



# The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (September 2023)



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Welcome to the September 2023 edition of The Howler.

September brings Labor Day. It is a day to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.

September is also National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Mental Health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members come together to raise awareness about the stigmas associated with suicide, provide mental health resources and share the message that suicide is preventable. This is the mission behind The American Legion's Be the One initiative: to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

Our General Meeting will be on the 12th of September at the Post Home. The Auxiliary will be cooking the meal. We will have taco casserole and salad. The dinner will cost \$8.00/person. The dinner will start at 6:00pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. Please join us for fellowship with your fellow Legionnaires.

Our Lazy Daze fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to all our volunteers! We raised over \$7,700 in the two days of the event. This may be our best fundraiser for a long time.

Again, a special thank you to Frank Stancil for mowing the Post Home grass. I also thank Bruce and Jill Dale for spraying weed killer around our property. The Post Home looks great.

The inside of the Post Home will be painted on September 16<sup>th</sup>. One of the churches volunteered to paint the inside if we buy the paint. We will need help moving furniture around to paint the office.

Thank you for letting me be your Commander!

Dennis



## **Adjutants Howler Call for August 2023**

As of September 3rd, 2023, Post 67 has 57.33% retained members, If you have not renewed it yet remember you can do this online at MyLeagion.org. or send a check for \$45.00 to the post.

I will have membership cards at the General Meeting.

Last year 2022-2023 we were short 22 renewals short of 100%. Our goal is to reach 100% by 1 January 2024. Let's all make this happen.

If you have a question about membership and renewals or a problem please let me know at [adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com).

Richard Spyrison, Adjutant

### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40

We learn God's will by spending time in his presence. The key to knowing God's heart is having a relationship with him. A personal relationship. God will speak to you differently than He will speak to others. Just because God spoke to Moses through a burning bush doesn't mean we should all sit next to a bush waiting for God to speak. God used a fish to convince Jonah. Doesn't mean

we should have worship services at Sea World. No, God reveals his heart personally to each person.

For that reason, your walk with God is essential. His heart is not seen in an occasional chat or weekly visit. We learn his will as we take up residence in his house every single day.

Walk with him long enough and you will come to know his heart.

God bless you,

Chaplain Marie

### **1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the buddy check. A big thank you to Miss Marie Faulkner, we could not have reached everyone without her.

Please bring soda can tabs to the General Meetings.

The Veteran's Bridge Home hosts a veterans' coffee at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse (5707 Dillard Drive, Cary) each month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 19 September at 8:30a. Check out <https://veteransbridgehome.org/> for more information.

The Joel Fund hosts a veteran's coffee connection on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8:30am. You can participate in person or virtually. You can learn more or register at <https://www.thejoelfund.org/north-carolina-veterans-coffee/>.

We are sponsoring the Heart of Carolina Mustang Honor the Heros Mustang

and all Ford car show on 30 September from 8am to 2pm at Ting Park in Holly Springs (101 Sportsmanship Way, Holly Springs, NC 27540). There will be a cruise to the War on Terror Memorial in Holly Springs after the show. Come out and see some cool cars and support our first responders.

Please put a spot on your calendar for 9a to 3p on 15 November for the Food Drive. It will be held at the Food Lion located at 2458 SW Cary Parkway. We cannot hold this food drive without volunteers. We need at least two trucks for transporting donations to Dorcas. Please reach out to me directly at 919-319-9062 or [mleazer32@gmail.com](mailto:mleazer32@gmail.com) if you can volunteer.

Thank you,

First Vice Commander,

M. Wayne Leazer

### **AMERICANISM**

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, David Christiansen:

The Cary High Junior NROTC air rifle team has resumed practice at the post facility. The team is preparing for American Legion tournament competition. The best four marksmen will be chosen soon to begin that competition. The registration for this tournament will be administered and paid for by the post.

Curtis Leary and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander attended the August 24, 2023, Cary Town Council meeting. The council was notified of the Post's recent acceptance of an NRA Foundation Grant. The Grant consisted

of three state-of-the-art competition air rifles (for JROTC schools) with some ancillary equipment. This equipment will be utilized by the Cary High team in the current competition.



### **INFORMATION FOR NEW POST MEMBERS**

To all new Post 67 members, thank you for joining. We encourage you to purchase Legion hats and shirts from Emblem Sales so when we are at Legion meetings or taking part in a community activity, you will be in uniform. For Color Guard, Rifle Detail, funerals, and other more formal activities, the uniform will be your Legion hat, gray pants, white shirt, and blue jacket with tie, black shoes, and socks. At other times the Legion hat, a polo or golf type shirt with the Legion emblem is usually worn by most Legionnaires. This may be called Business Casual dress. **Emblem Sales:** <https://www.legion.org/promos/230360/shop-online> If you need help, contact a PEC member.

## **POST 67 MEETINGS**

We hold the monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at the Post. Usually, we have dinner at 6:00 pm before the monthly meeting.

The Post Executive Committee (PEC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Post Home. We encourage members to come and speak of any concerns or recommendations concerning Post business at that time.

We may need to hold Post meetings using virtual meet from time to time, due to the viruses and guidelines, so be on the lookout for announcements via email. If you need assistance in setting up your computer or tablet for Zoom meetings, please contact a PEC member.

## **POST 67 HOME INFORMATION**

8523 Chapel Hill Rd., Cary, NC 27513

Post Home Phone: 919-481-4811

Post Home Web & Facebook Page:

<https://www.alncpost67.org> Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/alncpost67.org>

## **HISTORY WITH**

### **JOSH QUACKENBUSH**

By the end of March 1943, shortly after Eisenhower appointed Patton the command of II Corps in North Africa, Soviet soldiers had been locked in a life and death struggle against German forces for over 20 months. During this time 3,984,930 Soviet

soldiers had been killed or captured. By the war's end approximately 27 million Soviet civilians and military personnel would lose their lives. The land seized from Germany during its assault on the Soviet Union can compare to an occupation of the United States from the East Coast to the Mississippi River and into the eastern Great Plains. Letters between Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin reveal that survival of the Soviet Union was absolutely essential for defeating Nazi Germany. Understanding this important fact, Roosevelt arranged to have military equipment and vital supplies sent to the ravaged country.

To divert German forces away from the Soviet Union, Stalin pleaded with Churchill and Roosevelt to launch a cross channel invasion into France. Winston Churchill knew the Allies might face defeat if they invaded France in 1943, so he chose Italy, believing it to be the "soft underbelly" of the enemy. General Mark Clark would later call it, "one tough gut."

80 years ago in the early morning hours on September 9, 1943 General Mark Clark's Fifth Army composed of American and British soldiers stormed the beaches around Salerno, Italy. Even though Italy had officially surrendered the day before, the Germans had taken up defensive positions of the mainland. The men serving in the U.S. 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division were ordered to invade the beaches south of Salerno, at Paestum. As the men were coming ashore in LST's, heavy enemy gunfire from the shore erupted and the German Luftwaffe appeared in the skies overhead to bomb the approaching vessels.

“A lot of those LST’s, they took direct hits,” remembers Herman Zerger, a rifleman with the 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. “There were bodies floating all around.” After landing on shore, we had to “get off the beach fast. You don’t want to stay there because they were zeroing in on you.” As the men began running toward the hills, they “were taking heavy casualties” from enemy fire coming at them “from all angles” along the way. “When you see your buddies right alongside dropping, you just wonder. . . . It was very frightening for me,” says Zerger, “and I had to get my bearings . . . so I could be a good soldier and fight hard.”

British and American warships near Salerno provided supporting fire for the troops as they made their way inland. One such ship participating in the early morning hours of the invasion was the USS Savannah, a Brooklyn-class light cruiser. Warrant officer Patrick O’Neill on board the Savannah explains:

We were landing salvos, those projectiles over there knocking out tanks and protecting the advance of our troops. In fact, they could hardly get off their boats because the Germans were waiting for them. I don’t know how they found out they were going to be there, but it is a good thing we were there to knock out their tanks, mortars, and guns so our troops could debark towards shore. Our main gunnery officer received information from the army where to direct fire. We did have spotter planes that flew up until we lost them all eventually. They got shot down or whatever, because the Germans could see that those spotter planes

were directing where our ammunition would land, even though we couldn’t see, because it was over the mountain [several miles] away.

As the battle unfolded near Salerno the Italian naval ships were on route toward Malta to unite with the British. The German Luftwaffe responded with planes carrying Hitler’s new wonder weapon, the Fritz-X remote controlled bomb. This bomb operated by joystick made two direct hits on the flagship of the Italian fleet. The battleship Roma sank taking an admiral and over 1,200 other sailors with it. To counteract the Allied invasion and the threat of naval gun fire, German planes began to bomb the Allied ships, landing crafts, and other vessels near Salerno. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Fritz-X precision guided bomb hit gun turret number 3 of the USS Savannah, smashing through her decks and detonating 36 feet below. This would be the largest bomb to strike any U.S. naval ship during World War II. O’Neill describes the event:

I was in the electric shop, which was on third deck a little bit forward to mid-ship, not far from one of our watertight bulkheads that actually saved our lives. It was a tremendous blast that nobody can imagine, and fire spewed back up and out of the number 3 turret. Our ship shook violently and just seconds after that another terrible explosion and that’s when part of our magazine blew. It was really a state of catastrophe because the interior communication department was located in the area that was completely demolished. So we had no communication whatsoever. It

was just absolutely dead silent and all the lights went out. We were sitting there and I could hear water splashing on the outer bulkhead and it was not a very good feeling because you didn't know how the ship was going down and we didn't dare open up those watertight compartments for fear of flooding.

The water quickly flooded the ammunition storage area of the ship. This prevented the whole magazine from igniting—saving the Savannah from the fate that had befallen the Battleship Roma. “After they discovered that the water was contained in the forward area,” says O’Neill, “they then began to open up the hatches so we could move about. With the concussion and fire we lost [206] members of our crew (including) 14 electricians who were personal friends of mine. I was called to see if I could identify one of them and that was tough to do.” Surprisingly, O’Neill had been previously assigned to turret number 3, until being moved to the electric shop by his commanding officer. “I certainly wouldn’t have been here today,” O’Neil says. “I must have a guardian angel somewhere.”

Veterans receiving full VA benefits and military retirees on Tricare for Life may want to consider a Medicare Advantage plan that provides benefits like dental, hearing, free gym memberships, and Part B Medicare rebates. I am an independent Broker with Health markets and the plans I represent in this area include Humana’s Honor (PPO), WellCare’s Patriot (PPO), Aetna’s Eagle (PPO), Blue Cross Blue Shield’s Freedom (PPO), Cigna’s Courage (HMO), and United

Healthcare’s Patriot (HMO POS). The Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare runs from October 15th through December 7th. During this time Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their current coverage. Understanding these plans and how they will benefit you is well worth your time. Feel free to contact me at (919) 446-1884. There are no fees for my services.



Figure 1. Our New Tent was used for Cary Lazy Daze Fundraiser. (Pic by Dennis Tackett)

**PICTURES FROM LAZY DAZE FUNDRAISER (pics by Barry Biagini)**



## CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 OFFICERS 2023-2024

POSITION	NAME	PHONE#	EMAIL
Commander	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	<a href="mailto:commander.alncpost67@gmail.com">commander.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
Adjutant	Richard Spyrison	919-441-8295	<a href="mailto:adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com">adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Wayne Leazer	919-319-9062	<a href="mailto:mleazer32@gmail.com">mleazer32@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	David Christiansen	919-650-3848	<a href="mailto:dchristi7@gmail.com">dchristi7@gmail.com</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Curtis Leary	919-270-2136	<a href="mailto:gssi36@earthlink.net">gssi36@earthlink.net</a>
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell	919-302-2518	<a href="mailto:finance.alncpost67@gmail.com">finance.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
Service Officer	Lee Wood	843-301-9663	<a href="mailto:LWoodhhi@aol.com">LWoodhhi@aol.com</a>
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner	919-851-9838	<a href="mailto:calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net">calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net</a>
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando	919-469-5214	<a href="mailto:anna81mill@yahoo.com">anna81mill@yahoo.com</a>
Sgt-At-Arms	Bruce Dale	919-602-7393	<a href="mailto:advracin@hotmail.com">advracin@hotmail.com</a>
Historian	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	<a href="mailto:historian.alncpost67@gmail.com">historian.alncpost67@gmail.com</a>
At-Large	Joe Veilleux	919-454-3348	<a href="mailto:joeveilleux@gmail.com">joeveilleux@gmail.com</a>
At-Large			



# Taco Casserole, Salad



**\$8.00/person**

**September 12, 2023, 6:00PM**

# **Dinner & General Meeting**



# Wake County Veterans Services

## Need help navigating the complex world of veteran's services?

Wake County's Veterans Service Division can assist eligible veterans, dependents and/or surviving spouses, children of deceased veterans, members of the Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty service members in two major ways:

- ✓ Veteran homelessness, prevention and housing support
- ✓ Assistance applying for benefits and services from the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are highly trained and accredited. VSOs can assist with:

- Disability and compensation benefits
- VA healthcare enrollment
- Survivor and dependent benefits
- VA home loans
- DMV tags
- Employment
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Discharge upgrades
- DD-214/military records request
- And more!



### Wake County Veterans Service Division

4401 Bland Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609



919-212-8356



[wake.gov/veterans](mailto:wake.gov/veterans)



Walk-ins welcome but appointments are strongly encouraged.

## Are you experiencing a housing crisis?

Contact the Raleigh/Wake Partnership Access Hub to get connected to services such as emergency shelter, street outreach and financial assistance programs to prevent homelessness.



919-443-0096



[AH@partnershipwake.org](mailto:AH@partnershipwake.org)



Any additional questions related to veteran housing services can contact 919-856-5250.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

# Veterans'

## LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. • PRESTONWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

RSVP OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FREE EVENT AT [carync.gov/veteransluncheon](http://carync.gov/veteransluncheon)

### "Lunch for the Brave: Serving & Honoring our Veterans"

Please join us on Friday, November 3, 2023 at 11 a.m. as we celebrate and honor our veterans with a delicious catered lunch and presentation.

Register by calling Cary Senior Center at (919) 469-4081. Please note: space is limited and each person must register. You will be contacted prior to the event for meal selection.

Any questions or large group registration? Please contact [Stefanie Nichols](#)

## Important Dates

**Oct 3, 6:30pm PEC meeting**

**Oct 10, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting**

**Nov 3, 11:00am Town of Cary Veterans' Luncheon**

**Nov 7, 6:30pm PEC meeting, Election Day**

**Nov 10 (substitute), Veterans Day**

**Nov 11, Veterans Day**

**Nov 14, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting**

**Nov 21, 8:30am-10:00am, Veterans' Coffee, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse**

## **Purpose and Mission of The American Legion**

**As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is devoted to mutual helpfulness, and is committed to:**

- mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities,**
  - advocating patriotism and honor,**
  - promoting strong national security,**
- continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.**

## **Mission**

**"To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."**

## **Vision**

**Veterans Strengthening America**