August 2015 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 meeting held 3rd Thursday.

If you wish to join or have questions about the American Legion, please call one of the Post Officers.

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Next Meeting:

27 August at 7:00 PM

July Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order 7:00 PM by Commander Dave Larkin. 6 Members and no guests present.

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

MEMBERSHIP: Nothing to report.

MINUTES: Minutes of the June 2015 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

Congratulations to the Belanger Family

Jim Belanger’s daughter, Jennifer, was married in an outdoor ceremony on 8 August. Congratulations to the entire Belanger family, especially Jennifer and Spencer!
News of Interest to Veterans

Spirit of ’45 70th Anniversary of the End of WWII Ceremony

Summary: 6:30PM - Spirit of ’45 70th anniversary of the end of WWII ceremony

Event start: Fri, 08/14/2015 - 6:30pm

Event end: Fri, 08/14/2015 - 7:00pm

Location: New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

The Wreath Ceremony will be hosted jointly by Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) Department of Northern New England and Purple Heart Riders National Association. More information on the Spirit of ’45 national organization and other events: www.spiritof45.org

Any questions: contact Mike Horne, 603-796-2026 x100

Manchester VA Medical Center Audiology Clinic to support Walk-in Hearing Aid Repairs

Manchester, NH – The Manchester VA Medical Center will be supporting walk-in hearing aid repairs in the Audiology Clinic effective September 1.

Hearing impairments continue to be one of the most prevalent service connected disabilities amongst all era of Veterans. Audiology consults in Manchester have grown an average of 4% every year for the last decade. Subsequently, hearing aid issuance has also steadily increased from 2283 issued in 2011 to 2763 issued in 2014.

To streamline repairs, the Manchester VA Medical Center Audiology Clinic will now offer same day hearing aid assessments locally, with the majority of repairs being made on-site. Hearing aids deemed to have repairs that only the manufacturer can repair, will be mailed from the Medical Center, tracked, and returned to the Veterans either in person or by mail, per their request.

“Manchester VA Medical Center has provided an average of 3,862 Veterans with audiology services each year over the last two fiscal years, and are projected to see 4,446 by the end of this fiscal year,” said Danielle Ocker, Acting Director, Manchester VAMC. “Over the last several years, Veterans have had to mail their hearing aids to the manufacturer for repair which caused significant delays and functional impact during that period. Local walk-in hearing aid repair service immediately enhances the care for these Veterans. This enhancement to service is another step Manchester VA is taking towards ensuring access to high quality care for New Hampshire Veterans.”

Veterans wishing to take advantage of the walk-in hearing aid repair clinic can do so Monday - Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Hearing aid repairs can be accommodated through an in-person drop off at 3rd floor check in desk at the Medical Center or at any of the Community Based Outpatient Clinics which are located in Somersworth, Portsmouth, Tilton or Conway. Repair by mail at: Audiology Clinic, Manchester VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03103.

Questions related to hearing aid repairs? Contact the Manchester VA Medical Center Audiology Clinic at: 624-4366 x 2062.

For more information about the Manchester VAMC and its services go to www.manchester.va.gov

Legion Praises Mt. Soledad Memorial Association for Saving Cross
Calling for an end to a lengthy court battle, The American Legion is praising the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association for its recent purchase of land from the Department of Defense in order to preserve a 43-foot cross that was erected in 1954.

“I hope this ends it,” National Commander Michael D. Helm said of the legal case that started in the late 1980s. “Frankly, it shouldn’t have been necessary for the government to sell the land to a private group in order to preserve a memorial that is deeply significant to so many people. The American Legion believes in ‘God and Country.’ Unfortunately, some courts don’t always see it that way.”


“The Liberty Institute has also been a fierce advocate for the memorial, which the Legion has supported through numerous national resolutions,” Helm said.

The ACLU and Jewish War Veterans have sued to have the cross removed because they believe it infringes on their constitutional rights. A 2012 court ruling permitted a cross owned by the National Park Service in the Mojave Desert to be transferred in a private sale to the VFW.

The Mount Soledad cross in La Jolla, Calif., is part of a larger memorial, which includes more than 3,700 plaques honoring veterans of various wars. The land purchase is for the one-half acre plot of land surrounding the memorial. - See more at: http://www.legion.org/news/229284/legion-praises-mt-soledad-memorial-association-saving-cross

Vision for a new VFW: The story of Denver's Post 1

A few members wrote to me about a recent article they read in “Army Times” about the VFW and how the VFW, along with many other Veterans organizations, are having a hard time finding new members. The article also showed some examples of Posts who have attracted new members. I was recently appointed the President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and I attended training for the position last week. The same kinds of issues, attracting new members, was also addressed. The article from the “Army Times” is too long to print here in the newsletter but if you are interested in reading it you can find it at http://www.militarytimes.com/story/veterans/best-for-vets/2015/07/27/vision-new-vfw-story-denvers-post-1/30459475/ - Greg
Manchester VA Medical Center
Veterans’ Free Farmers Market
All are Welcome!

When: Wednesday, August 26, 2015
Time: 11:00am to 1:00pm or while supplies last!
Location: at the Main Entrance

We will have fresh fruits and vegetables available along with healthy recipes to help support your interest in living a healthier lifestyle..

Honoring America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being.
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

Whiskey

In 1952, Armon M. Sweat, Jr., a member of the Texas House of Representatives, was asked about his position on whiskey. What follows is his exact answer (taken from the Political Archives of Texas):

"If you mean whiskey, the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean that evil drink that topples Christian men and women from the pinnacles of righteous and gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, shame, despair, helplessness, and hopelessness, then, my friend, I am opposed to it with every fiber of my being. However, if by whiskey you mean the lubricant of conversation, the philosophic juice, the elixir of life, the liquid that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer, the stimulating sip that puts a little spring in the step of an elderly gentleman on a frosty morning; if you mean that drink that enables man to magnify his joy, and to forget life's great tragedies and heartbreaks and sorrow; if you mean that drink the sale of which pours into Texas treasuries untold millions of dollars each year, that provides tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitifully aged and infirm, to build the finest highways, hospitals, universities, and community colleges in this nation, then my friend, I am absolutely, unequivocally in favor of it.

This is my position, and as always, I refuse to compromise on matters of principle."

As I Age, I Realize That:

- I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
- Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
- I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pissing me off.
- My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
- The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
- When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini vacation.
- The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about.
- Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound!
- Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
• If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.
• When the kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than “yes”.
• At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came to get in there.

It All Began With An iPhone...

March was when our son celebrated his 17th birthday, and we got him an iPhone. He just loved it. Who wouldn't?

I celebrated my birthday in July, and my wife made me very happy when she bought me an iPad.

Our daughter’s birthday was in August so we got her an iPod Touch.

My wife celebrated her birthday in September so I got her an iRon.

It was around then that the fight started...

What my wife failed to recognize is that the iRon can be integrated into the home network with the iWash, iCook and iClean.

This inevitably activates the iNag reminder service.

I should be out of the hospital next week!!

iHurt