

KILDUFF-WIRTANEN LEGION POST 74



• 38 Main Street •
PO Box 761 Brookline, NH 03033-0761

December 2016 Newsletter

Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post 74, Brookline, NH meets the 4th Thursday of the month* at 38 Main Street Brookline. Meetings begin at 1900 hours (7PM). *Nov and Dec meeting held 3rd Thursday.
If you wish to join or have questions about the American Legion, please call one of the Post Officers.

Next Meeting:

15 December at 7:00 PM

November Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Commander Dave Larkin. 9 members present and no guests.

Colors advanced, prayer offered, POW/MIA empty chair recognized, prayers offered for those lost and unaccounted for and the Preamble recited.

MEMBERSHIP: Barry Reinbold transferred into our Post. Bob Glover reported that Richard and Carmen Pelton transferred their membership to Post 59 in Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 2016 meeting were read. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Minutes be approved as read; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer's Report for November 2016 was read. Bob Glover reported the Post received income from distribution of Poppies in the amount of \$745.05; a donation of \$50 presented this evening; and new member dues. The Post paid the electric bill of \$28.80. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as read; seconded by Del Porter and unanimously approved.

SICK CALL AND EMPLOYMENT:

- Bob Glover stated he is feeling better and healing.
- Del Porter stated he is feeling better and healing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bob Glover stated he and his daughter, Pam, coordinated with Janet Foster and they will complete the audit shortly.
- Bob Glover stated the American Legion Store does not sell magnetic American Legion emblems so he purchased 3 of the large emblems that have adhesive backings so we can put one on the Flag Deposit Box and have two for future use.
- Repair and Winterization of the Post building: Greg d'Arbonne stated he is waiting for a professional mason to come look at what needs to be done to the basement before we incorporate the wrong solution to fixing the leaks in the basement. Del Porter stated the drain pipes through the ramp outside look like they are plugged up so that might be why the basement flooded after the very heavy rain. Del also stated the vent pipe at the southern corner in the front of the building is likely leaking as water is seeping into the front foyer from that area. Del also stated we should add quarter-round molding along the floor-walls on the interior south and north walls, as well as take the wainscoting in the basement and finish around the kitchen island. Francis LaFreniere suggested that if we continue to have problems with the basement and water flooding we should consider getting a 20-gallon barrel, dig a hole in the dirt portion of the basement, and put the barrel in there to drain the water and then have a sump pump empty it to alleviate the flood and water problems.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Del Porter made a motion that the Post make a \$100 donation to the Brookline Food Bank; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE POST:

- Commander Larkin stated Charlotte Farwell gave him the Manual of Ceremonies she found that George used in 1956, 1959 (when he was the post Commander) and 1981, along with the newsletter from December 2004. Dave stated we will keep these as historical items about the Post.
- Commander Larkin spoke about the Veterans Count Dinner he, Bruce Moran and Greg d'Arbonne attended. He said the guest speaker, Staff Sergeant (Retired) Travis Mills, one of five quadruple amputee Veterans, gave an amazing speech and how impressive Travis was.
- Commander Larkin stated he took his mother to the Lowell, MA Social Security office after the death of his step-father and was very impressed at

how well the process went for his mother to claim her benefits.

- Greg d'Arbonne stated the Boy Scout Troop wants to help the Post with a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser for both organizations. The tentative date is 6 May 2017. The concept is the dinner will be open to the public and held either at the Community Church or the Firehouse. To raise funds, attendees will be charged a small fee and advertisements printed on placemats will help generate funds as well. The event will need everyone's assistance in getting the word out and collecting donations and advertisements. Any food and paper products that can be donated will help to keep the costs down.

There being no further business, the closing prayer was said and the colors retired. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM. The next meeting is 15 December (due to the Christmas Holiday season) at 7 PM.

News of Interest to Veterans

Private Offers from Veteran-Friendly Merchants

Visit Veterans Discount Directory and click on Cities Covered to see what discounts are offered in your area. It's fast, easy and super convenient.

The Veterans Discount Directory provides veterans and active duty servicemembers private access to exclusive year-round discounts and freebies offered by veteran-friendly merchants.

While many businesses reach out to veterans and active duty servicemembers by offering discounts and freebies, many veterans are well aware that some businesses do not advertise or promote discounted prices from products or services. In fact, it is being discovered every day that more businesses would like to advertise their offers to veterans, but can't find the time to make it happen or doing so is not in their operating budget.

Online searches for discounted deals have been helpful to many veterans, and there are many very good websites that help veterans and active duty servicemembers find discount deals offered by veteran-friendly merchants. However, some veterans are discovering that the merchants on some websites either don't offer discounts as suggested on the website, or it is much different than what is indicated on a particular website.

U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs (USVCP) has reached out to thousands of merchants, and continue reaching out via direct telephone contact to business owners and managers seeking discounts for veterans and active duty servicemembers. A team of highly eager discount specialists find the deals many websites don't publish and provide discount stipulations missed by many websites. These special relationships have resulted in very exclusive offers that are only accessed via the Veterans Discount Directory.

Download a free version of the Veterans Discount Directory today:

- Website for information: <http://www.veterandiscountdirectory.com/>
- Directory in PDF format for download: <http://www.veterandiscountdirectory.com/files/119639552.pdf>

Points To Ponder

The views expressed in the following article were deemed interesting enough by me to include in the newsletter. I take full responsibility and the content does not reflect the opinion of the members of the Post. Please contact me if these articles offend you. – Greg d'Arbonne

The Army Navy Game of 1945

As I send out this e-mail, the game is being played tomorrow so I have no idea how bad Army lost...oops, I was just assuming based on "past performance". Of course, my loyalties are to the Army and them winning (unless they play Fordham, my alma mater, and then, go Rams!) but the following story gave me a chuckle. - Greg

We in company H-2, later M-2, had constructed two vehicles. One was built upon an amphibious vehicle. We built a superstructure on it to resemble a Navy ship. The other looked like an Army tank and was mounted on a flatbed trailer. A platform ahead held a 75mm pack howitzer. The plan was to fire the howitzer at the ship, which was rigged to collapse its superstructure and emit clouds up colored smoke. I was the gunner on the howitzer. So, the tank chased the ship around the football field until they stopped at opposite ends of the 50-yard line.

As was then the custom, the President attended the game. His box was on the 50-yard line on the Navy side and he was to change sides at the half. The secret service was on extra alert, because there had been an assassination rumor. They got very excited when they saw me point a cannon at the President's box.

They came running across the field waving their arms and screaming "Stop!". We had put a lot of effort into this skit. So, I fired the howitzer. The superstructure collapsed, colored smoke erupted, and the Army mule appeared behind the tank. The only damage was to the secret service people who got sprayed with flaming cotton from the blank round.

I can't remember who won the game.

Husband and Wife Christmas Shopping

A couple were in a busy shopping center just before Christmas. The wife suddenly noticed that her husband was missing and as they had a lot to do, so she called him on the mobile.

The wife said " Where are you, you know we have lots to do."

He said "You remember the jewelers we went into about 10 years ago, and you fell in love with that diamond necklace? I could not afford it at the time and I said that one day I would get it for you?"

Little tears started to flow down her cheek and she got all choked up...

"Yes, I do remember that shop." she replied.

"Well I am in the gun shop next door to that."

Sacrifice In The Service

One Sunday morning, the priest noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small U.S.A. flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "good morning Alex."

"Good morning Father," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father, what is this?" he asked the priest.

The priest said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?".

A General Mattis Christmas Story

No matter your feelings about whether General Mattis should or should not be the next Secretary of Defense, the following story exemplifies what being a leader in the military is all about. I hope that I was the kind of leader people would remember stories about me like this. – Greg

A couple of months ago, when I told General Krulak, the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, now the chair of the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, that we were having General Mattis speak this evening, he said, "Let me tell you a Jim Mattis story."

General Krulak said, when he was Commandant of the Marine Corps, every year, starting about a week before Christmas, he and his wife would bake hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Christmas cookies. They would package them in small bundles.

Then on Christmas day, he would load his vehicle. At about 4 a.m., General Krulak would drive himself to every Marine guard post in the Washington-Annapolis-Baltimore area and deliver a small package of Christmas cookies to whatever Marines were pulling guard duty that day. He said that one year, he had gone down to Quantico as one of his stops to deliver Christmas cookies to the Marines on guard duty. He went to the command center and gave a package to the lance corporal who was on duty.

He asked, "Who's the officer of the day?" The lance corporal said, "Sir, it's Brigadier General Mattis." And General Krulak said, "No, no, no. I know who General Mattis is. I mean, who's the officer of the day today, Christmas day?" The lance corporal, feeling a little anxious, said, "Sir, it is Brigadier General Mattis." General Krulak said that, about that time, he spotted in the back room a cot, or a daybed. He said, "No, Lance Corporal. Who slept in that bed last night?" The lance corporal said, "Sir, it was Brigadier General Mattis."

About that time, General Krulak said that General Mattis came in, in a duty uniform with a sword, and General Krulak said, "Jim, what are you doing here on Christmas day? Why do you have duty?" General Mattis told him that the young officer who was scheduled to have duty on Christmas day had a family, and

General Mattis decided it was better for the young officer to spend Christmas Day with his family, and so he chose to have duty on Christmas Day.

General Krulak said, "That's the kind of officer that Jim Mattis is."

~The story above was told by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, the Director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at The United States Naval Academy. He was introducing General James Mattis who gave a lecture on Ethical Challenges in Contemporary Conflict in the spring of 2006. This was taken from the transcript of that lecture.

Post Officers

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Do You Have an E-mail Address?

If you have e-mail access, send a message to Greg (Gdarbo6844@aol.com). Addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.