

Post 243 Newsletter

May 31, 2020

Volume 1, Number 7

It's better to fight for something in life than die for nothing.

~General George S. Patton

Upcoming Post & Community Events

**Live Coffee & Chats
Wednesday's from
1000-1200**

**Flag Retirements
~Post 243~
June 3, 1100
June 13, 1000**

**Please stay in touch if
you are in need of
assistance**

From the Commander

It's almost June; and it seems as if we have lost a year of good coffee, good meetings and events, good conversation, and good community activities. Despite the effects of the evil virus, there have been a few bright spots for Post 243 members along the way.

One bright spot amid the gloom of the virus was the broad support of Post and community members for the Florida's Fallen Memorial Crosses display at the Oviedo Cemetery. Up to 80 people participated in the installation of the Memorial with its 412 individual crosses. Several hundred visitors toured the Memorial, and 77 people stood in the rain for the Dedication Service on Memorial Day morning.

Another bright spot was the 35 members and guests who joined in our traditional Memorial Day Flag planting on 220 Veterans graves in local cemeteries. Another bright spot was our virtual Coffee & Chat meetings via zoom. The coffee was virtual, and the crowds weren't large, but the conversation was lively. Even if you missed any of these events, we are now getting back to our regular Coffee & Chat meetings at the Post on Wednesdays from 1000 to noon. We welcome those who feel safe and are willing; to bring your mask, maintain spacing, and join our effort to put the virus in its proper place and get back to normal.

Bill

LIVE Coffee & Chat Resumes

With social distancing still in place, Post 243 resumed their in-person coffee & chat last week. Coffee was available outside by the cook shack and allowed members and guests to spread out as necessary to keep safe distances. Those at risk are encouraged to wear masks if deciding to join us for future events.

Flag Retirements

Several are planned for the month of June. How appropriate for Flag Day and the official Birthday of the Army (June 14, 1775). The first date is to help reduce the number in storage and will be primarily the non-cotton flags. Those with respiratory issues are cautioned against participating or being too close to the burn-off. The second date includes flag folding at 0900 with the retirement ceremony beginning at 1000 that morning. Please let us know if you have a group that would like to take part in either date.

Florida's Fallen Memorial

Was a huge success. Hundreds of local visitors came and spent time exploring the Memorial. Our partnership with the Military Support Team at First United Methodist Church enabled us to present this Memorial to our community. Our hope is to bring the Memorial back next year. Visit the Gallery on our webpage for more pictures of the event. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen!





In addition to coins left at the Florida's Fallen Memorial other items, seen here, were placed on individual crosses.



Hurricane Season 2020

Stay up to date with the Seminole County's Alert Seminole reverse 911 voice system, which notifies residents of any hazards in their neighborhood through landline phones, cellphones and voice-over-internet phones.

Click [here](#) to register your electronic device and email address for the free service.

For more information from the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management on how to plan for disasters, follow the county's [social media feeds](#) and visit SeminoleCountyFL.gov.

Click [here](#) for a list of [emergency contacts](#).

For weather updates, tips on how to prepare your home, family and pets ahead of a storm and what to expect during and after one, visit ClickOrlando.com/Hurricane.

Coins and Other Artifacts Left Behind

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by visitors to the grave. The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced as far back as the Roman Empire.

These coins have distinct meaning when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of the coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at a grave site is meant as a message to the deceased service member's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together.

A dime means you served with them in some capacity.

By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the service member when they were killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans' cemeteries is eventually collected and funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over war. Leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave rather than contacting the service member's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans leave coins as a "down payments" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they will finally be reunited.

Lighting

The Post underwent indoor lighting upgrades. We now have more cost effective and uniform lighting throughout the facility. Upgrading to an all LED system left some traditional fluorescent bulbs available for personal use. If you are interested in bulbs or ballasts, please contact scotttyrc2@gmail.com to set up a time and date for pick-up. Remaining materials will be disposed of by June 12th so email today.

 Facebook - [American Legion Oviedo](#)

 Instagram - [Americanlegionpost243](#)

Stay in Touch

If you'd like to be added to our email distribution, please send your contact information to the email address to the right. If you need help getting to or from Post events, just ask, we're here to help!

Website: www.OviedoLegion.org

Email: Post@OviedoLegion.org