



AMERICAN LEGION

The Oxley Post



4637 Decatur Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-332-2457

September/October 2018

Commander's Message

By: **Bruce Conklin**

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who give so much of their time and talent to the Post. We have a great core group of people here who have been working hard to continue the legacy of the American Legion and honor the memory of William Oxley and all the men and women who have given their lives in defense of our nation. I'd especially like to thank our Executive Board for their leadership, help and support. Our Ladies Auxiliary help us in so many ways including – but certainly not limited to – food preparation for our various events, organizing our in-house shufflebowl league and in so many other ways that I can't list. Our S.A.L group is, in my opinion, second to none! The work they do behind the scenes in the maintenance and upkeep of our building and the Michael Strange Memorial is outstanding.

But frankly, we need more help... we need you! Please consider getting more involved by attending our meetings and supporting our post activities. Even if you've been away for a while, stop in and say "Hi". Without your active support, the post will be unable to continue its mission of serving our community and fellow veterans. I'd like to thank all the people who have really stepped up in the last year to keep our post moving forward: **Greg Aschendorf** (Finance Officer and new House Chair), **Jack Tomkins** (Adjutant and Membership), **Bob Cummings** (Chaplain, Newsletter Editor), **Shelly Teesdale** (Auxiliary President, Shufflebowl Commissioner) and **Mike O'Leary** (Summer Darts) Finally, thank you all for your service, your dedication to the Legion and for being part of the Oxley Family!

Also, as a result of a lot of hard work over the summer, we finally have received our "Small Games of Chance" License from the city. This license allows us to sell 'pull tab' tickets as well as other small gambling games. These games have the potential of raising a lot of money for the post, so I would ask you to give it a try. **Butch and Noreen Williams** and **Tom Cheeseman** put a lot of time into getting this up and running and really deserve a very special Thank You!!

Adjutant Report:

By **Jack Tomkins**

Membership: National Headquarters is now requiring each member provide their **Phone Number, Gender, Date of Birth, Email and Branch of Service** when renewing their memberships. So, if paying your dues by mail, please include this information along with your check. **(Please mail payments in c/o Post Adjutant Jack Tomkins. Dues are now payable for 2019 in the amount of \$30.** We now have 30 members who have NOT paid their 2017 and 2018 dues. Each of you who are in arrears have been notified in a separate mailing. You will need to pay \$60 to catch up plus the 2019 dues of \$30 (which is due now). 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.

Officer Vacancy: We currently have a vacancy for the Post Service Officer. If interested, see Bruce Conklin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday Night Darts: Every Friday night we hold Luck of the Draw darts, all skill levels welcome.

Mon., September 10, 8PM: S.A.L. Meeting

Thurs., September 13, 7PM: Installation of Officers for Legion, Sons and Auxiliary.

Fri., September 14, 7PM – 11PM: Night of Appreciation for Bill Bieringer. \$30 includes food, draft beer, limited open bar and \$10 beer buckets. Please come out and say Hi to our longtime favorite bartender.

Sat., September 15, 10AM: Work Day at the Post. There are always things to do. Come out and give a hand for an hour. No special skills necessary. For more information, contact Greg Aschendorf at 215-970-8035.

Wed., Sept. 26: Shufflebowl Season begins. If you'd like to play, please call Shelly Teesdale at 215-870-6998.

Mon., October 8, 8 PM: S.A.L. General Meeting

Thurs., October 11, 7:30: A.L Board and General Meeting

Sat., October 20, 10 AM: Work Day at the Club.

Sun., October 21, 1PM: Panthers vs. Eagles & the Oxley Post Chili Cookoff. Come join us to watch the Eagles and enjoy our first-ever chili cookoff. Prizes will be awarded and winner will compete in the Legion's 5th District Cookoff on Nov 4th. Competition open to A.L. members, SAL, and Auxiliary. For more information, call Bob Cummings.

Sat., October 27: Legion College, Mechanicsburg, PA

Sick Call: Please keep the following members in your prayers: Bill Bieringer, Peter Pytrysson, George Busch. If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607 or Jack Tomkins at 215-280-2033.

Post Everlasting: The following members have been called to Post Everlasting. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. **Betty Gephart, Charlie Saunders**

Honor Guard: One of the points of pride of the Oxley Post is our Honor Guard. Our Honor Guard will honor *your* service by standing guard at the funeral home or cemetery service when you are called to Post Everlasting. The only problem is that we need to know in a timely fashion so we can get the word out and make arrangements. Members, please talk to your family and let them know that would like your comrades to provide this service. Family: we know the loss of a loved one is a stressful time, but if you would like us to attend, please let us know as early as possible. For more information, call Bruce Conklin at 215-495-9912

News from the Sons of the American Legion

By Chuck Phraner, Squadron Commander



I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin a new Legion year! There is a lot going on and we'd really like to hit the ground running. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 8PM, please make an effort to attend. On September 13, we will be having our Installation of Officers at 7PM. For 2019, we've increased our dues to \$25 per year. You can drop off your dues at the post, or mail them in. Please clearly mark on the envelope **Attn: Bill Wasylenko, Adjutant**

Happy Birthday

The following Members are celebrating birthdays in September and October (Editor's Note: We'd like to make this a regular feature, but we don't have everyone's date of birth and we don't have *any* birthdays for our Auxiliary or Sons members. Please fill out and return the contact information sheet and we'll be sure to get you on the B-Day list!)

Francis Dufner; Sept 1. Frank Suplick; Sept 20. Frank Sperduto; Oct 8.

Donald Devlin; Oct 22. Thomas Fallon; Oct. 31

Rest In Peace

John S. McCain

US Senator 1987 – 2018, Congressman 1983 – 1987

Captain, United States Navy (Ret.) 1958 – 1981



Top: Naval Aviator Badge



Top Row: Silver Star Medal; Second Row: Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and two Stars; Third Row: Purple Heart Medal with Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with Star and Strike/Flight Numeral "2"; Fourth Row: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and Star, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation; Fifth Row: Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Prisoner of War Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal; Sixth Row: National Defense Service Medal with Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Stars; Seventh Row: Republic of Vietnam National Order of Vietnam, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross) with frame and palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960- device

Chaplain's Report By Bob Cummings

The Inspiring Story of John McCain's Faith as a POW

Extracted from PJ Media By Tyler O'Neill (Aug 28, 2018)

<https://pjmedia.com/faith/prayers-sermons-the-apostles-creed-the-inspiring-story-of-john-mccains-faith-as-a-p-o-w/>

When Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) passed away on Saturday evening, he saw in person the God to whom he had prayed for five and a half years in a Vietnamese prison camp. McCain's faith in God sustained him during the darkest part of his life.

McCain was a war hero because when the North Vietnamese offered him unconditional release less than a year after his Navy bomber was shot down, he refused, demanding that the Vietnamese release American prisoners who had been captive longer than he. Badly crippled from his crash, McCain embraced torture and more than two years in solitary confinement rather than break the POW honor code.

The Vietnamese starved him and beat him, he suffered dysentery, and his body was permanently scarred by his injuries and the beatings. McCain, a lifelong Episcopalian who attended an evangelical Baptist church, found his strength in prayer.

"Three things kept me going," McCain told *PEOPLE* magazine in 1992. "Faith in God, faith in my fellow prisoners and faith in my country."

"There were times when I didn't pray for one more day or one more hour, but I prayed for one more minute," McCain told the *Christian Science Monitor's* Linda Feldmann in 2007. "So I have very little doubt

that it was reliance on someone stronger than me that not only got me through, but got me through honorably."

In a long first-hand account he wrote for *U.S. News and World Report*, McCain recalled, "I was finding that prayer helped. It wasn't a question of asking for superhuman strength or for God to strike the North Vietnamese dead. It was asking for moral and physical courage, for guidance and wisdom to do the right thing." "I asked for comfort when I was in pain, and sometimes I received relief. I was sustained in many times of trial," the former POW recalled.

While in solitary confinement, McCain would be left for the night with his arms tied back in a painful position. One night, a guard walked in and loosened the ropes, then came back five hours later and tightened the ropes again. The American soldier did not know why the guard gave him this moment of reprieve.

"My friends, I will never forget that man," McCain said in a town hall meeting with voters in 2007. "I will never forget that moment. And I will never forget the fact that no matter where you are, no matter how difficult things are, there's always going to be someone of your faith and your belief and your devotion to your fellow man who will pick you up and help you out and bring you through."

Finance Report

By Greg Aschendorf

Income has been light this summer, which is making it difficult to keep up with our bills. In addition, we have several large bills including a \$940 bill for renewal of our liquor license and \$955 for insurance premium that are due now or coming due very soon. It will be difficult to maintain our Post if our income does not improve. Please support our post! For more information, come to our meetings.

We'd also like to thank Gary Roman for his service as House Chairman for the past 5 years and for all he has done for the Post!

Help Secure the Legacy of the American Legion & the William D. Oxley Post

If you would like to help build the long-term financial strength of The American Legion and the Oxley Post, but feel you cannot make a significant gift today, your solution may be a **charitable bequest**. A bequest under your will or living trust can allow you to maintain your current lifestyle and commitments of today while helping the Oxley Post serve our veterans in the future.

A **bequest is a gift from your estate**—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest for a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the Oxley Post by including language in your will or living trust or by designating the Oxley Post as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy. You should seek legal advice in preparing your will.

Some of the advantages of creating a bequest include:

- A bequest costs nothing now, yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have helped the Post serve the veterans of the future and will create a legacy that reflects the values you hold dear.
- You retain complete control and use of your assets during your lifetime.
- You can modify your bequest if your circumstances change.
- Gifts to the Oxley Post from your estate are exempt from federal taxes. A well-designed plan can result in your estate paying less tax, allowing you to leave more for your beneficiaries.
- If you let us know of your plans, we will be able to thank you now and recognize you as a member of our Oxley Post Legacy Foundation.

Contact Information :

In order to improve our communications, we're asking all Oxley Family members to please fill out the following contact information form. Many Legion members filled this same form out last year. If you did, there is no need to fill this out.

✂ -----

Detach Here

Name: _____

I'm a member of: American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Sons of the American Legion (Check One)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Do you use text messaging? Yes No Email (if used): _____

Are you on Facebook? Yes No

Please return to the Post at 4637 Decatur St, Philadelphia, PA 19136

The Oxley Post

We hoped you enjoyed our first edition of the "Oxley Post". This bimonthly newsletter will be distributed to Legion members as well as our Auxiliary and Sons organizations. This is your newsletter: if there are things you'd like to see included, please let us know. However, in order to make this successful, we will need help and support. With a distribution of well over 300 households, we will be needing help with distribution – that is folding, labeling, stamping etc. We would also appreciate any news submissions that you may provide. **Finally, in order to offset the production and mailing cost, we are selling advertising space. If you know of a business that may be interested in advertising, please let us know.** If you'd like to help us by going around to local businesses to sell our ad space, we would be extremely appreciative. Our introductory rate is \$100 for a business card sized ad for one year. This is an extremely reasonable rate and we are hopeful that local businesses will see the value in advertising with us. If you're interested in helping in any of these areas, please let me know. Thanks.

rhcumplings@gmail.com

Bob Cummings
(267) 471-9607



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