



The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (May. 2023)



Commander's Corner:

Welcome to the May 2023 edition of The Howler. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The purpose of Mental Health Awareness Month is to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses, such as depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder; the realities of living with these conditions; and strategies for attaining mental health and wellness. If you are in crisis, please call 988 and press 1.

The 14th of May is Mother's Day. To all the mothers I want to say I appreciate you. Being a mother must be the hardest job on the planet. THANK YOU Moms!

May also brings a solemn day and that is Memorial Day. Josh Quackenbush sent this information about Memorial Day to me, and I will pass it on to you (Thanks Josh!):

"We will be honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Monday, May 29th. Memorial Day, which was originally called Decoration Day, first originated in the years following the Civil War. On May 30, 1868, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 15,000 Civil War soldiers buried there. On what became the first Decoration Day, Garfield said:

"I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung. . . . We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens."

Garfield was elected the twentieth President of the United States in 1880. He served just four months in office before being shot by an assassin in 1881. Memorial Day first became an official federal holiday in 1971 to remember the large numbers who never returned home from the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam.

The 1868 celebration with Garfield was inspired by local observances that had taken place in various locations in the three years since the end of the Civil War. In fact, several cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day.”

Post 67 will be hosting a Memorial Day Program at Cary’s Hillcrest Cemetery on May 29th at 10:00am. The event is open to the public. It is recommended you bring a lawn chair if you are going to attend. Volunteers are needed for honor guard and 21-gun salute.

The Cary American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67 will be at the Pro Bass Shop on North Harrison Ave on Saturday, May 27 from 10:00am to 5:00pm for the annual Poppy Day fundraiser. All donations go directly to veterans in need. Please come out and support the Auxiliary and get your Poppy to honor the sacrifice of our veterans. Volunteers are needed to support this event.

In the May 2023 issue of The American Legion Magazine the National Commander, Vincent Troiola, in his Commander’s Message describes the National WWI Memorial Virtual Explorer mobile app. The app can take you on a 3D, animated tour. Augmented reality allows you to peer into the cockpit of a Sopwith Camel, learn the strengths and weaknesses of early tanks and artillery, watch a video history of U.S. battles, and read (or submit) stories that attach names and faces to the Great War, which produced The American Legion’s founding generation. The content can be found at doughboy.org and in the App Store.

The General Meeting will be on the 9th of May at the Post Home. We will be serving Pizza and Salad. The dinner will cost \$8.00/person. I sent out a signup sheet for dessert or side dishes. The signup sheet was different as I was trying to do something easier. I think it missed the requirement. I will figure out a better way. At least, I’ll keep trying. The dinner will start at 6:00pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. Please join us for fellowship with your fellow Legionnaires.

There will be a Veterans Benefit Live event in the Outer Banks on May 18-20. Any Veteran or survivor interested in filing a claim for VA disability compensation, survivor’s pension, veteran readiness and employment services, or needing assistance with an existing VA claim is encouraged to attend. The event is open to the public. The event provides an opportunity for Veterans to meet with VA representatives and receive face-to-face assistance with VA claims and information on VA operations to include The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. A flyer is attached to this issue of the Howler.

Attached to this Howler is a list of the Nominees for Post 67 Officers for next year. These Legionnaires will be voted on at our General Meeting on the 9th. If anyone would like to be a Post Officer, please let me know as soon as possible. We will need a vote on this soon. I will keep you informed. The Post Service Officer position is currently open.

Thank you for letting me be your
Commander!

Dennis

Adjutants Call

May 2023

Membership, Post 67 is currently at 87.40% membership renewals for this year. Please don't let your membership lapse. Membership dues are \$45.00 per year and can be sent to the following address:

Cary American Legion Post 67

PO Box 67

Cary, NC 27512-0067

Please make sure we have your current address and phone number with your email address.

Thank you.

Richard Spyrison

Post Adjutant

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

From the VA Center for Women Veterans:

The National 6888th Central Post Directory Battalion Day

We are honored to share the breaking news that September 16th is nationally designated as [National 6888th Central Post Director Battalion Day](#)!



What is National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day?

The National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day honors the all-female, multi-ethnic unit that was predominantly Black and included other women of color of Puerto Rican and Mexican descent.

The mission of the 6888th unit was to clear the over two-year backlog of mail in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) during World War II. The unit was stationed in Birmingham, England, Rouen, France and Paris, France. The 6888th's motto was "No Mail, Low Morale". While stationed in Birmingham, England, the unit worked in three eight-hour shifts seven days a week to sort and redirect an average of 65,000 mail parcel per shift. The Army gave the unit 6 months to clear the backlog in England. The unit cleared the backlog in 3 months. After that mission was completed, the unit was assigned to Rouen, France, again with the same mission, to sort and redirect the backlog of mail coming into France. Again,

the unit cleared the backlog in 3 months. Then off to Paris for the same mission. March 1946, the unit return to the United States and the unit was disbanded at Fort Dix, NJ.



Why was National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day created? This National Day of Recognition is in honor of one of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion members, the late PFC Deloris L. Ruddock who would have celebrated her 100th birthday on September 16, 2023. Ms. Ruddock was one of the five living Veterans that attended the 6888th monument dedication on November 30, 2018, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



Since the 2018 monument dedication, the unit has received several awards including: The Army’s Meritorious Unit Commendation Award (MUC) – February 2019; The Blue Historical Unit Marker, Birmingham, England – May 2019; and The Audie Murphy Award, American Veterans Center – October 2019. And, on March 14, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the “Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021” into Public Law 117-97. The National Day was co-created by Elizabeth A. Helm-Frazier & Gene D. Prince-Walker.



How should National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day be celebrated? We should honor the National 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day by writing and mailing a card to family, friends, and Veterans. We should also extend our gratitude to our postal employees in acknowledgment of the work they do.



AMERICANISM

From the 2nd Vice Commander, David Christiansen:

The Cary Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) has accomplished the following this past year:

- Current JNROTC enrollment is 118 Cadets
- Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors (23 years)
- Trip to Elizabeth City (Coast Guard Flight Operations and Aids to Navigation)
- Area 6 Drill, Academics, & Athletics Meet -4th Overall (Aquarium Trip)
- Area 6 Brain Brawl – 4th Overall
- CyberPatriot – 1st in NC and SC (Navy JROTC units)
- Orienteering – 4th in NC
- Marksmanship – 1 competitor to the State Meet (9th)
- Over 1800 hours of community service and school support.
- Adopt-A-Highway
- Ride for Kids
- Coffee House (provides a social experience for adults with special needs)
- Last year (2022) attended the Navy JROTC National Drill, Academics and Athletics Championship in Pensacola, Florida.

Post 67 is invited to attend the Cary HS JROTC Change of Command /Awards Ceremony. The Ceremony will take place on 17 May at 5:30 PM at the Football Stadium.

This event recognizes the graduating seniors, installs the incoming cadet staff and awards are presented. (Including a couple of American Legion awards given out by our commander and others).

American Legion Awards:

JROTC Military Excellence Award:

- John Mendoza
- Sean Luc Barnes
- Morgan Slotta
- Jesus Mendoza-Cruz

JROTC Scholastic Award:

- Chris Atunku
- Matthew O’Neal
- Cade Arnold
- Jayden Cruz

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

From the Post Service Officer, Gene Meyle:

Please see the May Veterans Benefits Newsletter at this link:

[Veterans Benefits Newsletter | May 2023 \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com) This month the main article is about Presumptive Toxic Exposure Eligibility. The VA has expanded the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by [exposure to hazardous substances](#). This update helps generations of Veterans, and their survivors receive the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your

service caused it. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

#VetResources is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their Families, Caregivers, and Survivors.

[Free Yoga for Veterans | Chance to Win \\$250, Share Your Military Memory | 25% Off Oil Change \(govdelivery.com\)](#)



PUBLIC RELATIONS

From the 3rd Vice Commander, Curtis Leary:

Upcoming Chamber of Commerce events:

Join us for Business After Hours sponsored by Cary Estate Planning and hosted at Fortnight Brewing Company. Enjoy some appetizers and beverages while networking with other professionals from around the area! We look forward to seeing you then! Must go online and register or call the Chamber. May 18 at 5PM. No charge.

Eye Opener Breakfast at Prestonwood Country Club on May 18 at 0800. Join us for an engaging discussion on the latest updates all around RDU International Airport from CEO, Michael Landguth. Must register and a cost of \$20 each.

Boys State: We currently have three boys registered to attend.

Cary Veterans Coffee May 16th

BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse
8:00am – 10:00am 5707 Dillard Drive, Cary.
This event will occur every other month on the third Tuesday of the month. Hosted by the Veterans Bridge Home. Please join other veterans for coffee, donuts and great conversation.

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>

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

5:30 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 Zoom 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>

United States Veterans Corps Support

Legion Post Member Bruce Dale spent a few hours in April assisting the United States Veterans Corps replenishing and organizing the organizations food and hygiene pantry. The USVC recently received a \$700 donation from the American Legion Post 116 Auxiliary to provide funds to meet this mission. Members of Post 116 Auxiliary assisted in the project by providing additional volunteers.

One of the primary outlets for the USVC pantry is the rescue ruck program which provides waterproof rucks stocked with clothing, hygiene and food items for homeless Vets. Many of these vets are

referred through the VA and other partner organizations. Since its inception in the fall of 2022 over 50 rescue rucks have been distributed to NC veterans in need

Pictured are USVC members working alongside Legion Post 116 Auxiliary members.



Post Executive Committee Nominees from the Nominating Committee

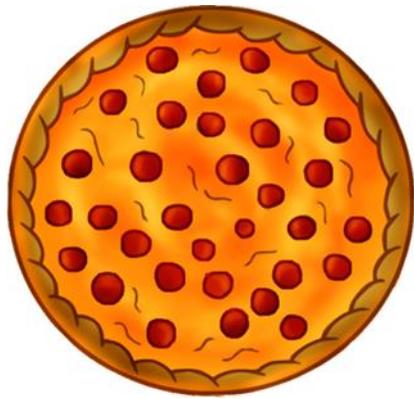
Below are the Nominees for Post 67 Post Executive Committee for FY 2023-2024. This slate of nominees will be voted on at the General Meeting. Also, nominations will be taken from the floor for all positions. If no one is challenged for a position, we will vote to accept this slate of nominees.

Position	Nominee
Commander	Dennis Tackett
Adjutant	Richard Spyrison
1st Vice Commander	Wayne Leazer
2nd Vice Commander	Dave Christiansen
3rd Vice Commander	Curtis Leary
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell
Service Officer	
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando
Sgt-At-Arms	Bruce Dale
Historian	Dennis Tackett
At-Large	Joe Veilleux
At-Large	Ray Martin

CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 OFFICERS 2022-2023

POSITION	NAME	PHONE#	EMAIL
Commander	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	commander.alncpost67@gmail.com
Adjutant	Richard Spyrison	919-441-8295	adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com
1 st Vice Commander			
2 nd Vice Commander	David Christiansen	919-650-3848	dchristi7@gmail.com
3 rd Vice Commander	Curtis Leary	919-270-2136	gssi36@earthlink.new
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell	919-302-2518	finance.alncpost67@gmail.com
Service Officer	Eugene Meyle	417-234-7608	gmeyle29@gmail.com
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner	919-851-9838	calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net
Sgt-At-Arms	Ray Martin	919-630-7052	remldm02@gmail.com
Historian	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	historian.alncpost67@gmail.com
At-Large	Adelfo Campos	540-246-7151	c.adelfo0893@gmail.com
At-Large	Wayne Leazer	919-319-9062	mleazer32@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando	919-469-5214	anna81mill@yahoo.com





Pizza & Salad

May 9, 2023, 6:00PM

Dinner &

General Meeting

The Cary American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67

Will be at Bass Pro Shops North Harrison Ave and I40
Saturday May 27th, 2023 10am to 5pm
for the annual Poppy Day Fundraiser

All donations go directly to our veterans in need.
Come out and get your poppy to honor the sacrifice of our veterans.



MEMORIAL DAY
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND THE
FAMILIES WHO LIVE WITH THEIR LOSS.

**PLEASE JOIN THE CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67
AND OUR GUESTS IN HONORING THOSE WHO
SERVED AND PROTECTED OUR FREEDOM.**

MAY 29TH, 2023 10:00AM CARY'S HILLCREST CEMETERY,
608 PAGE STREET, CARY, NC 27511

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BRING A LAWN CHAIR
GUEST SPEAKER, LOCAL DIGNITARIES, COLOR GUARD, 21 GUN SALUTE.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefits Live

VA In My Town | OUTER BANKS
NORTH CAROLINA

Held in Kill Devil Hills, NC May 18-20, 2023

Hosted by Winston-Salem VA Regional Office

PACT Act: If you served in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, or Post 9/11 era or had toxic exposure in service you may be entitled to VA benefits under a new law that expanded eligibility. Come learn more about filing a claim, and hear VA leadership speak on the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

Location:

Dare County Recreation Dept.
602 Mustian St.
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

Hours:

Thursday, May 18th and
Friday, May 19th:
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday, May 20th:
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



- VA Disability Compensation and Pension claims filing and assistance for Veteran and Survivor benefits including PACT Act claims
 - Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits VA Life Insurance, Home Loan, and Education information
 - VHA Health Care benefits and on-site enrollment
 - VHA on-site Toxic Exposure Screening - *Saturday May 20th only*
 - Social services, including caregiver support and home health care
 - Mental health counseling resources
 - Homeless, low-income housing, and vocational support services
 - Volunteer and employment opportunities
 - VA Mobile Vet Center
 - Vendors and services from community partners
- And much more!

For more information:
www.benefits.va.gov/WinstonSalem/
and
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans->



Choose VA

VETERANS BRIDGE HOME WANTS YOU

For Coffee and Donuts!

What: Veterans Coffee
When: Tuesday, May 16th from 8:30am - 10:00am
Where: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 5707 Dillard Drive, Cary
Info: dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org

Veterans Coffee events will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month starting on May 16. The next dates are July 19th and September 19th.

Starbucks Coffee, donuts and/or pastries will be provided. Join us for Camaraderie, Resource information and a little fun.

Veterans, Active Military, Family Members and Veteran Supporters are welcome.

Registration not required.



If you know of an organization that would like to help sponsor this event, please have them contact me: dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org

Wings Over Wayne Air Show 2023

Wings Over Wayne Air Show is a biennial event taking place every other year in odd-numbered years. It has grown to be the largest FREE air show in North Carolina attracting nearly 200,000 people to the flight line of Seymour Johnson AFB for the two-day event. WOW was awarded “2017 Event of The Year” by the N.C. Association of Festivals & Events, by demonstrating growth, the betterment of a community and region, and being a poignant reminder of how incredible our servicemen and women are who sacrifice so much to protect us. We welcome you and your family to this amazing event!

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is located in Goldsboro, N.C. The base is home to the [4th Fighter Wing of the Air Combat Command](#), one of the most storied in U.S. history, celebrating 78 years of service. Two Air Force Reserve units also reside here: the 916th Air Refueling Wing and the 414th Fighter Group. Seymour Johnson AFB's mission is to deliver dominant Strike Eagle Airpower...Anytime, Anyplace. Come to witness Team Seymour fill the air with the powerful sound of freedom during #WOW23!

MAY 20 - 21, 2023

Admission and Parking are FREE

Gates open at 8am, show is from 10am to 2:30pm, gates close 5pm

[Home | Wings Over Wayne \(wingsoverwaynearshow.com\)](http://wingsoverwaynearshow.com)



Important Dates

May 9, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting – Election of Post Officers

May 16, 8:30am-10:00am, Veterans' Coffee, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

May 29, 10:00am-11:30am Memorial Day Remembrance at Hillcrest Cemetery

June 6 6:30pm PEC Meeting

June 8-10 8:00am-5:00pm Department Convention North Raleigh Hilton

June 13 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting - Installment of Post Officers

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

