

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 JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

Commander	Bruce Petersen	Sr Vice Commander	Matt Ginn
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Sgt at Arms/Historian	Richard Venckus	SAL Commander	Ed Isbell
Legion Riders Director	Bob McDonald		

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE: B. PETERSEN

### Greetings Members and Friends:

HNH!! Well, we've got another chance to do things right! '26 will be a GREAT year.

Last year at this time, we spoke about the poison called 'GOSSIP'. This year's brief lecture is on 'BLAME' - same family. Analysts call it a coping device, but around the Post, we won't be hearing any blame, because we're not taking any complaints this year. Finding fault with programs, events, or members only displays small mindedness, and our volunteer vet members really don't need anyone's two cents.



On the other side of the coin, if you've got knowledge, skills, or abilities and want to help make things better, sound off at the general membership meetings (3rd Tue @ 1930) and demonstrate your leadership, not pettiness. "Nuff said."

Our winter months are chock full of events - check out the calendar for your favorites.

Please remember your vow to protect the country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. Seem like every time the U.S. gets things nailed down over here, a board pops up over there. While our govt. has the hammer and nails to do the job, we are hobbled by fellow citizens that work contrary

to the general welfare. All that we as members can do is lead by example. We are the reason the United States remains the greatest nation on earth - in spite of those that wish to hold us back. Keep our nation in your prayers.

#### SR VICE COMMANDER-MATT GINN

Greetings and welcome to our Legion #854 newsletter.



We had a wonderful year at our Post and trust that you and your families had the same. We all wish you a blessed and prosperous New Year. We will continue to do our best and maintain focus on our duties as Legionnaires: Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children and Youth.

Building and Grounds: Maintenance at our post continues to be day to day. There are no major projects on the horizon, but we will continue to make minor changes and updates that are needed to sustain our business and events. If you have any ideas or would like to make changes, please join us at a meeting and let us know.

Over the past year we have had the privilege to support and partner with some wonderful organizations locally, regionally and nationally. Here is a list of those that we have supported.

Stop Soldier Suicide  
Vet Center  
Wreaths Across America  
Toys for Tots  
Evergreen Park Oktober Fest  
Evergreen Park Firefighters Association  
Veterans Home at Manteno  
Knight of Columbus  
Southwest Elementary School Boosters Club  
Evergreen Park Community High School  
Alumni Association  
Central Middle School  
Northeast Elementary School  
St. Jude  
Stockyard Kilty Band  
Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Folds of Honor  
Evergreen Park Food Pantry  
Most Holy Redeemer Men's Club

Evergreen Park Boys Club  
Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Membership: Dues will be increasing to \$45 next year for your 2026-2027 membership cards.

We have a lot going on and sometimes things move quickly. The very best way to stay up to date on what we are doing is to get involved. Stop by the bar for a game, come to an event, join us at our meetings, and volunteer. 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.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

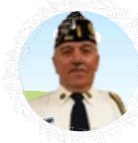
##### *Kamikaze Tactics: A Weapon of Despair*

As the Allied forces closed on the Japanese home islands during World War II, Japan's military leaders, facing a shortage of experienced pilots and dwindling aircraft, resorted to a desperate tactic: kamikaze attacks. Kamikaze meaning "divine wind," (named after the legendary typhoons that saved Japan from Mongol invasions in the 13<sup>th</sup> century) referred to suicide attacks in which Japanese pilots deliberately crashed their planes into Allied ships, sacrificing their lives in the hopes of inflicting maximum damage and demoralizing the enemy.

The first organized kamikaze attacks were launched during the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944. the attacks, while shocking and initially effective, ultimately failed to prevent the Allied victory. However, the use of kamikaze tactics escalated in the final months of the war, as Japan's situation grew increasingly desperate.

Kamikaze pilots, often young and inexperienced, were indoctrinated with a sense of patriotic duty and self-sacrifice. They were promised a glorious death and eternal honor for their willingness to give their lives for the emperor and the nation. The psychological impact of these attacks on Allied sailors was significant, but the kamikaze ultimately failed to alter the course of the war.\*

\*WW2-The Pacific War:pages 58-59

**SERGEANT AT ARMS-R.VENCKUS****Foundations of Freedom XV:****A changing America**

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the history of the Bill of Rights shifted from focus on the ideas contained in the amendments themselves to their practical meaning to the lives of Americans. The country was changing. Urbanization, industrialization, immigration created new and often conflicting conditions and ideas. Increasingly, the U.S. Supreme Court was forced to take a larger role in interpreting the Constitution to confront deep divisions in society.

Social conflicts existed between the desires of giant corporations to enlarge their profits in the name of “free enterprise” and the struggles of organized labor and social reformers to secure better and safer working conditions. There were economic conflicts between the enactment of elaborate business regulations under the state’s “police power” and the call for a “laissez-faire” approach to encourage innovative entrepreneurship. Indeed, the Court itself had conflicts between the competing theories of “judicial activism” and “judicial restraint.”

By mediating these debates when posed as constitutional issues, the opinions of the Court became the vehicle for determining the meaning of the Bill of Rights. It is a measure of the heightened pace of judicial review to realize that before 1865, the Supreme Court only found two federal and 38 state statutes unconstitutional. Between 1865 and 1899, it struck down 18 federal and 126 state laws.

Acting under the Due Process and Equal Protection provisions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, coupled with the doctrine of Freedom of Contract, the Supreme Court repeatedly overturned laws that restricted businesses, regulated working conditions or taxed corporations. In one year, 1895, the Court upheld a federal injunction against striking railroad workers (In re Debs); severely limited the scope of the Sherman Antitrust Act (United States v. E.C. Knight Company) and struck down the federal income tax law (Pollock v. Farmers Loan and Trust). One scholar referred to these decisions as “related aspects of a massive judicial entry into the American socioeconomic scene, like a conservative oriented revolution.” While the Court busied itself with protecting big business under an expansive interpretation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, it turned a deaf ear to those Blacks for whom the Amendment had been enacted.

In fact, during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Blacks had lost most of what they had gained from the passage of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments. By 1890, many southern states began passing what were known as “Jim Crow laws.” These laws segregated Blacks from the White population in housing, use of public facilities, such as public schools, in public transportation, and in hotels. In Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, the Court established the “separate but equal” doctrine, which would permit Jim Crow laws until it was overruled in Brown v. Board of Education (1954).

When Homer Plessy, who was one-eighth Black, sat in the “White” car on the East Louisiana Railroad, he was arrested and convicted of violating the law. The Supreme Court held that the object of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment “was undoubtedly to enforce the absolute equality of the two races before the law.” In the same breath it added, “but in the nature of things it could not have intended to abolish distinctions based on color...” The lone dissenter, Justice John Marshall Harlan, complained that the decision endorsed segregation which “permits the seeds of race hate to be planted under the sanction of law.” Answering the claim of the majority that segregation’s “badge of inferiority” exists “solely because the colored race chooses to put that constriction on it.” Harlan wrote: “Our Constitution is color-blind, neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens.”

The Court ignored the rights of other minorities as well. In 1887, the Court refused to apply the Civil Rights and Enforcement Acts to the Chinese, and in 1889, upheld a federal ban on Chinese immigration. Likewise while federal policy patronized American Indians by announcing the goal that “the savage shall become citizen,” the Court in Elk v. Wilkins (1884), held that Indians were not citizens within the meaning of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Meanwhile, the majority of Americans were enjoying an expansion of popular democracy and progressive reform. The work of the progressives inspired the third wave of Constitutional amendments, between 1919 and 1920. They brought about a federal income tax, direct election of Senators, prohibition, and women’s suffrage. There was an increase in government agencies, commissions, and boards.

Congress and the president exercised unprecedented powers, reaching into society, and threatened to restrict personal freedoms and individual liberties in ways that often-escaped judicial review.

But the Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice William Howard Taft, did not show much interest in the issues of individual rights. Espousing Social Darwinism, the survival of the fittest, the Court's opinions, more regularly supported constitutional protection for private property and private enterprise. Between 1921 and 1933, an activist Court struck down 14 acts of Congress, 148 state laws, and 12 city ordinances, all because they placed unwarranted governmental restraints on business activity. But the same Court easily upheld federal, state, and local laws that helped business, and others restrict the civil liberties of union organizers, radicals, strident pacifists, and other critics of capitalism.

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easily upheld federal, state, and local laws that helped business, and others restrict the civil liberties of union organizers, radicals, strident pacifists, and other critics of capitalism.

While Samuel Gompers, the famous labor leader, would look back on this era and bemoan the fact that "the courts have abolished the Constitution as far as the rights and interests of the working people are concerned," others were convinced that the Court was fulfilling President Calvin Coolidge's aphorism that "the business of America is business."

#### JR VICE COMMANDER-C. McKEATING

Greetings from the Jr Vice Commander:  
Hello fellow comrades



Happy New Year! Thanks to all those who help make our post what it is - especially all those officers who work behind the scenes to keep our post viable, supportive and just fun to be a part of.

A special shout out to Gina for all she does to make our events successful.

Please consider coming out to our next events, and why not bring a friend or two as well.

Volunteers are always appreciated.

Thank you.

#### CHAPLAIN-C. McKEATING

From the Chaplain's Corner -



Happy New Year!  
As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder what it held for us.

Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us - for every sympathetic smile, for every tear, for moments which brought laughter's melody, for nature's loveliness and for friendship's beauty.

Let us ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly, beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May

we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching and thought of self.

Let us always honor the memory of those brave Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who made the supreme sacrifice, so we may live in a country that is free. For those service men and women who continue to actively serve in harms way, those comrades who are sick and suffering in body, mind and spirit. Let us continue to pray for them and their families and and friends.

Amen.

#### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: E. ISBEL

A big hello to everybody. I hope everybody had a safe and great Christmas and New Year's.



Coming up in the spring, we will be planning a golf outing and plan to purchase a golf cart to raffle off.

We also just finished up another successful gun raffle.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers for all the hard work these past few months. We are always looking for volunteers to do stuff around the Legion. There are plenty of things to do.

#### COLOR GUARD:L. 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

Any member that has a basic knowledge of the card game 'Spades' (2,3 or 4 handed) or the board game 'Risk' (4, 5 or 6 players) please see the Commander after the next regular meeting. Ideally, you would have learned these games while on active duty - probably sitting around the motor pool. Thanks.

An act of Congress has designated March 29th as National Viet Nam War Veteran's Day. It will have been 53 years since Military Assistance Command was disestablished and the last day U.S. combat troops left the country. As info, any Vet serving 11/1/55 to 5/15/75 is regarded as a Viet Nam era vet. Those of us that served in country deserve our deepest THANKS and welcome home.

### JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING:

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month, our Post holds its General Meeting—an important time to come together, share ideas, and strengthen our mission.

We know participation has been low. Out of over 400 members, fewer than 20 typically attend. That needs to change. We need you— your presence, your voice, your support.

So why not give it a try?

- \*No cost to you
- \*Dinner and drinks provided
- \*Your chance to make a difference

What do you have to lose? Just a little time. But what you stand to gain is more: camaraderie, purpose, and the pride of being active at your Post.

### QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING:

The Post Family, the Legion, the Sons, and the Legion Riders appreciate your support for the Queen of Hearts.

BE SURE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR WEEKLY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING EVERY WENESDAY AT 7:00 PM.

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY

### HAPPENINGS:

01/01/2026-HAPPY NEW YEAR, BAR OPEN  
REGULAR HOURS  
01/05/2026-SAL MEETING, 1830 HOURS

01/07/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS  
01/13/2026-FINANCE/EXECUTIVE BOARD. 1900 HOURS

01/14/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS  
01/20/2026-POST MEETING, 1930 HOURS

01/21/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS  
01/28/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

02/02/2026-SAL MEETING, 1830 HOURS

02/04/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS  
02/08/2026-SUPER BOWL PARTY, DETAILS TO FOLLOW

02/10/2026-FINANCE/EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1900 HOURS

02/11/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

02/14/2026-TYPICALLY COUNTRY BOYS, 2000 TO 2300 HOURS, FRONT BAR

02/17/2026-RIDERS MEETING, 1830 HOURS

02/17/2026-POST MEETING, 1930 HOURS

02/18/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

02/21/2026-OLD GOLD, 2000 TO 2300 HOURS, FRONT BAR

02/25/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

02/28/2026-SMOKIN JOE, 2000 TO 2300 HOURS, FRONT BAR

03/02/2026-SAL MEETING, 1830 HOURS

03/04/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

03/07/2026-THE KOOP, 2000 TO 2300 HOURS, FRONT BAR

03/10/2026-FINANCE/EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1900 HOURS

03/11/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

03/14/2026-ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY, 1800 TO 2230 HOURS, TICKETS REQUIRED

03/17/2026-POST MEETING, 1930 HOURS

03/18/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

03/25/2026-QUEEN OF HEARTS, 1900 HOURS

03/28/2026-SMOKIN JOE, 2000 TO 2300 HOURS, FRON BAR

03/29/2026-AMERICAN LEGION BUNTT BREAKFAST, 0900 TO 1200 HOURS

### THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

The American Legion Preamble is a statement of principles that expresses the values and goals of The American Legion, a U.S. veterans' organization. It is recited at meetings and events to reaffirm members' commitment to service, patriotism, and support for veterans, their families, and the community.

Here is the full text of the Preamble to the

Constitution of the American Legion:

\*“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

\*To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

\*To maintain law and order;

\*To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

\*To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

\*To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

\*To make right the master of might;

\*To promote peace and good will on earth;

\*To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

\*To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;

\*To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

This preamble reflects the Legion’s dedication to patriotism, civic duty, and support for veterans and their families.

Here is a breakdown of the American Legion Preamble explaining what each line means and why it is important to the mission of The American Legion.

***“For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:”***

This opening sets the tone. Members dedicate themselves to service in the name of faith (“God”) and patriotism (“Country”).

It highlights the unity and purpose behind forming The American Legion.

***“To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;”***

Legion members commit to protecting the freedoms and principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. It highlights the unity and purpose behind forming The American Legion.

***“To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;”***

Legion members commit to protecting the freedoms and principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. This reflects their role as veterans who have sworn to defend their country.

***To maintain law and order:***

Emphasizes the importance of a peaceful and just society governed by laws. It affirms support for enforcement and justice systems that protect all citizens.

***To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism:***

“Americanism” refers to loyalty to American values, such as freedom, democracy, and civic responsibility. The phrase “one hundred percent” shows a total and unwavering commitment to those ideals.

***To preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars.***

This line is about honoring the past- remembering the sacrifices and experiences of those who served in wartime. It keeps alive the legacy of service and insures it is passed down to future generations.

***To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;***

Encourages members and all citizens to recognize and act on their duty to contribute to society at every level. Civic engagement and service are vital parts of a strong democracy.

***To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;***

This line warns against any form of tyranny or oppression, whether it comes from powerful elites or mob rule. It promotes a balanced society where one group dominates or silences the others.

***To make right the master of might;***

Emphasizes that justice and morality should guide power, not force of intimidation. It’s a call to use strength responsibly and in service of what is right.

***To promote peace and good will on earth;***

Reflects a desire for global peace and friendship among all people, even as the organization remains rooted in military service. It’s a forward-looking hopeful principle.

***To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;***

A pledge to protect and pass on core American Values to future generations, ensuring that they endure beyond the present moment.

***To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness***

The closing line declares that the bonds between veterans are sacred, and these relationships are strengthened through service to each other and the community.

“Mutual helpfulness” is a central theme in The American Legion’s mission.  
This preamble is more than just a ceremonial statement-it’s a living guide for how members are expected to serve and live.

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**QUEEN OF HEARTS**  
The Post Family, the Sons, Auxiliary, Riders,  
and the Legion would appreciate your support  
for the Queen of Hearts.

**BE SURE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR  
WEEKLY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING THAT  
TAKES PLACE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.**

**YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY!**

**Once & Always**  
a MARINE

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

a point of connection & activity supporting Marine units and its Veterans in the Chicago/Land 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

**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE**  
It sounds way better on paper.

**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 birthday, show it to our Bartender along with this coupon, and that drink is yours!

The American Legion Post #54  
“The Hospitality Post”  
9701 South Kedzie  
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805-3334

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



# JANUARY 2026

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# FEBRUARY 2026

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# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2 SAL MEETING 1830 HOURS	3	4 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	5	6 2200 TO 2300 HOURS	7 THE KOOP FRONT BAR																																																																																				
8	9	10 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1900/2000 HOURS	11 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	12	13 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY 1800 TO 2230 HOURS TICKETS REQUIRED	14																																																																																				
15	16	17 POST MEETING 1930 HOURS	18 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	19	20	21																																																																																				
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29 AMERICAN LEGION BUNNT BREAKFAST TO 1200 HOURS	30	31																																																																																								
		<b>February 2026</b> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28								<b>April 2026</b> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<b>Notes:</b> <div>IF YOUR EVENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE CALENDAR; YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE IT!!!</div>	
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