### YEARBOOK OF

### **BENNETT & DENNIS HERRICK MEMORIAL POST 626**

### THE AMERICAN LEGION

### **GLADSTONE MISSOURI**



### FOR: JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017 BY: DOUGLAS W. MILLISON

#### **INTRODUCTION**

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding the Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary constitution and the name The American Legion. The group also elected an Executive Committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The Executive Committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

Two months later, in May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion its national charter in September 1919. The first national convention convened in Minneapolis, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization.

In March of 1974 a temporary charter was granted to Commander C.E. Farrar and Adjutant F.V. Cannon for the formation of Post 626 in Gladstone, Department of Missouri. Gladstone itself was relatively new, organizing in 1952. A permanent charter was issued to Post 626 under Commander Bobby Watts and Adjutant Don Austin in June of 1975.

During a ceremony on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1988, under Commander Burt Nelson and Adjutant Roger Kohrs, American Legion Post 626 became the Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 of Gladstone Missouri.

#### BENNETT HERRICK

Bennett James Herrick, "Bennie" was born in Denver, Colorado, April 29, 1948. The family moved to Kansas City in 1951 and Kansas City remained his home until July, 1966, when Bennie decided to fulfill his 'obligation' to his country, even though he had already made arrangements to go to college and scholastically would have been draft exempt. Bennie opted for the para-troops and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Divison after graduation as honor graduate from jump school at Ft. Benning While training at Ft. Campbell with the 101st, Bennie was named soldier of the month twice.

He arrived in Vietnam in October, 1967, and his unit went into the field on arrival. Bennie was wounded twice in combat prior to his death while leading a patrol, March 25, 1968. Bennie's legacy to his friends is a Scholarship at Oak Park High School. This Scholarship to to a higher education with the class of 1988



the top drama student of each graduating class will have helped start the 20th student

#### DENNIS HERRICK

Dennis Haldane Herrick was born in Denver, Colorado, April 5, 1950. Kansas City was 'home' to Dennis from April, 1951 until June, 1969. Even though Dennis was draft exempt as sole surviving son, he enlisted in the Army soon after finishing his first year in college. Dennis was hurt badly by the death of his brother and found it impossible to be a civilian student, subject to the anti Vietnam propaganda that pervaded the college campus. Dennis could not be sent to a combat theatre with the status of sole surviving son unless he volunteered in writing. He arrived in Vietnam August 5, 1970, and his parents were notified of his death shortly thereafter.

Dennis participated in all forms of athletics and also enjoyed 'rock' music and played in a band his junior and senior year in high school. A knee injury in his junior year in high school was such that he couldn't pass the high school



physical to play football but was still accepted by the army for unrestricted duty.

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#### PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TO GETHER 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 AN INDIVIDUAL SENCE OF 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.

# **COMMANDERS BIOGRAPHY**

### Commander, 2015 – 2017 Nelson L. Duncan

Commander Duncan Joined the Marine Corps and served as an Aviation Crew Chief In El Toro CA until 1963 when he transferred to the Naval Reserves at Las Alimitos NAS CA. He Served there as a 1<sup>st</sup> Mechanic Crew Chief in VP 778 until joining the IRR in 1967.



He returned to the Naval Reserves in 1982 serving in VR 57, NAS North Island, San Diego CA until his retirement as a CPO/ AMHC in 2000. While there he served as a Crew Chief, NATOPS instructor and made multiple deployments in support of operations worldwide by ship and air, including Desert Storm/Shield.

As a civilian he lived in Saudi Arabia from 1978 to 1982 with his family while working for TWA - Saudia. He completed his aviation career as a Heavy Jet Designee for Boeing, Douglas and Lockheed aircraft in the commercial aircraft fleets for TWA and served his union as Steward, Alt. Committeeman, Trustee and Legislative Committeeman.

He and his wife Linda have 4 children, Sherri, Jeremy, Joshua, Heather and 8 Grandchildren

Commander Duncan has been a member of the American Legion for 12 years, has served as Sr. Vice Commander from 2012 to 2015 and is a member of the Post Honor Guard.

### Post 626 Officers for 2016 - 2017

COMMANDER



Nelson Duncan



Phyllis Rosales

**HISTORIAN** 



Gerald Braton



Douglas Millison



R.D. Mallams



Andrew Lester



Douglas Millison



Craig Lantz



Gaila Sullivan





### **Recognition of Post Excellence**

Presented On Behalf Of A Very Grateful American Legion To

## **Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626**

### **Department of Missouri**

Has Demonstrated Excellence In Serving Their Community Above And Beyond All Expectations. In Keeping With The Aims Of Our Preamble, This Post And Its Members Have Displayed Exemplary Efforts Through Their

### "Devotion To Mutual Helpfulness"

This Post's 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. Their Allegiance To Helping Veterans Is Exemplary And They Should Be Commended For Their Efforts Towards Post Excellence.

The American Legion Presents This Certificate In Appreciation To This Post's Unselfish Duty, Devotion, And Compassion Towards Their Fellow Men And Women. In Witness Whereof, This Testimonial Of Personal Gratitude Is Given By The Undersigned And Presented On This August 24, 2016.

Dale Barnett National Commander

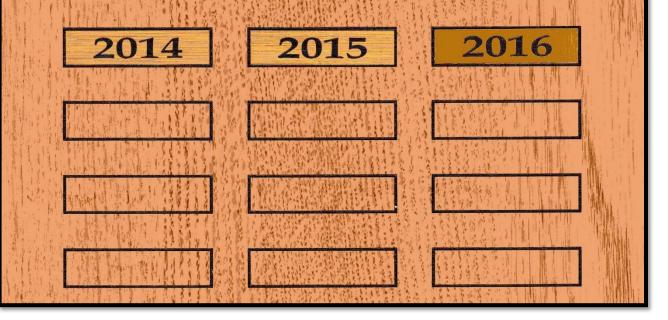
ATTEST:

Daniel S. Wheeler National Adjutant

## Toot Our Horn Award

# **Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626**

Has met the requirements to promote the American Legion locally and state wide.



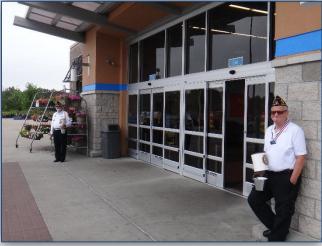
American Legion Bennett & Dennis Herrick Memorial Post 626 understanding of how government works and the opportunity to develop and exercise the Community. For over 75 years Missouri Girls State has provided young women with a better President, Dept. of Missour Cathie J. Soth American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State sincerely appreciates the generosity of For your financial support of Missouri Girls State and sponsorship of delegates from your GIRLS MISSOURI STATE AMERICAN AUXILIARY leadership skills needed in a free democratic society Certificate of Appreciation Malie D. R.C. Director, Missouri Girls State STATE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IT ST





Members raising money, 4 July, L to R, T to B; Bland, Duncan, Box, Millison, Farris, Owens.







### Department 2016 Convention in Kansas City





Front; Box, Rosales. Back; Millison, Duncan, McDonald, Braton, Sullivan, Bland



#### **LEGIONNAIRE's of Post 626**

### <u>Please join us for our second annual Initiation and Induction ceremony</u> <u>being held at Post 61, 5125 N. Bellaire KCMO 64119 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July</u> <u>starting at 6:30 PM.</u>

Guest Speeker: Lt. Col. Hugh Mills, Jr. USA (Ret.)

The most highly decorated helicopter pilot of the Viet Nam war, Hugh was shot down sixteen times (16!) and wounded three times. He served two tours in Vietnam as an aero scout pilot and one as a cobra pilot and flew more than 3,300 combat hours and developed many of the U.S. Army's air cavalry aero scout tactics.

LTC Mills is the author of two books, the first of which is "Low Level Hell: A Scout Pilot in the Big Red One." He retired in 1993 after 26 years of service and was inducted into the Army's Aviation Hall of Fame in 2011. He is currently serving as the Undersheriff for Jackson County MO.

Hugh recently returned to Vietnam in preperation for making "Low Level Hell" into a movie and will talk about his experience meeting with seventeen North Vietnamese shoulders whom he fought against in a battle that lasted 30 days!

We will also hear from a Missouri Boys State Alum, Initiate new members, Induct new officers, 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 brisket, turkey and beans and we ask everyone else to bring their favorite side dish or desert.

This would be an excellent time to <u>bring a prospective new member</u> along as your guest to show them what our Post is about. Space is limitted so <u>Please</u> RSVP to Jerry Braton at 816-835-1862 or email the Post at <u>bennettherrick626@gmail.com</u>.



The Traveling Post



Lantz, Duncan, Mills, Farris, Ragan



Millison, Braton, Coast Guard, and Post 61 Baumgarder



Key Note Speaker Deputy Hugh Mills





Boys State graduate Trystin Bowling



District CDR Holtz initiating Robertson and Armstrong, and...

swearing in officers Millison, Duncan, Sullivan, Lantz, Rosales, Braton and Mallams.





CDR Duncan presenting Adjutant Rosales with Legionnaire of the Year



CDR Duncan welcoming "Doc" Ballard, MoH recipient to the July membership Meeting 27 July

Lester and McDonald performing flag folding ceremony In Memorium, 29 July.





# AUGUST



Clockwise from above; Robertson, Sullivan with other Volunteer, Millison, Armstrong, N. Duncan and L. Duncan with other Volunteer. North Kansas City School Districts "Stuff the Bus" School supplies drive, 5 Aug 2016





# SEPTEMBER



Millison and Mallams Volunteering at The Atkins Johnson Farm Countery Fair.

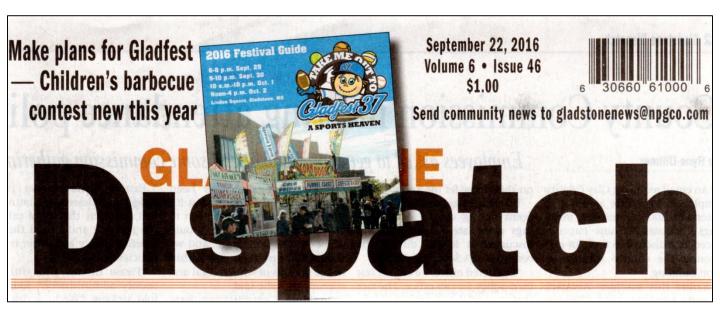




Chaplain emeritus Courtney Receiving his 20 year certificate.

Lester (R) assisting the color Guard for the Galdstone Patriot Day ceremony.







With a current member-ship of 2.4 million wartime snip of 2.4 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, vet-eran's affairs, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the Legionnaires work for the tterment of their com

SSAFE provides the com-fort of financial support for the surviving spouse and dependents or, in their absence, the parents

Endowment Fund.

women in the Public Safety women in the Public Safety Department and profes-sions by lowering the flag at Big Shoal Cemetery to half-staff on Patriot Day and making a donation to the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund

munities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Joe Farris, the father of two law enforcement officers, presents a donation from Bennett & Dennis Herrick Mencial American Legion Post 626 to Sonny Wilson, the executive director of the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Gladstone City Councilman R.D. Mallams, Gaila Sullivan and Bill McDonald lower the flag at Big Shoal Cemetery on Patriot Day, Sept. 11.

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# OCTOBER

Gladfest Parade, 1 Oct.



Millison and Farris.





Braton, McDonald and Murch

Rosales and Braton.

McDonald, Bland, Duncan and Braton opening for the Gladfest Scarecrow 5K, 2 October





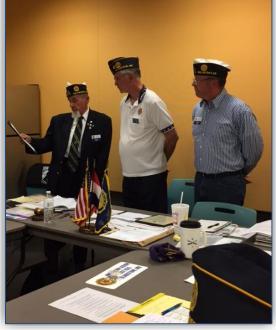
Members fluffing Poppies along with residents of Linden Woods Village to get ready for Veterans Day, 17 Oct.





Duncan and Rosales at Friday Fright Night, 21 Oct.

District Commander Holtz presenting The Post Excellence award to CDR Duncan and SR Vice CDR Millison, 27 Oct



Vice CDR Millison participated in National CDR's Walk for Veterans, 29 Oct in St Joseph.

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Honoring Veteran Heroes With a Trip of a Lifetime

Duncan, Millison and Robertson Volunteering at Honor Flight event, 29 Oct.

# NOVEMBER



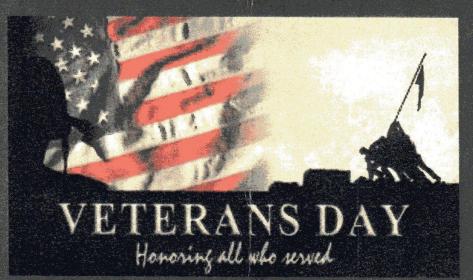
Poppy Donation Day, Box, Braton, Armstrong, Robertson and Duncan 6 Nov.





Lester and McDonald decorate Big Shoal Cemetery for Veterans Day, 10 Nov

## ANTIOCH MIDDLE SCHOOL



# Veteran's Day Ceremony

Friday, November 11, 2016

Hosted by: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade National Junior Honor Society 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

"...To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his children." -Abraham Lincoln, 1865

Participating in Antioch Middle School for Veterans Day, 11 Nov

Sullivan

8



Lester, Lantz and Duncan.

Cavalaro







Duncan, Lester, Farris, Thompson and Sullivan At Cameron's Veterans Home for Bingo and Pizza, 22 Nov.

Bresee (Unit 61) and Millison visiting HQ.



Rosales, Duncan, Braton and Santa at Mayors Tree Lighting



# DECEMBER

Wreaths Across America (delayed) 24 Dec, White Chapel Cemetery.



Farris, Thompson, Braton, Robertson, Box, Sullivan.

## January

# February

#### NAIFA - Greater Kansas City Third Annual

#### Salute to Veterans



February 16, 2017 The American Legion Tirey J. Ford Post 21 Independence, MO

### **Thank You to Our Sponsors!**



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 $\star$ 

Fred and Sue Huse Gary Lykken Brian Niemeyer, Shelter Ins. Larry Langford, State Farm Ins. Smithville Am. Legion Post 58



Bresee (Unit 61), Guests, Box, Robertson, Sullivan and Dubuc.

### Oak Park junior competes in oratorical competition

Renee Hill of Oak Park High School competed in the American Legions High School Oratorical Contest, finishing first in her district Jan. 22 in Smithville and second in the zone contest Jan. 29 in Concordia.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

"The Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 of Gladstone congratulates Ms. Hill on her accomplishments" said Douglas Millison, the post's senior vice commander. "What these students do is quite remarkable and earns our deepest respect. They prepare an oratorical that must be not less than five minutes long and not more than six, and when that is done they are given five minutes to prepare for an assigned topic that is picked from a list of four articles of or amendments to the Constitution. They must deliver it in not less than three minutes and no more than five. All the while they are being judged on everything from originality and comprehensiveness to voice and style. Remarkable."

Contestants are competing for scholarships up to \$2,00 at the state level, and up to \$18,000 at the national level. High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state and national competition.

"We are looking forward to seeing Ms. Hill again next year," Millison said. "And with this experience under her belt, she will be all that much better prepared."





Sullivan, Lester, Duncan and Millison visit Oak Hill Day School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade History Class, 10 March.

Post breakfast in support of Rotary "Stacks for Students", 11 Mar; Farris, Sullivan, Robker, Tucker, Thompson, Murch, Braton, Duncan, Mallams, Millison and Bresee (Unit 61).

# APRIL

Voting has begun! Find your Best of the Northland ballot inside this issue.



April 6, 2017 Volume 7 • Issue 22 \$1.00



Send community news to gladstonenews@npgco.com



## Working together



#### **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Kansas City Northland Elks Lodge in Gladstone recently contributed \$500 to American Legion Post 626 to sponsor Northland high school juniors to attend Missouri Boys and Girls State this summer. Pictured are, from left, Doug Millison, first vice commander; R.D. Mallams, then-exalted ruler; Nelson Duncan, commander; and Jerry Braton, second vice commander.

#### **Gladstone Dispatch A9**

### **Civic aspirations**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Bennett and Dennis Herrick Memorial American Legion Post 626 interview Oak Park High School student Robert Young as part of the Missouri Boys State selection process. Five students from Oak Park, Staley and St. Pius X high schools were interviewed by representatives from the Gladstone American Legion for consideration for the annual Boys State held on the University of Central Missouri campus in Warrensburg in June. Post 626 was also able to donate to the American Legions Auxiliary Unit 61 in Kansas City to send five students from Oak Park High School to Girls State.



CDR Duncan presenting Harold Leeds with his 60 Continuous Years of membership certificate.







Members at an Elks Scholarship breakfast, 6 May; Farris, Murch, MRS and MR Duncan, MR and Mrs Tucker, Williams and Nephew, Robker, Bresee (61), Rosales, Mrs and Mr Braton, Mr and Mrs Thompson.



Braton and Duncan presenting school awards to 2 students at Antioch Middle School, 17 May



Honor Guard helping out with Patriot Day at Linden Woods Village, 18 May; Duncan, Murch, Tucker, Farris and McDonald.





Members fluffing Poppies with the residents of Heritage Village, 19 May; Braton, Duncan, Box, Thompson, Millison, Staff and Robker.

Armed Forces and





Armed Forces Day Veterans Procession, led by member Don "Doc" Ballard, Linden Square, 21 May



Member, Mayor R.D. Mallams introducing key note speaker MG Danner of the Missouri National Guard.



New Guard Recruits swearing in.



CDR (Elect) Millison thanking service men and women, near and far.



Robker, Thompson, Mc Donald and Box on Poppy Donation Day, 27 May.





Members Jeff Benes in Normandy and Jessica Farris with VP Pence and wife.



Color Guard opening Bluesfest, Oak Grove Park, 2 Jun

Murch, Millison, Farris and McDonald.

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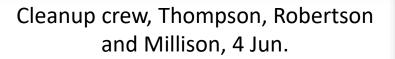
Post Volunteer Team Working the fest, 2 – 3 Jun.

Thompson, Rosales, Millison, Robker, Robertson, Sullivan.

DART)







Volunteer Millison and helpers at Gladstone's Kids Triathlon, 10 Jun.



Members visit Boys State, 19 Jun. Braton, Murch, (Past Dept. Commander Marvin Harper), Farris and Tucker.

C.

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