Our 101st Annual Department Convention has come to a close with the election of new Department Officers. Michael Havel of David C. Harrison Post 14 was elected as Department Commander for the 2019-2020 year. The other elected Department Officers were:
1st Vice Commander Barry Sauers of Nanticoke Post 6
2nd Vice Commander Dwight Lacy of Robert L. Taylor Post 13
Historian Richard Benedict of Milford Post 3

Chaplin R. Wayne Hicks of Walter L Fox Post 2
Sergent at Arms Richard Jefferson of Nanticoke Post 6
Leading Candidate for National Commander, James W. “Bill” Oxford, Department of North Carolina spoke about his life and service that lead him to put service before self. He also discussed his plans and goals for The American Legion during the upcoming Legion year.

The guest speakers this year were informative but to the delight of the delegates not overly. The guest speakers were from: The Home of the Brave Foundation, Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, The Friends of Delaware Veterans, Inc., Delaware Veteran’s Home, Veterans Community Outreach, and Wilmington VAMC. All of these organizations provide either services or assistance to veterans in Delaware.

<<<Continued on Page 2 >>>>

Let me start by saying how much I am looking forward to this upcoming year. This is the 101st year of The American Legion. We have the distinct opportunity to shape and mold the course of the next 100 years of this great organization. With the Legion Act passing the house, it is the first of many positive things to come for The American Legion.

The Department did well with membership this past year. We came oh so very close to the 100% goal. We were closer this year than the previous year. I do not look at it as not making goal, as I see we are moving forward and improving over the previous year. As long as we keep moving forward with our membership than we are doing our job to strengthen and grow this Department. To all the membership chairmen I want to say thank you for all your hard work last year well done.

Finally a new Legion year means new challenges for the Posts, Districts, and the Department. I know we will meet these challenges with the same enthusiasm that the founder of our organization did in 1919. I look forward to visiting the posts and working with all of you.

Yours in Legion Service
Michael A. Havel
Commander
Department of Delaware
Honorary guest speakers wishing to support and show comradery with Legionnaires in Delaware were: MG Michael Berry, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard who thanked the attendees for their support and discussed future issues facing his command. Teresa Ziegler Townsend representing Wreaths Across America thanked the attendees for their overwhelming volunteer support teams in the placing of hundreds of wreaths in the Delaware Veterans Cemeteries. USAA and LIT the two companies affiliated with The American Legion on the national level gave brief presentations on how The American Legion’s partnership with them benefits our Department and ways to maximize their potential. This year’s allocation from USAA was $5,300. As with USAA, the LIT program is an important part of the Department Budget. This year’s allocation was $25,058. The reason for such a high return is the distribution of previously held reserves. Normal allocation is around $10,000.

On a more solemn note the Department conducted a Memorial Honorarium for Charles T. Armbuster, Jr Past Department Commander. The full write up of the Memorial Honorarium will be included in another article (page 6)

The hospitality room in Ballroom C was a success in providing a location for delegates and guests from across the Department to mingle and share ideas and experiences while relaxing and enjoying themselves after the day of meetings. Convention Chairman Jeffrey Crouser thanks everyone for their generosity in the departments’ fundraising efforts.

Submitted by Rebecca Crouser

It has been a privilege to have served as your Department Commander for the past year. Thank you all for your support and continued dedication to your communities, State and Nation. I wish the new Officers of the Department, Detachment and ALA all the best in their coming year.

for God and Country

James Stewart, IPDC
The American Legion Department of Delaware Inc.
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COMFORT FOOD IN A COMFORTABLE SETTING

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My Fellow Legionaries

I thank everyone who supported me to represent The American Legion, Department of Delaware as our 1st Vice Commander. I look forward to working with all the posts this year to achieve 100% membership. I would like each district to hold a revitalization. This does help to remind members about renewing their dues and possible getting new members. Any questions you may have feel free to contact me and if I don’t have the answer, I will get it for you.

Membership target dates will be published after we return from the National Membership Conference in August.

For God and Country
Barry Sauers
1st Vice Commander

Thank you to the Districts and their Delegations that were present at the Department of Delaware 101st Convention for electing me to the position of 2nd Vice Commander. I hope to do you proud. For those post that I was unable to visit prior to the Convention, I will be visiting with you after the National Convention this August. For now I would like to wish all Post and their families have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Thanks again
Dwight Lacy
2nd Vice Commander

I would like to thank every Post in the Kent District in helping us make the 100% Membership Goal in our Centennial year. This past year our Posts have done some amazing things by serving their communities and our Veterans. Starting with the revitalization of Milford Post 3. They now have monthly meetings and are looking forward to moving into a new Post Home. Congratulations to all who made this possible.

Calloway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7 has been doing breakfast fundraisers, were involved in Boys and Girls State and awarded two $500 scholarships. David C. Harrison Post 14 has hosted the Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, supported Ambulance 64 and the camp at fire school, and the Boys Scouts. Walter L. Fox Post 2 has reached out to Dover AFB, hosted the Suicide 22 event, Toys for Tots and other fundraisers. All Posts have participated in Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day Ceremonies and Parades. They have all donated money to their communities.

Thank you all for making these last two years a great success. It has been an honor to serve as your Kent District Commander.

For God and Country,
Charles J. Parisan
Kent District Commander

During this Riding Season, all Delaware Chapters are busy serving their Communities and our Veterans. Despite the excessive rain and heat we’ve experienced so far we try to ride as much as possible, whether it’s just a fun ride, a charity run or an escort ride. We had a good Riders Convention and In-State Legacy Poker Run this year and are looking toward an even better one next year. All moneys we have raised for these two events will go to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. During the National Convention I will be presenting the donations from Chapters, Posts, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary to the National Commander. It has been an honor to serve as your Riders Director this year and I am looking forward to another successful year.

For God and Country,
Charles J. Parisan
Department of Delaware Riders Director

The Department thanks all of the posts and individuals that assisted in selling tickets for this raffle. The final tally for sales came to $1400. This years winner was???, from Calloway-Kemp-Raughley-Tee Post 7.
RUN, WHITE & BLUE

5K RUN/1MI WALK

THURSDAY - 5 P.M.
SEPT. 5, 2019

$25 Adults  (Until Sept. 3)
$10 All Students, Military, Veterans, and First Responders  (Until Sept. 3)

POST RACE COOKOUT ★
FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN AND GAMES

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT DELAWARE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OWENS CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

For more information, visit go.dtcc.edu/run5k
Memorial Honorarium Charles “Chuck” Thomas Armbruster, Jr.

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to His immortal legions our beloved comrade, Charles “Chuck” Thomas Armbruster, Jr., Squadron Commander 2010 to present; Department Vice Commander July 14, 1996 to August 16, 1998; Department Commander August 16, 1998 to June 27, 1999; National Executive Committee Alt-Member 2006 to 2008; and National Executive Committee Member 2008 to 2010; and

Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of his distinguished service to our country and his outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Department of Delaware, The American Legion, Inc. in Department Convention assembled on this 19th day of July in the year of our Lord 2019, does mourn the passing of our distinguished Legionnaire, Charles “Chuck” Thomas Armbruster, Jr., that we commend to all men his works and to God his spirit; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That in token of our common grief, this resolution will be presented to his family.

FY 2019 Sweepstakes

The funds raised by Department of Delaware, The American Legion sweepstakes contests are used to strictly to fund programs that support the veterans and children and youth. Veterans and their families are provided with the support and assistance such as paying a utility bill or providing food for a family fallen on hard times. The Boys and Girls State program, where high school students experience firsthand the legislative process and Trooper Youth where other high school students experience a week at the Delaware State Police Academy are beneficiaries of the funds raised.

The American Legion is the largest wartime veteran’s service organization with over 1.8 million members in almost 12,200 posts in nearly every community in America. I am sharing the mission of The American Legion to get the word out to help support our service members, veterans and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF 2018-2019 LEGION SWEEPSTAKES.

Holiday: Roland W Lawhead, John J Farley, George W Bockius, Fred E Chambers, Margaret Lou Reining and David Shevock
Summer Fling: E Thomas Whaley, Edward R Pyle, Denny Adams, Veronica Weaver, George J Rutynowski and Wayne H Garst

I personally thank all of you that have participated this year and if you haven’t please reconsider and support this program in the future. Thank you one and all for your service to our country and this great organization.

“REMEMBER EVERY DAY IS VETERAN’S DAY”
“BUILDING TODAY FOR TOMORROW”

For God and Country
John A Endres
Finance Officer
Chairman Sweepstakes Programs
Americanism Commission Spring Meeting
May 6-7, 2019

The meeting began at 8:30 AM with greetings and remarks by Chairman Richard Anderson of Connecticut. He recognized Past National Commander Jake Comer of Massachusetts and Past National Commander Dan Dellinger of Virginia. PNC Comer gave greetings to the members of the commission. He also recognized three other PNCs who were present, PNC Dale Barnett of Georgia, PNC Thomas Bock of Colorado, and from Maine, PNC Tony Jordan. He also recognized leaders of the Sons of the American Legion and the Auxiliary - including Beth McGinn of Auxiliary Unity 28, The Auxiliary’s National Americanism Chairman.

Michael Westergren of Arkansas, Chairman of he Committee on Youth Education gave a report about the scholarships. This committee is new. Among the scholarships it supervises is the Legacy Scholarship. There were 56 scholarships distributed. Three were for children of the Fallen, while he other 53 were for those children whose veteran parent had become disabled while on active duty. The exact details as to the requirements for the scholarship please see Jeffrey K Crouser, Past Department Commander of Delaware, as he attended this meeting prior to the Americanism Commission meeting.

Edie Holbrook, Chairman, Cleveland County American Legion World Series Committee talked about the Legion World Series in August. He also spoke to me and talked about how impressed the Shelby residents were with the Ball Players from Post 1. In the ALWS Buzz (magazine for the 2019 American Legion World Series) there are very impressive articles about the Delaware’s Championship Team and more than one of their players are quoted in the different articles.

At this point the commission meeting broke into five different sub-committee meetings. I attended the Youth Activities Subcommittee Meeting. The first line of business dealt with the Eagle Scout of the Year. We received an explanation about the change in the evolution process and why it was necessary. There were requests for specific improvements in the technical side of the process, which will be done. There were twenty-six Departments that submitted Eagle Scout forms. The Eagle Scout of the Year is Jaden Anderson of Utah who will receive a $10,000 scholarship. The three runner-ups are N’Jhari Jackson of Florida, Trevor Burke of Texas, and Rhylan Peterson of Minnesota. Each of them will receive a scholarship of $2,500.

The next topic of business was the Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program. We received an update. There will be 15 contestants for each division. Also, they will be a review of the awards, the naming of the awards, and making sure that the awards are relevant to what is now being done at the National Event in Colorado.

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program - “A constitutional Speech Contest” was reviewed. The three national winners were announced. Patrick Junker of Iowa was the first place recipient of $19,500. The Second Place Winner, Caleb Maue of Illinois, was a recipient of $17,500. The third place winner was Eden Carnes of Tennessee. He received $15,500. The committee also picked the brackets for next years contest as well as approved the four topics for the assigned part of the contest. These items are now on The National American Legion Web Page.

There was some discussion about the Boys State and Boys Nation program. But, as the Boys State programs are just now (as of the May Meeting) just ramping up the discussion was limited to getting funding, getting into the schools, and similar topics. The Boys Nation program follows the Boys State programs in July. However, it will have a new national director who will begin work for The American Legion in June. Resolutions were reviewed, approved, defeated, or sent back for further review. They will be discussed by the NEC and the ANEC in their reports.

The Tuesday morning session received Greetings from Mrs. Maggi Van Dyk, President of S. A. Van Dyk, Inc. S.A. Van Dyk, Inc. is the insurance company for Baseball and Boys State. She talked about the changes in the policies and increase in some of the prices.

The rest of the morning’s reports were the summaries of the sub-committees. There were Children and Youth, Youth Activities, Legion Baseball, Citizenship and Naturalization, and Cadet Law Enforcement. There was also notice that there will be updates the Scouting Square Knot Award to make it match requirements the Scouts. Some of the requirements on the book for the award are no longer done by the scouts. The Tuesday morning session began at 8 and was over by 9. The Chairman said it was one the fastest Tuesday morning sessions he had chaired.

Lyman R. Brenner
National Americanism Commission
It is with pleasure that we, The ALA Department of Delaware, introduce to you the New Officers for the 2019 – 2020 Fiscal Year:

President: Debbie Guenther – Henlopen Unit #5
1st Vice President: Janet Link - Smyrna Unit #14
2nd Vice President: Nancy Bush - Smyrna Unit #17
Executive Secretary: Tina Washington - Oak Orchard Riverdale

Treasurer: Karen Marvel - Oak Orchard Riverdale Unit #28
Chaplain: Kelly Bergan, Unit #17
Historian: Lisa McCarley – Claymont Unit #18
Sgt. at Arms: Nancy Lawrence – Henlopen Unit #5

Deborah Guenther has been a paid up for life member of the American Legion Auxiliary for the past 10 years. While originally a member of Delaware Unit #17, she transferred to Henlopen Unit #5. Her membership eligibility is through her recent husband John Guenther and her grandfather Edward who served in the Navy during WW II.

Within Unit 17, she has supported various events and projects of the leadership and has served as Unit President, Vice President, Historian, Community Service, and Public Relations Chairman. Ms. Guenther has continued to gain expertise and knowledge at all levels of the Auxiliary. At Unit #5 her activity continued as the Unit Historian and participation in community activities. She received many Department and National awards including the National Operation Impact Award at the 2012 national convention. She was very supportive of the projects and goals of the Department President.

At the Department level, she has served as the Department 1st and 2nd Vice President, Department Membership Chairman for two years, Department Historian for two years, Department Public Relations Chairman for one year, and Department Community Service Chairman for one year.

Ms. Guenther was born in San Turce, Puerto Rico and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Warren County Community College and received her Licensed Practical Nursing degree followed by a Registered Nursing degree from Raritan Valley College in New Jersey. Seton Hall University bestowed her BSN in 2000.

She currently resides in Milton, DE and is the proud mother of a daughter Stefanie Kuhner and a son Christopher Guenther, and grandmother of Madison, Ty, Christopher Jr. and Emma.

This year’s President Theme is "Continuing to support our veterans and military now & the next 100 years." With her Project to benefit the Home of the Brave II. Please help me in welcoming the 2019 – 2020 ALA Department of Delaware’s Officers and wish them an amazing and productive year.
American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Honor Delaware Youth Award Winners

Ten Delaware Youths were honored at the American Legion (TAL) and the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department Convention on July 19th, 2019 at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino. The Department of Delaware’s Legion Boys State and ALA Delaware Girls State Directors, Lyman Brenner and Lisa McCarley introduced the 2019 Boys State Governor, Andres Samson and Samsung Winner - Thomas Kinservik. Not in Photo: Oratorical Winner - Dorothy McCormick and Baseball Scholarship Winner - Mark Kohn.

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With the 2019 Boys and Girls Nation Senator earlier in the week as all four Senators would be traveling to Washington DC area for the 2019 Sessions. Boys Nations Senators are Ed Holden from Newark Charter School and John Kepley from St. Elizabeth High School. The Girls Nation Senators are Nia Naylor from Sanford High School and Claudia Offutt also from St. Elizabeth High School. This year’s Delaware Oratorical High School. The Girls Nation Senators are Nia Naylor from Sanford High School and Claudia Offutt also from St. Elizabeth High School. This year’s Delaware Oratorical Winner – Dorothy McCormick and Baseball Scholarship winner - Mark Kohn were both unable to attend as well.

For nearly a century, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion have worked, side by side, promoting patriotism and national security while supporting youth and advocating for veterans and active-duty military. The American Legion Family believe education is vital to democracy, and that investing time and money to educate our youth is literally an investment in America’s future. Our Educational Programs involve fostering learning for children in our own communities, with our main focus on the children of military and veterans.

Delaware Boys State and Girls State are programs designed to teach high school juniors responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. During this amazing week, students are immersed in learning about the political process from dedicated volunteers, making sure the programs’ nonpartisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out. The Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States by high school students. Other objectives of these Legion Family Programs are to develop leaders. All Legion Family Youth Programs stress leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Submission by , Lisamarie McCarley

Troop 78 participating in Flag Day and Memorial Day in Conjunction with Walter L. Fox Post 2

Starting at the top left going across: Photo1) Back row Danny Seeman Caleb Seeman Jaxon, Wyatt, Rcee and Landon Flag Day 6/14/19 2&3) Posting of the colors by Landon 4) transportation of retired colors by Rcee Middle row: Rcee presenting colors for inspection prior to retirement Bottom Row starting left to right: 1) Proper retirement of an unserviceable flag 2) Troop 78 members steping forward to display their tribute at the Veterans Triangle on Memorial Day 3) Placing the memorial wreath 4) group shoot of troop members with Troop Leader Danny Seeman
It is with pride and trepidation that Auxiliary members presented the Blue Star service banner to Patty Johnson on June 1, 2019, in the Post pavilion. Her son Adam, an active staff sergeant in the Delaware Army National Guard, left Smyrna June 8 for preparatory duties, and then on to the Middle East in late June.

It’s an American tradition to display a Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home when a loved one is proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We all hope that Patty can take down this banner soon when her son returns home safely.

This is Adam’s second deployment. This time, however, he has a new family unit with wife Karrie and newborn daughter Reed Marie. Through Face-Time, Adam is able to share his day. Mom Patty has “seen” his living quarters and describes them as a postage-sized room with a shared bathroom. Surely he is missing his home and family now but it is reassuring that they will be keeping in touch often.

Patty’s son Adam, presents newborn daughter Reed Marie, along with wife Karrie.

Left) Delaware Boys State Lt. Governor Ed Holden and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long right) Delaware Boys State Governor Andres Samson and Governor John Carney Center) Delaware Boys State class of 2019 at Legislative Hall in Dover
Post 18 Commander Robert Smith presenting JROTC awards at Mt. Pleasant High School, Wilmington, DE. To Cadet Captain Jessica Shoemaker for Scholastic Achievement and Cadet Captain Nicolas Harpey for Military Excellence.

Henlopen Post 5 Donation of $650 to Rehoboth Little League

Patrick Devine (Post 18 and Boys State 2009) administering the Oath to Sean Devine - Boys State Governor 2014

Photo to the left the two girls selected to attend Girls Nation Bottom photo Girls State Class of 2019
Chapter 2 Riders escorting the Vietnam Veterans mobile wall to the Lewes - Cape May Ferry Terminal on May 16
David C. Harrison Chapter 14

Legion Riders Attend Benefit for The Imagination Players

The Legion Riders have called on The Imagination Players, a group of young singers several times over the last couple of years to perform at events such as the annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Post and the annual Veterans Picnic at Pinnacle Nursing Home in Smyrna. Without hesitation they have always agreed to perform. They have also performed at Veterans Events all over the state.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, The Imagination Players held a benefit at the Five Points Fire Hall in Newport, Tennessee. Legion Riders members from Post 14 attended to show our support. During the show we presented the group a certificate of appreciation from the Riders as well as gave them a donation.

Legion Riders Attend Ride to the Tide

On Sunday, April 14, 2019 several members of the Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna participated in the 13th annual “Ride to the Tide” a motorcycle ride to raise money for Special Olympics. The ride is put on by the Blue Knights of Delaware. This ride has become so popular that the hosts have to limit it to a maximum of 1000 motorcycles and this year was sold out quite a while prior to the ride date. The 1000 riders were joined by over 400 passengers. Over $61,000 was raised by this event.

Legion Riders Attend Brian Conley Resilience Center Dedication

Some of our members were fortunate enough to attend this event April 27th, 2019 along with A Hero’s Welcome. Great ceremony, large crowd and a fantastic job by the Conley family.

DELAWARE LEGION RIDERS RAISE OVER $750 FOR LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On Saturday, May 11, riders from Post 14 joined other riders from chapters throughout the State of Delaware for the annual Legacy Scholarship Fund Poker Run. It was a cool and breezy day as the ride got underway at Harrington Post 14. The ride meandered through back roads with a few peeks of sunshine and we found our way to Post 17 in Lewes. After spending a bit of time there we proceeded to the next stop, Post 19 in Laurel where they were serving hamburgers and hot dogs. With the food taken care of we got back on the road for our next stop in Dagsboro at Post 24. A quick stop and we were on our way to the final stop, Oak Orchard Post 24 in Millsboro where we drew our cards for the poker run. Unlike last year none of our riders were successful at drawing a good hand so we left the prizes for someone else.

Legion Riders Visiting Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall

On Sunday, May 19 Legion Riders from Post 14 Smyrna along with some friends from Post 566 in Glenolden, Pennsylvania had an opportunity to visit the Moving Wall which is a half size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. The Moving Wall was brought to Delaware by the William T Spooner American Legion Post 17 in Lewes, Delaware. Kudos to our brothers and sisters from American Legion Post 17 for the job they did. You should be proud of what you have done.

The Moving Wall was displayed at the Cape May – Lewes Ferry Terminal in Lewes. The display was magnificent and the hospitality from Post 17 was beyond words. We had a chance to visit with several members of the post and also with some other veterans who were visiting. Some of those encounters were moving to say the least and a stark reminder of the sacrifices of those whose names appear on the wall. Never forget those who laid down their lives in sacrifice. We are here and have the freedoms we have because of them.

“Welcome Home”

Saturday, May 25, 2019

The first order of the day was to assist other members of American Legion Post 14 and the Boy Scouts in placing flags at the graves of veterans in various cemeteries around Smyrna. Thanks to all who came out and participated.

After participating in this event we rode to the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware and participated in the annual Memorial Day Ceremony given by the Cemetery and the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. The host this year was our very own Riders Treasurer Lester Link, who is also the Commander of Del Vets Post 2 in Dover. Great job Les.

Speakers at the ceremony included Delaware State Representative Earl Jacques, Delaware Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long and Delaware Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Director Larence Kirby.

Photos in order of story: 1) Imagination Players 2) Ride to the Tide 3) Resilience Center 4) Moving Wall-ALR Post #14 Steve Kellam, ALR Post #14 Director, Jimmy Cree, Post #566 Glenolden PA, Essy Rowe, ALR Post #14 Safety Officer 5) DE Veterans Cemetery- Les Link, ALR Post #14 Treasurer
Legion Riders attend Rolling Thunder
Sunday, May 26, 2019. At 6:00 AM, as the first glimpses of the sun became visible on the horizon, members of the Legion Riders from Post 14 in Smyrna, DE set out to participate in Rolling Thunder XXXII. Organizers of the event say this is the last one citing increased costs and lack of co-operation from the Pentagon.

Shortly after 7:00 AM we rolled into a parking lot in Stevensville, Maryland and picked up some more of our members before heading into the holiday weekend traffic in Washington DC. The promised crowds of bikes did not disappoint. Hundreds of thousands showed up for this annual event and it was probably right up there with the best ever. The only difficult part was trying to stay together as a group and battle heat in the 90’s. Many of us returned home with our share of sunburn. We stopped in Kent Narrows to rehydrate and fill our stomachs, then began our individual journeys to different destinations.

As many of us prepare for more events honoring the fallen over the next few days, please take time from your Memorial Day celebrations and pause to remember those who sacrificed everything. Rolling Thunder was organized to remember those who gave their lives and bring attention to the 85,000 service men and women who have still never returned since World War II. In the words of the Wreaths Across America organization, REMEMBER our fallen US Veterans, HONOR those who serve and TEACH our children the value of freedom.

Legion Riders Attend Chair of Honor Dedication
On June 1, 2019, the Veterans Association of Noble’s Pond, a 55+ community in Cheswold, Delaware dedicated a POW/MIA Chair of Honor in their community. Led by Rolling Thunder New Jersey Chapter 2, a small contingent of riders including Nam Knights MC and the Legion Riders of Post 14 Smyrna, DE, made their way from the Cheswold Fire Department to the Noble’s Pond Community located on McKee Road, escorted by the Cheswold Police and Cheswold Fire Company. As we turned into the community we were greeted by a large group of flag waving, cheering residents. Riding through the rest of the community it seemed as if everyone who was not at the entrance was standing in their driveways waving and clapping. What a wonderful welcome.

As we finished the ride we gathered in front of the clubhouse where the Chair of Honor is located and had a brief ceremony to dedicate the chair. The main speaker was the President of the Rolling Thunder Chapter 2. His remarks were followed by the President of the Veterans Association of the Community who presented Rolling Thunder with a plaque for their hard work in making the Chair of Honor a reality.

Legion Riders Attend Habitat for Humanity Ride
On Saturday, June 8 the Legion Riders from Post 14 participated in the fifth annual Hammer Down for Humanity, a ride sponsored by A to Z Cycles to benefit Habitat for Humanity. We were honored to be asked to be the starting point for the ride. Partnered with our Post Auxiliary, we offered breakfast for the participants. Once again the ride was great and very successful. Best of all, proceeds will benefit Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity and creating affordable home-ownership opportunities for low-income families right here in Kent County, Delaware!

Legion Riders Honor Veterans at Dover Place
On Monday, July 1, 2019, Legion Riders from Smyrna Post 14 partnered with Delaware Veterans Post 2 and A Hero’s Welcome Delaware to honor the veterans currently living in Dover Place, an assisted living facility in Dover, Delaware. Nine of the veterans currently living there attended the ceremony and were given certificates of appreciation by those of us who attended. The group was mostly made up of World War II and Korean War Vets. After giving the certificates to the individuals, one of the ladies present who lives at the facility led the group in the singing of God Bless America and then everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

Post #14 participated in Smyrna Clayton Parade
July 4, the Legion Riders from Post 14 along with other members of the post participated in the annual Smyrna-Clayton parade. Although it is a rather short parade it is well attended by members of the community. Together with members of Kent County ABATE we lead the parade down Main Street in Clayton.

Photos in order as shown in story: 1) ALR Post #14 2) The walk past the wall 3) Steve Kellam, Director ALR Post #14 and a sweet Nurse we met 4) Noble Pond 5) A Hero’s Welcome members, Steve Kellam, Director ALR Post #14, Janet Link, PR ALR Post #14, Chris Kisner- Post #14, Jim Fretz- Delaware Veterans Post #2, Anna Lopez- past commander Delaware Veterans Post #2, Nancy George- Delaware Veterans Post #2 Auxiliary President, Clare Marion- Membership- ALR Post #14 and Larry Marion- Road Captain ALR Post #14 6) Group photo including veterans at Dover Place 7) A Hero’s Welcome presenting Spc Christopher J Kisner, Post #14 with Warrior beads 8) Dave Lange-Commander, Lisa Rose-ALA Unit #14 President, Jen Havel- ALA Dept of DE President, Mike Havel 9)- Post #14 members
Legion Riders Attend Habitat for Humanity Ride

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Legion rides attend 50 State POW/MIA flag tour

On May 28th some of the Legion Riders participated in the POW/MIA Flag tour starting at Delaware State Police Troop 2. Our host Delaware State Police Troop 2, Color Guard, Bugler and Chaplain provided by DSP. A Hero's Welcome was supported by the Delaware Blue Knights and Legion Riders Post #14. Ralph Galati, Former POW Vietnam Combat Veteran was sick. Steve Kellam a Vietnam Combat Veteran himself read Ralph's message to the audience. A big shoes to fill, Steve did a fantastic job, no one cold of delivered the message better.

Stop #2 was Middletown High School. On May 29th the Holy Cross School.

Our new Commander of Post #14, David Lange.

David Lange
Legacy Run Presentation

Steve Kellam presents two $500 checks, one from American Legion Post 14 and the other from the Riders at Post 14 to Chuck Parisan, Delaware Department Director of the Riders. These checks are to support the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Photos in order of story: 1) Kenny Coldiron- Asst Director ALR Post #14, Dave Lange- Commander Post #14, Lisa Lange, ALR Post #14 2) Janet Link- PR ALR Post #14, Dianna Hufford- Secretary ALA Unit #14, John Hufford- Vice Commander Post #14 3) Steve Kellam and Les Link looking out over the crowd 4) the crowd 5) group photo of volunteers 6) Steve Kellam, ALR Post 14 Director 7) group of photo of participants 8) group photo of partici-
May DEC

Walter L Fox Post 2 Placing Flags for Memorial Day
The American Legion Post 17 sponsored its 12th Annual Veteran’s fishing trip on June 19, 2019. Altogether, 35 veterans from Milford’s Delaware Veterans Home, Home of the Brave, and volunteers trekked out to the pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. The weather had been threatening earlier but seemed stable, but very cloudy. Horseshoe crabs and pregnant (sponge) crabs were the predominant catch, until Post Commander Ed Bergen nabbed a large skate on his line. After a tense fight, the Commander cut the line and let the skate live on. Coffee, doughnuts and ice water were provided on the pier by the Auxiliary, and a hearty lunch was served back at the Post to all attendees. Pocket flags were presented to the veterans at the lunch. American Legion Post 17 has been sponsoring this trip for 12 years, and it has been a great way for veterans to help fellow veterans. Helping someone bait a fishing line, while standing outside on a pier and recalling their days of military service together is a sight to behold. With the help of the Unit 17 Auxiliary, the SALs of Post 17 made sure all the fishing equipment, coolers, and wheelchairs got unloaded and pushed up and down the long pier. Twice a year, weather permitting, the American Legion Family of Post 17 hosts these fishing trips, providing our veterans with fun, fellowship, and lunch. Veterans Fishing Trip, June 2019 Sponsored by American Legion Post 17 of Lewes. Photos in order of story: 1) the clouds were threatening during the June 2019 fishing trip, but veterans from the Delaware Veterans Home and Home of the Brave toughened it out. Pictured (center, in orange) is Unit 17 Auxiliary member Carol Wright [Photos by Cindy Butler] 2) Sometimes baiting the line is the hardest part, and the American Legion Family of Post 17 all work together. Pictured (left to right) are Legionnaire Fred Chidester, Auxiliary member Gail Sellazzo, and SAL Finance Officer Nick Sellazzo. 3) SAL Finance Officer Nick Sellazzo baits a fishing line for Harold (center, plaid shirt) of the Delaware Veterans Home. Harold is an Army veteran who served during Vietnam. Looking on is Auxiliary volunteer Carol Wright. 4&5) Harold (plaid shirt) was thankful to be outside and tried hard to catch a keeper but to no avail. Harold, of the Delaware Veterans Home, is assisted by Auxiliary President Murt Foos (top photo) in untangling lines, and by fellow Vietnam Veteran Ron (bottom photo) with baiting the line. 6) Happy to be outside and smelling the fresh bay air are veterans from Milford. 7) The horseshoe crabs were especially active this day. Commander Ed Bergen (white shirt) and Post Service Officer Bert Long (orange shirt) wrestle with their catch of two horseshoe crabs and one clam. 8) Finally a fish is caught! Holding the spot is Rick DeWitt, employee and driver for the Delaware Veterans Home, and seated is Alvin Puller, a three-year Army veteran and now, an accomplished fisherman. 9) Post Commander Ed Bergen has snared something heavy and fighting, while Post Finance Officer Dan Catts looks on. 10) Commander’s catch: a large skate. 11) Some of the veterans and volunteers from American Legion Post 17’s Spring Fishing Trip 2019.
The Moving Wall

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Milford Post 3 Installation and Membership Awards

Photos going by rows left to right from top to bottom:
1) Commander Soriano displaying new table banner
2) Chaplin James Baker being installed by Dept Chaplin R. Wayne Hicks
3) Adjutant Jeffrey Crouser and asst. Adjutant Bob Voshell being installed by NEC Robert Mitchell
4) 1st Vice Commander John Roberts being installed by Department then 2nd Vice Commander Barry Sauers
5) Then Department Commander James Stewart congratulating Commander Nancy Soriano on continuing her role as Commander

Photos 6 through 10 are Commander Nancy Soriano receiving numerous membership awards from Department:
- Post 100% Goal
- Post 100% Goal Plus Plaque
- Plaque to one Post with the highest percentage of membership over its 100% Goal
- Veterans' Day Award
- President's Day Award
- Legion Birthday Award
- Armed Forces Day Award
- 2019 Membership Honor Ribbon
Lewes Military Banner Project Celebrates Veterans and Reunites Local Sister with her Brother

Lewes Military Banner Project Celebrates Veterans and Reunites Local Sister with her Brother American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17—inspired by the 100th Anniversaries of the American Legion and its Auxiliary as military service organizations—began planning last spring to make a visual impact in the community. Volunteers appeared before the City of Lewes and Bureau of Public Works with an idea: display actual photos of our hometown heroes on the town’s utility poles. The Military Banner Program was approved, and these banners—proudly saluting local veterans—were installed mid-May 2019, just before the arrival of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall and the Lewes Memorial Day Parade. Thirty banners were showcased along Savannah Road and Cape Henlopen Drive. Now that the Fourth of July has passed, the BPW has removed the military troop banners for the year and will put them up again next spring (from Memorial Day to Fourth of July weekend each year). In order to view the banners now, visit www. troopbanners.com/Lewes. The popularity of this banner program has spread, as nearby Milton officials are considering erecting similar banners in their Memorial Park. Although these banners are a visible sign of patriotism, they have touched the lives of one local family more personally. Sandy Keen (a new Auxiliary Unit 17 member) wanted to honor her father with a banner but needed paperwork to complete the application. She reached out to family she hadn’t heard from in years and was delighted to reconnect with her half-brother whom she has not seen or talked to in 56 years. When Sandy was young, her parents divorced, and her father remarried and had a son Bob with his second wife. Tragically on December 20, 1963, Sandy’s father died in a workplace accident when she was 13 and her half-brother Bob was 3 years old. As the father was the only common thread they shared, Sandy and half-brother Bob were separated for all those years, until the Lewes Military Banner Program reunited them, and they now stay in touch.

photos in order of story placement: 1) Sandy and half-brother Bob, both at 4 years old. 2) Bob and Sandy are now reunited and stay in touch. Bob and his wife Beth live in nearby Claymont, Delaware, and the two plan visits throughout the summer. 3) Bob and Sandy’s father, Wesley Caleb Henderson, brought them together through the Lewes Military Banner Program, hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17. 4) Pictured here is his actual banner that had been displayed on Cape Henlopen Drive. 5) Henderson’s banner being installed by Lewes Bureau of Public Works last May.
Milford Post 3 was a post without its own home for numerous years just renting meeting space after selling their property. Membership was declining due to location and inability to use the space for anything other than the once a month general membership meeting. The active members felt lost and had no one to step forward within the post to help, so they were thinking of turning in the post’s charter.

Commander Nancy Soriano attended a Kent District Membership Revitalization to discuss options with the Department Officers. An alliance was formed that the new blood would transfer in and help but the existing membership had to agree to work as hard as their new recruits. Milford Post 3 won every membership award in their category for the 2018/19 Legion year and as of this writing they are at 45% for this Legion year. Our success was in part moving the meeting location to Blue Hen VFW Post 6483 where an agreement was made for us to use their meeting facilities and to volunteer on some of the projects, they needed assistance with. The other part was reaching out to unrenewed members, not asking them to renew, but just letting them know of the changes that were taking place and that Milford Post 3 was still a viable American Legion.

Now for the exciting news, WE ARE NO LONGER HOMELESS!!!. Yes, you read that correctly. Milford Post 3 has entered into a lease agreement for 4000 sf of space that includes a full kitchen, bar area with seating and 1200 sf of open space to be used as their meeting/function hall. We will be located in The Plaza at Milford situated directly on Route 113 on the Northbound side. The lease includes a provision giving the post a space on the sign prominently displayed at the traffic signal on 113. The address is 664 N Dupont Hwy, Milford. We would like to be opened by October 1st but have a grand opening gala tentatively scheduled for Friday November 1st, 2019.

We look forward to serving our veterans and community in new and exciting ways. We also hope to see plenty of traveling visitors stopping into say hello and enjoying the comradery and fellowship of our Post Home.

The photo below is the new space awaiting its renovations photo credit Richard Benedict.
May 2019: A Busy and Successful Month for American Legion Family of Post 17

As is usual during each May, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 of Lewes distributed bright-red poppies in honor and memory of fallen veterans. Volunteers are posted outside local businesses and offer hand-made flowers in exchange for contributions used to support veteran and active military needs. In this area, the Unit focuses on programs such as Delaware Veterans Stand Down, Wreaths Across America; residences of Milford Veterans Home, Milford Home of the Brave I and II; and supply packages for military members serving overseas. Locally, many residents and visitors wear the poppy as a sign of support for veterans and are eager to get a new flower each year. The end of the month brings the annual Lewes Memorial Day Parade hosted by Post 17. There was no line of bright fire trucks and apparatus, or local organizations donning their best—it’s simply honoring and remembering—or even some healing—to those who have carried the wounds of this war for so long. Available (at The Wall or at Post 17) all weekend to assist were Veterans Outreach of Delaware; VET Center of Sussex County; and the Vietnam Veterans of American, Sussex Chapter. Our Vietnam War Era veterans were proud to serve their fallen comrades named on the reflective panels, while other veterans, troops currently serving, and the community came to pay tribute. All felt the pride of patriotism and being a part of something larger than each of us. That said, the American Legion Family of Post 17 extends sincere gratitude for every penny, every dollar, every smile, every idea, and all the hours of thinking and planning and doing. We are honored and humbled with all that has been done, and with the outpouring of generous volunteerism, that brought the Moving Wall to this community that we hold dear.

Photos in order of story: 1) Pictured at the Lewes Farmers Market are (left to right) Auxiliary President Murt Foss, Senator Ernie Lopez, and Unit members Gail Sellazzo and Pat Schneider. 2) Poppy Co-Chair Dorothy Murray (in red) is busy promoting the Auxiliary’s Poppy Program with the help of Cape Henlopen JROTC Cadets Jose Chavez-Mendez, Natalia Brunskill, and JROTC Instructor 1st Sergeant Phillip Webb. 3) At left, the Cape Henlopen JROTC Color Guard, followed by officers of Post 17, begin the procession. 4) World War II era vehicles were driven by the Cape Henlopen U.S. Army Reserve, 946th Transportation Unit, with local veterans inside. 5) The color guards crest the canal bridge, with Cape Henlopen JROTC cadettes in front with Post/Squadron 17 members closely behind. Some local Free Riders are in the foreground. 6) Thanks to Col. Robert L. Nance, Commander, 436th Operations Group, Dover AFB and his staff, a hugely majestic C-5 transport plane performed a tribute fly-over at the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall. The pilot and crew could not have been aware of the thunderous applause from below as it passed over the Wall, and “tipped the wing” in respect. 7) An aerial view of waterfront Wall and the approach of the C-5. 8) American Legion Post 17’s 1st Vice Commander Mike Mulligan performs “Taps,” while cadets from Dover Air Force Base stand by. 9) Saluting the U.S. Flag, while “Taps” were being played, are members of the U.S. Army Reserves, 946th Transportation Company of Lewes. 10) New Unit 17 Historian Nancy Bush assists Jefferson School Student Daphne with name rubbing at The Wall. 11) Just some of the army of volunteers who worked day and night during the Moving Wall’s five-day stay at Lewes.
My Fellow Legionnaires,

This issue has been a joy to put together with a few articles from some new sources. Remember it does not matter what size the article send it in: One photo and a brief description or 5 photos and a page long story. The Troop 78 story came in to us via text message. We are starting a new email schedule sending out reminders around each holiday and mid month during the ones that do not have a major event. There is no need to wait until the deadline to send in your stories please do it while the event is fresh in your mind.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this years Department Convention a success. No matter how small you think your contribution is, helping carry a box or $5 for a ticket, everything each one of us does adds up to make an event or project a success.

Yours in Legion Service,
Jeffrey K. Crouser
Rebecca C. Crouser
Co-Chairs Media and Communication

Poppy Program 2019 is Again a Success for American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17

Auxiliary Unit members are outside local businesses and offer hand-made flowers in exchange for contributions used to support veteran and active military needs. In this area, the Unit focuses on programs such as Delaware Veterans Stand Down, Wreaths Across America; residences of Milford Veterans Home, Milford Home of the Brave I and II; and supply packages for military members serving overseas.

Poppy Committee Co-Chairs Linda Roper and Dorothy Murray extend their appreciation to Best Ace Hardware stores of Lewes and Milton, Ocean Grill at Five Points, Dollar Tree in Midway, and the Lewes Farmers Market for consenting to have poppy stations outside their establishments. The Unit is grateful for such a generous community of supporters.

This year—the 100th Anniversaries of the American Legion and its Auxiliary—inspired volunteers to spend hours creating hardy poppies out of used plastic water bottles. These shiny flowers were placed around the U.S. flag outside the Post, to celebrate both the anniversary and to welcome the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall, which was brought here mid-May, in a large part by poppy donations.

Photos in order of story placement: 1)Pictured at the Lewes Farmers Market are (left to right) Auxiliary President Murt Foos, Senator Ernie Lopez, and Unit members Gail Sellazzo and Pat Schneider. 2)The finished “poppy field” outside Post 17 in May.3) Poppy Co-Chair Dorothy Murray (in red) is busy promoting the Auxiliary’s Poppy Program at Milton’s Ace Hardware, with the help of Cape Henlopen JROTC Cadets (left to right) Jose Chavez-Mendez, Natalia Brunskill and JROTC Instructor 1st Sergeant Phillip Webb.

Throughout the month of May, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 17 of Lewes distributed bright-red poppies in honor and memory of fallen veterans. Launched in 1921, the Poppy Campaign connects the visual image of the poppy as a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn by Americans to honor those who served and died for our country. Many wear the poppy as a sign of support for veterans.