



Savoy American Legion Post
1492

Volume 2, Issue 10

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The Post News is published for the members and friends of American Legion Post 1492, Savoy, Illinois.

Copies are mailed at the beginning of each month. For those who prefer to receive their copy by email (saving us printing and mailing costs), just send an email to: dhwiggins@comcast.net.

You can also view the newsletter on-line by going to the post's website (legionpost1492.org) and clicking on the tab marked *Newsletter*.



"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

The POST NEWS

Fall Raffle Ticket Sales Begin This Month

Each year, Post 1492 holds raffles to raise funds for activities and programs that we support. We've enjoyed great success in the past with our gun raffles and we will be giving away three guns (or a cash option) this time around.

All post members who receive this newsletter in the mail will find five tickets enclosed. For those who receive the newsletter by email, we'll be mailing five tickets to you separately.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. We're hoping that members will either purchase all five tickets or sell some or all of them to others. Either way, be sure to clip off the stubs as receipts, fill out the purchaser's information on the tickets and mail them, along with the money, to the post. The post mailing address is:

Legion Post 1492
PO Box 471
Savoy, IL 61874

Tickets and money may also be brought to our October, November or December meetings. If you need additional tickets, call Tom Watson weekday af-

ternoons between 4:00 and 8:00 PM. His number is 217-351-7684. You may also contact any of the post officers listed elsewhere in this newsletter and they will see that you get as many tickets as you need.

Drawing will be held during our December 8th meeting.

First prize will be an Escort Home Defense Tactical 12 gauge shotgun with an 18" barrel. It has a black synthetic stock with pistol grip and a built-in two shell holder on the right side of the stock. It also has a black rubber recoil pad, fixed cylinder bore choke tube and heat shield with picatinny rail. The cash option for this gun is \$300.

Second prize will be a Kel-Tec model PF-9 semi-automatic, locked breech pistol, chambered for the 9mm cartridge. It is one of the lightest and flattest 9mm handguns ever made. It has a single stack magazine that holds seven rounds. Cash option for

the pistol is \$200.

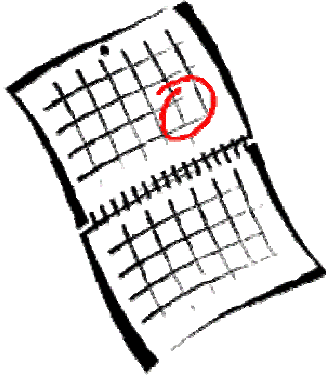


The third prize will a Remington 10/22 model 597 .22 caliber rifle with scope. It has a 10 shot metal detachable magazine, 8 shot for magnum, and a last shot "hold open" bolt for added safety. Cash option will be \$100.

We want to thank Ron's Guns & Knives in Thomasboro for their support. Winners will be notified by phone right after the drawing and must make arrangements with Ron's Guns and Knives to pick up their prizes. Winners who elect the cash option will receive their prizes by mail.

Let's make this our most successful raffle so far!

Note: The photos shown here are for illustration only. They show the correct brands and models but are not photographs of the actual prizes to be awarded.



2011

Oct 2: Dist 19 Meeting at Lovington
 Oct 10: Columbus Day
 Oct 13: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Oct 27: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 Oct 31: Halloween
 Nov 6: Daylight Saving Time ends
 Nov 10: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Nov 11: Veterans Day
 Nov 24: Thanksgiving

Upcoming Events

Dec 8: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Dec 20-28: Hanukkah
 Dec 25: Christmas

2012

Jan 1: New Year's Day
 Jan 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Jan 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 Feb 2: Ground Hog Day
 Feb 9: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb 14: Valentine's Day
 Feb 20: Presidents Day
 Feb 23: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 Feb 23: County Meeting @ Village Hall @ 7:30 PM
 Mar 8: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Mar 11: Daylight Saving Time begins
 Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day
 Mar 22: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM

[This article was written by Romanian journalist Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title "C'ntarea Americii," meaning "Ode To America" in the newspaper Evenimentulzilei.]



Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color. They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. On 9/11, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the Army, or the Secret Service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about.

Ode to America

Instead the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand. After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing. On every occasion, they started singing: "God Bless America!" I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or

thousands of people. How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy. What on earth unites the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic Power? Money?

I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace. I thought things over. I reached but only one conclusion: Only freedom can work such miracles.

Did You Know?

That when we were in the military we went through constant training. Many of us had weekly and sometimes daily physical training to keep our bodies in shape. We qualified with our weapons at least once a year and practiced mock fire drills, gas attacks and a host of other scenarios to be sure we were prepared.

Well, we are all now veterans and we need to prepare for answering our final roll call. Let's face it, we all will sooner or later come to the end of our life's journey and we need to be prepared. We don't want our spouse or children having to scramble around when the time

comes for various papers and items. There is a lot we can do to be proactive but here are the common ones I run into as a service officer.

1. Have a legible copy of your DD 214 or separation papers available and at

home. A copy in your safe deposit box isn't a good idea. You may die on a weekend or holiday and your survivors may not be able to access it. This document is needed by the undertaker to obtain your burial flag, honor guard, government headstone and burial in a VA national cemetery.

2. Be sure your insurance beneficiary is up-to-date and your policy or policy number is handy. Too often a veteran gets divorced and remarries and forgets to change the beneficiary so the first spouse gets the money. This goes for private insurance too!

3. Headstone information. The free government headstone has only so much room so if you received eight or ten different medals, you'll need to choose ahead of time which ones you want engraved.

4. Ready cash for burial expenses. If you have all your money tied up in investments or CD's your executor may have to sell something or cash in a CD

early and pay a penalty. The best idea would be to buy a prepaid burial with a local funeral home and have enough liquid cash in a checking account or money market fund. Of course if you are the only one listed on the account that will be a problem too. My mother put me on her checking account just for that reason and when she died I had no problem accessing funds to pay the bills.

5. These are just some of the more important things one can do to be proactive but there are many more. I urge you to visit our website at www.illegion.org and click on the grey button marked "FORMS".

Then **download "Things to Know before a Veteran Dies"**. This pamphlet will save your survivors a lot of headaches!

Raymond P. Toczek
 Department Legion Service Officer
 312-980-4264
Raymond.Toczek@va.gov



Post 1492 Officers

These are your post officers:

Commander: Ron Karr,
 217-351-2066

Sr Vice Commander: Bill
 Smith, 217-840-4414

Jr Vice Commander: Jim
 Whittaker, 217-398-0799

Adjutant and Historian: Don
 Wiggins, 217-417-9458

Finance Officer: Harvey
 Hodges, 217-352-5125

Service Officer: Stan White,

217-278-5700

Sergeant At Arms: Kent
 Kraus, 217-355-3672

Judge Advocate: Darrell
 Gerald, 217-356-2964

Chaplain: Bud Vandiver,
 217-356-4949

It is their responsibility to lead the post forward and to see that the post operates according to American Legion policies and procedures. Everyone listed here

volunteered to serve the post membership and they are always ready to help with any questions or concerns that a member may have. If they don't have the answers, they'll do their best to track them down for you.

You'll usually see them at our monthly meetings or you can reach them at the phone numbers listed.



Memorial Replacement Complete



It was a sad day in Savoy when the large granite monument at the center of the village's Veterans Memorial was blown over by high winds on the morning of May 25th. The monument weighed several tons but it was no match for the wind that day. The new monument includes design changes and extra reinforcement to prevent a repeat of last May's damage.

There is still some slight damage directly in front of the stone caused by the earlier event and village officials are considering alternative solutions for repair at this time. Also, the village plans to install a paved walkway from the parking lot area to the memorial.

Post 1492 has held Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances at the memorial

since it was dedicated in 2008. These ceremonies have been well attended by village residents and community leaders. This year's Memorial Day ceremony had to be cancelled because of the damage but our Veterans Day observance can now be held as usual on Friday, November 11th at 11:00 AM. There will be more information in the November newsletter.

Legion Facts

The Post is the basic unit of the Legion and usually represents a small geographic area such as a single town or part of a county. There are roughly 14,900 posts in the United States. The Post is used for formal business such as meetings and a coordination point for community service projects. Often the Post will host community events such as bingo, breakfasts and holiday celebrations. It is also not uncommon for the Post to contain a bar open during limited hours. A Post member is distinguished by a navy blue garrison cap with gold piping. Each U.S. county comprises several Posts and oversees their operations, led by a County Council of elected officers. The County Commander performs annual inspections of the Posts within their jurisdiction and reports the findings to both the District and the Department level. A County Commander is distinguished by a navy blue garrison cap with white piping. Each Department is divided into Divisions and/or Districts. Each District oversees

several Posts, generally about 20, to help each smaller group have a larger voice. Divisions are even larger groups of about four or more Districts. The main purpose of these "larger" groups (Districts — Divisions) is to allow one or two delegates to represent an area at conferences, conventions, and other gatherings, where large numbers of Legionnaires may not be able to attend. A District Commander is distinguished by a navy blue garrison cap with a white crown and gold piping.

The Posts are grouped together into a state level organization known as a Department for the purposes of coordination and administration. There are 55 Departments, one for each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines. Canada was merged into Department of New York several years ago. The three Departments located overseas are intended to allow active duty military and veterans living overseas to be actively involved with the American

Legion. The Department of France consists of 29 Posts located in 10 European counties, the Department of Mexico consists of 22 Posts located in Central America, and the Department of Philippines covers Asia and the Pacific Islands. A Department Officer or Department Executive Committee Representative is distinguished by a white garrison cap with gold piping. The American Legion Headquarters is located in Indianapolis. It is the primary office for the National Commander and also houses the historical archives, library, Membership, Internal Affairs, Public Relations, and the Magazine editorial offices. The Legion also owns a building in Washington D.C. that contains many of the operational offices such as Legislative and Veterans Affairs. A National Officer or National Executive Committee Representative is distinguished by a red garrison cap with gold piping.



September Meeting Summary

The meeting was moved to the Savoy Village Hall due to the unavailability of our meeting room at Old Orchard Lanes.

New member Mike Miller (transfer from Post 2910) introduced himself to the membership.

Commander Karr announced that we are hosting the County meeting on February 23, 2012 at 7:30 PM. Senior Vice Commander Bill Smith will make arrangements for use of the Village Hall.

Senior Vice Commander

Smith displayed the plaques for each of the military services that will be added to the Savoy Veterans Memorial site when the replacement monument is installed. The membership discussed the possibility of allowing those who served on active duty during the "gaps" between the current periods of eligibility to become honorary members of the post. After discussion, Adjutant Don Wiggins agreed to contact the Illinois Department Adjutant for guidance. Commander Karr presented

a list of Legion members who live in Savoy but are assigned to Post 2910 in Bloomington. Sergeant at Arms Kent Kraus will contact each of those listed for possible transfer to our post. A motion was made to contribute \$1,000 to the Honor Flight Network, an organization that transports WW-2 veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorial. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



Vietnam War Vet Elected Leader of The American Legion

A retired U.S. Army veteran has been elected national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization. Delegates to The American Legion's 93rd National Convention here chose Fang A. Wong of East Brunswick, N.J., to lead the 2.4 million-member organization of wartime veterans for a one-year term.

Born in Canton, China, Wong immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960. He attended New York City public schools and became a naturalized citizen in 1963.

Wong volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1969, served 25 months in Vietnam, and retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1989.

Wong earned a bachelor's degree in business admini-

stration at New York Institute of Technology in 1978 and a master's degree in management from Central Michigan University in 1981.

Following his retirement from the Army, Wong joined the Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial American Legion Post 1291 in New York.

A former national vice commander and past department commander of New York, Wong has held elected and appointed offices at the post, county, district, department and national levels.

Wong also served on several national committees and commissions, including a term as chairman of the Legion's National Security Commission.

Through his American Legion post in Chinatown,

Wong provided relief efforts during the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment and Training and Employer Outreach of the Department of Labor and served as chairman of the Special Investigation Committee for the Chinese Community Benevolent Association (NYC) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of New York in 2005. In 2011, Wong retired from L-3 Communications, Command & Control Systems and Software (C2S2) Division in support of the Army Software Engineering Center at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Wong is married to the former Barbara Lam. They have one son, Eric.



National Commander
Fang A. Wong

Honor Flight Sends Thanks

Post 1492 has received a letter of thanks from the Central Illinois Honor Flight for our \$1000 donation.

Honor Flight flies WW-2 veterans to Washington, DC, to view their memorial. Commander Ron Karr pre-

sented the check during the organization's fundraiser that was hosted by local radio station WIXY.





**Savoy American Legion Post
1492**

P.O. Box 471
Savoy, Illinois 61874
<http://legionpost1492.org>
E-mail admin@legionpost1492.org



Savoy American Legion Post 1492 meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are presently being held at the Old Orchard Lanes, 901 North Dunlap Avenue in Savoy. To get to our meeting room, enter the lounge near the front cash register and proceed to the glassed-in room to your right. Meetings generally last no more than an hour, leaving plenty of time to meet and greet fellow veterans. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

We thank these fine businesses for their support of our post.



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MLS Each office is Independently Owned & Operated



We are very grateful to the management of Old Orchard Lanes, 901 North Dunlap Avenue in Savoy for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings at their facility.

In addition to bowling lanes, they have a pro shop, an excellent snack bar and a relaxing lounge where you can watch your favorite teams on their big screen plasma televisions.

CATHY HALL & ASSOCIATES
Insurance

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