



Volume 1, Issue 7

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“It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”

President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863

Inside this issue:

Memorial Day	1
Poppy Drive	1
Raffle News	2
Editorial Change	2
Profile of the Month	2
Illinois Veteran Bonuses	3
Military Humor	3
See You in the Alley	3
Parting Shot	4

The POST NEWS

Post Conducts Memorial Day Observance



Savoy American Legion Post 1492 conducted a Memorial Day observance at the Veterans Memorial in Savoy on Monday, May 31st, 2010.

Nearly forty people attended, including several of our members. Savoy Mayor Bob McClarey and his family, and a number of other village officials and employees were also in attendance, as was

Champaign News-Gazette Publisher John Foreman.

After welcoming remarks and a prayer by Post Chaplain Don Wiggins, Senior Vice Commander Ron Karr reflected on those who have served in the 230 years since the American Revolution, and especially on the more than one million souls who did not return.

He said that we must strive to honor not only those who died in battle but that we must also honor and support their families as well.

“If you asked these heroes before they died how they would like to be honored,” he said, “most would probably say, ‘Take care of my family.’”

Following the pres-

entation, Comrades Karr and Wiggins placed floral arrangements at the base of the monument.

Following the ceremony, several in attendance accepted Bill and Dee Dee Smith’s invitation to enjoy grilled steaks at their home on North Dunlap in Savoy.

Bill also arranged for the floral arrangements used at the ceremony and for the additional flags that were on display for the event.



Poppy Drive is Great Success



Last year’s poppy drive was the first one held by our new post. Even with a limited supply of poppies graciously provided by Champaign’s Post 24, we still had a successful cam-

paign, bringing in more than \$400.00 for charitable causes.

This year, with more resources available to us and more time for planning, we purchased and distributed 3,000 poppies at three locations and received \$1,610.37

in donations.

Many thanks to Darrell Gerald, this year’s project coordinator, and to all the volunteers who donated their time and other resources for this year’s event.



Another Successful Raffle!

Only a small percentage of our membership's annual dues are retained by the post, so our fund-raising efforts are very important for the programs we support.

By far our greatest source of revenue has been the raffle. Our most recent raffle was for two grills and two cash prizes. The first prize grill was provided by Meijer and the second prize grill was provided by Sears.

Our sincere thanks goes to both of these fine businesses for their valuable support.

The winners are:

First prize (grill from Meijer): Ken Zwilling

Second prize (grill from Sears): Darrell Gerald

Third prize (\$100.00): Randy Behner

Fourth prize (\$50.00): Ron Karr

Net proceeds from the raffle came to \$1,170 which will go a long way in support of our post and its programs.



Bo Henry presents 1st prize to Ken Zwilling



Ron Karr presents 2nd prize to Darrell Gerald

Many thanks to Bo D. Henry and Tom Watson for spearheading this important program.



Editorial Change

Shortly after we became an American Legion post, Harvey Hodges saw the need for a post newsletter and decided to step up and handle that responsibility.

He lined up sponsors, purchased supplies, wrote the articles and distributed *The POST NEWS* to the membership every month. Since many in our membership

rarely attend meetings, the newsletter is often their only source for post information.

However, because of other demands on Harvey's time, he has asked me to take over the newsletter.

Harv has left big shoes to fill so I hope that you'll be patient with my efforts until I get my feet on the ground.

One thing you can do to help is to save us the cost of printing and mailing each issue. If you have an e-mail address and would be willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of a printed copy through the mail, please send an e-mail to:

admin@legionpost1492.org.

Just put the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Profile of the Month — Robert W. McCleary

Bob McCleary was born in Bellflower, Illinois, and attended school in Mansfield.

He served in the Army from November 1948 to September 1952. His basic training was at Fort Breckenridge, Kentucky, and from there he was assigned to Forts Lee and Eustice in Virginia, Bergstrom Air Force Base, near Austin, Texas, and then

to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin to train troops headed to Korea. He went to Korea in January of 1951.

After leaving the service in September 1952, he farmed for a few years before obtaining a position in the Physical Plant at the University of Illinois in 1958. He worked there as a Laborer and Laborer Foreman until his retire-

ment in June 1987.

Bob and his wife Aleela have been married for more than 61 years. They have five children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They have traveled extensively throughout Europe, Canada, Mexico and all 50 states. They enjoy attending church and visiting with friends and relatives.



Illinois Veteran Bonuses

You may be eligible for a bonus if you served in certain areas during the specified periods:

World War II: A bonus of \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to a veteran who was a resident of Illinois at time of entering service, served at least 60 days on active duty between September 16, 1940 and September 3, 1945, and received an honorable discharge.

Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Conflict Bonus: A \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods: **Korea** - June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1953; **Vietnam** - January 1, 1961 - March 28, 1973; **Vietnam Frequent Wind** - April 29, 30, 1975; **Persian Gulf** - August 2, 1990 - November 30, 1995. The claimant must also be in receipt of one of the following: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Vietnam Era

or the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and have been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service and have received an Honorable Discharge.

Download an application form from: www.veterans.illinois.gov/bonusapp.pdf or contact Post Service Officer Don Wiggins, for a copy.



Military Humor

The recruiter asked, "Why do you want to join the Navy, son?"

"My father said it'd be a good idea, Sir."

"Oh? And what does your father do?"

"He's in the Army, Sir."

The young airman was upset when his girl wrote him a letter breaking off their en-

gagement and asking for her photograph back.

He went to his friends and made copies of their girlfriends' photos. He bundled them all together and sent them to the girl with a note saying, "I'm sorry but I can't remember which one is you. Please keep your photo and return the others."

During the Vietnam war, a Marine lieutenant asked a lance corporal why he was falling back during a really fierce battle. "Didn't you hear me say that we're outnumbered 4 to 1?"

The young man replied, "I already got my four, Sir."



See You In The Alley

If you haven't attended one of our meetings for a while (or ever), we hope you'll consider doing so in the near future.

We meet at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at the Old Orchard Lanes, 901 North Dunlap Avenue in Savoy. Meetings generally last for an hour or

less so you have plenty of time for other activities.

To locate our meeting room, enter the lounge from the bowling area. Our room is to the right in the back.

At the end of each meeting, we have a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The winner gets half of whatever is donated

for the drawing and the other half goes into the post's treasury.

Some members like to stop in the lounge for a few minutes after the meeting to enjoy the company of fellow veterans along with some good food and drink.

We hope to see you there on July 8th!





Savoy American Legion Post 1492

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If you would be willing to receive this newsletter by e-mail instead of the printed version, please send an e-mail to admin@legionpost1492.org and enter "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Parting Shot

We veterans are a diverse lot. We are college professors, truck drivers, office managers, maintenance workers, computer geeks, retirees, sales people and every other occupation you can imagine.

But those are just ways that we're different. What we have in common is that we were soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen. It's the one bond we share

and one thing that non-veterans can never completely understand.


I recently came across this piece and thought I'd close this issue with these thoughts.

"It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us


the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protestor to burn the flag."

— Father Denis Edward O'Brien/USMC

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