



ADJUTANT'S  
NEWSLETTER  
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THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

**TO MY LEGION FAMILY:**

**AMERICAN LEGION 96<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION:**

The Department of New Hampshire sent a delegation to the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the American Legion called to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26-28, 2014.

During our visit there were many issues the American Legion addressed that had significant importance to the membership of the American Legion. None was more important than the issues surrounding the VA over recent months. There were many dignitaries present that addressed the issues of the VA, to include the new VA Secretary, Bob McDonald. In last month's newsletter I wrote about what went wrong with the VA over the last few months. Secretary McDonald made it clear that people will be held accountable for their actions in regards to secret lists and any other actions that result in veterans suffering from lack of medical treatment because of inaction by employees of the VA. Past National Commander Dan Dellinger was praised for his work in demanding changes take place in the VA as well as changes in leadership.

Our new National Commander Mike Helm from Nebraska ensured he would continue the fight to restore trust in the VA and help the veterans of this country.

Also during our visit, our Commander and Chief, President Obama addressed the convention Family. The subject again being the actions of the VA and the war on terrorism. Needless to say the reception of the President was warm at best. However the message was clear that the intent was to fix the problems within the VA and hold people accountable. I guess we will have to wait and see on that note.

All in all the convention was very good. The Department of New Hampshire did receive recognition for our CPR reporting which was 100% under Past Commander Maurice Anderson watch. Thanks to all our Posts for taking the time to report your activities for

the course of the year. Please continue to do so as we go into this year as well.

Membership was also a very important topic of discussion at the convention. As mentioned before this department has a lot of work to do and Commander Dionne has a vision as to where he wants us to be by the end of his term. We also have a very active Membership Chairmen this year and we already have plans in place to do some revitalization as we go into the fall season. Our 50% Early Bird deadline is September 10, 2014. We will need everyone's help to meet all of our goals for this year.

I would like to recognize that the Department of NH has a new Eastern Regional National Auxiliary Vice President. Sandy Neylon was sworn in as National Vice President at the convention and NH was there to support her as she takes on that role.

I would like to thank Vice Commander Tom Wiley for taking on the challenge of our Parade Chairmen and also as Assistant National Sgt-at-Arms. He did a great job and represented us well.

Thanks to Past Commander Anderson for leading this year's delegation to convention, and to Commander Dionne for taking on the reins as we go into this next year.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER VISIT:**

Our newly elected National Commander, Mike Helm, from the Department of Nebraska will be visiting our department from September 11 to 14, 2014. During his visit he will be visiting many Posts throughout the state starting with Post 35 in Hampton for a Global War on Terrorism Memorial service at 5:00 pm. The following are other locations and times of his visit:

Thursday Sept 11, 2014

5:00 PM: **The Hamptons Post 35 for Global War on Terror re-dedication**

Friday Sept. 12, 2014

10:00 PM: **Concord ARMY NG Base to receive a briefing from Adjutant General.**

1:00 PM: **VAMC Manchester for staff Briefing**

3:30 PM: **Meeting Employment Security Bureau Director**

6:00 PM: **National Commander's Banquet – Post 37, Hooksett – Dinner at 7:00 PM**

Saturday Sept. 13, 2013

- 8:00 AM: **Breakfast Meeting at Post 43**
- 10:00 AM: **POW/MIA Annual Vigil at Sweeney Post 2**
- 12:30 PM: **Plaistow Post 34 for visitation**
- 2:00 PM: **Salem Post 63 for visitation**
- 3:30 PM: **Pelham Post 100 for visitation**
- 5:00 PM: **Hudson Post 48 for visitation**
- 6:15 PM: **Merrimack Post 98 for visitation**
- 7:30 PM: **Manchester Post 79 for visitation**

I want to remind everyone these times and places are subject to change. If you wish to meet the National Commander I encourage you to be at one of these locations. It is important that we show our support not just for our National Commander but for the department as well. In years past participation at these visits has been less than satisfactory.

If you wish to go to the Banquet on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at Post 37 Hooksett, please call the office and speak to Lisa at 856-8951, or anyone of our Vice Commanders and or District Commanders may have tickets. The deadline is Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$20 a person.

### **Half-staffing of the United States Flag - Patriot Day September 11**

In accordance with Public Law 107-89, the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation (per the requirements of Flag Code section 7(m)) for the United States Flag to be displayed at half-staff for the day on Patriot Day, **Thursday**, September 11.

It is anticipated that the President will issue the proclamation; when issued the proclamation can be found on the White House website @ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions>.

### **Soldiers at Risk of Skin Cancer, Study Reveals:**

One of the things that was very interesting to me while I was at National Convention were some of the medical studies being done in regards to veteran medical conditions resulting from deployment environment. This one was near and dear to me because I have spent significant time in the desert over the last decade while deployed and many of my comrades from OIF/OEF deployments have done the same. I thought it would be a good idea to forward some of the information that has been discovered on Skin cancer recently effecting have been deployed to tropical or desert climates

Soldiers deployed to sunny climates are not being adequately protected from the most common cancer type, according to a study being presented this week at the World Congress on Cancers of the Skin in Edinburgh, Scotland. The World Congress was founded by The Skin Cancer Foundation and organized this year by the British Association of Dermatologists.

Skin cancer refers to a group of cancers predominantly caused by unprotected exposure to the sun, of which melanoma is the most dangerous. Melanoma claims 9,700 lives in the US each year.

Previous research has shown that 34 percent of US military veterans who developed melanoma had also been deployed to tropical climates. In comparison, only six percent of non-military melanoma patients had spent time in tropical climates.

This latest study, conducted by researchers from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, found that only 22 percent of military personnel were made very aware of the risks of sun exposure. Furthermore, while 77 percent reported being exposed to bright sunlight for more than four hours a day, only 27 percent had regular access to sunscreen. Just under a third of respondents (32 percent) reported having no access to sunscreen at all.

Consequently, a staggering 62 percent of military personnel reported getting sunburned while deployed abroad, including cases of skin blistering. 29 percent have noted a change in the color, shape or size of their moles (often a sign of skin cancer) since being deployed to tropical zones, however only four percent had received a skin examination from a physician since deployment.

"This study shows that the vast majority of soldiers who are facing a high risk of skin cancer are unaware of what to do to protect themselves," said Allan Harrington, MD, spokesperson for The Skin Cancer Foundation and former director of Skin Cancer Surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "Since sun exposure causes the vast majority of skin cancer cases, it's imperative for our men and women in uniform to be armed with the tools they need to practice proper sun protection."

"The past decade of United States' combat missions, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, have occurred at more equatorial latitude than the mean centre of the United States population, increasing the potential for ultraviolet irradiance and the development of skin cancer," said Jennifer Powers, Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University and Head Researcher of this study. "This study demonstrates room for improvement for skin cancer prevention and early detection in the military population, including possible screening of higher risk personnel." ([Targeted News Service](#) | Sep 04, 2014)

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- September 6<sup>th</sup>, Internal Affairs and Audit task Force Meeting, Post 21
- September 6<sup>th</sup>, Membership and Public Affair Committee Meetings, Post 21
- September 9<sup>th</sup>, Leadership Committee Meeting, Post 34
- September 11 - 14, National Commander Visit
- September 13, ALR Ride to Remember, Chapter 72
- September 13, POW/MIA Vigil, Post 2, Sweeney
- September 16, District 8 Visitation, Post 123 Berlin
- September 18, District 8 Visitation, Post 123 Concord
- September 26, District 4 Meeting
- September 27, Department Auxiliary EC Meeting, Post 41



*“So We May Never Forget”* I am Noel Taylor, Director of the *100 Nights of Remembrance* and a member of Jutras Post 43 Manchester. On September 11<sup>th</sup> the *100 Nights of Remembrance* will be holding its Closing Ceremony at the N H State

Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. Please join us as we pay tribute to all our fallen Heroes at rest. Many Posts have small or incomplete Color Guards and we are inviting legionnaires from other Posts to fill-in to help them out. We are also proud to honor all first Responders as we remember this date of 9/11/2001. The 100 Nights of Remembrance is an organization made up of volunteers from all walks of life. Participants range from men and women young and old: active, retired and former military; students to retirees; skilled to unskilled and many more. All have come together with a common goal which is to show respect and honor for all Americans who have sacrificed and served our country honorably in any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The center of activity in recognizing this goal is the hallowed grounds of The NH State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen. At precisely 7:00 PM every evening from Memorial Day through September 11th, a bugler is available to play a series of 24 solemn notes flowing through the air to honor the men and women resting on these sacred grounds. Those 24 notes, known as TAPS, are sounded by at least one member of The 100 Nights of Remembrance. Quite often another member will join in and play a very moving echo taps.

**PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD**