



American Legion

The Oxley Post



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215-332-2457



www.TheOxleyPost.org

May/June 2019

Commander's Message

By: Bruce Conklin

I hope all of you had a great holiday! Looking forward to Memorial Day activities:

- Post Everlasting to be hosted here at the post by the 5th District on Wednesday, May 8
- Placing Flags at Magnolia Cemetery on Saturday, May 18th
- Bridesburg Parade on Memorial Day, Monday 27th. We will once again have a bus to the Parade, Magnolia and St. Dominic's, then returning to the post. **This year, courtesy of B-Troop, 104th Cavalry, an open Army truck with troop seats will be provided so that our members who may not be able to walk the parade are still able to participate! Please call me at 215-495-9912 to reserve your spot.**

I want to thank Dave Jacob of Keystone Vending, our small games of chance vendor, for looking out for us by obtaining a ticket machine that was about to be 'retired' and getting it put in our post! It needs a little work, but it's better than what we had! I also want to thank all of you that step up to lend a hand – the ones that waxed the floor in the canteen – Mickey Hunt, Dave Bartholomew, Ed Hays and Bill Prella; also the ones that help with everything from decorating, stocking the canteen, setting up and cleaning the hall for events and giving a hand with putting out the recycling every week. We have a great group here. All of you make it a pleasure for me to be a member of the Oxley Family!

Adjutant Report:

By: Jack Tomkins

Membership: We are quickly nearing the end of the Legion fiscal year and if you haven't paid your dues you are at risk of being dropped from the post! **Please mail payments in c/o Post 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. If you have a hardship and are unable to pay, please contact a post officer.

Please give a warm Oxley Family Welcome to the following new members

James Hamil, Jr.
James Hamil, III
Dennis McGinley
James Smith

Nominations for 2019-2020 Post officers will be accepted at our May meeting. Elections will be held in June.

Canteen Report:

By Greg Aschendorf

The canteen has been doing well lately and we're hoping to keep the momentum moving forward as the historically slow summer months approach. We are planning a lot of exciting events so please stop by. We're initiating a Happy Hour from 4-6, Monday through Friday. Stop by for fun and drink specials. We're also looking into an inhouse shuffleboard (long board) league as well as American Darts. If interested, stop by and sign up on the list.

(Canteen Report, Continued)

We really owe a huge Thank You to **Mike O'Leary** who runs the Luck-of-the-Draw Tournaments every week. We are hoping to keep that running through the summer although we're going to need help running it as Mike will be taking a well-deserved summer off. If you're able to help, please let me know.

Thanks also go out to **Mickey Hunt, Dave Bartholomew, Ed Hays** and **Bill Prella** for stripping and waxing the canteen floor. It looks GREAT!

The monthly Saturday morning "Work Days" at the Post have not gotten the participation we were hoping for. There is a lot of work that needs to be done on a regular basis to keep the post in good order. Most of these projects don't need any special skills – just a couple sets of willing hands. If you're able to give even an hour or two, please give let me know. We really need the help!

You may have noticed work going on to the front of our building. Under the leadership and expertise of **Jack McAndrew**, we've been blocking up the areas under the windows and when complete we'll be replacing the windows. Later in the summer, Mural Arts Philadelphia will be doing a restoration project on our mural. If you have any pictures of when the mural was new, it would be a great help to the restoration artists. Please drop off at the post or give us a call. Thanks

Kentucky Derby Day



Stop by on Saturday, May 4th for our Kentucky Derby Party. Beginning at 4 PM, we'll be cooking up burgers and dogs. We'll also be serving up special drinks and plenty of fun and games! Post Time is 6:50.

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.



Congratulations to Oxley Team #1



Congratulations go out to Team Captain **Chrissy Canal** and teammates **Bill Stankiewicz, Bruce Conklin, Chuck Phraner, Dave Bartholomew, Jack Tomkins, Brian Conklin, Butch Williams, Greg Aschendorf** and **Warren Korn** for winning the Tuesday night (Division 20) Second-Half Championship!

American "Baseball" Darts

We're looking into getting an American Darts (baseball) league started on Saturday afternoons in the summer. We haven't finalized the details but it would likely start in



early June and end in early August. If you'd like to sign up, call the post and leave a message.

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.

VETERAN SERVICE DAY POSTPONED

The Veteran Service Day discussed in our last edition has been postponed until the fall. If you are in need of assistance in the meantime, see any post officer or contact our Service Officer Mike Vokes.

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!

The Oxley Post is now on the web! Please check out our website: www.TheOxleyPost.org. If you log onto the site between now and noon on Friday, May 24th, you can enter to win a Phillies Bryce Harper shirt. You can enter daily for more chances to win. We are still working on developing content for the site and we're looking for someone to help with post history and archives. If you are interested or have old pictures or news clippings that you'd like to share, please let us know.

Memorial Day Activities: Plan of the Week

Saturday, May 18th 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.) After our work at the cemetery is over, we'll return to the post for a 'debrief' and lunch.

Monday, May 27th. 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. See the "Commander's Message" about a new opportunity to take part in the parade.

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. This was a big success last year and hope to build on that this year. 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.

All events are held rain or shine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8th, 7PM: 5th District Meeting at the Oxley Post: Post Everlasting Ceremony. This event is open to all Oxley Family members as well as the general public.

Thursday, May 9th, 7:30: Legion Family Meeting followed by AL General Meeting. **THERE WILL BE A BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEETING.**

Sunday, May 12th, Mother's Day!

Monday, May 13th, 8 PM: S.A.L. Meeting

Saturday, May 18th, 8 AM: Flag Replacement at Magnolia Cemetery.

Monday, May 27th Memorial Day

Saturday, June 1st 8 AM Police Officer Gary Skerski Memorial Golf Outing

June 6, 1986: Michael Strange Birthday

Monday, June 10th, 8 PM S.A.L. General Meeting

Thursday, June 13th, 7:00 Legion Family Meeting followed by AL General Meeting.

Friday, June 14th, Flag Day



Friday, June 14th: 244th Birthday of the US ARMY

Saturday, June 15th, Flag retirement ceremony at McMenemy Post #178. Details TBA

Sunday, June 16th, Father's Day

June 25, 1950, 75,000 North Korean troops invaded South Korea beginning the Korean War. By the time the armistice was signed in July 1953, 36,574 Americans were killed in-theater. 7,704 Americans are still MIA.

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

Post Everlasting: Former Post Commander Andy Desmond passed away on March 21. The Oxley Post Honor Guard, led by **Commander Conklin** attended his viewing along with Honor Guard members of Post 834, Falsington, Bucks County.

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

**Darius Graziani 5/3; John Heller 5/11; Christine Canal 5/13; Paul Dimitri 5/29; John O'Neill 6/3;
Wayne Kirwin 6/6; Nicole Menow 6/8; James Vandiver 6/17; Patricia Grab 6/18;
Bob Cummings 6/22; Charlie Loggia 6/22, Walter Myers 6/23; Ted Etling 6/24; Noreen Williams 6/28;**

(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 getting ready to kick off its 2019 season. Why not stop by the post before or after the concert. Here's the tentative lineup for May and June. All shows held at the Ed Kelly Amphitheater, Welsh Rd and Cresco St.

29 May 6:30 PM: Tribute to the Grateful Dead. "Steal Your Face" & the "All-Catholic Jazz Band"
5 June 6:30 PM: Northeast Philadelphia Legend "LeCompte" & "Rock to the Future"
19 June 7:00 PM: Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd & Allman Bros. "High Noon"
26 June 7:00PM: Tribute to Stevie Nicks (Fleetwood Mac) "Gypsie"



Wall of Faces – Spread the Word - UPDATE

As reported in the March/April edition, 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. In March, there were 11 men from Pennsylvania whose pictures had not been found. We are happy to report that pictures of three of those men, William Corey (Williamsport), John Hargrave (Glenside) and Jimmie McMorris (Norristown) have been found! 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" October 26, 1987.

Wall of Faces – Missing Photos

Matthew Harris, Jr. The career of Air Force non-commissioned officer, a 1948 graduate of Overbrook High School had served in Japan and Morocco, among other places before being assigned to the 33rd Air Force Dispensary in Vietnam in February 1965. The 34-year-old medical service technician died in Saigon on May 28, 1965. He was survived by a wife and a son.

Eugene Martin: *Zeralda Street, Germantown*. The career Navy man drowned in Vietnam on December 12, 1965 at the age of 40, while directing a crew running an oil line from an offshore tanker to Chu Lai Beach in Quang Nam Province. The boatswain's mate Third Class was assigned to the West Pacific Detachment, Amphibious Construction Brigade, and was due to retire in three weeks. Martin had fought in World War II and Korea. The bachelor was planning to return home to Philadelphia, where he was survived by two brothers and a sister.

Flag Trivia__(See Answers Next Page)

1. When were the stars and stripes officially introduced to the American flag?
2. Who designed the current 50 star flag?
3. The US flag has always had 13 stripes except when?
4. How many US flags are there on the moon?
5. True or False: The Mayor of Philadelphia may order US flags to be flown at half-staff.
6. True or False: Violating the flag code is punishable by fines up to \$5,000 or imprisonment for 1 year.
7. 'Old Glory' was a nickname given to which US Flag?
8. The American flag first flew over a foreign fort in what country?
9. In what war did the naval bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor inspire Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner"
10. In what year was the "Star Spangled Banner" named the national anthem?

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD



A blood donation is one of the greatest gifts that a person can give. It is a selfless act that can save up to three lives! This year, instead of having a traditional blood drive at our post, **we are asking all our Oxley Family members to make an appointment and donate at a date and time convenient to them.**

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment. After you've donated, please call Bill Castillo at 267-974-8808 to let us know you've made the donation.

- Send an email or text to your friends and family and ask that they pledge to donate.

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 to schedule an appointment.

Congratulations to Butch Williams who was awarded a 5 Gallon American Legion Pin for his lifetime donations. Bob Cummings received a pin for donating 4 gallons. **If you've donated a lifetime total of more than 1 gallon (8 pints) of blood. If you have, please let us know. If you're not sure, contact the Red Cross.**

UNATTENDED VETERAN AT WASHINGTON'S CROSSING VETERAN CEMETERY

On the last Thursday of each month (May 30 and June 27) at 2PM, Washington's Crossing National Cemetery, in Newtown, Bucks County, 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 consider taking the time to help honor one of our own.



"There is no greater love than to give one's life for a friend." Jesus Christ
John 15:13

Flag Trivia Answers

June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress adopts a resolution stating that "the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white" and that "the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation

Robert Heft (1942-2009), then 16t designed the fifty-star flag. Stanley Pratt, Heft's teacher at Lancaster High School, asked his students to design a flag for the admittance of Hawaii and Alaska as states in the United States. Heft chose to arrange the fifty white stars on a blue background. Five rows had six stars, and four rows had five stars. It took Heft 12.5 hours to sew the flag together. Heft was given a B- as the grade for the flag. Heft sent his flag to his Congressman Walter Moeller, who succeeded in having Heft's design adopted as the new United States flag on July 4, 1960.

After the addition of the states of Vermont and Kentucky in the United States in 1795, two more stripes (& two more stars) were added to the flag totaling the number to 15. In 1818, as five more states were about to enter the union, it was decided to revert back to the 13 stripes symbolizing the original 13 colonies. There are six flags on the moon, one from each Apollo mission from 1969 to 1972. The first, planted by Neal Armstrong was knocked over by the rocket blast when departing the moon. Images taken by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2012 do show that at five out six flags still stand. However, scientists think decades' worth of brilliant sunlight have bleached out their emblematic colors.

False. Only the President, state Governor, or the Mayor of Washington D.C. can order flags be flown at half-staff.

False. The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

William Driver, a sea captain from Salem Massachusetts received the 17' x 10' homemade flag with 24 stars in 1824, sewn for him by his mother and a group of young Salem female admirers to celebrate his appointment, at the age of just 21, as a master mariner and commander of his own ship, the *Charles Doggett*. According to legend, when Driver raised the flag up the main mast, he lifted his hat and declaimed, "My ship, my country, and my flag, Old Glory."

It was first flown over the shores of Tripoli. The Marines were involved in military actions against the Barbary pirates in the Battle of Derne in 1805 and after they hit the shore, they raised the Stars and Stripes. It was the first time the US Flag was flown on foreign soil.

Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner as a poem on Sept 14, 1814. It was the War of 1812.

Throughout the 19th century, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was regarded as the national anthem by most branches of the U.S. armed forces and other groups, but it was not until 1916, and the signing of an executive order by President Woodrow Wilson, that it was formally designated as such. In March 1931, Congress passed an act confirming Wilson's presidential order, and on March 3 President Hoover signed it into law.