



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



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**1 January 2018**

Web Site Address  
[www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com)

Facebook Address  
[facebook.com/Post626MO](https://facebook.com/Post626MO)

This newsletter is available to  
view on our website

**Upcoming Meetings**

Meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday in the Gladstone  
Community Center, 6901 N  
Holmes St., at 1900 Hrs. (7 PM)

18 January 2018

15 February 2018

15 March 2018

Submit articles and pictures  
for the Newsletter by email to  
the Post (Subject: Newsletter)  
two weeks prior to Quarterly  
publishing. All submissions  
subject to editing.

**Commander Says:**

Happy New Year everyone. As I write this at 0600 hrs. on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> my phone says it is 6 degrees outside. I do not believe I will go out there to check, I already know what that feels like!

Yes, I changed the format of the Newsletter again. We just have way too much information to put out in a three-column format. That's a good thing! We are a very active Post with lots of great members doing outstanding work in the community. I am also hoping that this text block will keep my comments short and to the point. If you want a detailed report on everything that we have done, you'll just have to come to the occasional meeting! And I hope you are reading the National magazine and the Department newspaper, lots of great information in those publications.

The End-Of-Year Party went really well thanks to Gaila and Billy. Everyone got a good meal and a door prize, and there was entertainment by the American Legion Band Wind Ensemble to boot! Nelson won the Mega 50/50 prize of over \$400 so that starts up again at our next meeting. Thanks to those who attended, and for the rest there will be other years.

Thank you everyone for the outstanding activities over the last quarter! We completed Poppy activities for the Veterans, a Children and Youth activity, are continuing work on Americanism programs and utilizing the Honor Guard and Volunteer Team continuously. Your Post ROCKS!

## New Post Members

**Welcome to:** John Cunningham, an Army Veteran from The Vietnam era and National WWI Museum and Memorial Volunteer; Charles Hatler, a Marine Corps Vet also from the Vietnam era; Dwight Brown, an Air Force Vet from the Persian Gulf era; Everett Fisher, an Army Vet of the Vietnam era; George Stratton, a Navy Veteran also of the Vietnam era.

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### Membership

Douglas Robker

***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. If you have already renewed it probably got to them after the print cut off date so just disregard the notice. If you do not get your 2018 card within a month or two of sending in your renewal please contact the Adjutant. Your membership runs from 1 January to 31 Dec, not one year from the date you joined.

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 Robker at 816-490-1397 [douglasrobker@yahoo.com](mailto:douglasrobker@yahoo.com) or Commander Douglas Millison at 816-509-5247 [dwMillison7@gmail.com](mailto:dwMillison7@gmail.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 in membership due to deaths, age, and competing interests 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.

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### Historian

Douglas Millison

Our Yearbooks and all Newsletters since I started this job are available on our website [www.al626mo.com](http://www.al626mo.com) so please take advantage of it.

I am always looking for pictures of past Post activities, so if you come across anything please share it!

If you would like a Department Centennial Coin or Pin I have them at every meeting. \$8 and \$5 respectively. I also have some copies of order forms for the Departments Centennial shirt as well as for our Memorial Brick Program at The National WWI Museum and Memorial, which is part of our Centennial Celebration.

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### **Honor Guard**

C. Joe Farris, Captain

### **“Doing Our Best, 100% of the Time”**

The Honor Guard of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626 had a busy and successful year in 2017! First of all, we were happy to add three new members to the Honor Guard “frontline” when Jeb Coy, David Bowman and Steve Jacobs made the commitment to join us in our mission to give fellow veterans Full Military Honors at their funerals – and to do it in a professional way, following the Arlington National Cemetery Standard.

Also, for the first time, the Honor Guard now has a Quartermaster thanks to our Adjutant Phyllis Rosales who volunteered to relieve the Captain of that responsibility. Thanks Phyllis!

I also want to mention the fact that our Armorer, Don Pind, behind the scenes, works hard to keep our M1 Garand rifles in good working order, no easy job considering how old the rifles are – and he does this without charging the Post a fee. Thanks Don!

And last but not least, those who “make it happen” by being on call seven days a week, every week of the year – rain, snow, freezing cold or sweltering heat and humidity, these guys only say “no” when they have a valid excuse:

**Doug Millison**, our Commander, with all the other responsibilities he has, does not miss many funerals when called. Thanks Doug!

**Jeb Coy**, one of our newest Riflemen has been a great addition to the “lineup.” Thanks Jeb!

**Bill McDonald**, a Legionnaire’s Legionnaire! Thanks Bill!

**Kim Murch** – our “go to” guy when we need something special. Thanks Kim!

**Nelson Duncan** – our Past Commander and the guy who keeps on giving. Thanks Nelson!

**Jim Tucker** – the guy who takes more teasing than anyone should be subjected to. You make it fun to be there Jim and thanks for all you do as Rifleman and polisher of the brass!

**David Bowman** – again one of our newest rifleman but always sharp and making the rest of us look good. Thanks David!

**Steve Jacobs** – not in the lineup yet, but as a former Marine Drill Sgt. we are all looking forward to having him with us. Thanks Steve!

**Jerry Braton** – AKA “hot lips” is the best bugler any Honor Guard could have and he too makes it fun to be doing what we do. Thanks Jerry!

So here is what these guys have been doing all year:

**Total Funerals for 2017, 55! Total Man Hours Earned in 2017, 909.75!**

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**VA&R**  
Douglas Millison

### **St. Michaels Veterans Center Fundraising Luncheon**

The VA&R Committee is again sponsoring a table at the Luncheon and are inviting Post members to join in the event. Up to 8 people can attend and we are taking closed bids on who wants to go. You may bid anywhere from 0 to whatever your pocketbook allows, the 8 with the highest bids will attend. Others are paying \$40 a seat! Good meal, great cause, why not? The luncheon will be on **February 15<sup>th</sup>** at Post 21, 16701 E 40 HWY, Independence at 1130 hours. Flyer is attached for more info.

**Please reply to me by the January membership meeting at the latest!** Seats not used by us will be turned over to the organizing committee and be resold. Please do not tell me your going and cancel at the last minute for anything other than a family emergency! I will feel obligated to fill those seats and it takes a lot of my time calling around finding someone to go. It's disrespectful of me and my time.

I hope to see some new faces at each of these events. If you don't like meetings, this activity is for you!

Doug

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Since you last filed a VA disability claim, VA has improved the claim process by launching the **Decision Ready Claims (DRC)** Program.

When you file a DRC, you can get a decision on your claim in **30 days or less** by working with an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO). Your VSO will help you gather and submit all relevant and required evidence so your claim is ready for VA to make a decision when you submit it.

You can now file a DRC for the following claim types:

- Direct Service Connection Claims

- Presumptive Service Connection Claims
- Secondary Service Connection Claims
- Increased Disability Claims
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims
- Pre-Discharge Claims

Don't miss out on this important opportunity to get a faster claim decision. Learn more about the DRC Program, including eligibility requirements, what medical evidence you need to submit, and how to find an accredited VSO at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp>.

Thank you for your service!

(Source: Veterans Benefits Administration)

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VA has announced that the application process for the national **Veterans Identification Card (VIC)** is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service,” said VA secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit [vets.gov](https://vets.gov), click on “Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card” at the bottom of the page sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at [vets.gov](https://vets.gov). A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

(Source: [www.blogs.va.gov](https://www.blogs.va.gov))

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## Taps

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

Gerald Jensen, Korea era Navy Vet with 30 years in the Legion

Bruce McNamera, Vietnam era Army Vet with 24 years

Hubert Nelson, Vietnam era Navy Vet with 45 years, a Charter Member and Past CDR

George Nicholson, Korea era Army Vet with 63 years, a Charter Member

James Schroeder, Vietnam era Airforce Vet with 33 years

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## Upcoming Events

13 January - **District Oratorical Contest**, 1400 hrs., Post 58, 2607 MO-92, Smithville MO 64089.

14 January - **District Meeting**, 1400 hrs., Post 216, 32932 MO-13, Bethany MO 64424. Meal follows meeting.

11 - 12 February - 84<sup>th</sup> Annual **Lincoln Pilgrimage**, Springfield IL

16 - 18 February - **Spring Conference**, Jefferson City MO

11 March - **District Meeting**, Post 61, 5125 N Bellaire Ave, KCMO 64119

TBD March - **Rotary breakfast** to support local students with Scholarships

TBD April - **Elks breakfast** to support local students with Scholarships

Nominations for Post Officer and Executive Committee positions will be made at April Membership Meeting, elections at May Meeting

19 May - **Armed Forces Day Celebration**, Big Shoal Cemetery and Linden Square. This will be the last year if we don't get more participation and attendance. There will be fundamental changes to the program this year.

28 May - **Memorial Day**, 1000 hrs., Clay County Veterans Memorial

EVERYONE is more than welcome at any of these events! Please contact the Commander for any additional details.

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## The Past Quarters Photo's



OCTOBER - Phyllis, Bob, Jerry and Nelson at Friday Fright Night passing out goodies to the kiddies (Left). Billy, Joe, Craig, Bob, Gaila, Jim and RD fluffing Poppies with residents of Linden Woods Village (Above).



NOVEMBER - CDR delivering VA&R donation of clothing to KC VAMC (Far Left). Gaila and Billy delivering donation and Bingo help to Cameron Veterans Home (Center Top). CDR receiving Boys and Girls States donations from Regal Plastic and Gladstone Elks (Center Bottom). Vice CDR Doug and Regional Service Officer Ronny manning an info table at the GWOT Memorial 5K (Right).



DECEMBER - CDR, RD, Tara, Kim, Phyllis and Craig laying wreaths on the graves of the Herrick Family as Part of Wreaths Across America (Left and Center). Members enjoying the end of year party (Right).



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