

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Winter Park Memorial Post 112
4490 North Goldenrod Road
Winter Park, FL 32792

407.671.6404

2011-2012 Officers

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

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January-February 2012

Commander

Richard (Dick) Padgett

1st Vice Cmdr.

Jimmy Thornton

2nd Vice Cmdr.

Gerard (Jerry) Dress

Adjutant

Billy Dover

Finance Officer

Freddy Ruiz

Sgt. at Arms

Tim Healy

Judge Advocate

John McCormick

Asst. Judge Adv.

Terry Brown

Service Officer

Mike Dixon

Chaplain

Cliff Buhrow

Historian

Tim Healy

Sea Cadet Liaison

Jim McClure

Newsletter Editor

Nell Colbert

Here's hoping all had a very enjoyable and safe Holiday Season. This has been a busy and successful year for Post 112 and if you didn't help with at least some of these activities you missed out on a lot of fun. Some of the accomplishments are as follows:

1. Upgrade of our floor covering both in the Office and Meeting room - if you haven't seen it, it's well worth at least one trip to a meeting just to see what has happened.

2. We have submitted applications for a SAL unit (Sons of the American Legion.) The Charter should arrive soon and their first meeting should be scheduled for some time in Jan. They are accepting applications for new eligible members at any time.

3. Big kudos goes to your very capable 1st Vice Commander and Adjutant - Post 112 has achieved the 100% Plus membership goal.

4. Jerry Dress, your 2nd Vice Commander has outdone himself again with 3 Big Yard Sales, the Toys for Tots program which collected over 350 toys for underprivileged children and many other programs this year. He is very instrumental in the success of most all of the Post functions.

5. Just a reminder that nominations for your NEW POST OFFICERS for year 2012/2013 will be during the Feb. General Membership Meeting. Elections will be accomplished during the May General Membership Meeting. It's time to think about who you want for the next line of Officers.

6. Sixth District Picnic will again be held at Post 183. Let's all turn out in support of this very important function.

YAHOO! GROUPS

See Billy to
sign up!

Do you

YAHOO!

Special points of interest:

- Fastest Growing Jobs
- Vietnam's Chu Chi Tunnels
- Most Under-rated Jobs
- VA Headstone Emblems

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**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
SONS OF THE LEGION FIRST MEETING
COMING SOON!**



1st Vice Commander's Report

November and December have been very good months. We have reached our goal of 100% membership for 2012. If you've not paid your 2012 dues yet, please send them in as quickly as possible. Hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas. We are look expecting to have a great year in 2012.

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS AND SCHOOLS!

Please remember to bring your grocery coupons, soup can labels and Box Tops for Education to the Post each month.

2nd Vice Commander's Report

Let me first thank Nell Colbert in assisting me by providing the fliers for our functions. This helps with our advertising and getting the events out to the public.

Welcome new members—come by and let's have a cup of java and talk.

The Toy's for TOTS was a great success and I cannot thank each of you enough who brought in unwrapped gifts for this great cause.

This was not our only Success this past month! We had eight veterans from the VA Nursing Home enjoy fellowship and breakfast with us on 11/26/2011. There were a total of 17 individuals talking of old times and just enjoying each other's companionship.

Our bi-annual Arts and Yard Sale was a success and I cannot thank those who helped enough. With 6 members of the Post, the Sea Cadets and the High School Volunteers, we were able to provide breakfast and lunch during this function. Please look at the CALENDAR OF EVENTS ON THE BACK PAGE and come by to help and enjoy each other's company. If you have any questions you can contact me at the Post or by phone.

Post Adjutant and I attended the open house for a Wounded Warrior on 12/17 to show our pride in having this Warrior giving his all for our freedom. If you are on the e-mail list you received the invite. Sometimes things are only given to us the last minute and the only notification is via e-mail. Please subscribe to the YahooGroup and get the information.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I will be at the Post on NEW YEAR's DAY so come in for coffee and Danish. Let us start the new year out right.



Happy Birthday to YOU!

Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear _____.
Happy Birthday to YOU!

JANUARY

PADGETT, PAUL	1/4/
TUCHEK, DANIEL L.	1/5/
RANDALL, BEUFORD H.	1/11/
LANEY, REED N.	1/17/
ROBERTS, WAYNE D.	1/17/
SCHECHER, HENRY	1/18/
BALDICK, BETTY J.	1/18/
MULLENIX, GERALD II	1/19/
RIVERA, ROBERTO JR	1/20/
TRIVERS, CHARLES	1/21/
BERNHARDT, MARK A.	1/23/
SCHOLER, HARRY T.	1/24/
MORRISSETTE, JAMES	1/25/
RODRIQUEZ, DeHOYES	1/26/
EVANS, DAVID E.	1/27/
LANGIS, JOHANNA E.	1/27/
TRIVERS, CHARLES R. SR	1/21/

FEBRUARY

WISE, LARRY L.	2/2/
CASIANO, JOSE A.	2/4/
LAWRENCE, WILLIAM	2/5/
FLANAGAN, DON	2/6/
MENIER, HERBERT J.	2/6/
ACKLEY, WAYNE	2/7/
POSADA, EDUARDO	2/8/
HALE, PHILIP B. JR.	2/9/
COLBERT, ROBERT C.	2/10/
ROOSEVELT, MERRESA	2/12/
MELENDEZ, EDGAR	2/14/
MORIARTY, CAROL	2/15/
ROBERTS, MARIAN E.	2/17/
PADGETT, NORMA E.	2/23/
GRIFFIN, WALTER B	2/24/
CADAVEDO, JOSE	2/25/
PAQUIN, JOSEPH	2/27/



Sea Cadet Update: Jim McClure



CENTURION BATTALION

In December the Sea Cadets participated in the 59th annual Winter Park Christmas parade. They were chosen for an award as one of the "Judges Choices", and received an invitation to attend the 2012 parade. They now have 54 cadets in the unit, and continue to recruit new members each month. The cadets also volunteered at the post yard sale for community service hours. On Dec 16th one of our senior cadets from last year graduated from USMC Recruit training on Parris Island. Congratulations to Daniel Pilling, USMC.



Adjutant's Report

As I sat down to write this report for the past two months activities, I would first like to welcome the new members. Many were transferred in from Post 400 and we hope you will become an active part of our post. Please join us on our website, YAHOO, Facebook, and MYLEGION.ORG. We have a calendar of events that we try to update as soon as we get the information. We also send out information forwarded by the Department and Cathy Haynes who informs us troops returning and events with wounded warriors.

Just to recap some of the events I attended along with other members of the post: The Department Fall Conference had free educational classes and I highly recommend all Post Members attend the Department Convention at least to take advantage of these classes. Thanks to our 2nd Vice Dress we were the only POST to have an OPEN HOUSE on VETERANS DAY at which the post provided free drinks and snacks for all guests. The Arts and Craft Sale was a great success thanks to 2nd Vice Dress, the Sea Cadets and High School Volunteers. During the weekend of 12/9 - 12/11, I functioned as the Corpsman for the Sea Cadet's during their Field Training Exercise where there were more than 62 young adults working with a retired Seal member doing field exercises.

We conducted the Oratorical Contest this past meeting and Sarah Mynhier from Winter Park High School was the WINNER. Her next presentation will be at the 6th District in January 2012.

Our annual Post Christmas Party was held on December 16th. If you missed it, you missed a lot of fun and fellowship and I would encourage you to please try to attend next year. Our Post is made up of each member; we are not a Post of one but a Post of over 160 members. Congratulations to 1st Vice Thornton for assisting in getting our PAID membership up to 100.65%. This number includes current members and those new members who paid the POST. It does not include those who have transferred. The year goes from July to June so we are only half way there. If your card has 2011 on it, you are now officially LATE! If you have issues in paying please do not hesitate to contact the 1st Vice Thornton or me.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID FOR THE 2011-2012 YEAR PLEASE DO SO ASAP.

During the November general meeting the Post passed that our dues will increase as of JULY 2012 from \$25 to \$30 for the year.

The POST had new carpet installed by Herman's Carpet, a local business in the Goldenrod area; the painting is completed; and new laminate floors in the Executive Office has been completed. For those who have not visited the Post, our 2nd Vice Dress always has a cup of coffee and Danish available.

For those who show up at the meetings only, you are missing out on the fellowship with our members. This post is made up of individuals, not just the Executive Board. We need your support and your participation at our events.

Nominations for 2012 to 2013 officers will begin in February. Your voice is needed to pick the direction of our Post for the upcoming year. As I exited the Post Office, I noticed a vehicle with PO1 on the back window of a vehicle. I spoke with this young lady and asked her to come by and join the Post. It does not take but a minute to give a kind word to someone and who knows it may lead to a new member.

NEW MEMBERS : DEHOYES HIPOLITO RODRIQUEZ, DENNIS REDDINGTON

TRANSFERS FROM OTHER POSTS

POST 19: JOSEPH E. PAQUIN

POST 356: STEPHEN SHUGA

POST 400: KEITH L. BALENTINE, FLOYD E. MISHOE, THOMAS HICKMAN, CHARLES R. BELCHER, GORDON E. HOWELL

A late MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to ALL MEMBERS of the Post! With all the activities, I forgot to mention it in the last newsletter.

The Post is looking to help anyone who needs it but we must know the need. Remember we support the **FOUR PILLARS of the American Legion: Defense, Veterans, Youth, and Americanism.**





Auxiliary Update

Your Auxiliary Unit sent 2011 out the door with a big bang and we'll be ringing in the new year with bells on!

We ran November like runners in the New York Marathon with activities taking place every week. After delivering Halloween coloring books and Reading Rockets packets to Eastbrook Elementary in late October, we began November by picking up our food drive collection baskets from ten different locations around East Orlando and then spent several hours sorting and inventorying the food items donated. A special thanks to all of our Legion family members who helped out by bringing non-perishable items to the Post. We collected enough food to fill two fifty pound baskets for our veteran families and still had about three-hundred items to turn in at the Department's Auxiliary food drive.

And, of course, if it's November, it's also time for our annual Veteran's Day Poppy Drive, our Veteran's Day Tea Party for the lady Veterans at the VA Nursing Center, National Education Week, the Department's Fall Conference and the delivery of our Holiday Food Basket to a Veteran family in need in time for Thanksgiving. This year, we were able to man two different Poppy booth's and raised more than \$200 that we can use to help with our Veteran's projects. November 10th saw Aunita, Marge and Nell at the VA Nursing Center for our second tea party for the lady Veterans. This time, we entertained seven ladies who were in residence. As before, we brought

in yummy finger foods and each Veteran received a small gift from the Unit. These ladies truly love our visits and we are always entertained by their stories about their past service. For National Education Week, we delivered huge baskets of fruits and muffins to both Eastbrook and Cheney Elementary Schools to thank our educators for all that they do for our children. And, of course, we were well represented at the AWESOME November Fall Conference. We learned a lot and had tons of FUN! To close out a very busy month, just before Thanksgiving, working through the Department's TFA Director, we delivered our Thanksgiving food basket to a Veteran family in Sanford needing some assistance. In addition to about 50 pounds of non-perishable food items to fix a great Thanksgiving dinner, the basket contained a \$25 Publix gift card.

And December was just as busy as November, starting off with delivering our Girls State packets to five high schools. In addition to Lake Howell, Winter Park, and Oviedo High Schools and Trinity Prep School, we added Winter Springs High School to our list of schools for 2012. Within just a few days of delivering the Girls State information, we had already received an inquiry from a young lady at Lake Howell who wants to compete for our slot. We also delivered information about our very first Americanism Essay Contest to our five high schools along with Tuskawilla Middle School, Eastbrook and Cheney Elementary

Schools. We will hold our Girls State interviews in February and our Americanism Essays will also be judged in February. One Winner of the Essay contest from each school will be awarded an Essay medal at each school's end of the year awards program.

At our December meeting, we voted to amend our Constitution and By-Laws to increase our dues by \$5.00 beginning with the 2012-2013 year in order meet the dues increase passed at this summer's national convention.

To close out our extraordinarily busy year, we delivered our Christmas Food Basket to a Veteran family in Apopka. As in November, the gift basket also included a \$25 Publix gift card to purchase any additional items the family needed for a fantastic Christmas dinner.

We will kick off January by attending the 6th District ABC School in Fruitland Park and February will see us attending the Four Chaplain's Service on 2/5 and hosting a Valentines Day tea party for the lady Veterans at the VA Nursing Home.

As always, we welcome new ladies who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call us at 321.578.8612. Check out our website at: www.AmLegionAux112FL.com to see what we've been doing.



Vets: Keep an Eye on the 30 Fastest-Growing Jobs

Reprinted from Military.com

If you're in school or in the service waiting for the abysmal job market to rebound, there's good news on the employment front. A burgeoning job market awaits you when you're ready to enter the workforce. The Bureau of Labor Statistics released their employment projections for the next 10 years, and several of the occupations and industries expected to flourish are ideal for veterans and transitioning service members.

A large majority of the job growth -- 96 percent, in fact -- will occur in service-producing industries: professional and business services, health care and social assistance, and state and local government, which will all add a total of more than 9 millions jobs. Additionally, the goods-producing sector will see a small boost in the construction industry, as this field is projected to add 1.3 million jobs.

The bulk of the fastest growing jobs will be in the professional and related occupations, as well as service occupations, reports the BLS. Many of these positions, such as athletic trainers or physician's assistants, are a good for transitioning service members or veterans who want to apply their military experience to a civilian job. Most of these vocations will require an associate or bachelor's degree.

Here are 30 of the fastest-growing jobs that you should keep your eye on in the next 10 years:

1. Bio-medical engineers -- bachelor's degree
2. Network Systems and data communications analysts -- bachelor's degree
3. Home health aides -- on-the-job training (OJT)
4. Personal and home care aides -- OJT
5. Financial examiners -- bachelor's
6. Medical scientists (except epidemiologists) -- doctoral degree
7. Physician Assistants -- master's degree
8. Skin Care Specialists -- postsecondary vocational award
9. Biochemists and biophysicists -- doctoral degree
10. Athletic Trainers -- bachelor's
11. Physical therapist aides -- OJT
12. Dental hygienists -- associate degree
13. Veterinary technologists and technicians -- associate degree
14. Dental assistants -- OJT
15. Computer software engineers, applications -- bachelor's
16. Medical Assistants -- OJT
17. Physical therapist assistants -- associate degree
18. Veterinarians -- first professional degree
19. Self-enrichment education teachers -- work experience in a related field
20. Compliance officers -- OJT
21. Occupational therapist aides -- OJT
22. Environmental engineers -- bachelor's
23. Pharmacy technicians -- OJT
24. Computer software engineers, systems software --bachelor's
25. Survey researchers -- bachelor's
26. Physical therapists -- master's
27. Personal Financial Advisors -- bachelor's
28. Environmental engineering technicians -- associate degree
29. Occupational therapist assistants -- associate degree
30. Fitness trainer and aerobics instructors -- post-secondary vocational award

[Military.com's Veteran Career Network](http://Military.com's%20Veteran%20Career%20Network) can connect you with mentors in these jobs, who can tell you what their respective industries are like now and what to expect in the future.



The Most Underrated Jobs in America

Reprinted from Military.com

Even in a sluggish economy, there are jobs out there that fly under the radar yet give you good bang for the buck -- careers with a lower unemployment rate and decent salaries. CareerCast.com recently came out with a list of "America's Most Underrated Jobs," and here's the countdown:

1. Paralegal/Legal Assistant

Income Average: \$47,153.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 4.6%

Job Description: Assists attorneys in preparation of legal documents; collection of depositions and affidavits; and investigation, research and analysis of legal issues.

2. Accountant

Income Average: \$60,174.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 5.0%

Job Description: Prepares and analyzes financial reports to assist managers in business, industry and government.

3. Loan Officer

Income Average: \$55,239.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 7.7%

Job Description: Loan officers help people apply for loans for significant purchases, such as to buy a house or a car, or pay for college.

4. Market Research Analyst

Income Average: \$62,229.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 7.7%

Job Description: Collects and evaluates data to make recommendations to businesses concerning trends in consumer purchasing.

5. Software Engineer

Income Average: \$87,140.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 4.6%

Job Description: Researches, designs, develops and maintains software systems along with hardware development for medical, scientific and industrial purposes.

6. Computer Systems Analyst

Income Average: \$77,153.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 5.9%

Job Description: Plans and develops computer systems for businesses and scientific institutions.

7. Insurance Agent

Income Average: \$46,342.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 5.4%

Job Description: Sells insurance and advises clients about amount and type of coverage based on needs and circumstances.

8. Dietitian

Income Average: \$52,127.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 3.2%

Job Description: Assesses patients' dietary needs, plans menus and instructs patients and their families about proper nutritional care.

9. Dental Hygienist

Income Average: 67,107.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 1.2%

Job Description: Assists dentists in diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of a group or private dental practice.

10. Civil Engineer

Income Average: \$76,139.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 3.9%

Job Description: Plans and supervises the building of roads, bridges, tunnels and buildings.

11. Physical Therapist

Income Average: \$74,104.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 2.0%

Job Description: Plans and directs treatment to improve mobility and alleviate pain in persons disabled by injury or disease.

12. Chiropractor

Income Average: \$68,358.00

Unemployment Rate for 2010: 2.3%

Job Description: Treats physical problems by manipulating various parts of the body, especially the spinal column.





Sgt. At Arms—Tim Healy

America's first commander in chief, George Washington said, **“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, is directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated.”**

The American Legion not only believes in honoring and caring for veterans because of the practical reasons that George Washington pointed out, but because it's the right thing to do. We owe them.

In 1921, just two years after the formation of the American Legion, the new organization won a major victory when the U.S. Veterans Bureau, a forerunner of the Veterans Administration, was created. On Dec. 15, 1943, American Legion Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery wrote a long-hand draft of what would become the GI Bill of Rights. After the GI Bill of Rights became law on June 22, 1944, millions of Americans who served their country were able to obtain higher education and home mortgages. It transformed the U.S. Economy and has been widely hailed as the greatest social legislation ever passed by the U.S. Congress. The American Legion continued its' advocacy by pressuring the VA into funding treatment for Agent Orange – related illnesses.

The American Legion won another major victory in 1989 when the VA was officially designated the Department of Veterans Affairs and given cabinet-level status. Ten months later, the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals began its' operations, a longstanding objective of the American Legion. In 2002, The American Legion increased public awareness about the backlog of patients waiting to use VA facilities, and launched its national “I Am Not a Number” campaign. In other legislation, the Disabled Veterans Tax was finally lifted in 2003 and 2004 for many veterans who were previously denied the ability to collect full retirement and disability benefits without paying an offset penalty. Some still must pay this penalty and The American Legion continues to fight to eliminate the tax for all who are affected by it.

On June 30, 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. Veterans could not only receive the benefits needed to attend college, they had the option of transferring those benefits to a family member.

After speaking with American Legion Veteran Benefit officials in Washington, DC., I was referred to a large variety of Legion web sights that involve cutting military and veterans benefits. I found it appalling to see so many Congressional proposals are aimed at reducing DoD funding. National Commander Fang Wong stated “Throughout our nations history, every time we cut defense, we paid for it with American blood. Comparing military retirement benefits with what is available in the private sector isn't comparing apples to oranges. It's comparing apples to peanuts, which is what our troops are paid. If our leaders in Washington are intent on making military life like the private sector, then that's the path our young people will choose – the private sector. **Cutting benefits for today's and tomorrows veterans guarantees that America will be less prepared to fight the next war.** We have no debt larger than what is owed our veterans and those still serving in uniform. They have already paid their share. Cut the budget elsewhere.”

.....



Boys State—Ted Costello

I have contacted the schools and received replies from the guidance counselors that they will have the nominations from the school by 1/15/12 as I requested. Hopefully everything goes according to plan and that I will have everything in place for the post selection process to be held on 2/14/12 at 7 PM. Again, members please mark your calendars so that we have a large turn-out for the boys. This is an important youth and leadership program.

VA Headstone Emblems

No graphics (logos, symbols, etc.) are permitted on Government-furnished headstones or markers other than the available emblems of belief, the Civil War Union Shield, the Civil War Confederate Southern Cross of Honor, and the Medal of Honor insignias. See <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmemb.asp> for complete list of available emblems of belief.

An emblem of belief for inscription on a Government headstone or marker is an emblem or symbol that represents the sincerely held belief of the decedent that constituted a religion or the functional equivalent of religion and was believed and/or accepted as true by that individual during his or her life. The belief represented by an emblem need not be associated with or endorsed by a group or organization.

Emblems of belief for inscription on Government headstones and markers do not include social, cultural, ethnic, civic, fraternal, trade, commercial, political, professional or military emblems. VA will not inscribe any emblem on a headstone or marker that would have an adverse impact on the dignity and solemnity of cemeteries honoring those who served the Nation. Emblems that would not be permitted include (but are not limited to), emblems that contain explicit or graphic depictions or descriptions of sexual organs or sexual activities that are shocking, titillating, or pandering in nature; and emblems that display coarse or abusive language or images.

If you are applying for a headstone or marker and the emblem you desire is not currently available, please see information below:

Who Can Request a New Emblem of Belief?

CFR 38.632 rule states that the following individuals may request a new emblem of belief for inscription on a headstone or marker: the decedent's next-of-kin (NOK), a person authorized in writing by the NOK, or a personal representative authorized in writing by the decedent.

Instructions for Requesting an Emblem not Available for Inscription Link

To submit a request for an emblem of belief not available for inscription, the requestor must:

1. **Establish** that there is an immediate need for a Government headstone/marker to be furnished for a deceased eligible individual (i.e., submission of VA-Form 40-1330, Application for a Government-Furnished Headstone or Marker, verification from National or state cemetery officials).
2. **Certify** that the proposed new emblem of belief represents the decedent's religious affiliation or sincerely held religious belief system, or a sincerely held belief system that was functionally equivalent to a religious belief system in the life of the decedent.
3. **Submit** a three-inch diameter digitized black and white representation of the requested emblem that is free of copyright or trademark restrictions or authorized by the owner for inscription on Government-furnished headstones and markers and can be reproduced in a production-line environment in stone or bronze without loss of graphic quality.

Submit all information to the following address:

Memorial Programs Service (41A1)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

Source: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmemb.asp>



Military History—Vietnam's Củ Chi Tunnels

The tunnels of Cu Chi are an immense network of connecting underground tunnels located in the Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Cu Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War, and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968. The tunnels were used by Viet Cong guerrillas as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous guerrilla fighters. The tunnel systems were of great importance to the Viet Cong in their resistance to American forces, through which they secured American withdrawal from Vietnam and ultimate military success.

American soldiers used the term "Black echo" to describe the conditions within the tunnels. For the Viet Cong, life in the tunnels was difficult. Air, food and water were scarce and the tunnels were infested with ants, poisonous centipedes, scorpions, spiders and vermin. Most of the time, guerrillas would spend the day in the tunnels working or resting and come out only at night to scavenge for supplies, tend their crops or engage the enemy in battle. Sometimes, during periods of heavy bombing or American troop movement, they would be forced to remain underground for many days at a time. Sickness was rampant among the people living in the tunnels, especially malaria, which was the second largest cause of death next to battle wounds. A captured Viet Cong report suggests that at any given time half of a People's Liberation Army Force (PLAF) unit had malaria and that "one-hundred percent had intestinal parasites of significance".

Communist forces began digging a network of tunnels under the jungle terrain of South Vietnam in the late 1940s, during their war of independence from French colonial authority. Tunnels were often dug by hand, only a short distance at a time. As the United States increasingly escalated its military presence in Vietnam in support of a non-Communist regime in South Vietnam beginning in the early 1960s, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops (as Communist supporters in South Vietnam were known) gradually expanded the tunnels. At its peak during the Vietnam War, the network of tunnels in the Cu Chi district linked VC support bases over a distance of some 250 kilometers, from the outskirts of Saigon all the way to the Cambodian border.

The tunnels of CU Chi did not go completely unnoticed by U.S. officials. They recognized the advantages that the Viet Cong held with the tunnels, and accordingly launched several major campaigns to search out and destroy the tunnel system. Among the most important of these were Operation Crimp and Operation Cedar Falls. Operation Crimp began on January 7, 1966, with B-52 bombers dropping 30-ton loads of high explosive onto the region of Cu Chi, effectively turning the once lush jungle into a pockmarked moonscape. Eight thousand troops from the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment combed the region looking for any clues of PLAF activity. The operation was, for the most part, unsuccessful. On the occasion when troops found a tunnel, they would often underestimate its size. Rarely would anyone be sent in to search the tunnels, as it was so hazardous. The tunnels were often rigged with explosive booby traps or punji stake pits. The two main responses in dealing with a tunnel opening were to flush the entrance with gas or water to force the guerrillas into the open, or to toss a few grenades down the hole and "crimp" off the opening. The clever design of the tunnels along with the strategic use of trap doors and air filtration systems rendered American technology ineffective.



On January 18, 1967, tunnel rats from the 1st and 5th Infantry uncovered the Viet Cong district headquarters of Cu Chi containing half a million documents concerning all types of military strategy. Among the documents were maps of U.S. bases, detailed accounts of PLAF movement from Cambodia into Vietnam, lists of political sympathizers, and even plans for a failed assassination attempt on Robert McNamara.

Throughout the course of the war, the tunnels in and around Cu Chi proved to be a source of frustration for the U.S. military in Saigon. The Viet Cong had been so well entrenched in the area by 1965 that they were in the unique position of locally being able to control where and when battles would take place. By helping to covertly move supplies and house troops, the tunnels of Cu Chi allowed guerrilla fighters in their area of South Vietnam to survive, help prolong the war and increase American costs and casualties until their eventual withdrawal in 1972, and the final defeat of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cu_Chi_Tunnels



BOOSTERS

Our Boosters roll reverted back to zero as of January 1, 2012. If you would like to support your Post by making a financial contribution or you would like to make an in-kind donation of materials to the post, please contact any of our officers.

The starting amount is \$25 to be listed as a Booster. The levels are; Bronze at \$25, Silver at \$50, Gold at \$75 and Platinum at \$100. The amounts will be cumulative through the year, so that it is easier to attain the next level. At the end of the year, everyone starts over.

The Boosters listed below reflect contributions made during 2011.

Bronze—	\$25	
Silver—	\$50	
Gold—	\$75	Bob and Nell Colbert
Platinum—	\$100+	

- Chuck Kuhn
- Stan Kalmowitz
- Robert DeVasto

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THE AMERICAN LEGION



Winter Park Memorial Post 112
4490 North Goldenrod Road
Winter Park, FL 32792

CALENDAR

JANUARY:

- 1 Happy New Year—Post open for coffee & Danish
- 2 Executive Board Meeting—7pm
- 10 **Monthly Post & Auxiliary Meeting—7pm**
- 12 **LA Shrimp Night (5:30-8pm)**
- 14 **Burgers and More (11am—2pm)**
- 16 **Martin Luther King Day**
- 26 **Chicken Dinner (5:30-8pm)**
- 28 **Post Pancake Breakfast (8-11am)**

FEBRUARY:

- 6 Executive Board Meeting—7pm
- 9 **Spaghetti Dinner (5:30-8pm)**
- 11 **Burgers and More (11am—2pm)**
- 14 **Monthly Post & Auxiliary Meeting**
- 20 **President's Day**
- 23 **LA Shrimp Night (5:30-8pm)**
- 25 **Post Pancake Breakfast (8-11am)**

OFFICER'S DIRECTORY

Commander: Richard (Dick) Padgett
407-678-2330 – rpadgett2@cfl.rr.com

1st Vice Cmdr.: Jimmy Thornton
407-671-9477 – thorntonjimmy44@yahoo.com

2nd Vice Cmdr.: Gerard (Jerry) Dress
407-671-8616 – dress5@aol.com

Adjutant: Billy Dover
407-383-9455 – bgdjr14@gmail.com

Finance Officer: Freddy Ruiz
321-945-9481 – ruizfredy35@gmail.com

Chaplain: Cliff Buhrow
407-644-8878 – no email

Newsletter Editor: Nell Colbert
321.303.7445— necolbert@usa.net

Winter Park Memorial Post 112
PO Box 910
Goldenrod, FL 32733

