



AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER March, April and May, 2016  
Commander's Message to Our Legion Family:

Hello my fellow Legionnaires,

I'll start off by thanking all who help out and lend a helping hand when needed at the post. Without your help, the post would not be as nice and as pleasant to enjoy! Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

I cannot put enough emphasis on membership. Please, if you haven't already, pay your dues. Renew your membership and be a part of the upcoming year we will have at your post. There will be much to look forward to, I can assure you of that!

The Christmas Party and the New Year's Eve Party were a hit. A great time was had by all. I thank all who come out to support all of our events, your presence is needed and greatly appreciated.

Your efforts go a long way, whether you support by coming in and ordering a burger and a coke, buying some porkers, playing the slots, or buying a ticket to an event. All of those things play an important role in keeping our post thriving day after day and year after year!

As your Commander, I will always do my very best to keep Post 200 a nice place to come and enjoy for members and guests alike. Again, thank you for your continued support.

For God and Country,  
Commander, Cid Reyes

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**Our Flag does not fly because the wind moves it;  
It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.**  
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**In Flanders Fields Comes to Life**

Jim Maness, Chaplain for our Post 200 has been a busy man lately. He and his friends at the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland have been using their artistic skills since last December to forge poppies out of steel along with other blacksmiths from all over the world. They are joining together to create a cenotaph in Belgium during the International Forging Event held there from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Webster describes a cenotaph as 'a monument or empty tomb honoring a person or persons whose remains are elsewhere.'

The cenotaph will be located in front of the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium and will commemorate everyone on both sides involved in the war, both military and civilian. The town of Langemark Polkapelle, a few kilometers away has granted a permanent home for the completed work.

A tall steel pillar, approximately 23 ft. tall by 6 ½ ft. wide with a cutout of a poppy will be surrounded by two thousand and sixteen poppies that are being forged by guilds all over the world and sent unassembled to Belgium where they will be galvanized, powder coated and TIG welded to affix the poppy to the stem. All the poppies are identical as they are made to commemorate the dead, symbolizing the equality of all in death. There will be one white poppy to remember those that suffered from shell-shock and were called cowards. These soldiers were not cowards, but "Victims of War". The poppies are arranged so that visitors can touch them encouraging them to take ownership. We thank Jim and his guild for doing this to honor those who fought in the Great War.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER – March, April, May, 2016

Ok, enough of the cold and snow – bring on the warm weather and long days. We are looking forward to getting started on the pavilion again. Can't wait to see what it will look like with its new metal roof.

We just got back from our winter D.E.C. meeting in Ocean City at Post 166 and have received our convention package with all information on hotels and pricing along with registration forms for delegate, alternate and guest – plus bowling, horseshoe and corn hole tournaments. All are due by May 27, 2016. I will have that package posted in the foyer if you have any questions, check it out. Convention dates are June 24, 25 & 26, 2016 in Laurel, Md. We also learned at the meeting that our very own Tom Clavell, Western Maryland District Commander has taken WMD membership from last place to third – this being the largest district in the state with 5,000+ members. That's quite an accomplishment. Good job Tom.

Detachment Commander Jeff Seiler's project this year is Mc Vet (Maryland Center for Veteran Education and Training). The drawdown is March 5, 2016 at the Susquehanna Post 135 starting at 5:00 p.m. We will be having 50/50 drawings in the lounge to help raise money for his project. Hopefully we will be able to present him with a nice check from the Legion family.

Election of officers will be coming up soon and there are still some of you who have not paid your dues, so maybe you will be reading this and realize that your dues are due. We are always shooting for 'Gold Star' membership.

Tom Clavell and I are getting a **corn hole tournament** together along with the Thurmont Post as a fundraiser for Western Maryland District. This will be held **Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.** at the Thurmont Post. See Tom or me for registration and details.

Our annual shrimp feed and crab feast dates are on the calendar in this newsletter. I thank you in advance for supporting our events.

For God and Country,  
Roger Mazzone  
SAL Commander

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**Thank You**

Tom and Mary Jane Wickline, their sons and their families would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers since Tom's heart attack. Most especially, they thank the two angels who gave Tom effective CPR until the medics arrived and he was transported to the hospital.

They want everyone to know that if you have the opportunity, please take a CPR class and get certified. You never know when someone will need you to do the same thing or that you might need someone to administer CPR to save your life.

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March, April and May, 2016

Winter has the Legion Riders a little quiet. We are preparing and organizing a ride sponsored by Maryland Public Television (MPT). MPT Salutes our Vietnam Veterans with the "Honor Ride". The Honor Ride will be held June 18th, 2016. It is for all Vietnam Veteran riders, riders of other Veteran wars, and riders of family of veterans, all are invited. The goal is 1,015 riders. This is to represent and Honor the 1,015 Marylanders listed as missing in action or Killed in Action. This is the opening day event of the MPT tribute. Veteran participants will travel from our Post 200 Hampstead, to the American Legion Post 22 in Towson MD., then we will travel to and enter the Event at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. More information to follow.

Also, our Ride Coordinator and our information officer are organizing a Poker Ride!! Stay tuned for more info. The Legion Riders welcome any NEW MEMBERS! Membership \$10.00.

Thank you, Ron Burton, Director of the Hampstead American Legion Riders, Post 200

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**Before you complain....have you volunteered yet?**

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**Be Sure to Check out The February Issue of the Auxiliary Magazine**

One of our own American Legion members, Dave Grote is being featured in the article titled, "Welcome Home, Vietnam War Veterans". Dave talks about how it was to come home to a nation that was indifferent to the war they had fought and what it meant to him to have someone say "Thank you" for what they had done. It took more than 30 years to hear "Thank You for your service". Be sure to read this article. It is so important that we never forget what any and all of our military has done to keep us free.

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**Ask a Friend to Become a Member....**

Encourage your friends who have served or are related to one who has served to become a member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. Annual dues are as follows: Legion, \$30; Auxiliary, \$20; Auxiliary Jr., \$7 SAL, \$20; SAL, Jr. \$7. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month for these three groups. Yes you can sign up your children as Juniors in the Auxiliary and the SAL. If you are already a member, you can join our Legion Riders who are always active with honor rides, etc. Their dues are \$10 a year and meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

The following dates qualify you to be a member. You need a copy of your DD214 and a completed application. That's it!

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)**
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)**
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)**
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)**
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)**
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)**
- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)**

We are always busy around here....Legion, daily operation and maintenance of the Post, crab feast, oyster feed, corn hole and golf tournaments, Commander's Feed, entertainment at the post and much, much more. The Auxiliary hosts dinners throughout the year, holds a Bake Sale and Egg Hunt on Good Friday, Christmas in July, Shrimp Feed, Car Show, Sub Sale, Senior and Christmas Parties every year, and many more events. The SAL hosts a crab feast, shrimp feed, game night every Wednesday night and are always on hand when a hand is needed.

Jointly, we all help with a POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil in September, picnics held on special days, Post Christmas Party, Free Veteran's Dinner for Veteran's Day, St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner in March and so much more. Think about it and bring in a new member! Forms are available at the bar.

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## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER MARCH – MAY 2016

**Membership** is 380 to date. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please send them in. If you have paid and receive a notice from Department, please disregard the notice. We are 1<sup>st</sup> in the Department.

Way to go Bev!

A busy 3 months and again I want to say a big "Thank You" in advance to all of you for your help.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Annual Essay Contest** - is over and the essays have been judged and winners chosen. The winners will read their essays to us at the May meeting and receive a monetary amount of 1<sup>st</sup> place \$50.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$25.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$15.00. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners of each category will also be eligible for the District award and then possibly continue to the Department and National levels.

**Girls State** - applications have been delivered to the schools – we offer this program to girls in their junior year of high school from North Carroll and Manchester Valley also Home School junior members of the Hampstead American Legion Auxiliary. This is a week-long training that provides an opportunity for students interested in basic ideals and principles of American government. If you have a daughter or grand-daughter in her junior year, please tell her about this great program. For questions, contact Bev Martin 410.374.4063.

**Annual Kathleen Twigg Scholarship** - applications will be available at North Carroll and Manchester Valley High Schools at the school guidance office in early April and Home School senior members of the Hampstead American Legion Auxiliary can contact Mary Jane Wickline 410.374.9014 for applications. This is offered to all graduating students. There is a \$500.00 scholarship to the winner of each school.

**Unit Scholarship** – 2 \$200.00 scholarships are offered (spring & fall) – and are eligible to all of our Unit members, seniors as well as juniors, in good standing, who are taking a course to enhance her goals. You need to submit a short resume containing your plans. After judging, winners will be notified.

**Feb 27 – Shrimp Feed** Tickets are \$35.00 and are available in the lounge.

**March 17 – St. Patrick's Day** Lunch and Dinner, Corned Beef/Ham with cabbage and potatoes, and Rubeen sandwiches. Serving begins at noon and continues through the day.

**March 25 - Good Friday Bake Sale, Lunch and Egg Hunt** 9 - 2. We are asking for home-baked goodies for the bake table. From the kitchen – soup, and sandwiches, dyed eggs, desserts. Egg Hunt at 1:00. Children are divided into 5 different groups and there are lots and lots of eggs to be found, some with special prizes.

**April 16 Draw Down at Brunswick** to benefit the Auxiliary Department of Md. Tickets available \$10  
Call Mary Jane 410.374.9014

**April 30 – Bingo in the Hall to benefit the Kidney Foundation** – The Auxiliary will be helping with this fundraiser. Coach bags will be among the prizes. For tickets call Sandy at 410-218-9490 See flyer.

**May 7 - Poppy Day In Hampstead** The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May has been proclaimed **POPPY DAY IN HAMPSTEAD**. Take time to remember the meaning of the Poppy and if you see poppies and containers around town, please take a poppy and leave a donation for our veterans.

**May 7 – Dedication of Gold Star Mother/Member Plaque** at the Hampstead War Memorial at 11 am. Justin Ready, Republican State Senator for Maryland will be the guest speaker. They served too!

**May 14 - Annual Car Show** – Arcadia Activities Grounds. Registration begins at 9:00. For questions or applications, contact Liz Armacost at 410.239.4203 or email Stacey Nash [staceynash1@gmail.com](mailto:staceynash1@gmail.com) See flyer.

**May 28 Hampstead Day** – Due to Hampstead's Renovation Project, Hampstead Day will be relocated at Arcadia's Activities Grounds. As always, we will be there giving out poppies for donations and serving breakfast and lunch.

**May 30 - Memorial Day Program** 9:00 at the War Memorial in Hampstead –  
.. Picnic at the Post – 1:00 Please bring a dish to share.

Next meeting is March 7th hope to see you then.

**Prayers do allow miracles to happen!**

**FOR GOD & COUNTRY**

**Mary Jane Wickline, President**

Our Picture pages are again printed courtesy of  
**Farmers and Merchants Bank**  
Please support them as they have supported us.



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People First*  
**MEMBER FDIC**

#### Hall Rental

Do you need a place to host a birthday party, wedding or wedding reception, reunion or any other gathering for about 100 people? The price to rent the hall is \$300 + \$50 deposit. There are added charges if alcohol is to be served.

Also the downstairs backroom is available for members use for a donation of \$75. Ask about the form to fill out for the backroom. (Capacity 40)

Call Marj or Elinore at 410-374-4466

Remember our friends and members who have gone on to Post Everlasting since our last newsletter.

**William C. Belt**

**Doris Lyba**

**Arthur Leroy Ruby**

**Jack Maynard Shepherd**

We were blessed by their presence and will miss them. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Note: Our "Story" pages began several years ago when past commanders and past presidents were featured in "Where Are They Now?" As time passed, veterans and/or their families approached us to tell their stories and feedback has been positive. **Everybody has a story!**

Contact Mary Jane at 410-374-9014 or [maryjanewickline@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewickline@comcast.net) or Elinore at 410-374-4466 or [efrush@live.com](mailto:efrush@live.com) or Liz at 410-239-4203 or [larmacos@qis.net](mailto:larmacos@qis.net) if you are interested in telling your story or know someone who is.

Please remember to pray for our sick:  
**Ginny Harrell**  
that they may be healed.

#### Great News to Celebrate....

Auxiliary Member, Mary Coleman's grandson,  
Josh Fonseca has been accepted to United States Military Academy at West

#### About Auxiliary Membership On Line

Please note; if you paid your Auxiliary dues on line, you should have received a confirmation to your email. Please forward the confirmation on to Beverly Martin, Auxiliary membership chairperson at [angelglowbkm@comcast.net](mailto:angelglowbkm@comcast.net). This will help to get your membership card to you faster.

Thank you

#### Flag Disposal

If you have a flag that is torn or worn, drop it by the Post. There is a mailbox to the left as you enter the lower level for the worn flags. It is so important to dispose of our flag in a respectful and honorable way.

#### Dates to Remember

##### Mark Your Calendars for Future Dates

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – Day for God and Country at Camp West Mar

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** – Flag Day. Fly Your Flag

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Joint Installation of Officers for 2016-2017

**June 18** – Riders MPT Honor Ride-Timonium.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** – Chicken Feed at Camp West Mar

**July 12-15** – Md. Dept. Convention in Ocean City, Md.

**June 24, 25, 26** – SAL Convention in Laurel, Md.

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas in July at Post 200 (If you are interested in renting a space or need more details, contact Stacey Nash at [staceynash1@gmail.com](mailto:staceynash1@gmail.com) or call her at 443-744-1184). See flyer.

Honor to the Soldier and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves as he best can,  
the same cause.  
....Abraham Lincoln

## Wilbur L. "Willie" Williams United States Army Air Corps 451<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group WWII



It was hard to believe that this vibrant man nicknamed Willie who takes care of his home, played softball until he was 62, mows his four acre yard, drives, bowls, plays golf is 90 years old. Wilbur L. Williams, the fifth child in a family of 8 children, was born to John and Lillian Williams in Reisterstown on September 23, 1925. He grew up on the family farm near where Rt. 795 starts now. His father worked at Mt. Pleasant, a TB hospital. As a child he attended a one room schoolhouse on Deer Park Road for grades 1 – 3 and then finished his education at Franklin Elementary/High School. His first job was an office job at the B&O Railroad and he didn't like working inside.

Willie's brother, Harry, already in the service was flying B-17's in the 463<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group logging a total 203 missions. That's what Willie wanted to do, so he enlisted into the United States Army Air Corps as a fighter pilot. After basic training at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi his group was told that they didn't need any more pilots and that if they didn't want to go into the infantry that they should volunteer for gunnery school. So it was off to Tyndall Field in Panama City, Florida. After his training there were several stops before they reached their destination; the first was Charleston, South Carolina, then it was off to Mitchel Field on Long Island, then to

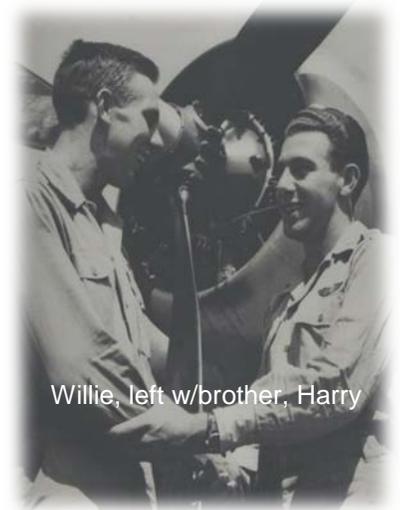
Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay, Canada, then to the Azores (nine volcanic islands) in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, then to Marrakesh, Africa and on to their final destination at Foggia, Italy where they were to be based. Willie had heard that his brother was only 6 miles from there and he managed to get over there to see him. The rains had been heavy and the tents were flooded. When Willie arrived he wanted to surprise his brother and he jumped from behind the tent as his brother was bailing water. Needless to say it was a nice but short reunion. After Willie surprised his brother, he and Harry took his B-17 up and buzzed Willie's camp getting so low they blew all the tents over. They looked back and all the guys were running after them shaking their fists.

Willie was called to report to the order room where he was asked; "Do you want to fly?" He said "Yes Sir". He would be a tail gunner on his first mission. When the plane returned that day, there were 163 flak holes in their plane from anti-aircraft guns.

Willie says that the number 13 is his lucky number and when we heard the story we knew why. On his 13<sup>th</sup> mission on August 23, 1944, they shot a plane down and then they were shot down. He was 18 years old. The nose of his plane was blown off by anti-aircraft fire. Willie made his way up through the bomb bay where the bombs were still intact as they had not yet reached their target of Markersdorf, Austria. As he reached the front of the plane, he found the pilot, co-pilot, top gunner and nose gunner all dead with the plane on automatic pilot. The others had parachuted out. When he made his way back to the rear of the plane he knew he had to use his parachute. He noticed that the oxygen tanks were on fire. He grabbed his parachute and jumped at 25,000 feet. His parachute was burning. He managed to grab 9 shroud lines on his chute and was able to beat out the flames. Willie knows that landing in a snow bank is what saved him. He was in Yugoslavia with his arms and face burned. German reconnaissance planes were flying all around and in about an hour he was picked up by the Germans who told him that he was lucky that the villagers didn't get him first with their pitchforks. Some of his fellow airmen's chutes got hung up in trees and those men were shot while they hung there. On this day 79 planes went out and 60 were shot down. The 451<sup>st</sup> suffered their heaviest losses of the war on August 22 & 23, 1944.

Willie was held prisoner and first taken to a little shack with two women sitting at a desk. They asked "What are you doing here?" to which he answered, "What do you think I'm doing here?" The SS boys (an elite corps of the Nazi Party) hit him over the head. He was taken to a hospital in Budapest for his burns and on the second day there, he was blown out of his bed by a blast from a plane that missed their target. When he came out of the hospital, he was put into solitary confinement. They would give him a small bucket of warm water, salt and pepper and a cabbage leaf. He was there for 11 days. After 5 days he kicked the bucket in the guards face and was beaten.

He was then crowded onto a train with cars about 4 ft. wide and 15 ft. long and it rocked back and forth as it rode on wheels in the middle (probably a cog train). There were close to 3,000 Americans crowded in those cars on the train. They figured that the Germans would strafe them, but somehow the Americans found out and everyday American planes flew



Willie, left w/brother, Harry

over to protect them. They were being taken to a German prisoner of war camp known as Stalag #4 located in Gross Tychow, Pomerania (now Tychowo, Poland).

It was cold with the temperature between 10 and 20 degrees. The prisoners had nothing but a shirt and pants and there was no bedding so sleep was on the bare floor. Food for the prisoners consisted of a 3 gallon bucket of silver dollar sized potatoes for each barrack. When Willie was captured he weighed 162 pounds and when he was liberated he weighed 92 pounds. While they were held prisoner, they did everything they could to upset the Germans. Every day they had to line up and be counted. There was an Italian boy who was only 4 foot tall. They would place him behind one of the taller guys and then the Germans would count again and again and finally those in Willie's building would take him from behind and place him at the end and the Germans got the correct count. The prisoners did this every day and the Germans kept counting and recounting. Willie remembers that there were about 10 buildings in his camp with about 65 men each building.

On February 19, 1945, they were told that the Russians were coming. The men of Stalag Luft IV camp set out on a march, with other Stalags along the way, towards Germany that would be called the "Death March", the idea being to delay liberation. The march from Gross Tychow lasted approximately 86 days. They were forced to march under guard about 15-20 miles per day. There was much zigzagging, to escape the encroaching Soviet Red Army from the east. At one time, they traveled 40 miles, only advancing a few. Willie especially remembers that on one of the walks, they were taken through Nuremburg where they saw the horrors of the concentration camps with bodies all around. It is something he wishes that he hadn't seen. About 200 men died during these walks due to sickness.

On these walks or marches as they were sometimes referred to, prisoners far outnumbered the guards. Germany could not spare many regular soldiers which is why some of the guards were older. One of his guards was about 70 years old who wore the Iron Cross from WWI and carried a MG-42 gun on his shoulder. He and Willie became pretty close and though there was a language barrier, words were still understood. One night when Willie was sitting in a ditch, he felt a tap on his shoulder and his guard whispered to him, "This is senseless" and he walked away. A little while later he came back, tapped him on the shoulder again and said "Me sorry", disappeared into the woods. Willie heard a gunshot and he never saw that guard again.

His camp was liberated on April 25, 1945 by the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He remembers that there were 4 roads leading to a central location where the prisoners would wait to be picked up to head home. Seeing prisoners running down these roads was a sight that is still very clear to him. Finally they heard the roar of 3 or 4 C46's & C47's coming to take them to Le Havre, France. From there they came home on a Liberty Ship with a capacity of 1500, but there were at least 2500 men on his ship. Two days out they lost a motor; got it fixed, then after 3 more days, two motors went out and they were finally able to get them fixed. It took 10 days to reach their destination of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Willie tells that they were about to dock and the captain sounded his horn and it scared them so bad that 15 of the soldiers fell overboard. Ropes were thrown over the sides to pull them back onto the ship.

After Willie returned home, he went to work as a pole climber for C & P Telephone for 32 years until retiring. He and his wife have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren. His wife passed away in 2003. Willie said that while he was over there, he made up his mind that he was going to return home to his family and he did. Willie is a close friend of Post 200 member, Tommy Wickline, Jr. and a member of American Legion Carroll Post 31. He is proud to have served his country, and for his sacrifice and his service, we sincerely thank him.

