



The American Legion

Bruckenthal - Cann Post 385 Newsletter



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

WINTER 2018

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Agent Orange Forgotten Victims ► U.S. Prepares for Biggest-Ever Cleanup

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on 17 OCT visited a former American air base in southern Vietnam that will soon become the biggest-ever U.S. cleanup site for contamination left by the defoliant Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Standing near a skull-and-crossbones warning sign meant to keep people away from toxic soil, Mattis was briefed by Vietnamese officials about the massive contamination area. In a possible sign of the sensitivity surrounding Agent Orange in Vietnam, where millions of people are still suffering its effects, reporters were not allowed to attend the outdoor briefing for Mattis at Bien Hoa Air Base. "I came to show the support of the Defense Department for this project and demonstrate that the United States makes good on its promises," Mattis told his Vietnamese counterpart at a closed-door meeting later in nearby Ho Chi Minh City. Cleanup is expected to start getting under way early next year.

U.S. troops dropped Agent Orange during the Vietnam War to clear thick jungle. But it contributed to severe health problems that, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, can include Parkinson's disease, prostate cancer and Chronic B-cell Leukemia. Of the 4.8 million Vietnamese who were exposed to Agent Orange, some three million are still dealing with its effects, including children born with severe disabilities or other health issues years after their parents were exposed, according to the Hanoi-based Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange.

More than four decades after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, ties between the United States and Vietnam are less seen through the prism of the conflict and more through shared concerns over China. Vietnam has emerged as the most vocal opponent of China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and has been buying U.S. military hardware, including an armed, Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutter. The United States, in turn, accuses China of militarizing the strategic waterway, through which more than \$3 trillion in cargo passes every year, and sees Vietnam as a crucial ally in drawing regional opposition to Beijing's behavior.

But U.S. officials including Mattis - who is on his second trip to Vietnam just this year - hope that addressing America's wartime legacies like Agent Orange can become a vehicle for further strengthening ties. When a U.S. aircraft carrier visited Vietnam in March, for example, one of the places U.S. sailors visited was a Vietnamese shelter for people suffering from the effects of Agent Orange.

The United States just completed a five-year, \$110 million program that cleaned soil contaminated by Agent Orange at Danang International Airport, which was one of the main air bases used for storing and spraying the herbicide between 1961 and 1971. But officials from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which is overseeing the project, said the Bien Hoa site will be four times larger than Danang, a massive undertaking that is expected to cost \$390 million, according to a fact sheet distributed to reporters.

According to the U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS), one soil sample from Bien Hoa had a "toxic equivalency," or TEQ, of more than 1,000 times over the international limit.

A 2011 study conducted by a private consulting firm determined that contaminated soil had spread from hot spots at the base into nearby lakes, ponds, creeks, and drainage ditches, increasing the amount of soil and sediment that will require treatment. "The impacts on the community is very difficult to measure. Dioxin has impacts (on health) at very low concentrations and they're not real consistent," one of the U.S. AID officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. [Source: Reuters | Phil Stewart | October 17, 2018 ++]



OUR MEETINGS FOR THE 2018 & 2019:

**Dec 4, 2017, Jan 8, 2019, Feb 5, 2019, Mar 5, 2019,
Apr 2, 2019, May 7, 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 month's 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.



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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.



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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	
Jeffrey Shapiro	09/25/16	
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



Post 385 bought a new coffee pot for the physical therapy department at the V.A.O.P.C in Sunrise as their old one broke.

Post 385 Frank Dingfelder Scholarship

Our post has a \$500 scholarship for Post member's children, the scholarship application will open January 2nd, 2019 until May 30th 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.





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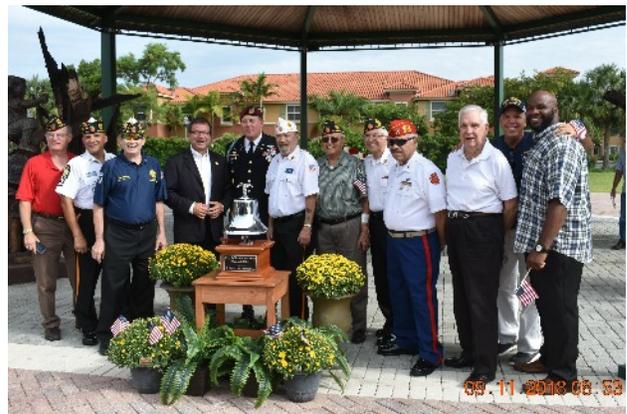
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Post 385 was honored with a Proclamation by the City of Pembroke Pines for the American Legion's 100th Birthday by the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Commissioners.



Installation of Officers were conducted on September 4th by the 9th District, and food and refreshments were served afterwards. Top four photos above and top two photos on the right column are the Installations.



Above photos are from our attendance at the City of Pembroke Pines for the 9-11 Memorial service, which was attended by 11 of our Post members.

Post officers James Tewes, Teddy Pomerantz and Joe Motes helped promote Veterans Day at the South Broward V.A. With the Panther Cheerleaders, Hooters, Cypress Bay JROTC and singer Connie Francis.



Chaplain's Report by Bob Nagle

Veterans and their service dogs: Keep your paws off, please

The relationship between a service dog and a veteran is akin to a team walking a tightrope. To succeed, they must focus on each other, intently. Distract one, and both can stumble. When they are in sync, the intricate teamwork going on can appear effortless to the outside world. And this partly explains why some people, often quite innocently, insist on being a distraction. Hence the ubiquitous question: Can I pet your dog?

Uh, no, not now. Not ever. Keep your paws off, please.

Would you want someone to ask if they could rub your heart surgeon's head while she was operating on you? Would you think it appropriate if someone offered to rub your lawyer's belly while he was trying to convince a jury of your innocence?

Probably not, right? You'd think these were grossly inappropriate questions and certainly needless distractions in the midst of critical, sometimes life and death, situations.

And that's exactly how you should think about service dogs when they are about their work. Note the key word: *work*.

In public, vest on, these dogs are engaged in life-saving tasks for their veterans. Guide dogs prevent blind or vision-impaired veterans from wandering into the street when a light is red. For veterans with prosthetic limbs, their dogs open doors, keep watch for things easily tripped over, or act as a brace when vets are walking or standing up. Service dogs for those with post-traumatic stress disorder are often on point, keeping potential triggers that would raise stress or anxiety levels for their veterans at bay. For veterans prone to seizures, their dogs will alert them if they sense an episode coming on.

We get it. These dogs are irresistibly cute. And clearly just the sight of one in a store or restaurant can turn normally reserved adults into children. Disabled veterans have seen grown men crawl under tables, barking to get a dog's attention. And while they're down there, may as well pet the pup, right? If it were them, they'd no doubt welcome having their meal interrupted so people could show their pet some love.

But that's the thing. Service dogs *are not pets*. When their vest is on — the garment often emblazoned with the words "Service dog: Do not pet" — they have an extremely important job to do. They have undergone months, sometimes years, of intense training that costs tens of thousands of dollars — an expense currently not covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are there to watch for and react to dangerous situations and await commands from their veterans. If you call to these dogs, or insist on talking to them, then, despite all that training —

they are, after all, still dogs — they are potentially paying attention to you, not the veterans they are supposed to serve and protect. In other words, you're bouncing up and down on their tightrope. Think about it this way: If the service dog turns its head or body to see what you want, the veteran with vision loss could wind up stumbling and falling. Prosthetic limbs can be seriously damaged in the twists and turns of a tumble. Or the dog might not catch the early signs of a seizure, or miss something that causes problems for a vet with PTSD.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) actually requires owners to maintain control of their animals. Don't make a tough job more difficult.

So far, we've just addressed how people react to service dogs. But their behavior toward disabled vets can be even more bizarre — and quite rude. For example, people often say, "I know it's a service dog and he's working, so I won't pet him." This is so irritating. It's as if they are magnanimously making the decision to pet or not pet without asking prior permission. An analogy would be: "I know you have a purse and I know I am not to steal it, so I won't." How generous.

Worse is when people just reach out to pet a service dog, seemingly from every direction imaginable. Then they will get angry when the surprised disabled veteran turns and says, "Please don't pet him, he's working." Their disturbing response? "Well, what's wrong with you? You don't look disabled." People seem to genuinely believe they have a right to know this. (Maybe so they can decide in their own mind if it's OK to pet the animal with the vest that clearly says "Do not pet"?)

That's just wrong. There is never a need for a stranger to know a veteran's medical history. In fact, the ADA doesn't even allow staff in stores or restaurants to ask people with a service animal what their disability is. They are permitted two questions: Is the service animal required because of a disability? What work or task has it been trained to perform? If veterans don't have to disclose their disabilities in those situations, why would they ever make themselves vulnerable by blurting it out to strangers on the street?

The disabled veteran community has a slogan, Paws Off Please (POP), designed to educate people about interacting with the service animals that are becoming more and more commonplace in public. So, lesson one: If a dog has a vest on, that means it is working; don't pay attention to it.



Carol Fraser, Post member and Korean Veterans was honor with a Honor Flight on October 27 to Washington D.C.

**Nathan Bruckenthal - Adam Cann Memorial
American Legion Post 385
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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

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VICE COMMANDER - VINCENT MANCUSI

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Post 385 Frank Dingfelder Scholarship

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Post 385 celebrated Veterans Day with the City of Pembroke Pines, which was attended by 9 members of the Post.



Post 385 attending the October 16th Court of Honor of Post 224 to present a check for \$200.