



# The American Legion

## Bruckenthal - Cann Post 385 Newsletter

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



SPRING 2019

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

Volume 13 Number 3

### VA Health Care Access Wilkie on Privatization Concerns | Will Not Happen

Facing concerns over the implementation of the new Mission Act, which consolidates the Department of Veterans Affairs' seven private health care programs into a Community Care Network, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie on 26 MAR sought to reassure senators that the department is not looking to outsource most of its medical care. Testifying before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Wilkie said the department's proposed access standards for private care -- which will greatly increase the number of veterans eligible for outside medical services -- do not mean more veterans will seek that care.

About 19 percent of the VA's \$87 billion proposed fiscal 2020 medical budget is designated for the Community Care Network created by the VA Mission Act, while 81 percent is earmarked for VA medical care, he said. Wilkie stressed that the department is committed to providing quality in-house medical services, acknowledging that veterans-- and veterans groups -- say they prefer VA care. "The care in the private sector nine times out of 10 is probably not as good as the care you get in VA," he said. "Things are not always greener on the other side of the hill."

VA officials have sought to convince veterans, veterans service organizations and the public that it has no intention of privatizing its health care system. The public affairs blitz began shortly after President Donald Trump won on a platform that included allowing veterans to see any doctor they choose, and it has grown in recent weeks since there lease of the proposed access standards, which include: eligibility for those who must drive an average 30 minutes to a primary or mental health appointment or 60 minutes for specialty care, or wait 20 days or more for primary care or 28 days for a specialty care appointment. "I argue it is the most transformative period in the history of this department.... I don't believe we are on the cusp of transformation; we are in the middle of it," Wilkie said. He added that the medical care the VA gives is as "good or better than any medical care in any region of the country. We are proud of it."

But Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) said privatization can also occur by neglect. Describing medical facilities in his state that have not been maintained or expanded and a mobile unit that remains inoperable, he said veterans may choose to see a

private physician even if they'd prefer to go to the VA. "Even though our intent and the verbal agreement is that we aren't going to privatize, because of starving [these facilities], there won't be these services ...you can see the concern," Manchin said. Wilkie said the VA has a \$60 billion facilities maintenance backlog and will need to "be creative" in continuing to provide health care to veterans, pointing to VA medical facilities being established across the country in leased buildings, allowing medical center staff to concentrate on medical care rather than infrastructure. He also suggested the department is considering a program similar to the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps to entice doctors and other medical health providers to move to rural areas to serve veterans.

The VA is seeking to implement its access standards for the Community Care Network by June. It has awarded a\$55 billion contract for three regions in the network to Optum Public Service Solutions and plans to announce the contract award for the region that covers the western United States in April. Contracts for Alaska and the Pacific Territories will be awarded in the fall. The VA's proposed fiscal 2020 budget includes \$220 billion in total spending, up 9.5 percent from fiscal 2019. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) said he wants to lay to rest concerns that the VA plans to outsource its medical care. "We are not going to privatize," he said. "I have no interest in doing so. Let's concentrate on making the VA the best it can be." [Source: Military.com |Patricia Kime | March 29, 2019 ++]

#### OUR MEETINGS FOR THE 2019 & 2020:

**May 7, 2019, Sept 3, 2019, Oct 1, 2019**

**Our Post meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm  
between September and May.**

**at the YWCA Pembroke Falls Aquatic Center**

Please check our website for the map or call me for  
information on each months meeting.

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

**Facebook Page: American Legion Post 385**

# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN POST 385 MEMBERS

Our Post 385 Commander would kindly request that all Post members make arrangements for relatives or friends to notify our Post upon your passing so that we can properly honor your military service and membership in the American Legion.



**For God and Country**

**Now Open**  
**Show your veteran pride**  
**Get your 385 gear**  
**Visit us at:**  
**www.alpost385fl.com**

**Curio Arms, Inc.**  
FFL # 1-59-025-01-2G-00231

**Edward J. Wagner**  
President

Curio Arms Inc  
5074 NW 74 Ave.  
Miami, Fla  
33166

305-436-9267 office  
305-345-8209 cell  
305-436-8507 fax  
Email: ewagner@itcaog.com



## AMERICAN LEGION POST 385 USA Flags Program for retirement

Please bring your old USA Flags for retirement.

Bring them to the meetings or call Teddy Pomerantz at 230-494-9715 to arrange a Pickup.



# BUY, SELL, RENT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

*A REALTOR TEAM YOU CAN TRUST*



Uniquely well-qualified retired military realtor team specializing in corporate, military and government relocations



**Colonel David McDonald, USA ret, CRP, GRI**  
**954-632-9105**

**Dr. Gulay T. McDonald, Ph.D., CRS**  
**954-632-9106**

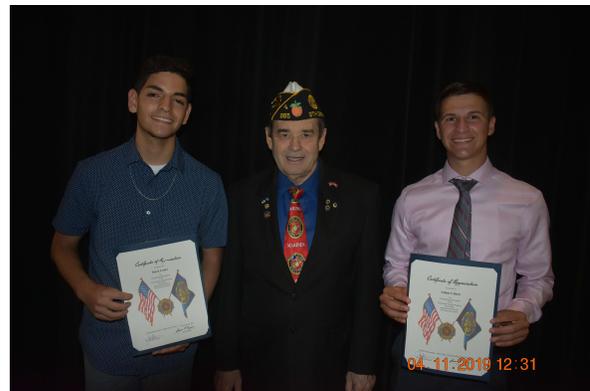
**Team@MyMcDonaldTeam.com**  
**www.SouthComHomes.com**

**Post 385 Taps**



|                      |          |                     |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Leonard Saver        | 01/06/06 |                     |
| Stewart Fraser       | 09/01/06 |                     |
| Frank Fong           | 03/24/07 | Charter member      |
| John B. Franz        | 09/05/07 |                     |
| Jack Finkelstein     | 09/07/07 |                     |
| Joseph Buchler       | 10/07/07 |                     |
| Helen Franz          | 10/24/07 |                     |
| Myron Pavlik         | 11/18/07 |                     |
| Juan R. Zayas        | 12/29/07 |                     |
| Morris Weinstein     | 04/03/08 |                     |
| John A. Sexton       | 04/09/08 |                     |
| Andrew Hudson        | 07/07/08 |                     |
| Raymond G. Chote     | 2008     |                     |
| Eugene V. Palermo    | 10/11/08 |                     |
| Alvin Harold Chanin  | 03/15/09 |                     |
| Anthony J. Radzville | 02/03/09 |                     |
| Fred Green           | 03/24/09 |                     |
| William Engel        | 01/31/10 |                     |
| Barrett Balsam       | 04/01/10 |                     |
| Felix Giuffre        | 04/10/10 |                     |
| Frank Dingfelder     | 06/24/10 | Post Vice Commander |
| Robert J. Dolin      | 06/26/10 |                     |
| Luis A. Soto         | 07/21/10 |                     |
| Vincent W. Shevlin   | 10/12/10 |                     |
| William Spiekerman   | 03/20/11 |                     |
| Rene "Al" Kirouac    | 04/08/11 |                     |
| Guy F. Walters       | 05/03/11 |                     |
| Edward J. Bleyer     | 09/06/11 |                     |
| Cooper Camp          | 09/18/11 |                     |
| Clinton Lingerfelt   | 11/28/11 |                     |
| Jordan D. Raileanu   | 12/27/11 |                     |
| Donald Korn          | 04/08/12 |                     |
| George W. Wilsher    | 06/14/12 |                     |
| Elbert Armstrong     | 10/13/12 |                     |
| Angelo Perfetto      | 01/27/13 |                     |
| James Beicher        | 02/03/13 |                     |
| Alvin Trilling       | 02/14/13 |                     |
| Julius Smalkin       | 08/13/13 |                     |
| Arthur Aiss          | 08/21/13 |                     |
| Andrew Paul Lokie    | 01/12/14 |                     |
| Thomas A. Flynn      | 08/05/14 |                     |
| Allen C. Colton      | 08/05/14 |                     |
| Farris Jammel        | 09/12/14 |                     |
| Frank Mazzarella     | 12/18/14 |                     |

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Joseph Pezzulo       | 01/03/15 |
| Roy Pitter           | 01/06/15 |
| Antonio C. Catubac   | 05/13/15 |
| Gerald G. Konzen     | 06/12/15 |
| Martin Sobol         | 11/27/15 |
| Murray S. Ginsberg   | 06/14/16 |
| William B. Armstrong | 08/07/16 |
| Roger J. Cartier     | 08/17/16 |
| Jeffreery Shapiro    | 09/25/16 |
| Jose Perez-Mayo      | 12/19/16 |
| Hector Castro        | 01/12/17 |
| John R. Carlson      | 01/17/17 |
| Pasquale T. Sessa    | 01/15/17 |
| Kenneth Braidman     | 03/14/17 |
| Wesley Brock         | 08/17/17 |
| Peter Bouvier        | 09/12/17 |
| Lou Manfra           | 09/13/17 |
| George D. Vrotsos    | 11/15/17 |
| Ariosto Morales      | 03/10/18 |
| Benjamin J. Guerra   | 05/30/18 |
| Warren Mull          | 08/14/18 |
| Estelle Kfare        | 10/03/18 |
| Henry L. Haddon      | 02/05/19 |



**Joe Motes presented Certificates of Appreciations to two 2019 Boys State students from Everglades High School at the school's Underclass Awards ceremony.**





At our March meeting we celebrated the American Legion's 100 birthday.



Veterans appreciation Day was held on February 13th at the Broward V.A. Clinic with the Hooters and 1000 wings, the Panthers cheerleaders, and the Cypress Bay JROTC cadets.



Post 385 Cmdr James Tewes presented the Americanism Medal to a cadet from the Pembroke Pines Civil Air Patrol Squadron.



Post Commander James Tewes presented the JROTC Military and Scholastic awards to two cadets from Charles Flanagan High School.



Carol Fraser attended the Women's History month at SouthCom on March 6 to celebrating 8 WWII and Korean women veterans. Carol was the youngest 84 and the oldest 97.



## Hidden VA Money: VA Programs You May Be eligible For

Below are some programs or rules within the VA that could pay you and your surviving spouse in all matters financial. As you explore these programs, keep in mind, it may be in your best interest to see an accredited VSO or a qualified attorney familiar with VA law should you elect in pursuing any of the programs:

Any veteran who is a senior citizen or his/her surviving dependents may be eligible to receive over \$2,000 per month (\$24,000 per year) in tax free income. The payments include annual cost of living increases.

A veteran can easily qualify for a VA Pension even if his annual income exceeds the limits set by the VA .For this program, a veteran may need a highly qualified VA attorney to help.

Recurring, non-reimbursed medical expenses of a veteran and the surviving spouse are deductible from gross income.

Veteran family members can be paid as caregivers, which is also a tax deductible expense.

If a veteran resides in an Assisted Living Facility the entire amount paid for the service is a deductible expense.

Veterans 65 years-old or older, are presumed to be disabled. It does not have to be proven.

There are many federal VA nursing homes, and private nursing homes with a federal VA Contract who will admit veterans for care even if the veteran does not meet the service connected disability requirements.

Veterans who are 100% service-connected IU may be eligible for an additional monthly entitlement of \$62.50/mo. for catastrophic injury.

DMAVA and the department of education jointly launched a program on October 5, 2002 to honor world war two era veterans who left school to join the military and have never received a high school diploma.

Veteran family members can be paid as caregivers, which is also a tax deductible expense.

If a veteran resides in an Assisted Living Facility the entire amount paid for the service is a deductible expense.

If the veteran is deceased and the surviving spouse is applying for low income pension, the spouse can be of ANY age and does NOT have to be disabled.

Reports indicate that a pension with aid and attendance is easier to obtain then Household Benefits.

A veteran who is healthy but has a spouse who is disabled, may be eligible for Improved Pension (Low Income Pension).

In order to receive service-connected disability rating a veteran's disability does not have to be related to combat.

A VA rating of 70% or higher will allow a veteran-claimant to reside in a federal VA nursing home, at no charge. Other stipulations may arise resulting in minimal fees.

When a veteran is rated at 100% disability or if rated as Individual Un-employability (IU), the veteran will receive the highest rating and the highest pay. Additionally, if a veteran is in need of additional aid of another person to help with activities of daily living (walking, bathing, dressing, toileting, etc.) there is an added supplemental compensation called "aid and attendance".

[Source:<http://www.veteranprograms.com/resources7.html>] David Austin | September 19, 2018 ++

## Adjutant's Report

Post 385 Legionnaires

I hope everyone is having a safe and great year. Well a few new things have been happening at the Legion. First, we will say Happy 100th Birthday to the American Legion. Yes 100 years old already what an amazing feat. Just a reminder also this year we have our first female Department of Florida Commander. The American Legion finally made getting credit for membership easier and faster at the National level. In the past I would have to mail your cards to Department, and they must send it to National. Now I hit one button and it goes straight to National. That saves on postage for the whole chain of command.

Speaking about membership, thank you for helping your Post last year make 100%, great job.

I would like to ask if we can get on board again this year and make 100%. As of today, we need 20 more members to renew to make it. This time last year we only needed 6 members to renew. Do not forget you can renew online at [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) or mail it in. There are still veterans in our communities that does not know about the Legion and what we do. If anyone knows of someone that you talked to already, please feel free to contact myself or any of the other officers to help you. You can find our numbers on the website. Post 385 is active in our community as you see on our Facebook page for many years. We depend and operate on your membership, so let's stay strong and renew your membership. Let's have a great year again. Do not forget to check out our website at [www.alpost385fl.com](http://www.alpost385fl.com).

Thanks

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

***Post 385 Active Charter Members***

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Kenneth Baranik | John Boyle    |
| Dominick Froio  | Peter Moore   |
| Joseph Motes    | Roy Schofield |
| Dennis Teitge   |               |



**2018 - 2019 Post 385 Officers**

COMMANDER - JAMES TEWES  
954-655-2833  
jaws2z@comcast.net

VICE COMMANDER - GEORGE KOREN  
gkoren44@aol.com

VICE COMMANDER - VINCENT MANCUSI  
266vince@live.com

ADJUTANT & FINANCE OFFICER - TEDDY POMERANTZ  
203-494-9715  
Ted.Pomerantz@snet.net

JUDGE ADVOCATE - JOSEPH MOTES  
954-559-3202  
Joemotes@aol.com

SERVICE OFFICER - OPEN

SGT-AT-ARMS - GEORGE KOREN  
gkoren44@aol.com

CHAPLAIN - ROBERT NAGLE  
954-432-2440  
casailio@hotmail.com

HISTORIAN - OPEN

PUBLIC RELATIONS - YOLANDA SANTOS  
(954) 433-4920  
airforce\_1985@comcast.net

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**Post 385 Frank Dingfelder Scholarship**

Our post has a \$500 scholarship for Post member's children, the scholarship application will open January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 until May 30<sup>th</sup> for the 2019-2020 school year. Please visit our website and click the Scholarship link. For more information, please call Joe Motes at 954-559-3202.



**Post Judge Advocate Joe Motes presented our local Boy Scout Troop 224 our semi-annual \$200 donation.**

