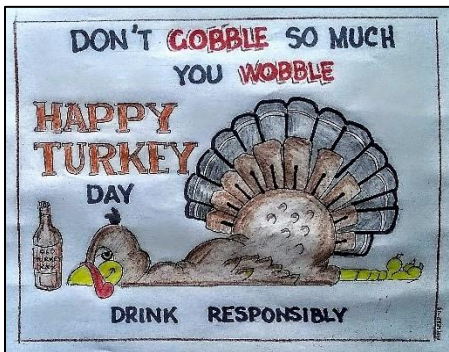
- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands often
- Keep safe distances

Federal Post #19 Family hosts Veterans Day Ceremony on November 14

On Saturday, November 14, the [Federal Post #19](#) Family will host a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post at 3 pm. The program will include a memorial for comrades who have recently transferred to Post Everlasting. The program will also honor the family members of Auxiliary members and SAL Comrades who served and continue to

serve in our armed forces. Pandemic notwithstanding, we must always remember and acknowledged those who served, those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and those who keep a candle in the window. The program will be brief and will abide by social distancing guidelines. If weather permits, we will move the ceremony to the backyard. Light refreshment will be served.

Join to Serve



Volunteers and donations are needed for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

This year’s Annual Seniors and Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner will be Saturday, November 21 in a tradition that dates back to the 1930’s. We are focusing on delivering dinners to local senior citizens and veterans who are shut-in. We need donations of turkeys and hams; large cans of green beans, collard greens, and sweet potatoes; stuffing and instant potatoes; cranberry sauce; turkey gravy; and rolls. We also need volunteers to cook and deliver dinners. For more info, contact Past Commander Betty Bonds.

Xmas Baskets and Xmas Building Raffle still on

We will also provide Christmas Baskets for community families on Saturday, December 19, another

tradition that dates to the 1930’s. With so many families suffering from the strain the pandemic, it is crucial that we do as much as possible to help. Our goal is to provide at least 10 baskets and to do so, we will need donations of both food and cash from our Post #19 family.

The next day, Sunday, December 20 at 9 pm, we will hold the drawing for our Christmas Building Fund Raffle. This year’s prizes are \$250 1st prize; \$150 2nd prize; \$50 3rd prize. Tickets are \$1. Contact any member of our Post #19 family for tickets. We hope to use the funds to make our backyard not only more presentable but also attractive so that it can help us with social distancing.

Buddy Checks to focus on mental health, well-being

As COVID-19 cases rise and the holidays approach, The American Legion is encouraging posts and members to shift their Buddy Check programs to assist veterans coping with mental health and well-being challenges.

The nation’s largest veterans’ organization is also urging Congress to pass the Buddy Check Week bill, which will make wellness checks a national priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs. With military suicides up 20 percent over this time last year, Legionnaires are urged to make check-in calls to at-risk veterans across the nation and offer support and access to wellness programs in the week surrounding Veterans Day and into the winter months ahead.

Veterans can be at particular risk for depression and suicide around the holidays, and many are disproportionately hard-hit by the pandemic due to age, chronic health issues, post-traumatic stress disorder, and isolation. The Buddy Check program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversation,

assess risks, and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services.

“The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it’s veteran-to-veteran contact that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation,” says James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. “So, we’re putting some muscle behind this effort and giving our members the tools they need to reach out to fellow veterans in their hometowns who may be hard hit by the triple whammy of the pandemic, isolation, and the holidays.”



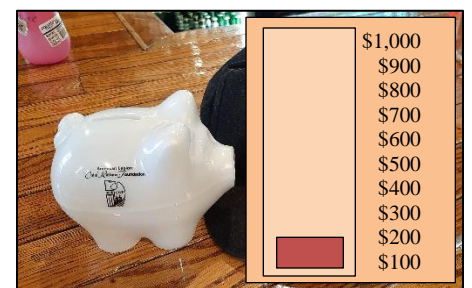
Resources and toolkits for Buddy Check teams are available at legion.org/buddycheck on the web. Also posted on the platform are American Legion Buddy Check success stories.



Leaders and members of Federal Post #19 lead by example during the pandemic.

- Wear a mask
- Wash your hands often
- Keep safe distances

“Feed the Pig” Fundraiser for Legion Child Welfare Foundation





U.S Marine Corps celebrates 245 years of service; African Americans banned for 146 of those year

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress established the Continental Marines, later U.S. Marines, as a landing force for the Continental Navy. Since then, the Marines have fought with honor and distinction, conducting more than 300 landings on foreign shores and participating in every major naval battle in every war. Nevertheless, for a good portion of that time, the U.S. banned African Americans from service in the Marines.

In 1776, John Martin, an American slave known as Keto, joined the Marines without his owner's permission, becoming the first African American in the Marines. Two other African Americans served in the Marine unit that crossed the Delaware with George Washington and fought in the Battle of Princeton in early 1777. At least 13 more African Americans were among the 2,000 Continental Marines who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Still, in 1796, Congress banned African Americans from military service. The ban was lifted with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 for the Army and Navy but not for the Marines after forceful objection from Marine leadership.

In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt ended racial discrimination, not segregation, in the military with Executive Order 8802,

and in 1942, the Marines recruited the first 900 African Americans, who were trained at Montford Point, SC under segregated and inferior conditions.



Montford Point Marines in the Pacific.

After earning the [right to fight in World War II](#), most of the Montford Point Marines served in the Pacific in the 51st and 52nd Defense Battalions in support roles like delivering ammunition to the front lines and transporting the wounded from the lines under perilous conditions. Often overlooked by history and Hollywood, black marines fought their way across the Pacific alongside their fellow of the Maines.

The Marine Corps along with the rest of the U.S. Armed Forces desegregated in 1948 with President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981. Today, [more than 19,000 African Americans serve in the Marine Corps, about 10% of the total Corps](#). They are in positions of leadership, combat, and support and contribute unwavering to the defense of our nation. *The Scoop* would like to salute African American and all Marines and Marine veterans on your 245th birthday—Semper Fi!



Bulletin for Auxiliary Unit #19

Unit #19 hosts successful Halloween Trunk or Treat

On Halloween, Saturday, October 31, members of the [Federal Post #19](#)

family led by [Unit #19](#) hosted a successful “Trunk or Treat for Children” at the Post. The Unit not only passed out candy but also school supplies.



Unit #19 member Zelda Brown works the school supply table while fellow member Donna Simpson looks after refreshments.

[Unit #19](#) President Gina Jones says “For those that donated candy, school supplies, and monetary gifts or their time, thank you so much. The trunk or treat was a huge success. Thank you all for everything. Team work makes the dream work.”



Unit #19 member Pat Dorsey recently delivered more than \$600 of Word Find books, pencils, pens, crayons, writing pads, and notebooks to David Sevinsky at the VA Hospital in downtown Baltimore and gives “Thanks to the Federal Unit #19 family and friends for making the 2019-2020 Veterans Read fundraiser a success. For God and Country.”



A Word from the Sons

SAL Baltimore District to place flags at veterans' gravesites

On Veterans Day, Wednesday November 11, the SAL Baltimore District, led by Commander Irvin Johnson, will place flags at the gravesites of our fallen warriors at 2



pm at Baltimore National Cemetery, 5501 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228.

Commander Johnson is asking for volunteers from the Legion and Auxiliary to assist in honoring our veterans and to remember the sacrifice that veterans have given for their nation. Unit #19 Treasurer LaSharan Wallace reminds members that "If you are planning on attending, please wear white top, blue bottoms and your wave caps."

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 LeCount Grace](#).

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.

All members are asked to help keep the Post clean, clearing tables, getting

up spills, and generally policing the building, inside and out.

The Scoop salutes ...

Comrade Willie Christian for his generous donations to our Post #19 family in honor of his beloved wife Crystal who recently transferred to Unit Everlasting;

all the members and guests who volunteered and donated to the Halloween Trunk or Treat;

Post #19 family members Tommy Alderman, Reggie Baker, Betty Bonds, Wanda Coe-Stewart, Kendall Cooper, Larry Little, Thomas Russum, and LaSharan Wallace who volunteered to help us raise funds with the kitchen. Preston Hawkins made the coleslaw;

Post #19 family members Toi Combs, Louise Easley, Desiree Harcum, Carole Hector, Diane Jones, Gregory Scott, and Dwayne Washington for providing refreshments when the kitchen was not open.

Sick Call

- Louis Hardy
- Freda Holley
- Jimmy Johnson
- Kim McCoy
- Verlon Mills
- Emmett Pope
- Warren Scott
- Lincoln Stokes
- Thomas Wiggins
- Abby Wilson

Unit Everlasting



Sherrie Watts