The American Legion Winter Park Memorial **Post 112 Family**







Winter Park Memorial Post 112 4490 North Goldenrod Road Winter Park, FL 32792 www.wpflpost112.org 407.671.6404

Volume 13, Issue 3

Nov.-Dec. 2020

2020-2021 **Officers**

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Sons of the Legion Commander Jim Carten

> Auxiliary President Marge Berrios

Newsletter Editor Nell Colbert

Website http:// www.wpflpost112.org

COMMANDER'S MINUTE

Greetings fellow Post 112 members:

I hope everyone is doing well under the present circumstances. Personally, I don't feel like playing Russian Roulette with my life and go out like nothing is happening like some places are doing. Subsequently, we are not very active at the Post; however, we ARE doing things. We are strong (even with health issues) and will get through this as we have in the past by being smart and praying that we can all see each other in 2021. It does not look too promising that the virus will be under control and have a vaccine by the end of the year, but I Page 2 hope so. Again, if you need anything, please do NOT hesitate to call me or one of our officers for assistance. Please be safe.

On a happier note; your Post is looking good now that our new roof has been completed as well as our new sign by the roadway. Drive by and have a look sometime. Our Post Adjutant does an outstanding job of keeping the information on the sign current. Again, I do not get over to the Post daily or sometimes even weekly and for the safety of all we do not have face to face meetings yet. The Sea Cadets have been using our Post using all the CDC guideline safety measures. I will be attending an online Veteran Service Officer training this month and get the latest information to help our fellow Veterans as best that I can. Our National Commander has called on us to do the "Buddy Check" so please try to call other members; they may be lonely and just need to hear a friendly voice. We are all in this together.

We are not planning any major or large social events, which sadly includes our annual picnic and Christmas get-together at Perkins. about these at our last Post Executive Board meeting and agreed that it is best that we pass on these things for this year. I would not be able to cope with it if anyone were to get COVID at either of these events, I hope you all understand. My plan as of now, is to have a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

YAHOO! GROUPS

See Bob to sign up!

Do you



Inside this Issue:

- Cmdr's Minute cont'd from Page 1
- LHHS NJROTC Medals Page 3
- Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

Page 4

- **Advertising Info** Page 5
- Our Happenin' Auxiliary Page 6
- **Notes from Our Service** Officer

Page 7

- **Notes from Our Service** Officer—cont'd from P6
- Sons of the Legion Page 8
- Gerry's Final Address Page 9
- Strive at Fern Park Page 10
- Newcomer

Page 11

- Happy Birthday
- Terri Misek, Realtor Page 12
- Calendar
- Officers Directory



Commander's Minute—Cont'd from Page 1

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

virtual Veterans Day Ceremony on Veterans Day (Wednesday) with just the Adjutant and I doing a ZOOM ceremony from the Post. As for our next Post meeting, I will be doing a ZOOM meeting from the Post with the Adjutant and Sergeant at Arms so we can perform the Post Everlasting Ceremony as scheduled. We must keep doing as much as we can to our "normal" schedule even though we cannot all be together.

We are collecting many retired flags in our awesome looking retired flag collection box on the front porch of the Post and past Commander Dover has promised to have these retired properly in November with the Sea Cadets. This is a great asset to our Post as I receive many calls wondering where a person can leave a flag that needs to be retired correctly. Halloween will be interesting this year for sure.

We (Post) will be working with the Auxiliary again this year doing Thanksgiving food baskets and from the VA with help from past Commander Costello providing Christmas gifts to a needy Veteran family. With that, I wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please stay safe and take care until we can meet again.

For God and Country.

Jim Middlekauff, Commander, Post 112

2021 Legion Dues are now being accepted!
Please send your \$38 check to
PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733
TODAY!

Lake Howell High—NJROTC Medals

Last spring Lake Howell High School did not hold our annual Awards Night ceremony but we were able to present the awards to our returning cadets on September 30.

This year's American Legion Military Excellence Award winner is Cadet Command Master Chief Benjamin Knowles, and the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Award winner is Cadet Commander Sara Smith. Attached please find a photo of Cadet Knowles and Cadet Smith receiving the awards. We appreciate the support of your organization for our program.

Lake Howell has a new Naval Science Instructor, Master Sergeant Jorge I. Ulloa, USMC (Ret.) We are excited to have him at the helm of our ship.

Nancy G. Mele SCPS Substitute Teacher LHHS NJROTC Booster Club Secretary







Notes From the Adjutant's Desk

What do you know! We have made it through 2020. I know that many of us were wondering if this would happen with the problems that this year had. We lost a good friend in Gerry Dress, this year (see the write-up elsewhere in this newsletter.) We have had to limit the activities of the Post due to the medical concerns with virus, etc. We haven't been able to host our Veteran's Breakfasts for the folks at the VA nursing home. We didn't even have the Department Convention (or the National Convention) or the Fall Conference. We have canceled our annual picnic and Christmas Party for this year. And by the time you are reading this, we may have had a National General Election. It has been quite a vear.

Now that the NEGATIVE stuff is out of the way, let's look forward! Commander Middlekauff has outlined much of the GOOD stuff. We have a new Four Chaplain's Memorial by the flagpole just waiting to be dedicated AND celebrate the Four Chaplains in February of 2021. We will also hope to resume the Veterans Pancake Breakfasts on the ODD months as soon as the VA nursing home veterans are able to attend. See the Commander's note for more information on 2021.

2021 membership is moving along. While we would like to have everyone paid before January of 2021, we are now at 69.6%. This is progressing but we are behind our Auxiliary Unit which is at 78%. And don't forget our Son's Squadron as they are at 57%.

We are holding a Veteran's Day ceremony online via ZOOM on November 11th at 11 AM. You do not need a computer to listen in. You can use a cell phone and if it is a 'SMART" phone, you can also see the video. We do the meetings the same way! You can use the internet side of the phone to login or you can dial in on just the phone side to attend. Our By-Laws allow for remote participation, including

voting, so you can be a part of the activity. If you receive the newsletter by EMAIL, you will be getting the login information before each event. If you do not have EMAIL and wish to call in, please call me at 407-619-9611 and I will give the call-in number to you. I am working, so if you call and get voice mail, please leave word and I will call you back.

We are working to get the Boy's State competition going. The boys will be interviewing for one of the four positions that the Post sponsors plus four alternates at the February meeting (conditions permitting). If not, then we may have to come up with other ways to hold the competition online.

Be sure to check the WEB site, http://www.wpflpost112.org for more details and the latest information. The calendar there is updated several times a month as conditions change. We prepare the newsletter in the middle/later part of the month before it comes out, so things can and do change between newsletters. If you are without a computer, ask a friend to print out the WEB page from time to time.







ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Would your business like to advertise in our Post newsletter? This newsletter, with distribution via email and USPS to over 200 members and organizations, is now accepting advertising for our monthly newsletters.

Advertising rates per issue are as follows:

Business card size - \$ 6.00 (3 3/4"w x 2 1/4"l)

1/4 page - \$ 10.00 (3 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l)

1/2 page - \$ 18.00 (7 3/4"w x 4 3/4"l or 3 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)

Full page - \$ 30.00 (7 3/4"w x 9 3/4"l)

If paid in advance for FIVE ISSUES, THE SIXTH ISSUE IS FREE!

Copy MUST be emailed to the editor as a jpg or Publisher file but payment MUST be mailed to the Post's PO Box or hand delivered to the Post by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

COPY DEADLINES:

Jan-Feb issue—15December
Mar-April issue—15February
May-June issue—15April
July-August issue—15June
September-October issue—15August
November-December issue—15October

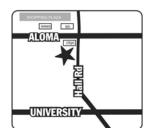
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The American Legion



Our Happenin' Auxiliary—Nell Colbert

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our 2020-2021 Membership Drive is in full swing and we currently have the highest percentage of paid memberships in the 6th District! We currently have 18 paid members, including our Juniors:

- Marge Berrios
- Theresa Berrios
- Brenda Brown
- Sharon Brown
- Aurora Colbert
- Braelyn Colbert
- Nell Colbert
- Victoria Colbert
- Christine Costello
- Cathy Diehl
- Mary Doyle
- Lisa Gagne
- Staci Klinger
- Cheryl Knapp
- Amy Martin
- JoAnne Russell
- Debi Shannon
- Madelda Thompson

This puts us at 78% of our goal of 23 members for 2021. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their dues for 2021. If you are not listed above, your 2021 dues were not received by the Unit before October 17th when this newsletter was prepared. Please mail your check payable to Auxiliary Unit 112 for \$36 to:

Auxiliary Unit 112 PO Box 2246 Goldenrod, FL 32733-2246

Or you can go on-line to the national Auxiliary website and log-in to pay your dues. We would like to reach 100% by the end of November if at all possible so that everyone receives their 2021 membership cards before the end of the

year.

We also need to recruit at least one or two NEW members for 2021, so if you have a friend who is eligible to join the Auxiliary, please encourage them to participate in our Zoom meetings so we can get an application to them.

As you read in the Commander's Minute, the Post will not be having its annual holiday party at Perkins this year due to the pandemic. We will consider having a small Auxiliary only get together at the Post in December, depending on the feelings of our members attending our October and November Zoom meetings.

We are now gearing up to support the food pantry at Eastbrook for Thanksgiving. The school would like us to do the Thanksgiving specific food items as we have done over the last several years. Both our SAL Squadron and the Post have pledged financial support for this activity.

We will also be supporting the Legion with it's Angel Tree project in early December along with our traditional Veteran Holiday food baskets for Christmas. We will be looking for three to four Veteran families in need who would appreciate receiving a food basket this Christmas. Please share your candidates for these baskets at an upcoming Unit meeting.

The 6th District Auxiliary has provided us with some dates for 2020 -2021 as follows:

- 12/12 at Post 80, St. Cloud— 6th District meeting
- 2/20/21 at Post 286, Pine Castle—6th District meeting

- 3/20/2021 at Post 55, Clermont—District Picnic
- 5/8/2021 at Post 53, Sanford— 6th District Constitutional Convention

All members are encouraged to attend these 6th District meetings in person if you feel it safe to do so. The District is considering making Zoom available for members who would like to attend the district meetings, but who still feel uncomfortable attending large gatherings. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

The Department Fall Conference has been cancelled for November 2020 but there is some consideration being given to holding some classes virtually. As we get more information from the Department of Florida Auxiliary, we will send an email with the specifics..

Stay safe, wear your mask and have an awesome holiday season!





We welcome new Veteran spouses along with the mothers, sisters, grandmothers and granddaughters who would like to actively support our military, our youth and our community through our community service projects. To become involved, please call Nell at 321.303.7445.

Check out our Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/ALA112FL or our website at:

www.AmLegionAux112FL.com to see what we've been doing.



Notes from Our Service Officer

The VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations, to encourage Veterans and their eligible family members to plan to use VA burial benefits. Due to the unprecedented number of applications received, they have temporarily shifted their focus to notifying each applicant that they have received their application and communicating with them about expected timelines for completion of our determination. They expect to have this notification out to each applicant shortly. NCA provides eligibility and scheduling support to families with Time of Need requests for burial, meaning those circumstances where a death has occurred, and families need to schedule a burial at a national cemetery. If that is your situation, you should contact your funeral service provider or the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-800-535 - 1117. NCA is no longer accepting email submissions for VA Form 40-10007, "Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery." NCA hopes to resume this service in the future. It is continuing to process applications via the online application, mail, and fax. Please mail VA Form 40-10007 to: National Cemetery Scheduling Office P.O. Box 510543 St. Louis, MO 63151 Or fax to: Fax (toll-free): 1-855-840-8299

On Thursday, the first phase of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) went live on VA's website. PCAFC offers education and training, access to health care insurance, mental health counseling, financial stipends, respite care, among other benefits for caregivers who care for an eligible veteran. As part of the VA MISSION Act of 2018, PCAFC will expand in two phases. The first phase is for caregivers of veterans who were injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The second phase is for those injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and Sept. 10, 2001, which go into effect Oct. 1, 2020.

TRICARE: Effective Jan. 1, 2018, Congress directed the DHA to implement TRICARE Select retiree enrollment fees in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (NDAA-17), but delayed implementation of fees until Jan. 1, 2021 for Group A retirees. TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries have not previously paid enrollment fees. If the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018, they and their family members are in Group A. On Jan. 1, 2021 TRICARE Select Group A retired beneficiaries will have to pay TRICARE Select enrollment fees, via allotment, where feasible. For participants of another TRI-CARE plan, such as TRICARE For Life, this Recently, affected participants won't apply. should have been contacted to set up a monthly enrollment fee premium payment. Those getting retirement or other pay from a military pay center will pay TRICARE Select fees via a monthly allotment. If retired pay is not received through a military pay center, then fees will be paid by a recurring credit or debit card transaction. Monthly fees may also be paid though electronic funds transfer (EFT), but must come from a U.S. bank. Plan costs: www.tricare.mil/costs more on TRICARE For Life, For www.tricare.mil/tf

Some VA Benefit Services to Resume In-Person: VA announced the reopening of inperson benefit services in select locations. Currently, 11 regional offices are open to the public. The reopening of other regional offices will depend on local conditions. They will follow CDC guidelines to include social distancing, face coverings, hand sanitizer, and asking sick individuals to stay home. Veterans can still access VA online or by phone.

Women Veterans and VA Benefits: Women veterans are the fastest growing veteran demographic. CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The American Legion



Notes from Our Service Officer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Women Veterans Call Center can assist with further information through their online chat, text, or call 1.855.VA.WOMEN.

VA #FightFlu Initiative: VA has expanded the options eligible veterans have on where they can receive a seasonal no-cost flu shot. CVS and Walmart are partnered with the VA, so if you get a shot there it will be in your VA medical record. Lake Nona VA Center has drive-through flu shots.

How can I change my VA direct deposit information online?

Disability compensation and pension benefit payments

If you receive disability compensation or pension payments from VA, you can update your direct deposit information in your VA.gov profile. You'll need your bank's routing number and account number to make the updates.

Note: You'll need to sign in to VA.gov to update your direct deposit information. Once

signed in, you'll have to verify your identity and set up 2-factor authentication only if you've haven't done this already.

If you have questions, please call us at <u>800-827-1000</u>. We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET. Or go to your <u>nearest VA regional office</u>.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced 1 new identification and six burial updates from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and USS Oklahoma.

Have YOU Paid Your 2021 Dues Yet? Please send your \$38 check to PO Box 910, Goldenrod, FL 32733 TODAY!

Son's of the of the Legion: Jim Carten



Our Squadron recently lost its first member with the passing of Gerry Dress. Gerry was a Charter member of our Squadron and he will be sorely missed. Our Squadron honored Gerry with the Squadron Everlasting ceremony at our October meeting and we were well represented at Gerry's internment at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery with honors from the US Air Force. You can read more about Gerry and his dedicated service to the Winter Park Memorial American Legion Family on page 8 of this newsletter

Our Squadron continues to meet virtually every month via Zoom. We are still taking precautions to keep our members and the members of their families safe

during this pandemic. Our members have voted to support our sister Auxiliary Unit with their annual project of providing Thanksgiving food items for the families getting weekly food-filled backpacks from the Eastbrook food pantry as well as supporting the Auxiliary project of delivering food filled baskets to needy Veteran families in our area for Christmas.

Please stay safe and have a joyous holiday season.





Gerard Thomas Dress—His Final Address

Gerry, as we all know him, was born in Scranton, Pa on 11AUG32 into a family of eight children. Gerry was involved with the Catholic Church while growing up and according to him, his mother wanted him to become a priest. He enlisted in the US Air Force and served over 9 years, including time in Japan during the Korean Conflict. As a radio repairman he told stories of climbing the towers to repair equipment as well as a time he taxied a fighter plane across the tarmac and getting in trouble. Gerry told his family that where ever he left the Air Force, that would be his final residence. Gerry was honorably discharged as a TSGT and from McCoy Air Force Base.

Gerry was much into public service to our Veterans as a Life Member of the American Legion, Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Many individuals did not know that Gerry was a member of the 6th District as Chaplain. He would constantly pay for flag pins, meals for veterans and made sure every veteran was welcomed. Sometimes his demeanor appeared to be rust, but it was always looking out for what was best for the Winter Park Memorial Post 112. Past Dept of FI Commander Steve Shuga remembers Gerry as always having coffee and day-old pastries and an opinion on all Legion matters.

He made sure as 2nd Vice CMDR of the Post that we had YOUTH PROGRAMS number one, whether it was the annual Halloween Party, or Easter Egg hunts. Celebration of the American Legion Birthday always had an open house and Gerry welcomed everyone. Centurion Battalion USNSCC was Grandpa Gerry's pride and joy, always making sure they had everything they needed as the liaison for the post. Gerry's most proud event was the FOUR CHAPLAIN'S CEREMONY held every year. The monthly Saturday breakfast was also special to Gerry and he made sure the members of the VA retirement home were taken care of. A post member whose funeral was during one of the breakfasts had all members outside to salute this veteran on his final ride to the graveside.

During the last approximately six years it has been my privilege to assist Gerry and keep him in his home. His desire to return to the post and work as 2nd Vice CMDR never stopped. His final days included his celebration of his 88th Birthday in which he was extremely happy with all the birthday cards sent by the membership. His concern for his two remaining Sisters one being 96 and the other in her 80's was always there, and he made sure he called them weekly.

Gerry was not perfect, but his love of mankind is above reproach. Mr. Gerry was interned at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery with honors from the US Air Force and the Catholic Deacon.

My final thought is that if you read the poem "THE DASH," Mr. Gerry exceeded that little DASH. You see Gerry was a true believer of SERVICE to others and especially the veterans of our military.







For GOD and COUNTRY, Past CMDR, Billy Dover Jr., Winter Park Memorial Post 112



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For Advance Funeral & Cremation Planning information contact: Tammy Roche, 407-277-4227, troche@newcomerfamily.com.

For immediate assistance, please call us anytime at 407-277-4227.



Happy Birthday to YOU!

Happy Birthday to YOU!
Happy Birthday to you!
Happy Birthday dear ____
Happy Birthday to YOU!

NOVEMBER

- 1 Martin, Amy
- 2 Kuhn, Scott C
- 4 Camerer, Christopher D
- 4 LeFevre, Daniel J
- 12 Brizendine, Linda J
- 16 Doyle, Mary
- 16 Middour, Larry T
- 19 Shannon, Dyke E
- 25 Incao, Dominick P
- 26 Day, Robert J
- 27 Saul, David

30 Brooks, Christian J

DECEMBER

- 7 Gagne, Ronald S
- 7 Sanabria, Ambrosio
- 8 Brown, Sharon
- 9 Berrios, Marge
- 11 Bettis, Earl W
- 12 Long, Donald E Sr
- 16 Lord, John S
- 19 Carten, James E III
- 30 Berrios, Theresa
- 30 DiMario, Joseph A







YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

See Page 4 for

Advertising Rates

and More Info



Looking for USN, USMC and USCG honorably discharged veterans to join the Fleet Reserve Association. You do not have to be retired, just a veteran. Dues are \$40.00 per year, BUT Branch 117 will pay half your dues for the first year when you join. We meet at the American Legion Post 112 in Winter Park every 3rd Saturday of the month at 0930.

Contact Steve Miglionico at 407-301-6256.



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

www.wpflpost112.org

CALENDAR

November

- 3 SAL Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 3 ELECTION DAY
- 10 Executive Board Meeting 6 PM ZOOM
- 10 Post General Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 11 Veteran's Day Program 11 AM ZOOM
- 17 Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 26 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 1 SAL Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 8 Executive Board Meeting 6 PM ZOOM
- 8 Post General Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 15 Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7 PM ZOOM
- 25 Merry Christmas

Please see our website for additional dates and more detailed info about each event.

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