

EVERGREEN PARK POST 0854: "THE HOSPITALITY POST"



The American Legion Family

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 0854

"The Hospitality Post"

9707 South Kedzie Ave

Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805

708.422.9513

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2026

Commander	Bruce Petersen	Sr Vice Commander	Matt Ginn
Finance Officer	Sean Walsh	Jr Vice Commander	Charles McKeating
Adjutant	Maria Scruggs	Service Officer	Maria Scruggs
Sgt at Arms/Historian	Richard Venckus	SAL Commander	Ed Isbell
Legion Riders Director	Bob McDonald		

COMMANDERS MESSAGE: B. PETERSEN

Greetings and welcome to Spring

Seems the Dept. of Defense got it right - Ft. Bragg (called Ft. Liberty for a handful of years) is now again Ft. Bragg. Seems the re-writers of history didn't account for numerous heroes named Bragg. Currently, Ft. Bragg is named in honor of Pfc. Roland Bragg, a soldier who served in the XVIII Airborne Corps and among other things, was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge.



experience for Commander - that means having held an executive position in the past. . If you are interested, swing by the next regular meeting (3rd Tuesdays).

As a reminder - the fieldpiece which guards our front lawn is a 57 mm anti-tank gun. This gun was designed in England, found success against Rommel in North Africa, and fires a 6 lb. shell. Over 15 thousand were made for their four man crews in WW II. It is not a cannon.

Elections are coming up (Cmdr., Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Finance Officer, and Sgt at Arms) and you are eligible - if your dues are paid up. By-laws say you need previous

In support of the American Legion's commitment to Children and Youth; we'll again host a School Awards night with P.C Bill Cooper at the helm. Please address

any questions to him.

At the time of this writing, our nation has joined with numerous other countries in the corrective action in Iran. Six killed. While the U. S. clings to peaceful resolutions, members of the Armed Forces realize they may be called to serve under fire. Big THANKS to EACH of our members for their sacrifice and service.

For God and Country-
Bruce H. Petersen
Cmdr., Post 854 Evergreen Park

SR VICE COMMANDER-MATT GINN

Greetings and welcome to our Spring edition of our Post Newsletter.



We are looking forward to making some progress on some projects this Spring and build on what we have done over the fall and winter months. For the most part we will be organizing, cleaning and yardwork. Lets call it "post beautification". I have noticed a few new volunteers who are very capable when it comes to some of the more technical maintenance challenges and your expertise is very much appreciated. It does not go unnoticed. As I have said before, maintenance at our post is almost perpetual. There are always things that need to be done so please don't be shy, come and hang out and volunteer if you have some free time.

Welcome to those new members that have signed up over the past few months. I see some new faces at our general meetings and some of those are actively participating, which is very encouraging. Overall our total membership numbers are strong compared to other Posts in our 8th District. We will have a final fiscal year membership report in our next newsletter in July. If there is anybody who has yet to renew and receive their 2026 membership card please contact the Post directly so we can get you renewed within the next two months.

Elections for next year will be held in June. Consider running for office. Senior Vice, Junior Vice, Finance Officer, and Sergeant at Arms are open to all general membership. Any individual that is elected to office will have our support. We are stronger when we are working together towards common goals.

Our calendar has been updated. Please take a look and make a plan to stop by and say hello.

As always, get us your email and check us out on Facebook. If there is anything we can do to help, please let us know.

Hope to see you soon.

SERGEANT AT ARMS-R.VENCKUS
Foundations of Freedom XVI:
Changing America: Supreme
Court Cases and Controversies
Yick Wo v. Hopkins (1886)



The 14th Amendment guaranteed equal protection of the laws to all persons without regard to any difference of race, color, or of nationality. To fulfill the true meaning of this command, the Supreme Court looks not only at whether laws on their face are discriminatory, but also whether as applied they violate the 14th Amendment.

In 1886, in Yick Wo v. Hopkins, the Court confronted a San Francisco ordinance which made it a crime to run a laundry business in any building not made of stone or brick, with such exceptions for wooden structures as city officials choose to make. Although the law itself said nothing about race or nationality, the officials exercised their discretion in a patently discriminatory fashion. They allowed eighty wooden laundries operated by Caucasians, that's White people, but rejected two hundred applicants of Chinese extraction.

In a unanimous decision by Justice Stanley Matthews, the Court held that the ordinance was applied so unequally and so

oppressively that it denied equal protection of the laws. While Asian-Americans would continue to face discrimination, the Chinese who stood up against an unfair law in San Francisco demonstrated that the Bill of Rights belongs to all Americans.

Lochner v. New York (1905)

Near the turn of the 19th Century the state legislatures had begun responding to the pleas of social reformers and muckrakers. Among them was Upton Sinclair, whose novel The Jungle, exposed the deplorable working conditions in the Chicago stockyards. Then, the Supreme Court dealt the cause of working people a serious setback. In Lochner v. New York, the Court invalidated a New York law which prohibited bakeries from employing workers for more than sixty hours a week or ten hours a day. The majority found that the statute interfered with freedom to contract and the 14th Amendment's right to "liberty" guaranteed to both the employer and the employee. Since the law affected only bakers and not the general public, it could not be sustained as a health measure. The Court predicted that if this law were upheld for bakers, other laws could be passed limiting the rights of employers and employees in a host of other businesses. If this happened, the Court reasoned, the right to freely contract the terms and conditions of their employment would be impaired.

In dissent, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote: "The Constitution isn't intended to embody a particular economic theory," by which he no doubt meant "laissez faire." The term "laissez-faire" literally means a policy or attitude of letting thing take their own course, without interfering" as in the case of government refusing to interfere with private businesses even if they were engaging in unfair even illegal activities, as in the treatment of their employees.

In Holmes' opinion, duly enacted legislation could be upset only if "if a rational and fair man necessarily, would

that the statute proposed would infringe fundamental principles of our people and our law."

Although the Court, twelve years later in Bunting v. Oregon (1917), ignored Lochner and upheld maximum hour and overtime wage legislation, Lochner's theory of "substantive due process" was used for three decades to invalidate economic regulations. It was not until the 1930's that Lochner and the doctrine of "substantive due process" fell into disrepute, as the Court began to uphold the constitutionality of pervasive New Deal legislation.

Today, given the breadth and depth of state and federal laws regulating almost every facet of working conditions, Lochner reflects an almost quaint view in favor of keeping government out of private business matters.

JR VICE COMMNADER-C. McKEATING

Spring has sprung and the warmer weather and the sunshine is much appreciated. In the next few months, the Post is always is ooking to offer Hospitality to all our patrons and veterans alike.

Please take advantage of the functions and events as they come up. A lot of work goes into the planning of these activities. You know that the American Legion Post 854 depends on all of us (Legion members, SAL and Riders).

Please feel free to help out where needed. Volunteers are always welcome.

Let's have a great year!

CHAPLAIN-C. McKEATING

From the Chaplain's Corner -



Dear Lord,
Help this world to know what is wrong and what is right. Provide peace and hope to those who are suffering from injustice. Show them that you are here, and you care for them and that you will make all things right.



God, I pray for a world full of love and compassion.
Amen

ADJUTANT-MARIA SCUGGS

A Call to Duty: Why Your American Legion Membership Matters

As the year draws to a close, it is a time for reflection on the purpose and power of our American Legion post. More than just a building or a name, Evergreen Park American Legion Post 854 is a beacon of support, camaraderie, and advocacy—and its strength lies in one place: you.



Your membership is not merely a formality; it is an active contribution to the enduring mission of The American Legion. It is a vital pledge that keeps our legacy, our programs, and our voice strong.

The Power of Unity: Why We Need You

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans service organization. This influence is directly tied to its membership size. When we speak to Congress, state legislatures, or local governments, we speak for millions.

● **A Stronger Voice in Washington:** Every card-carrying member adds weight to the Legion's powerful lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill. We advocate for the healthcare, benefits, and quality of life that all veterans have earned. The more members we have, the louder our voice is for veterans' rights.

● **Preserving Our Post Home:** Membership sustains our physical hub, the place where veterans can find a supportive ear, a hot meal, and a shared history. Without renewed memberships, the doors of our cannot remain open to serve those who served us.

Beyond Advocacy: The Local Impact

While our national presence is essential, the heart of the Legion is right here at home.

● **Camaraderie and Wellness:** Our post serves as a critical space for veterans to

active, positive force in the Evergreen Park community. Your membership fuels this outreach.

● **Honoring the Fallen:** We are the keepers of the flame, ensuring that Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other significant holidays are appropriately recognized and celebrated in our community.

It's Time to Renew or Join:

Whether you are a long-time member or a veteran thinking about joining for the first time, now is the moment to act.

For Our Current Members: If you have not yet completed the process, please do so as soon as possible. Don't let your card expire!

For Potential New Members: We welcome all eligible veterans and active service members. Joining is easy and opens the door to a network of support, benefits, and purpose. Stop by the post, ask a question, and become part of our family.

Don't just be a veteran—be a part of the solution. Stand with us. Renew or join today and help us uphold the four pillars of The American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

For renewal or membership information, please stop by Post 854 at 9701 S. Kedzie Ave., during operating hours.

SERVICE OFFICER-MARIA SCRUGGS

The Lifeline You Earned: Why Accessing Your Veterans Benefits is Crucial

Every service member makes a sacrifice for our nation. In recognition of that sacrifice, the United States established a comprehensive benefits system. Yet despite earning it, many veterans fail to access the support they are entitled to.

Understanding, applying for, and utilizing your veterans' benefits isn't just about government paperwork; it is a critical step toward securing your health and long-term

The Foundation of Wellness: Healthcare quality of life after service. These benefits are a lifeline, and accessing them is an act of self-care and responsibility to your family.

One of the most immediate and vital benefits is access to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) healthcare system.

● **Comprehensive Care:** VA healthcare covers a wide array of services, including primary care, specialty care (like cardiology and oncology), mental health services (crucial for treating PTSD, depression, and anxiety), and prescription medications.

● **Preventive and Long-Term Support:** From routine check-ups and immunizations to complex surgeries and long-term care, VA coverage is designed to treat illnesses and injuries, prevent future health problems, and improve your overall ability to function.

● **Targeted Programs:** The VA offers specific programs for issues common among the veteran population, such as Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) rehabilitation and care for conditions related to toxic exposure (like burn pits or Agent Orange).

Overcoming the Barriers to Access

The process of applying for benefits can be complex and overwhelming, often discouraging veterans from applying or from pursuing denied claims. Common obstacles include:

● **Complex Paperwork:** The sheer volume of forms, regulations, and legal jargon can be daunting.

● **Gathering Evidence:** Successfully filing a claim, especially for disability, requires comprehensive medical evidence, service treatment records, and sometimes supporting statements.

● **Confusion and Appeals:** Many veterans are confused about eligibility criteria or feel defeated after an initial claim denial.

The Solution: You do not have to navigate the system alone. Maria Scruggs, your post service officer, can guide you. If she can't figure it out, or is above her pay

grade, the Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) such as the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans (DAV) offer free, accredited claims assistance. She can connect you with these VSOs as needed. These representatives are trained to help you understand your eligibility, gather the necessary documents, correctly file your claims, and handle appeals.

Your Next Step: Don't Wait:

Timely application is critical. For many benefits, the effective date for compensation is tied to the date you file your Intent to File. Delaying the process can mean forfeiting months or even years of potential benefits.

These benefits are not charity; they are a debt of honor owed to you for your service. By accessing them, you not only improve your own life but you also ensure the system remains strong and supportive for all who have worn the uniform.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: ED ISBEL

Well, a big hello to everybody. I hope everybody's having a great year. For those who don't know the Queen of Hearts is over we are no longer doing it.

We will be having a golf cart raffle coming up soon.

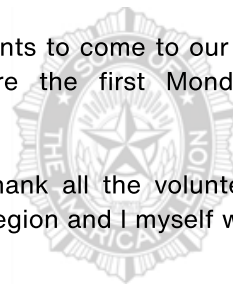
Anybody wants to come to our meeting; our meetings are the first Monday of every month.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers for your hard work Legion and I myself we appreciate it.

Upcoming events:

We are going to have a car show & coming up in the summer and a rock 'n' roll festival.

I wish everybody a happy and joyful summer.



COLOR GUARD: LEN WANTROBA

Hello everyone,

Legion Member Len Wantroba has stepped up and is trying to keep the color guard together. Thank you Len! He cannot do this alone. He needs YOUR help!

Do you still remember how to march? If so, the Color Guard needs you and your particular talent.

Our Color Guard represents our Post as honorably as is possible. It is the face of our Post people most remember long after the particular ceremony is done.

It's not unusual for the Color Guard to earn exemplary reviews and praise from those in attendance.

Whether you are a male or a female Veteran, please consider becoming a part of this team.

Younger Veterans please join this vital group. You are our future.

YOUR POST NEEDS YOU TO STEP UP!

BLUE CAP CORNER

Hello, my name is Ed Johnson. In this article I hope to give you an historical presentation of "Eternal Flame" military monuments. The first time I heard a reference to an "Eternal Flame " I was 8 years old in 1963 and John Kennedy had something called an "Eternal Flame " graveside.

Our monument has not been lit for several months because of the prohibitive cost of natural gas. There are many such monuments around the state of Illinois, the country and the World.

An "Eternal Flame" burns on Corregidor. The Gettysburg battle site had an "Eternal Flame "(now an electronic display). The city of Chicago has two, one for the fire fighters and one for police. The city pays the gas bill.

In the newsletter you will find copies of an Invoice outlining my proposal for a more efficient "Eternal Flame "and a website where you can view a similar flame burning "on film".

Please review all the information and watch the video. Any and all questions are welcome. My email is: ej46287442@gmail.com.

Video on burner system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYudYPFJJ6k&list=PL0t6XliiCU2kkDxWYyzvCeP4w8WfdJtr7&index=4>

FINANCE OFFICER: SEAN WALSH

Sean P. Walsh here, your friendly neighborhood Finance Officer. Not to be confused with Sean F Walsh, the SAL Junior Vice Commander.



Our finances are in good shape. We recently consolidated multiple accounts down to two. We have a healthy savings, and our checking account is for membership and donations.

If you'd like specifics on the accounts, come to our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 1930.

Recently, fellow Legionnaire Eddie Johnson and I took a road trip out to Marseilles, IL to visit the Middle East War Memorial. It's a beautiful site along the Illinois River, by the town hall. I'd recommend the trip. Unfortunately, they will be adding more names to the wall.

Please remember that our banquet hall is our number one revenue stream for the Post. Tell your friends and family to book their parties

HAPPENINGS:

- 04/04/2026-True Story, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 04/06/2026-SAL Meeting, 1830 hours
- 04/14/2026-Finance Board Meeting, 1900 hours
- 04/14/2026-Executive Board Meeting, 2000 hours

- 04/18/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 04/21/2026-Legion Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
- 04/21/2026-General Members Meeting, 1930 hours
- 04/25/2026-Joe Cantifio, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 05/02/2026-Chants and Strings, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 05/04/2026-SAL Meeting, 1830 hours
- 05/07/2026-School Awards, 1900 hours, Main hall
- 05/10/2026-Mother's Day
- 05/12/2026-Finance Board Meeting, 1900 hours
- 05/12/2026-Executive Board Meeting, 2000 hours
- 05/16/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 05/19/2026-Legion Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
- 05/19/2026-General Members Meeting, 1930 hours
- 05/25/2026-Memorial Day Ceremony and Luncheon, 1000 till 1300 hours
- 06/01/2026-SAL Meeting, 1830 hours
- 06/06/2026-Old Gold, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 06/09/2026-Finance Board Meeting, 1900 hours
- 06/09/2026-Executive Board Meeting, 2000 hours
- 06/13/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300 hours, Front bar
- 06/14/2026-Flag Day
- 06/16/2026-Legion Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
- 06/16/2026-General Members Meeting, 1930 hours
- 06/21/2026-Father's Day
- 06/26/2026-Evergreen Park 4th of July Parade, 1730 hours

REQUEST

If a member wishes to attend a meeting, we may be able to get a ride for you. If you call the Post, it is possible to arrange transportation for you. Please call 708-422-9513.

ETERNAL FLAME INVOICE

Southwest Fireplace **Quote**
 5 W. Laraway Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423 (815) 806-9700
 21 S. 80th Ave., Palos Park IL 60464 (708) 448-3883
 3 N. Farnsworth Ave., Aurora, IL 60502 (630) 820-8664

1/28/2026
Quote No. 213585

Preferred Customer American Legion Gina & Ed Johnson (312) 608-4628	Preferred Customer postmanager@americanlegion854.org ej46287442@gmail.com IL
Salesperson Alan Rutherford	Customer PO
Terms	Ship Via 0

Item	List	Disc	Net	Extension
00 SO	1,728.00	0.00%	1,728.00	1,728.00
SPECIAL ORDER*****				
Order Detail				
1 FPB-19RBS16TPSI-N 19" Stainless Steel Round Pan with Stainless Steel 16" Burning Spur, TPSI Ignition with Battery Powered Spark Igniter, for Natural Gas - 75K BTU	1,489.00	0.00%	1,489.00	1,489.00
1 GWS-23R Tempered Glass Windshield, 1/4" 5 MM, 23" Diameter x 8" Tall, includes assembly hardware	239.00	0.00%	239.00	239.00
00 TGBLACK	78.00	35.00%	50.70	304.20
2F BLACK RELECTIVE FIREGLASS 1/4" SIZE				
00 SO	1,928.00	0.00%	1,928.00	1,928.00
SPECIAL ORDER*****				
Order Detail				
1 FPB-25RBS22TPSI-N 25" Stainless Steel Round Pan with Stainless Steel 22"	1,659.00	0.00%	1,659.00	1,659.00

Southwest Fireplace **Quote**
 9475 W. Laraway Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423 (815) 806-9700
 11921 S. 80th Ave., Palos Park IL 60464 (708) 448-3883
 2630 N. Farnsworth Ave., Aurora, IL 60502 (630) 820-8664

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Salesperson Alan Rutherford	Customer PO
Terms	Ship Via 0

Qty Ord	Item	List	Disc	Net	Extension
Job Description:					
				Total Material	3,960.20
				Total Labor	0.00
				Tax/H	316.82
				Freight	100.00
				Quote Total	4,377.02

This is a bid provided to us by Southwest Fireplace. Bottom line the entire project will cost \$4,377.02. There is some further review being conducted. No commitment has been made.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Post 0854 would like to enter the 21st Century and we would like to send our newsletter to you via email. If you would like to receive a FUTURE newsletter simply send an email to:

Postmanager@americanlegion854.org

You can view our web-address at:

americanlegion854.org

MEMBERSHIP

We are slowly progressing towards our goal of 100% renewals. Some of you fail to see the importance of renewing as soon as you get your renewal notice. Without members, we won't have an American Legion. We need you to be concerned about renewing your membership. If you have not renewed, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!!!



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7:30 AM to 1:30 PM



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a MARINE

George Mulvaney
Director
LZ4vets@gmail.com
ph 773. 704. 2150
www.OnceandAlways.org

a point of education & activity supporting Marine units and its Veterans in the Chicagoand area

The "Once & Always" continuing to march the veterans' agenda forward for those who proudly served. In the Air, on Land and C' ya on the beachhead. charlie-mike out.

Semper Fidelis
Chicago MARINES




Birthday Gift Coupon
Your birthday during the month? Congratulations...Enjoy a drink on us!

Have a valid paid Membership card and a photo ID with your birthdate, show it to our Bartender along with this coupon, and the drink is yours!

The American Legion Post 854
"The Hospitality Post"
9701 South Kedzie
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805-3124

The "Hospitality Post" newsletter is the official publication of Evergreen Park Post #0854 of The American Legion. It is published quarterly and distributed by email to all Post members, Legion Riders, and SAL Members who currently have an updated email address.
Jim Quintavalle, Editor

Website Address: AmericanLegion854.org
E-Mail Address: Postmanager@americanlegion854.org



POOP HAPPENS!!!

TIRED OF PICKING UP POOP??

LET US DO THE DIRTY WORK!!!

CALL/TEXT PRICING

708-274-0871

POOP PICK UP/CLEAN UP YOUR YARD
SPRING CLEAN UPS - WEEKLY - BIWEEKLY
AVAILABLE

CASH, PAYPAL & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
SERVICING THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBS

APRIL 2026																																																																																															
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