



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



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1 July 2018

Web Site Address
www.al626mo.com

Facebook Address
facebook.com/Post626MO

This newsletter is available to view on our website

Upcoming Meetings

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

19 July 2018
16 August 2018
20 September 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:

We had more outstanding activities over the last quarter. A big Thank You to everyone involved in any way!

The Post combined our efforts with 5 other Clay County Posts and co-sponsored a 5K run which raised over \$4,000 for The Northland Therapeutic Riding Center for the Legion’s Children & Youth Month in April. Members of the Color Guard and Honor Guard from 3 of the Posts presented the colors to open the race and members of our Volunteer Team helped out in critical areas of the run itself.

To start out May we had a good turnout of 18 Legionnaires and family members for the Elks “Stacks for Students” fundraiser which benefits scholarships for area high school students. Then it was fluffing poppies with residents at Heritage Village, participating in the School Awards Program at Antioch Middle School, Poppy Donation Day at Walmart where we had our best intake to date for our VA&R programs, and wrapped it up with our Memorial Day Ceremony down at the Clay County Veterans Memorial with around 75 in attendance.

In June a combo of our Color Guard and Honor Guard presented the colors for the opening of Bluesfest and some of our Volunteer Team assisted with it’s operations. (We still desperately need volunteers for these three critical teams, especially the HG) We also took delivery of two electric wheel chairs and some lifts and Kim, Dan and Bill took them over to the Disability Assistance Program to be used for area Veterans.

And through it all the Herrick Memorial American Legion J&J Owls Baseball Team has been playing their hearts out. Travelling far and wide and playing double headers in 90+ degree heat! These kids have heart for the game and the coaches have our deepest respect for teaching the kids sportsmanship above all else.

I am constantly impressed with what so few can do! Thank You!

New Members

Welcome to: Donald Reed, a Navy Veteran from the Lebanon and Grenada era; and David Roberts, an Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam era.

Welcome Legionnaires!

Congratulations

To our new Officer roll:

CDR - Millison

ADJ - Rosales

1st Vice - Ragan

2nd Vice - Bowman

Finance - Mallams

Chaplain - Lantz

Historian - Janssen

Sgt at Arms - Lester

J.A. - Box

To our new Executive Committee roll:

Chair - Millison

Adj - Rosales

Finance - Mallams

At Large - Murch

At Large - Sullivan

At Large - Thompson

On Friday, June 8th, one of our members, Jessica N Farris was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, USAF. The ceremony took place at Wright-Patterson AFB in OH where Lt. Farris serves as an aerospace engineer. Jessica is the granddaughter of Joe Farris. Six members of the Farris family traveled to OH for the ceremony. Jessica graduated from the University of Missouri School of Science and Technology in May of 2016 and was commissioned the same day as an officer in the USAF. During the ceremony, the Major who introduced her commented that Jessica, as a 2nd Lt., was given assignments normally given to Majors and Lt. Colonels and performed her duties to the satisfaction of her superiors.

Congratulations Jessica from all members of your American Legion Post 626 in Gladstone, MO.!

Membership

The numbers are in, and it doesn't look good. Even though we were 2nd in the District for transfers into the Post (13 - Good Work to the membership committee) and 4th in new members (7 - Good Work recruiters) we are still down 20 members from last year! We had one transfer out, 3 lost interest, we couldn't get a response from 13, and 26 have transferred to Post Everlasting.

We need you to talk to your Veteran friends and family. Tell them what we do in the Legion and what your Post does. I have attached a "Why" sheet for you to use. And we do so much not

everything is on there! They don't live in the area? So what. Sign them up at their local Post, sign them up with us and they can transfer. It's a Legion thing, not just the Post. What we see here can be seen across the country.

I want to thank the Membership Committee for contacting or attempting to contact 36 late renewals, of whom we got 18 to renew. Better late than never, but it's a lot of work and time for a few of our members. First renewal letters come out in July for 2019. Please, Please, Please respond on #1. Sign up for auto renewal through MyLegion.com and never have to worry about forgetting again.

And lastly, make a note when you do submit your renewal. Last year we had many people respond multiple times to renewal notices and over pay. There is a timing issue of when lists are made, renewals are processed, notices stopped, etc. Because of that you may receive a note or call about your renewal even when you already paid. If you have recently paid please accept our apologies for bothering you. If it has been a month or more and you do not have your new card yet please contact the Adjutant so we can get any issues resolved as soon as possible.

Historian
Douglas Millison

I am no longer your Historian. I have learned a lot being in this job since 2014 and have done my best to leave a coherent Post History for everyone. I still have a project or two to complete (Including the 2018 Yearbook) and then I will give those to our new Historian Jane Janssen for safekeeping. If you have pictures of past Post activities, yourself in uniform, or anything that might be significant to the Post please send it to Jane via the Post email.

It was my first "duty position" in this Post, and I appreciate your support. Do the same for Jane!

VA&R
Douglas Millison

I want to thank Legionnaire Beverly Hagan and Harriet Shelton for donating their gently used electric wheel chairs and several lifts to be used by Veterans. Members got these items over to Travis Merritt at the Disabilities Assistance Program. He will service the equipment and make sure it gets to a Veteran in our region.

No website for this group but they can be contacted by: sgttlmeritt@gmail.com or on Facebook at rideforthewounded.

The following were taken from my emails, sent by the VA.

Did you know that you may be eligible for an annual clothing allowance if you use a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance and/or medication for a service connected skin condition that causes permanent damage to your outer garments?

If you're eligible, and you haven't yet applied for this year, you need to act fast! If you have already submitted your application, then no further action is required on your part. Your application should be submitted on or before August 1, 2018. To apply, submit (in person, by mail, or fax) [VA Form 10-8678](#), Application for Annual Clothing Allowance, to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at your local [VA medical center](#).

Additional information on this benefit is available at <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/Clothing-Allowance.asp>.

With VA's new **Decision Ready Claim (DRC)** Program, you can get a decision on your claim within 30 days after it's submitted. Watch this helpful [video](#) to decide if the DRC Program is right for you and your claim.

If you plan to file any of the following types of claims, work with an accredited veterans service officer or other accredited representative:

- **Direct Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that was caused by or during your service.
- **Presumptive Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that VA automatically presumes to be service-connected based on unique conditions or situations you experienced during your service.
- **Secondary Service Connection Claims:** Claims for a disability that you have as a result of another service-connected disability.
- **Increased Disability Claims:** Claims for a disability you have a VA rating for that has gotten worse.
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With DRC, you and your accredited representative put in the time upfront to make sure your claim is decision-ready at the time of submittal. Once you submit your DRC, there's no more back and forth with VA. You will have a response within 30 days! To learn more, please visit: www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/drc.asp.

Did you know VA offers housing grants to Veterans with certain service-connected disabilities and disabilities resulting from aging?

VA stepped in when Peter, an Army Veteran, had physical challenges navigating his home. "The VA provided me with a grant which allowed us to equip our house for complete handicapped access," he says. Renovations included widening door openings, installing grab bars, ramps and more.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) and Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grants

To help Veterans with permanent and total service-connected disabilities live more independently, housing grants can be used to build an adapted home or make modifications to an existing one. Find out more here.

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant

This grant provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans' primary residences. Eligibility is not limited to Veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Visit [Explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) to learn more about VA benefits and how to apply, or click the button below to learn more about VA housing-related benefits.

Member Contribution

Jane Janssen

Susan Kee - Honoring Korean War Veterans

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES OF
KOREAN WAR MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) SERVICEMEMBERS

****PLEASE SHARE THIS POST****(Please share this post so that we can reach and help as many families of Korean War MIAs as we can.)

As you know with the recent summit between US and North Korea, one of the key points agreed upon was that North Korea would return the remains of missing in action (MIA) American service members from the Korean War. In the news, I have read that in just a few days over 100 remains are expected to be transferred to the US military forces in South Korea and then brought to the US for identification.

If you are a family member of a MIA (missing in action) service member from the Korean War, please read this important information on what actions you need to take now.

Over the last 6 years, I have met with over 300 families of Korean War missing in action (MIA) service members. I have interviewed them, learned from them, and accompanied them to their meetings with DPAA (Defense POW MIA Accounting Agency), which is US Department of Defense Agency responsible for the recovery and identification of all US military service members. I want to share what I have learned from these families, for all the families out there, who need to know what they should do now in preparation of the return of these remains from North Korea. So, I put together this list of tasks each family should know and do.

I sincerely hope that this will be the start of many more remains to be returned from North Korea. I send my continued heartfelt prayers for the 7,702 American heroes still missing from the Korean War, to be found and reunited with their families. This post is dedicated in honor of their tremendous sacrifices. Their return is long overdue to these families who have waited so long.

As a Korean American, I know I am here today because of the tremendous sacrifices made by these American fallen heroes. Their families have lived with indescribable pain of not knowing if their loved ones will ever be found. I will do all I can to help and assist these honorable families. May God always bless these families, whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for my freedoms and for the people of South Korea, [Susan Kee - Honoring Korean War Veterans](#) and fallen heroes.

WHAT ALL FAMILIES OF Korean War MISSING IN ACTION SERVICEMEMBERS SHOULD KNOW and DO:

1) Contact DPAA- Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

DPAA is the US government agency which falls under the Department of Defense and is responsible for the recovery and identification of all missing American service members from all wars. If you are a family member, you need to contact them and give them the name of your missing loved one, your relation to that missing service member, and your contact information to establish communication with this agency.

2) Ask to speak to the Casualty officer or Case Manager handling your loved ones' case.

-Establish contact and regularly contact the case manager to find out what work is being done to recover and identify your missing loved one. It is up to the family member to stay in contact with the case manager and make sure the case manager is working on your case and provide you with all the information you need.

-Please be proactive about staying in contact with your Casualty Officer.

3) Provide your and your family's DNA to DPAA

-This is CRITICAL. Without the DNA from the family member, they will not be able to identify the remains of your loved one.

-The DPAA will need your DNA to use to match and then identify the remains. Please contact DPAA and your case manager to make sure they send you a DNA kit to submit your DNA.

- After submitting your DNA, please contact DPAA to make sure they have your added your DNA information into their system which will be used to match and identify the remains. Without your DNA, they will not be able to identify the remains of your loved one.

4) Ask your Case manager at DPAA to provide you documents and information they have for your loved one's case.

5) Attend meetings that DPAA provides.

-The DPAA provides regional family update meetings around the country and an annual briefing every year in Washington DC. At these meetings, they provide information on their process of recovering and identifying remains and you will get the opportunity to meet other families and learn from them and find out what you can expect. DPAA has a schedule of meetings (family updates) throughout the year on their website. Here's the link: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DPAA:

1) Website for DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency)

- www.dpaa.mil

2) Contacting casualty officer

This information is from their Contact Us page on their website: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information/>

- Please contact your Casualty Officer (Case manager) to register yourself as a family member if you have not already done so. Their case managers are your first point of contact for information about your missing loved one and will provide information about the personnel accounting process, DNA and future DoD-hosted family conference events. If you don't know what service branch with which your loved one served, check out our lists of missing servicemen organized by conflict on "Our Missing" page at <http://www.dpaa.mil>.

U.S. Air Force

(For World War II aircraft losses, contact the US Army POC below)

HQ AFPC/DPFCM

550 C Street West

JBSA-Randolph, TX 78150-4716

Tel: 1 (800) 531-5501

U.S. Army

Serves as POC for World War II US Army Air Force (USAAF) losses

Department of the Army

Attn: Past Conflicts AHRC-PDC-R

1600 Spearhead Div. Ave, Dept. 450
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405
Tel: 1 (800) 892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps
Headquarters U. S. Marine Corps
Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MFPC)
Personal and Family Readiness Division
[2008 Elliot Road](#)
[Quantico, VA 22134](#)-5103
Tel: 1 (800) 847-1597

U.S. Navy
Navy Personnel Command Casualty Assistance Division (PERS-13)
[5720 Integrity Drive](#)
[Millington, TN 38055](#)-0000
Tel: 1 (800) 443-9298

Get Involved

The Post can always use more help. These tasks can be completed in groups or individually. See something you want to do but don't want to get stuck eating the entire cake? We can slice you off a piece in most cases.

Honor Guard, Color Guard, Volunteer Team members needed.

Clay County Veterans Memorial Committee, Phyllis Rosales Chair, can use members to visit the sight and pick up occasionally.

Public Relations Committee, Douglas Millison Chair. (Willing to relinquish Chairmanship)

Needs help in the following tasks:

- Attend Chamber of Commerce events
- Submit press-releases for our events, before and after
- Set-up outreach table and keep it current and stocked
- Find other ways to interact with the community

Internet Administrator, Vacant.

Need someone to perform the following tasks:

- Administer the Facebook page, keeping it informative and relevant to our members and forward contact to appropriate party
- Administer the website, uploading information from Post committee's and activities. Add pages, finish designing pages, forward contact to appropriate party
- Gather info for and publish the Newsletter.

Membership Committee, Larry Ragan Chair.

Need people to contact new members and transfers and be there sponsors as well as to make renewal reminder phone calls.

Want something else to do, we'll find something for you! Just ask.

Taps

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

Legionnaire Roger Yarberry, an Army Veteran of the Korean era.

Upcoming Events

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

8 Jul	Executive Committee Meeting, 1300, Millison residence
12-15 Jul	Department 100 th Convention, Springfield MO
19 Jul	Membership I&I Ceremony, 1730, see attached flyer
11 Aug	Executive Committee Meeting, 1000, TBD
16 Aug	Membership Meeting, 1900, Community Center
24-30 Aug	National 100 th Convention, Minneapolis MN
25 Aug	Post 61 Car Show, Kansas City MO
15 Sep	Executive Committee Meeting, 1000, TBD
20 Sep	Membership Meeting, 1900, Community Center
29 Sep	Post 236 Car Show, Excelsior Springs
14 Oct	District Meeting, 1400, Post 237, Richmond MO

A couple of pics from the quarter. You'll just have to look at the Yearbook when I get it done.



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

(Thanks for reading down to the last line - Doug)



LEGIONNAIRE's of Post 626

Please join us for our fourth annual Initiation and Induction ceremony being held at the Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N Holmes St. on the 19th of July starting at 5:30 PM in the Linden Room.

Guest Speaker, provided by our American Legion Baseball Team:

Bennie Wierzbicki

MR. Wierzbicki coached over 1,000 games ranging from youth levels to College Woodbat Summer League teams. He has been a Professional Baseball Scout for the Philadelphia Phillies organization for 13 years.

We will also Initiate new members, Induct new officers, pass out awards, show our appreciation to members who have reached a 5 year anniversary and enjoy a great meal with our friends, new and old.

The Post is supplying drinks, plates and flatwear and we ask everyone else to please bring their favorite potluck item with serving utensile.

Please bring your spouse! This would also be an excellent time to bring a prospective new member along as your guest to show them what your Post is about. Space is limited so Please RSVP to Gaila Sullivan at 816-436-5860 or email the Post at bennettherrick626@gmail.com with your dish choice and number in party.

Schedule of Events

- Social Hour - 5:30 to 6:30
- Opening Ceremony - 6:30
 - Invocation
 - POW/MIA Table
 - Pledge of Allegiance
- Potluck Meal - 6:40 (ish)
- Boys State and Girls State Alumni Presentation - 7:00
 - Guests may continue with their meal
- Remarks by Guest Speaker
- Awards
- Initiation of New Legion Members
- Induction of Post Officers for 2018/19
- Post Everlasting
- Closing Remarks

WHY AMERICAN LEGION POST 626?

This is a snapshot of what our Post has accomplished from 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2018.

VA&R – Five members volunteered 730 hours at the KC VAMC, and we have a VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) coordinator who organized two donations to the VAVS program totaling over \$580 in goods such as underclothing, shoes and other goods. We are sponsors of an annual fundraiser in support of St. Michaels Veterans Center and make donations to The Veterans Home in Cameron.

CEREMONIAL FUNERAL HONORS – The Post has an Honor Guard Team which has been certified by the Missouri Military Funeral Honors Program honor guard team to assist in veterans' funerals and has conducted over 60 Ceremonies last year, donating over 1,000 hours of their time.

AMERICANISM – The Post is heavily involved in getting many students from two high schools to Boys State. Last year we sponsored 4 students to attend the course. We also participate in Girls State even though we do not have an Auxiliary by collaborating with a neighboring Auxiliary Unit, sponsoring 3 of their students. We have a good relationship with a local middle school where one of our members teaches. In the middle school, we participate in the School Awards Program awarding a medal and certificate to one male and one female eighth grade student each year as well as put veterans in the classrooms and participate in their Veterans Day Program for 7th graders. We also donate to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Post is sponsoring a team in American Legion Baseball and we have a school coordinator for the American Legion Oratorical Program.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Our Post has a person designated to assist Veteran families with dependent children who apply for Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) locally and in the District. We have funds set aside in our budget to assist in a small way until the TFA grant at National can be completed. Our Service Officers provided financial help to three veteran families. We stand ready to assist Veterans who use the Family Support Network, participate in the Chamber of Commerce's Friday Fright Night which offers a safe environment for Halloween, and this year we participated in the North Kansas City School District's "Stuff the Buss" program gathering 112 boxes of school supplies and over \$400 to buy more for local children. In April we sponsored and volunteered for a 5K race which raised over \$4,000 for The Northland Therapeutic Riding Center as part of Children and Youth Month.

COMMUNITY - Our Post is highly active in our community, participating in 5 public events throughout the year. We; Conduct a Memorial Day Ceremony, open Bluesfest with our color guard, march in the Gladfest parade, place wreaths on veteran's graves as a part of Wreaths Across America and present a donation to the Mayor for local charities during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Post has a "Go To" Volunteer Team that is active in supporting the community through assisting with community service projects. Our Post regularly attends fundraisers for student scholarships put on by the Elks and Rotary.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS – Our Post has a Facebook page to communicate to our members **and** the community at large. We are also members of the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce.

WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

Nationally the American Legion protects and furthers the rights of that Veterans have earned (Lobbying Congress), provide expert help in obtaining full veterans benefits (Service Officers), strengthen patriotic values in our nation (Boys and Girls States) and support Legion sponsored programs that benefit veterans, their families, and communities (Temporary Financial Assistance, National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Endowment Fund and Volunteerism).

Over one-year Posts in Missouri will manage

- Over 1, 600 benefit claim cases
- 21,000 recorded hours of community service
- \$64,000 in emergency aid
- Honors for 4,000 veteran's funerals

Dues are \$35, \$27.50 of that goes to Department & National, another \$1 goes to District, the remaining \$6.50 stays with the Post and is used for Hall rental and other administrative costs as well as membership recognition activities.

GET INVOLVED?

VA&R – Assist with the TFA process, Volunteer at the VA, assist with Poppy Donation Day...

PR – Write press releases, take pictures of events and activities, join the Volunteer team, administer the website and/or Facebook page, write the Newsletter...

Youth – Attend fright night, Boys State, Cadet Patrol, and school projects. Coordinate with schools for our scholarship programs...

Honor Guard or Color Guard– Funerals as well as placing the colors at events...

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas W. Millison
Commander
American Legion Post 626