



Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial  
American Legion Post 626  
Gladstone, MO.

1 Jul 2016  
(Quarterly)

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*Post meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month in the Gladstone Community Center at 7:00 p.m.  
All members are invited to attend.*

### INTRO

At the end of every fiscal year the Historian prepares what is known as the CPR, or Consolidated Post Report. This report tells National what kind of work our Post is doing for our veterans, children and the community as a whole. In turn National annually reports that information to Congress to justify our Charter. And I'll tell you, our numbers look pretty good. Just a couple of them are; 3,284 volunteer hours at the VA with 5,890 *reported* community service hours altogether, \$615 donated to Volunteer Services at the VAMC, 5 VA Volunteers, 8 students sponsored to Boys State, attended 10 community events, a closing membership of 256, \$900 raised and distributed to local charities and the formation of a certified Honor Guard to give the graveside respect due to veterans and represent our Post in the community.

Outstanding year Legionnaires, thank you for making it happen!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new Legion members; SSG Derek Bloss, an active duty Army Soldier with our local recruiting depot, Joe Cavellaro a Navy Veteran from the Vietnam War era and LT Jessica Farris, a newly minted active duty Air Force Officer on assignment to Wright Paterson in Ohio and our HG Captains Grand Daughter. No offense Joe, but it sure is good to see a younger generation stepping up. And in about 40 years (or sooner) when life slows down for them, let's hope they become active members.

We don't have any information on two transferees that National sent us yet but we are endeavoring to catch up with Bob Elliot and Steve Smith. Email or Call us gentlemen.

**Welcome All!**

### WHAT HAPPENED

**Post 95** in Liberty had a nice **spaghetti dinner fundraiser** on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Only three of us from the Post made it. There was good food, a chance to see people we hadn't for a while and lots of door prizes. Thanks 95, see you next year!

This quarters **District Meeting** was on Apr 10th and was hosted by Post 58 in Smithville. Some notes from the meeting;

- Ronnie McBee, Post 95's service Officer and the Legions VSO at the KC VAMC was there with a few hospital updates
  - ER expansion is going well. When the new part is done they will use it, then update the old part and finally use the whole expanded area.
  - The ground has been broken for the 400 space parking garage.

- Issues with the Veterans Choice Card are being worked on.
- The Hospital has been without a Catholic Priest for some time. They are talking to the local diocesis to possibly get a “loner”.
- Boys State applications in our District were lower than normal this year. We sent 34 students and have 23 on standby.
- The District had 3 Cadet Patrol applicants, all paid for by Post 58.

A **Membership Meeting** was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> which went really long due to the amount of events we have going on in May. Candidates for Post Officers and Executive Committee were announced to be voted on at the next membership meeting. The Executive is staying the same as are most of the officers. The only changes are Gaila Sullivan taking Robert Owens place as Sgt. at Arms, Craig Lantz replacing Robert Courtney as Chaplain and Douglas Millison taking over for Robert Box as SR Vice. No, we are not purging all of the Roberts from our leadership rolls...

The Elks held a **scholarship fundraising breakfast** on Apr 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. We had 6 Legionnaires and two spouses attend at 0800 on the 30<sup>th</sup> to show our Posts support for what the Elks do for the youth of our community. We do plan on doing this every year and it would be great to see more people attend!!



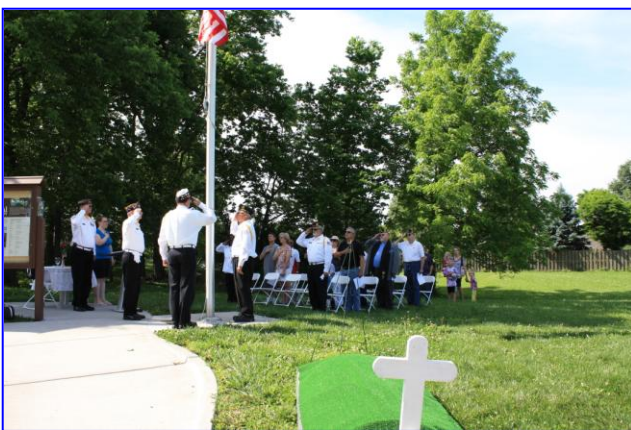
**Peace Officers Memorial Day** ceremony May 15<sup>th</sup> was short and sweet. Only four Legionnaires showed up (Duncan, Braton, Mallams, and Millison) along with four police officers. It was a good opportunity to meet some of our young officers and show them a little of the respect that they deserve.

Two Antioch Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> graders received the **American Legion School Award** from Commander Duncan and JR Vice CDR Braton on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May at their annual class breakfast.

The City of Gladstone, your American Legion Post, and VFW Post 10906 hosted the **Armed Forces Day celebration** on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May at Big Shoal Cemetery and Linden Square. We had moderate crowds at both venues even though the weather was much nicer than the last two years. There were definitely less veterans present to do the walk on, which was disappointing. Many of us thought that the program itself was much better with all of the events taking place on the stage and the music finishing up the day. The Missouri National Guard brought in an artillery piece for everyone to look at and one young man was inducted into the Army. All in all a good day but we definitely need more veterans like you to participate!

**Elections** were held for the officers and executive committee at the Membership Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. Results were the same as written above. Installation of the Officers will be on July 14, see below...

The Biannual **Poppy Sale** at Walmart was held on May 28<sup>th</sup> and \$948 was donated to the Posts VA&R Fund. Thank you Duncan, Beer, Braton, Sullivan, Robertson, Lester, Mallams, Owens, Papert, Farris, and Millison for volunteering your day. We did run out of Poppies in the last couple of hours, but that will get fixed for next year.



Our annual **Memorial Day ceremony** was held at the Big Shoal Cemetery at 1000 hrs on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Former Mayor and Post Commander Wayne Beer was the guest speaker, Bill McDonald lead the Pledge of allegiance, Jerry Braton placed the wreath and Gaila Sullivan presented the POW/MIA table. Thanks to them and to the Honor Guard for presenting a nice ceremony.

We had many volunteers helping out with the **20<sup>th</sup> Gladstone Blues Fest** on June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>. From set up to tear down, the Posting of the Colors and running the concessions in-between we did a great job and the Gladstone Chamber of commerce was very grateful for our help. It also earned us \$300 in advertising

during the event. On the plus side, all of our volunteers had a fun time and we can probably get them to do it again next year. Thanks to the Honor Guard (Farris, Millison, Beer, and McDonald) for the great job they did on the colors and all of the member helpers; Duncan, Millison, Bresee (from unit 61), Robertson, Farris, Rosales, Sullivan, and non-member Ferguson for a successful event.



A **Veterans Benefits Fair** was held at Post 95 on June 11<sup>th</sup> and our Post supplied more volunteers to help run it than any other organization. Thank you Rosales, Box, Braton, Duncan, and Millison for your help. Unfortunately only four veterans showed up for help! Some issues that may have contributed to that are being addressed for when they hold the next one. But if you help only one, you have made a difference to that one.

Another **District meeting** was held in Belton on 12 June and it was decided to move the lunch/meeting time from 1200/1300 to a meeting/meal schedule of 1400 with the meal immediately following adjournment. We hope that this will give more people an opportunity to attend after church or whatever else they are doing. It was also announced and voted on (again) that the district host a hospitality room at the Department Convention that is in Kansas City this year. And unfortunately 3 rural District Posts are or will be closed soon. Gilman City, Holt, and Kidder are finding it impossible to stay open. That is something that comes from a lack of PARTICIPATION unfortunately.

Our **Executive Committee** meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. We discussed the possibility of moving our Membership Meetings to the Third Thursday of the month. This will eliminate the confusion for those 3 months out of the year that we have to move it from the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to Holidays and Corporate Challenge. It will be discussed at the next membership meeting (still on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday). It may not change if there are scheduling conflicts with the hall, so just put it in the back of your mind until we tell you otherwise.

**Boys State** is held on MSU's Warrensburg campus from June 19<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. I checked online and found 9 of the 10 Oak Park candidates, 4 of the 7 Staley candidates and 3 of the 3 St. Pius candidates on the city rosters. One Oak Park and 2 Staley students are not on the roster at all because they could not come due to unforeseen circumstances (our #5 and #6 picks among them) and one Staley student was on the standby list and could have gone but did not answer any attempts to contact him.



Joe Farris and Doug Millison went to see how things are run down there on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June and stayed for part of the Legion appreciation event that evening. It is quite an eye opener to go and see first-hand what goes on and to talk to the young men and the counselors involved in this intense "week to last a lifetime". Two of our Oak Park students followed us from the Senate Chamber over to the House and then waited for us to come out just to say hi and to show their appreciation for Post 626 sponsoring them. For those involved in picking the kids, and the donors also, you should go down at least once. An idea for next year could be to invite the school counselors who are involved in the process to join some Legionnaires on a field trip.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June the Honor Guard, with the assistance of Joe's Grand Daughter LT Jessica Farris signing the National Anthem, conducted a **Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony** at the newly constructed Linden Woods Village on 72<sup>nd</sup> after which Past Post Commander and Former Mayor Wayne Beer gave a nice patriotic speech on the meaning of the flag and the valor of the Military and First Responders who serve under it. Their conduct and professionalism was well received by the residents.

The **Honor Guard** passed their **certification** test on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Big Shoal Cemetery. Now that they are certified they will be getting calls to perform gravesite honors in the area. We hope that more people join the guard to help spread-out



the workload; it takes 5 to do it properly with a minimum of 3 rifles. It would be easy to burn out and quiet if the same people do it over and over. Think of it this way, who's going to do it for you then if you won't do it for them now? (If you are physically able of course)

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** *(Go ahead, get out your calendar now while you're thinking about it...)*

**Post membership meetings** will be held at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N Holmes St., every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1900 (7PM). (Jul 28, Aug 25, Sep 22) *(This may change!!! We will send an email if it does.)*

Post members will be at the Gladstone Walmart on 2 July from 1000 to 1400 raising money by **selling patriotic buttons**. Come by to get yours or just say Hi. Funds raised in this way support our philanthropy to other charities, the July I&I ceremony and some of our other expenses.

**Department Convention** is from 6 to 10 July and is being held locally at the Embassy Suites –Kansas City-International Airport 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Pkwy Kansas City, MO 64153. The Post Store will have a table set up selling pins and other Veteran or patriotic memorabilia so come on by and say hi. You must be a delegate to attend meetings and such but you can still observe a lot of the hub-bub, show your support for the Legion and buy some stuff. There are usually lots of raffles in the lobby also.

**The Posts Initiation and Induction ceremony** potluck will be on July 14th at 1830 and will be held at Jarchow-Schroeder Post 61, 5125 N Bellaire, Kansas City 64119 (just outside Claycomo). Please hold the date and RSVP!! This is how we welcome and recognize those who are new to the Legion or transferred in from Post 1000 or have passed your 5 year anniversary (5-10-15 and so on). We would love to get to meet more of you, and every 5 years wouldn't be too much would it?? Spouses are encouraged and more details have been sent in a separate flyer which is also attached to this email. It is not too late to **RSVP NOW!**

Please attend if you can. It is not every year that we can get a guest speaker of this caliber.

There will be **NO AIRSHOW in August** this year.

If someone steps up to be the Fundraising Chair or form a Special Committee to take on the **Button Sales** to raise money for the Post there will be Button Sales at Walmart on 9/11 (Sunday). That would be a great way to get involved if you can't do Honor Guard (or while doing it). The program was implemented by the previous Chairman and everything is written down and set up, he will also assist as much as possible.

The next Newsletter will be 1 Oct.

**VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION** – Douglas Millison, VA&R Chairman

Gaila Sullivan presented our biannual check for \$100 to the Veterans Home in Cameron in June. She is also coordinating dates for us to host an activity there in November. They say Bingo and Pizza Parties are a big hit! She will also be coordinating with Antioch Middle School in the fall to do a supply drive for the home at the same time. Again, welcome aboard Gaila and thank you for stepping up!

Millison will propose a change in the budget at the next Executive Committee budget meeting that our donations change from two donations of \$100 (May and Nov), to one donation of 10% of the previous year's Poppy Sales take. (\$260 this year)



**SOCIAL MEDIA** – Douglas Millison, Internet Administrator

The Post will place your **business card** on our Facebook page and website if you own or are a partner in your own business. If someone clicks on that card on the website it will link directly to your website if you have one. That's some great free advertising and could be used to entice someone to join! I'm not an expert but maybe they could claim the membership on their tax's as an advertising expense? Contact the Internet Administrator for details. (Doug Millison, [dwmillison7@gmail.com](mailto:dwmillison7@gmail.com))

With a MyLegion account you can change your personal information; sign up for e-newsletters like the commanders message, Riders chapter, ½ staff notices, online updates of all things legion, legislative affairs and member discounts; donate directly to Legion charities like Soldiers Wish, CWF, OCW, and NEF. Why aren't you signed up?

**MEMBERSHIP** – Douglas Millison, Chairman elect.

We encourage you to think of membership in three layers **Recruitment, Retention and Revitalization**. Ask a veteran to join, become a Paid up for Life member, and help us get even more active in the community than we are, spreading the word about our organization. Tell them about the Business Card advertising incentive if they fit that category.

If you know someone that is interested in joining The American Legion and becoming part of the voice that speaks up for Veterans, put them in contact with our new SR Vice Commander Douglas Millison at 816-509-5247 (yes, me again) or Commander Nelson Duncan at 816-392-0972, [yolegend2@aol.com](mailto:yolegend2@aol.com), our website [www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com), or they can go online at [www.think-legion.org](http://www.think-legion.org). It is also a good idea to keep an application in your wallet and know the eligibility requirements. We are losing ground and need your help to maintain the organizations strength in numbers which translates to political clout and dollars to pay our Veterans Service Officers and other staff. We need you to be proactive. Ask your coworkers, boss, poker buddies, doctor and barber/hairstylist to become members.

**And just so you know, we really do appreciate your continued membership!!**

**HONOR GUARD** – Joe Farris, Captain, Honor Guard



The Honor Guard was busy in the month of June. In addition to our weekly drills, we performed a flag ceremony to open Bluesfest and a flagpole dedication at the newly opened Linden Woods Village retirement facility. Our certification tryout was held on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 hours and we passed with flying colors. We are now certified and will be providing final honors to our Veterans.

I would also like to thank Don Pind for volunteering his time to be the HG Armorer. He has graciously cleaned, oiled and fixed our M1 Garand's as needed. He runs Professional Firearms Consultants out of Show-Me-Shooters in Claycomo. If you are looking for some firearms training or your CCW permit pay him a visit and let him know Post 626 recommended him! ([www.pfc-guns.com](http://www.pfc-guns.com))



Once again, PLEASE give thoughtful consideration to joining the Honor Guard. We desperately need at least two more members. If you have any questions or would like more information **don't hesitate to call me at 816-536-2713**.

**DID YOU KNOW?** – **Old Dogs Can Still Learn** by Phyllis Rosales, Adjutant

Did you know that Missouri has over 30 different types of military and veteran personalized license plates available to qualified individuals? Any surviving spouse of a qualified individual would still be able to obtain the plate as long as the spouse does not remarry.

I took advantage of this benefit as soon as the state released the woman veteran license plate. I had to come up with several different choices for my plate, include the fee, and a copy of my DD214. When the plates were ready, they were

sent to the DMV that I requested and I traded my current plates for my personalized ones. That was over two years ago, and I have only seen one other woman veteran plate in my outings.

Another bit of information I just learned involves disability tags. A person who presents proof of permanent disability from the United States Veterans Administration is exempt from the four-year certification requirement for renewal of disabled license plates or placards. Initial applications must include a physician's statement confirming the individual's disability.

Missouri also offers free parking for certain veterans. Upon the approval of a local authority's governing body, a Veteran displaying a Congressional Medal of Honor, Prisoner of War, Silver Star, or Purple Heart specialty license plate may park his or her motor vehicle without charge in a metered parking space within the authority's jurisdiction if it is less than 6,000 pound gross weight. A Veteran who has been awarded the Bronze Star may apply to the Director of the Department of Revenue for a windshield placard which will allow him or her to also park without charge in a metered parking space if the placard is hung from the front, middle rearview mirror or displayed on the dashboard on the driver's side if there is no rearview mirror. Certain vehicle and parking restrictions are specified.

I want to tell you about one more thing Missouri has to offer her veterans that I personally took advantage of and have used several times. Missouri offers Veterans Identification on Driver's Licenses or State I.D. cards. Most veterans rely on their DD214 to prove their veteran status. Missouri has a VETERAN banner to the left of the bar code on the back of your drivers license to prove your status as a veteran. You can do this at any time at any DMV. You will need to bring a copy of your DD214 and the money to pay for a new drivers license. I waited until mine was going to expire because it was within a few months, but had it been years, I would have gladly paid to get a new license. I was able to prove to some unbelievers on Veterans Day that I did qualify for a free dinner.

The state offers many other benefits to veterans and active duty. If you want more information contact Missouri Veterans Commission, 205 Jefferson Street, 12th floor, P.O.Drawer 147, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0147, 573-751-3779, or [movets@mvc.dps.mo.gov](mailto:movets@mvc.dps.mo.gov).

## TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that the following Legionnaires have been transferred to Post Everlasting:

**Richard Eitel**, a member since 2006 from the Korean War era, branch unknown.

**Harold McDowel**, a 20 year Legionnaire, and a Navy WWII Veteran.

**Harry D. Hutton JR**, a Legionnaire for 9 years and an Army Veteran of WWII.

## PARTING SHOTS

**Volunteer Opportunities**, Cancer Action Workshop – This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 0900 to 1200 at the Gladstone Community Center. Their main goal is to make bed pads for cancer patients. There are many jobs to do and they do not all involve sewing. Call 816-423-4086 for more information.

**Gladstone is seeking school crossing guards**. This is a payed position. If you are interested contact Sergeant Chris Smith at 816-423-4048.

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**Content changes, so hold on to old Newsletters for reference!**

Remember to visit [www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com) and click on Facebook *often* for updates.

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Douglas Millison, Editor, at [dwmillison7@gmail.com](mailto:dwmillison7@gmail.com) or 816-509-5247. Requests must be received before or at the Executive Committee meeting prior to the release date to be in the current Newsletter.