



The American Legion  
 VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL Post 295  
 PO Box 690  
 Germantown, MD 20875



Post meetings held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Golden Bull Grand Cafe, 7 Dalamar St, Gaithersburg at 7:00 p.m.  
 All Legion, Sons and Auxiliary members are invited to attend.  
 RSVP appreciated to [bobo@post295.org](mailto:bobo@post295.org)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

AUG. 11	Post Meeting, 7 p.m.
AUG. 20	Ride to Antietam - Legion Riders 8:30 a.m.
SEP. 8	Post Meeting, 7 p.m.
OCT. 13	Post Meeting, 7 p.m.
NOV. 11 (Friday)	Veteran's Day – Dinner 6:00 p.m.
NOV. 15-21	American Education Week – Oratorical Contest Outreach
NOV. 22-28	National Family Week
NOV. 26	Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving) – Wounded Warrior Luncheon [Bethesda National Naval Medical Center (NNMC)]
DEC. 8	Holiday Party (\$25 – Buy Tickets by Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> )
DEC. 24	Christmas Eve Luncheon for Wounded Warriors (Bethesda Medical Center)

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

A new year is upon us and I have been given the high honor of being elected the Southern Maryland District Commander for 2011-2012. It is a proud day for Post 295, just 10 years ago, the Post had just 27 members, Today there are 366 proud Legionnaires.



Every Veterans who has used the GI Bill owes a debt of gratitude to the American Legion, keep reading and you will understand.

Please support Bob by renewing you 2012 dues as early as possible. If you have not renewed your 2012 membership dues please pay them as soon as possible.

The Post with the highest membership total in each category at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March will win \$1000 for the Post. Renewing online is both convenient and a great time saver for your membership team. We would like to meet our 100% goal by the end of the year.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We are glad to have 3 new members join us in July. John Wood, Nevin Nelson and Alan Yarusevich. Nevin and Alan came along on our ride to Gettysburg at the invitation of Cliff Bergstresser. Thanks Cliff for helping the Post grow.

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

Thank you Legion Riders for an awesome ride to Gettysburg on March 18<sup>th</sup>. We pull an audible and switch the destination from Antietam due to weather.



*we are not doing something it may be because we have no one to guide it.*

## **BE A RECRUITER – Help the Post go.**

It is a safe bet that you, know, live with, next to or work with someone who is eligible to become part of Post 295's Legion Family as a Legionnaire, Son or Auxiliary member. You joined because you believed it was the right thing to do, share that enthusiasm with others.

As Legionnaires we all share the values of The American Legion's Four Pillars, whether politically you call yourself a democrat, republican or independent.

The American Legion is so important that every American President has addressed The American Legion at our annual National Convention. In addition to your valued membership there are 2.5 million Legionnaires, from John McCain to Al Gore. We are the most powerful veterans voice in Congress. To ensure that voice continues to be heard ensuring all Veterans are treated fairly. In meeting with the National Commander of the American Legion, President Obama pledged not to touch Veterans Benefits of health care withdrawing the plan to institute co-pays at VA Hospitals.

**To be able to explain what the American Legion is you should what we are and are not.**

### **The Legion is not:**

- **a bunch of veterans sitting around complaining** – *we are men and women both veterans and active duty service of all ages from those who served in of OEF/OIF. Gulf War, Grenada/Panama, Lebanon, Vietnam and Korea.*
- **a drinking club** - *to be fair there are social rooms at other Posts where members can enjoy a beer at a low cost and get to know other veterans.*
- **a political action committee, we do not pay to lobby Congress** - *there is a Legionnaire assigned to every lawmaker to communicate the Legions positions on every issue. The VFW has a PAC to lobby congress.*
- **are not a dying organization** – *there are 24.5 million veterans - unfortunately we have not reach all of them and more veterans fail to renew than pass away each year. Should you or someone you know decide not to renew we would like to know what we could do differently to keep you as a valued member of our Post. If*

## **WE ARE:**

### **THE 4 PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

- **Children & Youth** – ensuring that any child of a veteran in need of care and protection shall receive proper and timely service and aid; to strengthen the family unit; extend support to sound organizations and facilities that provide services for children and youth; and to maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of the young people in the greater Gaithersburg/Germantown area.
  - Sponsor Cub Scout Pack 1760
  - National Child Welfare Emergency Fund
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation** - assisting veterans in obtaining needed hospitalization, in the pursuance of claims and in obtaining other veteran's rights and benefits; to visit comrades who are sick or disabled; to visit and comfort members of their families when sick or bereaved.
  - Operation Provide Comfort
  - Assisting with VA claims and benefits
- **National Security** – in 1942, The American Legion's National Commander wrote the original GI Bill, in Washington DC. (A little know fact is that ever other Veteran Service Organizations, to include the V.F.W. argued against it because it was too expensive).

Today The American Legion continues pushing for a new and expanded GI Bill for all of our active duty, reserve and National Guard service members. The impact can be seen below in Robert G. Duffett's letter.
- **Americanism** – promoting a 100% Americanism.
  - **GAITHERSBURG POST 295 BASEBALL** – what is more American than baseball, nothing.
  - **AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE** - Jimmy Kazunas, a 16 year old rising senior at Good Counsel High School feels a tremendous debt of gratitude to the American Legion. A member of Gaithersburg Post 295 Baseball Team, his top ranked Maryland State Junior Legion squad

appears to be on its way to an invite to the National Amateur Baseball Federation High School Championship tournament in Tennessee in late July. However, Kazunas will not be joining them; he has a busy week including a meeting planned with President Obama scheduled for the week of the tournament. Kazunas meeting with the President is once again thanks to the American Legion.

An International Baccalaureate honors student, it all started when Kazunas was selected to participate in the American Legion Maryland Boys State earlier this month. The week long resident program is sponsored throughout the country annually by the American Legion. Each Boys State is comprised of rising high school seniors selected from their respective states.

As part of the process each Boys State elects a peer to represent them at the Boys Nation. Kazunas had the honor of being elected as the Maryland Senior Delegate to Boys Nation this July, hence the meeting with the President. Kazunas will be one of the ninety eight young men representing nearly twenty thousand American Legion Boys State delegates from around the country. Kazunas credits his school guidance counselor for nominating and helping guide him to the American Legion Boys State Program. He credits baseball great Brooks Robinson for guiding him in his decision to play American Legion Baseball.

Post 295 sponsors Boys attending Maryland Boys State at McDaniel College each June. Contact Bob Ouellette for more information.

- **A.L. HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST** - The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The 70-year-old program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Young orators earn some of the most generous

college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

Do you have an interest in these or another Legion program and have 1 hour a week or even a month?

Consider becoming Post 295's representative to one of our 3 high schools, either Northwest, Seneca Valley or Quince Orchard. The duties include distributing literature on Boys State and the High School Oratorical Contest to the Guidance Counselors and following up with them. The Commander is available to provide guidance and assistance to anyone who volunteers.

### **POST 295 WEAR**

Show your pride. Order your Vietnam Veterans Memorial polo shirt today. Cost per shirt is \$45.



## VETERANS DAY

Are you visiting a school for Veterans Day? If you need materials to use for a presentation please contact me. I encourage you to visit our local schools and promote flag education and Americanism programs.

November 22-28 is National Family Week. Make sure you spend valuable time with your loved ones.

The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 19th. We still need helpers. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

## TAPS

Edward Lantz of Montgomery Village, June 2011

### **DO YOU HAVE TIME TO SERVE ON AN HONOR GUARD TO PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS FOR A FELLOW LEGIONNAIRE?**

I am looking to form an honor guard that would be available for funerals or wakes of fellow Legionnaires. Legion honor guards salute their fallen comrades at funeral services throughout the country every day and we do not have one!

Honor them so someone can honor you.

### **DON'T FORGET THERE ARE MONETARY BENEFITS**

All members of the American Legion family are now eligible to join:

- USAA Insurance and Financial Services
- The American Legion Aggregate Electrical Cooperative (ALAECE), where you will save up to 40 to 50% off the costs per kilowatt hour, thereby reducing you electric bill by 40 to 50%!
- 

There are many programs offered by the American Legion for financial assistance for homes with dependant children. There is a National Emergency Fund available to all legionnaires should a disaster strike. During Hurricane Katrina and the September 11 terrorist attacks, Legionnaires we eligible for emergency aid. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, The American Legion paid out \$1500 to each Legionnaire who applied at least a week and a half before FEMA even began their program.

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS: A TRIBUTE**

Robert G. Duffett  
President, Dakota Wesleyan University  
Mitchell, South Dakota

*Kudos, hats off and a rousing 21-gun salute to The American Legion.* Amid all the fanfare of the World War Two Memorial dedication, the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion and the state funeral for President Reagan was an important red-letter anniversary in American history. On June 22, 1944, two weeks after D-Day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 – The GI Bill of Rights.

Truth be told it probably should have been called The American Legion's Bill of Rights for GIs. Why? Because The American Legion conceived, wrote, named and fought for the bill all the way through Congress until the president signed it. The GI Bill of Rights is to The American Legion what the New Deal is to President Franklin Roosevelt and winning is to the New York Yankees – inseparable!

Many were concerned about what to do with the 15 million GIs after the war. Roosevelt talked about it. Over 600 bills were submitted to Congress in order to deal with post-war demobilization concerns. Despite the president's worry and the other 600 bills, the Legion's bill passed both houses of Congress unanimously! Your bill became the bill.

Why? In retrospect, the *brilliance* of The American Legion was its unitary approach to veterans' needs after the war. You anticipated the future and unlike others, made the case that all veterans would need assistance after the war. America had the moral obligation to tend to the wounded that may require years of medical and rehabilitation treatment. And, able-bodied vets needed readjustment benefits too. Even vets who returned to America without a scratch served Uncle Sam and democracy and deserved help, at tax payer expense, to restore them to the position in life they might have been if not called to service. Readjustment benefits included unemployment compensation, job training, and loans for homes, farms and business, and stipends for education. The goal of the Legion was simple – develop a comprehensive program to aid all veterans from the time of discharge to final rehabilitation.

But the critics said it could not be done. You wrote one comprehensive bill that included all the important demobilization needs from your long experience of

working with veterans. That was not the way things were done in Washington! You should have carved the pieces and sent them to the appropriate House committees. The educational part should have been submitted to the House Committee on Education, the home, farm and business loans to the house Banking and Currency Committee and the unemployment compensation portion to the powerful Ways and Means committee. But, the Legion did not listen and angered everyone. Like Frank Sinatra, you did it your (my) way. From the perspective of 60 years it was more than a risky legislative strategy. The only contemporary equivalent description would be a "hail Mary" pass. Never had a comprehensive (omnibus bill) veterans' benefits bill passed Congress.

Sixty years later the impact of your GI bill was greater than imagined. It created a seismic shift in America that went for more than a touchdown. Consider the following:

First, the GI Bill changed the notion that a college education was only for those from the right side of the tracks or who wanted to be a lawyer, doctor or minister. The GIs stormed the campuses of America like they stormed the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima. Three times as many GIs as estimated went to college virtually free. How the Legion wheedled \$500-a-year tuition benefit and a monthly subsistence allowance out of Congress when we were still fighting a two-front war after 10 years of economic depression still baffles me. In 1945 Harvard was only charging \$400 a year for tuition! No wonder college attendance mushroomed fifty percent in less than a decade. The most significant change was yet to come. Children of WWII vets, baby boomers, followed dad and mom's example. Twice as many boomer kids went to college as their parents. Because of the GI Bill, in one generation, a 300-year pattern of college attendance was overturned. College was not for the social elite but for the qualified masses.

Second, the GI Bill provided the same benefits to qualified women, African Americans and Jews. This was radical at a time when there were restrictive admissions quotas for Jews in some elite universities and women and Blacks were plainly excluded from many universities – even some state schools. The bill helped undermine gender, racial and religious exclusionary admissions policies.

Third, the GI Bill created the most highly educated work force in world history. And, it did so at the precise time when the American economy shifted from an industrial base to a technological one. This shift could not have happened without a highly educated and skilled

workforce.

Finally, it made money for Uncle Sam. By the mid-1960s the additional taxes from better paying jobs courtesy of the GI Bill more than paid for the original cost of the bill. And, your best earning years were ahead!

So, as a college president and son of a man who went to college courtesy of the GI Bill, I say thank you and God bless The American Legion. When you evaluate the social, economic and educational results of the GI Bill, no wonder many say that the GI Bill of Rights was the most successful piece of legislation in the 20th century.

My fellow South Dakotan Tom Brokaw is perhaps correct when he says that the WWII generation may be America's "greatest generation." If so, then my money says it was the GI Bill, above all else, that made it so. And it was the American Legion that made the GI Bill great!

**\$30.00 Annually**

*American Legion Membership Application*  
*Vietnam Veterans Memorial, American Legion Post 295*

Please check applicable "Dates of Service" and "Branch of Service":

Dates of Service	Branch of Service
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG 2, 1990—OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. ARMY
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC 20, 1989—JAN 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. NAVY
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG 24, 1982—JUL 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. AIR FORCE
<input type="checkbox"/> FEB. 28, 1961—MAY 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. MARINES
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 25, 1950—JAN. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. COAST GUARD
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC. 7, 1941—DEC. 31, 1946	
<input type="checkbox"/> APR. 6, 1917—NOV. 11, 1918	
U.S. MERCHANT MARINE — DEC. 7, 1941—AUG. 15, 1945	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$30.00 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Dues are waived for the 1st year if you are for Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve. A copy of your ID is required as proof of service.**

\$20.00 Annually

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
Sons of The American Legion

Date \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT

Detachment of Maryland Squadron No. 295

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Received from: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip) (Telephone)

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_  
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for payment of Dues \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_  
Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as annual membership dues

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
By Applicant or Parent)



American Legion Auxiliary  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

\$20.00 Annually

**Applicant Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (M.I.) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Senior (over 18)  
 Junior (birth - 18) Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 (Birth date required for Junior members)

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if Junior member) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility Information**

Name of Veteran Eligible Through \_\_\_\_\_ Legion Member ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

American Legion Post \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran:  Living  Deceased

**Veteran served in:**  
 WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18)  WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46)  Merchant Marines (12/7/41-8/15/45 Only)  
 Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55)  Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75)  Grenada/Lebanon (8/24/82-7/31/84)  
 Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90)  Persian Gulf War (8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities as determined by the US Government)

**Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:** (Step relatives are eligible)  
 Mother  Wife  Daughter  Sister  Granddaughter  Great-Granddaughter  Grandmother  Self

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Officer Membership Verification (Or Unit Secretary's Verification for Female Veterans Only)

For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/dd-214.html>

**I am interested in learning more about the following:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Paid-Up-For-Life Membership (VIM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering at a VA Medical Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Volunteerism / Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Member Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> Participating in Education Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Emergency Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Working with Young People	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Unit Activities	

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit/Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

The following individual(s) might also be interested in joining or volunteering.

**Please contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Applications to Y

For Current Department Address go to: 1 American Legion Post 295  
PO Box 690  
Germantown, MD 20875