

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 JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

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

COMMANDERS MESSAGE: B. PETERSEN

Greetings and welcome to Spring

Recently, I had the sad honor of serving as pallbearer to a distinguished Legionnaire. Our own Color Guard performed flawlessly at the funeral home, rendering the final salute, with dozens of members of the Legion family present. On the day of burial, we were met at the cemetery by two Army NCOs on active duty. This burial team took part in the removal of the colors from the casket, folding, and presentation to next of kin. Their task was carried out with honor, dignity, and precision. More than ½ a million veterans die each year in the United States, according to the VA.



BY LAW, they are eligible for a two-person military honor guard that includes a representative of their service branch. The military detail usually folds the flag draped over the casket, presents it to the next of kin, and sounds taps. Unless the veteran dies while on active duty or is retired from the service, the military does not send a rifle team.

Arranging for a military honor guard requires a DD-214 or other proof of HONORABLE service. Families need to tell the funeral director the deceased is a veteran and they want military honors.

This is why it is so important to have copies of your DD-214 available for your family.

By the time you are reading this, our Post has held annual elections.

Congratulations to all our newly elected officers, and BIG THANKS to those that previously served. 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.

I'm sure we will all support our new officers. As we close the books on Legion year 2026, we look back and see a year of successful programs, new friends, and duties fulfilled. You all have displayed the spirit of volunteerism that exemplifies the goals of the American Legion, and we need to keep the enthusiasm rolling.

As always, we look to re-up all our current members and encourage prompt dues renewal.

Never forget, DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY.

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

SR VICE COMMANDER-MATT GINN

SERGEANT AT ARMS-R.VENCKUS
Foundations of Freedom XVII:
Voting Rights for Women

The Bill of Rights was 130 years old before women were guaranteed the right to vote. The women's suffrage movement can be traced to the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. The convention resolved "that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right



to the elective franchise." Hopes that the coalition of abolitionists and suffragettes would lead to voting rights for women and Blacks were dashed when the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, only addressed abridgement of the right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Arguing that the right to vote in federal election was a privilege of national citizenship guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, Susan B. Anthony voted in 1872 despite the fact that the New York Constitution limited the franchise to men only. She was convicted of casting a ballot in an election for which she was ineligible and fined \$100.00. Many of her sister suffragettes went to jail for demonstrations in favor of women's right to vote. In spite of many setbacks, these courageous women won support for a constitutional amendment and planted the seeds for greater rights for women later in the century.

In 1912 Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party endorsed women's suffrage and in 1919 Woodrow Wilson announced his support for a constitutional amendment. In 1920, the 19th Amendment, prohibiting denial or abridgement of the right to vote in any election on grounds of sex, was ratified. "The right to vote freely for the candidate of one's choice is of the essence of a democratic society," wrote Chief Justice Earl Warren in 1964,

ADJUTANT-MARIA SCRUGGS

We held our officer elections on May 19, 2026. I want to extend gratitude to our outgoing officers and congratulations to the new officers! I will finish up my tenure as Adjutant and continue serving as your new Finance Officer.

I am sure that our new team of officers, with Chuck McKeating as Commander, will do the best that we can to keep this post in shape and continue setting the

foundation for many years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your adjutant and for electing me to serve as your finance officer.

While I do not predict an easy road ahead, I am sure that together, we will achieve our goals.

SERVICE OFFICER-MARIA SCRUGGS

Beyond Memorial Day.

For many, Memorial Day signals the unofficial start of summer. It is a long weekend marked by backyard barbecues, beach trips, pool openings, and major retail sales. While these celebrations of community and freedom are a beautiful expression of the American way of life, the holiday's true purpose runs much deeper.

Memorial Day is a solemn day of national remembrance dedicated to honoring the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It is a time to pause, reflect, and pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by those who gave their lives to protect our freedoms.

Memorial Day 2026 was no exception for Post 854. We had a very solemn ceremony for Post Everlasting. My day was filled with gratitude for those who paid the ultimate price in service, and for the resilience of our nation, which continues to stand tall.

On Memorial Day, Flag Etiquette dictates that the flag be at half-staff from dawn till noon, and then raised to full staff from noon till dusk.

The significance is not lost on me. While the tradition is often overlooked, the mourning period is designated for mourning those who gave all, while the shift to full staff at noon symbolizes the national resilience and the continuation of the country's defense.

Many of us struggle with memories of those we lost along the way. And celebrations like Memorial Day can be triggering and healing. If you are struggling with memories, grief, or simply having a hard time, I want you to remember that you are not alone and that there is help. Asking for help is a sign of



strength and bravery, and there are many ways you can do this. The simplest way is to pick up the phone and dial a buddy, but if that seems like too much, you can call 988, which is not only for if you are having suicidal thoughts, but also to find resources for mental health help. 988 is confidential. You can also call me at 312-620-0884 or email me (854vso@gmail.com). I am and will continue to be your service officer. I may not know all the answers, but I can guide you as well. Any help or guidance I can give you is also confidential. I only report numbers (as in how many), never names.

All that said, if you are having a hard time, know that you are not alone and that help is readily available. We want you here, and you are not a burden. As your service officer, if I do not know the answer, I may know someone who does, or at least, I should be able to point you in the right direction.

I also wanted to extend congratulations to the elected officers for this new Legion year.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and wonderful summer!

FINANCE OFFICER: SEAN WALSH

The Post's finances are solid, however the cost for everything is going up. Therefore, our bar manager (with the executive board's approval) has made the difficult decision to raise the bar prices. No drink goes up by more than seventy-five cents, effective June 1, 2026.

Our membership decided to make a \$500 donation to the family of CFD Firefighter Michael Altman. FF Altman was killed in the line of duty. He lived less than two miles from our Post. I had the pleasure of delivering the check to the family. I introduced myself and explained I was from the American Legion Post 0854, Evergreen Park.

The woman who answered the door was holding his infant daughter. She said "Hi, I'm Mickey's mom". There she was holding her granddaughter who was born after her son was killed in the fire.

She graciously accepted our check and I left. I'm not ashamed to admit I broke down in tears after the interaction.

This is what we do. We raise money to support the people in our community who need it most.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: ED ISBEL

Like to say a big hello to everybody.

I hope everybody's doing good.

We have a golf cart raffle and tickets are 50 bucks apiece. Only 400 tickets sold.

We have a rock 'n' roll fest July 25. It goes on from 3 PM to 10 PM. Volunteers are welcome.

We also have a car show August 16 starts at 12 goes till 5 PM.

I would also like to say thanks to all the volunteers we really appreciate your help.

I hope everybody has a beautiful nice and safe 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

We have completed our election of officers for 2026-2027. The election was conducted smoothly and professionally, and I would like to thank Rick Mitchell for overseeing the process.

As with any election, not everyone may agree with the results or have supported the same candidates. That is perfectly understandable. The members who were present cast their votes, and the results reflect the will of those who participated. We should respect that process and support our newly elected officers as they take on their responsibilities.

What is concerning is the level of participation. With a membership of more than 400, only 22 members attended and voted. Those same members are often the ones who regularly attend our general meetings and stay engaged with the activities and operations of the Post.

If you want a voice in the direction of the Post, participation matters. Elections, meetings, and volunteer opportunities are where members can make their opinions heard and help shape our future. I encourage all members to become more involved and take advantage of those opportunities in the coming year.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers, and thank you to everyone who took the time to participate.

JR.VICE: CHUCK MCKEATING

Greetings,

A mighty thanks to all that have participated in making our functions, events and ceremonies a success. Without the help of these individuals Post 854 would not be the Hospitality Post. In the coming months with our newly elected officers we hope to make our Post even more welcoming. Please spread the word about the fun filled events coming up.



Let us always remember with love and reverence all those who have answered the final call and their family and friends. Let us always keep them in our prayers.

Have a safe and happy summer. See you at the Post!!!

CHAPLAIN: CHUCK MCKEATING

From the Chaplain's Corner -

Just a reflection:

Our foundation of the American Legion begins with the declaration "for God and country". In the heart lies a sacred mission: to serve the needs of our beloved Veterans. Let us pause and reflect on this noble purpose, rekindling our passion and commitment to those who have served. As comrades, let us reevaluate our respect for one another, from our local posts to our administrative staff and to our leadership. Through unity and mutual understanding, we can forge a stronger, more cohesive community. Furthermore, let us encourage both current and future generations of Veterans through our actions and words. Let us lead by example, embodying the values of faith, patriotism, and selflessness. Together, let us renew our dedication to God and country, ensuring that our organization remains a beacon of hope and support for all who have served.

Like our nation's founding fathers, the veterans who founded The American Legion acknowledge God as the source of all our rights and freedoms.

Let us all have a safe and productive **summer!**

HAPPENINGS:

07/04/2026-Bar open 1100 till 1800 hours.
Later will be determined
07/11/2026-The Koop, 2000 till 2300 hours,
front bar
07/14/2026-Finance Mtg, 1800 hours,
07/14/2026-Executive Board, 1830 hours.
07/18/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300
hours, front bar
07/20/2026-SAL Health Fair,
Blood Drive, 0900 till 1700 hours in main hall
07/21/2026-Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
07/21/2026-General Meeting, 1930 hours
07/25/202-Rockin Roll Fest, 1500 till 2200,
back parking lot
08/03/2026-SAL Meeting, 1800 hours
08/08/2026-True Story, 2000 till 2300, front
bar
08/11/2026-Finance Meeting, 1800 hours
08/11/2026-Executive Board, 1830 hours
08/15/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300
hours, front bar
08/16/2026-Show Your Ride Car Show, 1200
till 1700 hours, back parking lot
08/18/2026-Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
08/18/2026-General Meeting, 1930 hours
08/29/2026-Cold Brew, 2000 till 2300
hours, front bar
09/05/2026-Jerek and Karen, 2000 till
2300 hours, front bar
09/08/2026-Finance Meeting, 1800 hours
09/08/2026-Executive Board, 1830 hours
09/15/2026-Riders Meeting, 1830 hours
09/15/2026-General Meeting, 1930 hours
09/19/2026-Smokin Joe, 2000 till 2300
hours, front bar
09/26/2026-Craft/Rummage Sale, 1000 till
1500 hours

HIDDEN HISTORY:

84 years ago today, the most important Japanese admiral in the Pacific sailed into a fog bank he could not see out of, carrying secret orders he believed were known to no one on earth. The Americans had read them three weeks ago. In May 1942, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto had a plan Pacific in 30 days. He would draw the surviving US Navy carriers into a trap near a tiny atoll called Midway, 1,300 miles northwest of Hawaii, and destroy them with the largest naval force ever assembled. 200 ships. 700 aircraft. 100,000 men. Four heavy carriers under Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo would



lead the strike. The American fleet, which had only three serviceable carriers left after the Coral Sea, would be annihilated. Then Hawaii would fall. Then the US would sue for peace. The plan was perfect. It was also compromised. In a basement in Pearl Harbor, a small team of cryptanalysts under Commander Joseph Rochefort had broken the Japanese naval cipher JN-25 in the spring of 1942. They were reading roughly 20 percent of every Japanese signal in real time, and educated guesswork filled in the rest. By mid-May they knew the target was somewhere referred to only as "AF." But where was AF? Rochefort had a hunch. He sent a signal in the clear from Midway saying their water distillation plant had broken down. Two days later, Japanese intercepts mentioned that "AF" was running short of fresh water.

Bingo. By May 27 Admiral Chester Nimitz knew the date of the Japanese attack, the composition of the Japanese force, the route Nagumo would take, and roughly the time he would launch his first strike. He pulled every American carrier to a point northeast of Midway called "Point Luck" and waited. The trap had been set for him. He set a trap inside the trap. On June 2, Nagumo's four carriers approached Midway through the worst fog any of them had ever seen.

Visibility dropped below 600 yards. His ships could barely see each other. He held radio silence to protect his approach. He believed he had complete surprise. He believed the American carriers were thousands of miles away in the South Pacific. He believed he was about to win the war. Yamamoto, on the battleship Yamato 600 miles behind him, had intelligence that the American carriers might in fact be at sea. He chose not to break radio silence to warn Nagumo. He assumed Nagumo had the same intelligence. Nagumo did not. At 4:30 AM on June 4, Nagumo launched 108 aircraft against Midway from a position the Americans had been waiting for him to reach. By sunset, three of his four carriers were burning hulks. The fourth would sink the next morning. Japan lost 3,057 men, 248 aircraft, and the

four best carriers of the Pacific War in a single day. Japanese naval aviation never recovered. The war was decided in six minutes between 10:22 and 10:28 AM on June 4. The whole disaster traced back to one decision on June 2: a Japanese admiral sailing into fog, trusting that nobody knew where he was going.

<https://x.com/HiddenHistoryYT/status/2061997045528121485>

ECHOES OF WAR:

The richest man in America signed a document that could have gotten him hanged, and when someone sneered that he was safe because no one would know which Charles Carroll to come for, he picked up the pen and told the British exactly where to find him.

His name was Charles Carroll, and the colonies were crawling with men who shared it. His own father was Charles Carroll of Annapolis. So when the Declaration of Independence came to him for signing in 1776, a delegate made a cruel little joke. He said Carroll risked nothing by signing. There were so many Charles Carrolls that the King's men would never know which one to hang. Carroll didn't argue. He leaned over the page and added three words to his signature: "of Carrollton." The name of his estate. His address. He was the only signer in the entire room who wrote down where he lived, and he did it on purpose, so that if the British wanted to come hang the traitor, they would know exactly which door to knock on. That is who Charles Carroll of Carrollton was. Here is what makes the moment even sharper. He was not a man with little to lose. He was the single wealthiest man in the thirteen colonies and the largest private landowner among them. While George Washington and John Hancock get talked about as rich men, it was Carroll who topped them all. When he signed, he was wagering the biggest personal fortune in America against a noose. And he was the last man anyone would have expected to be there at all. Carroll was Catholic. In colonial Maryland, a colony founded as a Catholic refuge that had since turned on its own, Catholics could not vote. They could not hold public office. They could not worship in public. The most educated, wealthiest man in America was, in the eyes of the law, a second-class subject barred from the very government he was helping to create. He had spent seventeen years being educated by

Jesuits in France and spoke five languages fluently, and back home he still could not legally cast a ballot. So he became the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, putting his name on a revolution that he hoped would build a country with room for men like him. That was its own enormous bet, made by a man the existing system had already shut out. Then he simply outlived everyone. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the same astonishing day, July 4, 1826, exactly fifty years after the Declaration. When they were gone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton was the last living signer left on earth. For six more years he was the final human link to that room in Philadelphia, the last hand that had signed, a living relic of the founding that ordinary Americans traveled to see and shake. He finally died in November 1832 at the age of ninety-five, fifty-six years after he wrote his address on a treason document and dared the empire to come find him. The richest man in America. The only Catholic. The last one standing. He had more to lose than any of them, every legal reason to stay quiet, and he signed his full address anyway. We remember the names we were handed in school. We forget the man who made sure his couldn't be mistaken for anyone else's.

<https://x.com/echoesofwaryt/status/2061885564996006152?s=43Y>

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!!!

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.



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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

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E-Mail Address: Postmanager@americanlegion854.org



POOP HAPPENS!!!

TIRED OF PICKING UP POOP??

LET US DO THE DIRTY WORK!!!

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POOP PICK UP/CLEAN UP YOUR YARD

SPRING CLEAN UPS - WEEKLY - BIWEEKLY

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SERVICING THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBS

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 BAR OPEN 1100 TILL 1800 HOURS IF OPEN LATE TO BE DETERMINED
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 THE KOOP 2000 TILL 2300 HOURS FRONT BAR
12	13	14 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1800/1830 HOURS	15	16	17	18 SMOKIN JOE FRONT BAR 2000 TILL 2300 HOURS
19	20 SAL HEALTH FAIR/ BLOOD DRIVE 0900 TILL 1700 HOURS MAIN HALL/	21 POST MEETING 1930 HOURS LEGION RIDERS 1830 HOURS	22	23	24	25 ROCKIN ROLL FEST 1500 TILL 2000 HOURS BACK LOT
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June 2026

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IF YOUR EVENT DOES NOT
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SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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6	7	8 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1800/1830 HOURS	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 POST MEETING 1930 HOURS LEGION RIDERS 1830 HOURS	16	17	18	19 SMOKIN JOE FRONT BAR 2000 TILL 2300 HOURS
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 CRAFT AND RUMMAGE SALE 1000 TILL 1500 HOURS
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August 2026

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October 2026

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