



# The American Legion

## Bruckenthal - Cann Post 385 Newsletter

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



Summer 2010

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

Volume 5 Number 1

### Adjutant's Report

My Fellow Post 385 Legionnaires,

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 also sponsored 5 shooting teams each from Cypress Bay and Everglades High Schools.

We also issued 34 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, Crystal Lakes, Pembroke Pines and Archbishop McCarthy Civil Air Patrol Squadrons. This coming new year, we have one school interested in the Legion's Boys State program and have asked us to support their student.

Elections were held during our May meeting; all the officers remain the same. 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 4th year we have been invited to attend and it was a great honor to be there. Afterwards, eight of us members went to Wal-Mart to hand out Poppies, it was our third 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, check out our website.

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 some time 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.

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

### Chaplain's Corner by Bob Nagle

- Many hot line callers are young vets of Iraq, Afghanistan wars struggling with reintegration
- Some call for info on medical, mental health services; others call as a last resort
- Center emerged from criticism that VA not properly responding to vets in crisis
- Hot line's number is 800-273-8255; chat line available at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

"Can you say that again? You put a bullet through the wall in your house?"

Angela Price begins this evening at work like any, listening to troubled veterans in need of a sympathetic ear or immediate help. She reaches for a pen and paper. She's a trained responder for the Veterans Affairs Department's National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in the upstate New York town of Canandaigua. She asks a series of questions: "Where's the gun at now?... OK, so the gun is nowhere near you? ... OK, I'm glad that you're safe," she says, somewhat relieved but still concerned about the caller.

Price is one of some 20 responders, counselors, social workers and health tech assistants staffing 15 phone lines and three chat lines at the center at any given time.

Continue on pg 5

**Special Thanks to Chaplain Bob Nagle for the printing  
of this newsletter.**

### OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS:

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2010  
OCTOBER 5, 2010  
NOVEMBER 2, 2010  
DECEMBER 7, 2010  
JANUARY 4, 2011  
FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

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

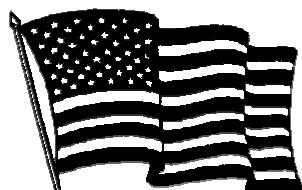
**at the YWCA Pembroke Falls Aquatic Center**

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

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

## 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 the Post upon your passing so that we can properly honor your military service and membership in the American Legion



**For God and Country**

In memory of



**Frank E. Dingfelder**

June 14, 1943 - June 24, 2010

Post 385 Vice Commander



### THE MCDONALD TEAM

Gulay T. McDonald, Ph.D.  
COL David McDonald, USA (ret)  
(954) 632-9106 / 9105  
[www.SouthComHomes.com](http://www.SouthComHomes.com)  
E-mail: [gmcDonald@SouthComHomes.com](mailto:gmcDonald@SouthComHomes.com)



*The Real Estate Leaders*

### RE/MAX Classic

Each office independently owned and operated

### Buy, sell or rent: service you can trust

- Let's discuss whether new tax breaks including some just for vets, insurance caps and lower home prices mean buying makes sense
- Retired officer & military spouse know your needs, south FL market
- Three master's degrees and Ph.D. in Econ/Finance between us
- Super competitive sales commission programs save our sellers big \$
- Cash-back buyer rebates up to \$3000, free welcome packets, area info

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.

**Blanche Ely High School****Coral Springs Civil Air Patrol****Archbishop McCarthy Civil Air Patrol****Cypress Bay High School****Boca Raton Civil Air Patrol****Cypress Bay Civil Air Patrol****Stranahan High School****Stranahan High School**

**Everglades High School****Flanagan High School****Flanagan High School****Hallandale High School****Everglades High School****Fort Lauderdale Naval Sea Cadets****Pembroke Pines Civil Air Patrol, parent received for cadet****West Broward High School**



**West Broward High School**



**West Broward High School**

## Chaplain's Corner by Bob Nagle

She is able to coax him to pull over, calm him down, and arrange for follow-up care. Most of the callers want information regarding mental health and other medical services available to them provided at their local VA hospitals. But for others, the call they're making is a last resort.

Each year, more than 30,000 people kill themselves, 20 percent of them veterans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **That's 18 veteran suicides a day.**

Every call presents another opportunity for the hot line responders to try to prevent another tragedy. The crisis center, staffed around the clock seven days a week, opened in July 2007, largely borne from widespread criticism that the department was not responding adequately to veterans in crisis.

Janet Kemp, the Veterans Administration Suicide Prevention Coordinator, says the phones haven't stopped ringing since the hot line's inception. "It's about being able to provide them with immediate assistance, immediate resources, and appointments. It assures that we're not going to let them drop through the cracks after they hang up the phone," Kemp says.

Before the VA suicide prevention program began, that wasn't always the case.

Jim and Marianne Schulze told CNN in early 2007 that their son Jonathan, an Iraq combat veteran, killed himself in January of that year, after being told he was No. 26 on a waiting list to get checked into a VA hospital. The Schulzes said their son had been suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder for nearly two years. He died with an extension cord wrapped around his neck, a picture of his daughter by his side, they said.

Six months later, the VA Suicide Prevention Lifeline opened. To date, the crisis center has received almost 250,000 calls.

"The health techs assist the counselors in getting the person the

person the services they need at the time," Kemp says. "If they need emergency services or information, the health techs can pick that up, and find the person who can help them in their local area, and make those connections." If necessary, the center arranges an emergency rescue, or in less dire circumstances, a wellness checkup at the caller's home. The center also follows up the next day, according to Kemp.

The 2010 hot line budget is more than \$15 million, including staffing, phone and contract costs and more than \$4 million for public messaging campaigns, according to the VA. The center's newest feature is a chat line for those who prefer computer-oriented communication, especially young vets such as those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Since that's been open, we've talked to several thousand people over the chat and have been able to facilitate some rescues through that service."

Chat counselor Rich Barham recalls an incident while chatting with a Navy vet who barricaded himself in his house, with two children asleep upstairs, as he suffered flashbacks from Iraq. Barham sent help.

"When the police broke in, I heard he had a gun, and I was hoping bad things weren't going to happen to him," Barham says. "We were able to get his wife on the phone, and he was taken to the hospital and she was able to come home to take care of the kids."

Hot line responder Christopher Maginn is in the Army Reserves, and he just returned from serving in Afghanistan. "For me, it's kind of hitting two birds with one stone, because I get to work with guys that have worn the uniform, and I still wear the uniform today, so, it's always meant a lot to me to work here," says Maginn.

Many callers are recent Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who struggle with reintegration, he said. Often, they're too proud to pick up a phone and ask for help. The main goal is "to listen to them, and to validate what they're going through, and provide them services," he said. Kemp says it's all in an important day's work. "I feel lots of times it's their last hope, their last chance, and if we can provide that little bit of hope, and get them to realize that they called and there are options," says Kemp. "It's an amazing feeling."

The phone number for the hot line is 800-273-TALK (8255). The chat line is at [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

### The Army Owes Vets Money

The Army owes about 120,000 Veterans extra pay and VA is reaching out to find them.

The Army is seeking soldiers, Veterans, and survivors of soldiers whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss Authority between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2008. The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act stipulates they are eligible for special pay; those eligible will receive \$500 for each month or partial month served in stop loss status.

To receive this benefit, those who served under Stop Loss must submit a claim by October 21, 2010.

Stop Loss Veterans can submit their online at <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>. The Army encourages all candidates to visit its Web site to check eligibility and submit claims. The Army's Web site will also answer frequently asked questions about the claim process and has a link to the program's official Facebook page. Applicants who have questions not covered by the Web site can e-mail [RetroStopLossPay@conus.army.mil](mailto:RetroStopLossPay@conus.army.mil) or call 877-736-5554. Veterans can also link to the eligibility and claims information on the VA Vet Center home page at <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp>; click on RSLP at the bottom of the left side column.

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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



**Now Open  
Show your veteran pride  
Get your 385 gear  
Visit us at:  
[www.alpost385fl.com](http://www.alpost385fl.com)**

**2010 - 2011 Post 385 Officers**

COMMANDER - ROY SCHOFIELD  
2900 SW 155 Lane  
Davie FL 33331-1516  
954-914-5647 [roadbridgeeng@yahoo.com](mailto:roadbridgeeng@yahoo.com)  
VICE COMMANDER - ALBERTO DARBY  
954-258-9067  
[Darbyal@aol.com](mailto:Darbyal@aol.com)  
VICE COMMANDER - Open

ADJUTANT & FINANCE OFFICER - JOSEPH MOTES  
2133 NW 208 Terrace  
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320  
954-441-8735 [joemotes@aol.com](mailto:joemotes@aol.com)

SERVICE OFFICER - RAMON AGUIAR  
954-432-1101  
[ramonaguiar@comcast.net](mailto:ramonaguiar@comcast.net)

SGT-AT-ARMS - GEORGE WANDOVER  
[wandover@aol.com](mailto:wandover@aol.com)

CHAPLIN - ROBERT NAGLE  
954-432-2440  
[casaillio@hotmail.com](mailto:casaillio@hotmail.com)

HISTORIAN - CAROL FRASER  
954-436-7168  
[cafraser34@comcast.net](mailto:cafraser34@comcast.net)

LEGISLATURE OFFICER - OTIS STIGLER  
954-473-9101  
[cabinnc@netzero.net](mailto:cabinnc@netzero.net)

If you haven't been tested for PTSD or have been denied because of lack of proof please read and reapply.

Semper Fi,

Veterans with PTSD may soon find getting benefits easier

**ANNE FLAHERTY updated 7/8/2010 5:33:48 PM ET**

WASHINGTON — The government is making it easier for combat veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder to receive disability benefits.

The Veterans Affairs Department plans to announce Monday it will no longer require veterans to prove what might have triggered their illness. Instead, they would have to show that they served in combat in a job that could have contributed to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Veterans advocates and some lawmakers have argued that it sometimes could be impossible for a veteran to find records of a firefight or bomb blast. They also have contended that the old rule ignored other causes of the disorder, such as fearing a traumatic event even if it doesn't occur. That could discriminate against female troops prohibited from serving on front lines and against other service members who don't experience combat directly.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., called the change in policy "long overdue." Last year, Schumer and Rep. John Hall, D-N.Y., proposed legislation similar to the new rule.

"It is so unfair to put the burden of proof on the brave men and women who have already put themselves in harm's way," Schumer said Thursday. "These guidelines rectify that and should bring more veterans who've served their country the help they need."

A study last year by the RAND Corp. think tank estimated that nearly 20 percent of returning veterans, or 300,000, have symptoms of PTSD or major depression.

**Service Officer's Report**