



The Howler

Cary American Legion Post 67, (Dec. 2022)



Commander's Corner:

Welcome to the December Issue of the Howler. **Merry Christmas!** There is a lot of information in this month's Howler. If you have any questions, please ask any member of the Post Executive Committee.

First, I want to let you know some exciting news. Wayne Leazer has accepted the vacant At-Large position on the PEC. Wayne was our Past 1st Vice Commander and is a great addition to our current PEC. Please welcome Wayne back to the PEC. Wayne has also accepted to be in charge of the Food Drive. There will be more about the Food Drive in a later paragraph.

The Post has been busy this past month. We presented the service flags and the Colors at the Town of Cary's Veterans Luncheon on November 4th. On November 9th members of the Post went to Green Hope Elementary School for a Veterans Day Presentation. The children were very excited and sang great patriotic songs for us. We attended the Congressional Breakfast November 10th at the NC State Fairgrounds. Congressman Da-

vid Price and Congresswoman Deborah Ross hosted this event. Members of the Post packed Food Boxes at DORCAS on December 3rd and delivered them to the needy. On December 7th members of the Post attended Cary Chamber of Commerce's 1st Responders Breakfast. Lastly, I was blessed to participate in the Cary High School Junior Naval Reserve Officer's Training Corps Annual Military Inspection and Pass-In-Review Ceremony on December 7th. I presented the Post 67 JNROTC Cadet of the Year Certificate to Cadet Nathaniel Dempsey. It was enjoyable seeing the Pass-In-Review and I would recommend for you to go see it next year.

Please read the article from the Auxiliary about the Gifting Tree and how to vote for their tree. It is a beautiful tree and the Auxiliary has created a great display again this year.

The Post 67 Food Drive has been rescheduled for Wednesday 14 December 2022 at the Food Lion at 2458 SW Cary Parkway in Cary. We need volunteers to help at the Food Drive with setting up, passing out flyers, and supporting your community. Please volunteer. Wayne Leazer will be in charge of this event. His phone number is 919-319-9062 and his email is mleazer32@gmail.com.

We will set up around 0900 and go from there. I believe we will be there until around 1500-1530.

The Post Christmas Party and General Meeting will be held 17 December 2022 starting at 1500 (3:00pm). Invitations have

been sent. Please check your SPAM folder if you did not receive your invitation. Please RSVP as it helps with planning. The meal will be catered and will be free for members, Auxiliary and SAL members plus one. The Auxiliary has volunteered to bring desserts. There is a link to signup for bringing a dessert, in the Auxiliary article, if you would like to bring one.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is coming up in January. Post 67 will have their Oratorical contest on January 14, 2023 starting at 2:30pm at the Cary Chamber of Commerce facility. Currently, we have four contestants participating. The 2nd Vice Commander has more information to pass along on this event. He will need volunteers.

I've asked At-Large member Wayne Leazer, 1st Vice Commander Ernest Long, and Chaplain Marie Faulkner to lead the Buddy Check early next year. The Buddy Checks will be performed after the holidays (late January) and it will not consist of collection of dues or fundraising. Please let us know if you are willing to check on your fellow veterans. **Buddy Check** is when we check on each other just because we can. If you need assistance, have concerns, or just want to talk, contact your fellow veterans of the American Legion. For your information, some of the people performing the Buddy Checks will have out-of-state phone numbers.

Please have a joyous Christmas and great New Year! I hope to see you at the Christmas Party.

Thank you for letting me be your Commander!

Dennis
Commander



[Dessert Sign Up Sheet - Google Sheets](#)

Adjutant's Call

As you already know the year is closing quickly. Before you know it 2023 will be at our doorstep. There are two important things happening early in 2023 that you need to know about.

The first is that the North Carolina Department of the American Legion will be raising the dues for the Department. This is why we have been actively seeking your assistance in paying your dues early and 73% of our members have done this so far. If you are one who has not paid yet, please if you can do so before the end of the year.

The second important event and date to record on your calendar will be March 23rd, 24th, 25th 2023. The Veterans Experience Action Center – Veterans Benefits Live is coming back for the fifth time. During the past four events we have assisted over 5000 veterans and families with VA Benefits totaling over 5 million plus dollars. We will be asking for volunteers for those 3 days and the day before with setup. A copy of the VEAC 2023 flyer is attached for your information.

Richard Spyrison
Adjutant Post 67

Americanism

From the 2nd Vice Commander, David Christensen:

The annual Cary High School JNORTC Military Inspection and Pass-in-Review Ceremony took place on December 7, 2022. (Pearl Harbor Anniversary). Commander Tackett presented the Post 67 Cadet of the Year Award to Cadet Nathaniel Dempsey.

The Cary HS shooting team, consisting of four cadets, will compete in the national American Legion Air-Rifle competition.

The Post 67 Oratorical Contest will take place on January 14, 2023, at 2:20PM at the Cary Chamber of Commerce facility. At the present time we have four contestants participating.



Chaplain's Message

TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED

Lord, enable us to live with thankful hearts at every moment, mindful of our blessings, big and small.

May we never take for granted Your abundant gifts of goodness, but continually be grateful for them all.

For every dear, familiar face in my life, every smile, every touch, every grace.

For every gift of the day, no matter how commonplace or small it may appear.

For every blessing of beauty, every moment of peace, every goodness in which I can rejoice - I give You thanks with every breath I take.

This Christmas Season let us be thankful and mindful of the Giver of all Gifts.

Chaplain Marie



VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

From the Post Service Officer, Gene Meyle:

Please see the December Veterans Benefits Newsletter at this link:

[Veterans Benefits Newsletter | December 2022 \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/newsletter/veterans-benefits-newsletter-december-2022)

#VetResources is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their Families, Caregivers, and Survivors.

[Benefits at 10% Disability | Give Holiday Cheer to Veterans in Need | 10% Off Engagement Rings \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com/newsletter/benefits-at-10-percent-disability-give-holiday-cheer-to-veterans-in-need-10-percent-off-engagement-rings)

Auxiliary News

Message from Vivian: Helping the Salvation Army at Christmas has been a longtime project of Cary American Legion Auxiliary. If you have purchased a gift for the Salvation Army children, please email me; edandvivham@aol.com so that we can make plans to pick it up. I feel I need to get the items to them next week. Thanks Vivian

Wednesday Workshop Notes

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.!

The Auxiliary workshop has completed 570 Christmas Cards. Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to get these cards completed.

The Auxiliary also decorated the Cary Gifting Tree and a special thank you to Joyce and Ted Bassett, Tish and Ray Martin, and Richard, my wonderful husband for all of your help decorating the tree. It looks beautiful. Voting started December 3rd and will run through December 18th. Go to: **Cary Gifting Tree Voting** and follow the link to vote. Only one vote per person. Look for Cary American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67 seventh down from the top.

The workshop will not meet for the remainder of December. The Auxiliary will decorate the Post for our Christmas party. If you would like to help, be at the Post at 11am on Friday, December 16th. Party is December 17th at 3pm.

Stay safe and healthy.

Jo Spyrison

Cary American Legion Post 67 Food Drive for Dorcas Ministries Food Pantry
14 December 2022, Food Lion
2458 SW Cary Parkway in Cary

During the Holidays the demand for food has more than doubled. Please support Dorcas Ministries Food Pantry and our Veter-

Cooking Oil	Sugar	Flour and Maseca	Applesauce/ Jars of 6 packs
Canned Pineapple	Canned Peaches	Canned Peas	Canned Mixed Vegetables
Stuffing Mix	Hot Cereal	Cold Cereal	Granola Bars (6-8 in a Box)
Diapers – Size 5 and 6	Laundry Detergent	Paper Towels	Deodorant
Feminine Products	Dry Cat Food	Dry Dog Food	Grocery Store Gift Cards

Post 67 Member Bruce Dale Participates in the Grand Reopening of American Legion Post 230

For Veterans Day Post 67 member Bruce Dale's WWII group was invited to the Grand reopening of American Legion Post 230 in Spring Lake, NC. This post was beset by constant flooding issues leading to its eventual closure. Fast forward 8 years and the post had been renovated and is now protected against future potential flooding! The ribbon cutting was performed by the daughter of the post's benefactor and 11 time post Commander Herschel Boyd Sr. The weather broke just in time for a great American Legion Post event!



Auxiliary Unit 67 Gifting Tree





Town of Cary Veterans Luncheon Post 67 Honor Guard Pictures




THE GIFTING TREE PROJECT

Cary American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67

SPONSORED BY
THE
MAYTON

SCAN TO VOTE >
WWW.TOWNOF Cary.ORG



**QR code to vote for Cary American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 67 Gifting Tree**



Cary Chamber of Commerce

First Responders Breakfast Pictures



Post 67 Officers & Phone Numbers:

Dennis Tackett, Post Cmdr.: 919-703-9941
Richard Spyrison, Post Adjutant: 919-441-8295
Ernest Long, 1st Vice Cmdr.:
David Christiansen, 2nd Vice Cmdr.:919-650-3848
Curtis Leary, 3rd Vice Cmdr.: 919-270-2136
Liz Russell, Finance Officer: 919-302-2518
Ray Martin, Sgt-At-Arms: 919-481-4811
Marie Faulkner, Post Chaplain: 919-851-9838
Eugene Meyle, Post Service Officer: 417-234-7608
Dennis Tackett, Post Historian: 703-340-9941
Adelfo Campos, At-Large: 540-246-7151
Wayne Leazer, At-Large: 919-319-9062

Post 67 Home Address:

8523 Chapel Hill Rd., Cary, NC 27513
Post Home Phone: 919-481-4811
Post Home Web Page: <https://www.alncpost67.org>
Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/alncpost67.org>
Cary Post 67 Legion Base Ball:
<https://www.carypost67baseball.com/>

Post 67 Meeting date and time:

Second Tuesday of each month starting at 7 PM at the Post Home. The Post Executive Committee (PEC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Post Home. Members are invited to come and speak of any concerns or recommendations concerning Legion business at that time. Post meetings may be held using Zoom from time to time due to the viruses and guidelines so be on the lookout for announcements via email. If you need assistance in setting up your computer or tablet for Zoom meetings, please contact a PEC member.

Editor: Dennis Tackett
Articles should be sent to Dennis no later than the Thursday morning following our PEC meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
dennistackettpost67@gmail.com

Thanks Bruce Dale for sharing your story!

New Post 67 Members: To all new Post 67 members, thank you for joining. You are encouraged to purchase Legion hats and shirts from Emblem Sales so when we are at Legion meetings or taking part in a Community activity, you will be in uniform. For Color Guard, Rifle Detail, funerals, and other more formal activities, the uniform will be your Legion hat, gray pants, white shirt, and blue jacket with tie, black shoes and socks. At other times the Legion hat, a polo or golf type shirt with the Legion emblem is worn by most Legionnaires. This may be called Business Casual dress. **Emblem Sales** can be reached at <https://www.legion.org/promos/230360/shop-online> Need help, contact a PEC member.

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 17th *Wreaths Across America* will remember and honor our fallen heroes by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 2,500 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. [Learn how you can sponsor a wreath or volunteer online.](#) (Use CTRL+Click over blue letters to follow link.)





VETERANS EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER

VETERANS BENEFITS LIVE VA IN MY TOWN CARY, NC

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS EVENT

Should any of the following apply :

- You would like to file a new claim with the VA.
- You have questions about VA appeals or benefits to which you may be entitled.
- You have questions about VA healthcare.

Veterans and dependents will be assisted by a combined team including Veterans' Benefits and Health Administrators, Vet Center, and Veterans' Service Officers.

They will assist with the following:

Face-to-face explanation and assistance facilitating and expediting existing claims and appeals, filing new claims, and accepting all claims-related evidence for processing and providing information regarding benefit related VA programs.

Who: All veterans and family members of veterans

Where: Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Avenue, Cary, North Carolina 27513

When: 23th, 24th, 25th of March 2023.

Hours on Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 3pm, and Saturday 8 am to 2 pm.

Please bring with you the proper documentation about your case: DD 214, all medical records about your disability both military and civilian, and dependency documents if new or not already provided to the VA.

Wait times may be long, please be patient.
Coffee, water, and snacks provided free of charge.

For more information contact Richard Spyrison at CaryVEAC@gmail.com



Something to do before you come to the Food Drive!

14
DEC



9AM
-
11AM



FIFTH THIRD BANK

VETERANS

★ ★ ★ *Breakfast* ★ ★ ★

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

START YOUR DAY WITH FREE BREAKFAST!

At the Cary Park Financial Center!

7704 Carpenter Fire Station Road Cary, NC 27519

www.53.com

Important Dates

Dec 3 - Dec 18, Annual Gifting Tree Project Voting, Downtown Cary, Please Donate and Vote

Dec 14- 9:00am—3:00pm Food Drive, Food Lion 2458 SW Cary Parkway, Cary

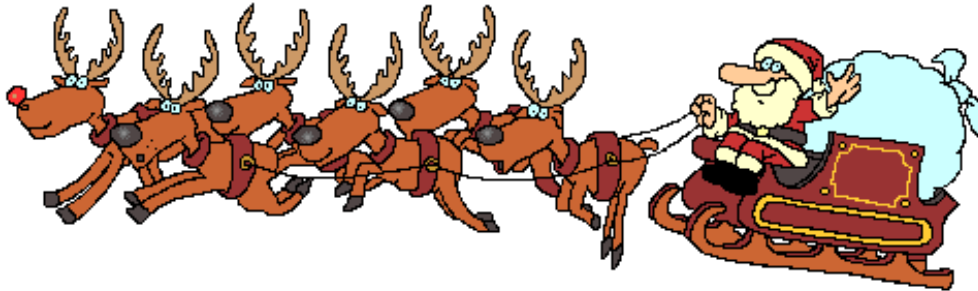
Dec 17– 3:00pm Christmas Party & General Meeting (White Elephant Gift Exchange)

Jan 3, 6:30pm PEC Meeting

Jan 7—Oratorical Practice at Post, Candidates are scheduled throughout the day

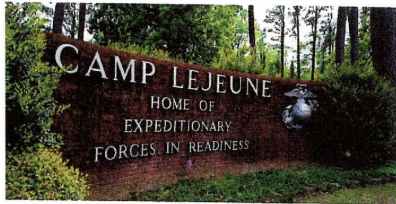
Jan 14, Post 67 Oratorical Contest, Cary Chamber of Commerce 2;30pm—Be there early

Jan 10, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting



The following is for informational purposes only. Post 67 PEC does not recommend any lawyer or company to help you with a claim. Please talk to a VSO or to the VA before signing any contract.

**The Camp Lejeune Justice Act
Evaluating and Understanding the
Benefits with Answers to
Frequently Asked Questions**



B&M BERGMANN & MOORE, LLC

A national law firm managed by former VA attorneys serving The American Legion and its members with Education, Training and Litigation since August 2017

25 W. Middle Lane
Rockville, MD 20850
Main: 877.838.2889
Fax: 301.986.0845

www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL

Q: Will VA benefits I have received reduce an award under the Camp Lejeune Act?

A: The language of the CLJA indicates that there will be some sort of offset. It's unclear at this time what that offset will be, however. It appears very likely that an award received under the CLJA will be reduced by the amount of VA disability benefits received pursuant to presumptions of in-service chemical exposure at Camp Lejeune. The extent to which this will happen is unknown, however.

Q: Will an award made under the Camp Lejeune Act reduce my monthly VA benefits payments?

A: The short answer is that no one knows right now. This is our greatest worry, however – in fact it's why Bergmann & Moore decided we had to be involved in this litigation.

Q: What will Bergmann & Moore do to help prevent my VA and other benefits from being reduced by an award made under the Camp Lejeune Act?

A: Although the offset rules aren't even known yet, we're already working with a national firm to create an algorithm to give our clients notice about potential reductions in other benefits they receive. We will also use our experience in VA disability benefits law (we have been devoted to representing Veterans and their families for over 20 years) to make sure our clients know of any risks to their current or future VA disability benefits that could occur.

**The Camp Lejeune Justice Act
Ensuring you understand the "offset"**

The U.S. Government has recently confirmed the troubling news about toxins at Camp Lejeune, confirming what many have suspected for decades. The Camp Lejeune Justice Act applies to military personnel, their families, and civilians who were exposed to the toxic water supply for at least 30 days between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987. Exposure to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune has caused multiple forms of cancer, neurological disorders, miscarriage, and death, among other injuries. Since the passage of the PACT Act in August, mass-tort firms all over the country have been saturating the airwaves with advertising offering speedy settlements with no strings attached.

The American Legion and Bergmann & Moore have worked together for nearly six years to provide effective legal representation for veterans (at no cost) who have VA disability benefits claims pending in federal court. Since 2017, Bergmann & Moore has successfully represented over 4,500 Legionnaires and their families in their disability appeal claims.

Recently, The American Legion and B&M expanded their long-standing association to include the historic Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

Although the Camp Lejeune Justice Act potentially offers significant benefits to veterans and their families, these benefits need to be carefully evaluated by a firm that understands VA disability benefits, as the law contains an offset.

Q: Can I file a VA claim and a (CLJA) tort case?

A: Yes. Bergmann & Moore encourages veterans to file both. To file a VA claim please reach out to your American Legion representative.

Q: I have a family member who died at CL. Can I file on their behalf?

A: Yes, survivors and loved ones may also bring suit.

Q: What are attorney fees and costs related to a CLJA claim?

A: We are in support of action by Congress or the Court to reduce the rate that can be charged by any firm, we believe Veterans shouldn't be charged unreasonable legal fees – especially ones with added "costs" that can easily amount to over 50% of a Veteran's award. Our legal fee is therefore 33⅓%. Not only is this fee well below the going rate, but we will charge no costs on top of that fee.

Q: When did I need to have been at Camp Lejeune?

A: August 1, 1953 - December 31, 1987

Q: Who can I contact?

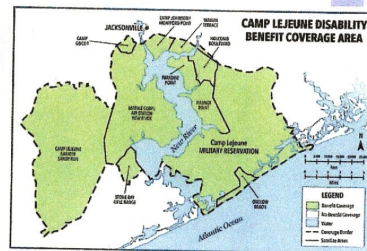
A: Liz Hartman at lhartman@vetlawyers.com, 252-497-7255

Q: Where can I learn more?

A: For more information please visit: www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/AL or call 800-898-9450.

We are not a mass tort firm. We are VA disability benefits attorneys who have represented Veterans, widows, and families for 19 years. In addition to litigation, we also provide national training for The American Legion's Veteran Service Officers. Bergmann & Moore is managed by former VA attorneys who know the VA disability system well and have achieved success in federal court for over 12,000 Veterans and their families related to VA disability benefits.

Bergmann & Moore is working with The American Legion to ensure Veterans and their families understand the offset and will work to ensure a CLJA benefit is not accepted before the claimant understands whether (and to what degree) VA disability benefits or care may be affected.



**Frequently Asked Questions
about Bergmann & Moore and
the service project**

Q: Is Bergmann and Moore accredited by VA?

A: Yes. Bergmann and Moore is managed by former VA attorneys who are accredited by VA.

**Meet Liz Hartman
Bergmann & Moore's
Camp Lejeune Spokesperson**

Elizabeth Hartman served in the U.S. Marine Corps as an Arabic linguist, formally trained in Modern Standard Arabic.



She worked as a financial advisor for Edward Jones and as a grants specialist for the U.S. Department of State, overseeing international programming in the Middle East and North Africa.

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs. She earned her Master's degree in International Affairs from Penn State University.



**Liz Hartman at
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