

THE AMERICAN LEGION

VALDOSTA POST 13
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*“FOR GOD AND
COUNTRY...”*

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION**

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**VALDOSTA GA
PERMIT # 4**

Post 13 Newsletter

January 2012

2011-2012 Post Executive Committee

Commander: Ernie Florig

Senior Vice Commander: Ed Kent

Jr Vice Commander-Activities: Bob Carpenter

Jr Vice Commander-Programs: Rod Pedersen

Finance Officer: Richard Brown

Service Officer: Ed Kent

Adjutant: Clayton Roberts

Chaplain: Bill MacLaughlin

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jimmy Traynor

Judge Advocate: Jimmy Land

Historian: Henrietta Traynor

Members-at-Large: Bobby LeFever, Greg Harbin, and Bob Ballard

Immediate Past Commander: Ed Kent

email: legionpost13@gmail.com **website:** www.galegionpost13.org

Defense

Veterans

Youth

Patriotism

Commander Phil Youngblood, Department of Georgia

Commander’s Chat

We hope each of you had a wonderful time with family and friends as you celebrated Christmas and rang in 2012.

On December 3rd we had a Post entry for the Valdosta Christmas Parade. Thanks to Adjutant Clay Roberts and Jr. Vice Commander Rod Pedersen for preparing us for this wonderful parade. I’d also like to thank the entire American Legion Family for taking the time to represent our Post at this annual event.

We had a very successful Post Christmas party on December 17th. There were a combination of 90 Legionnaires and guests in attendance this year. Thanks to Historian Henrietta Traynor and Sgt-at-Arms Jimmy Traynor, with the assistance of Finance Officer Richard Brown and his better half, Joanne, for making this post party a memorable occasion. The decorations, food, and cleanup crew were well done.

On December 31st we held a Final Salute graveside service for Legionnaire Ivey Plair, Sr., at Sunset Hill cemetery. Ivey was a WW II veteran who served in the Army at

the Pacific theatre. Ivey was also a Legionnaire for 65 years. His son, Ivey, Jr., and daughter-in-law, Linda, were very appreciative for the response on short notice and the reverence and respect we displayed for a humble warrior from our Greatest Generation. Thanks to Chaplain Bill MacLaughlin and Bugler Matt Flumerfelt for making this solemn ceremony very memorable for the Plair family. Also, thanks to the following Legionnaires for their visible support: Bob Carpenter, Rod Pedersen, Clay Roberts, Richard Brown, and Howard Hansford.

Now that the holiday season is behind us, we'll be resuming our monthly membership meeting on January 10th, 7pm (second Tuesday of the month). Connie Crawford, daughter of Legionnaire Victor Pena, has volunteered to prepare a Mexican meal, so please come out and join us.

Our next Post Executive Committee meeting is slated for January 16th, 5:30pm at the Post home. We encourage you, our members, to join us as we plan events for the coming months.

Finally, our most visible Post event for the year is our hosting of The American Legion National Commander, Mr. Fang Wong, a retired Army warrant officer from the Department of New York. This dinner will be held on January 28th, 6pm at our Post home. Reservations are required and the cost is \$6 per person. Please contact Jr. Vice Commander Bob Carpenter at 251-8571 by January 18th. Bob is also looking for volunteers to help with this statewide event.

On behalf of our Post officers, we wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year!

For God and Country

Ernie Florig
Cell 229-269-9392

Sr Vice Commander's Outlook

WELL DONE Post 13! We ended the calendar year of 2011 with 105.9%!

Welcome New Members!!

William Herndon	Phillip Borneman	Charles Shock	Tobin Holmes
James Watson	Michael Wallace	Ralph Romero	Juan Torres
David Ide	Diana Hess	Darrell Stephens	Beau Cannon
Matthew Medley	Shawn Beltrano	Ronald Nitke	Glenn McClelland
Kathleen Harmon	Shannon Petersen	Shiela Leick	Christopher Cole

Christopher Angle Benjamin Brown Larry Coble Lawrence Mathews
Timothy McCreary Jr Lauran McCreary Kyle Wolfe

Jr Vice Commander-Activities

28 January 2012: The American Legion National Commander Mr. Fang Wong will be at our post. Social at 1800 with Dinner at 1900 hrs. Tickets are \$ 6.00 in advance. All Tickets must be purchase NLT 18 January 2012. *** NOTE*** We need your help! This event will be one of the largest undertakings we have taken on. The executive committee will be wearing several hats and juggling every minutes worth of time for the next few weeks, culminating in the reception of Mr. Wong. I ask that if you have time to offer to help us with setting up, parking cars, assisting others who may need a little help and cleaning up. We have the largest Post membership in the District... it would be nice to see some new faces. Experience is not necessary... we all served and know what needs to be done. It's time to "Legion Up". We need your help. I can't pay you, but I can say "Thank You" and will be very thankful for any assistance offered. Please contact me at 229-251-8571, or email at legionup@gmail.com

4 February 2012: Relay for Life Flea Market and Boston Butts. Please purchase a Butt and consider donating your unwanted and experienced (used) items for this great cause. We could use some volunteers for the cause also.

Veterans Assistance: Do You own a business, do you work for someone who supports veterans, or would like to? The time is now to purchase your ad in our newsletter. For a \$100.00 Donation your business card will be published in the news-letter. Advertising with us guarantees at least 800 hits a month. The money collected will go into our Veterans Assistance Fund and provide aid to our distressed comrades.

Jr Vice Commander, Programs

Honor Guard/Color Guard

* We have been tasked with posting the Colors for the National Commander's visit to Post 13; Clayton Roberts, Rod Pedersen, Nerma Dave and Cathy Florig will do the honors.

* We are still looking for dedicated volunteers to help us fill three to four vacancies in the Honor Guard for our Post Everlasting Ceremony in February 2012 and subsequent ceremonies.

Children & Youth Committee

* Post 13 Executive Committee was presented a new charity/assistance request from two Lake Park Elementary School teachers, Ms. Teresa Parkerson and Ms. Angie Hendley. The “Hungry at Home Project” is a locally based, soon to be non-profit organization Project to feed hungry Lowndes County school children in need. This Program has been recognized and contributed to by several local organizations and businesses, (including a generous donation from American Legion Post 13), editorialized by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal in the Valdosta Daily Times (Nov 24, 2011) and is being considered for potential legislation by Representative Tim Golden. Information is available at the Post Home.

* Our own John Gates has very graciously agreed to assist me on the Children & Youth Committee.

For information, contact Rod Pedersen, (229) 630-8315.

Service Officer’s Corner

Gulf War Presumptive Disease Update: Veterans of the Persian Gulf War with undiagnosed illnesses have an additional five years to qualify for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. —Not all the wounds of war are fully understood, said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. —When there is uncertainty about the connection between a medical problem and military service, Veterans are entitled to the benefit of the doubt. A recent change in VA regulations affects Veterans of the conflict in Southwest Asia. Many have attributed a range of undiagnosed or poorly understood medical problems to their military services. Chemical weapons, environmental hazards and vaccinations are among the possible causes. At issue is the eligibility of Veterans to claim VA disability compensation based upon those undiagnosed illnesses, and the ability of survivors to qualify for VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Under long-standing VA rules, any undiagnosed illnesses used to establish eligibility for VA benefits must become apparent by Dec. 31, 2011. The new change pushes the date back to Dec. 31, 2016. Veterans or survivors who believe they qualify for these benefits should contact VA at 1-800-827-1000. Further information about undiagnosed illnesses is available online at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar> and www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/oefoif/index.asp.

Tricare Pharmacy Policy Update: Walgreens first-quarter earnings fell more than 4 percent due in part to a slow flu season and its split with the Express Scripts pharmacy network. A three-year contract between the companies ends at the end of 2011. Since June, Walgreens and Express Scripts have said they were preparing to stop doing business. Walgreens gets \$5.3 billion in annual revenue from Express Scripts, but the Deerfield, Ill. company has said it would rather give that up than continue filling unprofitable prescriptions. Walgreens remains open to another offer, Wasson said. Unless the companies strike a last-minute deal, most people whose prescription drug benefits are handled by Express Scripts won't be able to fill their prescriptions at Walgreens stores, starting in January. Express Scripts clients include Tricare, the health plan that serves military members and their families, and WellPoint Inc., which is the largest U.S. health insurer based on membership. The bottom line is we no longer are able to use Walgreens as a source of our TRICARE meds.

Navy / Marine Purple Heart Update: Recently, due to advances in the diagnosis and treatment of mild traumatic brain injuries (MTBI), the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) updated the standards and procedures for the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal. Sailors and Marines may be awarded the Purple Heart for certain mild traumatic brain injuries that were caused by direct or indirect enemy actions with intent to kill or maim. Those who suffered a loss of consciousness or were 'not fit for full duty' by a medical officer for more than 48 hours after a concussive event may qualify for the Purple Heart Medal. The new standard allows for retroactive awards to injuries suffered since 1 SEP 2001. The SECNAV stated that Purple Heart Medals awarded for MTBI will continue to meet the historical standards of severity applied to all types of wounds, ensuring the prestige and integrity of one of the U.S. military's most recognized wards is maintained. To learn more about these recent changes to the standards and procedures for retroactive award of the Purple Heart Medal refer to the attachment to this Bulletin titled, "SECNAV Purple Heart Standards" or <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/ALNAVS/ALN2011/ALN11079.txt>.

A date in history:

Jan 15 1973 – Vietnam: Citing progress in peace negotiations, President Richard Nixon announces the suspension of offensive action in North Vietnam.

SAL

* Membership Meeting at Post Home, Tuesday February 7, 2012 6:00 PM - consider sending an attendee to Spring Conference (March 17 & 18) to represent SAL; consider a

sponsorship for Boys State

* Second reading of new DRAFT of SAL Squadron 13 Constitution & Bylaw and the SAL Commander will also be soliciting members for the FY 2012-2013 Officers Nominations Committee.

* SAL members are encouraged and invited to attend the American Legion National Commander's visit to Post 13 on January 28th.

Legion Riders

The ALR will be conducting their January meeting on the 19th with many important items on the agenda. Most importantly will be the ALR's participation in the upcoming visit by the National Commander and the different roles needed to be filled by the Riders. In addition to the support roles we will hopefully have a large contingent of Post 13 Riders participating in the Commander's Escort. In that Post 13 is the final stop on Commander Wong's itinerary we should have a turnout of unprecedented proportions. Let's go Riders!

Adjutant

There are a number of Legionnaires who still have not gotten up to date on their dues for 2012. As of 1 January you are delinquent and will lose voice, vote and privileges should dues not be caught up in a timely manner. Please don't let it be you. Beginning with the February Newsletter, any Legionnaire not current with their dues will not receive a monthly newsletter. The newsletter will still be available to all on the Post 13 website. I surely hope to see a 100% retention of our Legionnaires so please ensure you are current. Any doubt, give me a shout!

I want you all to contact me if ever you have a question or need that I could be in assistance to. My contact information is: cell phone (850) 464-2025 or e-mail croberts22@hotmail.com.

Chaplain's Pulpit

I would like to thank all the officers and members that attended the Final Salute Ceremonies for Kenneth Carter, James Beck and Ivey Plair Sr. These ceremonies mean a lot to the families. This is our way of showing we care about our members. Remember they were not just members they were family.

It is my sad duty to announce the passing of the following members.

Thomas Ganas

S D. Blanton

Keep the families in your prayers.

Father, “blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long; they exult in your righteousness. For you are the glory and strength”

In His service,

Chaplain Bill MacLaughlin chaplainbillm@gmail.com

American Legion Post 13, Valdosta Ga.

<http://www.galegionpost13.org>

Post Everlasting

Thomas Ganas

S D. Blanton Korea, USN

Lounge News

Monthly Lounge Special Rum and Coke \$1.50

Contact Jimmy Traynor @ 242-7616 for information on renting the main hall.

Relay for Life; Please mark your calendars for Friday, 15 January for Joanne Brown and I will be bussing tables at the Huddle House located on Northside Drive from 6:00am until 2:00 pm to earn donations for our Relay for Life Team. Please stop by and enjoy a cup of coffee, breakfast or lunch and help support our efforts in the fight against cancer. On a side note we still have a few tickets remaining for the Boston Butts or Hams we are selling as another fund raiser for the Relay for Life Team. January 27th will be the last day these tickets will be sold so hurry and get yours while supplies last. Your choice of Ham or Boston Butt is only \$30.00 each. We can never tell you enough how much appreciated and important your support is.

Respectfully, Henrietta Traynor

Thank-You to Our Legion Supporters

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Harris Roofing Co.

The Home Handyman

1st America Drugs

Lewis Accounting

The Huddle House

Calendar of Events

- 10 January: Post 13 General Membership Meeting at 7:00 pm.
- 19 Jan. ALR Meeting at 6:30 pm at Post Home
- 26-28 Jan. National Commander's Escort (ALR)
- 28 Jan. National Commander's Visit and Dinner, Social at 6:00 pm Dinner at 7:00 pm
- 7 Feb. SAL General Membership Meeting at 6:00 pm. At Post Home