



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



American Legion Post 1995

December 10th, 2024 - Defender Newsletter

Monthly Military Quote

"Just like Santa, our troops deliver worldwide!"

Photo of the Month:



Please remember to donate one or more toys to the Marine Corps Toys-For-Tots program...collection boxes can be found at the CGX, Sully Government Center, and Mission BBQ

The December meeting will be abbreviated due to our annual joint holiday dinner with the Auxiliary. This 30-minute meeting will start at 6:30 pm.

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Commander's Corner

Post Social Hour

Post 1995 held its fifth no host Social Hour at Ono Brewery on November 7th in Chantilly from 4 to 7 PM. About 10 beers were on tap, all with a Hawaiian theme. The attached kitchen specializes in pulled pork BBQ sandwiches and sides. Due to the press of competing events and business travel for some this was a smaller gathering than our last one, but it was still enjoyable getting together and catching up outside of Legion business. Vice Commander Chris Torelli will arrange our next event at the end of February. All Post members are invited and encouraged to bring their significant other. More information about time and place will appear in the Communicator next month.

Recruitment at Coast Guard Exchange

On a busy Saturday just before Veteran's Day, we had another successful recruiting drive at the Coast Guard Exchange in Centreville on November 9th. We signed up three new members and provided information to eligible Veterans about the opportunity to join posts near their homes in the 17th and 16th Districts. The great thing for me was seeing new faces participating in the membership effort. There is no "Cool Kids Club" in Post 1995. All are welcome to pitch in and help. We plan on holding another membership drive around Memorial Day 2025 at the CGX.



Membership Chairman Steve Hunter Recruiting at the CGX

Flag Retirement

Under the leadership of Staff Judge Advocate Mike Reilly, filling in for Sergeant at Arms Mark Miller, we held our annual flag retirement service at Fire Station 38 in west Centreville in the afternoon of November 9th. Post 1995 operates four flag collection boxes in the Chantilly and Centreville area. With what we get from the fire station, and the Fairfax Police Honor Guard we were folding just under 1000 flags that had been worn out in patriotic service. Operating two burn barrels supplied by Troop 1995, lots of Scouts carried the flags to the flames and were assisted by Legionnaires for safety. We do this in a respectful manner and render all the cotton flags to the flames. The rest of the synthetic flags will be disposed of at the **Covanta** incineration plant in Lorton with other Posts on December 9th.



Scouts with Troop 1995 helping to fold a large U.S. Flag

Department Commander's Dinner

The next evening, November 10th, Steve Hunter, Chris Torelli, and I represented our Post at the annual dinner in honor of the Commander of the Department of Virginia. This event is hosted by Post 176 in Springfield. We hosted our Department Commander Gene Malinowski at our table with Pam Young, Karen Hunter, and Patty Caggiano lending grace and charm. This gave us a chance to learn about Gene's background and his time in the service.



*Post Commander Randy Young and
Department Commander Gene Malinowski*

District Fall Conference

The following weekend on Sunday November 17th the District held its regular Fall Conference at Fairfax Post 177. Steve Hunter presented the Americanism report, and I presented my Vice Commander's activity report. Altogether 23 committee reports were

presented, and I made a short talk about the Be the One campaign. The Department Commander, Jeff White presented an appeal to levy per-member dues on each post to fund 17th District operations. The proposal was discussed by those in attendance and the matter will be voted on during the spring conference to allow sufficient notice to the membership as required by the District By Laws. Steve Hunter proposed using gift cards left over from the Department Convention in July as prizes for the 50-50 raffle. This helped raise \$155 of pure profit to fill the District coffers.

We Need Help with Baseball

“If you have any experience coaching or managing a ball team or having a son who plays ball at any level we want you. I will mentor you and give you guidance for this rewarding position. Please write me at rsyoung47@gmail.com.” I sent out this message last month but got no takers, so I am asking again for someone to take this truly easy job. Planning begins in February so please raise your hand and “pitch” in.



BE the ONE

I gave a talk about this at the District Conference because suicide struck my extended family a few days before the conference. My 26-year-old nephew took his life in the woods he liked to hunt near his home in Pennsylvania. The county coroner told his parents this was the third suicide in the county that week. This scourge is real, it is out there, and it is everywhere. It's not just Veterans, but every day you can do something small about this scourge of the Veteran community. ASK Veterans in your life how they are doing. Remember: dial 988 then #1 to ask for help for yourself or another Vet.

Membership Impact Report for November 2024

<https://www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact>

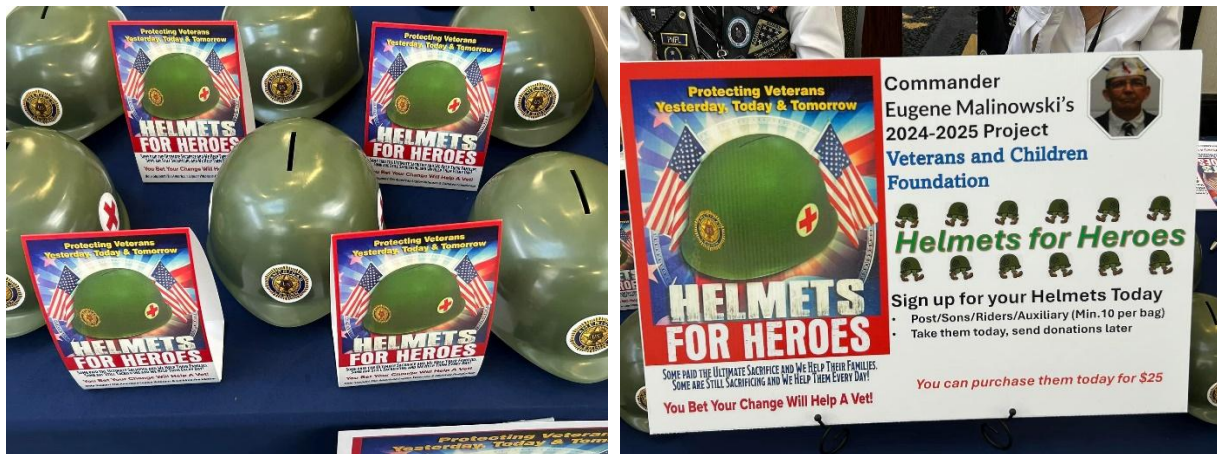
Holiday Safety Tips/Information from the National Fire Protection Association

While preparing for the holidays, keep safety and preparedness in mind to reduce the risk of fire and related safety concerns to protect your home, family, and animals. This link provides 55 specific links to fire risk safety topics and how to reduce/prevent fires and stay safe.

<https://www.nfpa.org/search?view=dynamic&rn=08373488004138017&sh=dynamic&globalsearch=true#q=holiday%20safety&aq=%40culture%3D%22en%22&numberOfResults=12>

Helmets for Heroes

This is the Department of Virginia's Commander's project this year to raise funds for the Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation. The helmets are actually "piggy banks" for donations. This is a yearlong effort with the collected funds being donated to National at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa. A helmet will be at all Post meetings/events. If you have a location that would support this project, let me know as I have ten. A helmet will be at all Post events for your contributions.



Tun Tavern (Marine Corp Birthplace)

Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marine Corps has a long history, and the founding location of other organizations will be rebuilt on the original land parcel.

<https://thetun.org/tun-tavern-legacy-foundation-secures-land-to-rebuild-historic-site-in-philadelphia/>

https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine_corps/2024-11-22/tun-tavern-replicate-ceremonially-breaks-ground-15931061.html also <https://thetun.org/>

Membership Update

Our official current membership status as of December 5th are 106 renewals, and 51 PULFs and one new member. Eleven members of the Department Post (141) have recently transferred into our Post, though some will not count for our 2025 officially for Post credit as they have already paid their dues to Department, nonetheless, they are members of our Post. We currently have a total of 159 (80.30.%) of our 198-membership goal for 2025.

I thank all those who have renewed for 2025. If you have not renewed, you may renew by sending back one of the renewal letters National sends out or going online at [Renew \(mylegion.org\)](https://mylegion.org) to renew. It is your choice, but doing so online is quick, simple, and saves you the cost of a stamp and you get your new membership card a bit faster. Should you have any questions about your membership, please call or email the post's adjutant/membership chairman.

Military Trivia Question of the Month

Which military branch(es) does the Delta Force draw from to fill its ranks?

Please send your response to David Benson at warren.d.benson@gmail.com. The winner will receive a challenge coin.

Multi-Year Memberships Are Now Available - The Legion now has a three-year renewal option. The benefit of renewing for three years and paying in advance is that you avoid any dues increases (for 2025) and getting renewal notifications. If you do not want the inconvenience of renewing annually, you now have the option of a three-year renewal. While there is no discount for the multi-year membership, you are locked in at the current dues amount, even if the fee increases in subsequent years. For details on this new option visit this Legion website: <https://www.legion.org/membership/260621/american-legion-multiyear-membership-here> Four out of the last six online renewals with the post have taken advantage of this new membership renewal option.

PUFL Memberships - PLFL members pay a one-time fee for a lifetime American Legion membership. You never have to pay yearly dues nor dues again or increases, which will come over the years. For those considering getting a Paid Up For Life membership, an added incentive would be a \$100 discount, but you must call National and request the availability of it. The kicker however is that you must pay all of it with a credit card or check in a single payment. This option is not available with their payment plan. If interested in a PULF membership, call 1-800-433-3318.

Fairfax Lions Club Fundraiser

In December, we are selling delicious, fresh, ruby-red grapefruit and mandarins from FL, VT Maple Syrup & VA peanuts - all wonderful products!

Order now; pick-up your order December 19-21. (When you order, schedule pick-up time convenient for you.)

LAST DAY TO ORDER: Wednesday, Dec 11

To order: <https://fairfaxlions-december.square.site/>

Thank you for supporting our citrus sales, the primary fund raiser for Fairfax Lions charity programs. For more info about Fairfax Lions Club: <http://www.fairfaxlions.org/>

Thank you! - FX Lions Fruit Sale Team (also a member of Post 177 in Fairfax)

Final Thought:

Unless our conception of patriotism is progressive, it cannot hope to embody the real affection and the real interest of the nation. - Jane Addams (Sociologist; International President, Women's League for Peace and Freedom, 1860-1935)

Free Flags - The Post has a considerable number of lightly used U.S. flags of many sizes from 3"x5" to 5'x9'-5" available to any post member who needs to replace their house flag. All you need to do is let the Adjutant know what size you need and attend the next meeting after your request. These flags were turned in for retirement by community members for our annual flag retirement ceremony this past November and previous years, however due to their good condition are not yet ready for retirement. The Post's collection (not giveaways) also includes some unique flags such as 45- and 48-star flags (possible museum donations), and copies of the Grand Union, Bennington, and Betsy Ross flags.

Comments/Submissions to the Editor - Comments about this newsletter relative to its contents and/or presentation style are always welcomed. We also encourage submissions from Post members relative to anything related to the American Legion and/or what we as Legionnaires are doing to serve our communities. If you have missed previous issues of the Post's newsletters, let me know and I can forward any month want.

Editor's Note: Some of the links to articles are here due to the editor's opinion of their importance to veterans relative to News You Can Use, of interest to veterans, and/or inform membership of the post's activities/meetings/events. The following is always at the bottom of each newsletter.

Department of Virginia Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaLegion/>

Website: The American Legion – Centreville, Virginia Post 1995

<http://centrevillevapost1995.org/contact/> (Webmaster needed)

Post 1995's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/LegionPost1995/posts/>

1995 Centreville webpage Post: <https://americanlegionpost1995.org>

17th District X (aka Twitter) Account: <https://twitter.com/va17thdistrict>

Facebook: 17th District's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VALegion17/>), is synchronized to its Twitter page and posts to the 17th District Facebook page are tweeted to the 17th District's Twitter page.

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Calendars - To view the National Legion calendar, visit this website for the year 2024:

<https://www.legion.org/calendar/2024/>

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8	9	10 Post Meeting	11	12	13 National Guard Birthday	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Space Force Birthday	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31 News Years Eve				

January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10	11
12	13	14 Post Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martain Luther King Jr Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Military History

The Cold War

This is a short history of the Cold War written by a Legionnaire with Post 24 in Alexandria. She often contributes to Alexandria's local newspaper, the Zebra with military/Veteran articles. <https://thezebra.org/2024/11/09/cold-warriors-unsung-veterans/>

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995

On December 7th Unit 1995 participated in a Christmas Holiday Fare at Patriot High School in Nokesville. The Auxiliary held a bake sale of various specialty breads, cupcakes, treats and other low-cal items. The proceeds will go to numerous organizations such as Fisher House, VA Hospitals in WV and DC, Heroes Bridge and M-K9's to name a few. The Auxiliary collected a nice sum of \$1500 in sales on the day.



Auxiliary Members' Bake Sale Fundraiser: L>R – Patty Caggiano, Fran Robison, Nancy Ward, Ann Burke, Karen Hunter, and Suzie Denham.