

The Legion Link

September 2009

Vol. 17 Issue 2



THE POWER OF COMMITMENT



Web Site: www.floridalegion.org

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Legislative Report
Oratorical

Phil Hearlson Department Commander phearlson@aol.com 352.307.8119

Traveling around the State of Florida gives me the opportunity to meet many dedicated Legionnaires and to observe the many challenges that our Post and District leaders are encountering. We need to emphasize the many excellent programs of the American Legion. Post and District leaders meet with your program chairman develop a plan for the year. Get your members excited about your Post Activities. When we face a problem within our membership, go back to the basics, our common cause of dedicating ourselves to our veterans, children and youth and our communities.

It is always special to attend Post installations and to visit Posts. Over the last few weeks I have attended Post 17-New Smyrna Beach, Post 285-Edgewater. Atlantic Beach-316 and Post 323-Lehigh Acres installations. I have also had the opportunity to visit Post 40-Ft. Pierce, Post 183-Fern Park, Post 286-Pinecastle and Post 13-Tallahassee.

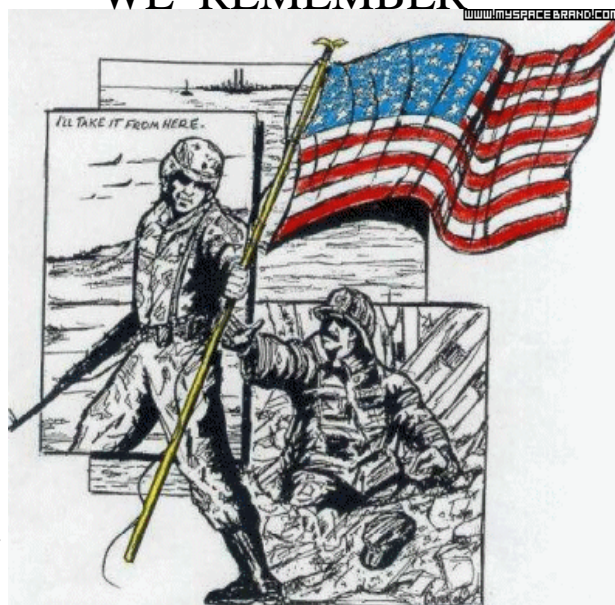
On July 26th I had the privilege of attending a Family Day at Camp Blanding for the 651st Maintenance Battalion. They will be deploying to Afghanistan. There were over 500 service personnel and their families in attendance. It was emotional to see the faces of these young men and women who are willing to face the enemy and to pay the ultimate price. We need to renew our commitment in using our voices and our actions to impact the lives of these young men and women and their families.

What an experience to attend the banquet for the Class "A" American Legion Baseball held in Ft. Pierce. The American Legion Baseball

program installs leadership qualities, a strong work ethic and sportsmanship in these outstanding young men. Thank you to Hector Castro- Baseball Chairman, coaches, volunteers and Post's sponsors. Your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to our youth, make the American Legion Baseball program a success.

On August 9th I spoke at the American Legion Auxiliary Retreat held in Orlando. It was fantastic to be among women who make it happen. The energy in the room was amazing. Thank you to The American Legion Auxiliary for all you do for The American Legion. A special thanks to President Mary for inviting me.

September 11, 2001 WE REMEMBER



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Dennis R. Boland, NECA

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

On Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 12:00 noon EST, this ceremony will take place at all National Cemeteries and monument. These wreaths are donated by the Worcester Wreath Company of Maine. A wreath will be placed for each of the following branch of service: The Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. All graveside wreaths will be placed prior to the ceremony

By 2008 over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 over seas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veteran's graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated

This year the service will take place at the following places in Florida:

Columbia County Veterans Memorial – Lake City

St. Augustine National Cemetery – St. Augustine

Daytona Memorial Gardens – Daytona

Edgewater-New Smyrna Cemetery – Edgewater

Jacksonville National Cemetery – Jacksonville

Barrancas National Cemetery – Pensacola

City of Miami Memorial Cemetery – Miami

South Florida VA National Cemetery –

Lake Worth

Royal Palm Memorial Gardens – West

Palm Beach

The American Legion Cemetery – Tampa

Bay Pines National Cemetery – Bay Pines

Florida National Cemetery – Bushnell

Lake Country Courthouse - Tavares

Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens – Pom-

pamo Beach

Live Oak City Cemetery – Live Oak

Florida Hills Memorial Gardens – Spring Hill

Mount Peace Cemetery – Saint Cloud

Sarasota National Cemetery - Sarasota

The Wreaths Across America story began over 17 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays.

Over that period of time, Worcester Wreath has donated well over 100,000 wreaths, which were placed by volunteers in a wreath-laying ceremony each December. But as word spread, the mission to REMEMBER; HONOR; and TEACH about the sacrifices made by our veterans has captured the hearts and minds of many communities across the country.

I would hope that all Post Commanders, District Commanders and Area Commanders try to be involved with this ceremony. I know that our Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Addis along with American Legion Post 252 is planning on participating at the Bay Pines Cemetery.

For more information you can go to www.wreaths-across-america.org

Al Porter

Department Vice-Commander

albertporter@bellsouth.net

I am looking forward to National Convention in Louisville Kentucky, where Clarence Hill will be elected as our National Commander for 2010. I am sure he will make Florida proud.

I attended the Commander, Phil Hearlson's retreat in Orlando on July 17-19 with all of the Area Commanders and Department Chairmen. It was very informative and everyone learned a lot. A great number of new ideas were presented and many old problems were discussed. Much progress was made.

At the end of July I attended the National Membership workshop in Indianapolis, IN along with the Area Commanders. We were all taught programs on how to bring new Legionnaires aboard.

I also attended installations in Clearwater, Jacksonville Post #9 and South Miami Post #31, where I installed the officers and Commander, Mike McVay. It was an honor for me because it was the home Post of Past Department Historian John Travis who was instrumental in my Legion career.

On September 7th I was invited to be a part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Auxiliary at Post #79, in New Port Ritchie.

As always please let me know if I can serve you in any way and also, if you have any scheduled function you wish me to attend. For God and Country

William C Hoppner III

Department Disaster Preparedness Chairman

Gonepost1@aol.com

I would like to thank Department Commander Hearlson for the opportunity to serve as your Disaster Preparedness Chairman for 2009-2010.

As we all know that any disaster is a crisis may it be floods, tornadoes, or hurricanes among others. Each year between June 1 and November 30 is designated as hurricane season.

The questions we should ask ourselves, are we prepared and do I have everything in place before, during, and after a storm. The answer should be yes if not this is the time to prepare. It's never too late to prepare. There's that word again PREPARE it is very vital to have everything in place to make the transition thru the 3 stages of a storm as easy and comfortable as possible.

I sent out emails to all Area and District Commanders in the hopes of compiling a rooster of all addresses and telephone numbers of all contacts. Those of you that have not sent back an email with your email, address, and telephone numbers could you please do. This will help in getting aid to those in you respective area or district if and when the need arises.

Remember the key word preparedness.

The telephone numbers I may be reached at are home 305-944-8518 cell phone 305-968-7979



Blood Donor
Bob "Bubba" Perkins
bubbaperkins@att.net

Now that most of the Post Installations have been completed, it's time to get down to business and work the American Legion Programs. The Blood Donor Program may not be very significant to you but I must tell you, it is very important. How many times have you heard of a Legionnaire, Auxiliary or a S.A.L. member had to be rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery? Perhaps it might have been you or a member of your family who had to have surgery and possible blood transfusions. One never knows when you might be in need.

I am requesting each Post to partner with the Auxiliary Units and S.A.L. Squadrons and have a joint 'Blood Drive'. Plan the drive around another special event happening at the Post Home. Perhaps you may be having an Early Bird Dinner. Call your local Blood Bank and invite them to set up their equipment and get your members to donate. Congratulations to the Post Homes who held blood drives during July and August. Please notify me when you are planning to have a blood drive and how many pints were donated. I can be reached via email at bubbaperkins@att.net Give the gift that keeps on giving, donate a pint of blood today, it may save a life.

Shooting Sports News

CONGRATULATIONS to Courtney Bates who won third place at the 19th Annual Junior Air Rifle National Championship, Sporter category.

Sponsored by Winter Park Post 112, Courtney Bates and Shayna Thompson, from the Oviedo High School Navy JROTC, were selected by the Tournament staff as the athletes who best exemplified good sportsmanship and fair play thus winning the Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award. Ladies you have made us proud!

Law and Order
Dennis Bruland, Department Chairman
drbruland@embarqmail.com

Our new year is well under way and I hope Posts are making plans for their Law and Order Program. Criteria for the awards are available from the Department of Florida or by contacting me at 25391 Rupert Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33983. The brochure available can be very handy in having a successful year.

The best way of setting a good example for the Law and Order Program is to become proactive. Visit your local firehouses and police stations to seek out individuals worthy of recognition. Posts should consider having a dinner to honor their Post applicants and give awards/letters at the dinner. Invite local dignitaries to your event to promote a good will in the community and show your community that the American Legion is proud of our towns' local heroes.

For God & Country
Mike Addis
Dept Sgt-at-Arms

Did you get your invitation yet? There are no personal invitations being sent, but on December 12, 2009 the nation will be celebrating Wreaths Across America. There will be a big ceremony at Bay Pines Veterans Hospital and probably one in your area somewhere and I ask you to attend the ceremony if you can. NECA Dennis Boland and myself will be at Bay Pines, and afterwards, all participants are invited back to Post 252 for a free bar-b-que.

On July 4th I had the honor of participating in the Safety Harbor parade along with Department Commander Phil Harrelson, his wife Peggy, Department Vice Commander Al Porter, and his wife Edie, Department Chaplain Bob Vick and wife Marion. George Paradise, 16th District Commander, and his wife Liz were also in attendance. Jim Burgess Commander of Post 238 and his wife Ruth, were our hosts.

By now, most of the post installations are over and we can now get back to Legion business. I'm looking forward to attending the American Legion convention in Louisville. I feel a great sense of pride knowing that Florida will be the home of the next National Commander. We can be really proud that we have someone the caliber of Clarence Hill as a Department of Florida member.

Another outstanding ceremony that Department Chaplain Bob Vick, 16th Dist. Commander George Paradise and I attended was the 2nd anniversary of Purple Heart Park in Dunedin. Last year Post 275 Commander Sid Damsguard and others constructed a beautiful memorial to our Purple Heart recipients. Dunedin was named the first official Purple Heart city. It was truly a moving ceremony.

The time has come for me to sign off, but remember if you have an event you would like me to attend, I'm as close as a phone call or email. P.S. Don't forget the Department will pay you \$5 for each NEW MEMBER you sign up.



The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists... trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

George Bernard Shaw

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RIDE 2 RECOVERY

On December 12, 2009, more than 100 injured veterans will set off down the Florida coast on the six- day Ride 2 Recovery Florida Challenge. Ride 2 Recovery's First Annual Florida Challenge ride raises funds to support Spinning® and outdoor cycling programs at Military and VA locations around the U.S., and the ride aids the rehabilitation and recovery efforts of the wounded warriors.

Ride 2 Recovery improves the health and wellness of injured veterans through cycling. Cycling, which almost all patients with mental and physical disabilities can participate in, is an important part of the recovery process because it helps to speed up the rehabilitation process.

The ride will begin Saturday, December 12 in Tampa Bay and end on Thursday, December 17 at the USO in Mayport. The American Legion Riders will provide a motorcycle escort during the event and several Posts will sponsor rest stops and dinners. You are encouraged to support and/or join this ride.

Contact Email:
 r2rinfo@aol.com
 eagle55@ix.netcom.com

Web site: <http://www.ride2recovery.com>

Email Updates

Our email addresses have changed (see above). The old ones will also work for a while longer, but please start using the new ones.

Also, if you have security on your email, please add us to your list of allowable email addresses or change your security level from 'high' to 'medium'. This way our emails to you will always get through.

UPDATE!

With the new year comes new information. We have updated all of our guides and manuals. Throw out all old materials. Communication is the key to keeping our programs active. Make sure your program chairmen have all the material they need. Send in the Packet Request forms; Administrative Manual pages 12-14.

Congratulations To all over 100%!

District/Area Membership Report as of August 26, 2009

District/ Area	Commander	Goal	Rec'd	% Goal
7	Keith Holz	4,440	2,549	57.41
4	Gerald Montgomery	4,044	2,304	56.97
15	Larry Faulkner	5,794	3,283	56.66
17	Arthur Schwabe	4,368	2,373	54.33
6	William Walsh	9,570	5,154	53.86
12	Carl Schneider	8,772	4,701	53.59
11	Paul Bosco	4,757	2,535	53.29
2	George Segrest	1,376	725	52.69
16	George Paradise	12,144	6,398	52.68
10	Lar'rio Walden	1,095	574	52.42
8	Gregory Putman	9,042	4,697	51.95
14	Angela Glover	2,314	1,190	51.43
1	Stephen Shuga	6,473	3,302	51.01
9	Joseph Motes	4,818	2,258	46.87
13	Frank Ward	9,365	4,372	46.68
3	James Troupe	1,655	743	44.89
5	Gregory Lovejoy	8,154	3,527	43.26
Central	Kathryn Ferrin	22,378	12,230	54.65
Eastern	Earl Friedeborn	18,342	9,855	53.73
Western	Martha Harris	7,849	4,027	51.31
Southern	David Knapp	12,984	6,557	50.50
South- western	Richard Francis	18,407	9,069	49.27
Northern	James Corner	18,221	8,947	49.10
Dept			50,685	
Post 400		39,232	10,797	27.52
Post 208		1,942	1,051	54.12
Totals		132,000	62,533	47.37

*Robert Brewster, Membership
brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net*

To all members of the Florida Legion Family:

Here I am putting together my second article for the Legion Links. As soon as I get done with this, I will be heading to Louisville, Kentucky, for the American Legion National Convention. I am really looking forward to being part of the Florida delegation.

Checking our Department's computer on membership, I was pleasantly shocked and thrilled to see that Post 392 in District 1 is at 500% membership. They were the first Post to reach 100% plus 1. They are in Category 1. Also, Post 182 in District 14 is at 190.741% in Category 2. Wow, what a start for the year!

As soon as I get this year's roster I will be contacting many of you directly. I have already been invited to attend a District meeting and training session with District 4 at Post 155. I have also been invited to Post 127 in District 17. I also will be visiting Lake City Post 57 during the Commander's visit there from 9/17/09-9/20/09. September 6th I will be attending District 5's meeting at Post 233, and will be visiting Post 64 on September 26th for a baked fish dinner.

I have been talking to several Posts about going back to basics. That means forming small groups of members and knocking on doors asking for membership. As I stated previously, I will help you every way possible to reach our Post, District, Area and Department goals for membership. I read results every week and am happy to say that there are only a few Posts with zeros behind them.

Last, but not least, I ask all Area and District Commanders, plus all Post Commanders, to send me a schedule of any meetings and functions they would like me to attend. I will not ask anyone do to anything that I won't do myself to grow our membership. As our Department Commander says, "the power of commitment will enable us to succeed." So I am asking each and every one of you to make a commitment to sign up one new member today. For God and Country

**NOW AVAILABLE
HALLOWEEN COLORING BOOKS**

By your request, the Department has Halloween Coloring Books available for purchase and distribution to the Elementary classrooms in your area. The order form is on page 11 of the Post Administrative Manual. Supplies are limited—get them while they last! The cost remains \$20.00 per 100 books. If you have any questions, contact Bobbi at Department, 800.393.3378x232 or bobbi@floridalegion.org.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
Dick Mondro, Department Employment Chairman
dickmondro@comcast.com

Soldiers, sailors and airmen are called to active duty to serve and protect their country. They should not come home from a military leave of absence to find they have no job or that their seniority has been taken from them.

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (called USERRA and passed in 1994) prohibits discrimination against anyone for serving in the armed forces or for taking military leave from a civilian job. This includes discrimination in hiring, promotion, reemployment, or any other benefit of employment. USERRA also prohibits retaliation against anyone who seeks to enforce their rights under USERRA or assists another in enforcing those rights.

Very few states have as close a relationship to the military as Florida does. In a struggling economy, where every job is precious, veterans have a great many rights that they may not be aware of under federal employment law. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act gives veterans certain job rights that are not enjoyed by non- veterans. Among those are protections for disabled veterans, federal employees, vets seeking to go back to their old jobs, and rights into the continuation of military health care.

The total length of time that an individual may be absent from work for military duty and still retain reemployment rights is five years. There are some exceptions to the five-year limit, including initial enlistments lasting more than five years, periodic National Guard and Reserve training duty, and involuntary active duty extensions and recalls, especially during a time of national emergency.

USERRA provides protection for disabled veterans, requiring employers to make reasonable efforts to accommodate the disability. Service members convalescing from injuries received during service or training may have up to two years from the date of completion of service to return to their jobs or apply for reemployment.

The law has an "escalator" provision that requires placement into the job that the veteran would have had or been promoted to except for military service, and also requires that the vet be trained into that job. If that isn't possible, then the law requires that every effort be made to place the vet into a similar job.

Veterans on duty are to be treated as if they are on a leave of absence for company benefit purposes. This includes benefits that are tied to seniority and to non- seniority benefits.

Veterans also have COBRA- like rights in their health coverage for individually and for their families, up to 24 months. However, the vet would pay more than 100% of the premium cost.

USERRA Provides Protection over the following:

Reemployment Rights

In order to qualify for rehire under USERRA, the employee must give advance notice to the company before military leave or duty unless it is impossible or unreasonable to do so or he is prevented by military necessity from doing so.

Seniority and Benefits under USERRA

For Cause Termination

Normally, employment is at will. This means that an employee can quit or be fired at any time for any reason other than an illegal one. However, this is not the case under USERRA. Depending on the length of time which an employee was on absence due to military leave, the company is prohibited from terminating without cause for a certain period after the return to work.

How to Enforce Your Rights under USERRA

The second way an employee can file a claim is with a private lawyer.

What happens after the lawsuit is filed:

Once the lawsuit is filed, a court can do a number of things, including:

- Force the company to comply with USERRA
 - Compensate the employee for lost wages or benefits for failing to comply with USERRA
 - Require the company to pay double the amount of lost wages and benefits if it determined the violation of USERRA was willful
 - If won, the employee is entitled to recover any attorney's fees and costs associated with the lawsuit
- (continued next page)

September Fun Facts

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| -Self Awareness Month (International) | -Little League Month | -Children's Good Manners Month |
| -School Success Month (National, US) | -Health Aging Month | -Women of Achievement Month |
| -Self-Improvement Month | -Hispanic Heritage Month | -Library Card sign-up Month |
- Constitution Week - The Congress, by joint resolution of February 29, 1952 (36 U.S.C. 106), designated September 17 as - "Citizenship Day," and by joint resolution of August 2, 1956 (36 U.S.C. 108), requested that the President proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week." - Source: The White House Web Site: www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/09/20010917-15.html
- Dog Week (National, US) -- Observed the last full week of September www.nationaldogweek.com

Timeline of USERRA Lawsuits:

This description is not intended to be a complete explanation of USERRA, but only to provide an overview. USERRA provides many protections not completely discussed here. Each situation is unique and there are many rules and exceptions under USERRA.

Like most employment law, this is a highly complex area, since it exists on the interface between federal law and local employment. For a total explanation of your rights under the USERRA, see: <http://www.dol.gov/vets/> <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/military/index.html>

3rd Annual Military Day & Veterans Resource Fair

August 29, 2009, 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

East Lake High School, 1300 Silver Eagle Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

WORKFORCE CONNECTION - OCALA/MARION JOB & CAREER FAIR

September 15, 2009, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., CFCC Klein Conference Center in Ocala, across from the Paddock Mall

RECRUIT MILITARY CAREER FAIR

October 1, 2009, 11:00am - 3:00pm, Jacksonville Municipal Stadium (Home of the Jacksonville Jaguars)

One Stadium Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202

WORKFORCE CONNECTION - OCALA/MARION JOB & CAREER FAIR

October 13, 2009, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., CFCC Klein Conference Center in Ocala, across from the Paddock Mall

WORKFORCE CONNECTION - OCALA/MARION JOB & CAREER FAIR

November 10, 2009, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., CFCC Klein Conference Center in Ocala, across from the Paddock Mall

RECRUIT MILITARY CAREER FAIR

December 3, 2009, 11:00am - 3:00pm, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Tampa, FL 33602



Jim Ramos
Department of Florida
Children & Youth Chairman
jramos149@bellsouth.net

I hope you are reading and doing Children & Youth programs for your Area, District and / or Post. We need to plan some more programs. Last month I suggested some ideas. Let's see what we can plan for the next 2 months. Let's start with September.

We need to order the Halloween coloring books from Department Headquarters (100 books are just \$20.00). This is for the Elementary Schools and why? The Halloween Safety Coloring Book has safety tips for the children and a message to the parents on how to keep their children from becoming one of America's "Missing Children". It also has a membership application on the back cover right next to your Post address label sticker.

And don't forget the Middle School kids. A good brochure for them is "Make Halloween A Fun and Safe Night". It has more safety tips but for Big Brother and / or Big Sister and for parents too. It also encourages working with your local Law Enforcement Officers to provide or assist in making available child identification activities to give parents a means of providing this information to authorities should the need arise. Oh! And how about doing all of this with an open house at the Post. Have a dinner or just some snacks for everyone.

Now we go to October again working with your Post and community. Plan a Halloween party for the children, youth, parents and / or just for your Post members to have some fun. Next Month I will have more suggestions because November is a BIG month. Remember Report each month and keep a copy for yourself.

Remember to Report your activities each month (man hours, miles and moneys). If you have some ideas on children & youth program please let me know and we can come up with a PLAN. My program push for this year is the Child Welfare Foundation. If you or your Post can give just \$25.00 it will help our children and Youth. One new program from National Child Welfare Foundation is a 100% per capita Banner Program. This is for each Post, Unit, Squadron or Salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year. You will receive a beautiful banner/streamer for your colors. To qualify your Post, Unit, Squadron or Salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total as of June 1, 2009. More information will follow in the future.

School Begins



*Legislative Report
Stanley Gold
gold.stanley@yahoo.com*

Last month I wrote about what the Legion has completed in the past year. In this issue, I will show you what we hope to be completed in the coming year. Please take a few of these 'bills' and tell your members to let their members of Congress know and ask for their support:

HR 1016 and S 423 – Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009

HR 1377 – a measure that would allow reimbursements to veterans who receive emergency treatment at a non-VA facility

HR 1170 – This bill would establish \$200,000 in federal grants to encourage the development of technologies to make home life easier for severely disabled veterans.

HR 3082, S 1407 – a bill to fund the Department of Veterans Affairs, military construction programs and related agencies for FY 2010

HR 952 – Compensation Owed for Mental Health Based on Activities in Theatre Post –traumatic Stress Disorder Act

HR 1098 – Veterans' Worker Retraining Act of 2009

HR 1821 – Equity for injured Veterans Act of 2009

HR 2180 – This bill prohibits VA from collecting a housing loan fee from any veteran who, but for the receipt of active service pay, would be entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability.

HR 1211 – The Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act

HR 1197 – The Medal of Honor Health Care Equity Act of 2009

HR 1302 – would establish the position of director of Physician Assistant Services in the office of the VA under secretary for Health

HR 1335 – would prohibit VA from collecting certain copayments from veterans who are catastrophically disabled

HR 1546 – the Caring for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2009

HR 2926 – would direct the VA to provide hospital care, medical services and nursing home care for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to herbicide and for Persian Gulf Veterans

HR 1037 – the Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act of 2009, by a vote of 422 – 0

HR 2770 – the Veterans nonprofit Research and Education Corporations Enhancement Act of 2009

HR 3155 – Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act

HR 1293 – Disabled Veterans Home Improvement and Structural Alteration Grant Increase Act of 2009

HR 3365 – the Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2009

House Joint Resolution 47, Senate Joint Resolution 15 – a flag protection constitutional amendment

HR 2847 – the FY 2010 funding bill for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, science programs and related agencies

HR 1171 – a bill to reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for FY's 2010-2014

HR 1088 – the Mandatory Veteran Specialist Training Act of 2009

HR 1089 – the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009

HR 1172 – this measure directs VA to include on its website a list of organizations that provide scholarships to veterans and their survivors and, for each such organization, a link to their website.

HR 3293 – FY 2010 appropriations Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services and Education

HR 1803 – the Veterans Business Center Act of 2009

HR 3081 – FY 2010 appropriations Department of State and foreign operations programs

House Resolution 679 – American Legion Day

HR 2647 – the FY 2010 DOD authorization bill

HR 2892 – the FY 2010 Department of Homeland Security appropriation bill

HR 2990 – Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act

HR 3170, S 1432 – the FY 2010 appropriations measure for financial services and general government, Selective Service System funding for FY 2010

HR 3326 – the FY 2010 appropriations bill for the Department of Defense



Oratorical

Ron Musselwhite, Department Chairman

Ron_seis@comcast.net

Schools are back in session. Now is the time for all Post & District Oratorical Chairpersons to go to their local schools and present the program to them. The new brochures are ready at Department. Post chairpersons have to send the correct form to Carol Polk at Department to request the material. Remember, all Post contests are to be completed by Jan. 10, 2010.

Anyone needing more information may contact me @ 904-759-6137 or ron_seis@comcast.net.