



The American Legion

Post 385 Weston FL Communique

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



Organized June 16, 2005

FALL 2006

Volume 1 Number 4

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Bob Nagle

POST 385 EVERLASTING

LEONARD SAVER, 80 of Hollywood died January 6, 2006. Leonard was a US Army WWII veteran. He was a Technical Staff Sergeant trained as an infantry soldier at Camp Blanding, FL, serving with the Mortar Platoon of Co. K, 261st Regiment, 65th Infantry Division. He completed five military occupational specialties, ran the Special Services, and opened the new Headquarters of the Continental Base Section in Germany as the Chief Clerk of the Fiscal Office. In addition to his WWII medals and awards, his unit received the Bronze Star for Bravery at the Battle of Struth, Germany.

STEWART ABBOTT FRASER, 78 of Pembroke Pines died on September 1, 2006. Stewart served in the US Navy during WWII and on September 2, 1945, was at the Peace Surrender at Tokyo Bay on the USS Missouri. He also served in the Korean Conflict in the Navy and the Air Force. He retired from the service as a License Officer in the US Coast Guard.

IN MEMORIAM

"Farewell on Behalf of a Grateful Nation"

American Legion increases dues

According to Kenneth D. Danilson, National Finance Commission of the American Legion, "It's simple math. The last dues increase was more than 13 years ago. Services and programs of the American Legion have continued to grow." Danilson says. "As an organization, we cannot afford to not have a dues increase. The last dues increase in 1993 was \$3.50. Adjusted for inflation, \$3.50 in 1993 equaled \$4.73 in 2005 and many economists believe inflation will get worse in coming years. We predicted the last increase would last eight to 10 years, but we resisted adding another one for 23 years."

He also reported that employees at the American Legion National Headquarters have been reduced from 301 employees in 1994 to 260 in 2006. The proposed \$4.50 increase was voted upon at the National Convention and delegates approved the dues hike proposal.



OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTH:

OCTOBER 3rd 2006 (Aquatic Center)
NOVEMBER 7th 2006 (Aquatic Center)
DECEMBER 5th 2006 (Aquatic Center)
JANUARY 2nd 2007 (Aquatic Center)

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.

*War Vets call on Americans to Urge Congress
To Preclude Attacks on Veterans Memorials*

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 12, 2006) - Following markup of a bill by the House Judiciary Committee last week that would stop courts from awarding taxpayer dollars in attorney's fees in litigation against religious symbols on veterans memorials, the leader of the nation's largest wartime veterans organization today called on all Americans to urge their congressman and senators to pass it and a companion measure in the Senate.

"With only 18 legislative days left in this Congress before the election recess, I ask every American that cherishes the religious heritage given to us by our Founding Fathers to take a minute today to call their Congressman and both Senators," said American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin. "Legal attacks against veterans memorials that display religious symbols must not be rewarded by judges reaching into taxpayer pockets to enlarge the coffers of organizations such as the ACLU to encourage more lawsuits against our traditions and memorials."

HR 2679, the Public Expression of Religion Act introduced by Representative John Hostettler and its companion piece in the Senate introduced by Senator Sam Brownback as S. 3696, the "Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2006," would amend U.S. statutes to eliminate the chilling effect on the constitutionally protected expression of religion by state and local officials that results from the threat that potential litigants may seek damages and attorney's fees.

The American Legion has fought for passage of this reform legislation since the ACLU sued the Mojave Desert WWI Veterans Memorial and obtained a federal judge's order to destroy the solitary cross at that veterans' memorial. The ACLU then sought, and received, \$63,000 from that same judge as an attorney fee award--although neither the ACLU nor its mascot plaintiff -- had any actual attorney fees. The \$63,000 went directly into ACLU coffers as profit.

Most Americans remain unaware the ACLU and other organizations have been reaping millions of dollars in taxpayer-paid attorney's fees from lawsuits against veterans memorials, the Boy Scouts, the public display of the Ten Commandments and other symbols of America's religious heritage. In recent testimony to the Senate, Rees Lloyd, former ACLU attorney and Department of California District 21 Commander, provided these examples of ACLU awards of taxpayer money: Approximately \$950,000 in attorney fees was awarded to the ACLU in a settlement with the City of San Diego in its lawsuit to drive the Boy Scouts out of Balboa Park. In the Judge Roy Moore Ten Commandments case, the ACLU received \$500,000. In a recent "Intelligent Design" case against a school board, the ACLU received \$2,000,000 in attorney fees by order of a judge--although the law firm that represented the ACLU informed the court and public that it had acted pro bono and waived any attorney fees; these fees were pure profit to the ACLU.

"If the ACLU feels it has to bring lawsuits that most Americans abhor, it should at least have the decency not to assess these to the taxpayers to make a profit," Morin said. "We are calling on our representatives in the House and Senate to sponsor and support PERA, bring it to the floor for a vote, or explain why they will not. I ask my fellow Americans to join us in this effort."

Senators and Members of Congress may be sent an email or obtain a telephone contact number through The American Legion Legislative Action Center: The American Legion publication, *In the Footsteps of the Founders - A Guide to Defending American Values*, provides detailed information and is available free on request to pr@legion.org



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- 10% Will Be Donated to The American Legion Post 385 Weston Florida
- Free Estimates

Call "Di-Bird" @ 954.536.4030, 954.431.6791

The Following letter is from 9th District Commander Paul Renneisen to all Post Commanders and Adjutants:

ALL POST COMMANDERS: A MINIMUM \$4.50 SURCHARGE ON EVERY MEMBER NOT SIGNED UP

Due to processing time, ALL DISTRICT 9 COMMANDERS ARE NOW NOTIFIED THAT DUES MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 15, 2006 TO AVOID THE DUES INCREASE.

Here is how it works. Based on processing time the Department needs to meet the January deadline on national per capita dues increase of \$ 4.50, that part of your membership dues that goes to national, we need to get each Post adjutant to get the dues PAPERWORK WITH A CHECK into Department by December.

The penalty is HUGE. YOU MUST REACH 100% by December 15th, to avoid paying an EXTRA \$4.50 per member to Department of Florida. THEY WILL NOT HONOR YOUR DUES UNLESS PAID AT THE HIGHER RATE. YOU WILL BE BILLED AND CONSIDERED DELINQUENT WITH ALL THE PENALTIES THAT GO WITH THAT STATUS.

TO AVOID THIS, get on the telephones, drive to the nursing homes, go to the apartment complexes and knock on the doors. All members must pay up OR pay MORE. Unfortunately the BULK MAILERS will NOT BE UPDATED unless YOU VOTED AND PASSED AND INFORMED DEPARTMENT BY NOW OF YOUR DUES INCREASE to cover the NATIONAL INCREASE.

Your members will ARGUE that they should only pay the old rate. Now what? The Post is out the difference. DO NOT GET CAUGHT. Pay those dues early to avoid the \$4.50 increase. Avoid upset members by telling them TOO that they get a \$4.50 bargain by GETTING THEIR DUES IN. Don't sit on them. As you get them get them in. You can imagine how busy they will be this Christmas processing dues at department. The NEC dropped this on us by resolution.

Yours in service for God and Country,

PAUL RENNEISEN

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, September 5th 2006
Open meeting at 1900.

Introduction of guests; ten members present, Roy Schofield, Joe Motes, Joe Mora, Diane Calfee, Jacques Lagas, Peter Moore, Dennis Teitge, and new members Juan Arias, Joe Intermaggio and Vince Mancusi.

Motion was made by Jacques Lagas to approve the minutes of last month's meeting, seconded by Peter Moore, motion carried.

Financial Report, we have \$212.50 in the bank. Motion was made by Jacques Lagas to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Peter Moore, motion carried.

Membership Report, we are currently at 173 members for 2007, 48 members have not sent in their renewals. 28 new members have been transferred into our post from Post 400 in the past 2 months. Our post is number one in the State with 268% in membership.

Roy Schofield talked about our installation in conjunction with Post 365 on Sunday September 24 th at 3:00pm . It would be held at the Golden Corral Restaurant located on the NE corner of University and Commercial Blvd. The cost for the buffet dinner (all you can eat) is \$10.99 including coffee.

Roy Schofield announced that National will be raising the National dues by \$4.50 effective January 11, 2007 , and that any members that have not renewed by December 1, 2006 will have to renew at the new rate. Dennis Teitge made a motion to raise the Post dues to \$30 to compensate for the National dues increase. The motion was seconded by Joe Mora, approved by all members present. A letter from Department of Florida concerning the dues increase will be mailed with our newsletter later this month.

continued on the next page

Minutes of September 5, 2006 continued.

Dennis Teitge told the membership that we will have 6 Air Shooting teams this year from our three high schools. Dennis made the motion for \$240 allotment for 2 teams from each of the 3 high schools (Cypress Bay , Flanagan & Everglades High). The motion was seconded by Diane Calfee, motion was carried.

Diane Calfee advised us that it would cost \$500 to get a permit from the Post Office and we would need a minimum of 200 members.

Dennis Teitge announced that any corporate/business sponsor who will donate \$5,000 will receive a United States Flag in a triangle wooden case that was flown in and AH-64D attack helicopter during a combat mission in the vicinity of Baghdad . They will also receive a photo of flag being “flown” taken by the wing man of the second AH64D. A certificate testifying to the authenticity of the flag, date flown, pilots, location and mission will also be presented. The corporate name will be printed on the certificate of authenticity and be suitably framed. We will also have a presentation ceremony/photo op at the business corporate HQ location of their choice.

Joe Motes mentioned the District 9 Jungle Cruise onboard the Jungle Queen Riverboat to be held November 4 th at 7:00pm . Prices are \$38 for adults and \$22 for children 2-12 years of age.

Our next meeting will be held at the Pembroke Falls Aquatic Center, on Tuesday, October 3 rd, 2006 at 7:00 PM .

Meeting adjourned at 2100.

FROM YOUR LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

November 7th is an important day for veterans. Please come out and vote **YES** for Amendments No. 6 and 7. This will help many of our older veterans.

Ballot Title: INCREASED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
Amendment No.6 Summary: Proposing amendment of the State Constitution to increase the maximum additional homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and to schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2007, if adopted.

Ballot Title: PERMANENTLY DISABLED VETERANS' DISCOUNT ON HOMESTEAD AD VALOREM TAX

Amendment No. 7 Summary: Proposing an amendment of the State Constitution to provide a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead of a partially or totally permanently disabled veteran who is age 65 or older who was a Florida resident at the time of entering military service, whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged; to specify the percentage of the discount as equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability; to specify qualification requirements for the discount; to authorize to wave the annual application requirement in subsequent years by general law; and to specify that the provision takes effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

This is very important legislation for veteran homeowners and renters as government continues to have unbridled spending and passes the cost on to you in taxes. By voting **YES** on amendments **6 and 7** you can help many that have honorably served.

For further information contact your state veterans service officer 1-800-827-1000.

Otis S. Stigler, Post 385 Legislative Officer

Above information came from the proposed constitutional amendments to be voted on November 7, 2006

The American Legion Urges Immediate Floor Vote on PERA in both Chambers

Time is limited! Only 19 Legislative Days Left in this Congress before Election recess

The House Judiciary Committee approved HR 2679, the Public Expression of Religion Act introduced by Representative John Hostettler last night, adopting the language of a companion piece in the Senate introduced by Senator Brownback as S. 3696, the "Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2006". These bills are aimed at amending U.S. Statutes to eliminate the chilling effect on the constitutionally protected expression of religion by State and local officials that results from the threat that potential litigants may seek damages and attorney's fees

The American Legion has fought for passage of this reform legislation since the ACLU sued the Mojave Desert WWI Veterans Memorial and obtained a federal judge's order to destroy the solitary cross at that veterans' memorial. The ACLU then sought, and received, \$63,000 from that same judge as an attorney fee award--although neither the ACLU nor its mascot plaintiff, Frank Buono, retired former Assistant Superintendent of the Mojave Desert Preserve, had any actual attorney fees. The \$63,000 went directly into ACLU coffers as profit.

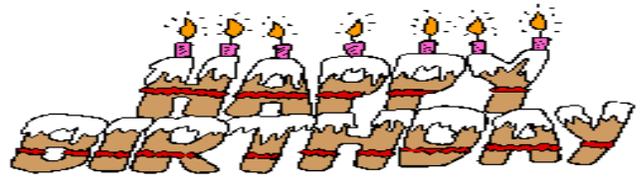
Most Americans remain unaware the ACLU and other organizations have been reaping millions of dollars in taxpayer-paid profits from lawsuits against veterans memorials, the Boy Scouts, the public display of the Ten Commandments and other symbols of our American heritage. In recent testimony to the Senate, Rees Lloyd, former ACLU attorney and Department of California District 21 Commander, provided these examples of ACLU awards of taxpayer money. Approximately \$950,000 in attorney fees was awarded to the ACLU in a settlement with the City of San Diego in its lawsuit to drive the Boy Scouts out of Balboa Park. In the Judge Roy Moore Ten Commandments case, the ACLU received \$500,000. In a recent "Intelligent Design" case against a school board, the ACLU received \$2,000,000 in attorney fees by order of a judge--although the law firm that represented the ACLU informed the court and public that it had acted pro bono and waived any attorney fees; these fees was pure profit to the ACLU.

Past National Commander Bock has said the ACLU's threat of the imposition of taxpayer-paid attorney fees to force local elected bodies--city and county councils and school boards--into surrendering to the ACLU's demands to secularly cleanse the public square of any evidence of America's religious heritage is "judicial blackmail, plain and simple".

Of particular concern to most veterans are the legal attacks on veterans' memorials. Passage of S. 3696 and H.R. 2679 would end the abuse by the ACLU and other organizations of well-intended laws. Past National Commander Bock has said, "This reform of the law should be supported by all Americans across all party, ideological, philosophical, and religious lines. The ACLU's profiteering at taxpayer expense by exploitation of benevolently intended civil rights laws designed to benefit poor people is a disgrace."

The American Legion publication, In the Footsteps of the Founders - A Guide to Defending American Values, provides detailed information and is available free on request to pr@legion.org.

It is imperative that all Members of The American Legion Family contact their Members of Congress and urge them to bring this measure to a vote in both the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Time is limited! Both the House and the Senate have limited days left before adjourning to concentrate on the November Elections, so we must pour on the heat now and let our lawmakers know how important it is to us that this receive a vote on the floor.



October November December Birthdays

Osvaldo Yero	10/01
Kenneth Baranik	10/02
Harold Liebman	10/09
Frank Mendez	10/10
Arthur Braidman	10/11
Donald Jennings	10/12
Joseph Motes	10/12
Aaron Lerberg	10/12
Ezra Lubow	10/17
William Davenport	10/02
Carol Fraser	10/20
James Applebaum	10/31
Thomas Smart	11/01
Diane Calfee	11/02
William Engel	11/08
Peter Laurino	11/08
Luis Soto	11/14
Robert Nagle	11/16
Robert Beech	11/22
Leon Mogel	11/24
Graig Mleko	11/25
Armando Lopez	11/26
Miguel Traba	11/27
Martin Sobol	11/29
Dominick Barbera	11/30
Rolando Proenza	11/30
Donald Courtney	12/02
Leonard Ricca Sr	12/02
David McDonald Jr	12/05
Lawrence Feinstein	12/11
Donald Courtney	12/12
Dennis Teitge	12/12
Kevin Killilea	12/13
Ronald Vendetti	12/16
Robert Harbin	12/16
Lloyd Rea	12/18
Joseph Intermaggio	12/20
Ronald Register	12/22
Bret Robinson	12/23
Joseph Buchler	12/24
Alberto Darby	12/31



POST 385 BIG WINNER AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

By Bob Nagle

Post 385 attended its first District Conference on Saturday June 25th. The American Legion Ninth District held its 60th Constitutional Conference at Post 180 in Plantation, 20 posts and Ladies Auxiliary Units from throughout Broward participated.

Our post was represented by Adjutant Joe Motes and Chaplain Bob Nagle. Post Commander Roy Schofield and First Vice Commander Joe Mora were scheduled to represent 385 but both suffered deaths in their families and were unable to attend. Our sympathies go out to Roy and Joe and their families.

The day began with a full schedule of military honors and ceremonies. A joint Memorial Service was held to honor and remember the 26 Ladies Auxiliary Unit members who had passed away over the past year. Department (State of Florida) Officers and guests were introduced and gave short speeches on their goals for the future of the American Legion. A common theme was highlighted to actively and diligently seek new members, to emphasize recruiting Post 400 members to our local Posts and to seek out those returning from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan as new members.

Reports were then given by each Post Commander on their accomplishments and activities over the past year. Ninth District Staff then presented reports on their activities and farewell comments were given from officers not seeking reelection.

A lunch break was held and everyone enjoyed a roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy and corn lunch provided by host Post 180 at a very reasonable cost.

The Conference then reconvened to conduct an extensive Awards Presentation Ceremony. Awards were given in many categories:

Adjutant of the Year
Sergeant-At-Arms of the Year
Children and Youth Award
Americanism Award
Outstanding All-around Post of the Year
Most Members Increase Over Previous Year Award
Disaster Preparedness
Service Officer "Unsung Hero"
Chaplain of the Year
Blood Donor Award
ROTC Award
School Medal Award
Boy Scouts Award

MANY AWARDS WERE WON BY OUR POST 385 AND ITS MEMBERS - POST 385 WAS THE STAR OF THE NINTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

Here's the list of our awards:

1st Place School Medals Awards – Ninth District.
1st Place 100% Post for Category 1 (15-50 members) – Ninth District.

The Glory Cleary Memorial Trophy for "Most Members Over Previous Year"

100% Honor Ribbon for our Post Flag. (Let's get our flags soon).

Certificate of Meritorious Service National Award to Post 385 "Who has rendered meritorious service by enrolling for the year 2006, a membership equaling or surpassing its previous All-Time-High. In witness this certificate is given to said Post 385 under the Hand of the National Commander, Thomas L. Bock.

All Time High Goal commemorative coins to the Post 385 Commander and Adjutant as "Top Recruiters" in efforts to help the Department of Florida in making its "All Time High Goal". From Larry White, Florida Department Commander and Arnold Makovsky, Florida Department Membership Chairman. (Post 385 was first in District 9 to reach 100%, we achieved 180% on 10/3/2005.)

Additionally one of our hardest working members was recognized with two awards:

Adjutant of the Year – Ninth District, JOE MOTES.

Department of Florida – "Billy Award" in recognition for "Going above and beyond the call of Duty" - JOE MOTES.

continued on Page 7

continued from page 6

Congratulations to Joe and thanks from ALL the members of Post 385.

Next the conference held election of Officers. Just a note, Post 385 played an important role in these elections, it sometimes pays off to be last on the voting roll call.

Ninth District Commander: PAUL RENNEISEN (Post 142, Pompano Beach).

Ninth District Vice Commander: BILL GEMAYEL (Post 304, Dania Beach).

Ninth District Vice Commander: JOE MOTES (Post 385, Weston).

YES OUR OWN JOE - Congratulations again Joe, we expect big things from you, (not too much pressure), Semper Fi. Hoorah.

The conference overall was an excellent day and definitely worth attending. All are encouraged to go next year.

From the Adjutant's Desk.....

Well, by now most of you all know National has decided to raise the dues by \$4.50 effective January 11, 2007. As of this printing, we still have 46 members who have not renewed.

The problem we face is that those members will need to pay their \$25 renewal by December 1st, 2006, afterwards their renewal will be \$30, because we need to get it into Department of Florida and they have to get it into National by January 11th, 2007.

This year we will be supporting several 8th grade middle schools with the School Award Medals, 2 per school, one girl and one boy. We will also be awarding 2 ROTC medals to each of our 3 high schools, since Flanagan High, Everglades High and Cypress Bay High are the 3 largest ROTC units in Broward out of all 26 units.

I would to personally invite anyone that might be interested in getting involved with our Post in any capacity to please contact me, you will be more than welcomed.

Joe Motes, Adjutant

SERVICE OFFICER AMERICAN LEGION POST 385

The American Legion offers a variety of programs to meet the life, health and dental insurance needs of Legion and SAL members.

Veterans Benefits Timetable:

Burial Benefits – time limits vary: VA provides certain burial benefits, including interment in a national cemetery, partial re-imbursment for burial expenses, flag to drape the casket and a government headstone or grave marker. The veteran must have been in receipt of VA compensation or pension or died in a VA medical center before the VA will pay partial reimbursement for burial expenses.

Dental Treatment – 90 days: Application may be made to the VA for one-time dental treatment for certain dental conditions and must apply within 90 days of separation or at any time for a service-connected dental injury or disability.

Readjustment Counseling – no time limit: Available at VA Vet Centers or medical facilities to combat era veterans to assist in readjusting to civilian life. (i.e. PTSD)

Veterans Educational Assistance Programs – 10 yrs. From date of separation or discharge from service: VA pays monthly education assistance benefits, depending on the various programs for active duty, Reservists and National Guard members.

Correction of Military Records – 3 yrs. Or less from date of discharge or from date of becoming aware of injustices in service records: The 3 yr. filing period may be expanded with good cause or following denial by the Discharge Review Board.

Veterans need not be alone in their battles for benefits and medical care. Here's some good news: American Legion Service Officers (DSO) offer *free advice and guidance* for veterans who need to deal with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

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)

Installation of Officers for Post 385



Commanders Roy Schofield and Loretta Young of Post 365 being installed by District Past Commander Helen Gaekle.



Commanders Roy Schofield, Loretta Young and District Past Commander Helen Gaekle celebrate with a bottle of A1 Sauce after the installation.



Joe Motes being installed as Financial Officer by District Financial Officer Ray Blanchette.



Joe Mora being installed as 1st Vice Commander by District Vice Commander Billy Gemayel.



Joe Motes being installed as Adjutant by District Chaplain Jay Walrond.



Bob Nagle being installed as Chaplain by District Chaplain Jay Walrond.



Diane Calfee being installed as Historia by District Vice Commander Billy Gemayel.



Tom Mason was presented an American Legion Flag Certificate for his display of the American Flag, presented by Diane Calfee.

Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic Update

The construction of the new Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic facility is currently in progress. The facility is located at 9800 West Commercial Boulevard, Sunrise, Florida. This new facility will encompass roughly 90,000 net usable square feet of space and will approximately double the amount of space for primary care and sub-specialty care clinics.

The Clinic will contain the transferred multi-specialty clinics, plus additional services to improve access to ambulatory care for residents living in Broward County, southern Palm Beach County, and northern Miami-Dade County. The new Clinic will improve patient care to over 150,000 veterans residing in Broward County. There was a 17% increase in outpatient visits from FY 2002 to FY 2005 and veteran enrollment for Broward County continues to grow in this market.

By providing efficient delivery of care in this new location, our veterans will benefit through enhanced quality of care. The new Clinic will offer a full array of high-tech health care services, along with additional space to accommodate improved clinical services in radiology, cardiology and pulmonary care, gastrointestinal services, women's services, and urgent care.

The Broward VA Outpatient Clinic has been designed to accommodate and enhance patient access as well as improve continuity of medical care by providing all primary, specialized, and diagnostic services. The building's construction completion date is estimated to be in the spring of 2007. The Clinic will have a sound structural affluent layout of services and offices to deliver modern health care required for veterans. This new facility will allow the Miami VA Healthcare System to meet the mission of providing exceptional health care.

Contact Information

For further information, contact Susan E. Ward, Public Affairs Officer, Miami VA Medical Center, at (305) 575-3399.

VA Selects Site for Jacksonville National Cemetery

September 14, 2006

WASHINGTON— A 569-acre property owned by the City of Jacksonville, Fla., will become the site of a national cemetery to serve the burial needs of north Florida's veterans for 30 years or more. Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) selection of the site and intent to purchase the property.

"Northeastern Florida one of VA's priorities for providing a national cemetery for veterans," said Nicholson. "Establishing this national shrine will ensure that thousands of men and women who have worn the uniforms of the U.S. armed forces have a place that honors their military service."

VA originally considered 14 sites and completed environmental assessments for four of them last spring. Secretary made his decision after considering the viability of each site. Jacksonville property is pasture land available for sale from the city and is north of the airport on Lannie Road.

Funds for purchase of the land have been appropriated by Congress. Additional funding will be required for design and construction in future years. The land is purchased in the next few months and design begins next year, VA could start burials by early 2009.

The National Cemetery Expansion Act of 2003 directed VA to build six new national cemeteries in selected areas with large veteran populations. Approximately 185,000 veterans live within 75 miles of Jacksonville.

Veterans whose discharges are other than dishonorable, their spouses and dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery, regardless of where they live. Advance reservations are made. Burial benefits for eligible veterans include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker – even if they are not buried in a national cemetery.

**American Legion Post 385 Weston
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