



American Legion Post 13 August 2022 Newsletter

2022-2023

Officers

Commander: Stephen Blanton Sr Vice: Bill Dimsdale Adjutant: Clayton Roberts
Jr Vice: Clayton Roberts Jr Vice: RD Martin Fin. Off.: Richard Brown
Judge Adv: Phil Youngblood Serv. Off: Ed Kent Historian: Tabora Temple
Sgt @ Arms: Ray Meeks Asst Sgt @ Arms Jimmy Traynor
Chaplain Bill McLaughlin Members @ Large: Don Van Pelt; Rod Pedersen and Tim Oliver

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

Salutations to the Post 13 Family

2022 -2023 Legion year has officially started and the elected and appointed Officers of Post 13 and SAL Squad 13 were sworn in at our July 12th Membership Meeting. I apologize to the ALR for not ensuring they were invited to be sworn in at the meeting. Apology was accepted and ALR Director Dan Dooley gave me the privilege and honor to swear in the incoming Officers of the ALR Chapter 13 at their Thursday night meeting.

I would like each member who reads this Newsletter and has a computer, tablet or smart phone, to log onto our Post 13 website www.galegionpost13.org. and click on Face book "Here: Scroll down and view the pictures of Post activities until you find the pictures taken of the installation of Officers at our last Membership Meeting. I am aware that many of us are older and not as "Tech Savvy" as our grandchildren but the American Legion at National, Department and District levels are strongly nudging us to moving to online membership and electronic reports and we will have to use mylegion.org. for a lot of our Legion business. Our Dept. Adjutant has suggested we older members call on our grandchildren to help us to become "Tech Savvy".

The reason I ask you to find the installation pictures on our Post 13 face book is to see what activities we are doing and what we are missing at our meetings. There were more Officers than members to observe the swearing in of Officers. Observing a swearing in ceremony is not what is important to the member observing but is important that members have a voice in

how Post 13 carries out our mission to support Veterans in our community. The PEC needs input of from the membership for ideas for fund raisers and youth programs and community events but also needs Legionnaires to implement the ideas into action. If you have not paid dues for 2022-2023, please do so, and I remind the membership, Post 13 only keeps \$5 out of Dues of \$30. It would take over 10,000 members to run this Post for a year by keeping only \$5 per member. Adding dues above National's set amount would not be a popular option, so please support a raffle, 50/50 drawing, carwash or any other fundraiser. The ball game parking fundraiser of \$10 to park supports the Son of the American Legion, Legion Riders Chap. 13 and Aux. Unit 13 and requires at least one member to be present from each group to help park cars.. Legion members from any Post in the Country are entitled to park while at our Post including on any football night or day but if you are able to pay \$10 or any monetary donation of any amount would be showing the charitable spirit of Legionnaires helping the Legion Family groups to serve veterans and children in need in our community. Please serve in any way you are able according to your talents and physical ability. Each member is to be a membership recruiter

For God and Country

Stephen Blanton, Commander.

Senior Vic

Adjutant

Clayton Roberts croberts22@hotmail.com

Hooray, the 2023 Membership cards are here and ready for renewal. Those that wish to renew early will be eligible for our Early Bird Drawing that will be conducted at the October meeting. You need not be present to win, but it is nice to see everyone's smiles at the meetings. On-line renewals and PUFL members are automatically entered. Korean War Veterans have now been included in the Post "Honorary Life Membership program so you all should be expecting your cards as soon as I can get the processed.

Service Officer

Ed Kent

kentj2@bellsouth.net

Desert Storm Memorial: Installation on National Mall Began 14 JUL

The installation of a new monument in Washington, D.C., recognizing Gulf War veterans began July 14 with the formal groundbreaking of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Situated on the National Mall to the north of the Lincoln Memorial, the new park-like monument will honor veterans who served on Active duty in support of the two operations. The memorial commemorates “the service and sacrifice” of the military personnel who from 1991 to 1992 “liberated Kuwait from Iraq and defended Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula from further invasion,” according to information from the National Desert Storm Memorial Association. Kuwait is the lead donor contributing to the memorial. Derived from Gulf War veterans’ responses to a five-question survey, the monument’s design presents the war’s historical events and significance along with the “unique environmental and battle conditions experienced” by the troops who fought in it, according to the association. Survey replies led the association to conclude that the design should reflect the war’s desert environment;

should include a statue of Soldiers wearing chemical warfare protective gear; and should represent the war’s so-called “left hook” maneuver by ground troops—a trick by which the U.S. Army cut off supplies and prompted Iraqi forces’ retreat. After consideration, the association chose not to feature the names of service members who died in the war because doing so “would omit the names of so many of our comrades who were lost outside of the parameters” of the dates bookending the two operations; and because its

educational purpose is distinct from that of monuments such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is meant instead as “a place of mourning, healing, and reconciliation.” “This memorial represents and includes many degrees of sacrifice,” according to the association, including that of those who died in theater, those who since died as a result, “and those who are currently suffering as a result of their honorable service.” Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. David A. Deptula, dean of AFA’s Mitchell Institute of Aerospace Studies, served as a principal architect of Desert Storm’s air campaign and said the war was

historically significant because, among other reasons, it “set expectations for low casualties,” “presaged the age of precision weapons,” marked the first use of a joint force concept of operations, and was the first time “airpower was the key force” in achieving victory. The association intends to complete the memorial’s construction by Veterans Day of 2024. The groundbreaking was livestreamed at www.ndswm.org/live.

SBP DIC Offset: What Surviving Spouses Need to Know About Phase 2 & 3

On January 1, 2022, Phase Two of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination began. To help surviving spouses who are entitled to both SBP and DIC in 2022 understand the effect of this change, DFAS mailed letters in early December with individual estimates of 2022 SBP payments. As a reminder, the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination only affects SBP payments

issued by DFAS. The changes do NOT affect Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from the VA. Eligible surviving spouses will

continue to receive the full amount of DIC from the VA. Check out the DFAS new Quick Reference Guide on the special focus webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>

What Happens in 2022: January 1, 2022 marked the start of the second phase of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination. The changes affect surviving spouses who are, or who will become in the future, eligible for both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments, and who were subject to a full or partial SBP-DIC Offset. In Phase Two of the SBPDIC Offset Phased Elimination the amount that is offset (deducted) from the spouse's SBP annuity payment is one-third of the amount of the DIC payment. DIC payments are not affected. The SBP monthly payment is reduced by the amount of the offset (1/3 of the amount of the DIC payment). If a spouse's gross SBP benefit is less than one third of the amount of the DIC they receive from the VA, the spouse will not receive an SBP payment. About 12 percent of spouses (approximately 7,600) will not see a change in their SBP payment in 2022 because their gross SBP benefit is less than one-third of their DIC payment from the VA. Spouses who have their SBP offset by DIC will continue to receive the Special Survivors

Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) in 2022, up to the maximum amount of \$346 per month, or up to gross amount of SBP (if the gross amount of SBP is less than \$346). In summary:

- VA will pay: 100% of the DIC payment
- DoD/DFAS will pay: The remainder of the SBP benefit after deducting an amount equal to 1/3 of the spouse's DIC payment from the SBP gross annuity amount (SBP gross – 1/3 of DIC = SBP net) plus the appropriate amount of SSIA up to the maximum allowable (\$346).
- The last payment of Phase Two is for December of 2022, which will be paid on January 3, 2023.

What Happens in 2023: In the third and final phase that begins January 1, 2023, the SBP-DIC offset will be fully eliminated. That means spouses will begin to receive their full SBP monthly payments with no offset (reduction) on February 1, 2023. DIC payments will not be affected, the SBP benefit will be paid in full (no offset), and SSIA will NOT be paid. Note:

- Spouses should have received a January 2022 Annuitant Account Statement (AAS) near the time of their February 1, 2022 payment that showed changes to the SBP and/or SSIA payment because of the second phase of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination

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- Annuitant Account Statements are available in your myPay account <https://mypay.dfas.mil>
- Reminder: if a spouse previously received a refund of SBP premiums paid due to the SBPDIC offset, they will NOT need to pay back that refund because of this change in the law.

Questions?

Check out the full range of Frequently Asked Questions and download the new Quick Reference Guide on the SBP-DIC News webpage: <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicnews>. DFAS also has a webpage explaining SBP, DIC and SSIA at <https://www.dfas.mil/sbpdicssia>

Army Enlistment: Policy Dropping High School Diploma Requirement

After only a week, the Army has swiftly reversed a new policy that would have allowed potential recruits to enlist into the force without a high school diploma or GED. The Army, along with the other services, faces an ongoing crisis to fill in the ranks amid a convergence of issues, including an increasingly competitive civilian job market and the military losing some public awareness in the absence of a major conflict. So far, the Army has only hit about 40% of its recruiting goals this year. On June 23, the service said that it would drop the requirement for completing high school under the condition that enlistees quickly ship out to boot camp, setting a deadline of Oct. 1 to begin training. However, the move was met with some mockery online and accusations of it being a desperate measure, lowering standards to fill in the ranks wherever the Army could. The potential recruits who would have been exempted from the high school requirement had to be 18 and score at least a 50 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASVAB, an SAT-style quiz to measure a potential recruit's academic ability. That was a higher threshold than normal, with a 31 being the minimum score for anyone else. Scoring at least a 50 would likely qualify an individual for a healthy roster of the Army's jobs. A lack of education plays a relatively small role in disqualifying potential recruits, with most issues related to minor criminal infractions and intense scrutiny on past minor medical and mental health issues. Only about one fourth of young Americans are even eligible to serve, with the top problem being obesity. Multiple sources with direct knowledge on lifting the requirement for a high school diploma or GED said that policy makers were concerned about legitimate reasons a candidate might have not finished their schooling, and raising the bar on the entrance exam was a good control factor to not lower education standards. One Army official said the lift on requiring diplomas could return. "A score in the 50th percentile on the ASVAB is a good score," the Army official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press on the subject, said. "So, if someone doesn't have a GED or high school diploma, but they score well on the ASVAB, meet all other requirements, then military service could potentially be a great option for their future." Army officials have made a number of small adjustments to make recruiting easier where they can without having negative impacts on the quality of soldiers enlisting. In a sign of the need for capable recruits, the service is offering up to \$50,000 enlistment bonuses, its highest ever, and allowing recruits to pick their first duty station with some limitations. This was on top of existing benefits that have been key for recruitment for decades, including the GI Bill, relatively cheap and easy access to health care and VA home loans -- all of which are still generally more generous than most entry level jobs for people without college degrees. The Army has also picked low-hanging fruit such as relaxing its tattoo policies, which is expected to impact only a few hundred recruits per year. In an interview, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth has also expressed concerns that negative media attention on scandals and issues in the force, including sexual assault and harassment, suicide and other quality-of-life problems faced by the rank and file, may be impacting recruiting...does anyone remember the old "Cat 4" troops?

Auxiliary News,

Our Focus: At ALA, the well-being of our Veterans is at the forefront of what we are working towards together. Our programs and activities are designed to be a catalyst that helps Veterans reach their goals and fulfill their potential. We strive to build productive relationships and make a positive impact with all of our pursuits.

Our meeting for July 12, 2022 saw an outgoing leadership and an installation of new leadership. Please welcome our 2022 - 2023 Officers:

- Sandra Martin: President
- Sheila Blanton: 1st Vice
- Henrietta Traynor: 2nd Vice
- Livia Tatum: Secretary
- Pat Morgan: State President/Treasurer
- Joanne Brown: Chaplain
- Brenda Champagne: Sergeant at Arms

We would also like to take this time and congratulate Pat Morgan on being the new President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia. It is an honor to have her from our Unit 13. I believe my mom, Hilde Martin and Pat are the only two from Unit 13 to hold that honor.

Topics Discussed during our meeting:

- Designate 1 membership dues to be paid from the parking fundraiser.
- School supplies will be bought and given to the schools in August.
- Membership dues can now be paid for the 2022-2023 year. Dues is \$30.00.
 - o Pay online: www.ALforVeterans.org
 - o Pay by phone: 317-569-4570
 - o Pay by mail: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 13, PO Box 5019, Valdosta, GA 31603
- Pat Morgan, Sheila Blanton, and Sandra Martin will meet and create the 2022-2023 budget to discuss at the next meeting.
- August 9th: board meeting at 5pm, dinner at 6pm, & Auxiliary meeting at 7.

If you need anything, my cell number is 229-560-8523 and email is 2211sandra.martin@gmail.com.

We would like to take this time and thank all members for your continued support. We cannot do anything without your support.

Please join us at our supper and next meeting August 9, 2022 at 6 pm. We look forward to the fellowship!

Sandra
President, Aux. Unit 13

Salutation to the SAL Squad 13

We have not had a stellar year but we have the new Legion Family year starting and we can rebuild SAL Squad 13 into an asset. Attendance is the central problem. Many of us are dual members and hold office in other Post family groups. It is sometimes difficult to wear two Hats and serve the Post and the Squad. The officers can make decisions with the a small quorum required for business but there needs to be members present at meetings to discuss ideas and members to help put ideas into action. We need to serve veterans and also Children and Youth. We need to help the Post with activities but we also need to rethink our Kids Christmas and Breakfast and be the tip of the spear and let the Post 13 and other Post 13 families be supporting the shaft of the spear. . We need to promote camaraderie among ourselves and have a meal on occasion for ourselves and also for Veterans that are in need. Our organization was to carry the stories of the Great War WWI that lead to the founding of the American Legion and the expectation of its fading into memory as American Legion members passed away. We don't want to be the generation that lets Squad 13 fade away. Please keep your dues current and please make an effort to come to meetings. We need to have meals but not in lieu of meetings. We need to remember and tell the stories of our fathers and grandfathers. I will be wearing two hats again but with the help of Squad 13 members we working together can make Squad 13 the asset it should be. For God and Country

Stephen Blanton Cmdr. Squad 13

From the Squadron 13 Adjutant:

Life Line Screening 9-21-2022

Squadron 13 Sons of The American Legion is proud to once again sponsor at the Post the bi-annual Life Line Health Screening this upcoming September 21, 2021. For the last two years, Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at The American Legion Post #13 on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. These 5 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

Atrial Fibrillation A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.

Osteoporosis Risk An ultrasound is performed to measure the shin bone for abnormal bone mass density. This can help assess the risk of osteoporosis, a disease where bones become weak and brittle.

More information as well as links to register for this Health Screening will soon be posted on The American Legion Post 13 Valdosta's Facebook page.
