



# The Oxley Post



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[www.TheOxleyPost.org](http://www.TheOxleyPost.org)

July/August 2019

## Commander's Message

By: Bruce Conklin

Memorial Day weekend was great in so many ways: we took donations for poppies at the Shoprite at Knorr & Frankford Avenue. This was coordinated by **Mike Vokes** and made a success by many volunteers including Mike, **Dave Bartholomew, Barb and Ed Hays, Jack Tomkins, Greg Aschendorf, Bob Cummings and George Busch.**

A special thank you to **John Werzler**, incoming Commander of the McMenemy Post 178 and Platoon Sergeant in B Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 104<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, who arranged for an Army truck to enable some of our members to participate in the Bridesburg Memorial Day Parade even though they could not have walked it. It was a great success! **Brian Conklin**, a soldier in John's platoon and member of our Post, drove the vehicle and assisted our guys getting on and off the truck.

Thanks to SAL member **Mike Hanratty** we have a beautiful Flag Drop-Box on the front portico for people to drop off their worn and tattered flags. And speaking of worn flags, once again we participated in a joint flag-retirement ceremony with the McMenemy Post at their post.



## Adjutant Report:

By: Jack Tomkins

**Membership:** The American Legion works on a fiscal year, so we **will start collecting 2020 dues in July 2019.** Please check your most recent membership card. If you don't have a 2019 membership card, you are in arrears and may be dropped from the post! Please call me at 215-280-2033 if you have any questions. **Please mail your 2020 payments to the post in c/o Adjutant Jack Tomkins.** You can also renew your membership conveniently and safely online with a credit/debit card. To pay online visit [www.legion.org/membership/renewals](http://www.legion.org/membership/renewals) . If you have a hardship and are unable to pay, please contact me or any post officer.

## Canteen Report:

By: Greg Aschendorf

Well, summer is here, which is typically the slowest time of the year for the post. So far, we are doing pretty well and I'd like to thank everyone who stops by for a cold beverage or two to help support the post. Part of that success is due to our Friday night "Luck of the Draw" Darts. Thanks to everyone who comes out to make it a success. Behind the scenes, we've been very busy. We've just purchased a new air conditioner for the canteen which should be delivered and installed by the time you are reading this. This should not only help keep us cool, but its high efficiency rating should help us save on our electric bills. We are in the process of finalizing installation of a new security camera system. Thanks to **Tom Cheeseman, Mike O'Leary, Chuck Phraner and Dave Bartholomew** for leading our efforts on this project. It's a big improvement. For the front of our building, we've completed the cinder block portion of the project and we now need to get new windows installed. As for the mural restoration, we're waiting on a date from the city's mural arts department on when they plan to begin that project. We are also planning other major improvements to the post that I hope to be able to report on soon.

Congratulations to **Skylar Pinto**, niece of a very proud Uncle **Jack Tomkins**, who came in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Pennsylvania American Legion Essay Contest. Skylar just completed her junior year at Central Bucks West High School. Way to Go, Skylar!



## Disabled Veterans eligible for free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass

Good for entry into 400+ National Parks and over 2,000 recreation sites across the country

by Steven Clipp  
May 22, 2019

Source: Clipp, Stephen. "Disabled Veterans Eligible for Free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass." *VAntage Point*, US Department of Veterans Affairs, 22 May 2019, [www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60590/disabled-veterans-eligible-free-national-park-service-lifetime-access-pass/?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=VAntage](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/60590/disabled-veterans-eligible-free-national-park-service-lifetime-access-pass/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VAntage).

Spring flowers are blooming, the summer travel season quickly approaches and Veterans are joining the 330-million yearly visitors enjoying U.S. National Parks.

Many Veterans, with a service connected disability rating, are entering Federal parks for free with the [Lifetime National Parks Access Pass](#) from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Good for entry into 400+ National Parks and over 2,000 recreation sites across the country, the Lifetime Access Pass is another way a grateful nation says thank you for the service and sacrifices of Veterans with disabilities.

The Access Pass admits disabled Veterans and any passengers in their vehicle (non-commercial) at per-vehicle fee areas; and, the pass owner plus three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. In addition to free entry at participating parks, the Access Pass includes discounts on expanded amenity fees; such as camping, swimming, boat launching and guided tours.

Veterans who have a VA disability rating, (10 percent or higher) are eligible for the Lifetime Access Pass—with two ways to apply.

First, disabled Veterans can apply in person at a participating federal recreation site. Simply present photo identification (Driver's license, State ID, Passport) and documentation proving a permanent disability (VA awards letter, VA ID with service connected annotation, VA summary of benefits, or receipt of Social Security disability income). That's It. The Pass is free and issued at the time of entry.

Second, if applying by mail, send a completed packet and \$10 processing fee to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The packet should include:

- The Access Pass application form
- Proof of residency
- VA disability award letter, VA summary of benefits, or proof of SSDI income

Editor's Note: We will have the lists of Pennsylvania and New Jersey Federal Recreation Sites at the Post as well as Access Pass Applications if interested in applying by mail.

Pass delivery expected 10-12 weeks after receipt.

Make sure to have photo ID available when using your Lifetime Access Pass and enjoy the majestic scenery and abundant recreational opportunities our National Parks provide.

## Dart News

### Friday Night "Flights"

Every Friday we host Friday Night "Luck of the Draw" dart tournaments. All skill levels are welcome and you'll be paired up with a partner that is selected at random. We play "501 single-on/double off". Registration begins at 7:30 - darts at 8-ish.



## National Guard members speak on PA GI Bill after it passes in State House vote

by Alexis Wainwright

Tuesday, May 28th 2019

Source: Wainwright, Alexis. "National Guard Members Speak on PA GI Bill after It Passes in State House Vote." *WJAC TV*, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., 28 May 2019, [wjactv.com/news/local/national-guard-members-speak-on-pa-gi-bill-after-it-passes-in-state-house-vote](http://wjactv.com/news/local/national-guard-members-speak-on-pa-gi-bill-after-it-passes-in-state-house-vote).

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – A bill that Gov. Tom Wolf introduced earlier this year to help support National Guard families' members passed in the House earlier this month.

The bill offers additional benefits to soldiers and their families. Officials say it will help keep more soldiers who have experience on board -- as the requests for them increase.

Pennsylvania could be the first state to support National Guard members' families after the House passed the bill by a unanimous vote.

As we see more severe weather, the demand for the National Guard increases and with the increase in service, officials say more benefits should be offered.

"We've been asking more and more of our guardsmen, to make more sacrifices, more time away from their families, more time away from their civilian jobs," Adjutant General of Pennsylvania Maj. Gen. Tony Carrelli said. "We've been used more and more for snowstorms, for flooding, for hurricanes."

In February, Wolf introduced the PA National Guard Military Family Education Program, which would provide benefits to National Guard service members' families.

"It is a nice opportunity for a benefit that I've earned to be able to give it to my children or pass it to a child," Staff Sgt. Mark Milanovich said.

With this bill, if a service member reenlists for service, they can transfer their program benefits to a spouse or a child. The benefit provides assistance for up to 10 semesters or five years, equivalent to the in-state rate of the Pennsylvania state system of higher education.

"The bill is a great retention tool to help keep soldiers in that are looking to better themselves as a soldier and give families the credit that they deserve," Sgt. Keegan Beaver said.

Milanovich is an active member in the National Guard,; he said it's more than just them making a sacrifice -- their families do, too.

"Our kids sacrifice time with mom or dad, especially with a yearlong deployment," Milanovich said.

In a statement, Wolf said, "We all share a commitment to supporting our Pennsylvania national guard members and their families. The unsung heroes who hold down the fort." "Our families serve and sacrifice right along, (with us); they don't wear a uniform but they have to put up with a lot," Carrelli said.

Next, the Senate has to vote on the bill. There's no word yet on how long that will take.

Editor's Note: This story refers to PA House Bill 1324. Since this story was first reported on May 28, the Senate took up the measure and passed it. As of press time, it is awaiting the Governor's signature. This is a great piece of legislation for our National Guardsmen and their families.

## We're Here to Help!

The purpose of the American Legion is to be of service to veterans who are in need. If you find yourself in a position where you are in need of assistance please don't hesitate to reach out. We can help with problems in getting your VA benefits to a ride to the doctor's office. We can also help you get a handicap placard or license plate for your car or getting a "Veteran Designation" on your state issued driver's license or non-driver ID. Contact our Service Officer **Mike Vokes** at 267-968-4124 for assistance.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, July 4: Independence Day:** The Post will be open and we will be grilling up Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Call or stop in for more information.

**Thursday, July 11 – 14<sup>th</sup>:** Department Convention, Harrisburg, PA

**Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>:** Legion Family Meeting followed by AL Board Meeting.

**Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 7PM: Karaoke Comes to the Oxley Post with NE Philly's Best: The Harry "O" Show**

**Saturday, July 27, 1953:** Armistice Signed Halting the Korean War.

**Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 8:30:** Golfing in Memory of Bill Bieringer – Byrne Golf Course

**August 2, 1990:** Iraqi forces invade neighbor Kuwait. Seven days later Operation Desert Shield begins.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>:** Coast Guard Birthday 

**Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> 8PM:** Movie Night: *Remember the 27 Crusaders*

**Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>:** National Night Out

**Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>:** Purple Heart Day

**Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00:** Legion Family Meeting followed by AL Board Meeting.

**August 13, 1945:** V-J Day, commemorating the Allies Victory over Japan

**Sick Call:** Please keep the following members in your prayers: **Paul Palmer, Jack Hosgood, Francis Dufner.** If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Jack Tomkins at 215-280-2033.

### **Remember the 27 Crusaders viewing at the Oxley Post**



On Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 8PM we will be showing *Remember the 27 Crusaders* at the Post. This full length documentary is about the 27 graduates of Father Judge High School who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The movie which was released in January has received a great deal of critical acclaim. Please come join us as we remember our friends and neighbors who died in Vietnam.

### **Oxley Post Raffle!**

In cooperation with Delia's Gun shop, we are raffling off a new Radical Arms AR-15 with red-dot sight and in-stock battery storage; ambidextrous safety and full length rail system. Tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will be held on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. **Anyone purchasing a ticket must be at least 18 years of age and must be eligible to own a firearm.** Tickets are available at the post. This has the potential of being an incredible fundraiser for the post. Please consider purchasing a ticket. For more information contact Ed Hays or Bob Cummings.

### **KARAOKE Comes to the Oxley Post**

On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, we will be singing the night away with Northeast Philly's Favorite DJ, Harry "O". There is No Cover charge. Please help spread the word and come out to support your Post.



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

**Kathy Hughes 7/6; Barb Hays 7/19; Debbie McAndrew 8/1;  
Michael Snyder 8/2; Ed Conlon 8/12 & Charles Curran 8/14**

(If your birthday isn't listed, stop by the Post and fill out a member info form or give us a call and we'll mail it to you.)

## Pennypack Park Music Festival

The PennyPack Park Music festival is well into its 2019 season. Why not stop by the post before or after the concert. Here's the tentative lineup for the rest of the summer. All shows held at the Ed Kelly Amphitheater, Welsh Rd and Cresco St. Show times 7 – 9:30PM

July 10 Romeo Delight – the Ultimate Van Halen Tribute Band  
July 17, Irish Night featuring Jamison and The Bogside Rogues  
July 24, Starman – The Bowie Tribute  
August 7, Black Dog – Led Zeppelin Tribute  
August 14, The Launch – Tribute to Queen and Styx  
August 21, Let's Ride – Country Wild, Rebel Rockin' Party Band  
September 4, Think Pink Floyd

## Wall of Faces – Spread the Word - UPDATE

As reported in previous editions, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has undertaken a project to gather pictures of everyone whose name is memorialized on the wall in an effort to preserve their legacy for generations to come. You can see the collection at <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/> The PA Department of Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is trying to help get photos of everyone who died from Pennsylvania. Eight men, all from Philadelphia, remain. If you served with any of these heroes or know them from the neighborhood and have a photo let us know and we'll help put you in touch with the VVMF. You can also help by spreading the word to your friends, family and coworkers. Let's help honor these men and make sure they are not forgotten to history!

Name	Birth Date	Hometown	Branch of Service	Casualty Date	Rank
VESTIE T DRIGGERS	9/26/1944	PHILADELPHIA	ARMY	29-Nov-68	SP4
WILLIE DURANT	2/20/1949	PHILADELPHIA	ARMY	17-Jan-68	PFC
MATTHEW N HARRIS JR	4/1/1931	PHILADELPHIA	AIR FORCE	28-May-65	MSGT
EUGENE J MARTIN	6/13/1925	PHILADELPHIA	NAVY	12-Dec-65	BM3
TERRY S SMALL	7/2/1949	PHILADELPHIA	MARINE CORPS	4-Sep-69	PFC
JOSEPH J STOJINSKI JR	3/1/1944	PHILADELPHIA	ARMY	20-Oct-70	SP5
WILLIE J WASHINGTON JR	7/8/1949	PHILADELPHIA	MARINE CORPS	18-Nov-68	PFC
KERRY L WILLIAMS	7/2/1947	PHILADELPHIA	MARINE CORPS	5-Mar-66	PFC

In each edition we'll select two heroes and relay what we know about them from a *Philadelphia Daily News* Supplement titled "Six Hundred and Thirty One" published October 26, 1987.

### Wall of Faces – Missing Photos

Terry S. Small: The twenty-year-old private first class was a laboratory technician at Metropolitan Hospital before he joined the Marine Corps in February 1969. Small was sent to Vietnam and assigned to Company G of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. He was killed on Sept. 4, 1969 six weeks after arriving in the war zone, in Quang Nam Province, when a grenade from friendly forces exploded near him. Survivors included his mother and stepfather.

Joseph Stojinski, Jr: Stojinski served three tours of duty in Vietnam before dying there on October 20, 1970. The 26-year-old Army specialist five had a variety of military specialties and was working as a company clerk with Company D of the 55<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion at the time of his death. He was survived by a wife and a son.

## PLEASE GIVE BLOOD



As Americans enjoy their summer vacations, the need for blood donations skyrockets. Please make a commitment to donate an hour to donate the gift of life!

There is a convenient blood donation center at Rhawn and Dungan Streets that is open 7 days a week or go to [www.redcross.org/give-blood.html](http://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment. After you've donated, please call Bill Castillo at 267-974-8808 to let us know you've made the donation.

### **As we celebrate our nation's independence from Great Britain here are some interesting facts on the Revolutionary War:**

- There were 2,165,076 British colonists living in North America during the war. Twenty percent remained loyal to the Crown.
- The British had 133,000 troops. Of these, 56,000 were regular military soldiers. 30,000 German (Hessian) troops joined the fight. 13,000 Native Americans fought for the Redcoats along with 19,000 loyal colonists. 24,000 British troops died.
- 96,000 troops served in the American Army. Only 35,000 of those were regular Army. 45,000 were militiamen – citizen soldiers. 5,000 sailors served along with 12,000 French troops. 25,000 American soldiers died; only 4,435 died in battle. About 10,000 troops died of disease. 18,000 troops were taken as prisoners of war and 10,000 of these soldiers died of disease, mistreatment and hunger. American troops were three times more likely to die on a British prison ship than in battle!
- About 25,000 freed blacks and slaves served on both sides.

Source: Declan, Tobin. " **Fun Revolutionary War Facts For Kids** ." American History for Kids, Jun 2019. Web. 29 Jun 2019. < <https://www.americanhistoryforkids.com/revolutionary-war-facts-figures/> >.

### **Save Those Soda and Beer Can Tabs**

We are collecting aluminum can tabs for Children's Hospital. Please drop off at the Post.

### **The Oxley Post is On the Web!**

Please visit our website [www.TheOxleyPost.org](http://www.TheOxleyPost.org) for the latest news and information on happenings at the post. Please take a few minutes and check it out. It's full of helpful resources, information. We're looking for any historical documents and/or photos you may have of the post. Please contact Bob Cummings. We'd also ask you google us and give us a positive review. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

### **Why Are They Called "Dog Days" of Summer?**

by Farmers' Almanac Staff

Source: "Why Are They Called 'Dog Days' of Summer?" *Farmers' Almanac*, Almanac Publishing Co., 22 Apr. 2019, [www.farmersalmanac.com/why-are-they-called-dog-days-of-summer-21705](http://www.farmersalmanac.com/why-are-they-called-dog-days-of-summer-21705).

We often hear about the "dog days" of summer but few know what the expression means. Some say that it signifies hot sultry days "not fit for a dog;" others suggest it's the weather in which dogs go mad. The Dog Days of Summer describes the most oppressive period of summer, between July 3rd and August 11th each year. But where did the term come from? And what does it have to do with dogs?

The phrase is actually a reference to the fact that, during this time, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. This is why Sirius is sometimes called the Dog Star. In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun's warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs caniculārēs*, or "dog days."

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to Aug. 11. While this period usually is the hottest stretch of summer, the heat is not due to any added radiation from Sirius, regardless of its brightness. The heat of summer is simply a direct result of the Earth's tilt. During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun's rays to hit at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days.



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