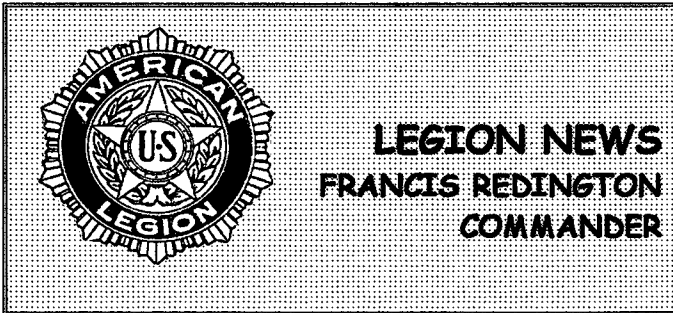


CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FEBRUARY 2000



Having escaped the 1900's in one piece, WE as Legionnaires can look forward to many exciting accomplishments that are OURS to produce this year. What a way to start the New Year off with projects that would mean everyone could do something to benefit the Post. A common cause to unite everyone in the Post.

The Board of Trustees is moving ahead with plans to erect the Post Home without selling off any of the Post's property. They are actively seeking bids to determine the amount of capital that will be needed to accomplish the initial project. That will include a building, parking areas, drainage project and equipment to furnish the building. WE would like to have your input of suggestions, ideas or sweat equity to help accomplish this project. In the meantime we have other programs that are ongoing that WE also need your help or suggestions to accomplish.

Coming up in March we will be deciding who will head this Post next year.

In April, WE will elect the individuals to lead this Post into 2001.

In May, the officers elected will be installed into their respective positions.

The end of May will bring in Memorial Day services at the Memorial Park Carillon.

July 4th brings Independence Day and more remembrances of comrades and days gone by.

By that time, the 2000 elections will be in our immediate future. WE MUST study all the candidates and their platforms. Make sure WE help get as many Veterans as possible to VOTE-VOTE-VOTE. The Veterans can put people in Congress who will help get back at least some of the benefits WE have lost through negligence of NON-VETERANS making these choices for US. If you think your vote doesn't count, think again. If anyone thinks they will need assistance in getting to the polls, all they need to do is contact an officer of the Post for assistance.

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
SR VICE COMMANDER	
JR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	NORM MOYER
SGT-AT-ARMS	NORM HARPOLE
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT

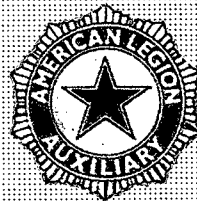
DUES \$25.00

WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918
WORLD WAR II
DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946
KOREAN WAR
JUN 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1956
VIETNAM WAR
DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975
GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24, 1982 - JUL 31 1984
PANAMA
DEC 20, 1989 - JAN 31, 1990
PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 UNTIL THE
END OF HOSTILITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
SECRETARY	ANITA MCFADDEN
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN	JUDITH MCFADDEN
SGT-AT-ARM	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00



AUXILIARY NEWS
DOT DASSERO
PRESIDENT

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.
VFW POST #4051, 430 E PIKES PEAK AVE.
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKY STE 104
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944

719-599-8624

Not much news from the Auxiliary. As you know we are meeting at the upstairs room in the VFW Post on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. We surely would like to see some of you show up. We still need a few memberships to make our quota so if you haven't already, please get your dues in the mail. Barbara is holding her breath, hoping we'll make our quota. Those Past Presidents who have not paid those dues need to get them to Barbara also.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the annual Mid-Year Conference will be over. Any news items will be reported in the next issue.

**COLD WAR CERTIFICATES
AVAILABLE**

NORM HARPOLE, SGT-AT-ARMS

If you were in the military or worked for the U. S. Government between the dates of December 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991 and your service was honorable, you are eligible for a Cold War Recognition Certificate. National Guard and Reservists are eligible. You may apply by sending a letter to Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Ste 400, Fairfax, VA 22030, by fax at 703-275-6749, or via the Internet at coldwar.army.mil (the Army is running the site but the certificate is for all who served in any branch). You must include proof of service, such as DD214, or in the case of civilian service, the appropriate personnel documents. Send copies, do not send originals as they will not be returned.

I will have a sample letter of application available at the next general membership meeting. Expect a wait of six to eight months delay from the time they receive your paperwork until you get your certificate.

The certificate is from the Department of Defense and signed by the Secretary of Defense. If you served, then you deserve this award.

Questions? Call me and leave a message at 596-2649, or email me at . I'll do my best to answer your questions.

REPRINTED FROM THE PALS BULLETIN,
DECEMBER 1999

**VETS - ABANDONED BY VETS, THE
PUBLIC AND POLITICIANS**
by John E. Heim PDC

The key line in McRae's "In Flanders Fields" is "If Ye break faith with we who died, we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders Fields." To me this means that every veteran has an obligation to his comrades, living and dead. It is the same obligation we had to them when we all served together. But today, many of the living vets and the public have been led to believe that all is well among those unseen veterans with disabilities. That is NOT SO!

For most of us, after WWII, we had the GI Bill which meant jobs, a chance to reacquaint ourselves to civilian life, loans for homes, a chance for a better education, and VA Hospitals to provide care for those with service-connected disabilities. We had veterans organizations to see that those in the VA Hospitals received the promised care. If they didn't, these organizations were able to have the situations rectified. Thus, many vets were lulled into the belief that their obligation to other vets was over. NOT TRUE!

Today, the VA System is under the most severe attack ever. Since 1997, its budget has been flat-lined under the Balanced Budget Agreement until 2002. Simply put, that means no increases in expenditures despite an increased workload and higher pay needed to retain trained caregivers.

This year most veterans organizations agree the present year 2000 budget is \$1.9 billion short of the VA's needs. Over 3 billion short of its needs since 1977, over 2,000 employees must be laid off. Also, health care workers who can get better pay in non-government health care jobs will leave voluntarily.

All of this adds up to the following:

Insufficient funds for the expected Hepatitis "C" cases that are developing into epidemic proportions among the Vietnam Vets. These are the same vets who waited over 10 years before most of their Agent Orange claims were finally recognized. Yet only recently some new cancers and the Spina-Bifida cases have been recognized as herbicide related.

Causes of the Gulf War Syndrome have yet to be determined and these veterans need help. Those skeptics that still refuse to believe the Gulf War Veterans have a real illness should meet with these victims.

Many from all wars suffer from some type of PTSD. (I know a veteran from WWII who still screams every night.)

Older veterans can't get to and from the outpatient clinics or hospitals because many cannot manage by themselves or can no longer drive. They rely on family or others to drive them and wait for them, or, if they can afford it, get other providers.

The periods between visits to care providers have been extended and the waiting period when the

veteran arrives has been lengthened. However few complain about the services they receive after they finally get them. Only 50 of the 8,000 vets claiming radiation exposure have been granted benefits.

\$18 billion was cut from a prior budget to prevent the VA judging, and perhaps treating, a few of those claims (about 5,000) that smoking addiction began with cigarette rations.

There are inadequate funds for the 1/3 of the homeless population that are Veterans.

Subvention: the ability of the Social Security system to make their usual payments to the VA rather than into the general funds, still faces a legislative roadblock.

It is difficult to find Congressmen or Senators, few of who have ever served in the Armed Forces, who understand what vets are talking or writing about when we bring these matters up. They have no concept of the VA hospitals as places of honor for Veterans. Nor do they recognize that the VA is the fallback system should there be a major war. They don't understand that Veteran's diseases and wounds are vastly different that the treatments civilian hospitals are able to provide. When questioned, they launch into set phrases professing they are always staunch supporters and they still consider your position when it comes time to vote. But they don't vote for veterans because they do not see a veteran voting block - they recognize other blocs. However, many of these blocks the

legislators support represent rather narrow self-interest groups of little value to the entire country.

When is the last time you heard Washington television or radio pundits talk about veterans' issues? When is the last time you saw a major editorial in a magazine talk about the above issues? Veterans have become an invisible part of our society and, as such, have lost status, and thus the care they merit for their service.

I suggest all veterans, whenever they go to the voting booth or help local representatives run for any elective office, wear a veterans cap, a lapel pin, their ruptured duck, a t-shirt or anything they possess that labels them as a veteran. Further, spouses of veterans should likewise remind others of this nation's obligations to our veterans.

Veterans gave and should not be deserted now! In particular they should not be deserted by their fellow vets who managed to get on with their lives without joining a veterans organization and the need to fall back on the VA for services and help that other Vets need and deserve!

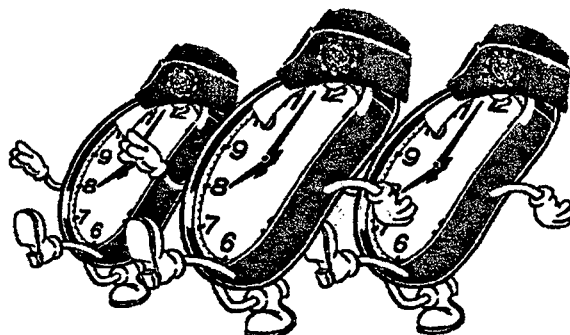
ADJUTANT'S ANNOTATIONS ANN FOSTER

Membership is now at 251. Eleven more would give us 85%. 57 more would give us 100%.

Expansion is still going on at the Outpatient Clinic (formerly called the Satellite Clinic). They have reached a patient load of 5,000 already.

Hospitalized Veterans Day Salute will be February 14, 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

Don't Wait Until The Last Minute...



Re-new Your Membership TODAY

"to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars."



Tell Your Story

Enroll in the Veterans
Media Databank online
at <www.legion.org>.
Make yourself available
to journalists seeking a
veterans voice.