

COMMANDERS SCRAPBOOK OF
BENNETT & DENNIS HERRICK MEMORIAL POST 626
THE AMERICAN LEGION
GLADSTONE MISSOURI



FOR: JULY 2018 – JUNE 2019
BY: DOUGLAS W. MILLISON

BOOK 2, JANUARY – JUNE 2019
(For website upload size purposes)

January



Baseball planning meeting, Thompson, Myers



January Monthly Membership Meeting





D GLADSTONE DISPATCH

Thursday, FEBRUARY 21, 2019 ♦ Volume 9, No. 16 ♦ www.gladstonedispatch.com ♦ \$1.00

A2 Gladstone Dispatch

American Legion's program mentors future leaders

GLADSTONE — The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans' service organization, and the American Legion Auxiliary started selecting interested students at local high schools to attend this year's Boys and Girls State programs this summer.

"These young men and women are the future leaders of America," said Douglas Millison, commander of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626. "We are seeking boys and girls with outstanding qualifications in character and leadership to attend one of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction ever designed for high school students."

High school juniors are selected every winter by local Legion posts and their auxiliaries to attend the programs at the University of Central Missouri from June 15 to 22, for Boys State; and June 23 to 29, for Girls State. Training at Boys and Girls State is objective and practical with city, county and state governments



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the end of January, Bettie Rusher of Missouri Boys State and members of Gladstone's Legion Post No. 626 brief prospective students at Oak Park High School on requirements, programs and procedures for the mock government program.

operated by students elected to various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus, journalism and recreational programs. These programs provide youths and education in American government by taking part in a

mock governmental system. In all cases, a sponsoring American Legion post, local business or other community-based organization pays the expenses associated with attending these programs. "Neither the students nor their families can pay the admission fees. It is the

community's responsibility," Millison said. The local post started a fundraising effort to facilitate as many students as possible attending this year. To donate to the program or to sponsor a student, contact Millison at 787-1548 or by email at bennetherick626@gmail.com.

February



Boys State Application Scoring, Lester, Murch, Thompson, Braton, Duncan, Dubuc



February Monthly Membership Meeting

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



A.D. Banker & Company
Janet L. Heitzig
Richard Hemphill, Legal Shield
Ralph Ford and Sandra Gale



Matt McAvoy, Target/Ash Brokerage
Elaine Fry, State Farm Insurance
Crossroads Hospice, Charitable Foundation
Gail Worth, Gail's Harley Davidson
Bennett & Dennis Herrick, Post 626
Steve Burk, Ins. Designers of KC, LLC
David Weigel

Carl Kent
Zachary and Paul Kittle
Juliann Smith, Advanced Fin. Solutions
Bill and Debra McCoy
John Laws
Kansas City Life Ins. Company
Ames and Linda Stietzler Charitable Foundation



Ron Wheeler, MKI
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Jerry Cooke
Joel Koeniguer, Producer's Choice
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VFW Post 8220

NAIFA - Missouri
Trey J. Ford Post 21
Robert L. Clore American Legion Post 189
Hickman Mills Memorial Post 598
Dennis Carroll, McGilley & Sheil Funeral Home
Brett Boeger, Blue Chip Benefits
Terry Westlund/Gary Eickhorst, Fin. Designs
Mike Filling, United Missouri Bank



Stuart Woodbury, Woodbury Holdings, Inc.
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Smithville Am. Legion Post 58 Riders
Ferry Woodard
Larry Langford, State Farm Ins.
Fred Drummond
VFW Post 1829

Gary Lykken
Brian Niemeyer, Shelter Ins.
John Biggs, Biggs Ins. Services
Donna Patton, Principal Financial Group
Marc Hollabaugh, Corp. Benefit Specialist
Howard & Judy Wimmer

NAIFA - Greater Kansas City Fifth Annual

Salute to Veterans



February 28, 2019
The American Legion Trey J. Ford Post 21
Independence, MO

NAIFA - Greater Kansas City

Event Committee

Carl Kent, Brian O'Laughlin, Ron Wheeler,
Art Fillmore, Marsha Mooney

Special Guests

Richard B. Myers, General,
United States Air Force, (Retired)

Jennifer Hodges, President
NAIFA - Missouri

Melvyn Prezant - Bugles Across America,
KS State Director

The Marine Color Guard of Combat Logistics Regiment 4
4th Marine Logistics Group

Color Guard:

Sgt. Daniel Judd

Sgt. David Nicholas

Sgt. Charles Karnes

Cpl. Thomas Ratterman

UMKC Conservatory - National Anthem

Mark Clark, American Legion Dept of MO,
Zone II Vice Commander - Invocation

Ed Withar, Commander Post 21

Special Thanks

A.D. Banker for design and printing
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Quilting Club
for providing quilts
Affordable Elegance Catering



Bowman, Thompson, Farris, Walker, Millison



Gen, Myers

MARCH



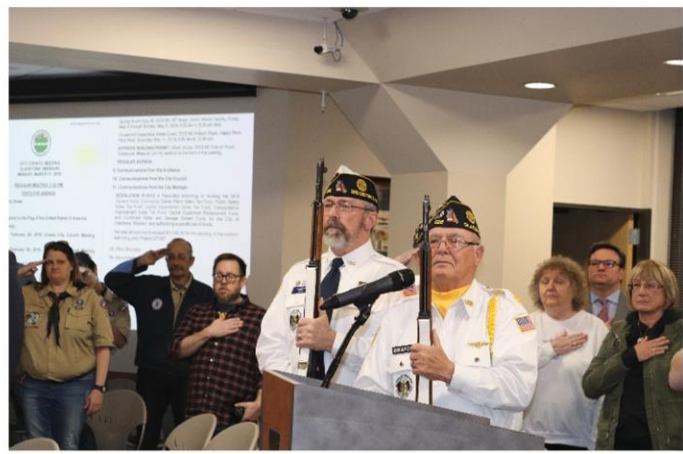
THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919 100 2019
Years

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA



Presenting Colors at City Council,
Bowman, Thompson, Millison, Braton



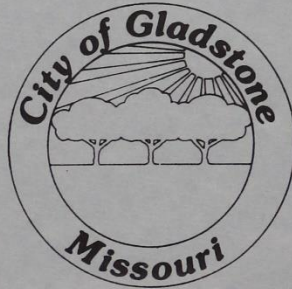


Commander Millison receiving proclamation declaring March 15th, 2019 as American Legion Centennial Day in Gladstone from Mayor Garnos



Distinguished guests, District Commander Holtz, Immediate Past Commander Duncan, 40&8 Grande Chef de Gare Bumgarner and Zone Commander Clark

CITY OF GLADSTONE, MISSOURI



**PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR
AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL DAY**

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been a staunch advocate for veterans and their families since 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded on the four pillars of care for veterans, a strong national defense, Americanism, and children and youth; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has played a leading role in initiatives and breakthroughs that have affected the lives of Americans in every community, from the U.S. Flag Code to the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 has fulfilled the Legion's mission here in Gladstone since 1975 through programs such as Poppy Donation Day for Veterans Support, Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day Ceremonies for the community, and youth programs such as Missouri Boys State, Cadet Patrol, High School Oratorical Contest, and Veterans in the Classrooms; and

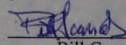
WHEREAS, The American Legion is celebrating its centennial in 2018-2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Garnos, Mayor of the City of Gladstone, State of Missouri, on behalf of the Gladstone City Council and Gladstone residents, do hereby proclaim March 15th, 2019 as

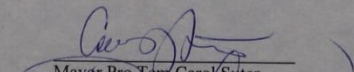
AMERICAN LEGION CENTENNIAL DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of Gladstone on this 11th day of March, 2019.

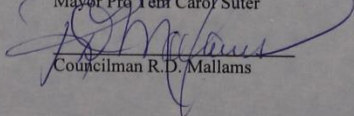
Signed this 11th Day of March, 2019



Bill Garnos, Mayor

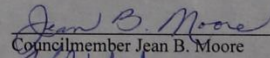


Mayor Pro Tem Carol Suter

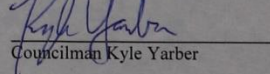


Councilman R.D. Mallams





Councilmember Jean B. Moore



Councilman Kyle Yarber



D ♦ GLADSTONE DISPATCH

Thursday, MARCH 28, 2019 • Volume 9, No. 20 • www.gladstonedispatch.com • \$1.00

Gladstone American Legion celebrates centennial



AARON HOUX/SPECIAL TO THE GLADSTONE DISPATCH

Many members of American Legion Post No. 626 were also in attendance at the Gladstone City Council meeting where the Legion's 100th anniversary was celebrated.

GLADSTONE — The American Legion is turning 100, and The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626 is celebrating, according to a press release.

The post, located at 6901 N. Holmes St. in Gladstone, was chartered in June of 1975. The organization as a whole, trace its roots to March 15 to 17, 1919, in Paris, France, in the aftermath of World War I.

The American Legion was federally chartered Sept. 16, 1919, dedicated to service to veterans, strong national defense, youth and patriotism, the release states.

A year after it was formed, The American Legion chartered more than 5,400 local posts. Since then, the Legion has grown to more than



AARON HOUX/SPECIAL TO THE GLADSTONE DISPATCH

Gladstone Mayor Bill Garnes presents Doug Millison, post commander for American Legion Post No. 626 in Gladstone, with a proclamation celebrating the Legion's 100th anniversary.

COUNCIL: Gladstone leaders honor local legion

Continued from Page A1

13,000 posts around the world with more than 2.2 million wartime-veteran members.

The American Legion lead the way to creating the U.S. Flag Code; helped start the Veterans Administration; drafted and helped get passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 or the G.I. Bill, which helps pay for servicemen and women's continuing education; and helps veterans receive health care benefits based on service.

Post 626 was named

for Vietnam War veterans Bennett and Dennis Herrick, graduates of Oak Park High School killed in Vietnam. The post currently has 240 members.

Programs associated with the post include veteran's assistance to the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron and the St. Michael's Veterans Center in Kansas City; Youth Programs including Missouri Boys State and Girls State, the High School Oratorical Program and the American Legion Baseball Team, The J&J Owls; support of community programs and events including Rotary

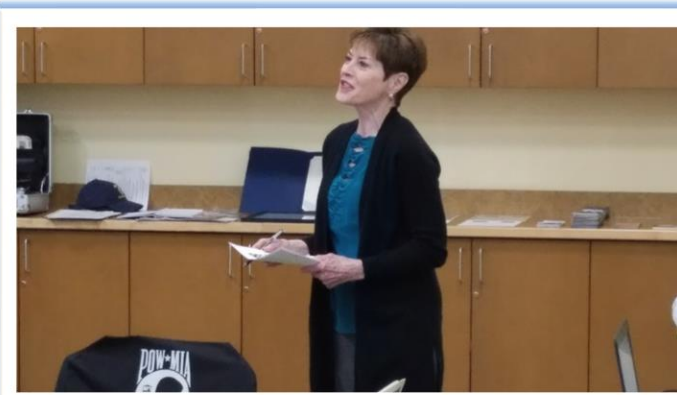
and Elk breakfast fundraisers, Gladstone's Bluesfest and Gladfest.

"Post 626 is thankful for the opportunity to serve local veterans and the community of Gladstone," Post Commander Doug Millison said. "We look back to the beginning of the post, even to the beginning of The American Legion itself, and know that we have made a contribution, and that our veterans have found a way to continue serving after coming home. And we know that this is not what The American Legion did, it is what we do, now and for another 100 years."

COUNCIL/Page A12



Members supporting Rotary's "Stacks for Students" fundraiser for Scholarships – Bierle, Rosales, Robker, Bowman, Millison, Duncan, Murch, Marquis, Thompson, Thomsen, Stratton, Sullivan



March Membership Meeting, presentation by Councilwoman Moore in support of public safety



They had us surrounded...





THE AMERICAN LEGION



Congratulations! You have successfully recruited the necessary three Legionnaires needed to be awarded the Membership Excellence "TEAM 100" incentive pin.

Thank you very much for your dedication to The American Legion and for *"Still Serving America!"*

Sincerely,

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander



Honor Guard recognition shirt for Bowman, Membership pin for Millison





LEADING WITH RESILIENCY AND GRACE

Salute To Women Who Serve

Date: March 23, 2019

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: The National WWI Museum & Memorial
2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64108

It is our privilege to salute you our sisters in service who have served and are serving in the Armed Forces with an award ceremony. Please invite your fellow sisters that have served and let us make this a day of remembrance and honor.



Please Rsvp by March 15th @

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/salute-to-women-who-serve-tickets-55430408845>



Robertson, Rosales, Driver, Bierle, Janssen, Sullivan



D GLADSTONE DISPATCH

APRIL

Thursday, MAY 2, 2019 • Volume 8, No. 25 • www.gladstonedispatch.com • \$1.00

\$7,000 donation to City for a flagpole at Hobby Hill Park



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gladstone Mayor Carol Sater smiles as Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 826 Commander Doug Millison hands her a donation for the Hobby Hill flagpole fund.

American Legion makes donation to Gladstone

GLADSTONE — Five members of The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 826 presented a donation of \$7,000 to Gladstone City Council to go toward the installation of a flagpole at the newly renovated Hobby Hill Park.

"We are making this donation in honor of the military family. This is Children and Youth Month in the American Legion, and May 12th is Military Spouse Appreciation Day, the 13th is Children of Fallen Patriots Day, and the 14th is Mother's Day. What better time to honor America's Military Families?" Post Commander Douglas Millison said in his address to the council at the April 22 city meeting.

"While the park itself is for the entire community, dedicating the flag to military families expresses the understanding that they and their particular positions in the community are seen, understood and honored," said the post commander.

Millison ended by applauding the Gladstone City Council on their work in parks through the years and recognizing them as an integral part of the community.

He ended his remarks with a James Madison quote

from more than 200 years ago, which he said still rings true and is relevant in Gladstone.

"Our country abounds in the necessities, the arts, and the comforts of life," he said.



May

Members and family supporting Elks Lodge 2376 Scholarship Breakfast



Millison, Stratton, Robker, Rosales, Bierle, Thomsen, Thompson, and family members



Millison & Bowman attend Truman Pilgrimage.



You're Cordially Invited
to
100th Anniversary Celebration of the Saint Louis Caucus



When: **May 9 & 10, 2019**

Where: **Ceremony** - at Soldier's Memorial (1315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, MO)

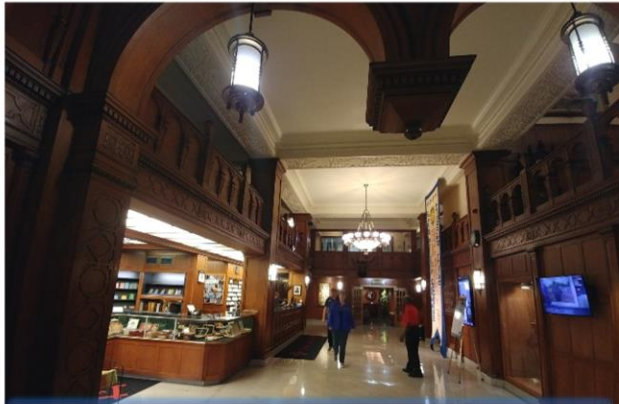
May 9 - Reception at Soldier's Memorial 6:00 - 8:00 pm

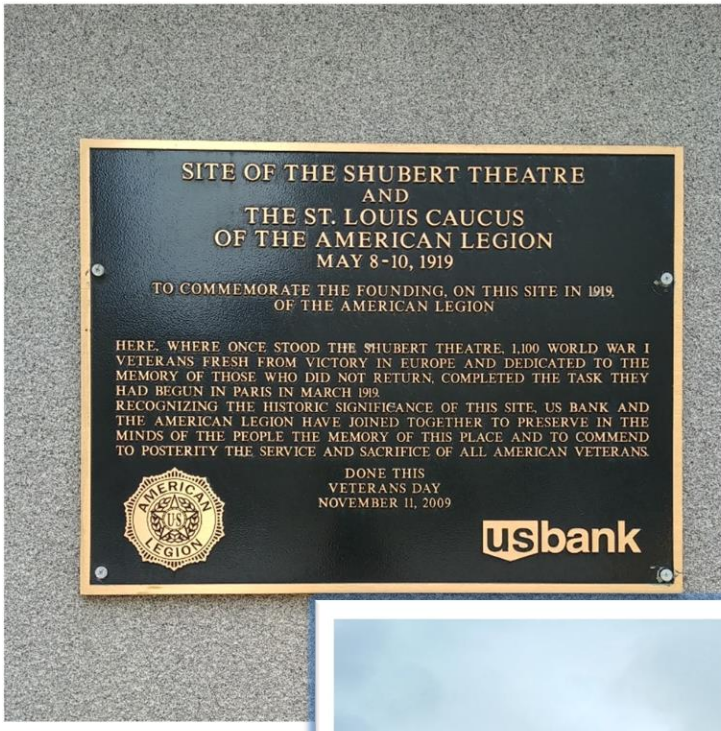
May 10 - Formal Celebration 10:00 a.m. Soldier's Memorial - followed by Luncheon at Missouri Athletic Club Grand Ballroom

(405 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO) cost for lunch \$35.00

Guest Speakers: **National Commander Bret Reistad and National President Kathy Dungan**

Commander Millison MC's Caucus Anniversary Luncheon.





St. Louis Caucus Centennial Celebration

May 9 -10, 2019

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum

&

Missouri Athletic Club





Brett P. Reistad
National Commander
The American Legion
2018-2019

Brett P. Reistad (pronounced *rye STAD*) was elected national commander of the nearly 2 million-member American Legion on August 30, 2018 in Minneapolis, during the organization's 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1981.

A resident of Manassas, Virginia, Reistad is a life member and past commander of Post 270 in McLean. The Department of Virginia reached an all-time high in membership, while he served as department (state) commander from 2005 to 2006. He retired as a lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department after twenty-six years of service and began a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, a congressionally funded law enforcement investigative assistance program of the U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia's Bluefield College.

Reistad's Legion membership eligibility is through his honorable Vietnam War-era service (1974-78) as an active-duty U.S. Army infantryman, where he served with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at historic Fort Myer, Va. He participated in the Inaugural ceremony for President Carter and other high-profile ceremonies. He has since been honored as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Commander Reistad has served at every level of The American Legion. He is a past president and honorary life member of the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA). He recently completed a six-year appointment as chairman of the Department Legislative Committee and two three-year terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, where he helped coordinate the input of 23 VSOs in crafting veteran friendly legislation and advocating the proposed legislation before the governor and General Assembly. He is also a tenured past department historian and was recently bestowed an honorary life membership by the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion (NADHAL).

He is a past Legionnaire of the Year from Post 270 and a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10 in Manassas. His wife, Jessica, and his family are proud members of The American Legion Family. His theme as national commander is "Celebrating Our Legacy," with special emphasis on the organization's centennial.

Preamble to the Constitution

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Lunch Immediately following Ceremony at The Missouri Athletic Club



National Commander
Brett Reistad





Commander Millison





Greg "Doc" Gibbs
National Sons Commander



Kathy Dungan
National Auxiliary President



D GLADSTONE DISPATCH

Thursday, MAY 23, 2019 ♦ Volume 9, No. 28 ♦ www.gladstonedispatch.com ♦ \$1.00

Gladstone Dispatch **A3**

Gladstone sends representative to mark American Legion's centennial

Legionnaires from across the country, including Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626 Commander Doug Millison from Gladstone, gathered in St. Louis at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum to celebrate the formation of the American Legion 100 years ago.

A century ago, the Legion held the first "stateside" caucus in its formation process. The caucus was held in St. Louis May 8 to 10, 1919. St. Louis was chosen for its central location and accessibility. More than 1,100 veterans from across the nation participated.

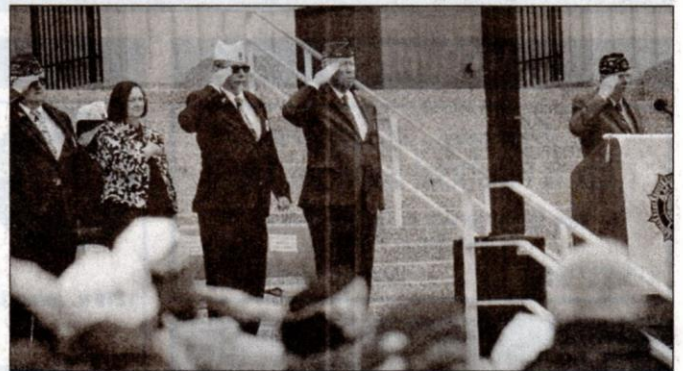
During the 1919 caucus, the organization's leadership was chosen, with many calls for Theodore Roosevelt Jr. for

chairman. He declined the nomination.

During the caucus temporary officers were chosen, a national convention site selected, the name of the organization became permanent and the organization's preamble and constitution were approved.

At a luncheon after this year's 100th anniversary celebration, Millison served as master of ceremonies.

"Think of where we are in the formation process, meeting No. 3 after the original conception, the Paris caucus, and now here we are in St. Louis creating an organization that would last for more than 100 years under a preamble that would undergo only one change in its lifetime. We unfortunately had to add an 's' to war,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

American Legion members salute May 10 during the opening ceremony of a 100th anniversary celebration for the American Legion at Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in St. Louis. Those in attendance included Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626 Commander Doug Millison from Gladstone.

recognizing that 'The Great War,' WWI, would not be the war to end all wars as we all had hoped. Considering all we have accomplished in the last 100 years, I'm excited about what we can

do going into the next 100, the lives we can impact positively."

The celebration was attended by current National Commander Brett P. Reistad as well as past commanders.

Poppy Fluffing at Linden Woods Village



Thomsen, Thompson



Stratton, Sullivan

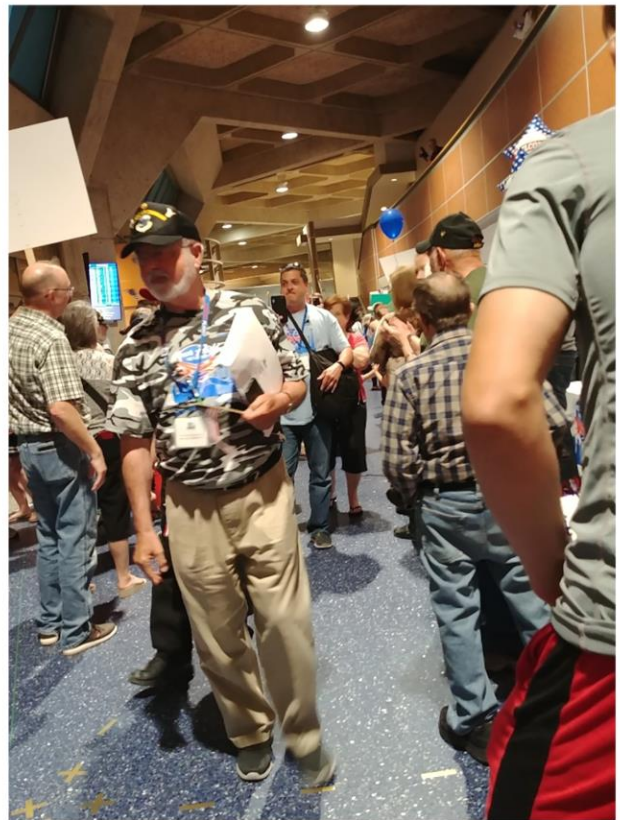




Welcome Home for Joe Farris's Honor Flight



Bowman



Farris

Decorating Big Shoal Cemetery for Memorial Day



Bowman

Millison



Poppy Donation Crew, L – McDonald, Lester, LL – Bowman, Bierle, Below – Thompson, Stratton, Thomsen





Robker, Dubuc



Jamison, Mallams



Pelzman

Join Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial

American Legion Post 626

for a

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

27 MAY 2019

Beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Clay County Veterans Memorial

Anita B. Gorman Park

789 N. Holmes St., Kansas City MO.

Guest Speaker:

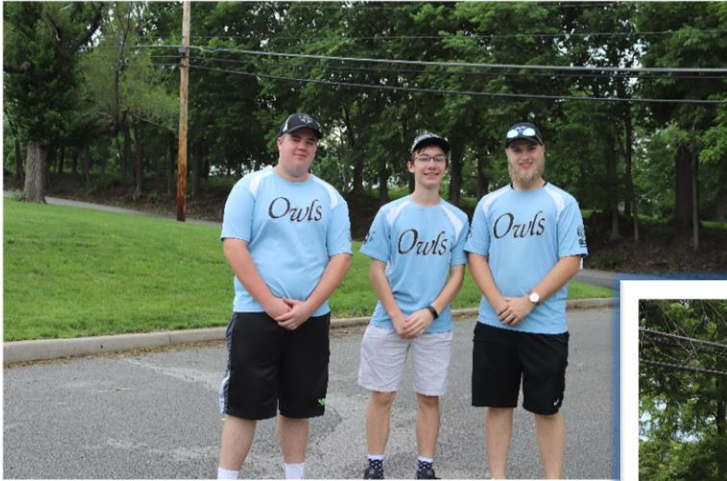
Medal of Honor Recipient

COL. (RET.) Donald "Doc" Ballard

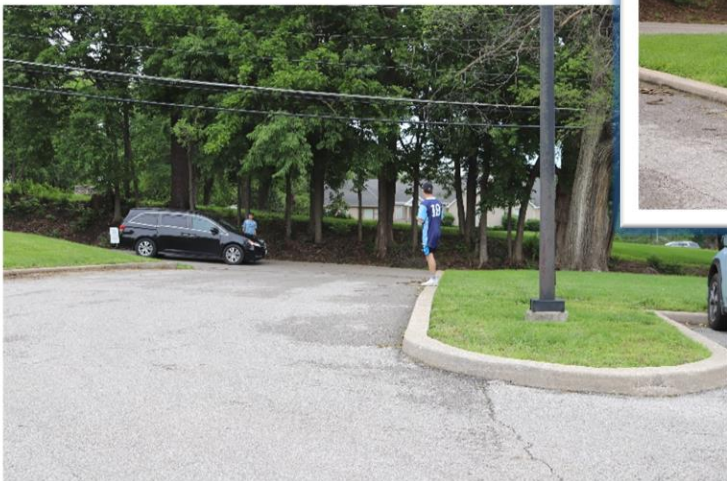
Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have given their all in the Service of the United States of America. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. It was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May and became a national Holiday in 1971.



Guest Speaker, MoH Recipient
Col. "Doc" Ballard

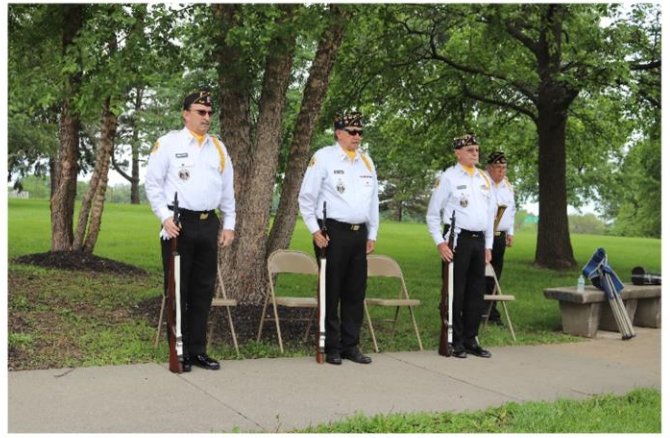


Parking & general
assistance crew





Ballard, Lantz



Walker, Murch, McDonald



Bowman



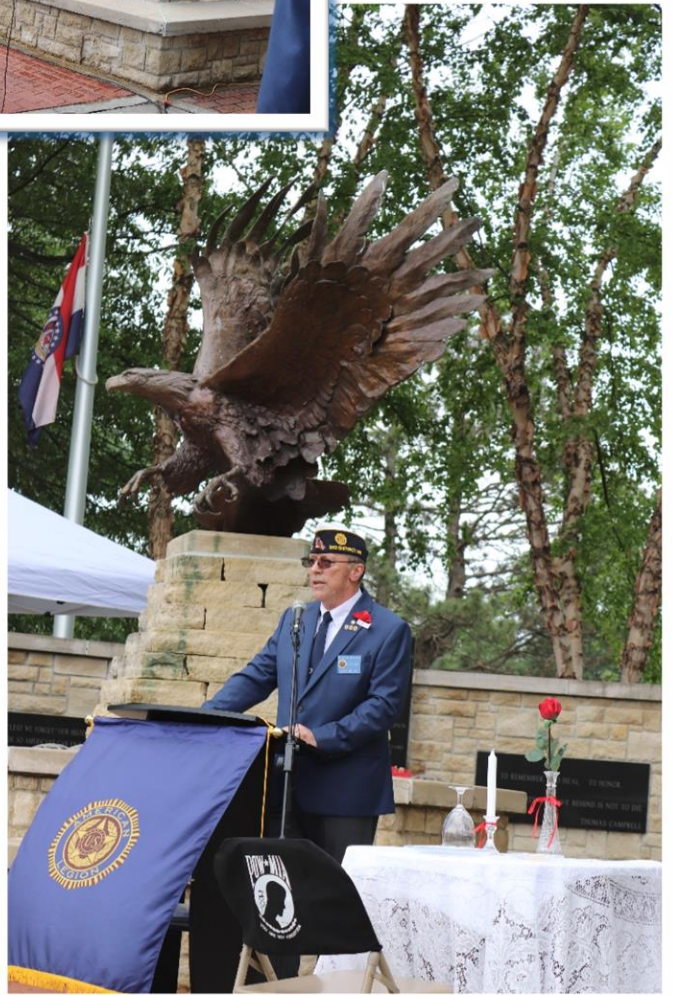
Thompson 33



CDR. Millison, MC



Lydia McAvoy,
National Anthem



Chaplain Lantz



Ballard





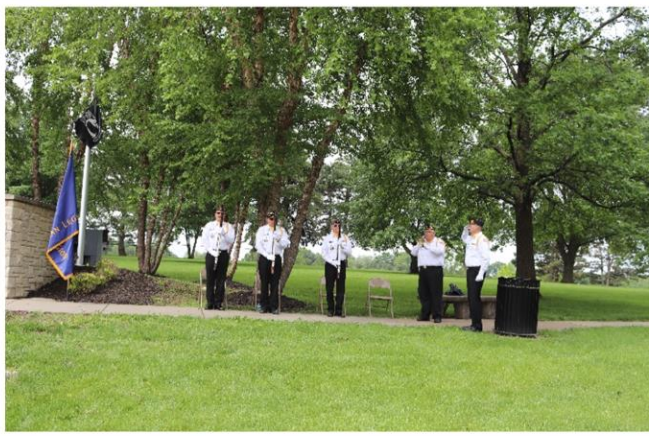
Sullivan, POW/MIA Remembrance



Farris, Gold Star Family Member



Mallams, Litany of Remembrance



8th Grade Award Ceremony

2018-2019

Opening Remarks Dr. Schnoebelen
Team Award Team Teachers
Art Award Mr. Klein
Modern Languages
Project Lead the Way
AVID
DAP
Athletics
NJHS
Student Council
Attendance
Joe Gardner Award
Robert Russell Award Mr. Russell

Video Presentation and Oak Park Welcome

Reception immediately following ceremony
in large gymnasium

American Legion Followed Attendance



Sullivan, Thompson

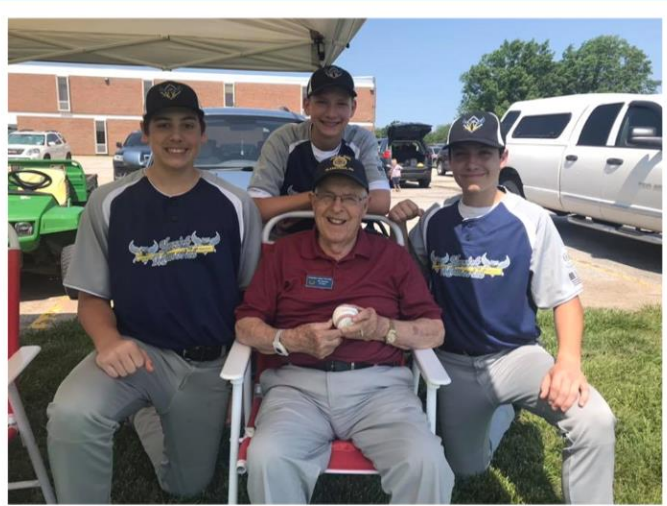


JUNE



Opening Home Game
Herrick Memorial Owls





Thomsen



Posting Colors for Bluesfest Opening



Murch, Millison, Thompson, Walker

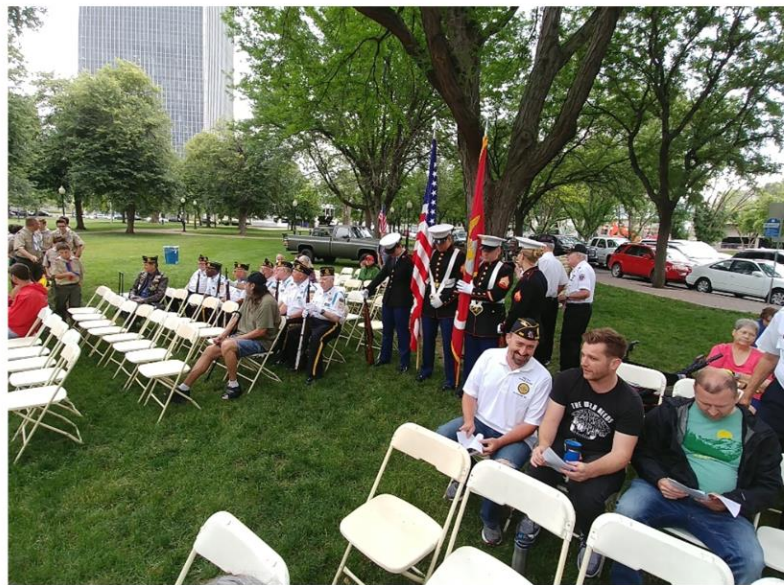




CDR. Millison receives Resolution From KC on behalf of the Dept. for Flag Day



Millison & Bowman attend KC Flag retirement ceremony



Heritage Flag Ceremony and Commemoration of The Republic of Vietnam Military Forces Day, Little Saigon Plaza



Commander Millison, Mayor Suiter



gladstone

PARKS, RECREATION AND
CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

FALL 2019

guide

cityupdates



Photo courtesy American Legion Post 626

American Legion Sponsors Hobby Hill Flag Pole

June 27, a new flag pole in Hobby Hill West Park was dedicated to military families.

The flag was made possible due to a \$7,000 donation from The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 presented to the City in April.

In his address to the Council, Post Commander Douglas Millison noted that while the park itself is for the entire community, dedicating the flag to the military family expresses the understanding that they and their particular position in the community is seen, understood and honored.

Commander Millison ended by applauding the City Council on their work on Gladstone parks over the years and recognizing them as an integral part of the community.

With a current membership of more than 2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veteran's affairs, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

American Legion post dedicates donated flagpole

Members of The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626 dedicated the donated flagpole at the newly renovated Hobby Hill Park, located at Northwest 76th Terrace and North Main Street, in a morning ceremony June 27.

The flagpole was dedicated by the post to the military family and the ceremony was conducted with members of the Gladstone City Council, Chamber of Commerce, city staff, Department of Public Safety and residents in attendance.

Mayor Carol Suter opened the ceremony outlining the progress the city has made in the park and the special areas within it. She finished by thanking Post No. 626 for their joining in the effort to improve the park and with a wish that other collaborative efforts with the Legion or others will continue to move the City of Gladstone forward.

Post Commander Douglas W. Millison followed the mayor and thanked those in attendance for participating, especially the Parks Department and Chamber of Commerce for making the event happen.

In his address, Millison noted that while the park itself is for the entire community, dedicating the flagpole to the military family expresses the understanding that they and their particular position in the community is seen, understood and honored.

Millison went on to discuss the importance of the symbolism of the American flag with a quote from President Ronald Reagan: "There is no greater, more beautiful and instantly recognizable symbol of our nation and its ideals, traditions and values than the flag of the United States."

The ceremony concluded with a veterans family raising the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance.



Members of The Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post No. 626 and a veteran family raise the American flag on the newly dedicated flagpole at Hobby Hill Park.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Chamber President Barry McCullough



Mayor Suiter



Commander Millison



Bowman, Murch



Dubuc, Ragan



Murch Family

Caregivers on the Homefront, Walk With Me 5K



Sullivan, Thompson



Millison

A Great Big THANK YOU to all of our members who participate with us in our activities, programs or just coming to the meetings.

I really appreciate your support for the Post, and the American Legion as a whole.

Douglas Millison
Commander