



The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (August 2023)



Commander's Corner:

Welcome to the August 2023 edition of The Howler.

The General Meeting will be on the 8th of August at the Post Home. We will be serving food from City BBQ. 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.

The Post Executive Committee held their meeting on August 1. First Vice Commander Wayne Leazer chaired the meeting.

We are still researching new Security Systems. Our current system is getting outdated and new technology is available. New systems are expensive, and we want to make sure we get what we need.

The DRAFT Business Plan for Post 67 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is currently under review by the PEC members. I will send it to the General Membership after the final edit. It also will be a working document.

We have started planning for Lazy Days. Parking at the Post Home for Lazy Days is our largest fundraiser of the year. We will need quite a few volunteers for this event. This event occurs on 26 & 27 August. I created a Sign-Up Genius site for volunteers to sign up to help with that event. Please volunteer, if you have time.

We have received a few quotes for the repair of our driveway and parking area. The PEC is evaluating the proposals and will recommend which way we should go.

Again, a special thank you to Frank Stancil for mowing the Post Home grass. I also thank Bruce and Jill Dale for pruning our bushes. The Post Home looks great.

Thank you for letting me be your Commander!

Dennis



Adjutants Howler Call for August 2023

Membership report

The new year is getting underway for membership renewals. As of August 2nd, 2023, Post 67 has 48.28% retrained members, this means we are off to a pretty good start. 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.

Richard Spyrison, Adjutant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As your chaplain I am concerned about your spiritual and physical wellbeing. I thought these articles would be great reading material for you. I want to share this article from Right at Home. Please use this link:

[Just Say No to Ageism—Including Your Own!
\(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com)

God Bless

Chaplain Marie

1st VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER

From the 1st Vice Commander, Wayne Leazer Spoke with the Food Line Manager, Nick Hall, and confirmed the 15 of November as the date for food drive.

Sponsorship for Heart of Carolina Mustang Honor the Heros Mustang and all Ford car show in Holly Springs is paid for.

Please bring in tabs from your soda cans.

Please remember that buddy checks have started. Please be kind when contacted.

Thank you to the PEC members for a great meeting.

City Bar B Que is the meal of the month.

We need volunteers for Lazy Days.

In October I'll be asking for volunteers for the food drive. Please keep this date on your calendar. It's the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, so it shouldn't interfere with your travel plans.

Thank you,
First Vice Commander, Mitchael W.
Leazer

AMERICANISM

From the 2nd Vice Commander, David Christiansen:

The 2024 National Finals for the Oratorical Contest are: scheduled for May 17-19, in Hillsdale, Michigan. (A month later than last year). Scholarship awards: 1st place: \$25,000; 2nd place: \$22,500; 3rd place: \$20,000. Each Department winner who is certified and participates in the first round of the national contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.



Figure 1 2022 North Carolina Oratorical Winner Aliza Jankowsky from Green Hope High School in Cary

The National American Legion website has the 2023-2024 Oratorical Contest information posted. The Department (state) has yet to be updated to reflect the 2024 rules and contest dates. Once the Department information is available an appropriate news release and contest announcement will be made in

consultation with the 3rd Vice Commander - Curtis Leary.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

From the 3rd Vice Commander, Curtis Leary:

Cary Veterans Coffee September

The Veterans Bridge Home will sponsor a Veteran Coffee on September 19th from 8:30am to 10:00am at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at 5707 Dillard Dr. These Veteran Coffee events will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month. Starbucks Coffee and Panera bagels will be provided. Join us for Camaraderie, Resource information and a little fun. You do not have to register to attend this event.

Curtis



POST 67 PROVIDES 21-GUN SALUTE

On July 18th Members of the Post 67 Rifle Team provided a 21-Gun Salute for Capt. Donald J. Maynard USN (ret) at the Historical Oakwood Cemetery.

This was the first time a female participated on the Rifle Team. Post 67 member Karee White volunteered to be part

of the Team. We appreciate all Post 67 members that participated.



Figure 2 Members of the Rifle Team



Figure 3 Providing the 21-Gun Salute

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/sh-op-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

Nearly 80 years ago on August 17, American and British bombing missions were scheduled to strike two critical targets in Germany. This would be the U.S. Army Air Force's largest bombing operation yet into Germany and its main purpose was to reduce production of all precision military equipment. The British would follow up with a massive strike on Peenemunde, the German Army Research Center on the Baltic coast.

As a decoy, 146 B-17 Flying Fortresses from the U.S. Fourth Bombardment Wing were ordered to strike a Messerschmitt manufacturing plant in Regensburg. It was hoped that this raid would lure Germany's deadly fighter planes away from American bombers undertaking a more important mission. A much larger force of 230 B-17's from the U.S. First Bombardment Wing was scheduled to bomb five ball-bearing factories in the Bavarian town of Schweinfurt. These components were crucial for reducing friction in mechanical parts and without them, no airplanes, tanks, submarines, rockets or precision machinery of any kind could be produced.

Lieutenant Lewis Allen was on his 7th mission with the 322nd Squadron of the 91st Bomb Group. "They told us if we destroyed that ball-bearing plant, it would shorten the war by six months," remembers Allen, a bombardier on board a B-17 called, "Our Prayer." It was the deepest he had ever flown into Germany and he would need every

possible prayer to overcome the ordeal he was about to face. Enemy ME 109 and FW 190 fighter planes patrolled the skies like angry wasps. "We called them Hermann Goering's Yellow Noses. . . . They say you can always see the one that gets you, he was coming on the side and you could see those wings, the 20 mm, and the machine gun fire," Allen recalls. "The B-17 had those high pressure oxygen tanks. Then a couple of them just exploded."

The explosion blew Allen right out of the plane, temporarily knocking him unconscious. Except for minor facial burns Allen was uninjured and several seconds later upon regaining consciousness he found himself plummeting from the sky. "I was scared to death, Allen recalls, "[and immediately pulled] the ripcord. I must have been at 15 or 20,000 feet because it took me a hell of a long time to float down." During Allen's slow decent he spotted a German fighter plane flying towards him. The pilot waved before nearly clipping Allen's parachute and causing it to shake unsteadily. Allen descended from the sky into a forested area, landing in a large tree not far from a Hitler youth camp.

Allen recalls:

I was trying to get out when these kids came up, a Hitler youth bunch. They had on khaki shorts and shirts. All of them dressed exactly alike . . . [with] Swastikas on their arms. . . . I guess there was probably 10 of them . . . [aging] from about 10 to 16. They were all yapping back and forth in German. . . . There was one elderly man with them . . . probably

a supervisor at the camp. I finally got the parachute off and got the harness unbuckled and climbed down the tree. I had to drop about 10 feet maybe. [The kids] were more interested in the parachute and they went to try and get it down. [Later] each who could speak English, came in to say something. One of the guys, he must have been sixteen, sort of a smart aleck. . . . He said, 'I guess you're sorry you won't get any more money for fine raids against the Germans.' . . . I was a curiosity. I am sure it was the first time they had ever seen an 'Americano Luftgangster' as they called them.

Meanwhile the raid towards the ball bearing plants in Schweinfurt continued. In another B-17 nicknamed, 'Hells Angel,' Maynard Unger, a radio man serving with the 534th Squadron of the 381st Bomb Group recalls, "In the distance we could see all kinds of destruction going on: bombers out of formation, bombers going down, enemy fighters picking on the stragglers and many of those going down too." The 534th Squadron still was a great distance from their target, as Unger remembers, "Our attention was drawn to the B-17 on our right wing piloted by our former co-pilot, Neil Wright. It was going down, out of control. At that point, the danger of what we were doing became real. We watched in horror, trying to count the chutes." In addition to the enemy fighter planes, the German antiaircraft guns were filling the skies with lead as Unger recalls, "The flak was very thick at all levels and looked almost like you could land a plane on it. Then a B-17 in the upper element ahead of us careened out of control coming right

down in our path. Lieutenant King quickly evaded the formation to avoid a mid-air collision." King, Unger remembers, "put the plane in the steepest turn I can ever recall in a B-17. The plane shuddered with stress. He was attempting to come around and join another wave of planes that were behind us."

The Hells Angel was now out of formation and more of a target for German fighter planes. Unger recalls, "Trying to get back into formation was a good idea, but the fighter aircraft hit us like a swarm of bees." When two of the engines caught fire the decision was made to evacuate the plane. Unger, whose heart was pounding from the adrenaline running through his body, remembers:

Here is one place that all of the training we had gone through came back to me as though it was on a recording tape. 'When you jump, delay in pulling your ripcord. . . . If you can, free fall as far as you can to get out of the flak and fighter danger.' I did delay, and then one more thing: 'When the ground starts coming up to you fast, pull the rip cord.' It did seem to be coming up fast, so I pulled the cord and the chute opened. There was a terrific jerk and then it seemed so quiet that I questioned whether or not I was still alive. In the distance I could hear gunfire and I saw a B-17 crash into the side of a hill. By then I was on the ground in the backyard area of a house, feeling relief that I was alive. The future of what I faced hadn't yet occurred to me. Training said, 'Get out of your chute and hide it.' Before I could get completely untangled, an air raid warden

approached me. . . . I couldn't understand what the man was saying, but I knew he wanted me to put my hands up when he pointed his gun at me.

For the parachute survivors, the war was over. Following interrogation, confinement in a variety of POW camps awaited them. Their efforts were not in vain. Although damage to the Schweinfurt factories was minimal, later analysis showed an immediate 34 percent drop in ball-bearing output. Sixty B-17 Flying Fortresses were lost during Regensburg and Schweinfurt mission on August 17 and many of the bombers returning were damaged beyond repair.

Later that night, in the light of a full moon, the British Royal Air Force was scheduled for a massive raid of its own with 597 bombers. In a special briefing, the bomber crews were told the target was so important, that if they failed to destroy it on the first raid, they would be required to return each night until the mission was complete. The mission objective was to destroy a research and development facility on the Baltic Coast in Peenumunde, Germany, where the world's first ballistic missiles were being produced.

Dr. Wernher von Braun led Hitler's V 2 missile program at Peenumunde and would later lead America in the space race as NASA's director. His real ambition had always been space travel. In a Gestapo report dated June 29, 1943 "In January, 1943, there was a serious disagreement about the continuation of the Peenumunde Project.

Involved were, among others, General Keital (chief of staff) and General Dornberger (in command at Peenumunde) "The Fuhrer called in all participants after each one was first obliged to state his point of view in writing. All military men were shown out within one or two minutes, because they were unable to answer the decisive questions of the Fuhrer. Dr. von Braun was the only one who talked for thirty minutes and was able to answer the precise questions of the Fuhrer tersely and clearly. The Fuhrer decided, therefore, according to the proposals of Dr. von Braun."

"He was gentle, never a harsh word—often joking," remembers von Braun's secretary, Dorette Kersten (Schlidt), who recorded her amazing experience at Peenumunde:

Today, the 17th of August 1943, after many rainy days, at last the sunshine, we have all been yearning for. It isn't broilingly hot, but it is beautiful to see my beloved Baltic Sea again after a hard working day. I feel wonderful! After doing my sports on the beach, I decide to go back to the office tonight. I can work faster without interruption and everything will be ready for the Professor (Dr. von Braun) by morning.

This evening nobody else seems to be in House Four (von Braun's and the technical staffs headquarters) —absolute silence all around when I stop the typewriter. Shortly before midnight I am finished. I close the steel safe and walk out of the house.

Outside, a milky white landscape lit by the light of the full moon. How peaceful everything looks! Sunk deep in my own

thoughts, I stroll slowly along, passing House Five (living quarters for managing personnel), the Officers Casino and along the short path between the pines and the shrubbery, past the tennis court and up to the Schlempp's construction office and quarters where I live.

Just at that moment the air-raid sirens sound. Without excitement I go to my room. There is no hurry, this is not the first time it's only been a warning! My room-mate is packing her bags wildly, I laugh in her face, I only pick up a book and drape a bathrobe around my shoulders. We make our way towards the big air-raid shelter in front of House Four. Passing House Thirty (another living quarters for men), a number of men, mostly from Werk West (Air Force) are standing around, looking up at the clear sky, cracking jokes and laughing about our suitcase!

The bunker is almost empty, a few people are clustered outside. Most of them are going back to bed, as nothing seems to be happening. I rather stay and wait for the 'all clear' signal. I find a seat on the bench and start reading my book. I become completely absorbed in it and I don't even look up when a low roar, a rumble starts way off in the distance. One hour has already passed since the sirens blew.

Then all of a sudden there's a big detonation, and another one, even bigger, and another one and another one, on and on, impact after impact. I run over the wall, the light goes off, the ventilation does not work anymore, the whole bunker swings.

This goes on for one hour and 45 Minutes, everybody in constant danger! Finally we hear fewer and fewer explosions. I look up, there is my friend Helmuth, he is grinning all over, glad to see me safe. 'The Schlempp's buildings are on fire', he shouts. 'I can't believe it, all my belongings, let's try to save them.'

Standing outside, I am petrified: Fire, fire everywhere, wherever I look it's fire – what a horrible beauty! House Four is burning fiercely, House Five is in flames. Things are still exploding everywhere. Rafters are falling in, gables collapsing. Even the shrubbery is on fire, my shoes are burning hot –my hair singes. I am frightened back; I cannot go through a pool of blood in front of me. There is a torn-off leg from a body lying in it, still in military trouser and boot on. It is impossible to go any further, fire is everywhere.

There I hear the voice of the Professor, 'Everybody out of the bunker and come and help!' I see some people slinking away, what a disgrace! 'We must rescue the secret documents,' he shouts. The roof of House Four has already collapsed and the gable will fall any minute. I still have the key to the steel safe with me. The office is on the second floor. Can we still risk the staircase? The Professor grips my hand and we move carefully up. The building is a mass of crackling flames, a constant roaring and crashing. Groping along the wall, you reach the second floor. All doors have burnt away, but pressing tightly to the one wall, because the other half of the hall has been swept away, we try to find the room with the steel

safe: one, two, three, four, five openings, here it is, we edge up to the safe. Laden with secret papers, I run up and down the stairs several times until I can keep going no longer. The Professor is still up there and with a few men and he tries to push the safe and some furniture out of the window. I stand by down below, throwing the papers into the safe lying in the open on its back. I am calling for a guard to stand by the safe, rifle at the ready.

Slowly the dawn breaks. I return to the bunker to grasp my book: 'Das einfache Leben' von Wiechert (The Simple Life) and the bathrobe –my only belongings left! But the secret papers are safely under lock and key. Several weeks later, for my active assistance and so on during that night I was awarded the Kriegsverdienstkreuz II. Klasse (War Merit Cross, second class).

The British Royal Air Force lost 41 bombers in the raid. The bombings killed a total of 735 people, of which about half were Russian and Polish POWs and forced civilian laborers. Other casualties included technicians, engineers, and family members. Dr. Walter Thiel, who served under von Braun as the chief of rocket engine design and development, was among those killed in the bombing. A crater on the moon is named in his memory.

Konrad Dannenberg, a rocket engineer who served under Thiel, remembers, "Thiel was a chemist. He wasn't even an engineer, but he did pretty good engineering work. And I'm still amazed today what excellent ideas he had, to practically design the power

plant of the V2. And that is really to be credited to Thiel." In the beginning phases of the V2 project many design problems needed to be solved. "The temperature of the burning propellants in the rocket became so high that the engine would melt," says Dannenberg, "Thiel's idea was to have some of the rocket fuel circulate around the wall of the chamber of the engine which provided a protective coating for preventing melt through." Following Thiel's death, Martin Schilling managed rocket engine development at Peenumunde. Dannenberg married Thiel's secretary and also assumed many of the responsibilities of his former boss:

For quite a while I took over his duty and Schilling was my boss, he let me do the things that Thiel used to do because he had to worry about many other things, but I was his deputy. . . . Of course I still had to make many big decisions. We started the production already under Thiel, but we had to make many changes to make the V 2 work, so some changes had to be made in order to have a better or safer, more reliable performance of the vehicle and of course we were running out of many materials. So many materials had to be changed, it was my job, of course I had a lot of people working with me, so I didn't do all the studies, but I had to give the final approval and to sign normally the final document, this is the way we did it.

CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 OFFICERS 2023-2024

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	Wayne Leazer	919-319-9062	mleazer32@gmail.com
2 nd Vice Commander	David Christiansen	919-650-3848	dchristi7@gmail.com
3 rd Vice Commander	Curtis Leary	919-270-2136	gssi36@earthlink.net
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell	919-302-2518	finance.alncpost67@gmail.com
Service Officer	Lee Wood	843-301-9663	LWoodhhi@aol.com
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner	919-851-9838	calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando	919-469-5214	anna81mill@yahoo.com
Sgt-At-Arms	Bruce Dale	919-602-7393	advracin@hotmail.com
Historian	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	historian.alncpost67@gmail.com
At-Large	Joe Veilleux	919-454-3348	joeveilleux@gmail.com
At-Large			



CITY BBQ



\$8.00/person

August 8, 2023, 6:00PM

Dinner &

General Meeting

Wednesday, August 9

*****WE ARE BACK at RCR!*****

Please share this information and bring a Family Member and/or a Veteran with you.

Richard Childress has invited the Veterans Bridge Home team and me to join the RCR team in hosting the monthly Veterans Coffee events at RCR!! This is a great opportunity for us to gather for coffee & donuts, spend time together with fellow Veterans, family members and Veteran supporters and learn about benefits we earned while serving our country. As always, there will be occasional recognition events, special entertainment and a surprise or two along the way.

Welcome NC, Wednesday morning, August 9, at RCR, beginning at 9:00 am. Join us for our Veterans Coffee reboot at Richard Childress Racing, RCR Headquarters building 425 Industrial Dr. (Follow the "Veteran Event" signs). I will be there to host, along with the Richard Childress Racing and Veterans Bridge Home teams, a very special Veterans Coffee event. Just like we started over 9 years ago, we will have coffee, donuts and a good time together. Our singing and dancing friend, Erinn Dearth, will be with us just back from the Letters From Home 50 states tour. Gulf War Veteran Jesse Almanza will have a very meaningful presentation. Our Special Guest speaker will be US Army Retired, John Melton, Executive Director | Salisbury VA Health Care System), You do not have to register to attend this event.

Please bring another Veteran or family member with you. Family members and Veteran supporters are always welcome to join us.

RCR Vets Coffee Schedule: August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13.

TOWN OF CARY

LAZY DAZE

**ARTS & CRAFTS
FESTIVAL**



**PLANNING ON GOING TO LAZY
DAZE'S THIS YEAR?**

WHERE TO PARK...

**THE CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 WILL OPEN
ITS PARKING LOT AND THE LOT ACROSS
THE STREET FOR ALL DAY PARKING FOR \$10.00.
AUGUST 26TH 9AM TO 5PM AND
AUGUST 27TH 9AM TO 5PM.**

**ALL DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS' PROGRAMS.**

8523 CHAPEL HILL ROAD, CARY NC

**WE ARE HALF A BLOCK WEST FROM
THE ENTRANCE TO THE FESTIVAL**

**WE ARE VETERANS HELPING VETERANS
CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67**



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



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



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



Mental Health **FIRST AID**

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING



About the MHAT Course

Identify. Understand. Respond.

Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants to identify, understand and respond to mental health and substance use challenges.

This basic course on mental health and substance use conditions will give you the skills to notice and engage individuals experiencing these symptoms which cause suffering. Through engagement, you can offer understanding and invite them to expand their care team with resources that can help. You will receive a certificate of completion at the end of this course. This course is foundational and part of the training curriculum for NCServes Providers & Staff, Peer Supports, and Community Stakeholders.

In person and virtual options will be available and updated below. If you'd like to sign up a group/organization email Alex O'Neil with the Governor's Institute at alex@govinst.org. Each training session is limited to 30 registrants. Trainings are all free of charge.

Updated virtual and in-person training dates below!

Charlotte - August 11, 2023 - In Person

Gastonia - August 22, 2023 - In Person

Raleigh - September 7, 2023 - In Person

<https://ncgwg.org/mental-health-awareness-and-training/>

Important Dates

Aug 8, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting

**Aug 26-27, 9:00am-5:00pm Cary Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival – Parking Cars
Sep 5, 6:30pm PEC meeting**

Sep 12, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting

Sep 19, 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

