



AMERICAN LEGION

# The Oxley Post

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February/March 2022

## Commander's Message

By: **Bruce Conklin**

Greetings! I hope you had a great holiday season and I wish all of you an excellent new year. I want to thank all of you for supporting the post in general and specifically Dan Armstrong for being our DJ for our Elvis Night. The DJ we had booked cancelled suddenly and Dan jumped in to help the post without hesitation. Please check in on our elderly members and friends, this can be a tough time of the year. Ask your friends to join our post family and participate.

We are changing our meeting schedule. **We will be holding all of our meetings on the FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH.** The Oxley Family meeting will begin at 7PM. Our Regular Legion meeting will be held at 8PM. (We will hold a Board Meeting following the Regular meeting if necessary) The Sons of the American Legion will also hold their regular meeting at 8PM in the basement. The Oxley Family meetings are open to all Legion, Sons & Auxiliary members and I encourage you to come and participate.

## Adjutant Report

By: **Bob Brookes**

Hello Comrades:

Our Post membership is doing well but we still have about 20 more members to renew to achieve 100%. Let's try to end this on a high note and get everyone renewed. I would like to mention that Ed Conlon is very ill. If anyone is interested and can spare some time, we would like to start a "Drivers List" which would offer rides for our sick comrades back and forth to doctors, stores, etc. The List would be posted in a private area at the Post so as to not disclose any personal information. Ask anyone involved at the Post for more details.

In the event that you may not have heard, we have installed two new smoke-eaters. Please come in and let us know your opinion about the "smoke" issues, which we hope are now gone. On a fun note, we have a block pool running at the Post – 10 points a block – winner receives a signed Kelce Jersey. We will announce the winner on Superbowl Sunday so get your blocks in now.

Would like to give a shout out and many thanks to our friend Tom Cheeseman for all of his work with the security of the Post. You make us all feel safer!

Please remember, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month will be our Post Workday and ALL ARE WELCOME. Details will be provided that day.

And finally, we would like to send our sincere condolences to Shelly Teesdale, President of the Legion Auxiliary, on the passing of her Mother, Rosie Kruszewski.

If you haven't yet paid your 2022 dues, please send in a check your check for \$30. You can also pay safely and conveniently online with a credit or debit card by going to [www.legion.org/membership/renewals](http://www.legion.org/membership/renewals).

**Please mail your 2022 payments to the post in c/o Adjutant Bob Brookes.**

## 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 February 19<sup>th</sup> & March 19<sup>th</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. If you were told we didn't have your size, check back in about a week and we should have it in stock. For more information, call Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607.

**Oxley Family Christmas Party Recap:** Once again, our Christmas Party was a big success and a great time! In addition to the great food, arts and crafts, we had a magician entertain the kids (and adults) and of course a visit from Santa and Mrs Claus! Big thanks go out to Noreen Williams, Melissa & Chuck Phraner for putting it all together and Richie Carr for his generous financial support and most especially Harry & Kathy Engasser for their special help.

## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY AT POST 821

Our friends at the Bridesburg Post 821 (4404 Salmon St) will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-11PM. The cost is \$30 per person which includes open bar, buffet & live music from Oxley's own Ed Hays' band "No Irish Need Apply". Tickets are limited. To reserve your spot, contact Gary Roman @ 215-749-0756.

## Red Cross Declares First-ever Blood Crisis amid Omicron Surge

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Amid this crisis, doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments.

**The Red Cross asks the country to roll up a sleeve to help ensure people receive the care they need. Make an appointment to give blood or platelets as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**

The Red Cross has experienced a 10% decline in the number of people donating blood since the beginning of the pandemic and continues to confront relentless issues due to the pandemic, including ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Adding to the concern is the surge of COVID-19 cases. The Red Cross has experienced low donor turnout ever since the delta variant began spreading in August, and that trend continues as the Omicron variant takes over.

All types are needed now, especially types O positive and O negative, as well as platelet donations, to help reverse this national blood crisis.

## REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR OWN

### Patrick J Carnell Cottage Street, Torresdale

DOB: 9/20/1945

KIA: 10/25/1967

“Pat is a quiet but friendly fellow” read the caption next to Carnell’s senior picture in the 1963 Abraham Lincoln High School yearbook. “We know he’ll be a success in college whatever he attempts.” The 22 year old Specialist Four had worked for United Parcel Service by day and attended Temple University at night before being drafted into the Army in November 1966. He was a gunner and team leader, and was assigned to Company D of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Vietnam. Carnell died on October 25, 1967, in Cu Chi, Bin Duong Province. He was survived by his mother. <sup>1</sup>



Patrick is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery and is memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Wall on Panel 28E Line 64. <sup>2</sup>

1. Source: Liguori, Laura, and Frank Dougherty. “The Six Hundred Thirty: The Stories of Philadelphia's Vietnam War Dead.” *Philadelphia Daily News*, 26 Oct. 1987.
2. Source: “SP4 Patrick J Carnell, Philadelphia, PA .” *Www.VirtualWall.org the Virtual Wall® Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*, <https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/7954/PATRICK-J-CARNELL/>

Dear Pat, On Memorial Day 2020 I wanted to let you know that you are not forgotten. My mother, Eunice Snook nee Knapp, was your Sunday School teacher at the Rhawnhurst Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania when you were a ten year old boy. She was recalled taking you and your classmates on field trips in Philadelphia and said, "Everyone knew and loved Pat. He was always a leader." My mother left Philadelphia after college and described receiving a letter in 1967 telling her of your death in combat. As she is almost 85 years old my mother tells me of people she looks forward to meeting in heaven and includes you in that group. As an Army veteran it is my privilege to salute you Specialist Carnell and let you know that your valor and sacrifice is not forgotten.

Steven Snook (U.S. Army)

Source: “SP4 Patrick J Carnell, Philadelphia, PA .” *Www.VirtualWall.org the Virtual Wall® Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*, <https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/7954/PATRICK-J-CARNELL/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to Philadelphia's new Proof of Vaccination requirement, we are not booking rentals or hosting events until further notice. The canteen is open for business during regular hours.

**Monday, Feb. 1<sup>st</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, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 8PM: Regular American Legion Meeting.**

**Monday, Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> 8PM: Sons of the American Legion Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 7PM: 5<sup>th</sup> District Mtg @ McMenamy Post 178 (8041 Frankford Ave)

**Sunday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM: Super Bowl LVI kickoff. Join us for the party and enjoy the game on our 10 foot screen!**

**Monday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> : Valentine's Day!**

Saturday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 10AM: Work Day at the Post

Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> : Washington's Birthday (observed) a.k.a. Presidents' Day

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> Persian Gulf War Veterans Day

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



**Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 8PM: Regular American Legion Meeting.**

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 7PM: 5<sup>th</sup> District Mtg @ Bridesburg Post 821 (4404 Salmon St.)

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> American Legion's 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> , St Patrick's Day @ the Oxley Post

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 10AM: Work Day at the Post

Saturday, April 2 – 4 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four

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

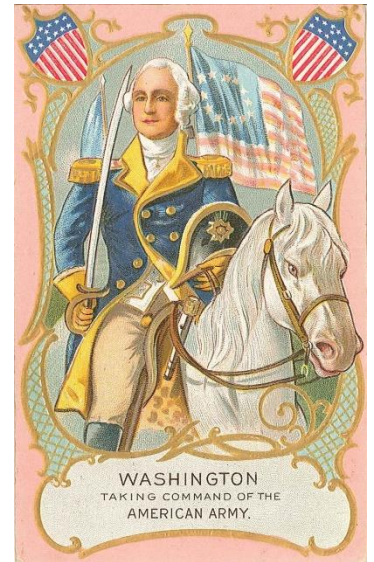
**Ed Hays 2/4; Jack McAndrew 2/14; Charles McCloskey 2/23; Charles Cherrick 3/5; Jack Tomkins 3/8;  
Tom Cheeseman 3/13; Gene Cummings 3/18; William Clark 3/29**

**.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

## Is it President's Day, Presidents' Day or Washington's Birthday?

### Well, it depends...

Contrary to popular belief, the *Federal* holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February is NOT “Presidents’ Day”. It is in fact (and always has been) “Washington’s Birthday”. In 1878 Congress passed a law establishing February 22<sup>nd</sup> as a National Holiday honoring George Washington’s Birthday. In 1968, Congress passed the “Uniform Monday Holiday Act” that changed the observance of the day to the third Monday of February. During debate on the bill, some argued that the name be changed to “Presidents’ Day” to honor both Washington and Abraham Lincoln – whose birthday, on February 12<sup>th</sup> was celebrated by many states (including Pennsylvania) but not recognized as a national holiday. Here in Pennsylvania, Act 275 of 1978, eliminated Lincoln’s Birthday as a holiday, replacing it with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The same legislation, changed the name of the third Monday in February from “Washington’s Birthday” to “Presidents’ Day” (The apostrophe indicates a plural possessive – meaning it celebrates more than one president). At least nine other states spell the holiday the same way. Some states designate the holiday as President’s Day (with the apostrophe indicating singular possessive) and still other states like New Jersey, Nevada and Oregon don’t use an apostrophe at all naming the day Presidents Day. Michigan and New York celebrate Washington’s Birthday. Ohio and several other states recognize Washington – Lincoln Day. So, the short answer is: It depends on where you live. Regardless of what it’s called, you can be sure there will be great sales on mattresses!



Did you know... George Washington got to celebrate his twenty-first birthday *twice*. Confused? Washington was born in Virginia (an English Colony) on February 11, 1731, (according to the Julian calendar in use at the time) In 1752, when Washington was twenty one, England adopted the Gregorian calendar which moved Washington’s birthday one year and 11 days forward to February 22, 1732 ... making him twenty again! (The Gregorian calendar was first proposed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 as a replacement for the Julian calendar which was introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. The Gregorian calendar changed the spacing of leap years to more closely approximate the time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun.)

Sources:

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Presidents' Day". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 21 Dec. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Presidents-Day>.

“George Washington's Birthday or Presidents Day?” *George Washington's Mount Vernon*, Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/facts/the-truth-about-presidents-day>.

“Presidents' Day.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 28 Jan. 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidents%27\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidents%27_Day).

## **Persian Gulf War Veterans Day**

On November 17, 2021, Governor Wolf signed into law Senate Bill 248 designating March 6 of each year as Persian Gulf War Veteran's Day and October 7<sup>th</sup> of each year as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day. The designation requires the Governor to annually issue a proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational institutions to observe Persian Gulf War Veterans Day and to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those involved in the Persian Gulf War/Global War on Terrorism and remembering the sacrifices they made for their country. The proclamation may not mandate a public school or educational institution to participate in the observance. The law also designates September 27<sup>th</sup> as First Responders Day.

Persian Gulf War Veterans Day.

The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

- (1) On August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein ordered Iraqi troops to invade and occupy the sovereign nation of Kuwait.
- (2) The United States led an international coalition demanding Saddam Hussein to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait by January 15, 1991.
- (3) After Iraq failed to meet the deadline passed by the United Nations Security Council, President George H. W. Bush on January 16, 1991, ordered United States Armed Forces to begin Operation Desert Storm.
- (4) On January 17, 1991, 750,000 coalition forces from 36 nations, including 540,000 United States Armed Forces, began the battle to liberate Kuwait from occupation.
- (5) After an intensive air campaign, coalition forces liberated Kuwait City on February 28, 1991.
- (6) On March 6, 1991, after negotiating a cease-fire, President Bush announced the end of combat operations.
- (7) By the end of the conflict, 200 United States Armed Forces members were killed, including 29 from this Commonwealth.
- (8) The bravery of United States Armed Forces and their allies should be recognized for the liberation of Kuwait and restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent nation.

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.