



# The American Legion

## Bruckenthal-Cann Post 385 Newsletter

Serving Weston, Pembroke Pines, Miramar, Davie, Southwest Ranches & Sunrise



Organized June 16, 2005 Website: [www.alpost385fl.com](http://www.alpost385fl.com)

SPRING 2007

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## Adjutant's Report

This past month at our March meeting we renamed our Post the Nathan Bruckenthal - Adam Cann Post 385 in honor of Nathan Bruckenthal (USCG), who was stationed here in Fort Lauderdale before being deployed to Iraq, he is also the only Coast Guardmen to die in this Gulf War conflict and Adam Cann (USMC), from Davie who died early last year. His was present to receive a framed copy of our new charter. Cadets from Everglades High School JROTC were also present for the opening Flag Ceremonies and to act as Sgt-at-Arms for our guests.

On February 7th, Commander Roy Schofield, member Carol Fraser and myself were present at the Weston Civil Air Patrol to award C/SmSgt Arron Lynch with an American Legion Americanism medal.

In the next coming 2-3 months we will be attending the JROTC awards for Everglades High, Cypress Bay High and Flanagan High Schools for their ROTC and School Award Medals presentation. Post 385 Members are asked to attend if your time permits, this cadets work very hard with long hours during the school year and definitely deserve our attention.

Also coming up will be the Pembroke Pines Civil Air Patrol Squadron and Fort Lauderdale Navy Sea Cadets Awards Ceremonies. Again, if you are to attend please let me know of your intentions.

Also starting next month we should know more about Archbishop McCarthy's Baseball Teams and if we will be sponsoring them again this year.

On Sunday April 9th, the Broward County American Legion 9th District will hold their annual picnic at the Pompano Beach Elk's Club, tickets are \$8.00 all you can eat, anyone wishing to attend please contact me for tickets, I will also be attending. On Sunday June 9th at Post 180 in Plantation, the 9th District will be holding their annual Constitution, this is where all the Posts in Broward will be awarded and awards that they have earned during the year, and we are up for some again. Plus elections of District officers will take place at this time. If you would be interested in attending, please call me.

During the April meeting we will start our nominations of officers for the 2007-2008 year with elections happening during the May meeting. Anyone wishing to get actively involved with our Post and run for office should be present for these two meetings.

Roy Schofield, Commander and Joe Motes, Adjutant



Commander Roy Schofield and Adjutant Joe Motes presented the Bronze Americanism Award to Weston Civil Air Patrol C/SmSgt Arron Lynch during their February Awards Dinner.



### OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 4 MONTHS:

APRIL 3rd, 2007

MAY 1st, 2007

JUNE 5th, 2007

JULY 3rd, 2007

Our Post meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

*at the Pembroke Falls Aquatic Center*

Please check our website for the map or call me for information on each month's meeting.

954-441-8735 or 954-559-3202.

## Legislative's Report

### SAVE OUR HOMES UPDATE!

You might have read in the newspapers that Speaker Marco Rubio has advanced a series of tax reform proposals which would afford significant tax relief from the heavy burden now borne by property owners.

If this package passes the legislature, and receives the necessary citizens approval the need for portability will no longer exist.

If this happens it is your persistent advocacy of portability that sparked the debate resulting in these reforms. While, last year, we were disappointed that portability did not pass, part of the compromise was to form committees to study it more closely. This became the final hurdle acknowledging the financial pain suffered by property owners.

Without your numerous letters and e-mails of support for portability, the depth of the problem would not have come to light. If property taxes are not eliminated, portability will still be required, so the fight might not be over. However, the ball has been advanced considerably up the field.

Rep. Carl J. Domino, District 83

### IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX NEWS

The State has clarified its property tax savings for disabled vets. If you entered the service from Florida, have a service connected disability, served during a conflict, have a letter from the V.A. and your DD214, the county property tax office should grant you a savings equal to the percent of your disability.

Governor Crist called for sweeping reform to Florida's property tax system. He supports our legislation HJR 23, which allows homeowners to transfer the Save Our Homes tax benefit to a new home.

In addition, we have called upon Speaker Rubio, to support both HJR 23 and a companion Bill, which would allow for a special election to be held so that Florida residents would be able to take advantage and gain

favorable treatment for any property transactions which took place in 2006.

Please contact your Representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor HJR 23 and lend his/her support for this legislation. NOW is the time for action!

Otis Stigler, Legislative Officer

### Again, Flanagan High School's JROTC unit - under the leadership of Cmdr. Steve Nesthus!

#### Central Florida Area Sponsors NJROTC Florida Championship Meet

The NJROTC Florida Championship meet was held March 3 in Oviedo, FL. This Meet pits the top 18 schools in NJROTC Area 7 (Florida), who have qualified by finishing in the top three at one of eight regional competitions during the school year.

This final competition turns into a real shootout that sends the top two or three finishers to the Navy League sponsored Navy Nationals held annually in Pensacola in April.

As in the nationals, this competition consists of 11 events that include a personnel inspection, academic exam, five drill events, and four athletic events. Awards are given to the top five finishers in each event and to the top five overall finishers.

This year for the first time the eight Navy League councils in the Central Florida Area sponsored the trophies that were given to the top five overall finishers. Plans are underway to have the Navy League Florida Region sponsor the entire event next year.



Impressive trophies for the top five high school winners of the NJROTC Florida Championship Meet. Winning NJROTC units (l-r) fifth place - Riverview High School (Hillsborough), third place - Lake Howell School (Orlando), first place - Flanagan High School (Pembroke Pines), second place - Boca Raton High School, and fourth place - Wakulla High School (Tallahassee). The trophies were all provided by the Navy League Councils of the CFA. (Florida).

## Chaplain's Corner

### THE COURAGEOUS FOUR CHAPLAINS

By Bob Nagle, Chaplain Post 385

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. Three Coast Guard cutters were escorting the convoy. Captain of the Dorchester, Hans Danielsen, had ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on because of German U-boats that had been seen in the area – several ships had already been sunk. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold, disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., the ship was hit by German submarine U-223. The hit was deadly. Taking water rapidly and sinking, Captain Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 27 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's waters. The hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the escort ships. Two of the three cutters circled the Dorchester rescuing survivors. The third cutter continued on, escorting the remaining two troopships to safety. The blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing. Through the pandemonium, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were **Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. Clark V. Poling, Reformed and Lt. John P. Washington, Catholic.** They quickly tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety preaching courage the entire time. At this point, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets; the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

As the ship went down, survivors could see the four chaplains – arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could be heard in prayer as they sank beneath the waves. Of the 902 men aboard, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test and became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. Of the four, three had young wives and children. All came from good loving families and all had much to live for.

The idea of a chapel in memory of this noble sacrifice was born by Chaplain Daniel A. Poling, father of Chaplain Clark V. Poling. With help from countless organizations and individuals, President Harry Truman dedicated the Chapel on Feb. 3, 1951. The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a national, nonprofit organization, founded in 1947, which recognizes and encourages cooperation, brotherhood, and selfless service. It memorializes the courageous act of four Army Chaplains who gave their lifejackets to others when the troopship Dorchester was torpedoed on Feb. 3, 1943, and honors the 672 men who perished. The mission of the Chapel of Four Chaplains is encouraging cooperation and selfless service among all people by reaching out to the youth of our country to teach them the story of the Four Chaplains and to encourage them to become involved in community service.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is located at 1201 Constitution Avenue, Philadelphia Naval Business Center, Bldg. 649, Philadelphia, PA 19112. The website is [www.fourchaplains.org](http://www.fourchaplains.org).

The American Legion memorializes the acts and memory of the Four Chaplains by conducting services every year throughout the country. Florida District 9 conducts a ceremony each year at the First Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale.

### SERVICE OFFICER AMERICAN LEGION POST 385

### GULF WAR, AGENT ORANGE AND IONIZING RADIATION

#### *Registry Programs*

VA has developed databases called "registries" to help analyze the type of health conditions being reported by veterans who may have experienced unique environmental exposures. These veterans are provided with free, comprehensive medical examinations, including laboratory and other diagnostic tests deemed necessary, by an examining physician to determine health status. VA currently has registry programs

for veterans of the Gulf War, which includes those who have served in theater from August 2, 1990 to the present; those who served in Vietnam during the war (January 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975) and claim exposure to Agent Orange; those who may have been

exposed to Agent Orange while stationed along the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea in 1968 and 1969; and other veterans who may have been exposed to dioxin and other toxic substances in a herbicide or defoliant during the conduct of, or as a result of testing, transporting or spraying of herbicides for military purposes also are eligible to participate in the Agent Orange registry program. VA also has a registry program for veterans who claim exposure to ionizing radiation while participating in onsite atmospheric testing; while participating in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki; while prisoners-of-war in Japan during World War II; having been treated with

nasopharyngeal (NP) radium during military service; while participating in other radiation-risk" activities at underground nuclear tests at Amchitka Island, AK (before January 1, 1974), at Department of Energy gaseous diffusion plants at Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, and at Area K25 in Oak Ridge, TN. Eligible veterans do not have to be enrolled in VA health care to participate in registry examinations. Examination results, along with reviews of the veteran's military service and exposure histories, are entered into the registries. Registry participants are advised of the results of their examinations in personal consultations and by letters. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest VA health care facility for an examination.

#### **Important documents that may be needed to support a VA disability claim:**

DD Form 214 (Issued at the time of separation)  
Service Medical Records (Outpatient), dental records, entrance and separation examination reports  
Inpatient Hospitalization Records (private or military)  
Private Outpatient Medical Records (if applicable)  
Personnel File  
Line of Duty (LOD) investigation reports  
Overseas or Temporary Duty (Travel) Orders

#### **"Lest we forget"**

Peter Moore  
Post 385 Service Officer  
954-349-2097 (please no calls after 8:30pm M-F)



## THE MCDONALD TEAM

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Legion to Speed Walter Reed Processing

WASHINGTON (March 6, 2007) – The nation’s largest veterans organization today signed an agreement with Walter Reed Army Medical Center that will significantly alleviate the long backlogs in out-processing wounded soldiers.

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed today during The American Legion’s 47th annual Washington Conference, The American Legion will establish an office with paid staff at the facility to assist in the transition of wounded service members from the Dept. of Defense to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

“This is a natural extension of our Heroes to Hometown program,” said National Commander Paul A. Morin. “Our commitment is to these men and women who have fought valiantly, sustained life-changing injuries and need a helping hand in transitioning to life out of uniform.”

The American Legion Heroes to Hometown program currently identifies returning service members who need direct assistance when they come home. Legionnaires nationwide provide help in understanding the VA health care system as well as other day to day needs that they and their families may be dealing with in transitioning into life back home.

Today’s action is a major step toward ending the problems brought to light at Walter Reed. The delays in timely out-processing of Soldiers caused backlogs that forced them to be housed in deplorable facilities.

“The American Legion’s presence at Walter Reed will assist service members cut through the red tape that now hinders a truly seamless transition between DoD and VA,” Morin said. “Our goal is to streamline the process to reduce or eliminate the need for housing recovering service members in facilities not intended for long term accommodation.”

The agreement was signed on stage today during the organization’s legislative rally at the Renaissance Washington Hotel before an audience of over a thousand veterans and their families.

“We as a nation have an obligation to not only give our wounded warriors the finest health care, but to ensure their recovery takes place in the best accommodations we can give them.” Morin added. “Since 1919 The American Legion has battled to secure and protect the earned benefits of America’s veterans and today’s action strengthens that steadfast commitment.”



Post 385 honored Sgt Adam Cann (USMC) of Davie and Petty Officer 3rd Class Nathan Bruckenthal (USCG) who were killed in Iraq by renaming their Post the Bruckenthal-Cann Weston Post 385. Past District Commander Loretta Young and Vice Commander Bill Gemayel presented the new charter to Post Commander Roy Schofield. Opening ceremonies were held by Everglades High School JROTC.



Commander Roy Schofield then presented a copy of the charter to Mr. Leigh Cann, father of Sgt. Adam Cann who accepted on behalf of this son. Mr. Cann spoke of his son and of Nathan Bruckenthal who is also buried near his son in Arlington National Cemetery.

## South Florida V.A. cemetery ready to open -- and there's already a lengthy waiting list

By Diane C. Lade  
South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
Posted March 8 2007

What began as a dream a decade ago will become reality next month when the first veteran is laid to rest at the South Florida National Cemetery.

The burial ground west of Lake Worthwill open April 16, two years after the original projected date that was rolled back several times. As many as a dozen interments are expected on the first day, said South Florida Cemetery Director Kurt Rotar. There would be more, but only one of the six shelters for services will be ready.

Rotar expects to keep up that pace for months, with as many as a dozen burials six days a week. More than 700 families are holding cremated remains or planning to move their loved ones from other cemeteries to South Florida National -- so many that the Veterans Affairs will not add new names to the waiting list until after April 9.

Service and burial scheduling for new national cemeteries will be handled by a centralized VA system in St. Louis, with requests being taken in the order they were received and juggled with the burials of the newly deceased. Living veterans cannot make reservations, and their interments -- or those of their spouses, who are entitled to national cemetery gravesites, even if they die before the veterans -- are handled by funeral homes at the time of death.

Lois Silverstein called the cemetery office just days after her husband, Joel, died at 72 of pancreatic cancer in 2005, which blindsided him so suddenly that the couple barely had time for a discussion of last wishes.

"We never really had touched on it before, but after he got sick, Joel told me he wanted to be buried in a veterans cemetery," said Silverstein, of Delray Beach. Her husband had been an Army sergeant during the Korean War "and he was very happy being in the service."

Now Silverstein is preparing to move her husband from an unmarked grave in Hollywood to South Florida National, then gather their three children for a memorial service. "I've moved on with everything else in my life except this," she said. "It's that last piece of unfinished business."

Daniel Perrin, general manager of Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens Funeral Home in Lake Worth, said he's already received "a lot of inquiries" about relocations -- some from as far away as Florida National Cemetery near Tampa, the closest veterans burial ground

## Service Officer's Report

The first burials in the 50-acre "fast track" section near the cemetery entrance off U.S. 441, which has room for about 10,000 in-ground and cremated remains, were pushed back last year from this spring to late summer because of wet weather stalling site preparation.

But Rotar said that when he came on board in January, VA officials told him to scramble and make an April deadline. "The feeling was the veterans were asking for it to open and had been waiting a long time," said Rotar, who previously was director of Massachusetts National Cemetery, on Cape Cod, for nine years.

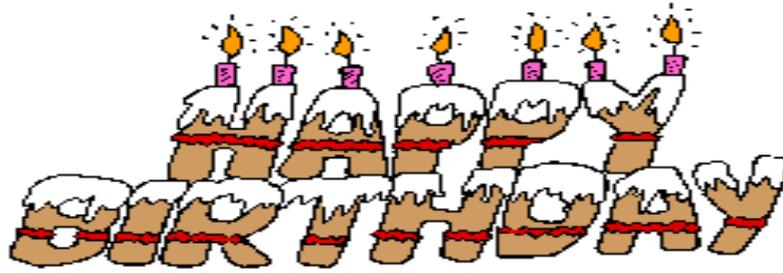
Bulldozers and graders growled over the barren grounds this week as workers plumbed an irrigation system in advance of laying sod and planting trees. The South Florida site will have more water features than most national cemeteries, Rotar said. Three of its five lakes, required to offset environmental impacts, already circle the trailers serving as temporary administration and construction offices.

A columbarium, for above-ground remains, probably won't be completed for up to another five years. When finished, the cemetery will cover 313 acres and have room for 115,000 veterans, enough to meet South Florida's needs for the next 50 years, according to the VA.

South Florida National is the fifth VA cemetery in Florida, home to one of the nation's largest populations of World War II veterans. The VA is purchasing land near Jacksonville and Sarasota for two additional burial grounds.

The 130 families seeking to move already buried remains to South Florida National will have to pay for the relocation, which can cost as much as several thousand dollars. The 570 others on the waiting list, with cremated remains, can bring their urns or boxes to the cemetery themselves. The VA does the burial and provides a gravesite, a marker, a grave liner and a military honor guard at no charge.





### April May June Birthdays

George Wandover	04/03	Jose Cardona	05/27
Saul Braveman	04/04	Gerald Konzen	05/28
Marvin Aronoff	04/05	Pedro Andino	06/04
Curt Martin	04/08	Thomas Simmons	06/07
Frank Fong	04/09	William Dennis	06/08
John Yankus	04/09	Oscar Linzels	06/08
Tyrone Carlis	04/09	Robert Greene Sr.	06/09
Donald Feller	04/10	Jacques Lagas	06/11
Ezekiel Seda	04/11	Fred Green	06/18
John Martel	04/11	Mauricio Kossler	06/18
David Salver	04/11	Herbert Lurie	06/19
John Thompson	04/13	Harold Roemer	06/20
Anthony Maniscalco	04/14	Isreal Rodriguez-Soto	06/20
Stephen Nesthus	04/16	Eugene Palermo	06/23
Elton Edden	04/16	Ronald Delucien	06/23
George Wilsher	04/21	Paul Doering	06/24
Cosmio DiGiario	04/26	Jose Garcia	06/25
Frederick McKenzie	04/28	Gilbert Lebron	06/28
Steven Thomas	04/28	Fritz Beauzile	06/28
Stephen Enos	04/30		
Juan Fernandez	05/02		
Ronald Gregory	05/03		
Joseph Mora	05/04		
Miguel Lopez	05/09		
William Quimby	05/12		
Rex Shaw Jr.	05/13		
Jeffrey Banks Jr.	05/13		
George Amador	05/14		
Richard Perkins	05/14		
Andres Rodriguez	05/18		
Carlos Garcia	05/20		
Juan Arias	05/23		
Emanuel Hering	05/26		
Fred Cohen	05/27		
Roy Schofield	05/27		
Jose Cardona	05/27		



**Nathan Bruckenthal - Adam Cann**  
**American Legion Post 385**  
**2133 NW 208 Terrace**  
**Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320**

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### 2006 - 2007 Post 385 Officers

**COMMANDER - ROY SCHOFIELD**  
 2900 SW 155 LANE  
 DAVIE FL 33331-1516  
 954-914-5647

**1ST VICE COMMANDER - JOE MORA**  
 19239 NW 22 STREET  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-4607  
 954-430-9888

**2ND VICE COMMANDER - DONALD FULTON**  
 16381 NW 11 STREET  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33028-1121  
 954-433-9065

**ADJUTANT & FINANCE OFFICER - JOSEPH MOTES**  
 2133 NW 208 TERR  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-2320  
 954-441-8735  
 joemotes@aol.com

**SERVICE OFFICER - PETER MOORE**  
 358 LAKE CREST COURT  
 WESTON FL 33326-3524  
 954-349-2097

**SGT-AT-ARMS - JACQUES LAGAS**  
 18444 NW 9 CT  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33029-3606  
 954-442-6642

**CHAPLIN - ROBERT NAGLE**  
 17051 NW 17 STREET  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33028-1353  
 954-432-2440

**HISTORIAN - DIANE CALFEE**  
 940 NW 92 AVE  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33024-4537  
 954-431-6791

**LEGISLATURE OFFICER - OTIS STIGLER**  
 14161 SW 22 PLACE  
 DAVIE FL 33325-5400  
 954-473-9101

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - CAROL FRASER**  
 401 NW 103rd AVE APT 353  
 PEMBROKE PINES FL 33026-6018  
 954-436-7168

### Post 385 Charter Member Dies



LT. COL. FRANK SHOO FONG, USAF (Ret.), 87, of Weston, a long-time South Florida resident, born in Augusta, GA, died March 24, 2007. Lt. Col. Fong was a highly decorated Fighter Pilot of WWII and the Korean Conflict, flying a P-47 and P-51; receiving two Distinguished Flying Crosses, eight Air Medals (seven clusters to Air Force Medal), Purple Heart, European Theatre Ribbon with six Bronze Stars, American Theatre Ribbon, Ribbon of Merit, Korean Medal, Intelligence Medal, Senior Pilot's Wings, Expert Medal and other awards too numerous to mention. He was also an acclaimed artist having designed and illustrated a book on the history and operation of the American Air Sea Rescue Activities for General Anton. He resided in Weston, FL and was a charter member of Post 385 at its founding in 2005.