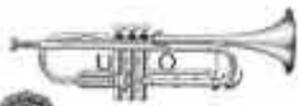


Leyden★Chiles★Wickersham Post 1

5400 East Yale Avenue • Denver, CO 80222-6905



The Reveille

Official Publication of "The Best in the West!"



Pride of Service



Air Force



Army



Coast Guard



Navy



Marines

Pride in Serving



God and Country

VOLUME LXXXVIII

The Reveille, May-June 2020

NUMBER 4

Notice Of Election Of Officers

On June 9, 2020, The American Legion Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 will conduct and complete the planned Election of Officers. The following times will be observed: 11:30 a.m. to noon — Nominations of Officers; noon to 7 p.m. — Voting by Members; 7 p.m. — June Legion Membership Meeting and Installation of Officers. **NOTE: LCW Post 1 will follow all recommended safety guidelines during these difficult times. The Legion monthly meeting scheduled for May 12 is canceled.**

LCW Post 1 Website

The LCW Post 1 website will be updated when applicable. This is your best source of information regarding our Post's updates and information, plus news from the VA regarding COVID-19. Announcements regarding the status of Post 1 and actions occurring during the closure will be posted on the opening page or under the "4 Veterans" menu.

Commander's Corner

by Commander Tom Yagley



As the departing Commander, the intended focus of my final article is the three years of LCW Post 1 accomplishments and camaraderie, including raising Post awareness, engaging our Officers, expanding the scope of our programs, and formalizing the budget for our Legion Pillars. We developed our Americanism programs, which expanded our role and image in the community. I believe we strengthened the LCW Post 1 Legion Family during these last three years. We rose above the challenges brought on by those who abandoned their oath of office, "Loyalty to your Post."

Now we have new challenges, the Corona Virus Disease's (COVID-19) impact on our Community, Family and The American Legion. It is truly painful to report, as everyone I'm sure is aware, the Post is closed during the COVID-19 crisis. Before I made the call to close the Post, the Officers, E-Board, and Office Staff were informed and knew it was necessary. The most important and foremost part of the decision was consideration of family health and safety, first and always.

During any business closure, there are those who step-up and ensure business continuance, bills are paid, payroll is met, and facilities are maintained. No words can convey the debt of gratitude we owe Kathi, Georgia, Patrick, Jim, and Chris, and all of those supporting the Legion from their homes.

I believe we need to keep in perspective what happened to the American Dream these last few months. America rallied together to help contain the COVID-19 virus.

During these difficult times we experienced the finest of the American spirit, including a willingness to sacrifice for the greater good. But it is also imperative that we are Veterans who hold to the undisputable fundamentals of being Americans who truly value Liberty. As stated in the Legion Constitution Preamble, "Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights, and unlimited opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry, and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the worldwide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all."

Hopefully, we will get back to work soon and savor the quintessence of the American Dream — Liberty.

Thank you to those who donated financially to help compensate our staff during the closure. Your heartfelt generosity is truly appreciated.

Lastly, our dedicated Officers are first-class and all are eager to serve a new term if elected. I endorse our outstanding Finance Officer in his run for Post 1 Commander. Please consider Jeff this year as Commander.

As you know, I am committed to Post 1. And as your departing Commander, I am hereby announcing my candidacy for Senior Vice Commander. I plan to continue my support of our Legion Pillars and focus on membership, and, of course, at the directive of the new Commander, help with the transition and in any other capacity needed. I would appreciate your vote for Senior Vice Commander.

With this, my last column as your Commander, I can honestly and with gratitude say thank you for your support during the last three years. It was my honor and privilege to serve as Commander of the best American Legion Post in Colorado. We are Post 1, in the Greatest Nation, United States of America.

Sincerely, Tom
For God and Country.

Across the top of the Liberty Bell, the inscription reads: "PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF — LEV. XXV X."

COVID-19 And Supporting Our Veterans And Families

As you know this pandemic has displaced many veterans and their families that are acutely in need of assistance more than what we may think. On a national level, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) applications are on the rise but not all qualify and not all can be fulfilled. One of the struggles we are facing is the need for social distancing and remaining indoors. This makes it difficult for many to receive assistance.

During this time, I am proud to say our Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) and Colorado Veterans Kids Fund (CVKF) are still here helping our veterans and their families. We often hear the question "how can I help?" The answer may be from what we have already learned in life and that is we have control over how we choose to help others.

Currently, our funds are low and we need to reduce the amount of distributions to a case-by-case basis. The American Legion VAF and CVKF are a last resort for our members. Since the COVID-19 pandemic we have limited all funds to Colorado American Legion members. This is a call for all Veterans — A Nation of Angels — will you join me by uniting and participating in an act of kindness that will effect change in the lives of others?

Please consider sending in whatever you can to Department Headquarters and earmark the contribution for the VAF or CVKF. Legion family members please help with a donation to the VAF, and remember,

no amount is too small to feed a child. Our veteran community depends on us; together we will overcome these uncertain times while continuing to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their children. One of Sir Edmund Burke's famous quotes comes to mind: "No-body made a greater mistake than he

who did nothing because he could do only a little."

You may send your contributions to Department HQ, American Legion VAF or American Legion CVKF, 7465 E. 1st Ave, Suite D, Denver, CO 80230.

With sincere thanks, District 6 Commander Annette Johnson.

Facebook Page For Veterans Needing Help During The COVID-19 Pandemic

One of the UVC's newest Volunteers, Carlos Rodriguez, has hooked up with a young Marine Corps veteran (Mel) who had served in Afghanistan. They created a Facebook page, **COVID19 Vet Relief — Colorado**, as a way to connect veterans needing help. This Facebook page is designed as a place Colorado-based Veterans can post assistance requests should they need assistance such as a grocery store run, a companion to walk with, a pharmacy prescription pick-up, etc. Mel and Carlos are the site's administrators and have a network of

young eager veterans ready to assist other veterans.

If you know of a veteran needing help or someone offering to help a veteran, please let them know about this Facebook page, known as **COVID19 Vet Relief — Colorado**. Hopefully, we will continue to volunteer to help a veteran if he/she has a need for help. It is much better when veterans help fellow veterans.

(Editor's Note: A special thanks to Steve Bender, Newsletter Editor for the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado, for providing this information).

Rescheduling Of Events

Post 1 and other American Legion Departments have not canceled all of the events scheduled to take place over the next few months. However, some events had to be canceled and we hope to reschedule the postponed events after the COVID-19 virus is under control. Now,

more than ever, we will need your help with these events and your financial support.

The election of new officers is planned for June 9. The elections and monthly meeting scheduled for May 12 are canceled. Please see the notice on Page 1 and the Adjutant's column for additional information.

The following events are canceled: 2020 ALR Poker Poker Run, Boys State, Girls State, Legion Baseball, Department Convention, and the American Legion National Convention. Postponed events to be rescheduled: Schnitzel Dinner fundraiser for the Reel Recovery Program, Derby Day, Mother's Day Breakfast, and the 40/8 Awards Banquet. The District 6 Convention's new tentative date is May 23, with a backup of May 30, and the United Veterans Coalition of Colorado Banquet has been rescheduled for August 23.



From everyone at LCW Post 1 — To those on the frontline, you are always in our prayers — Police Officers, Firefighters, Medical Workers, and all who serve in this time of crisis.

Visit Our Website LCWPost1.org for information on upcoming events and activities.

Post #1 Candidates

Request For Your Support As The New Post 1 Commander

by Jeff Pitchford

I have looked forward to writing this article in the *Reveille*. Previous articles have been related to my work as Post 1 Finance Officer for the past three years. I now am formally announcing my candidacy for Post 1 Commander for the 2020-2021 year.

As a personal history, I grew up in Colorado, where my family has been since 1860. My father, brother and nephew were all in the Army (hoorah); my father was in an airborne unit in the occupation of Japan, and my nephew was with the 101st Airborne and served a couple tours in Iraq. I was in the Army serving in the 6th Army and the 4th Infantry Division from June of 1969 until June of 1971. While I went through the 11B (infantry AIT) I did not graduate due to a family emergency and ended up as a morning report clerk for the rest of my tour. I did have orders to go to Viet Nam but the same emergency cancelled those orders and I spent the rest of my time expecting the orders to go overseas would come at any time.

If elected I will be preceded by some very good commanders. There will be some very difficult shoes to fill. However, my education includes majors in business management and accounting, with a minor in economics. I also had a number of years in a management position with a large downtown bank. The 33 years since then have been as a sole practitioner CPA.

I believe stepping into the position of Post Commander requires a "first do no harm" policy. Previous commanders have done great work and I believe that needs to continue.

This does not mean I will be sitting around thinking the Post will run itself and to that end I have a number of areas I would like to concentrate on during the coming year. Remember, volunteers are always needed. I hate to think of functions being canceled due to lack of volunteers!

First and foremost I need to make sure we are able to not only continue but to stabilize and grow after our current crisis. We will need to work with all of the families and the 4018 to promote activities going forward. We have often talked about turning to a more family-orientated post. I see a possible committee on this topic.

Membership is always at the forefront. Without new members many

Legion functions will suffer. Our Vice Commanders will be asked to provide a written outline/plan to accomplish this task. However, ideas from membership are always appreciated.

Next, Americanism should be a given, something we do without thinking.

During this time we have lost the current year opportunity for many children and youth activities. I will expect we can and will work together to offer opportunity in the remaining year.

I am sure Veterans Affairs will continue as the American Legion and Post 1 are veterans helping veterans. I would believe we will maintain and possibly increase our veterans' aid and or support.

I am asking for your support and vote for my journey toward Post 1 Commander. Thanks to everyone who has shown support. I would be happy to answer any questions at jmpcpa@att.net.

For God and Country, God bless our troops and the American Legion. We are Post 1.

Tony Jones For Finance Officer

I am requesting your support of my candidacy for the position of LCW Post 1 Finance Officer. During my terms as Post Commander, from 2015 to 2017, I became intimately familiar with the fiscal aspects of our Post. I was ultimately responsible for the budgeting, planning, and allocation of funds. As Post Commander, I could not have done my job without a top-quality Finance Officer, help from our office staff, Post 1 officers, the Planning and House Committee, and the Executive Board. It was during this time that I realized how important it is to have someone with knowledge of finances and budgeting in the position of Finance Officer.

My formal education consists of a Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and a Master's degree from William and Mary. I served for 22 years in the U.S. Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, serving in the Adjutant Generals corps and the field of military procurement.

I have been a Commander of the VFW and a member of the American Legion since 1988. Currently, I represent the Department of Colorado American Legion as Jr. Vice Commander and have held this position for the past three years.

I believe I am qualified for the position and request your vote with the commitment that I will carry out my duties to the best of my abilities and in the best interests of LCW Post 1.

Commander Yagley Conducts Post Everlasting Ceremony



At the 101st birthday celebration of Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham American Legion Post 1, Past Commanders of the Post were recognized and thanked for their service. From left to right: Tom Yagley 2017-2020, Alan Taylor 2010-2011, Tony Jones 2015-2017, Mike Pritchard, 1998-1999, Randy Ackerman standing in for Glen Stenson 2011-2012, Patrick Burch standing in for Gerald Osgood 2008-2009, and Frank McCurdy 2005-2006.

On Sunday, March 15, the Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1, under the direction of Post Commander Tom Yagley, held the Post Everlasting Ceremony for members of our Post that have been taken to Post Everlasting over the past year. The ceremony was conducted with the assistance of the Color Guard and Chaplain John Holland.

Post 1 Color Guard presented the Colors of our Nation and all present joined in with a salute and pledge of allegiance to our flag. A POW/MIA chair was draped with the POW/MIA emblem and the Sergeant-at-Arms lit a candle in honor and remembrance of all those still missing or unaccounted for in our wars.

Three members of the Color Guard then presented arms and the rifle bearers stacked rifles, after which our Commander gave orders to place an American Legion cover on the stacked rifles.

The ceremony proceeded with

Adjutant News

by Patrick Burch

Solitary greetings to all Legion family members! I hope everyone is handling social separation without too much difficulty.

As of the time of this article we will have our annual election of officers on June 9. I have candidates for all the American Legion officer positions. We still need two candidates for the Executive Board and keep in mind that these are three-year terms.

We will accept nominations for all officer positions and E-Board members until June 9, 2020. This is assuming we can have our elections, which are scheduled for June 9, 2020. If there are any changes they will be posted on the website. For those who have not used the website, the address is: LCWpost1.org.

I look forward to the time when we can see everyone back at the Post. Be strong and carry on, we will get through this together.

Correct Mailing Addresses

Perhaps you don't know this but incorrect mailing addresses cost Post 1 money in the form of a charge by the U.S. Postal Service for returned mail. If you move, let us know as soon as you can because our newspaper is not an item that can be forwarded. It's returned and the Post Office charges us \$.67 per return, plus the initial cost of the paper and the mailing cost. In addition, Georgia has to spend time sorting through the returned mail and determining how to correct the address. This is time that could be better used on other more important administrative duties.

The Post is receiving about 25 returns a month. Over a one-year period, the total cost for returned papers would be approximately \$275.

To paraphrase the late Senator Everett Dirksen: "A few dollars here, a hundred there, pretty soon, you're talking real money."

Please help your Post cut this wasteful expense.

the announcement of the departed members to Post Everlasting, with a bell tolling the clarion call of the members. Chaplain Holland offered a pray of rest and peace for all of the members.

In addition to the Post Everlasting Ceremony, the Post's 101st birthday was celebrated. Commander Yagley asked for members for a commitment to continue to uphold our work and support our Four Pillars of Americanism.

All Past Commanders were thanked for their years of service and support to Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1. The ceremony included candle lighting for each Past Commander and when their name was called and they came forward, a candle was lit in recognition of their service and devotion to Post 1. Our current Commander thanked them for the years they had given to LCW Post 1, as they guided and directed us toward the goals of the American Legion.

An extremely sincere acknowledgement of thanks is given to our Post Color Guard and appreciation is expressed for all of the work you do. Also, a thank you goes out to Past Commander Tony Jones for the cake that was provided to help celebrate our 101st birthday.

In a few months, Commander Tom Yagley will step down, becoming the only Commander to serve three consecutive years in this position at Post 1. We have been blessed to have him as our Commander and

Payment Of 2020-2021 Dues

Effective at the end of May, a member who has not paid their dues for the year will not receive a printed *Reveille*. If your dues are not



Pictured above are the Stacked Rifles from the Post Everlasting service. Our Post 1 Color Guard performed the placement of the rifles with precision and solemnity. The rifles were adorned with an American Legion cap from our Post. The purpose of the service was to deepen our reverence for our departed comrades.

there are not enough ways to say thank you to him for all he has done for this Post, and the dedication, hours of hard work, guidance, and leadership he has given to the American Legion, Post 1, and our Legion families.

As veterans, we have often heard the word "Godspeed" during a change of command ceremony, which is an expression of good wishes for a person's success and safety, coupled with a prayer that God may prosper you. All of us join together and as you leave, we say as one in unison: *Commander Tom Yagley, Godspeed.*

current, there will be no Post club privileges, voting privileges, etc. All Legion members and Legion family members are required to keep their membership current. Remember, we are Veterans Serving Veterans.

For American Legion members, please send in your dues by May 31, 2020, payable to Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1, in the amount of \$50. For Auxiliary members, the check should be made payable to LCW Unit 1. For S.A.L. members, the check should be made payable to LCW Squadron 1. Member dues are \$30 for the Auxiliary and \$25 for the S.A.L. Your dues should be sent to: Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1, 5400 E. Yale Ave., Denver, CO 80222.

THE REVEILLE

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Commander Tom Yagley, Senior Vice Commander Ken Burge, Junior Vice Commander Tony Jones, Junior Vice Commander Lenny Mares, Adjutant Patrick Burch, Finance Officer Jeff Pitchford, Chaplain John Holland, Sergeant-At-Arms Alan Jaffe, Veterans Service Officer Richard Hassell, Historian Don Roche.

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President's Report

by Donna Thompson



Mardi Gras Celebration At Post 1

LCW Post 1 celebrated Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 22, and it was as if members were transported to Bourbon Street in downtown New Orleans.

The festivities included drawings for prizes, a King Cake and the person getting the piece of cake with the plastic baby was awarded a prize. Auxiliary members handed out beads and a silent auction was ongoing during the evening. Members of the Post, Auxiliary, SAL, and local businesses donated items which included artwork, an evening at an exclusive hotel, wine baskets, and other beautiful and fabulous items to bid on.

For the traditional Louisiana-

style dinner, members and guests were served chicken po' boys, dirty rice, jambalaya, the King Cake, all of which made the evening seem like a night of celebration in downtown New Orleans.

The funds raised by the Auxiliary will be sent to the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This fund helps auxiliary members who find themselves in financial difficulties due to illness, accidents, or acts of nature such as tornados, fires, floods, or earthquakes. A member may obtain a request for the funds through their local auxiliary unit and their name and the nature of the requests are held in strict confidence. Requests are then forwarded to the Auxiliary National Headquarters, after going through the Colorado Department Office.

Auxiliary Unit 1 Candidates For Office — 2020-2021

The following members have agreed to be nominated for the upcoming Unit 1 election: President — Open; Vice President — Christina "Tina" Lilly; Secretary — Open; Treasurer — Joanne Carpenter; Historian — Deb Davis; Chaplain — Judy Sadler; Sergeant-at-Arms — Betty Jantz; Executive Committee — Marsha Harrison, Edrie O'Brien, and LueAnne Robbins.

As you can see, Unit 1 needs candidates for President and Secretary. Please consider running for any of the above offices and contact one of the following nominating committee members if you have any questions about the position or want to be nominated: Georgia Sweeney 720-232-9503, georgiasweeney@comcast.net, Betty Jantz 303-263-4894, bj13154@msn.com, or Cyndi Clavier cyndikayec@hotmail.com.

40/8 Voiture 97

Greetings from Chef de Gare Randy Ackerman

What was to have been a joyous celebration of 100 years of service by the 40/8 and Voiture 97 to veterans and their families went up in smoke on March 16 with the temporary closing of LCW Post 1 and all activities planned at that venue.

In accordance with the dictates of the Mayor of Denver, the Governor of the State of Colorado, and just plain common sense, all activities, planned and unplanned, ground to a halt pending the lifting of the "voluntary" confinement orders of government officials.

This in no way means that the planned celebrations have been can-

celed; rather, they have been postponed until new dates for such activities can be established. At the time of this writing, a virtual Grande du Colorado Promenade was scheduled for April 18 where, among other matters, plans were to be made for the delayed 100 year celebration of the 40/8. All other activities of Voiture 97 have, for obvious reasons, been suspended. Further information on 40/8 activities will be forthcoming.

I am happy to report that, as far as we can determine, there have been no reports of our Voyageurs contracting the China Virus. Isolation has its rewards. Let's all stay safe and be courteous to others during these trying times.

Color Guard Is Looking For A Few Good Men And Women

Our Color Guard performs at a level of excellence and their precision during maneuvers is amazing. Not only do they present our colors and conduct functions for our Post, they perform in events such as marching in parades, presenting arms and our nation's colors at

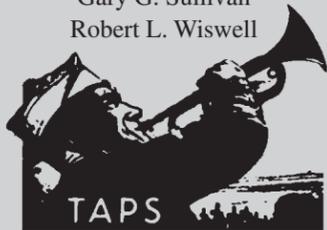
schools and civic functions, and filling in at other American Legion Posts, when called upon.

The Color Guard would like for you to consider becoming a member and being a part of a unit that is integral at our Post. If you are interested, please talk to Ken Dorman or another member of the Color Guard to find out if there are special requirements, how much drill practice time would be required, and what you could do to keep our Post 1 Color Guard at the level of excellence they endeavor to maintain.

Taps

Recently Deceased LEGIONNAIRES

- Paul O. Gilmore
- James S. Keller, Past Commander
- John T. Lane Jr.
- Lou Mikalonis, Past Commander
- Jack C. Moore
- Donald E. St. John
- George J. Stolley
- Gary G. Sullivan
- Robert L. Wiswell



Leadership Assistance Program: Overcoming Hardship

In the spring of 2012, the Denver Area Council (DAC), of the Boy Scouts of America, launched the Leadership Assistance Program (LeAP) to help youth in the Denver Metro area affected by economic and social hardships. LeAP provides programming for 90 units that serve young boys and girls between the ages of six and 20, and there are 12 special needs groups. LeAP has a staff of two full-time and 12 part-time employees. At this time, approximately 2,600 students participate in the programs available.

LeAP youth participants gain from a structured after-school or community center program by having a safe and enjoyable place to go after school. The DAC hires and trains adult leaders in the providing of Scouting programs and instilling the principles and character of Scouting. The programs are presented in a modified version and each Scout is afforded the opportunity to advance through the ranks.

Some of their summer activities include camp-outs, day camps, and family camps. In addition to the other activities, special programs such as a fishing derby at Cherry Creek State Park and an adventure day at the Colorado Adventure Point (CAP) are set aside for them.

Tasty St. Patrick's Day At Post 1

Even though the Denver St. Patrick's Day parade was canceled, members and guests came for camaraderie and corned beef at the Post. A volunteer staff cooked and served approximately 60 dinners. Our Post 1 Adjutant, Patrick Burch, served as the LCW Post 1 Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Dinner.

Our Post 1 Color Guard was scheduled to march in the parade and the members were disappointed but accepting of the Mayor's decision to cancel the parade. In addition,



Carlos Peralta, Commander, American Legion Post 87, and District Chairman for the Denver Council BSA Leadership Assistance Program (LeAP) and Stephany Guerra-Mesa, Denver Council BSA District Professional (LeAP) were photographed while attending the St. Patrick's Day celebration at Post 1.

LeAP participates with many Front Range communities, schools, churches, and civic organizations.

As part of our Four Pillars, under Children and Youth, the Leyden-Chiles-Wickersham Post 1 supports the LeAP and the Scouting programs. Additional information can

be found at their website: www.denverboyscouts.org/resources/other-useful-resources/scholarships/leap-program.

Donations to the program can be made by sending your checks to our Post with the check designated for the LeAP.

tion, the Wick School of Irish Dance reluctantly canceled their annual performance at our Post as a measure of safety for parents and children. Both cancellations were due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus.

Joanne Carpenter prepared the extremely tender and delicious corned beef and deserves a special thank you. Also in the kitchen was Chris Mulqueen and we thank him for his

help cooking the cabbages and potatoes. In addition, a very special thank you to the volunteers that helped with the preparation, serving, and cleanup, including Spencer Mumma, Petra Wolford, Jean Gomez, Sue Wagner, and Nick Yagley. Without these volunteers, the dinner would not have been *par excellence*.

Donations made during the dinner were set-aside for the LeAP program.

Second Chance Bicycle Shop Collection Day June 13, 2020



Post 1 will be collecting bikes for the Second Chance Bicycle Shop on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in our parking lot. However, the date may change depending on the COVID-19 health concerns and restrictions.

Consider placing a notice on Next Door or Facebook, for your neighborhood and friends, and tell them about the bike collection day and let them know they can drop off bikes at the American Legion Post 1, 5400 E. Yale Avenue, Denver.

Visit Our Website At LCWPost1.org

COMING IN JULY — SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Post 1 Color Guard will hold the 9th Annual Car Show on July 25, 2020.

Plan to attend, enter a vehicle, and have some fun!



The American Legion Emblem

As a result of the COVID-19 virus and the stay at home edicts, many of us miss the camaraderie and socializing with our fellow members. During this time, let us reflect on the American Legion emblem, the Four Pillars of The American Legion, and why we are a Legion family. The following was excerpted from The American Legion Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.



The American Legion Emblem: Every part of The American Legion emblem has meaning. The emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun, giver of life, warmth and courage; foe of the cold, of the darkness, of fear, of apprehension. In turn, each of the emblem's parts signifies a meaning,

which no American Legionnaire who wears the emblem should take lightly, and which he/she should know from the first moment it is put on. Why does the star signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars

The 'Hello Girls' Of WWI And A 60-Year Battle For Recognition

(From the Memorial Affairs, Veterans Legacy Program, and written by Kenneth Holliday)

Bells rang throughout France on the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, signifying the end of World War I. In Paris, people filled the streets in a bitersweet celebration: The war was finally over.

But while those celebrations took place, an American woman drew her last breaths in a foreign city. Inez Crittenden had been stationed in France for a year serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a telephone operator. In the final days of the war, she became bedridden with pneumonia. She died in Paris on the day the war ended.

Crittenden was one of 233 women who served as telephone operators for the Army's Signal Corps during the war. They were more commonly known as "Hello Girls."

After the U.S. entered the war in 1917, the Army desperately looked for ways to improve communications during military operations. Commanders discovered major problems with the use of two languages in exchanges between the American and French armies. At first, American men and French women were used in telephone exchanges, but both groups proved to be unsatisfactory. The Army had trouble finding qualified men for the job and looked elsewhere.

General Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, requested a recruitment of women telephone operators that spoke both English and French. In America, women primarily made up the workforce of civilian telephone operators. Nearly 10,000 women applied to fill Pershing's request. Those that were accepted into the program underwent a tough selection process and had to agree to serve for the duration of the war. The women were evaluated on tests similar to those given to Army officer candidates. Then they were individually investigated by the Secret Service. Because the nature of the work required them to handle highly confidential information, their loyalty and motivations for serving were investigated more thoroughly than the average soldier.

Their training included daily military drill. They were taught about the Army, its traditions, and military terms. They wore a uniform, were given ranks, and were subject to inspections. In every way they appeared to be soldiers. And their abilities overseas proved invaluable. They were far more effective than men in operating the military telephone and had a proficiency that was unmatched in their British counterparts. It was said that without the Hello Girls, "It would be impossible to brigade American troops."

After she died, Inez Crittenden was given a military burial in Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial. Her grave lies alongside over a thousand other American service members who died overseas. But

after the war ended, the Army decided that the Hello Girls had served as civilians, not soldiers.

While the Navy had opened enlistment to women during World War I, the Army did not. As a result, the Army did not consider the Hello Girls as servicewomen and did not issue honorable discharges to them. Therefore, the 233 Hello Girls were not considered to be Veterans of the war that they had served in. This began a 60-year battle for them to be recognized for their military service.

It wasn't until Congress passed the 1977 G.I. Improvement Bill that the Hello Girls finally received recognition from the government for their service. When President Carter signed it into law, the Hello Girls were given discharges from the military and granted Veteran benefits. Only 18 of them were still alive at the time.

Olive Shaw was one of those surviving Hello Girls. She had returned home to Massachusetts after the war and began working for Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers as her personal secretary. Shaw was one of the Hello Girls that led the 60-year battle for Veteran status. When she died in 1980, one year after being granted Veteran benefits, she wished to be buried in the soon-to-be-opened Massachusetts National Cemetery. When the cemetery opened in October, she became the first burial there. The recognition of her military service, which had been denied to her for almost the entirety of her life, is now forever remembered at her grave.

But none of the other Hello Girls who died before 1977 ever had the chance to use their Veteran benefits. None of them were ever eligible to be buried in a national cemetery as a Veteran.

Marguerite Lovera died in 1959, 20 years before being granted Veteran benefits. However, it was discovered that she was interred in Golden Gate National Cemetery as an eligible spouse to Felix Lovera, an Army Veteran who had also served in World War I. Marguerite's grave marker only read "Wife of SGT FA Lovera," with no recognition to her own service during the war. But in 2018, a relative of Marguerite contacted the National Cemetery Administration with information that she served as a Hello Girl. Though she wasn't considered a Veteran when she was interred in the cemetery, she was now. Not long after NCA was notified, historians verified the information and the cemetery director had a new grave marker placed for Marguerite that gives proper recognition to her military service.

Even 100 years after the war they served in ended, these women are still slowly receiving the recognition that they deserve. These trailblazers were some of the first women to serve in the Army. In recognizing the Hello Girls, we honor their service and sacrifices to their country, their contribution to Women's History, and their lasting legacies.

are fixed in the heavens. As the stars do not wander, so should The American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes. Further, the words "The American Legion" demand that the wearer "shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions . . ." There shines the emblem of the American Legion. It is your badge of pride and distinction, honor and service.

The Rays of the Sun: The rays of the sun form the background of the emblem and suggest the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

The Wreath: The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

The Star: The star, victory symbol of World War I, symbolizes honor, glory, and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's constellation.

The Inner Rings: The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.

The Outer Rings: The larger of the two outer rings signifies the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.

The Words American Legion: The words American Legion tie the ring together for truth, remembrance, constancy, loyalty, honor, service, and the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, National Security, and Americanism. The Four Pillars are as relevant today as when our organization was founded in 1919.

In Honor Of Veterans Day

by Jeff Pitchford

Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day, proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, to honor those who died in World War I. In 1938, Congress declared Armistice Day a legal holiday. In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks suggested expanding the holiday to honor all veterans, and in 1954, a Congressional Act officially changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11 each year, symbolizing the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the date and time major hostilities ended in Europe.

We need to remember Veterans Day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which only honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in military service.

While Memorial Day is a solemn occasion, I believe we need to rejoice and celebrate by thanking every American man and woman who has shown a commitment and our pride that comes from a total selflessness in working together toward stemming the tides of evil forces which includes an acknowledgment which might require giving your life to meet that commitment.

In 1919 President Woodrow Wilson addressed the nation and while America was involved for a mere 18 plus months in World War I, this war would serve to mold the nation into a new era. The world would forever become smaller.

President Wilson stated: "Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men."

Since 1776 the United States has felt the comfort of peace 17 years out of 243. This is 93% of the time America has called on the United States Military to not only protect our shores but as American veterans we have left our lives behind to help save the world from tyranny, asking only for a place to bury our lost comrades in return.

This past week President Donald Trump proclaimed Veterans Day 2019. While the proclamation was seven paragraphs and I would recommend everybody read the proclamation I would like to leave you with the first paragraph of the proclamation.

"On November 11, Americans commemorate the service, sacrifice, and immeasurable contributions of our Nation's veterans who have proudly worn our country's uniform to defend and preserve our precious liberty. As we celebrate Veterans Day, we pause to recognize the brave men and women who have fearlessly and faithfully worked to defend the United States and our freedom. Their devotion to duty and patriotism deserves the respect and admiration of our grateful Nation each and every day. We are forever thankful for the many heroes among us who have bravely fought around the world to protect us all."

(Editor's Note: The above article is the speech given by Jeff Pitchford at the Post 1 Veterans Day dinner).

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate the birthdays for all of our Legion family members. We especially want to include YOU if it is your birthday month. Many people are already on our birthday lists as listed in *The Reveille*, but it is not automatically recorded with your membership. We apologize if your birthday is not listed. Please contact the office with your name and month only of your birthday (no day or year requested), to be sure you are included. Happy Birthday!

MAY BIRTHDAYS			
Susan I. Adams	Monica E. Kannady	Jerome F. Sullivan	Christine E. Herzing
Thomas A. Albano	Mark Keiser	Louis A. Terlep	Kathy Renee Jackson
Renee M. Allen	James H. Kelly	Randy G. Thompson	Megan A. Jewell
Paul R. Anderson	John Kerlin	Gen. Bernard H. Thorn	Michelle Jewell
Charles F. Aragon	Bruce Kilbourne	Wendy K. Trachta	Alice R. Juarez
James H. Atkins	Theresa M. Kiss	Lansing W. Tyler	Lucy E. Karuzas
Jose M. Baca Jr.	David A. Kleiman	Norman Veta	Mark R. Keough
James M. Barnes	Debra Kubly	Pier Vidoni	Jeff Kinder
Michael G. Benowitz	Steve Labadie	Mark A. Vogel	Stephen J. Koritnik
Nathaniel Benson	Christine Lowrey	Daniel Volini	George Kuntzman
Irene M. Blatnick	Jerry Martineau	Candice R. Wells	Raymond P. Lamb
Marilyn Born	Robert T. Masoni Jr.	Kimberly L. Wetch	Ginny Learch
Robert E. Byrne	Monroe G. Mathias	Esperance M. Wolf	Steven E. Maffeo
Joanne Carpenter	Thomas M. Mauro		Walter D. Marquez
Karel A. Cashmore	George E. Mayl	JUNE BIRTHDAYS	
Connie Chase	Evelyn McCurdy	Barbara Aaker	Jaime Masa
James E. Coates	Kathleen R. McIntee	Richard N. Allman	Robert R. McElfresh
Kathleen Craven	Troy McKeown	Richard M. Anderchin	Violet McGrath
Catie J. Deutsch	Joseph T. Minkiewicz	Eddie V. Anderson	Ronald A. McGregor
Ernest H. Devan	Glenn Moore	Laura Atencio	Bernard McKeever
Leanne Enck	Kathleen Moran	Peggy L. Bazo	Sandra McLeod
Regis A. Engelken	Robert N. Morehead	Peter J. Bemelen	Wayne Moore
Chloe M. Fisher	Thomas Muller	Melinda J. Birkeland	Gerald Mussett
David Flanagan Jr.	Michael J. Murphy	Marianne B. Boston	Sandra Mylet
Bonnie D. Foster	Michael R. Mylet	Stuart Brann	Stephen W. Pahs
Douglas Freeland	Chester A. Nelson	Martin P. Brill	Sally Ann Paschke
Elwood Glaser	John D. Nelson	Rodney Broome	Douglas R. Petz
Robert E. Gold	Hannah N. Ohlson	Thomas J. Buckley	Steven J. Pierce
Dr. Guy F. Grabiak	Donald G. Oldfield	Barry Byars	Jeffrey M. Pitchford
Harry G. Graham	Sharon Osgood	William H. Chitwood	Richard C. Pittenger
Kyle P. Gremse	Jane Elizabeth Ozga	Douglas W. Colbert	Donna Read
Teri Gremse	Robert L. Pangburn	Saverio (Sam) Curcio	Mark E. Robertson
Howard L. Halbert	Kevin E. Parker	Melissa L. Daniels	Chris S. Rogers Sr.
Karl R. Hansen	Kenneth Pendley	Paula E. Davis	Michael J. Rummel
Donna Helgren	Edward A. Robinson	Stacy Ann Dorman	Tim J. Ryan
Thomas A. Hess	Donald J. Roche	Richard Eason	Judy Sadler
Cindy A. Hill	Gene E. Rodaway	John D. Fleck	Larry E. Sheppard
Eugene S. Hogan	Donald E. Ryan	Rebecca S. Freise	Terry W. Shroyer
David J. Holzer	Harry Sabin	Rhode "Rudy" Gachette	Henry Silling Jr.
John Houser	Robert Schmidt	Mark R. Gonzales	Fred N. Smith
Keith Jake Jacobsen	Colin Servis	George K. Gramer	Connie H. Sorenson
Ernest E. Jacobson Jr.	Edward Shaffer	Leo M. Greunke	James E. Sorenson
Alan Jaffe	Joan Siudzinski	Gary Gruel	Vickie A. Studinski
Roy E. Jarrett	John M. Sodja Jr.	Dick O. Gutru	Lavoy M. Thiessen
Diana Jefferson	Leon E. Sonksen	William F. Hammond	Marbella E. Trujillo
Henry E. Jones	Howard P. Sorenson	Douglas Hanson	Gary Tucker
	Caleb M. Steinberg	Stephen P. Harris	Bill Wells
	Kim I. Stultz	Alan G. Hart	Gayle A. Williams
			Thomas M. Yagley