



AMERICAN LEGION

The Oxley Post

4637 Decatur Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-332-2457
www.TheOxleyPost.org



December 2021/January 2022

Commander's Message

By: Bruce Conklin

Greetings, I hope this correspondence finds you well and in good spirits at this special time of the year. Firstly, I want to thank all of you for your continued membership and support of the Oxley Post. We are doing well as a post. Much of this is due the many people doing their part in support of the post. It is not easy to mention everything here. We need to be appreciative of each other and the contribution of their time and energy. Thank you to Greg Aschendorf for keeping the bills paid and looking after the never-ending list of issues that keep the building running. Bob and Kay Brookes for bringing all the darts activities. Shelly Teesdale and for her decorating, cooking and management of the canteen. Bill Prella for keeping up with the supplies and management of the canteen. Michael O'Leary for food shopping and many other things he does. Bob Cummings for organizing the new T-shirts, I think they are great for conveying the very poignant message of concern for veteran suicide/prevention.

Meeting schedule: 1st Monday of each month at 7 o'clock Family Meeting. All AL, Auxiliary and Sons members are encouraged to attend. Board of Directors meeting is to be held after the family meeting. Our regular meeting is held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30.

I look forward to your attendance and input.

Post work day. I would like to get this going again and suggest we have it on the third Saturday of each month at 10 AM. We have a lot of projects on our 'to do' list and need help getting them done. No particular skills are needed. Just come out and lend a hand. All are welcome and appreciated.

We are collecting toys for Christmas, please contribute according to you ability.

Adjutant Report

Dues are now due for 2022. If you haven't yet paid, 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. For your convenience and to get the most recent information for our records, please fill out and return the member information form below with your dues. **Please mail your 2022 payments to the post in c/o Adjutant Bob Brookes.**

✂ _____ cut here _____

Please fill out the information below and make check or money order for \$30 payable to the William D. Oxley Post #133 and mail to the post at 4637 Decatur St, Phila., PA 19136

NAME _____ 2021 Legion Card Number _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE: _____ HOME CELL

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ EMAIL _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ YEARS OF SERVICE _____

Post Work Day



We have a lot of small projects that have been piling up at the post so we are returning to our schedule of having a Post Work Day 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. 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. These are introductory priced at \$15. On January 1st, the price will increase to \$20. We are also selling Oxley Post Pint Glasses. These beautiful glasses are locally sourced and hand-etched with 'William D. Oxley Post' above the American Legion Logo. Glasses are \$15 each with proceeds supporting the Post. Glasses and T-Shirts would make great Christmas gifts! For more information, call Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607.

Oxley Family Christmas Party: Welcome back to one of our best events of the year – our Family Christmas Party. While it was heartbreaking to have to cancel last year's party, we're certain that this year will be one to remember! Bring your kids or grandkids – **and a wrapped present (with their name on the tag)** and Santa and Mrs. Claus will hand them out. There will be plenty of activities and Arts and Crafts to be sure this will be an event to remember. **The party runs from 1-4 on Sunday, December 19.**

Toy Drive: Please help us with our 11th Annual Toy Drive benefiting the children at St. Christopher's Hospital. We are, once again, doing this in conjunction with Post 821 (Bridesburg) We are looking for new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. **We are collecting until December 5th** and delivering on Saturday, December 11th. Toys can be dropped off at the Post. For more information call Gary Roman at 215-749-0756.

Oldies Night at the Oxley Post: In memory of Elvis' birthday, break out your bobby socks, poodle skirts and BrylCream on **Saturday, Jan 8th. From 7-11PM.** Music by the incredible DJ Jen Blaze. Food provided. As always...no cover



PLEASE GIVE BLOOD



The need for blood has never been greater. Please make a commitment to donate an hour to give 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 or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment. After you've donated, please call Bob Cummings to let us know you've made the donation.

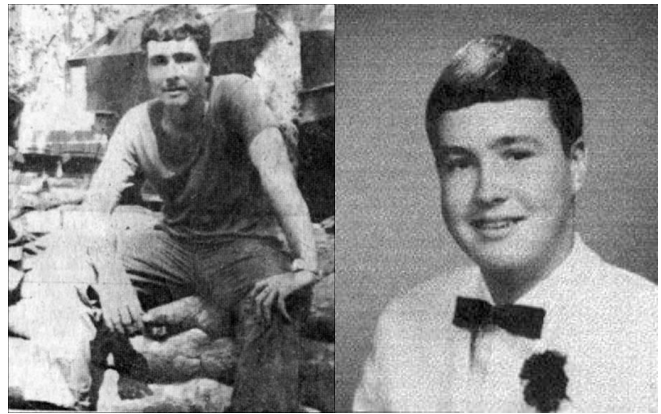
NEWS FROM THE S.A.L.

Annual dues are now payable for 2022. If you haven't paid yet please remit \$25 to the Post. Please mark envelopes to the Attention of S.A.L. Adjutant Paul Wehner.

Remembering One of Our Own

SP4 Raymond J. Ahern Jr.
**C BTRY, 2ND BN, 19TH ARTILLERY,
1ST CAV DIV**

DOB: 1/14/48
KIA: 11/26/68



Ray Ahern, of Oak Drive in Holmesburg worked for the Amplex Manufacturing Co on Torresdale Avenue and was engaged to Kathleen Reese when he was drafted in December 1967. He was a 1965 graduate of Father Judge High School and the 23rd Father Judge alum to die in action in Vietnam.

A member of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry, he had been in Vietnam for six months. He died in Tay Ninh Province northeast of Saigon on Nov. 26, 1968. His parents received many phone calls and letters from men with whom he had served, and for 15 years following his death, his commanding officer sent flowers to be placed on his grave. He was survived by his parents, a brother, Robert, 18, and a sister, Mary Ann, 12.

Raymond is buried in St. Dominic's Cemetery and is memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Wall on Panel 38W Line 63

Sources: Liguori, Laura, and Frank Dougherty. "The Six Hundred Thirty: The Stories of Philadelphia's Vietnam War Dead." *Philadelphia Daily News*, 26 Oct. 1987.

"The Wall of Faces." *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund*, 27 Jan. 2020, <https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/401/RAYMOND-J-AHERN-JR/>.

22 Nov 2005

I remember Ray as someone I just clicked with. Every now and then you meet someone like that. He had an infectious smile and a warm way about him. We were both Irish Catholic kids from the Northeast and he was very easy to talk to. It was like being with someone from my neighborhood back home and after a few weeks I felt like I had known him for years.

We first met up north when we were working the Quang Tri area. In late October 1968 our division moved down into the area northwest of Saigon that borders Cambodia. It was a very different war than what we had seen in the Quang Tri area. We were no longer near villages and civilians. We were working in triple canopy jungle along the Cambodian border. We were running into large concentrations of North Vietnamese regulars who were well armed and liked to stay and fight.

One of the worst fire bases in our early days down south was LZ Rita. It was a very bad place from the first moment we stepped off the choppers. We had taken over from the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One) on November 9th. They had been overrun the night before we got there. We stayed on Rita for several days to rebuild the bunkers and secure the area around the LZ. The bad guys were constantly hitting us with mortars and rockets and they were constantly probing our perimeter. We then left the LZ and went out into the jungle about ten kilometers and started to sweep in a very large circle around the LZ. We conducted operations out in the bush for about ten days and were then sent back in to defend the perimeter on Rita.

Ray was killed in the middle of the night on November 26, 1968 on Landing Zone Rita. His bunker took a direct hit from a rocket and he was killed instantly. I remember having to move out the next morning and it didn't seem right. There was no time to grieve or think about Ray or what had just happened, just move out and watch out for the bad guys. He was a bright star in a very dark period in my life. He made life in Vietnam a little more bearable for me and I hope I did the same for him.

From a friend,
Larry Hackett

Source: "SP4 Raymond Joseph Ahern, Jr, Philadelphia, PA ." *Www.VirtualWall.org the Virtual Wall® Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall*, <https://www.virtualwall.org/da/AhernRJ01a.htm>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec 5th: Last Day to drop off toys for St. Christopher's Hospital

Monday, Dec. 6th 7PM: Oxley Family Meeting followed by A.L. Board Meeting. All members of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons are invited and encouraged to attend the Family Meeting. **The S.A. L. regular meeting will be held at 8PM.**

Tuesday, Dec. 7th: Pearl Harbor Day – “A day that will live in infamy”

Saturday Dec. 11th: 3PM Come out to the post and join us for the Annual Army – Navy Game. Food and Drink Specials will be available. **Go NAVY – Beat ARMY!**

Saturday, Dec. 18th 10AM Work Day at the Post

Sunday, Dec. 19th : Oxley Family Christmas Party 1PM – 4PM. Please be sure to bring a wrapped present with your child's name on it for Santa to hand out. Food, Drinks, Arts & Crafts will be provided.

Monday, Dec. 20th: 7:30: A.L. General Meeting

Monday, Dec. 20th: US Space Force Birthday

Saturday, Dec. 25th: Merry Christmas

Saturday, Jan. 1st: Happy New Year

Monday, Jan 3rd: Oxley Family Meeting followed by A.L. Board Meeting. All members of the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons are invited and encouraged to attend the Family Meeting. **The S.A. L. regular meeting will be held at 8PM.**

Saturday Jan 8: Come celebrate Elvis' Birthday with “Oldies Night” at the Post. 7 - Midnight

Monday, Jan 17th: Martin Luther King Day

Monday, Jan 17th: A.L. General Meeting

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

**Justin Garcey Dec. 9; Raymond Delmont Dec. 17th; Joe Arrison Dec. 28th;
James Gourley Dec. 29th ; Joseph Shovlin - Jan. 4th; David Jasinski Jan 6th;
Bill Hubbard - Jan. 8th; Joseph Case - Jan 21st;**

Sick Call: Please keep the following members in your prayers: **Ed Conlon (who, as of this writing is in the hospital), John Comitale Jr. & Paul Palmer and Barb Hays (who is recovering from surgery) and Rose Kruszewski (Shelly Teesdale's mom)** If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607.



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

PA State Treasurer Stacy Garrity Returns 36 Military Decorations, Including WWI Medal

114 military decorations have been returned since Treasurer Garrity took office

On August 11 PA State Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced the return of 36 military decorations to three different veterans and families of veterans living in Berks, Blair, and Chester counties, including a medal and ribbon honoring service in World War I.

The 36 decorations returned included medals, pins, patches and military identification tags (dog tags), were sent to Treasury as unclaimed property as contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes. In addition to the WWI medal and ribbon, the items returned include WWII pins, a Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, a Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, and a 101st Airborne Division pin and patch.

Treasury's effort to return military decorations is part of its overall work to return unclaimed property. While most unclaimed property comes in the form of money, Treasury also receives items such as jewelry, collectibles, and other family keepsakes – often from forgotten safe deposit boxes. All of the tangible items, including military decorations, are stored in Treasury's massive vault.

Most tangible items are auctioned after three years if the rightful owner doesn't come forward

(leaving the proceeds of any auction to be claimed in perpetuity). Military decorations are never auctioned.

Since Treasury started the military medal return initiative in 2018, 412 military decorations have been returned. To search the database of the 617 military decorations currently in Treasury's vault, visit <https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/medals/>.

Treasury also has more than \$4 billion in unclaimed property waiting to be reunited with the rightful owners. One in ten Pennsylvanians is owed unclaimed property, and the average claim is worth \$2,000.

Treasury's unclaimed property website went through a major system upgrade in June, making it easier for people trying to find their unclaimed property. To see if you have property waiting to be claimed, visit <https://www.patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property/>.

Anyone looking for more information regarding a claim or potential claim can email Treasury's Bureau of Unclaimed Property at tupmail@patreasury.gov for assistance.

Source: "Treasurer Stacy Garrity Announces Return of 36 Military Decorations, Including WWI Medal." PA Treasurer, 4 Aug. 2021, <https://patreasury.gov/newsroom/archive/2021/08-04-Return-Military-Decorations.html>. Accessed 15 Nov. 2021.

Treasurer Garrity is herself a retired Colonel of the US Army Reserves. She served three deployments in defense of the United States: In 1991, in Operation Desert Storm, in 2004 in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in 2008 in Operation Enduring Freedom. She was awarded the Bronze Star twice for exceptional service and received the Legion of Merit.

ARMY vs. NAVY TRIVIA

Did you know....

The first Army Navy game was held November 29, 1890 at “The Plain” in West Point. Navy had been playing organized football since 1879 and defeated the newly established Army team 24-0.

All 271 members of the 1890 Corps of Cadets had to pay \$0.52 to pay half of Navy’s traveling expenses for their first game.

In 1893, Navy midshipman Joseph “Bull” Reeves, on advice from a Navy physician who warned him another kick in the head could result in an intellectual disability or death, commissioned a Annapolis shoemaker to make what is considered the first football helmet out of leather. Reeves went on to have distinguished career and retired as a four-star Admiral. Reeves is known as the “Father of Carrier Aviation”

Since 1890, there have been 10 years when no game was played. The longest hiatus was from 1894-1898 after an argument between an Army general and a Navy admiral almost resulted in a duel following the 1893 game. In 1909, Army cancelled its remaining games after Cadet Eugene Byrne died from an injury sustained in a game against Harvard. The War Department cancelled the games in 1917 & 1918. In 1928 & 1929 the game was cancelled after a dispute over “player eligibility standards” (i.e. ‘ringers’)

In 1944 & 1945 Army & Navy were ranked #1 & #2 respectively. Army won both games.

Instant replay made its American debut in the 1963 Army Navy game.

Navy holds the edge in wins with a 61-54-6 record.

Chaplain’s Corner:

The following prayer was written by a soldier and printed in the “Catholic Telegraph-Register” on December 22, 1944.

A Soldier’s Prayer on Christmas Day

By: Corporal Alvin Krieg

We thank thee, Lord, for thy protection.
I haven’t said that since I was a child, Lord,
but today — on thy day, I say it once more
and this time, more than any other,
These thanks come from the heart.
Not so much for the Christmas dinner
served to us here in this orchard in Belgium,
or on a rain-soaked plain on Leyte Island,
or in Italy, or on a ship at sea.
But more, Lord, for the richer food
that a blessed memory serves us;
the food of recollection —
of other, better Christmas days...
happy days with those we love,
good cheer, and gifts, and happy greetings
exchanged by all of us — each with the others

and while we thank thee, Lord,
for those memories.
We reverently and humbly ask
that there may be other Christmas days
for us now so distant from our homes;
days when we may join with those we love
in a world of peace and good will,
may sit with the families we hold dear
and give thanks, with them, once again.
Again, Lord, we thank thee for thy protection.
Bless those at home today,
help them to realize that we are with them
in spirit more than ever today, and
may their day be a happy one.