



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

1 Jan 2017
(Quarterly)

PO Box 10613
Gladstone MO 64188
(816) 787-1548 (Voicemail)
bennettherrick626@gmail.com
www.al626mo.com

Nelson Duncan, Commander Phyllis Rosales, Adjutant
(816) 392-0972 (816) 453-5842

*Post meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Gladstone Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
All members are invited to attend.*

INTRO

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!

We hope that everyone had an outstanding holiday season, and that you still have jobs or other forms of income to pay the results! Fall and early winter is always a busy time for us with family, community, and Veteran commitments. We participated in the Gladfest parade, the Scarecrow 5K which benefitted the Northland Christmas Store, in honor of Veterans Day we helped with Honor Flight, attended Antioch Middle Schools Veterans Day program, and had our Poppy Sales event at Walmart which the residents at Linden Woods Village helped out by fluffing over 1,400 poppies for us. Our Volunteer team was active in our community, supporting Gladfest, the Bill Cross 5K which supports the Backsnack program in Northland Schools, Honor Flight Network of KC, a Bingo and Pizza Party at the Veterans Home in Cameron and our own end of year party.

I don't know about you, but it makes me feel really good to be a part of Post 626 when I see all that we can accomplish.

It was brought up at the Executive Committee meeting and then voted on at the Membership Meeting that we **move our Monthly Membership Meeting to the Third Thursday of every month**. This will alleviate the problem of moving meetings to the third Thursday 3 times a year. The motion passed and EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY the Monthly Membership Meeting will be on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Do you retire this year, or have you retired and have a hard time finding a meaningful hobby? ***Come get active!!*** We do a lot and there is much more that can be done using existing Legion programs. If not, you can make it up! We will support you if it is a worthwhile project that supports our community and/or veterans. Talk to a Legion officer or committee member about rolling up your sleeves and joining in.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New to the Legion this quarter is Gerald Schmidt, an Army Veteran of the Vietnam era and WWI Museum Volunteer, and Alvin Trusty, a Navy veteran from the Vietnam era who is a Volunteer at the KCMO VA hospital. Transferring in from Post 1000 are David Pont, Henry Bray, Zenas Sherlock, Billy Thompson, Raymond Wahl, Stephen Wawrzyniak and Howard Otis. Transferring in from other Posts are Richard Ward from Post 202 in Columbia MO, Jeffrey Dunker from Post 370 in Overland Park KS, Jeb Coy from Post 318 in Parkville MO and Commissioner Gene Owen from KC Post 61.

Welcome All!

WHAT HAPPENED

Our Post was invited to lead this year's Gladfest **Parade** on October 1st with our Honor Guard. That opportunity doesn't come around very often and we did our best with only two members who felt comfortable walking the one-mile route length, so no rifles were used. (Thank you, Joe Farris and Douglas Millison.) The trailer followed close behind and Kim Murch walked the whole route passing out candy. A very large turnout of spectators lined the course, a fun time was had by all. Remember, we welcome ALL MEMBERS to come out with us on these parades. Our Honor Guard also presented the colors for the city's annual **Scarecrow 5K** run on October 2nd. Lots of good PR happening at this year's Gladfest! If you would like to help the Honor Guard with some of these events, contact Joe Farris at 816-536-2713. We could use your help!



On the Volunteer front Tara Robertson and Doug Millison helped out by working with the Chamber of Commerce to set up for **Gladfest** and worked a shift at the beer tent. They sure do appreciate our help and support!

Volunteers helped at the **annual Bill Cross 5K** which benefits the Backsnack program across the Northland. Backsnack teams up with Harvesters and makes sure that kids take food home with them over the weekend. Doug Millison and his wife Michelle Bresee (Aux Unit 61) helped with packet pick-up on Saturday the 8th and then competed in the run on the 9th, coming in 4th and 3rd (respectively) in their age groups. Gaila Sullivan arrived at o-dark-thirty and set up the refreshment table, staying until everyone was done and gone.



Post members teamed up with residents of **Linden Woods Village** to fluff poppies getting them ready for November. When we buy the poppies from the Auxiliary they arrive crammed into the smallest box possible and really get flattened out. Members and residents breathed life into over 1,400 poppies in an hour getting them ready for our sale at Walmart on the 6th of November.

Commander Nelson and Adjutant Rosales manned a table at the city's **Friday Fright Night** at Oak Grove Park on October 21st. It is a large affair with Chamber of Commerce setting up tables for kids to Trick or Treat at. Thank you Kim Murch for donating the candy!

The **Department Fall Conference** was held in Jefferson City as usual, 21-23 Oct. The big news was that the Post was awarded the National Commanders Post Excellence Award. This award is given to Posts that can demonstrate their excellence in main areas of concern to the American Legion. To qualify for the award, the Post is required to achieve a standard of participation in each of four areas; membership, youth activities, community service and support to currently serving troops and veterans. Only Post 626 received the award at this year's Department (State) conference. A District Vice Commander received it from the Department Commander and the District Commander R.E. Holtz presented the award to Commander Nelson Duncan during a Post meeting at the Gladstone Community Center on October 27th. "It's my pleasure to present this award on behalf of the American Legion to such a fine Post, said Holtz. "It just shows how much this group does for veterans and the community."

The award reads: Post 626 "Has demonstrated excellence in serving their community above and beyond all expectations. In keeping with the aims or our preamble, this Post and its members have displayed exemplary efforts through their devotion to mutual helpfulness. The Posts exemplary efforts deserve recognition for their support of the programs and activities of the American Legion, all the while being an asset in their community."



The Post Historian who also sits on the Department Centennial Committee attended that meeting. The committee is finalizing the details surrounding the Centennial Convention in ST Louis as well as promoting the Legions Centennial across the State. The Historian has Challenge Coins that were produced to raise funds for

this event and if you want one of these fine-looking coins they can be purchased from him for \$8 each. BUT WAIT, there's more. For just another \$20 you can enter a drawing for an intricately decorated American Legion Edition Colt 1911 pistol. Only 500 tickets are being sold, so get yours NOW! Centennial cap pins are also available for \$5.

Some other highlights from the meeting;

- Bret Reistad, the endorsed candidate for National Commander in two years visited for the weekend giving us his background.
- The Legacy Ride will pass through Legion Park in St. Louise in 2018 or 2019 to pick up the time capsule encase there and bring it back to Indianapolis for the 2019 Convention.
- We are still trying to increase membership and ask that every member just recruit one more.
- The National Executive Committee has passed a resolution that states anyone not rendering proper respect to the flag during a Legion program will be ejected from the event.
- Last year Legion members donated 4 Million volunteer hours and 76,000 pints of blood.
- The Legion has pressured the VA to move away from the automated 1010EZ forms for health care enrolment because they were too hard to use. There are still other problems in the system slowing down enrolments which reduces the backlog because less claimants are getting in. We are still working on them to get the system working more efficiently.
- The scholarship forms are being updated and new ones should be sent to the schools shortly. Same deadline, but more money is available.
- A little late for this printing but our Department Legislative Committee Chairman Richard Heigert reminds us to NOT wear any Legion apparel at political events to avoid the possibility that your presence would be mistaken for Legion endorsement of that candidate. Remember that for the next cycle.
- Training was available in Membership and Americanism programs to include Children and Youth. This may become a mainstay of the spring conferences.



The Historian picked up our 3rd consecutive Toot Your Horn Award for our PR efforts (Left).

SEE what you miss!



Honor Flight Network of Kansas City held a meet and greet on October 29th for their 3 November flight to DC (Right). Commander Duncan, Millison and Robertson volunteered to help out with set-up and whatever else was needed and including staying through clean up. When the flight came in on the 3rd at 2200 Millison and Rosales were there to greet them.

A big THANK YOU to members Armstrong, Duncan, Braton, Box, Robertson, Mallams, Sullivan, Murch, McDonald, Lester, Thompson and Millison for the usual great work collecting **Poppy Fund Donations** on the Sunday prior to Veterans Day (6th) at Walmart. We had enough people to run 2 four hour shifts so that we could stay from 0800 to 1600. We ran out of Poppies early but still raised over \$1,500!! All proceeds are used for the benefit of Veterans.

On **Veterans Day**, several members went to the Antioch Middle School for their program. We started out in the classrooms answering questions about our experiences in the military and then went to the auditorium for a short program. The kids left the auditorium before we did and lined the hallway for our exit, clapping and cheering. It was a great

heartwarming experience. Mr. Benes arranged the program and thanked us for participating, saying it was a great experience for the kids as well.

Bingo and Pizza at Cameron Veterans Home - Remembering Our Veterans – By Gaila Sullivan

On November the 22nd six members of American Legion Post 626 visited Cameron Veterans Home to present purchased and donated items by both our Post and the Antioch Middle School students.

The items were given to Post 626 members while attending the schools Veterans Day Tribute. The Antioch Middle School students expressed their desire to support and show appreciation to the Veterans by donating 3 boxes loaded with particulars needed and desired by the Veterans/residents. The afternoon was fun filled with 2 special activities sponsored by Post 626 an hour of Bingo which was followed by pizza for everyone.

The Veterans were very appreciative of all the donations, their visitors, bingo, and especially the pizza. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Antioch Middle School Staff, Students and a special Thank You to Mr. Jeff Benes Middle School project coordinator and Post 626 members, Duncan, Box, Farris, Lester for joining me on the trip to the Cameron Veterans Home.



Wreaths Across America (Left) was scheduled for the 17 of December at the White Chapel Cemetery but was postponed to the 24th due to icy roadways. Members Farris, Braton, Box, Robertson, Thompson, Sullivan, and Millison were on hand to place wreaths on the graves of Bennett and Dennis Herrick as well as their parents who were Charter Members of Post 626. We also assisted Bob Box to place a wreath on the resting place of his wife.

The **Mega 50/50** drawing was held during the December meeting with \$321 going to the Post and \$320 going to Sr. Vice Millison.

The **End of Year Party** was held at Post 61 on the 29th of December at 1830 Hrs. The Post kicked in for Fried Chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy from HyVee and members brought other goodies to share. Over 24 members and guest showed up after a spate of cancelations due to sickness. Everyone brought very good food that we all shared and we got the chance to learn something about our Postmates that we don't get a chance to sit down and talk to very often. Good comradery was had by all. A special thanks to Post 61 for letting us use their building!

Post 61 member and District Vice Commander Calvin Bumgarner was there and shared a personal story with us. After our Initiation and Instillation ceremony was held in July his picture was posted on our Facebook page. A woman who was looking for her father's long lost half brother had been searching pictures and names on the web in the KC area and recognized Calvin as the person she was looking for. She contacted our Internet Administrator who contacted Calvin and long story short, they will be meeting in California in a couple of weeks after a 40-year separation! See- so Like and Share our postings on our Facebook page!!



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 3rd Thursday of the month at 1900 (7PM). Jan 19th, Feb 16th and Mar 16th.

This quarters **District Meeting** is at Post 216 on 8 Jan at 1400. (32932 MO-13, Bethany MO 64424)

The **District Oratorical Contest** will be held at Post 58 on January 15th at 1400hrs. (2607 NW HWY 92 E, Smithville MO. 64089). EVERYONE is invited! It doesn't say much for our own programs if only a few interested party's show up for the contest. It's educational and informative, the kids are definitely impressive in their scope of knowledge and I'm sure would rather look out on an audience rather than just the judges and their family.

A **Veterans Luncheon** will be held on February 16th at 1130 Hrs. This luncheon is to benefit the Saint Michael's Veterans Center in KC. The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Greater KC is hosting this fundraising event at Post 21 (16701 E Hwy 40 Independence MO). Our Post is sponsoring a table of 8 for \$300. We had a sealed bid auction for our 8 seats and Cdr. Nelson (+1), Sr. Vice Millison (+1), Sgt. at Arms Sullivan, Finance Officer Mallams, Tara Robertson and Past Cdr. Box are the lucky attendee's, ponying up another \$367 for St Michael's. Joe Farris made a standalone donation bringing our total donation including the cost of the table to \$717. If someone would like to make a donation on top of that let us know and we can get it to them now or bring it with us to the event.

Department Spring Conference is at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W McCarty St, Jefferson City, MO 65101 February 17 through 19.

March 15 is the designated **birthday of The American Legion**. On that day in 1919 the first American Legion caucus held by members of the American Expeditionary Force was convened in Paris.

CONGRATULATIONS

5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years	30 Years	45 Years	60 Yrs
Mahoney	Bennett D.	Elmore	Ward	Findley	Box	Alenduff	Leed
Mallams	Braton	Englund		Huggins	Deery	Nelson H.	
Roper	Bray	Furney		Zollman	Hoffman		
Sullivan	Claibourn	Hodges			Smith J.S.		
	Crookshank	Martin			Therling		
	Goodack				Vance		
	Heath						
	Osborne						
	Pappert						
	Prock						

A certificate will be issued to you all during our annual Initiation and Installation Ceremony in July. For those few who have not yet renewed you will be recognized and a certificate printed as you renew. If you recently renewed I may not have you on this list and I apologize. Renew earlier this year, like when it opens in July!!

Last year's certificates that still need to be picked up are Benes, Bloss, Elliott, Ashlock, Auld, Bianchina, Bingham, Boydston, Caldwell, Chapman, Daniel, Ehrhart, George, Hercules, Hibsche, Hudson, Kindler, Leeder, Long, Manoy, Mathieu, McCullogh, McKnight, Neely, Nickell, Norwood, Palmer, Randall, Raye, Rhodes, Rich, Rogers, Simmons, Sollars, Stephans, Suiter, Vongeyso, Wilson, Wolenski and York. **COME TO A MEETING OR CONTACT THE COMMANDER TO RECEIVE YOUR OVERDUE CERTIFICATES PLEASE.**

VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination *at no cost*. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2017.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination.

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to the VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a free flu shot.

- To find your local VA, visit va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp.
- To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENs (800-925-4733), or go to com/findastore.
- To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp.
- To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care strives to provide compassionate care and comfort to our patients and families as they face a life-limiting illness. In order to better serve our patients who are veterans, we partner with We Honor Veterans (www.wehonorveterans.org) to help provide support, recognition and resources to men and women who have served in the military.

We are looking to add to our volunteer base, specifically with veterans who are interested in talking to and visiting patients under KCH&PC care. Training is provided and we match patients and volunteers on a geographical basis, as we serve the entire Kansas City metropolitan area (9 counties). A volunteer veteran providing a few hours per month of their time by visiting a patient in their home could make a significant difference in the life of a patient and their family. In turn, we have learned our volunteers benefit as well, and often get more than they give!

Contact Melissa Basgall, Volunteer Coordinator mbasgall@kchospice.org, 816-941-1048

The KCMO VA hospital has begun a two year construction project to modernize the patient intake area's around the circle drive. Many services have moved including the patient advocate, Release of Information, and Volunteer Escort offices to make way for construction. There will no longer be vehicle access to the Valor Building door for patient drop off. You will drive to the rear near the ER to drop off patients. Lot's off changes, please be patient and think ahead.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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! Contact the Internet Administrator for details. (Doug Millison, dwmillison7@gmail.com)

The VA has a Blog which is a great place to keep up to date on what's going on at the VA.
<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/>

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet renewed, PLEASE DO SO NOW. The American Legion counts on you to help them represent all Veterans in Washington DC. Without the voices of the Veterans Service Organizations like the American Legion, where do you think the military and its Veterans would be right now? **RENEW.** Another reminder notice will be sent out soon by National and you should have it around the 6th.

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.

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 the SR Vice Commander Douglas Millison at 816-509-5247 dwMillison7@gmail.com or Commander Nelson Duncan at 816-392-0972, yolegend2@aol.com , our website www.al626mo.com, or they can go online at 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 in membership due to deaths, age, and interest 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!!

DID YOU KNOW?

On July 20, 2015, the president signed into law the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015. This act allows Veterans to apply for an identification card directly from VA. The VA identification card will allow Veterans to demonstrate proof of service for discounts at private restaurants and businesses.

It should be noted that the identification card is different from a Veteran Health Identification card or a DoD Uniformed Services or retiree ID card. As such, the VA identification cards cannot be used as proof of eligibility to any federal benefits and does not grant access to military installations.

When available, Veterans will be able to request an ID card from VA for a fee. VA is currently making plans to implement the new law in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible while protecting Veterans' personal information. We estimate that VA will be able implement the program in 2017. The cost of each card has not yet been determined.

In the meantime, Veterans who would like an identification card that displays their military service do not have to wait until VA implements the new law. You have several options:

- You can access and print a free Veterans identification proof of service letter through the joint VA/DoD web portal, eBenefits. This serves as proof of honorable service in the Uniformed Services, as defined in laws about the Department of Defense (DoD). Veterans can get a free eBenefits account by going to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.
- Your driver's license or state identification card can carry a Veteran designation. This option is currently available in 49 states, along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. We expect the 50th state, Washington, to offer this service in August 2017. Veterans wanting more information should contact their state department of motor vehicles or state department of Veterans affairs at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.
- Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can obtain a free Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC). For more information, please go to <http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhic/index.asp>.
- Veterans who have retired from military service can receive an identification card from DoD. For information on obtaining or renewing such a card, please contact your nearest DoD identification card facility. You can find the location of these facilities through this link: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi/appj/site>.

TAPS

It is my sad duty to report that the following Legionnaires have been transferred to Post Everlasting: Richard A Davis SR., a Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War era and Thomas Weaver, another Navy Veteran from the Korean War era.

PARTING SHOTS

2016 Honor Guard Report

By:

C. Joe Farris, Captain

2016 was a memorable year for Post 626 in many ways, one of which was the reactivation of the Honor Guard. For many weeks in the winter and spring of 2016 the members of the Honor Guard drilled weekly and got our uniforms assembled in preparation for our “Certification Tryout.” With the help and direction of the Past Captain, Bob Box, and under the leadership of the new Captain, Dan Lester, we finally got to the point where we felt comfortable enough to request a Certification Tryout from the National Guard.

On Saturday, 25 June 2016, at 10:00 hours, location Big Shoal Cemetery, two members of the MO National Guard, Dept. of the Adjutant General of MO put us through the drill and we passed with flying colors! Participating in the tryout were the following: Honorary Captain Bob Box, Dan Lester, Joe Farris, Mike Bland, Bill McDonald, Jerry Braton, Doug Millison and Commander Nelson Duncan. On that date we became eligible to proudly wear the Missouri Military Funeral Honors Program patch on our uniforms which shows that we are certified by the Adjutant General’s office to perform the military honors for deceased veterans. An honor and privilege, not a duty!

Since being certified, Kim Murch, after weeks of training made the “lineup” and has been a very good and loyal addition to the Honor Guard.

Here are some statistics about your Post’s Honor Guard that I am proud to share with you:

Military Funeral Honors were given for: **13 soldiers, 2 Marines, 2 Airmen** (1 of which was US Army Air Corps.)

The Honor Guard generated **\$1,700.00** of revenue for the Post.

In the month of May, 2016, I began keeping track of the Public Service Hours earned by the Honor Guard. From May 1 through December 31, 2016, the Honor Guard performed **415.75** man hours of public service!

I would also like to express my appreciation to Don Pind, our Post Armorer for maintaining our rifles and to the Millisons for the use of their garage as a “drill pad” on those rainy or cold days.

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

Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Douglas Millison, Editor, at 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.