

Department News

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



2016-2017 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CHERI L. STANTON

DECEMBER 2016



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
NOVEMBER 30, 2016

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
17	NAGEL
19	LAUFHUTTE
13	KRAUT
18	MONROE
8	CHAMBERS
20	MASSEY
5	DEARBONE
21	VANCE
14	TAYLOR
23	ROUNDS II

Division	Commander
4	DUDLEY
3	KILKENNY
2	DAVIS JR.
5	SMITH
1	WHYTE



Department Commander
Cheri L. Stanton



Department Sr. Vice
Bob Henderson



Department President
Luella Buske



Detachment Commander
Phillip Shipley

Please join the 2017 American Legion Family Membership Caravan that will be coming to a town near you. If not your town, feel free to come visit a post close to you, and bring ALL membership cards even if it's just one.

We look forward to seeing you!



2015-2016 Past National President
Sharon Conatser

Special guest joining the 2017 caravan is Past National President Sharon Conatser. Find a stop near you to hear her powerful message for the Illinois American Legion Family.



From The Desk of Department Commander Cheri L. Stanton



I need to apologize to my brother Tiny Fillman and another Marine, Rick Schomer because I ran out of room in my last article. I wanted to recognize November 10th as the 241st birthday of the Marine Corps. So, Happy Belated Birthday!

The Birthday is a time spent remembering fallen comrades and focusing on a lot of memories, the good as well as the bad. It is a time when all Marines join for a day of celebration.

On November 11th, Americans celebrate Veteran's Day, while residents of Great Britain, Canada, and Australia

celebrate Remembrance Day. I have learned a few facts while researching Veteran's Day that I'd like to share with you:

According to the American Community Survey, there were 19.3 million military veterans in the United States in 2014. Of those, 1.6 million were female.

Veterans consist of people who serve in the military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Active duty Guardsmen and reservist who served since 911. Veterans serve in times of war and peace.

The word "veteran" comes from the old English language and means "old, experienced soldier." The first use of the word was documented in 1789.

Upon retiring or being discharged, veterans may need help acclimating to life outside the military. The Department

of Veterans says about 30 percent of the Vietnam War veterans have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

It was the Vietnam Veterans who led the way for our active duty soldiers today to get treatment for PTSD before being discharged and not have to wait 50 years like they did.

This last week my travels led me to Chester, IL to give a speech in the morning and across the state to Monticello, IL to give a speech before a parade. It is the only nighttime Veterans Day parade in the state of Illinois, and by the way, it was 42 degrees. My point is, we should be proud to be Americans and to take every opportunity to thank our veterans.

(Dept. Commander continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Bob Henderson



This is turning out to be a good year for membership. We need to talk to our Post Commanders to get them calling the members that haven't paid yet. I want to CONGRATULATE the Posts that made 100% by the dead line November 14, 2016. Each 100% Post will get \$100.00 for 15 to 100 Members. The Posts over 100 Members will receive \$1.00 for each member. CONGRATULATION on a JOB WELL DONE.

I want to CONGRATULATE the Division Commander and all the District Commanders and Sr. Vices that received the #1 gold pin. They put out the additional time and effort to put their Division or

Districts on TOP. I also want to CONGRATULATE the District Commanders and Sr. Vices who made the TOP TEN. You all have done a great job with membership. It takes work to stay on top so get out there and keep calling and knocking on doors. Get a revitalization started in your District.

I was at the Joliet Job Fair on 17th of October. Then on the 20th we went to the 5th Division, 22nd District for a revitalization. We helped Hank Robards get some members for that District. The 23rd of October I was at the 4th Division meeting in Chatsworth Post 613, then on the 30th I was in Edgewood Post 1168 for the 5th Division Meeting. On November 2nd We were in Post 32 in the 21st District for a revitalization, We got Michael Vance some members for his District. Then we were off to Utica for the Parade and food, It was a good time

had by all.

Veterans Day was really exciting this year, on Thursday before Veterans Day I spoke to the Children at Ramsey School. It was gratifying to be before all those children, they listened intently from one speaker to another learning what Veterans Day meant to a Veteran. Then on Veterans Day I started out the Morning a Paris Post # 211 then ended up at Monticello, IL. In the evening for a Veterans Day Parade. The Commander gave a nice speech before the Parade, It was Cool Weather but we survived.

We are off to the Egyptian Past Commanders Jamboree and The Haven at Carbondale IL. On the 17th of November. The Haven is for Veterans to have a place to relax and fish. It is on Crab Orchard Lake on High' Way 13.

Don't forget the Family Caravan in

(Dept. SVC continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Luella Buske

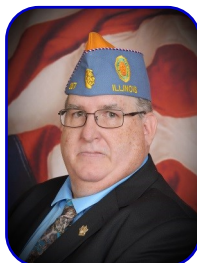


membership! We are hoping for good travel weather.

March is coming soon! Our Patriotic Conference will be March 10 in Springfield, Illinois at the Route 66 Hotel. We have some great speakers planned and we would love to see Legionnaires in the audience. Please watch for further information. It is always a great day. Our National President, Mary Davis, will be with us as well. She truly loves our Veterans and their families.

Let's all make one of our New Year's resolutions to make the American Legion Family a goal Department and Detachment in all four organizations; The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, and the Legion Riders! I know we can do it if we all work together.

I am so excited about traveling in the January Family Caravan with Legion Commander Cheri, SAL Commander Phil, Auxiliary Membership Chairman Patti and others. We look forward to seeing old friends and making many new friends. Please remind your Auxiliary members we are coming and we are collecting



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Shipley



District. Our Sr. Vice Commander Paul Hayse and myself will be very happy to process any membership cards brought to these caravan stops. This is also a great opportunity to come and hear from our guest speaker for this year' American Legion Auxiliary Past National President Sharon Conatser.

I wish to invite all American Legion Family members to a reception in recognition of the SAL National Commander, Jeff Frain and National American Legion Auxiliary President Mary Davis to be held on Saturday February 11th at St. John's Children's Hospital in Springfield. This reception will be held prior to the 11th annual tour of this Children's Miracle Network hospital. The Detachment of Illinois has had the privilege of escorting the National Sons of The American Legion Commander to hand out Josh Dogs to children unfortunate enough to be in the hospital for the last 10 years. We will also get to meet a "Miracle"

family that has been helped by the local CMN staff and hospital. It is a great opportunity for us as a family to show our commitment to the children of our state. Please contact me for any additional information you may need for this annual event.

May you have enough strength and will power to succeed in all of your New Year's resolutions! And may service to our Veterans be the top resolution on your list!

"Shooting for Membership"

Phil Shipley, Commander 2016 - 2017

As we prepare to celebrate the coming Holiday season, may our service to those who serve be the guiding light for those who will follow in our footsteps.

I wish you all, the greatest joy and happiness this season can bring! **Merry Christmas!**

It is my sincere hope that everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday and that the blessing of freedom we all share was not lost amongst the Turkey, Dressing, and Pumpkin Pie! Your Detachment Officers are busy preparing for the National American Legion Family Membership Caravan that will take place across the entire state of Illinois from January 12th-21st 2017. I am looking forward to meeting members of our Legion family as we spread the message of how we help those that have had the honor of wearing the uniform of the US Armed Forces.

Please let your SAL Squadrons know that they too can participate in this caravan when it rolls through their



Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov

That the vast majority of my articles over the years have dealt with what veterans should do. In this month's subject we will take a 180 degree turn and delve into what veterans should **NOT** do. There are always two sides to a coin.

If you are on the VA non-service connected pension program and someone asks you to collect their winnings from the horse races or gambling casino-**DON'T**. Regardless of their excuse (lost wallet, left driver's license at home, etc.) by collecting the winnings for them, the IRS will be notified under your Social Security number and name. Later when the VA and IRS computers run their cross matches you will end up with a large debt.

If you have a VA guaranteed mortgage **DON'T** let anyone assume the loan without first getting a release of liability. Without this release, if that person later defaults the VA will come back to you for any debt caused by foreclosure. A better course of action would be to get another vet to assume your loan. They can substitute their VA loan entitlement for yours and you are free and clear to use the Veterans Administration loan again.

DON'T just notify the VA hospital or clinic when you move. You must also notify the VA benefits side, especially if you have a claim or appeal pending. These two large VA computer systems don't yet talk to each other. So if you don't notify both parts of the VA you may get your medicine and appointment info at the new address but important information on your appeal may be returned by the Post Office as undeliverable. *PS: The Post Office will still forward mail for at least six months.*

If you file for any type of benefit **DON'T** wait months and even years and assume the VA will contact you when they get to your claim. Many claims fall through the cracks or are overlooked in the claims process. Check at least every two months to be sure it's on track. If you filed your income tax forms and were expecting a \$2,000 refund would you wait a year to contact the IRS?

Safe deposit boxes are nice places to keep important documents but **DON'T** keep your only copy of your military discharge papers in it. Have another copy somewhere at home so that when you pass away your next-of-kin will have access to it. Most bank vaults are not open on weekends, nights and holidays. In most cases the Funeral Home only needs a clear, readable copy, not the original.

If you use the VA hospital or clinic for some of your medical needs and also use outside doctors for certain other health concerns **DON'T** keep your VA primary care provider in the dark about your outside medications or testing. They have no way of knowing what you are prescribed by private physicians unless you tell them. And you don't want to have another colonoscopy if you just had one!

If you have been living with someone for years and you have agreed to take care of each other in sickness or health, that's wonderful. But **DON'T** think when you die that person will be eligible for survivors benefits. Illinois no longer recognizes common-law marriages. **GET MARRIED.**

Finally if you have been dating several months or having been living with someone for a while **DON'T** add them to your checking or savings account if your VA checks are on direct deposit. If you have a falling out or a lovers tiff that person can clean out your account and you have no recourse with the VA.

That was fun! And I'll leave you with one final tip; **DON'T** forget to read my article in next month's newsletter.

"When we are aware of our weaknesses or negative tendencies, we open the opportunity to work on them."



(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

January. All Legion Members get out there and get a new member they are out there. Keep up them calls to the members that haven't paid. There are a couple of incentives in December Yet. The 100 % Retention by December 15th and for the posts that didn't make 100% in November. You can still get \$50.00 for 100 or less and \$.50 for each member 100 and over, by December 31st so get that 100 %, lets get that Membership.

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and didn't eat too much. I want to wish everyone a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

I am looking forward to attending the Egyptian Past Commanders Club Haven Jamboree and talking to Paul Martel our National Vice Commander. He wants to know what Illinois has been doing to keep us up in 5th to 7th place so long. I will simply tell him, "Our Family is Working Together."

Thank you to all who have worked so hard on keeping membership up. If you need us, we are just a phone call away.



From The Desk of the Membership Director Chad J. Woodburn



Thanksgiving is over, I hope everyone is recovering well, and getting ready for Christmas fun and food! Speaking of the holiday's, is there someone from your post that you have not heard from in some time? How about you take a minute or two and check on them? While the holidays are the happiest time of the year, they are also very depressing for some. A quick call just to say hi and check up on them might be the difference in someone's life.

Currently the Department of Illinois is 6th place nationally in membership with 74.45%, and as of this writing Commander Nagel is back in first place, but not by much. If everyone would simply recruit or call one person to renew their expired dues it would help push us closer to our membership goal.

Have you liked our department Facebook page? If not please do, The American Legion Department of Illinois is the page address. There is a lot of information that we have stated pushing on the page. We are also in the process of developing a Facebook page solely for the department convention. We will have that up soon and I'll let everyone know when that happens.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." — **Phil Jackson**

2nd DIVISION WELCOMES NEW LEGION POST Warrenville Post 569

An almost three year endeavor finally comes to fruition said 2nd Division Commander John Davis. In late October Davis installed the Officers of the new Warrenville American Legion Post. Pictured in the front row center (white cap) is Commander Davis. To his right is the Mayor of Warrenville and newly installed Post Commander on Davis' left. Surrounding them are the new members, officers and legion leadership to help support the new post.



American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State

www.illinoisboysstate.org

Based on what we have seen this political season I am sure that I do not need to emphasize how important our Premier Boys State program is. We, as Veterans and leaders must show our young adults what being a servant leader looks like. It is time for each and every one of us to continue through with the oath we gave so many years ago, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, this we do through proper teaching of our youth. This **IS** what The

American Legion Premier Boys State program is all about. If we, as the largest veterans organization, does not take responsibility for teaching our youth about patriotism and citizenship, then who will? If we do our part, then we would have less individuals kneeling during our National Anthem. If we do our part, we can build a better America where our citizens will truly believe that we are all created equal.

The 2017 American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State Brochure & Application is now available

There is still
time to get
your story
in this once
in a lifetime
book filled
with Illinois
history.



The American Legion Department
of Illinois Publication Project
is about to begin!



Starting soon, Publishing
Concepts (PCI) will be
contacting you via mail, phone,
and email to request that you
update your information.

We understand security and
privacy are concerns, but please
know that PCI is a trusted
partner of the American Legion
Department of Illinois. Dont miss
out on the opportunity to be
included!

PCI not the **big** company

www.publishingconcepts.com



Wishing you a Season filled with Holiday



Cheer



and the very best for the coming year!

Department Headquarters Staff

Marty Conatser, Christy Rich, Marsha Nalley, Terry Gaddis,
Dee Dalton, Cheryl Hutson, Toni Hernan, Gary Jenson,
Joy Wilson, Dorothy Wagner, David Scott, Jr..

VA & R Staff

Wayne Macejak, Toy Jenkarnchang, Marlene Kuhl,
Ray Toczek, William Slider.

New Illinois License Plates Coming Soon

When the new year arrives, it'll bring with it a rollout of the new Illinois license plate redesign, Secretary of State Jesse White announced on November 15th.

The Capitol dome, the Chicago skyline and one-half of Abraham Lincoln's face will adorn new license plates.

The plate's new look, which White said will bring no additional cost for motorists, should stand up better to weather and use. Plates haven't been replaced on a large scale in some 15 years, and the old ones are getting rusty and losing reflectivity, which poses problems for law enforcement, according to White.

The redesign of Illinois' main license plate is the first since White's office unveiled the current look in 1999. That 1999 plate design -- consisting of a script "Illinois" above a Lincoln bust in the middle of the plate -- was chosen via an online vote open to Illinois residents.

No vote was held this time. Instead, the secretary of state's office "worked closely with law enforcement and developed a license plate that contains features unique to Illinois and is easy to read," said Henry Haupt, a secretary of state spokesman.

The resulting plate moves the Lincoln image to the left side of the design, getting it out of the way of the letters and numbers on the plate. It also contains white outlines of the Statehouse dome and Chicago's skyline, including the city's iconic Willis Tower.

"This is a forward-thinking, long-term solution that does not require a complete replating overhaul, which would cost around \$60 million," White said in a statement. "This plan removes older plates and replaces them with newly designed plates within our current budget. This will ensure that plates are appropriately replaced with the ultimate goal being no license plate on the road will be more than 10-years-old."

The staggered rollout begins next year, with replacement plates first going to motorists with the oldest plates, which were manufactured in 2000 and 2001; then plates from 2002 and 2003 will be replaced in 2018, etc. Vehicle owners will be contacted by mail when they qualify. The replacement of "B-Truck" plates, used on some pickup trucks, SUVs and vans, is expected to begin in 2018.

Motorists who are not due for a replacement may still request a new license plate in January at cyberdriveillinois.com for a replacement fee of \$29. In addition, vehicle owners with license plates manufactured after 2001 that are showing signs of wear and are difficult to read may visit cyberdriveillinois.com to apply for a newly designed plate at no charge.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



SAL Winter D.E.C.

Carmi, IL

December 10th

~ ~ ~

Christmas Day

December 25th

~ ~ ~

Christmas

Dept. Office Closed

December 26th

~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve

December 31st

~ ~ ~

New Year's Day

January 1st

~ ~ ~

2nd 100% Post Cash Award

(1:00 PM Cut-Off)

January 2nd

~ ~ ~

National Membership & PA Workshop

Indianapolis, IN

January 6th--7th

~ ~ ~

American Legion Family

Membership Caravan

January 12th--21st

~ ~ ~

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dept. Office Closed

January 16th

~ ~ ~

Gold Pin

(1:00 PM Cut-Off)

January 31st

~ ~ ~

3rd 100% Post Cash Award

(1:00 PM Cut-Off)

February 3rd

~ ~ ~

Lincoln Pilgrimage

Springfield, IL

February 11th--12th

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2017 ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN SCHEDULE

JANUARY 12 - 21, 2017

January	City	Post #	Dist#	Div#	ETA
JANUARY 12	GURNEE	771	10	2	6:00 PM
JANUARY 13	PEARL CITY	1014	13	2	8:30 AM
JANUARY 13	EAST MOLINE	227	14	3	12:00 PM
JANUARY 13	GALVA	45	15	3	5:30 PM
JANUARY 14	LELAND	570	12	2	8:30 AM
JANUARY 14	ROMEOVILLE	52	11	2	12:00 PM
JANUARY 14	WARRENVILLE	589	11	2	5:30 PM
JANUARY 15	HOWARD H. ROHDE	888	9	1	8:30 AM
JANUARY 15	WAYNE-WRIGHT	1052	2	1	12:00 PM
JANUARY 15	BROADVIEW-HILLSIDE	626	5	1	5:30 PM
JANUARY 17	CHRISMAN	477	18	4	11:30 AM
JANUARY 17	ST. FRANCISVILLE	947	23	5	5:30 PM
JANUARY 18	CARRIER MILLS	364	24	5	6:00 PM
JANUARY 19	DuQUOIN	647	25	5	9:30 AM
JANUARY 19	GRANITE CITY	113	22	5	6:00 PM
JANUARY 20	JERSEYVILLE	492	20	3	9:00 AM
JANUARY 20	PANA	168	21	4	12:30 PM
JANUARY 21	MAHOMET	1015	19	4	8:00 AM
JANUARY 21	HEYWORTH	624	17	4	11:30 AM
JANUARY 21	DEERCREEK	1276	16	3	5:30 PM



Past National President Sharon Conatser will be our special guest during the 2017 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan.

Please take time to come to one of the caravan stops nearest you and if you plan on attending the meal you will want to R.S.V.P. to the post.

Bring any membership cards with you that need to be turned in...even if it's just ONE.

Pearl Harbor's Legacy of Comebacks and Valor

President-Elect Trump has promised to rebuild our military so it can have the resources to better defend the United States. The American Legion supports all efforts that would strengthen our Armed Forces and we look to December 7th as a perfect example of why our nation must always be prepared.

Seventy-five years later most of the witnesses are no longer with us but the legacy of the men and women who defended Pearl Harbor on the day of infamy will always remain. It was a day that defined America and changed the world.

Service, sacrifice and valor were demonstrated by American heroes at unprecedented levels and foreshadowed the trials, toughness and grit that epitomized the Greatest Generation during the Second World War.

Those who did not perish during the attack were not just veterans of battle. They were survivors of an unprovoked and unexpected massive killing spree.

Men like Sterling Cale, who would later serve his country in Korea and Vietnam after surviving numerous battles in the Pacific War. A 20-year-old pharmacist mate assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Cale attended last year's American Legion Department of Hawaii observances of the attack.

Nearly three-quarters of a century later, he still recalled the charred bodies and ash that he recovered when he was put in charge of a burial party tasked with removing bodies from the USS Arizona.

"All black ash. One corpse didn't have a head," he said. These are the types of memories that continue to haunt even a battle-hardened veteran that would later serve as a Navy corpsman with the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal.

Fellow survivor Bob Addobati founded the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association chapter in Sacramento, Calif. But it is December 6, 1941 that Addobati often remembered when he recalled the date of infamy.

"There was a battle of the band contest in Chinatown that night," he said in 2015. "All the ships had different bands. I spoke to several sailors from the USS Arizona's band. Eight hours later every sailor in that band was dead."

Like so many other survivors of Pearl Harbor, the attack was not the end for Mr. Addobati. It was the beginning for the

19-year-old signalman on the USS Solace. He would later lose his leg after his ship was torpedoed at the Admiralty Islands. He would raise a family, retire from the U.S. Postal Service and survive until January 15th of this year when, at the age of 93, he would reunite with his Fallen but never forgotten comrades.

So many are gone now. The more than 2,400 men, women and children who died from the attack would be joined by thousands of others in the seven and a half decades since. As those able to provide firsthand accounts leave the ranks of the

living, it is up to us to keep their legacies alive.

Fifteen Medals of Honor were awarded as a result of the attack. 51 Navy Crosses. 53 Silver Stars. Thousands of other acts of heroism were not recognized with medals because documenting the acts was not the priority. Saving others and fighting another day in order to defeat those who brought the war



became job one.

Sixty years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, America was caught off guard once again. September 11, 2001 was another date that will live in infamy to a new generation of Americans.

It would mark the beginning of another painful war – one against global terrorists that continues to this day. And while military members of the Greatest Generation took incredible risks to save their comrades, we saw similar courage from police officers, firefighters and first responders who entered burning buildings when logic and instinct would compel lesser people to move in the other direction.

Many of the 9/11 heroes were veterans. Nearly all were taught about the Pearl Harbor attack in history class. There was something very American about their response.

Just as the Pearl Harbor heroes were likely inspired by the doughboys of World War I, the valor that we continue to witness among today's military is at least partially the result of young men and women who want to live up to the legacies of those who preceded them.

Fearlessness is also the legacy of Pearl Harbor survivor Jack Evans. A 17-year-old lookout on the USS Tennessee during the

(Pearl Harbor continued on page 13)

The USS Illinois SSN-786 is a Virginia – class nuclear-powered fast attack submarine in service with the United States Navy. The USS ILLINOIS (SSN-786) is the 13th Virginia Class nuclear submarine.

The Virginia-class is designed for a broad spectrum of open-ocean and littoral missions. They are replacing older Los Angeles-class submarines, many of which have already been decommissioned. Virginia-class submarines will be acquired through 2043 and are expected to remain in service past 2060.

Commissioning a new ship is a centuries-old tradition for our country and very much a civilian endeavor. It makes the completion of construction on a grand and complex scale and commits boat and crew to a 30 to 35 year mission of protection and projecting our national interest around the world.

There has not been a Navy ship named “Illinois” in over 100 years, since the battleship USS Illinois (BB7)

Displacing approximately 7,800 tons with a length of 370 feet, Virginia is longer but lighter than the previous Seawolf-class of submarines.

The 132-member crew can launch Tomahawk land-attack missiles from 12 vertical launch system tubes and Mark 48 advanced capability torpedoes from four 21-inch torpedo tubes.

Virginia will be able to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea forces. Other missions Virginia will conduct include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare, Special Forces delivery and support, and mine delivery and minefield mapping. With enhanced communications connectivity, Virginia also will provide important battle group and joint task force support, with full integration into carrier battle group operations.

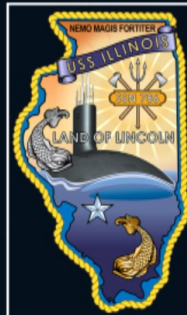
The Virginia-class of attack submarines surpasses the performance of any current projected threat submarine, ensuring U.S. undersea dominance well into the next century. The Virginia class (or SSN-774 class) of attack submarines are the first U.S. subs to be designed for a broad spectrum of open-ocean and littoral missions around the world. They were designed as a cheaper alternative to the Cold War era Seawolf-class attack submarines, and are slated to replace aging Los Angeles class subs, seventeen of which have already been decommissioned.



**USS
ILLINOIS**
SSN 786

ILLINOIS

The submarine is the first Navy vessel named for the state since USS Illinois (BB 7) was commissioned in 1901. BB-7, a battleship, was part of President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet that circumnavigated the world in 1907, introducing America as a global power.



ILLINOIS
is the
second ship
named in honor of Illinois
and is the
13th Virginia-class
submarine

Next-generation attack submarines provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. They have inherent stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities and special warfare enhancements that will enable them to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

General Characteristics, Virginia-class Block III

Propulsion: One nuclear reactor, one shaft
Length: 377 feet (114.8 meters)
Beam: 34 feet (10.3632 meters)
Displacement: Approximately 7,800 tons
(7,925 metric tons) submerged
Speed: 25+ knots (28+ miles per hour, 46.3+ kph)

Armament

- Tomahawk missiles
- Two 87-inch Virginia Payload Tubes with six stows per tube
- MK48 ADCAP torpedoes
- Four torpedo tubes

Capabilities

- Attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces
- Anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare
- Special forces delivery and support
- Mine delivery and minefield mapping



National Executive Committee Resolution No. 16



Rendering Proper Respect

ATTENTION ALL POSTS

Important Notice

The American Legion is a strong supporter of the protection of the American Flag. The American Legion realizes there are proper platforms for expressing protest or disagreements. We vehemently reject using disrespect to the Flag of our Nation or the National Anthem as a way of protesting. The National Executive Committee passed the enclosed resolution addressing the issue for participants in our Youth programs.

Illinois strongly supports the action of The National Executive Committee. This means that local Posts will need to screen all participants in Boys State, Youth Police School, Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball or other programs to ensure compliance. Please take the time during the screening process to eliminate the embarrassment latter.

We support an individual's right to protest, but using our programs as a platform for that protest will not be allowed. Please ensure that whoever screens applications for participation in our Youth programs is aware of this new policy.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Department Adjutant at 309-663-0361.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
OCTOBER 12-13, 2016**

Resolution No. 16: Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of The American Legion

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted By: Americanism Commission

(As amended)

- WHEREAS, The American Legion since its founding has supported this country, and
WHEREAS, Countless members of The American Legion died defending the Constitution of the United States and the First Amendment; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion has fought bigotry, racism and similar concepts since its founding; and
WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion pledges that "For God and Country" we shall associate ourselves together "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism"; and
WHEREAS, There have been public displays of disrespect to the Flag of the United States, including during the National Anthem, by certain individuals, groups and others failing to show respect thereto; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion realizes there are proper platforms for expressing protest or disagreement; and
WHEREAS, The American Legion vehemently rejects using disrespect to the Flag of the United States or the National Anthem as a platform for publicly expressing protest or disagreement; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That The American Legion expects participants of all its programs to show proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That the national organization of The American Legion recommends to departments and posts that the chairman or director of any American Legion program make clear to all participants in advance of the program that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem; and, be it further
RESOLVED, That if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs; and, be it finally
RESOLVED, That if any participant of any national-level program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.



National Vice Commander Paul Martel, a member of American Legion Post 120 in Holly Hill, Florida was the special guest at the 80th Annual Anniversary of The Haven Jamboree—Egyptian Past Commanders & Past Presidents Clubs.

The Legion Family past and present spent the weekend in Carbondale. The weekends events include a tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center. Friday evening Steak fry. Saturday Open House at The Haven and banquet at the Carterville Community Center. Sunday morning schedule are meetings for the Past Commanders & Past Presidents followed by the annual Egyptian Past Commanders Club at The Haven.



(Pearl Harbor continued from page 10)

attack, his memory of that day was that, “Everything was on fire. Death and destruction everywhere.” Yet the California native recently told The American Legion Magazine that he and his crewmates were not frightened.

“Most people just set their jawline and went about doing their jobs,” he said. “There were very few who went into hysterics or anything of that nature. I really wasn’t scared. It was so frustrating to be in a situation where there is so little you can do. You want to fight those guys and there was no way to do it.”

Thankfully, they found a way. For Pearl Harbor is also the story of a remarkable comeback. The Japanese thought they would strike an early and crippling blow to America’s Naval and Air capabilities. They failed.

Despite the advantage of surprise exploited by the Japanese planes and submarines, the feisty Americans at Pearl Harbor still destroyed 29 enemy aircraft, damaged 29 others and sunk or beached 5 mini subs.

Six American battleships that were sunk or damaged during the attack, were restored, refloated and returned to service. Survivors who were physically able to continue their service, fought on for the duration of the war or until wounded or killed.

For the United States, Pearl Harbor marked the beginning of a war. For the Empire of Japan, it was the beginning of the end.

Important notice for all veterans that use the American Legion claims office in St. Louis

⇒ The VA Regional Office (VARO) in St. Louis has moved to a new building. The new location of the VARO is:

St. Louis Regional Benefit Office
Charles F. Prevedel Federal Building
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-253-4100

⇒ The American Legion claims/service office in St. Louis has also moved.

Their new address is:
The American Legion c/o VARO
9700 Page Blvd, Rm R1-103
St. Louis, MO 63132

314-253-4460 phone

314-253-4176 fax

LOCAL MARINE / LEGIONNAIRE ON A SPECIAL MISSION

Corporal Adam Crose a 22 year old US Marine currently deployed to Italy. Adam rotates in and out of Uganda, Africa. His deployment is in support of Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF).

A friend of Adams runs a non-profit organization, from there is where Adam decided to become involved. They coordinate efforts to raise money to help build and repair facilities, and provide school supplies for Ugandan children. This special mission tugs at Adams heart as has seen they have very few books to read, no paper, and little to no basic school supplies. He has witnessed children using rolled mud for writing utensils, and watched them play with rolled up trash for soccer balls. While in Uganda he enjoyed spending time with the children handing out candy, but he felt the need to do more.

The special mission called Action in Africa directly helps these children. The organization is a federally recognized non-profit 501c and continuously looking for donations. Adam humbly communicates to businesses and potential donors for donations of all sizes.

Adam has even received a letter from the President praising his commitment to Action in Africa.

Cpl Crose is a legion member of the Abingdon, IL Post 581, and the son of the Dave Crose who is the Adjutant. Local news has written about Adams special mission of promoting education and community development.

If anyone would like to donate to Action in Africa, you can contact Adam at crosey22@yahoo.com or send donations to his address below.

Cpl Crose, Adam
In Care of (GySgt Smith, Andrew)
Unit 2190 Box-0229
DPO, AE 20189-2190



Department Commander Cheri Stanton, Amy Hess and Rick Schomer. Presented a donation in the amount of \$2700.00 to Amy Hess the Founder of ADONAI Veterans support services of Mercy County for the Quad Cities Veterans from the money raised from the Veterans Awareness Walk 22 back in April 2016.

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS POEM

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
 I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
 My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
 My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
 Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
 Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
 The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
 Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
 My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
 Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
 In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
 So I slumbered I, perhaps I started to dream.
 The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
 But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
 Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,
 Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
 My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,
 And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
 Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
 A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.
 I soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,

Perhaps a Trooper, huddled here in the cold.
 A lone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
 Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
 "What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
 "Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!
 Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
 You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"
 For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
 A way from the cold and the snow blown in drifts.
 To the winder that danced with a warm fire's light
 Then he sighed and he said "It's really all right,
 I'm here by choice. I'm here every night."
 "It's my duty to stand at the front line,
 That separates you from the darkest of times.
 No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
 I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
 My gramps died in Europe on a day in December."
 Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers."
 I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
 But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.
 Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,

The Stars and Stripes an American Flag.
 I can live through the cold and the being alone,
 A way from my family, my house and my home.
 I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
 I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
 I can carry the weight of killing another,
 Or lay down my life with sister and brother.
 Who stand at the front against any and all,
 To ensure for all time that this will not fall."
 "so go back inside," he said, "Harbour no fright,
 Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
 "But isn't there something I can do, at least,
 "Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?"
 It seems all too little all that you've done,
 For being away from your wife and your son."
 Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
 "Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
 To fight for our rights at home while were gone,
 To stand your own watch, no matter how long,
 For when we come home, either standing or dead,
 To know you remember we fought and we bled.
 Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
 That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

Shared by David Scott, Sr.

2016—2017 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	HOST POST	CITY
12/03/2016	8TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (HOLIDAY HOP)	EVERGREEN PARK
12/11/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	OKAWVILLE POST 233	OKAWVILLE
12/21/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES
12/28/2016	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	SOUTH DEERING POST 1238	CHICAGO
01/08/2017	20TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MT. STERLING POST 374	MT. STERLING
01/08/2017	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SPRINGFIELD POST 32	SPRINGFIELD
01/16/2017	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	OLNEY POST 30	OLNEY
01/18/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/20/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	SHARVIN POST 397	NORTH CHICAGO
01/22/2017	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	SPARTA POST 396	SPARTA
01/25/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MERLE GUILD POST 208	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
01/26/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
01/28/2017	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GEO. L. GILES POST 87	CHICAGO
01/29/2017	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NEW HAVEN POST 1141	NEW HAVEN
01/29/2017	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
02/08/2017	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
02/15/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/17/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LAKE ZURICH POST 964	LAKE ZURICH
02/19/2017	18TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	MARSHALL POST 90	MARSHALL
02/22/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
02/23/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	HAZEL CREST POST 398	HAZEL CREST
02/24/2017	3RD DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DORIE MILLER POST 915	CHICAGO
03/05/2017	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MORRISONVILLE POST 721	MORRISONVILLE
03/08/2017	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELY POST 923	CHICAGO

NOTE: Remember if any changes or updates regarding your District/Division meetings occur please contact Joy Wilson at 309-663-0361 or email: joywilson@illegion.org

★ **DATES TO REMEMBER** ★

- ★ **Oratorical Contest—March 4, 2017**
- ★ **Boys State--June 10th--16th, 2017**
- ★ **Illini Girls State--June 18th--24th, 2017**
- ★ **Youth Police--June 25th--30th, 2017**

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. BOX 2910
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

PUBLISHED MONTHLY *

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CHERIL STANTON MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

* One year Subscription to the Department News
\$10.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the
15th of each month for it to be in the next months issue.

Department of Illinois ~ Official Member of The National American Legion Press Association

DECEMBER TRIVIA?

1. What English King introduced death by boiling and legalized the killing of gypsies?
2. What two continents have never been the site of a major military conflict?
3. Who returned to Russia from exile in October, 1917?
4. What song was the Navy band playing at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked?
5. What was the first war in which one jet plane shot down another?

ANSWERS:

1. Henry VIII
2. Antarctica & Australia
3. Vladimir Lenin
4. The Star-Spangled Banner
5. The Korean War.



Check us out on Social Media!

