



The American Legion

Bruckenthal-Cann Post 385 Newsletter

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



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SUMMER 2009

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Adjutant's Report

My Fellow Post 385 Legionnaires,

On 7th June at the 9th District Constitutional Meeting, our Post brought home several awards and trophies. We won 1st Place in the JROTC category. I received the Adjutant of the Year Award from the District for the 4th straight year. We received the trophy for 100% Membership in Category 4. We also received a trophy for the highest numbers of members over the previous year. I was also re-elected the District Commander for the 9th District, Broward County, for the 2009-2010 year. We also received at Department of Florida Award for obtaining 100% before December 31, 2008.

In a recap of this past school year activities, our Post presented JROTC and School Award Medals to Everglades, Flanagan, Cypress Bay, Plantation, South Plantation, Blanche Ely, Monarch, Miramar, Stranahan, and West Broward High Schools. We were asked by 5 of the above schools to help them with JROTC Medals because they were not being supported by local area Posts.

We also sponsored 2 shooting teams each from Flanagan, Cypress Bay and Everglades High Schools for a total of 6 teams. And starting this new school year 2009-2010 we will be supporting the our newest Civil Air Patrol units here in Pembroke Pines and Archbishop MaCarthy.

We also issued 18 Eagle Scout Good Citizen Citation for attaining Eagle Scout during the past year.

We also presented the Americanism Medals to the Fort Lauderdale Naval Sea Cadets, the Boca Raton, Coral Springs, Weston and Crystal Lakes Civil Air Patrol Squadrons.

This coming new year, we have 2 school interested in the Legion's Boys State program and have asked us to support their students.

Elections were help during our May meeting; all the officers remain the same for the exception of Alberto Darby who was nominated as 1st Vice Commander and Frank Dingfelder is out 2nd Vice Commander. Please remember, this is your Post, if you think you have some spare time and would like to help us out in any capacity, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss what is available.

This past Memorial Day, several members attend the Memorial Day festivities at 9am at the Pembroke Pines City Hall. This is now the 3rd year we have been invited to attend and it was a great honor to be there. Afterwards, nine of us members went to Wal-Mart to hand out Poppies, it was our second time and it was a great success.

We have asked Wal-Mart if we can do it again during Veteran's Day. We do need your help if you can just come for a couple of hours we could expand our time there at Wal-Mart.

For those members with online capability, our website now has some new links, I now have a Broward JROTC link to keep you posted on one of the Legions biggest program.

All our Newsletters are now online in .PDF format which makes it easy to print. I've added an interesting link on Patriot Videos, these take sometime to see as some are short and others long, but all are interesting. There is also the Special Activities which we will announce any upcoming events.

Another year has come and gone and now it's that time again when you will be receiving your renewal notices from National, please help us to continue to be the 100% leaders we have been for the past four years by mailing in your renewal soon afterward. We have been the first Post to reach 100% for the last four years in the Department of Florida and Southern, which are the areas from Okeechobee to the Keys. I Thank You for your prompt payment.

We will not have any meetings in June, July and August, but we will resume with our meetings the first Tuesday of September; this is your Post, you are always welcome to drop by and visit.

For God and Country,
Joe Motes, Adjutant

OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 9 MONTH:

there are no meetings JUN, JUL & AUG.
SEPTEMBER 1st, 2009
OCTOBER 6th, 2009
NOVEMBER 3rd, 2009
DECEMBER 1st, 2009
JANUARY 5th, 2010
FEBRUARY 2nd, 2010
MARCH 2nd, 2010
APRIL 6th, 2010
MAY 4th, 2010

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 months meeting.

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



Ludlow Dawes from Charles Flanagan High School was our Oration Contest winner, he made it all the way to State for finals and came in 3rd place.



VA EMERGENCY CARE: On 19 FEB U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, introduced the Veterans’ Emergency Fairness Act of 2009 (S.404). This bill would enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reimburse veterans enrolled with VA for the remaining costs of emergency treatment received outside of VA’s health care system if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost. Under current law, VA can reimburse veterans or pay outside hospitals directly only if a veteran has no outside health insurance. “Because insurance may not cover all costs, a trip to the ER can leave insured veterans financially crippled. My bill would enable VA to fill the gap for veterans whose outside insurance does not meet their needs,” said Akaka. In addition to reimbursing veterans for future costs of emergency care, the bill would allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide retroactive reimbursements back to May 2000 when VA was first authorized generally to cover the cost of outside emergency care for veterans enrolled with VA for their care.



THE MCDONALD TEAM
 Gulay T. McDonald, Ph.D.
 COL David McDonald, USA (ret)
 (954) 632-9106 / 9105
 www.SouthComHomes.com
 E-mail: gmcdonald@SouthComHomes.com



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Proud sponsor and member of Post 385 – mention this ad for free gift and complimentary home value analysis. We will donate \$500 to the Post when you or anyone you refer to us buys or sells a home with us.



The American Legion 9th District Commander Joseph Motes and Post 385 gives his life jacket to Sea Cadet Nicholas Hauser from Coral Glades HS in Coral Springs. They were part of a celebration of the 66th anniversary of “The Four Chaplains” and 672 heroes of the ship USAT *Dorchester* that was sunk off of Greenland in 1943. (Nicholas R. Von Staden, Sun Sentinel / February 15, 2009)

Dania Beach service honors Four Chaplains of WWII

On sinking ship, they gave away their life jackets

By John Holland | South Florida Sun-Sentinel

February 16, 2009

HOLLYWOOD - They stood at attention in the hot sun to honor four men they never knew and an act of courage they hope is never forgotten.

Sixty-six years have passed since four U.S. Army chaplains — a Catholic priest, a rabbi and two Protestant pastors — gave their lives trying to save soldiers and Marines aboard the USAT *Dorchester*. But the memorials continue nationwide, including the one Sunday in John U. Lloyd Beach State Park.

A German submarine struck the transport ship in the icy North Atlantic waters off Greenland on Feb. 3, 1943, sinking the vessel with its 902 passengers and crew in just 27 minutes.

As hundreds of young soldiers panicked and raced for lifeboats and vests, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling stayed aboard, handing out life vests and providing calming voices in the hysteria. When no more vests remained, the chaplains — all lieutenants — removed their own and passed them along, sealing their deaths but creating an enduring legacy.

Crews of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutters *Comanche* and *Escanaba* scrambled for survivors but, in the end, 672 people were killed, many frozen to death clinging to the oars of crowded lifeboats.

“Those four chaplains assured themselves a seat in heaven, that’s for sure,” said Patrick Campbell, 80, of Pompano Beach, who was a Marine corporal in the final days of World War II. He served on the honor guard Sunday, shifting his feet under the bright sun during the 60-minute ceremony but never easing up. “It was a selfless act, and that’s why we’re all here.”

The gathering at the U.S. Coast Guard Station was one of dozens around the country.

In 1943, the chaplains quickly became national heroes, particularly as some of the 230 survivors recounted seeing the four on the bow, holding hands and praying for the troops as the ship sank into the water. Survivor after survivor had similar tales of the four men. All four were awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross and, in 1948, the U.S. Post Office Department issued a stamp in their honor.

Sunday’s event was sponsored by the , 9th District, out of Broward County, with a reception afterward at Post 304 in Dania Beach.

“Any time you have people giving up their lives to save others, it’s always special,” said John Vazquez of Dania Beach, who serves as the commander of the guard. “It’s days like this that remind us not only of their heroics, but the men and women fighting for all of us in Iraq and Afghanistan today.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**The American Legion champions re-introduction of Vets Health Care Reform Bill**

WASHINGTON, DC (Feb. 12, 2009) -- The Chairmen of both the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees have today re-introduced bills designed to streamline the funding of Department of Veterans Affairs health care programs and initiatives.

At an afternoon press conference, Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka (D - HI) and Congressman Bob Filner (D - CA) announced the advancement of identical bills entitled the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009.

Among the provisions of the bill is long sought-after advance appropriations for military veterans' health care administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The advance appropriations mechanism allows Congress to vote on funding levels a year in advance of the current budget cycle.

"Advance-appropriations of VA health care funds will have a couple of great benefits for our constituency," says David K. Rehbein, National Commander of The American Legion. "Knowing what money will be coming to them well ahead of time will facilitate the VA's acquisition of the personnel, equipment and facilities needed to provide the best care possible. It will also facilitate better Congressional oversight of the funds' disposition," he continued, "thus helping assure that the monies will be spent as they should be."

Similar legislation was introduced by Senator Akaka and Congressman Filner this past September, but it was too late in the legislative season to gain favor. Considering that now-President Barack Obama was a co-sponsor of the original Senate bill, it is hoped that the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 will be adopted in a timely fashion.

For years, veterans service organizations had argued in favor of mandatory veterans health care funding, as it is for Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. "While this newly introduced legislation might not have the ultimate benefits of automatic funding, it is a very fine proposal nonetheless and, on behalf of our nation's veterans and veterans-to-be, we applaud Chairman Akaka, Chairman Filner and their many co-sponsors for it," concluded Commander Rehbein.

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 has been a bi-partisan product. Though it has been introduced by Democrats -- Senator Akaka and Congressman Filner -- chief co-sponsors include Republican Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine as well as Senators Mark Begich (D-AK), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Russell Feingold (D-WI), Tim Johnson (D-SD), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), John D. Rockefeller (D-WV), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), John Thune (R-SD) and David Vitter (R-LA). On the House side co-sponsors include Republican Congressmen Walter Jones of North Carolina as well as Representatives Phil Hare (D-IL) and Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD).

**9th District Constitutional Conference
June 7th, 2009 - Post 180**

Commander Roy Schofield receives the 9th District 1st Place JROTC Award from Department Chaplain and JROTC Chairman Jay Walrond.



Adjutant Joe Motes is awarded the 9th District Adjutant of the Year for the 4th straight year by Jay Walrond.



Commander Roy Schofield receives the 9th District 100% Membership Award Category 4 by District Commander Joe Motes.

2009 ROTC's, School Medals, Americanism Awards



Boca Raton Civil Air Patrol Americanism Award



Weston Civil Air Patrol Americanism Award



Coral Springs Civil Air Patrol Americanism Awards



Crystal lakes Civil Air Patrol Americanism Award



Blanche Ely High School JROTC Awards



Cypress Bay High School

2009 ROTC's, School Medals, Americanism Awards



Cypress Bay High School JROTC Awards



Everglades High School Award Medals



Everglades High School JROTC Awards



Charles Flanagan High School Awards



Charles Flanagan High School JROTC Awards



Plantation High School JROTC Awards

2009 ROTC's, School Medals, Americanism Awards



Hallandale High School JROTC Award



Hallandale High School JROTC Award



South Plantation High School JROTC Awards



Stranahan High School JROTC Awards



Naval Sea Cadets Americanism Awards



West Broward High School JROTC and School Medal Awards

Floridians Need To Watch & Prepare For Hurricane Season

As if weather problems have not caused enough headaches for Floridians recovering from springtime floods, Hurricane Season is here.

With the beginning of the hurricane season, many north Floridians, still dealing with the aftermath of the late March storms and flooding, are urged to think seriously now about re-stocking their emergency kits and reviewing their disaster plans.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida's Division of Emergency Management want residents to be prepared and ready to evacuate if ordered to do so.

Both organizations offer easy-to-use disaster planning guides for families to use in devising their own readiness plan. The guides are available at [or](#) . Helpful information about reducing flood risks and the importance of flood insurance is available at [.](#) Here's what to do now:

Review your family disaster plan.

- Where will you go in an evacuation? Will you stay with family or friends, go to a motel or shelter? Don't forget about pets. Many shelters will not permit them, so know in advance where pet-friendly shelters are located;
- Know your evacuation routes and stay current with traffic reports; and
- Go over your family's communication plan. Have a friend or relative in another state or city serve as a point of contact in case family members are separated.

Check or restock your portable disaster kit in case of evacuation. It should include:

- At least a three-day supply of food and bottled water for each family member;
- A manual can opener;

- Battery-powered radio and flashlights with extra batteries;
- First aid kit with family members' medications;
- Hygiene and personal care items;
- Emergency contact list and phone numbers;
- Pet supplies;
- Copies of important papers, including insurance policies and bank account information; and
- Emergency cash and credit card in the case of an evacuation with little notice.

Stay informed about storm threat, know risks, and be prepared to evacuate.

- If evacuation or a storm seems likely, reinforce windows and garage doors against strong winds;
- Be ready to move if you are instructed to leave your home for an evacuation;
- If you do not have a car, plan now for alternative means of transportation;
- If any family member has special needs, you should inform local emergency managers as part of your disaster planning; and
- Remember; don't drive through water that may contain submerged hazards.

You may also want to **inquire about emergency plans** at places where your family spends time: **work, daycare** and **school**. If no plan exists, consider volunteering to help create one. Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together in the event of an emergency. You will be better prepared to safely reunite your family and loved ones during an emergency if you think ahead and communicate with others in advance.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property

Legion targets young VA volunteers

The average age of a volunteer in the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system is about 75. To ensure that organizations like those in The American Legion family can continue to provide their valuable services – our members donate more than 900,000 hours of their time annually – a generation of younger volunteers is needed.

Such was the purpose of National Commander David K. Rehbein's trip to Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 18. Joined by National Headquarters staff, Auxiliary President Desirée Stoy and Department of Iowa Legionnaires, Rehbein met with officials at the city's VA medical center, and its veterans center, to talk about the importance of getting younger volunteers to sign up with VA. Rehbein and Stoy went through the sign-up process during the trip.

They were accompanied by Iowa Department Commander Bruce Feuerbach, Department Adjutant John Derner and Department Service Officer Rich Anderson, as well as Laura Balun, director of VA's Voluntary Service Office.

"We need to look at innovative ways to include younger volunteers, what assignments are available – including nights and weekends – and what would be appealing to them, and get them in the door," said Jacob Gadd, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation assistant director.

The group heard about the many roles volunteers fill at the Des Moines VA Medical Center: working in the canteen, labs, human resources, the parking lot, and driving patients to and from appointments. Plans are under way to recruit volunteers from college campuses in an effort to bring more young people into the system.

The American Legion is also taking on that responsibility. "We need to get our volunteers to your system," Rehbein told VA officials. "We're looking for ways to spread the word to help you."

Des Moines Vet Center team leader Katina Mach said her center has five volunteers but can always use more.

"We need volunteers to do our job," she said. "They do a lot of the behind-the-scenes work. And we have a role for any age of volunteer. Somebody with mobility limitations can be a big help just by answering phones."

The Vet Center has hired OIF/OEF veterans to serve as counselors to perform outreach at active-duty, National Guard and reserve military facilities. One idea produced during the meeting was a recruitment flyer that counselors could distribute to alert younger veterans of opportunities to volunteer. Another option is to visit college campuses to spread the word.

The Legion will play a key role in filling the gap as today's volunteer pool begins to diminish with age. Among its plans:

- Encouraging departments to offer Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) training at least once a year. The National VA&R Division can send representatives to help with such training.
- Encouraging departments to set up volunteer booths at department events such as mid-winter conferences, spring/fall meetings, department conventions and OEF/OIF welcome-home celebrations.

- Asking VAVS outreach and recruitment teams to adopt a university and seek out veterans who need assistance with the GI Bill. Invite those veterans to Legion posts for events and ask them to become VA volunteers.

- Urging VAVS representatives and deputy representatives to attend quarterly VAVS meetings at VA medical centers, and share pertinent volunteer assignments and donation requests with each post's VAVS contact. Each post needs to identify a VAVS contact and then call the VAVS representative, or deputy representative, to get on a phone and mailing list.

- Asking departments to recruit a minimum of 22 new volunteers in 2009.

Finally, the Legion recommends that VA streamline its volunteer application process, as well as offer online registration and classes.

ESTATE PLANNING: Many veterans use tax-deferred investments such as IRA's or fixed annuities to supplement their retirement income. These investments are popular because of their potential tax advantages. Tax deferred accounts typically allow investment earnings that would ordinarily be taxed on an annual basis to accumulate free of taxation until funds are withdrawn from the account, generally to provide income at retirement. In addition to taxes at the time of withdrawal, a 10% penalty on the earnings may be imposed on tax deferred accounts if withdrawn prior to age 59 ½. While these are excellent vehicles when you want to accumulate wealth, they can be inefficient if you want to pass the assets to your heirs. They could be subject to both income and estate taxes at your death. The combined tax impact could erode the value of your tax-deferred investment depending on the overall value of your estate and the status of estate tax regulations. Goals and plans change over time, so if your current goal is to pass your existing IRA or fixed annuity to your heirs and you do not plan on using the asset for income, Capital Transfer could be an effective planning tool for you.

Capital Transfer is designed to maximize the value of your tax-deferred investments when passed to your heirs. This planning concept repositions the tax-deferred asset to avoid both the income and estate taxes due at death. The Capital Transfer concept uses the value of your tax-deferred investment to purchase a life insurance policy. If properly structured, the life insurance death benefit can be free of income and estate taxes for your heirs. Life insurance death benefits are generally income tax-free to the beneficiary and may also be estate tax free if the insurance is purchased outside your estate. Capital Transfer is not right for everyone, but could be suitable for your specific situation and result in a larger inheritance for your heirs. Before investing you need to consider your investment goals, time horizon and applicable risks and consider working with an investment professional that deals with several companies and knows life insurance policies. Usually credit unions and banks have investment professionals on their staff to assist you. It is very important that you evaluate your current financial situation to determine if Capital Transfer will meet your planning needs.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

2008 - 2009 Post 385 Officers

COMMANDER - ROY SCHOFIELD
 2900 SW 155 Lane
 Davie FL 33331-1516
 954-914-5647
 roadbridgeeng@yahoo.com

1ST VICE COMMANDER - JOE MORA
 954-430-9888
 JM2@miamidade.gov

2ND VICE COMMANDER - ALBERTO DARBY
 954-258-9067

ADJUTANT & FINANCE OFFICER - JOSEPH NOTES
 2133 NW 208 Terrace
 Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320
 954-441-8735
 joemotes@aol.com

SERVICE OFFICER - PETER MOORE
 954-349-2097
 pmoorefl@bellsouth.net

SGT-AT-ARMS - GEORGE WANDOVER
 wandover@aol.com

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

LEGISLATURE OFFICER - OTIS STIGLER
 954-473-9101
 cabinnc@netzero.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - CAROL FRASER
 954-436-7168
 cafraser34@comcast.net

VA DENTAL TREATMENT: A dental insurance program for veterans, modeled after retiree dental insurance provided under Tricare, is an optional health program being pushed by Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, ranking Republican on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. For premiums of between \$14 and \$48 a month, depending on the location and selected benefits, 7.9 million veterans could have access to a network of dentists, Burr said. VA presently provides dental care to veterans with service-connected dental disabilities, those who are 100% disabled for any condition, and those who were prisoners of war for 90 days or longer. Additionally, veterans newly separated from active duty can receive one-time dental treatment within 180 days from VA if their discharge records show they were receiving dental treatment that was not completed before they were discharged. Burr's proposal, S.498, envisions optional group dental insurance that would be administered by VA but with costs fully covered by premiums, a concept that makes it attractive to lawmakers worried about holding down government costs. In the 109th Congress expansion of VA dental care were sought through bills introduced by Rep. Steve Buyer (H.R.6277) and Sen. Richard Burr (S.3178). These bills along with H.R.5595 to expand dental care to all vets with service connected disabilities bills did not receive sufficient support to become law.