



Savoy American Legion Post  
1492

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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](mailto:dhwiggins@comcast.net).

You can also view the newsletter on-line by going to the post's website ([legionpost1492.org](http://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

## Commander Karr Escorts WW-2 Vets to D.C.

On Tuesday 10/18/11, I had the amazing privilege to be one of the 75 volunteer Guardians that accompanied 75 WWII veterans on their "Honor Flight" to visit their WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.



The trip was paid for by community donations, and there was no cost to the WWII veterans. The volunteer

Guardians paid all of their own expenses. The morning started very early with a 5 a.m. arrival at Willard Airport. The day promised to be a fully packed day of travel, site seeing, and emotion. Each WWII veteran was given a special orange polo shirt, blue jacket, and a blue "WWII Veteran" baseball-style hat. Each Guardian was issued a long sleeve white polo shirt which served the purpose of quickly identifying participants on the "Honor Flight."

The group was given VIP treatment by the TSA agents with only a routine check of a photo identification matched against the master passenger list – then onto the "red, white, and blue" chartered 737 jet for the short 1 ½ hour flight to Regan International Airport. The plane was met by an honor guard of airport rescue vehicles that provided a dramatic welcome with a "water cannon salute" that drenched our plane with water provided by the welcoming rescue vehicles. Inside the terminal, the group was met by cheering

and applauding airport personnel and fellow travelers as we made our way through the terminal to our tour buses. Reagan International really gave the group a very warm welcome.

We boarded one of three tour buses to begin the long day packed with stops at the various memorials that included: Iwo Jima Memorial; Air Force Memorial; Navy Memorial; Vietnam Memorial; Korean Memorial; Lincoln Memorial; Arlington Cemetery; Tomb of the Unknown Soldier & Changing of the Guard; and, of course, the major objective of the visit to the beautiful new WWII Memorial.



Many of the veterans shared their war experiences with each other while others chose to be more introspective during the day. The day was very emotional for most while reflecting on their own experiences and pausing to remember those friends and comrades that did not return from WWII and other wars--remembering those that paid the supreme sacrifice with their own lives.

The day concluded with a rousing "Welcome Home" at Willard Airport by hundreds of people who met

the plane to provide a welcome that the WWII Veter-



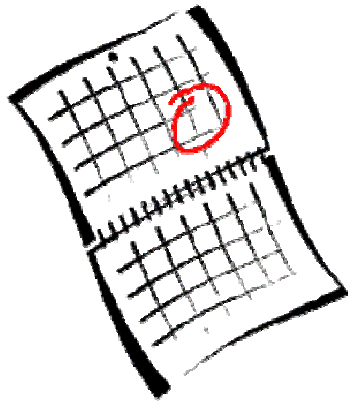
ans will not soon forget. The "Welcome Home" event combined fellow veterans, family members, friends, Cub and Boy Scouts, University ROTC, Marching Illini and local



officials to just name a few in attendance--an end to a wonderful journey for a wonderful group of humble WWII Veteran's that had the experience of a lifetime to finally visit their WWII Memorial. There was not a dry eye on the plane!

I volunteered for the "Honor Flight" to pay respect to all WWII Veterans of Savoy Post 1492 and also to pay a personal tribute to my deceased father who was a WWII Navy veteran. There are additional Honor Flights being planned for Spring 2012 and Fall 2012. I highly recommend that you WWII veterans take advantage of these opportunities to visit your Memorial. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in making the arrangements.

*Ron*

**2011**

Nov 6: Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov 10: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Nov 11: Veterans Day observance, 11:00 AM @ Savoy Veterans Memorial

Nov 24: Thanksgiving

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

Apr 8: Easter

Apr 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Apr 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM

May 10: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM

May 24: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM

## October Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Commander Ron Karr at 1830.

Finance Officer Harvey Hodges presented the updated financial report. Total account budget is \$2,199.24 and we are on budget for the year.

Wiggins provided updated membership figures for the post. We now have 46 members assigned. Thirteen of those have not yet paid for FY 2012, and four of those have not paid since FY 2010. Commander Karr asked Senior Vice Commander Bill Smith to contact those who have not yet paid.

Veterans Day ceremonies were discussed. Bill Smith will coordinate activities and arrange for speakers. Wiggins announced that Post 1492 is scheduled to host the Champaign County Council meeting, probably at the village hall on February 23rd, 2010.

Time and other details to be announced later.

Bo D. Henry provided an update on the fall gun raffle. As of September 8th, we have collected \$815 in donations, which puts us well on our way to covering the cost of the guns.

The drawing will take place after our monthly meeting on December 8th. Tickets and donated funds may be turned in anytime before the drawing.

Ron Karr and Don Wiggins reported on their visit to the 19th District meeting that was held at Lovington Post 429 on Sunday, October 2nd.

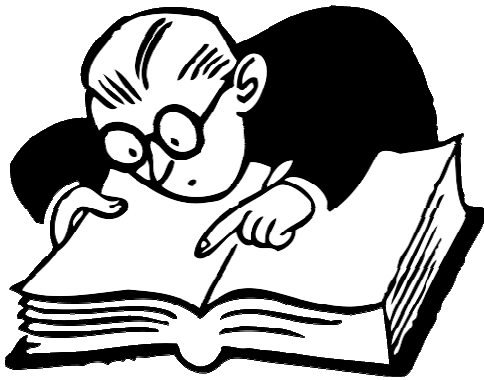
Commander Karr announced that he is serving (at his own expense) as one of the guardians for the October 18th Central Illinois Honor Flight. Veterans of World War II are flown to Washington, D.C. at no expense to view the WW II Memorial, as well

as other sites in the nation's capitol. Guardians will travel at their own expense. The flight is scheduled to return to Flightstar hangar at Willard Airport at 9:00 PM the same day and the public is encouraged to be there to welcome them home.

Adjutant Wiggins discussed a request from Team Johnson Motorsports for contributions. They promote the American Legion program on their car (number 76, driven by Jerick Johnson) as well as the causes of POWs and MIAs. They receive no funding from the American Legion, but are offering bumper stickers for \$4.00 each. Anyone interested in contributing should contact Adjutant Don Wiggins.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.





That in the last four years since I have been writing my “Did You Know” articles for the Department newsletter the ones I get the most positive feedback on are those dealing with VA rumors? For the next several issues I will be reprinting and updating some old rumors and well as listing some new rumors that I checked out. One of the most frustrating things we run across at the Department Veteran’s Affairs and Rehabilitation office in Chicago are these ru-mors. We can never pin down the sources but many simply come from word of mouth. A veteran overhears something while in a barber chair or getting their car washed, a VA clinic, comrades talk at the Post bar before a meeting, or someone thinks they are a “know it all” and gives out false advice. Some of the rumors are harmless but others, if believed, can cause veterans to loose out on valuable benefits they are entitled to and which they earned while in the service. So here are some of the old-ies but goodies as well as some brand spanking new ones.

**1. Veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan automatically are being granted 10% service-connection for PTSD and tinni-tus.** It depends. Although many of our returning warriors do suffer the symptoms of PTSD (flashbacks, nightmares, anger, sleep issues) and tinnitus (ringing or buzzing in the ears) they still need to be diagnosed with these conditions. Symptoms are a good leading indicator but medi-

## Did You Know?

cal records must show the actual medical diagnosis. We encourage all returning veterans from these areas to file their claim and let the VA set up an exam to determine if they qualify.

**2. A veteran with a bad discharge can not receive VA benefits.** Although most veterans benefits are contingent on having a good discharge (general, general under honorable and a straight honorable) there are many exceptions to this rule. For in-stance a veteran serves during the end of World War II and gets out with a **general discharge**. The Korean Conflict comes along and they are recalled back into the service. That period of service ends with an **other than honorable discharge**. The veteran is still fully eligible based on his or her World War II service. Another example: a veteran is drafted during the Vietnam War and during his two years he thinks the Army is a good career move. He signs the reenlistment papers for four more years. Every-thing is going fine until the tail end of that four year enlistment and he gets out on a **dishonorable discharge**. He is still eligible for VA benefits based on completing his initial two years of service as a draftee. If you know of someone with bad paper you might want them to contact us for advice.

**3. I owe the VA money and have to pay it back; I can’t list that as a debt if I declare bankruptcy.** This is false. Veterans may end up owing the VA money due to many reasons. The most common is a foreclosure on

a VA guaranteed loan but debts can be created when veterans fail to timely report changes in their dependents e.g. the spouse dies or their son/daughter drops out of college. Debts also happen when veterans on the need basis pension program return to work and don’t report it. The VA computers talk to the IRS computers each year and many debts are discovered this way. Although bankruptcy should be a decision of lat resort if the veteran decides to go that route they should have their lawyer list the Department of Veterans Af-fairs as one of their outstanding debts. If the judge okays the motion then the VA must erase this debt.

**4. . Only veterans who have service-connected disabilities can use the VA hospitals.** Wrong again and it amazes me how many veterans still believe this. Over sixty percent of veterans getting treatment and/or their medications from the VA hospi-tal system have no service-connected problems. I am a perfect example. I was drafted in 1970 and served two years in West Berlin Germany. I never went on sick call and never got a scratch. But since I retired my income is low enough to put me within the means test for the Chicago area and qualify me for care. I only pay \$9 a month for my cholesterol medication.

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## Veterans Day Observance Planned



Veterans Day is set aside as a time to honor all veterans, past, and present.

Post 1492's traditional Veterans Day observance will be held at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Savoy Village Hall.

The event will kick off at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 11th.

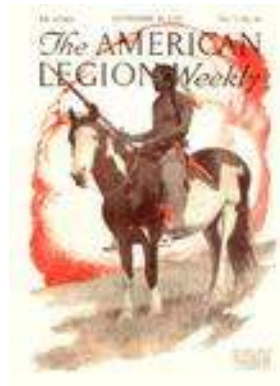
Details are still being worked out by Senior Vice Commander Bill Smith and Sergeant At Arms Kent Kraus, but the time and

place are set.

There has been a good size crowd at our previous observances and all post members and their families are encouraged to attend this year's observance.

## Legion Facts

One of the first things The American Legion did was go broke. It exercised this inalienable right rather promptly by starting a weekly magazine on July 4, 1919.



The organizing caucus at St. Louis had authorized it. Paper was scarce and expensive, printing costs were high, but The American Legion began publication without waiting to build up a back-log of advertising contracts, and within six months, the organization was \$257,000 in the red. Shortly after the caucus, it had become apparent that the 25-cent dues being collected in 1919 would not cover organization expenses until November 10, when the first convention would assemble. Gaspar G. Bacon, the treasurer chosen at St. Louis, went into a huddle

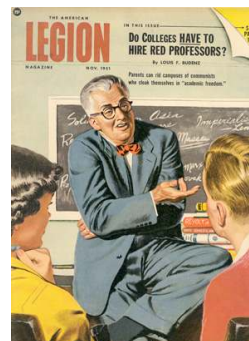
with Henry Lindsley, the temporary chairman, Roosevelt D'Olier and others and decided to take steps. It was a case of borrow or quit, and they did not intend to quit. Bacon and others wrote to the temporary state chairmen and other leaders of the new American Legion asking them to lend a quarter of a million dollars to the organization. The procedure was to borrow from banks on the personal notes of enthusiastic American Legion members. Early in 1920, the magazine was still losing money. The new annual dues voted at Minneapolis were only trickling in, expenses were mounting, and the organization was close to insolvency. Finally the magazine was suspended for a month, reor-

gained. The young American Legion remained in debt, but not impoverished.

At Minneapolis, the national dues were fixed at one dollar per member, of which 75 cents was to support the weekly magazine and 25 cents to sustain the National Headquarters and all national activities. The Departments and Posts would fix their own dues and manage their own finances. Delegates had been reluctant to allot three-fourths of the national dues to the magazine, arguing that it ought to make a big profit. It should soon exceed the *Saturday Evening Post*—largest of the American weeklies in quality, circulation and advertising revenue.

The magazine was reorganized into a monthly in 1925, and was managed by a separate corporation until 1935. The American Legion owned the Publishing Corporation, but its finances were kept separate from general income until it was able to turn over substantial revenues to the general fund.

Today, \$3.00 of each member's annual dues goes to pay for a one year subscription to the magazine.



ganized on an economy regimen, its advertising placed in experienced professional hands, and the threat of bankruptcy was

## Gun Raffle Update

As noted elsewhere in this issue, donations to our fall gun raffle are coming right along. As of our last meeting, we have collected more than \$800 and we still have more than a month before the December 8th drawing.

These raffles, along with our annual poppy distributions provide most of our post's financial resources each year. We only receive \$1.75 of your \$25.00 annual membership fee, with the remainder going to Depart-

ment and National headquarters. If you plan to purchase raffle tickets, or if you need additional tickets to distribute, contact Tom Watson at 217-722-5833.



## Meal Deals for Veterans on Veterans Day

Once again this year, several restaurants are offering specials for military veterans. Here are a few, but call ahead to verify times and participation. Many are franchises and may have different policies.

**Applebee's – free meal, Friday, Nov. 11:** Applebee's is again offering a free meal to military veterans and active-duty service members on Veteran's Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2011. There will be 7 entrées to choose from. Military ID or proof of service required.

**Chili's – free meal, Friday, Nov. 11.** Chili's is offering all military veterans past and present their choice of one of 6 meals. This offer is available during business hours on November 11, 2011 at participating Chili's in the U.S. only. Dine-in from limited menu only; beverages and gratuity not included. Veterans and active duty military simply show proof of military service.

**Hooters – Free Meal, Friday, Nov. 11.** Hooter's is serving up a free meal to

military veterans all day on Veterans Day. Offer good for all veterans and active duty military personnel. Choose one of the new specialty items on the Hooter's menu. Offer valid at participating Hooters only; open to all active duty and military veterans with valid military ID or proof of military service. Drink purchase required.

**Krispy Kreme – Free doughnut.** Available only at participating Krispy Kreme stores. Offer available to all active-duty, retirees & veterans on Friday November 11th. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

**Outback Steakhouse – A week of Free Bloomin' Onions and Cokes Monday Nov. 7 – Friday Nov. 11.** Outback Steakhouse is honoring America's military veterans by offering active duty military and veterans a free Bloomin' Onion and a Coca-Cola product during the week leading up to Veteran's Day. This offer is available to Military Personnel who have one of the

following forms of identifications: U.S Uniform Services Identification Card, U.S Uniform Services Retired Identification Card, Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), DD form 214 Veterans Organization Card (i.e., American Legion and VFW), Photograph in Uniform, Wearing Uniform.

**Subway – Free Six Inch Sub.** Select Subway locations offer a FREE six inch sub to military veterans on Veteran's Day. However, Subway restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead.

**Texas Roadhouse – free meal, Friday, Nov. 11.** Offer varies by location; our local Texas Roadhouse is offering a free meal from opening until 4pm.

**T.G.I. Friday's – Buy one get one free Nov 11-14.** At participating locations for anyone with an old or current military ID. November 11-14.



## Phone Number Correction

The list of Post officers in last month's issue included their phone numbers.

However, the number shown for Darrell Gerald, the Post JAG, was incorrect.

Darrell's correct phone number is 217-377-7772.





**Savoy American Legion Post  
1492**

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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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Equal Housing Opportunity



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.

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