



POST 1 NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

American Legion Post 1
Raleigh, North Carolina
919-876-5795

For God and Country

Bulletin #9 – 93

Jul–Aug–Sept 2008



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Anthony Bonapart
Post Commander

I want to thank all of you for the support you have given me over the last year and for reelecting me as your Commander. In 2007 we decided to form an exploratory committee and Gerald Padden was chosen to chair the committee. The mission of the committee is to determine the feasibility of buying a pre-existing facility or build a new post home and to determine where the new post home should be located. Now that you have reelected me as your Commander we will continue to press forward to modernize the post and continue to promote programs that support military members and their families. I have spoken to many of you about my ideas for the post and several of you have given me positive feedback along with your vote of confidence. Again, thank you for reelecting me as your Commander and I promise to work hard to represent you in a professional manner and exude a positive can-do attitude.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 4, 2008 - Open house at the Post 9:00a.m to 1:00p.m, music, food, flag retirement ceremony. Please come by to enjoy the fun and fellowship.

July 10, 2008 - Membership Meeting; social 6, dinner 7, meeting 7:30, Installation of officers and vote for Legionnaire of the Year.

July 24, 2008 - Executive committee 6:30 all board members urged to attend or let commander know if not able to attend.

August 14, 2008 ó Membership Meeting, social 6, dinner 7, meeting 7:30

August 28, 2008 - Executive committee 6:30 all board members urged to attend or let commander know if not able to attend.

September 11, 2008 ó Membership Meeting, social 6, dinner 7, meeting 7:30 Recognition of Boys and Girls State.

September 25, 2008- Executive committee 6:30 all board members urged to attend or let commander know if not able to attend.

Rewrite Post Bylaws: The post bylaws are currently being revised. The major purpose of the bylaws revision is to correct the post name, update yearly dues and update procedural instructions. **Your input is desired and strongly encouraged!** Please contact Mike Clement, Chair, Bylaws Committee at 919-633-0360, Mclement3@nc.rr.com with your suggestions.

Post 1 and the IRS by Paul West: - The first Form 990 (income tax form) that Post 1 ever filed was done for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. We should have been doing this all along. It turned out that the EIN number we thought was ours belonged to another post. So, we got another EIN which caused confusion that resulted in the IRS fining us for over \$2600.00 in late filing fines. After letters and phone calls, the IRS dropped the fines and our 990 was accepted without further incident. Our 2007 return has been accepted also. It was brought up at the convention that the IRS is going to look at non-profit organizations closely and revoke the non-profit status of those that are not following the rules. We think we are in full compliance and just in time.

May 8, 2008 election of 2008-2009 officers: The elections were held for the 2008-2009 officers with the following results: Commander, Anthony Bonapart; First Vice Commander, Gerry Padden; Second Vice Commander, George House; Third Vice Commander, Ernest Charles; Finance Officer, Paul West; Chaplain, Charles Birdsong; Historian, Anthony Ray; Service Officer, Kenneth Kempf; Judge Advocate, Michael Clement; Sergeant at Arms, Nicholas Jones; Directors at Large, Joseph Tobert, Tom Collins, and John W. Gordon.

Legionnaire of the Quarter: The members of American Legion Post 1 are proud to announce our Legionnaires of the Quarter, Harry Harris and Anthony Ray for the period, April through June 2008. Harry showed outstanding initiative when arranging sound system support for various events to include the 2008 Memorial Day ceremony. Anthony was chosen for updating and modernizing the post's website to include perfecting the overall design of the site, fixing links and adding photographs of community service events.

Legion Birthday, March 13, 2008: Arletta Ray, President, Unit One Auxiliary dedicated a cake to the Post in honor of the American Legion birthday. She also dedicated a photo album of past Commanders and past presidents to honor the event.



Finally, Jerry Harris donated an American Flag of WWII veteran Willard Zaspel,

United States Marine Corps. The flag was flown at the Raleigh National Cemetery during the Memorial Day

Post Oldies but Goodies Dance: On April 26, 2008, the Unit One Auxiliary hosted an Oldies but Goodies Dance,

which included a hula hoop contest. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for the persons who held the record for continuous revolu-



Memorial Day Ceremony: On May 25, 2008 Post 1 hosted the 77th Memorial Day service at the Raleigh National Cemetery. I would like to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to make the Memorial Day ceremony the best ever. There were over 17 patriotic organizations that participated in the wreath laying ceremony and I counted three news Channels covering the event. Every aspect of the event was superbly managed to include, traffic control, parking, sound system, seating arrangements, program distribution and the Honor Guard



performed admirably as usual. The wreath laying ceremony to honor our fallen comrades received many favorable comments as well as our guest speaker WWII Veteran and POW James Jim F. Sansom. We were joined by Boy Scout Troop 364, Pack 515, Troop 515 and Troop 522 and other commu-

nity volunteers to place flags on the grave sites of veterans at the cemetery and as usual we are grateful for all the support we receive from these patriotic organizations. Again, thank you Post 1 for all you do for the community, state and country and God bless all of you for your patriotism that shined so brightly during the 2008 Memorial Day service.



Memorial Day Tribute and Support: We would like to thank Kim (Mrs. Charles) Kelly for sewing one of the large flags. We want to thank Yun Tailor for repairing 7 of the large flags free of charge at her new tailor shop at the Litchford Village Shopping Center at Litchford and Harps Mill Road. We also want to thank Linda Craft & Team Realtors for providing the programs again this year for the Memorial Day ceremony and for providing a passenger van to shuttle attendees from off site parking this year. Please consider these businesses that support us when you have a need for their services. If you have 5 X 9 1/2 (Casket Size) flags that you can donate please mail or bring to Post 1. Please label it DONATION for Memorial Day.

Event to honor Unit One Auxiliary: On May 31, 2008 the commander held an event at his house to honor the Unit One Auxiliary for their dedication, support and hard work during the last year. The event was well attended and there was plenty of food and gifts for the ladies. Post 1 is lucky to have an auxiliary that gives without hesitation and is always ready and willing to promote programs for military members and their families.

Fourth of July by Chaplain Charles Birdsong: A term familiar to us all--so meaningful, yet, so easily taken for granted. Our independence as a nation denotes the end product of seditious behaviour. As colonies we were subjects of and subject to the British Crown. What our fate would have been at the hands of another sovereign cannot appropriately be assessed, but what happened to these colonies when they decided to place their destinies in their own hands cannot be denied nor diminished. In the 230 some years since that Declaration of Independence stirred the world, we as Americans, have dutifully and reverently carried the torch for that document. And, on occasion, as it arose, being aroused we met and withstood forces who would stain our banner with our own blood. May we never forget what we have in that document and may our vigilance neither soften nor wane lest we lose our prized and envied possession.

Directions to Post 1
From the 440 Beltline, Take US 1 (Capital Blvd) North, When US 1/401 splits Stay to the right This is US 401 North (Louisburg Road) Go thru first traffic light After 1 block, turn right on St. James Church Road Go 1/2 mile, turn right at Lee Road. Pass thru the gate at the end of the pavement. You can now see the Post Home

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American Legion Raleigh Post 1
PO Box 40097
Raleigh, NC 27629
Editor: John Gibson
Editor e-mail: jgibson4@nc.rr.com
Post Web Site: www.legionraleigh.com

The American Legion
Raleigh Post 1
P.O. Box 40097
Raleigh, NC 27629

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