



American Legion Post 74
Charlottesville & Albemarle, Inc.
3025 Louisa Road, Keswick, VA 22947-2155
434-977-1050 Fax 434-977-1049



Website: <http://www.legionpost74.com> E-mail: legionpost74@legionpost74.com

Commander's Report:

April 2021

Commander's Report:

Commander Bruce Eades

Today I am feeling very thankful...to CBOC for getting us ole Vets Vaccinated against COVID! And I am **thankful to be a part of the American Legion**, largest Veterans organization in the United States. Why, because they were instrumental in so many things that honor and help all Veterans... the G.I. Bill, the Korean War memorial (see Lore of the Legion in this month's magazine), and of course most recently "the Legion Act" which expanded eligibility to all who serve even one day of active duty since WWII!

Personally, I am very thankful for all our Post 74 volunteers who have faithfully served on our various committees even as we had to find new ways during this Pandemic! These include all our Post 74 Excom officers, our Post Finance committee chaired by David Drayer, our Post House Committee chaired by Lowell Badgley, our Americanism committee chaired by Post Adjutant Phil Grimm, our Legion Baseball chaired by Sol McCauley, our Post Standing Orders committee chaired by Pat Kelly, Honor Guard Commanded by Bill Napier, our Service officers lead by Gary Hegemier, and last but definitely not least, I am thankful for our members who stepped up this past year to serve on our Post 74 Re-Entry team, chaired by Rich Severin (their next meeting is at 1700 hours on April 7th in the Red room with CDC protocol of Mask and distancing)!

This Springtime, as our spirits are renewed by remembering all the possibilities that we have to be thankful for, (and of course I am personally referring to being a Legion Rider once again) let's all say "Thank you" to someone who has gone that extra mile for us. And yes, we are all anxious to get back to our normal meetings soon., so while we must patiently wait another month or two for our Governors orders, let's all Call a Buddy and get that Vaccine that CDC says will make us safe to gather once again...Semper Fi.

I need to extend an apology as I missed the opportunity to mention, in honor of Woman's History Month, two of our own veterans who are Past Post Commanders; Nancy Carver and Veronica Miller.

For God and Country

29 news interviews Curt Bean and one of his Guitars 4 Vets students.

"The music uses a different side of the brain and relieves the tension from the PTSD."



Post 74 Officers

Commander: W. Bruce Eades

First Vice: Bill Napier

Second Vice: Randy Wood

Third Vice: Roberta Humphrey

Chaplain: Mike James

Finance: David Drayer

Adjutant: Phil Grimm

Historian: Al Underwood

Judge Advocate: Pat Kelly

Sgt. At Arms: Mary Sue Garrison

Athletic Officer: Solomon McCauley

Service Officer: Gary Hegemier

Rental Agent: vacant

At Large Officers:

Lowell Badgley

Richard Severin

George Shadman

Andy Meade

Boyd Knott

Legionnaire of the Year:

Randy Wood

Marching our way through the Pandemic shut down the past year has proved challenging. We, at Post 74 American Legion Family strive to continue to serve our community, all the while trying to “be there” for our Veteran Brothers and Sisters and their families!

Yes, our volunteers all had to find new ways to accomplish our mission...to serve! First, we learned to have ZOOM meetings to pay our bills and maintain our Post home. Our Post Home is normally used by a dozen organizations for their monthly meetings. Then, early morning on the last Monday in May, we streamed a Memorial Day Ceremony on Facebook with, nine of our members at The Dogwood Vietnam Memorial (Phase 1 mask and social distancing). As we went into Phase 2 (again masks and distancing), we facebook streamed on Flag Day, June 14th, the replacing of our post home flags and a formal retiring of unserviceable flags, with Department of Virginia Commander A.B. Brown as our guest speaker. He also used our post home to virtually reach out to all Virginia Posts to provide Covid 19 protocols and their impact on the Legion. Phase 3 allowed us to hold two outside parking lot events. On Oct 4th we held a drive-through 101st American Legion Post 74 Birthday box lunch pick-up and on December 12th a very successful Toys for Tots Drop off hosted by our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 74, along with the Bradley T. Arms Detachment of the Marine Corps League and of course our Legionnaires!

Throughout 2020, we had to cancel many of our normal community youth events such as American Legion Baseball and Boy’s State. Fortunately, we have been able to support our area High School students in oratorical competitions, essay contest, and by awarding college scholarships virtually! This spring, we are able to sponsor a limited attendance at Boys State, a shortened Legion Baseball season and UVA, JMU and Liberty University’s ROTC programs with over a dozen awards for 2020-2021.

As for our members, we conducted a weekly “Buddy Checks Program”, monthly ROBO calls and newsletter mailings to try and stay in touch during this difficult stretch. As of January 2021, our Honor Guard resumed conducting outdoor funerals, honoring our Veterans by playing taps and firing three rifle volleys from a nearby hill. Hopefully, all this has helped us to march through this ugly pandemic in the absence of normal camaraderie to which we have grown accustomed! **I am sure the question on everyone’s mind is “When will we be able to get our life back to normal?”**

Bruce Eades

MEMBERSHIP THROUGH March 2021

To help those less fortunate and to help with membership, donations are being accepted in increments of \$35. To achieve the current goal of 100%, we need 117 additional renewals by 7 April 2021. Our membership team is currently contacting those who have yet to renew.

Renewals	PUFLs	New Members	Transfers	Total Membership	Goal for the Year	Percent of Goal Met
514	148	12		674	791	85.2%

For those who have not renewed for 2021, please consider remitting your dues now of \$35.

Your membership is the life blood of American Legion Post 74

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 74
Unit President Ruthann Brown
rsk8mom@aol.com

"100 Years of Honoring Service"

Girl State will be held virtually, June 25-28, cost is \$100. If interested please contact Ruthann ASAP as deadline is fast approaching. Send us reports on any of your volunteer hours, donations made, good deeds; we know you have been busy! **Year End reports are due to Department by 15 April.** As of 17 March, membership is 73%. We need 22 renewals to reach 100%. Please mail membership renewal to PO Box 364, Crozet, VA 22936.



**S.A.L. (Sons of American Legion) Squadron 74
Commander Lowell Badgley**

Please keep a log for your volunteer hours as final consolidated reports are due in May. Don't forget to submit your renewal of \$15 for membership. Wearing of facial mask/shield and social distancing are



American Legion Riders Chapter 74

Website: www.al74riders.com Email: info@al74riders.com

Director: Bob Humphrey , wrench58@embarqmail.com

Improving weather conditions should soon allow for getting back on the road again. Keep in mind, potential left over road debris that may cause handling challenges or damage to your ride. Preventive maintenance **cannot be over emphasized** for road worthiness of your ride and personal safety. Continue to practice COVID-19 CDC recommended guidelines.



Blue Star Families of Central Virginia

Martha Horsfall, , horsfalljm@comcast.net

Mailing Address: Blue Star Families Of Central VA, PO BOX 5182
Charlottesville, VA 22905-5182 **Website:** www.bsfcv.avenue.org

IT'S GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME!!!! Our next pack-out is scheduled for April 21. Through the generosity of Girl Scout troops in the area, we will be shipping GS cookies to our deployed service members. If you know of anyone who will be deployed at that time, please let us know so we can include them in our pack-out.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 5, 2021 for the "4 Our Freedom 5K" that will benefit 8 local veteran/military organizations. You can run/walk the 5K in person or virtually. Just go to runsignup.com and enter the name "4 Our Freedom 5K" for more information. We would love to see you there!!!



Disabled American Veterans Chapter 33

DAV Commander: Bob Clouser Robertclouser@msn.com

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary

DAVA Commander: Amanda Schaad



House Committee Report—Lowell Badgley

We need help in replenishing tools as our stock pile is dwindling due to normal wear and tear in the upkeep and beautification of our post home; phillips and flat head screwdrivers, crescent wench. The tools can be *gently used* and extras you no longer have a need for. Thank you for your donation.

Soon will be election of Post Officers. If interested in serving as a member of the Post Executive Committee, please contact any of our At Large members or leave a message for them at the post. Deadline is 5 May 2021.



**American Legion Post 74
Charlottesville & Albemarle, Inc.
P.O. Box 6566
Charlottesville, VA 22906-6566**



To American Legion members of Post 74:

If you are a current registered user of American Legion national websites and have tried to sign on, you probably noticed the new login screen and re-registration requirement. The American Legion has created a new single sign-on process as its first stage of a multi-stage rollout that will allow The American Legion to provide a streamlined and better user experience within its web environment.

To begin your one-time single sign-on process, current registered users of American Legion web assets must re-register. This re-registration will allow members and non-members to continue accessing the valuable information and tools provided on:

- MyLegion.org - Legion.org - Legiontown.org - Centennial.legion.org - Burnpit.us - Baseball.legion.org

(Note: this requirement does not currently apply to registered users of the Emblem Sales website.)

The new platform that The American Legion is moving to requires each user to have a unique email address as the username. This, in conjunction with a move from a vendor proprietary system, which required the Legion to renew accounts for all American Legion web properties. Please note that all member information is still within My Legion, securely and safely housed.

Your five steps to re-register:

- 1. Click the "Sign In" tab** on any American Legion web property. You will be taken to the single sign-on site.
- 2. Click "Register as a new user."** Fill in the entire form using your best contact email address and member ID (if applicable). All information you provide is kept safe and secure.
- 3. Enter and confirm your new password of choice.**
- 4. Click "Finish"** to receive your confirmation email.
- 5. Click the link to confirm your new account in the confirmation email** (check your junk email inbox). The provided email will be from sso@legion.org.

When you register as a new user, please fill out the entire profile to continue accessing member-only benefits such as discount codes, the ability to print membership card and manage membership renewal all through MyLegion.org.



Greeting from Chaplain Mike James,

The U.S. Defense Pow/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) made the following announcement. On March 4th, the U.S. government forensic team stated they have identified the remains for Father Emil Kapaun, a priest who was an Army Chaplain and died in a Chinese prisoner-of-war camp during the Korean War on May 23, 2051. The DPAA recently concluded that Father Kapaun was among the unidentified soldiers buried in the Nation Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. Remains of many U.S. soldiers were moved from North Korean burial sites to Hawaii in the 1950's and 1990's. Kapaun's family is planning a final resting place for Father Kapaun's remains.

Father Kapaun division engaged in several skirmishes with the KPA but had to retreat each time. Kapaun and his assistant learned of a wounded soldier stranded by enemy machine gun and small arms fire during one of these retreats. Knowing that no litter bearers were available, the two braved the enemy fire and saved the man's life, for which Kapaun was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and a "V" device for valor. Throughout the months of fighting, Kapaun gained a reputation for bravely serving the troops, rescuing the wounded and dead, and ministering to the living. Several times his Jeep and trailer were destroyed by enemy fire. In letters home, he shared that he was thoroughly convinced that others' prayers helped him survive. The White House in 2013 posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor.

With the administering of Covid immunizations and the decrease in the number of Covid cases we should be getting closer to opening our beautiful Legion hall for our Post 74 meetings. I know we have all missed the great fun, food and spirited discussions. I can hear "Bingo" and remember people smiling and others tearing up their Bingo sheets. I know that we all miss the good times we had together at the post.

I believe that we are doing well because our Lord loves us for the great sacrifice we made and make for our country and our fellow brothers and sisters in service to their country. Or opening the meetings with the pledge of allegiance are words of gold. **We pledge our allegiance!**

Hope you all enjoy this Spring and Happy Easter!

Your Chaplain, Mike James

If you know of someone, or you yourself are ill or in the hospital, feel free to contact

Chaplain Mike James at 309-825-2851.

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255