The Howlet Cary American Legion Post 67, (July 2023)



Commander's Corner:

Welcome to the July 2023 edition of The Howler.

I hope each of you had a great Independence Day. July is a month full of fun, relaxation, and celebration. It is a time to enjoy the warm weather, spend time with family and friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

The General Meeting will be on the 11th of June at the Post Home. We will be serving food from Chicken Salad Chick. The dinner will cost \$8.00/person. The dinner will start at 6:00pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. Please join us for fellowship with your fellow Legionnaires.

The Officers for the next fiscal year, 2023-2024, were installed at the June

General Meeting. The new Post Executive Committee held their first meeting on July 6. We have decided to have our Food Drive on November 15 at the Food Lion in the Parkway Point Shopping Center. More to come on this as we will be looking for volunteers to help with this event.

We also are looking into purchasing another tent that we can use for events.

We are researching new Security Systems. Our current system is getting outdated and new technology is available.

The PEC Committee has voted to donate to the Cary High School JNROTC Booster Club Scholarship Program as part of our Americanism Program. We are still determining how this is going to work. We will be talking to the Booster Club leadership to get this going.

Chief Heath USN(Ret), Naval Science Instructor at Cary High School called our Adjutant, Richard Spyrison and explained that his Unit was given extra spaces at Leadership Training at The Citadel in South Carolina. He had only budgeted for five slots, but now he had seven slots. Richard was asked if the Post could sponsor one of the slots. Each slot would be \$200.00. The PEC voted to support both extra slots. The PEC stated that they are happy to help send these young people to leadership training. We will invite these NJROTC leader to a future General meeting to tell us about this experience.

Our Finance Officer, Liz Russell, plans to talk a little about our current budget and our Income and expenses for the last fiscal year at the July General Meeting. Please remember the budget is a working document and can be modified by the PEC during the year.

I have created a DRAFT Business Plan for Post 67 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. It is currently under review by the PEC members. I will send it to the General Membership after the final edit. It also will be a working document.

We have started planning for Lazy Days. Parking at the Post Home for Lazy Days is our largest fundraiser of the year. We will need quite a few volunteers for this event. This event occurs on 26 & 27 August. Very soon we will be asking for volunteers to sign up to help with that event. Please volunteer. If you have time.

Again, a special thank you to Frank Stancil for mowing the Post Home grass. I also thank Bruce and Jill Dale for pruning our bushes. The Post Home looks great.

Thank you for letting me be your Commander!

Dennis



ADJUTANT'S CALL

July 2023

Membership report

The last report for membership was on the 28th of June 2023, the State was at 90.10%, Division 3 was at 90.09%, District 11 was at 92.15% and the Post 67 was at 91.34%. There is one more report coming closing out the year. I don't think the numbers will change much.

We did ok, we were in the middle of the pack.

At the General Meeting in July, I will have the 2023-2024 membership cards with me if anyone wants to pay their dues for the new year. Our dues will remain at \$45.00 per year. If you missed paying for 2022-2023 you can pay both 2023 and 2024 at the same time and not have a break in your membership.

Richard Spyrison, Adjutant

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I want to share this article from Right at Home:

"10 Daily Habits To Keep Your Brain Sharp as You Age

We hear often that keeping our brain sharp as we age is important for maintaining overall health and <u>cognitive function</u>. But what exactly is cognitive function? It's the mental processes our brains use to think, learn, understand, remember, and solve problems. These functions include attention, perception, memory, language, problemsolving, and decision-making. In simpler terms, cognitive function is the way our brain helps us make sense of the world, process information, and interact with our surroundings.

So, the more often we do things that truly engage our mental abilities (read: avoiding couch potato syndrome), the better off we are as we age. Here are 10 daily habits that can help protect and promote brain health as you age.

- Exercise. Engage in <u>regular physical</u> <u>activity</u> to improve blood flow, release endorphins that enhance mood and cognitive function, and promote neuroplasticity. Think of neuroplasticity as the brain's natural way of adjusting and reshaping itself to help us better navigate and interact with the world.
- 2. Eat a healthy diet. Consume a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. The Mediterranean diet and the <u>DASH diet</u>, for example, have both been linked to better brain health. It may be better to think of both of these types of eating as just that—eating plans rather than "diets," per se. The emphasis is more on healthy eating and less on weight loss (although a healthy lifestyle may lead to weight loss).
- 3. Get enough sleep. Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep per night to allow your brain to consolidate memories

and repair itself. And do what you can to ensure you get both *enough* sleep and *quality*

- 4. Stay socially active. Engage in social activities and maintain strong relationships to reduce stress, boost mood, and promote cognitive health. Many studies have proven both the negative effects of isolation and loneliness on our mental health and the opposite: the positive impact of being sociable.
- 5. Challenge your brain. Participate in mentally stimulating activities such as learning a new skill, teaching, or volunteering. People of all ages enjoy problem-solving puzzles such as crosswords or sudoku, but that's just a start. Beyond problem-solving, seek out activities that involve learning, critical thinking and judgment, and memory skills. Think of balancing your checkbook or making a budget, volunteering on a nonprofit board, taking a class, or joining a discussion group (such as a book group). An added brain boost with these types of activities is that they often involve connecting and talking with others.
- 6. Manage stress. Stress can have a lifechanging impact on our mental and physical well-being. Practice healthy stress-reduction techniques like mindfulness, meditation or yoga to protect your brain from the negative effects of chronic stress. The mental

health benefits of being outside in nature are well documented.

- Prioritize mental health. Managing stress isn't the only element of protecting brain health. Anxiety, fear, sadness and depression all take a toll—in fact, it's easy for these negative feelings to accumulate over time. <u>Seek help</u> from a professional to maintain your cognitive function.
- 8. Stay organized. Create routines and use tools like calendars or lists to keep your mind decluttered and focused. Staying organized reduces the amount of mental effort required to remember and track tasks, appointments, and other daily responsibilities. This allows your brain to focus on more important cognitive tasks and reduces the risk of cognitive decline. What's more, you'll gain a sense of accomplishment that, in turn, can boost your self-esteem.
- 9. Limit alcohol and tobacco use. Excessive alcohol consumption and smoking have been linked to cognitive decline, so it's important to consume alcohol in moderation and avoid smoking altogether. In fact, the most recent research is telling us that *no* amount of alcohol is healthy for us.
- 10. Protect your head. Wear proper headgear during activities that pose a risk of head injury, such as cycling or contact sports, to reduce the risk of brain damage or cognitive decline. Even if you're not active in activities

that require a helmet, remember that older adults are more prone to falls, especially around the home. Rid your home of trip hazards, improve lighting in dark areas, and install grab bars where you need them. Be sure to see a doctor after any fall—you may have hit your head without realizing it.

Also, remember that memory loss and other declines in our cognitive abilities are *not* normal signs of aging. "Despite the stereotypes, cognitive decline is not inevitable as you age," said Sarah Lenz Lock, the executive director of AARP's Global Council on Brain Health, in speaking with Time magazine.

Vonetta Dotson, associate professor of psychology and gerontology at Georgia State University, adds, "Think of your brain like a house. If you take care of it, you can maintain a house for decades. But if you neglect it, you're more likely to have problems over time."

Besides incorporating these 10 tips into your daily routine, talk to your health care provider right away if you or a loved one notices changes in your cognitive abilities."

God Bless

Chaplain Marie

1st VICE COMMANDER'S CORNER

From the 1st Vice Commander, Wayne Leazer

I attended Expanding Care for Our Veterans: VA Health Care and Benefits for Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances event at SAS on June 27th. Buddy checks are planned for August/September 2023 and February/March 2024. I am currently looking for volunteers to help with the August/September buddy check calls.

Food drive • We will have a food drive at Parkway Pointe Shopping Center Food Lion (2458 SW Cary Parkway) on November 15, just before Thanksgiving to benefit the Dorcas Food Pantry.

Wayne

AMERICANISM

From the 2nd Vice Commander, David Christiansen:

The NRA Foundation was able to complete its merchandise grant award to Post 67 this week with the delivery of three Crossman Challenger Air Rifles (.177). This brand of air rifle is commonly used by JROTC programs across the nation. The post had already received the ancillary equipment for the Crossman rifles that was part of the grant.

The American Legion national web site has a full array of information pertaining to the 2024 oratorical contest. We are awaiting the delivery of the Department's instructions that link the Department contests with the National Finals. The 2024 National Finals are scheduled for May 17-19, in Hillsdale, Michigan, which is a month later than last year's finals. Social media has been alerted, but a more formal announcement will be made later to invite high school aged students to compete.

David

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

From the Post Service Officer, Lee Wood:

The Summary of Veterans Benefits can be found at this link:

Veterans Benefits Newsletter | July 2023 (govdelivery.com)



From the 3rd Vice Commander, Curtis Leary:

Cary Veterans Coffee July

The Veterans Bridge Home will sponsor a Veteran Coffee on July 18 from 8:30am to 10:00am at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse at 5707 Dillard Dr. These Veteran Coffee events will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month, July 18 & September 19. Starbucks Coffee and Panera bagels will be provided. Join us for Camaraderie, Resource information and a little fun. You do not have to register to attend this event.

Boy's State

Boy's State was a great success for the five boys that Post 67 sponsored. In fact, one of the boys we sponsored was selected as one of two boys to attend Boy's Nation in Washington, DC. Jacob Evens sent this to Curtis Leary as a thank you to Curtis and our Post:

"Hello, there sir,

I wanted to thank you again for all the work and support you provided to me which allowed me to gain the opportunity to attend Boys State this past week. I just wanted to inform you that I was selected as one of the two Boys State delegates to attend Boys Nation in Washington D.C. this year. I am so thankful and honored for this opportunity as well.

Is there anything I can do in the future that could help you or your post out in return? If there is, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jacob Evans"

We will invite the boys that we sponsored to go to Boy's State to a General Meeting Dinner, where we will get feedback of their experience.

Curtis

INFORMATION FOR NEW POST MEMBERS

To all new Post 67 members, thank you for joining. We encourage you 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 usually worn by most Legionnaires. This may be called Business Casual dress. **Emblem Sales:** <u>https://www.legion.org/promos/230360/sh</u> <u>op-online</u> If you need help, contact a PEC member.

<u>Member Discounts</u> (mylegion.org)

POST 67 MEETINGS

We hold the monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at the Post. Usually, we have dinner at 6:00 pm before the monthly meeting.

The Post Executive Committee (PEC) meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Post Home. We encourage members to come and speak of any concerns or recommendations concerning Post business at that time.

We may need to hold Post meetings using virtual meet 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.

POST 67 HOME INFORMATION

8523 Chapel Hill Rd., Cary, NC 27513 Post Home Phone: 919-481-4811 Post Home Web & Facebook Page: https://www.alncpost67.org Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/alncpost67.org

HISTORY WITH JOSH

80 years ago, the majority of Nazi Germany's forces were locked in a life and death struggle against the Soviet Union. This created an optimal time for the Allied invasion of Sicily. То maximize success. British Naval Intelligence had devised a clever plan. In April, a British submarine had dumped a corpse dressed as a Royal Marine officer near the coast of Spain. containing forged briefcase Α documents was attached to his wrist with a lock and chain device used by bank couriers of the time. When the decomposing body was discovered, authorities Spanish notified the Germans of the Allied invasion plans found in the briefcase. This elaborate deception code-named plan, Operation Mincemeat, fooled the enemy into thinking the invasion would

fall on Sardinia and Greece, rather than Sicily. Crack German divisions were diverted to these areas, leaving Sicily more vulnerable.

On July 8th the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion on board LST 379 sailed out of Lake Bizerte, Tunisia into the open sea of the Mediterranean. Sergeant TR Roebuck a member of the 62nd states, "Our battalion consisted of about 850 men from different ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds, but with all of our differences, we became just one unit in trying to save each other's lives and do for one another. After leaving Lake Bizerte, we were briefed that our mission was to invade Sicily and our landing site was to be Licata in support of the 3rd Infantry Division." Attached to the ships of the invasion force were balloons that extended several hundred feet into the air. The wires connecting the balloons were used to protect the ships from Stuka dive bombers and German ME strafing 109 fighter planes. "Because of the rough weather in the Mediterranean Sea, we lost all our balloons and became sitting ducks for the German Luftwaffe," remembers Roebuck. D Day for the invasion of Sicily was July 9th and "after daybreak, the stukas and ME 109's worked us

over good. In the 379's effort to make it to shore, we found ourselves stuck on a sand bar several hundred feet from the shore line. We lost 99 men before we ever started unloading."

Overall, the Allied invasion of Sicily proved successful. With the Italians offering little resistance, U.S. forces were able to take the Licata and Gela by beachheads late morning. Displeased with the Italian defense, Albert Kesselring, the Field Marshall of German forces in Italy, ordered a panzer assault. On July 11th, Mark III, Mark IV, and Tiger tanks closed in on the Gela beachhead. Supporting fire from U.S.S. naval cruisers, Boise and Savannah, effectively destroyed some of the advancing panzers. With the inability to defend against massive naval guns, the attacking German tanks withdrew.

The real tragedy for U.S. forces occurred that evening when C-47s, paratroopers, loaded with were mistaken for bombing German planes. The soldiers, who were afraid of being attacked from the air, were eager to press their trigger fingers. Lieutenant Harold Bobroff, a forward observer with the 78th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, who was on the Gela beachhead remembers, "Without telling us they were sending paratroopers, our paratroopers over to drop them, and we thought it was the Germans. Well the merchant ships started shooting, then everybody's shooting and there I am and their coming down, I see my men," and screamed, "Stop firing, their-our guys." Over 400 men were killed or wounded, making it one of the worst friendly fire incidents in modern military history.

In the 38 day campaign for Sicily, Mussolini would be forced out of power and 140,000 Axis soldiers would be captured. Nearly all of the prisoners taken were Italian. Roebuck explains the Allied advance northward through Sicily:

We were sitting on the roadside because traffic waiting of and everything. An old man came out of the woods and on our tread it said Good Year Tire and Rubber Company Dayton Ohio. And he told us, 'You know I worked for that company for 10 years.' He said, 'I got a son up there at the house who's an Italian soldier and I want to know what to do with him.' I asked him, 'Has he taken off his uniform.' And he said, 'Yes.' And I said, 'Well the first thing you do is tell him to put that uniform back on, if we catch him without the uniform were going to kill him as a spy.' He took off running, but everyone in Sicily and Italy, they got family in the United States. They didn't want to fight us. Mussolini just got them into that.

Now we were given the left side of the island and the British were given the right.... Well all of the troops that we fought . . . were Italians. And the Italians did not want to fight the Americans. They would come out of the woods by the hundreds with their hands up. They didn't want to fight us. But on the right side it was like thunder and lightning day and night. . . . The British were fighting Germans. There was a lot of difference. Well we went into Palermo and the people accepted us as heroes. They were just lining the streets and throwing kisses at us. They were greeting us. We never saw any German troops until we got [east] of Palermo and hit Troina. Now what old Patton was trying to do was to get to Messina before General Montgomery and when we hit Troina that's when we ran up against the German troops and that's when our advance stalled. . . . It was the difference between night and day fighting the Germans, than fighting the Italians.

With Italian soldiers surrendering by the thousands, the Germans lacked the

manpower to defend Italv and maintain pressure on the Soviet Union simultaneously. On July 13th, Hitler had halted the offensive operation at Kursk so that forces could be diverted to Italy. buy time for the arrival of То reinforcements, the Field Marshall of forces in German Italy, Albert Kesselring, fought a delaying action While inflicting strategy. many casualties on the Allies, Kesselring, evacuated over a hundred thousand troops and ten thousand vehicles from Sicily to mainland Italy. These forces would fight another day. In fact, the forgotten campaign for Italy, as the Howler will bring you in the following months, would see a showdown of epic proportions.

LEGION

For your information:

Your Post Commander and your Post Adjutant are usually at the Post on Wednesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. You are welcome to come by and chat. If you need anything specific, please let us know before you stop by. The Auxiliary creates cards, to give to Veterans in the hospital and/or Veteran's Homes, during this time.

CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 OFFICERS 2023-2024

POSITION	NAME	PHONE#	EMAIL
Commander	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	commander.alncpost67@gmail.com
Adjutant	Richard Spyrison	919-441-8295	adjutant.alncpost67@gmail.com
1 st Vice Commander	Wayne Leazer	919-319-9062	mleazer32@gmail.com
2 nd Vice Commander	David Christiansen	919-650-3848	dchristi7@gmail.com
3 rd Vice Commander	Curtis Leary	919-270-2136	gssi36@earthlink.net
Finance Officer	Elizabeth Russell	919-302-2518	finance.alncpost67@gmail.com
Service Officer	Lee Wood	843-301-9663	LWoodhhi@aol.com
Chaplain	Marie Faulkner	919-851-9838	calebfaulkner@bellsouth.net
Judge Advocate	John Ferdinando	919-469-5214	anna81mill@yahoo.com
Sgt-At-Arms	Bruce Dale	919-602-7393	advracin@hotmail.com
Historian	Dennis Tackett	703-340-9941	historian.alncpost67@gmail.com
At-Large	Joe Veilleux	919-454-3348	joeveilleux@gmail.com
At-Large			



Chicken Salad Chick



\$8.00/person

July 11, 2023, 6:00PM

Dinner &

General Meeting

Pictures of Post 67 Officer Installation June 13 2023





Eating Dinner

posterity ine pinteprint and sanctify our comrade:

District Commander Dr. Sean van Pallandt making remarks at the Installation of Officers Installation of Officers of Post 67 by Former Department Commander Frank Stancil

ETERANS BRIDGE HOME NTSY **For Coffee and Donuts!**

What: When: Info:

Veterans Coffee Tuesday, July 18th from 8:30am - 10:00am Where: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse, 5707 Dillard Drive, Cary dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org

Veterans Coffee events will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month. The next date is July 18th.

Starbucks Coffee, donuts and/or pastries will be provided. Join us for Camaraderie, Resource information and a little fun.

Veterans, Active Military, **Family Members and Veteran** Supporters are welcome.

Registration not required.



If you know of an organization that would like to help sponsor this event, please have them contact me: dtimmons@veteransbridgehome.org

Wednesday, August 9 ***WE ARE BACK at RCR!*** Please share this information and bring a Family Member and/or a Veteran with you.

Richard Childress has invited the Veterans Bridge Home team and me to join the RCR team in hosting the monthly Veterans Coffee events at RCR!! This is a great opportunity for us to gather for coffee & donuts, spend time together with fellow Veterans, family members and Veteran supporters and learn about benefits we earned while serving our country. As always, there will be occasional recognition events, special entertainment and a surprise or two along the way.

Welcome NC, Wednesday morning, August 9, at RCR, beginning at 9:00 am. Join us for our Veterans Coffee reboot at Richard Childress Racing, RCR Headquarters building 425 Industrial Dr. (Follow the "Veteran Event" signs). I will be there to host, along with the Richard Childress Racing and Veterans Bridge Home teams, a very special Veterans Coffee event. Just like we started over 9 years ago, we will have coffee, donuts and a good time together. Our singing and dancing friend, Erinn Dearth, will be with us just back from the Letters From Home 50 states tour. Gulf War Veteran Jesse Almanza will have a very meaningful presentation. Our Special Guest speaker will be US Army Retired, John Melton, Executive Director | Salisbury VA Health Care System), You do not have to register to attend this event.

Please bring another Veteran or family member with you. Family members and Veteran supporters are always welcome to join us.

RCR Vets Coffee Schedule: August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13. TOWN OF CARY

FESTIVAL

ARTS & CRAFTS

ZYDAZE



PLANNING ON GOING TO LAZY DAZE'S THIS YEAR?

WHERE TO PARK...

THE CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67 WILL OPEN ITS PARKING LOT AND THE LOT ACROSS THE STREET FOR ALL DAY PARKING FOR \$10.00. AUGUST 26TH 9AM TO 5PM AND AUGUST 27TH 9AM TO 5PM.

> ALL DONATIONS WILL SUPPORT OUR VETERANS' PROGRAMS.

8523 CHAPEL HILL ROAD, CARY NC

WE ARE HALF A BLOCK WEST FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE FESTIVAL

WE ARE VETERANS HELPING VETERANS CARY AMERICAN LEGION POST 67



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Wake County Veterans Services

Need help navigating the complex world of veteran's services?

Wake County's Veterans Service Division can assist eligible veterans, dependents and/or surviving spouses, children of deceased veterans, members of the Reserve, National Guard, and active-duty service members in two major ways:

- Veteran homelessness, prevention and housing support
- Assistance applying for benefits and services from the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are highly trained and accredited. VSOs can assist with:

- Disability and compensation benefits
- VA healthcare enrollment
- Survivor and dependent benefits
- VA home loans

- DMV tags
- Employment
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Discharge upgrades
- DD-214/military records request
- And more!

Wake County Veterans Service Division

4401 Bland Road Raleigh, NC 27609

919-212-8356 wake.gov/veterans

Walk-ins welcome but appointments are strongly encouraged.

Are you experiencing a housing crisis?

Contact the Raleigh/Wake Partnership Access Hub to get connected to services such as emergency shelter, street outreach and financial assistance programs to prevent homelessness.

919-443-0096AH@partnershipwake.org

Any additional questions related to veteran housing services can contact 919-856-5250.

Important Dates

Jul 11, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting

Jul 18, 8:30am-10:00am, Veterans' Coffee, BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse

Jul 18, 1:00pm Rifle Team for Burial – Need Volunteers

Aug 1, 6:30pm PEC meeting

Aug 8, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm General Meeting

Aug 26-27 9:00am-5:00pm Cary Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival – Parking Cars

Purpose and Mission of

The American Legion

As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is devoted to mutual helpfulness, and is committed to:

mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities,

advocating patriotism and honor,

· promoting strong national security,

continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Mission

"To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Vision

Veterans Strengthening America

