



AMERICAN LEGION

# The Oxley Post

4637 Decatur Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19136  
215-332-2457  
[www.TheOxleyPost.org](http://www.TheOxleyPost.org)



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April/May 2022

## Commander's Message

By: **Bruce Conklin**

Greetings comrades, I hope this finds you well and in good spirits. Much has been happening around the post. Greg Aschendorf maintains a list of projects that is constantly evolving. You'll be reading more about some of those projects later. Thank you to all of you that have been helping, we are blessed to have people like you as members of our Legion Family.

I'd like to thank, **Micky Hunt, Dave Bartholomew, Ed Hays, Mike O'Leary, Brian Teesdale and Ron Weitman** for stripping and waxing the floor in our hall. It was an all-day effort and when all was said and done, the floor looks great! I'd also like to thank **Dave Bartholomew, Bob Brookes, Tom Cheeseman, Mike O'Leary, Chuck Phraner, Ron Weitman and Jerry Williamson** for their work on the bathrooms.

I'd also like to send a special Thank You to **Bill Prella and Greg Aschendorf** who have been providing much needed help to one of our members who has been ill.

Congratulations to our Adjutant **Bob Brookes** on 100% membership, great job Bob!

Plans have been set for our Memorial Day services, which are detailed later in the newsletter. We hope to see you there.

As a reminder we've changed our meeting schedule. **We now hold all of our meetings on the FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** Be sure to check the calendar for dates and times. Our Oxley Family meetings are very important and are open to all Legion, Sons & Auxiliary members and I encourage you to come and participate.

## Adjutant Report

By: **Bob Brookes**

Hello again Comrades, Well, the Post is up and running and getting further away from this Pandemic.

Darts are also back in full force. We are pleased to announce that we have leagues running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays with a Luck of the Draw (open to anyone) every Friday night and various tournaments throughout the year.

I would like to personally thank everyone for coming out and getting involved in our "Post Work Days." We are getting a lot of important issues resolved as a result of these work days. For example, we just completed building a fenced in area to contain our outside trash. We are also looking into obtaining canvas awnings installed over our entryways to make our appearance look nicer.

Thank you to all involved with all the recent events happening with the Post. We will continue to strive to make the Post better each day. We also welcome all new ideas and suggestions.

As always, if any of our elder comrades need assistance with anything, we are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Until next month, stay safe!

## Post Work Day



We continue to make progress on our to-do list, but it seems like for every job we get done, a new one pops up. Our Post Work Day is on the third Saturday of the month at 10AM. You don't need any special skills to help, just show up with a desire to give a hand. Our upcoming work days are April 16<sup>th</sup> & May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendar. We really need your help. Call Greg Aschendorf @ 215-970-8035 for more information.

We now have new Oxley Post T-shirts in sizes from S to 3X for \$20. Due to high demand, we've gone back to press for some sizes. For more information, call Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607.

## Club News:

By Greg Aschendorf

Wow, its been a real whirlwind time at the Post. In addition to the items mentioned above, we've steam cleaned all the bathrooms and remodeled the two canteen bathrooms. Later this month we'll be getting more electrical work completed. Thanks to everyone who has come out to help. Our work days have been getting a lot of little things done and most of those projects don't need people with special skills or tools. Just give us a couple hours and we'll knock some more items off the list. I'd like to give a shout out to **Bill Prelle** who is truly an unsung hero of our post. He does A LOT of work around our canteen that goes unnoticed. I'd also like to mention that we have new canteen hours: Monday through Thursday 4 – 11 PM, Friday, 3 – 2 AM, Saturday Noon – 2AM & Sunday Noon – 11PM.

## Kentucky Derby Day

Stop by on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> for our Kentucky Derby Party. Beginning at 4PM, we'll be cooking up burgers and dog. We'll also be serving up special drinks and plenty of fun and games! Post time is 6:45 PM. Ladies feel free to wear your best hat. Prizes will be awarded.

## REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR OWN

**Gennaro "Gerry" Pellegrini, Jr.**

**DOB 11/23/1975**

**KIA 8/9/2005**

August 9, 2005 was the deadliest day for Pennsylvania soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On that day in two separate incidents, five members of the Pennsylvania National Guard serving in Iraq were killed. Among those killed that day were Spc. Gennaro Pellegrini Jr., 31, of Philadelphia, Pa. died in Bayji, Iraq, where a mine exploded and enemy forces attacked using small arms fire. He was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Philadelphia, Pa. Gennaro, known as "Gerry" to his family and friends had been a Philadelphia Police Officer since 2001.



In 2004, his unit was called up for deployment to Iraq. He was an avid boxer, was 17-1 as an amateur and was Golden Gloves Champion in 1997. He fought in one professional fight at the Blue Horizon before his deployment. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Gerry, a welterweight, squared off in a four-round fight against John Harris. Pelligrini won the fight with a dramatic KO in the fourth round. Pelligrini gave his camouflaged trunks to Blue Horizon owner Vernoca Michael with the promise that he would return from Iraq and wear them again. He didn't get to deliver on that promise. **(Continued on Page 4)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 7 PM: Oxley Family Meeting.** All Legion, Sons & Auxiliary are invited to attend. At this meeting we discuss upcoming events, plans and suggestions.

**Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 8PM: Regular American Legion Meeting.**

**Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 8PM: Sons of the American Legion Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 7PM: 5<sup>th</sup> District Mtg here at the Oxley Post.** This is the annual “Joint District Meeting” so all Regular Legion, Sons and Auxiliary Members are invited. Please consider coming out to learn what’s happening in our District.

**Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> :** Passover

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 10AM:** Work Day at the Post

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>:** Easter

**Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7PM: Oxley Family Meeting.** All Legion, Sons & Auxiliary are invited to attend. This is an important meeting as we discuss and finalize our plans for Memorial Day

**Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8PM: Regular American Legion Meeting.**

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>: Mother’s Day**

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 7PM: 5<sup>th</sup> District Mtg here at the Oxley Post.** This is the **Post Everlasting Meeting**, where a special ceremony is held to remember those Legionnaires that have died during the past year. This meeting is open to all Oxley Family members and the general public.

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 8AM:** Flag replacement at Magnolia Cemetery.

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>: 10AM:** Work Day at the Post, following flag laying

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> :** Memorial Day (See page 4 for details)

**Please join us in wishing a Happy Birthday to the following Oxley Family Members.**

**Ronald Ciuffetelli 4/10; Edward Sullivan 4/14; Elaine Renzi 4/30**

**Darius Graziani 5/3; Albert Budano, 5/8; John Heller 5/11; Christine Canal 5/11; Michael Grieco 5/26; Paul Dimitri 5/29;**

**Sick Call:** Please keep the following members in your prayers: **Ed Conlon, John Comitale Jr. & Paul Palmer** If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607

## Gerry Pellegrini (Cont'd from Page 2)

While in Iraq, Gerry was in a pen-pal relationship with the children of the Horatio B. Hackett school in Fishtown. In one letter, he told the students how hard the war had been on the Iraqi children and described how many had to walk through the hot sand and broken glass with bare feet. The children took the initiative and collected 350 pairs of flip-flops and sent them to Gerry who was often mobbed as he tried to give them away.

As a Philadelphia Police Officer, Gerry was well liked and respected in Fishtown's 26<sup>th</sup> district. The son of a retired Philadelphia Police officer, Gerry wore his father's badge #3722. Fellow officers gave him the nickname "one-punch Gerry" after an altercation with a suspect. In that incident, a robbery on Delaware Avenue led to a car chase that ended at Chippendale and Frankford Avenues. The suspect threw two punches at Pellegrini before he was knocked out cold with one well-place shot.

Gerry is survived by his father and mother, Gennaro senior and Edith Pellegrini, and his two sisters, Dana and Kimberly.

On the last Thursday of each month at 2PM, Washington's Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Bucks County holds a ceremony for all veterans who have died during the month but had no one attending their burial. The ceremony includes full Military Honors and a folded flag is presented to a volunteer on behalf of those who died. Everyone deserves to have someone at the end: to have their name spoken and their lives and service honored and memorialized. The cemetery is located at 830 Highland Rd., Newtown, PA. Please think about attending if you can.

### Memorial Day Activities: Plan of the Week

**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** Flag-Laying at Magnolia Cemetery: We'll be meeting at the Post at 8AM. (Bring a long screwdriver if you have one – sometimes the ground is hard.)

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>: 7 PM. Reception honoring RDML David Duryea, USN (Ret.) who will also be guest speaker for the Bridesburg Memorial day parade. Details to follow.

**Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. Bridesburg Memorial Day Parade. The bus will be leaving the Oxley Post at 8:15 SHARP. The ceremony at Post 821 begins at 9 AM and the parade begins at 10 AM.

After the parade we will go to Magnolia Cemetery for our ceremony there. We will pay honors at William Oxley's grave before the official ceremony that will begin at 12:30 PM. The bus will then drop off anyone interested in going back to the post before proceeding to St. Dominic's cemetery for a joint ceremony with Post 178 at Charles P. McMenemy's grave. The bus will then return to the Oxley Post.

Our ceremony at the post will begin at approximately 2:30 PM. Please join us as we remember all our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice. We'll be firing up the grill after the ceremony.

**Once again, we're asking all Oxley Family members to bring in any photos, medals, awards or other memorabilia from their loved ones who have served – or are serving. All materials will be returned. Please don't drop off anything prior to Memorial Day as we don't want to misplace any of your keepsakes.**