



Volume 4, Issue 11
 Winner of the 2010
 VALPA Award



December 2011
www.vapost364.org



AMERICAN LEGION POST 364, WOODBRIDGE, VIRGINIA

Providing 50 Years of Golden Service to America's Veterans

Post-  -Gram

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM (JSSP)

Jimmie Gilbert, JSSP Chairman

The team has been selected for the Junior Shooting Sports Program for this Legion year. On the opening day of try-outs we had over 30 young adults attend. But

even harder by reducing our open slots to an even lower number. This year's team consists of six veteran, and six new shooters. Now the real work begins as we move into the

We have started each student on the path for the qualifications for the NRA Sharpshooter, Marksman, and Expert level badges, with returning veterans picking up where they left off last year. The next few months the students will participate in Postal Tournaments for the JROTC and the American Legion programs. At the end of the school year we expect to be shooting at the American Legion Regional (Manassas) and State (Charlottesville) tournaments.

The members for this year's team are:

Daniel Moore, Drew Massman, Aaron Struck, Yannira Cruz, Jose DeJesus, Brain Lafranchise, Katie Tatum, Katherine Agnew, Denver Ansley, Sam Tatum, Levi Peterson, Katelynn Wilson.

The two alternates are, Riley Lunn, and Frank Mazza.

Congratulations to all that made the team, and good luck!



Instructor Mark Burns is keeping a close eye on the technique.

due to limited range size, we are forced to restrict the number of team members to ten active with two alternates. All but one of our returning veterans from last year made the team, making our task

fine tuning of the shooting positions. We began covering the mental attitude of competitive shooting. Each shooter has their Daisy. 177 Caliber Air Rifles adjusted for their individual settings.

FROM THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

Randy Bower, Commander



November proved to be another busy month with the Department of Virginia Fall Conference, Veterans Day ceremonies, the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner, and Thanksgiving itself. Our Post was well represented at the Annual Veterans Day ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery. We participated in the ceremony with a Color Guard led by our Sgt. at Arms David Kennedy. The Master of Ceremonies was our very own Thom Karlson and we had many of our members present in the audience as well. Thank you all for your active participation remembering those who have fallen and those who continue to serve in the defense of our country and our freedoms. Later that day we visited the Emeritus Retirement and Assisted Living Community in Lake Ridge. We presented 17 Certificates of Appreciation to worthy veterans staying at the facility. Ten of them were recognized for their service in World War II. Also, we served over 175 plates of delicious Thanksgiving Dinner to the Senior Citizens from our area. The participation of volunteers was phenomenal. We had volunteers from the U.S. Military

Veterans Motorcycle Clubs from our local chapter, Culpepper, and several USMVMC members from West Virginia and Tennessee, the Boy Scouts, Junior Shooters, Post 364 Legion members, our Ladies Auxiliary Unit, Sons of the American Legion Squadron and those who donated hams and turkeys and those that cooked them. The dinner was well organized, well executed, and enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who helped to make this such a wonderful success.

December is here and this month we will have our annual Toys For Tots Dinner and Dance at the Post on 3 December. Please drop off any new unwrapped toys you would like to donate for this worthy cause.

Our combined American Legion Post, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion Christmas party and pot luck will commence Tuesday, 20 December at 6:30p after a short combined membership meeting. We will have a Christmas Gift swap and anyone wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift not exceeding twenty dollars.

We have begun serving a Friday lunch from 11:00a to 3:00p and a Sunday morning breakfast beginning at 8:00a to 11:00a. We have had some participation, but not nearly what is needed for this to be worthwhile. The Legion Executive Committee voted to give this a three month trial period. So if you are out and about on a Friday afternoon, stop by the Post for lunch or come by on Sundays for

breakfast. The prices are very reasonable, the food and the service are great. Please show your support and give it a try.

We are having a New Year's Eve party Saturday, 31 December at the Post and we will continue the Legion Idol contest like we did last year. The attendance last year was outstanding and members were talking about it for months. We will have judges and prizes for the winners. So practice up on your vocals and enter the contest. We will have dancing and singing and champagne and party favors to bring in the New Year. This is a free event and is open to Post members and guests. All guests must be signed in by a Post member. We will also provide a breakfast buffet from 12:30a to 1:30a after the dance for a nominal fee of five dollars (\$5.00). Please come out and support your Post's activities.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Marcia Wheatley, Unit President

“You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been.”

Take a walk around the Post Hall and look at the names written on the plaques hanging on the wall. There are stories behind those names of Post Commanders and Unit Presidents. There are stories to be told but only if we listen. If we listened, we would hear the stories of the accomplishments that happened the year they led. Stories to be told of veterans assisted locally and at the McGuire VA Medical Facility, stories of smiles on the faces of deployed military opening their packages, stories of students sent to college on scholarships given through the Post and Unit programs, and stories of Posts and Units accomplishments at the local, state and national level, just to name a few.

The Post home has many stories of wonderful programs that have a long history and the Unit is proud to be a part of that history. Last month, the Unit was proud to take part in a program with a long history of 25 years, the Senior Thanksgiving Dinner. This year over 120 seniors enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner cooked by Sara and a host of volunteer chefs. Following dinner, there was music complete with singing and even a few brave souls dancing. All who attended and volunteered left with a full stomach and a renewed spirit for the holiday season.

During the month of December, the Unit will be proud to again participate in the Toys for Tots program, a program now in its 20th year. We are excited to see if last year's record of 700+ toys can be broken, knowing that over the years in excess of 4,000 children have had a brighter Christmas because of this wonderful program.

To tell the stories of the Post, we need your help. The Post will be holding a 50th Anniversary dinner in January and we need your pictures. Dianne Cabot and I will be putting together a media presentation of events and activities at the Post during its 50 year history and we would love to include your memories. If you have any pictures you would like to share, please contact me at mlwheatley@yahoo.com or 703.625.6112. We will scan and then return your pictures to you. We then hope you will join us for this event and relive those moments.

As my husband Tom and I reflect on the upcoming holiday season we are reminded there will be many families gathering at tables with an empty seat. A seat left empty by deployed military personnel, a seat left empty by those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and possibly a seat left empty by a homeless veteran. Please join us as we renew our efforts in 2012 to serving our veterans, military and their families.



From our house to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) – SQUADRON 364, DETACHMENTS' DISPATCH
Mark Clark, Commander



Attention SAL Members: Please review your membership card to ensure it is a valid 2011 card. If not, the dues are listed to your right for 2011 members and can be mailed to:

Sons of the American Legion
PO Box 2121
Woodbridge, VA 22195

Make checks payable to SAL 364

<u>2011/2012 Dues</u>	
Age 21 & older	\$25.00
Age 13 thru 20	\$20.00
Age 12 & under	\$15.00
Dual	\$10.00

Greetings and Happy Holidays to all fellow Sons, Legion and Auxiliary members.

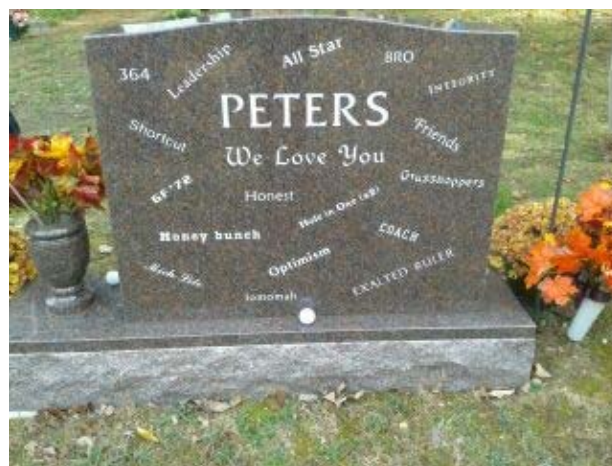
November was busy as we assisted with the Thanksgiving Dinner. In addition, we finally received the headstone for late Squadron Commander, Matt Peters (see pictures below). Several members joined Jo Peters for an official dedication.

December starts off busy with the annual Toys 4 Tots dinner dance.

Please join us as we continue to fundraise for the 2011 program. We are looking forward to shopping for toys with the funds raised and the dinner where we I join Randy and Marcia for the official donation to the Marine Corps. See Wayne Hamilton, Jim Koerber or myself for donations and details.

Our membership drive continues for 2011 and 2012, please continue to help recruit new members.

I wish you Merry Christmas and a Blessed and safe Holiday season.



The Family Circle - special thoughts and prayers for our family members

Convalescing

Merle Bevenour

Prayer Requests

Our troops throughout the world.

Post Everlasting

On the wings of angels

No Report

DECEMBER 7, 1941: PEARL HARBOR – “A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”

It was a fateful day, the start of World War II for the United States, and a turning point in our history.



**USS ARIZONA
DURING THE ATTACK**

Pearl Harbor, on the Island of O'ahu, Hawaii, (then a territory of the United States) was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Navy, at approximately 8:00a, Sunday morning, December 7, 1941. The surprise attack was conceived by Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, with a striking force of 353 Japanese aircraft led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida. The attack was launched from six heavy aircraft carriers accompanied by 24 supporting vessels. A separate group of submarines was to sink any American warships which escaped the Japanese carrier force. The goal: Cripple U.S. naval might in the Pacific, allowing Japan to seize control of the area.

At dawn on December 7, the Japanese task force reached a point slightly more than 200 miles north of Oahu. At 6:00a, the six carriers launched a first wave of 181 planes composed of torpedo bombers, dive bombers, horizontal bombers and fighters. Even as they flew south,

some elements of U.S. forces on Oahu realized there was something different about this Sunday morning. In the hours before dawn, U.S. Navy vessels spotted an unidentified submarine periscope near the entrance to Pearl Harbor. It was attacked and reported sunk by the destroyer USS Ward (DD-139) and a patrol plane.

At 7:00a, an alert operator of an Army radar station at Opana spotted the approaching first wave of the attack force. The officers to whom those reports were relayed did not consider them significant enough to take action. The report of the submarine sinking was handled routinely, and the radar sighting was passed off as an approaching group of American planes due to arrive that morning.



**RESCUING SURVIVORS NEAR
USS WEST VIRGINIA**

The Japanese aircraft achieved complete surprise when they hit American ships and military installations on Oahu shortly before 8:00a, attacking military airfields at the same time they hit the fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor. The Navy air bases at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay, the Marine airfield

at Ewa and the Army Air Corps fields at Bellows, Wheeler and Hickam were all bombed and strafed. The purpose of the simultaneous attacks was to destroy the American planes before they could rise to intercept the Japanese.



**TSUGUJI FUJITA 1942 PAINTING,
'ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR'**



**PEARL HARBOR'S
'BATTLESHIP ROW'**

Of the 100 ships in Pearl Harbor, the primary targets were the eight battleships anchored there. Seven were moored on Battleship Row along the southeast shore of Ford Island while the USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) lay in drydock across the channel. Within the first minutes of the attack, all the battleships adjacent to Ford Island had taken bomb and/or torpedo hits.

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DECEMBER 7, 1941: PEARL HARBOR – “A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY”

... continued from previous page

The USS West Virginia sank quickly. The USS Oklahoma turned turtle and sank. At about 8:10a, the USS Arizona was mortally wounded by an armorpiercing bomb which ignited the ship's forward ammunition magazine. The resulting explosion and fire killed 1,177 crewmen, the greatest loss of life on any ship that day and about half the total number of Americans killed. The USS California, USS Maryland, USS Tennessee and USS Nevada also suffered varying degrees of damage in the first half hour of the raid.



DESTROYED ARMY AIRCRAFT AT WHEELER FIELD



MEMORIAL PLAQUE NEAR THE WRECK OF USS UTAH

There was a short lull in attack at about 8:30a. At that time the USS Nevada, despite her wounds, managed to get underway and move

down the channel toward the open sea. Before she could clear the harbor, a second wave of 170 Japanese planes, launched 30 minutes after the first, appeared over the harbor. They concentrated their attacks on the moving battleship, hoping to sink her in the channel and block the narrow entrance to Pearl Harbor. On orders from the harbor control tower, the Nevada beached herself at Hospital Point and the channel remained clear.



USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

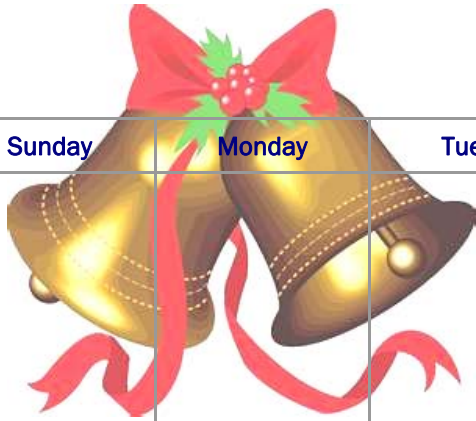
When the attack ended shortly before 10:00a, less than two hours after it began, the American forces has paid a fearful price. Twenty-one ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were sunk or damaged. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged, the majority hit before they had a chance to take off. There were a total of 2,403 American casualties, including 68 civilians, most of them killed by improperly fused anti-aircraft shells landing in Honolulu. There were 1,178 military and civilian wounded.

Japanese losses were comparatively light. Twenty-nine planes, less than 10 percent of the attacking force, failed to return to their carriers. The

Japanese success was overwhelming, but not complete; as fate would have it, U.S. aircraft carriers that were to be primary targets in the attack were absent from the harbor. The Japanese also failed to damage the Pearl Harbor Naval Base's shoreside facilities; these facilities played an important role in the Allied victory in World War II.

Most importantly, the shock and anger caused by the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor united a divided nation and was translated into a wholehearted American commitment to victory in World War II.

December 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Junior Shooters 7:00p	2	3  Toys for Tots 6:00p
4 Bingo (Team 3) 2:00p - 5:00p	5 Bingo (Team 4) 7:15p - 10:00p	6 SAL Executive Meeting 6:00p Legion Executive Meeting 7:30p	7 Boy Scouts 7:00p	8 Junior Shooters 7:00p	9 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p	10 Children's Christmas Party 11:00a - 2:00p 
11 Bingo (Team 5) 2:00p - 5:00p USMVMC Meeting 6:00p	12 Bingo (Team 6) 7:15p - 10:00p	13 Auxiliary Executive Meeting 7:30p	14 Boy Scouts 7:00p	15 Junior Shooters 7:00p	16 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p Karaoke 8:00p - 12:00a 	17 Post Oratorical Contest 9:00a - 12:00p
18 Bingo (Team 7) 2:00p - 5:00p	19 Bingo (Team 8) 7:15p - 10:00p	20 Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Joint Membership Meeting & Christmas Party & Potluck Dinner 7:30p 	21 Boy Scouts 7:00p	22 Junior Shooters 7:00p	23 No Post Dinner	24
25  USMVMC Meeting 6:00p	26 Bingo (Team 2) 7:15p - 10:00p	27	28 Boy Scouts 7:00p	29 Junior Shooters 7:00p	30 No Post Dinner	31 New Year's Eve Party 9:00p - 1:00a  <i>Party the Year Away!!!</i>

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day 	2 Bingo (Team 4) 7:15p - 10:00p	3 SAL Executive Meeting 6:00p Legion Executive Meeting 7:30p	4 Boy Scouts 7:00p	5 Junior Shooters 7:00p	6 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p	7
8 Bingo (Team 5) 2:00p - 5:00p USMYMC Meeting 6:00p	9 Bingo (Team 6) 7:15p - 10:00p	10 Auxiliary Executive Meeting 7:30p	11 Boy Scouts 7:00p	12 Junior Shooters 7:00p	13 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p	14
15 Bingo (Team 7) 2:00p - 5:00p	16 MLK Birthday Bingo (Team 8) 7:15p - 10:00p 	17 SAL Membership Meeting 6:00p Legion Membership Meeting 7:30p	18 Boy Scouts 7:00p	19 Junior Shooters 7:00p	20 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p Karaoke 8:00p - 12:00a 	21
22 Bingo (Team 1) 2:00p - 5:00p USMYMC Meeting 6:00p	23 Bingo (Team 2) 7:15p - 10:00p	24 Auxiliary Membership Meeting 7:30p	25 Boy Scouts 7:00p	26 Junior Shooters 7:00p	27 Post Dinner 5:30p - 7:30p 50th Anniversary 5:00p - 12:00a 	28 50th Anniversary 5:00p - 12:00a Formal Event 
29 Bingo (Team 3) 2:00p - 5:00p	30 Bingo (Team 4) 7:15p - 10:00p	31 				



Warren DiPerna - Bingo Manager - 571.239.7556

Teams 1, 2 Bingo Manager: Daniel Eubank 571.408.5040

Team 3 Bingo Manager: Randy Bower 703.309.3800

Team 5 Bingo Manager: Robin Oden 703.772.1653

Teams 4, 6 Bingo Manager: Doug Caskey 703.899.5332

Teams 7, 8 Bingo Manager: Dan Condon 703.919.6227

Sunday Sales start 1:00p - Monday Sales start 6:15p

Team 1 Sundays

VACANT (TC)

Ed Rotchford (C)

703.586.8297

Phil London

703.930.0594

Jim Koerber

571.264.4812

Lee Beery

703.981.2911

Diane Clark

703.497.3254

Team 2 Mondays

Jim Hawkins (TC)

703.819.8465

Raye Ferrington (C)

703.924.1150

Brian Condon

317.696.3906

Matt Tyson

703.730.3244

Merle Bevenour

843.540.0498

Barbara Stevenson

703.670.8750

Team 3 Sundays

Robin Oden (TC)

703.772.1653

Mike Hodge (C)

703.583.1127

Merle Bevenour

843.540.0498

Anne Bower

703.494.1910

VACANT

Myrna Sanborn

717.870.4512

Team 4 Mondays

Gary Lepore (TC)

703.794.0786

Mike Hodge (C)

703.583.1127

Mel McGee

703.472.9157

Gary Eads

703.216.2387

Ted Zeunges

703.583.4966

Anne Bower

703.494.1910

Team 5 Sundays

VACANT (TC)

Patty Groves (C)

703.485.6510

Thom Karlson

703.730.2172

Sy Horowitz

703.670.8325

Mike Watkins

703.470.5534

Addie Horowitz

703.670.8325

Team 6 Mondays

Jack Rike (TC)

703.878.0331

Pete Turner (C)

703.680.3068

Mark Clark

703.314.4594

Chris Hawkins

703.939.5153

Josh Ford

703.362.3608

Barbara Barnes

703.670.0753

Team 7 Sundays

Cal Albers (TC)

703.670.9815

Patty Groves (C)

703.485.6510

Mike Hodge

703.583.1127

Chris Thomaidis

703.232.0956

VACANT

Mary DiPerna

571.239.7555

Team 8 Mondays

USMVMC (TC)

USMVMC (C)

USMVMC

USMVMC

USMVMC

Maureen Wessel

703.680.6003



... it's what we do!



The American Legion
Woodbridge Post 364
P.O. BOX 2121
Woodbridge, VA 22195



<u>Club Hours</u>	
Post Lounge - 703.494.4304	
<i>Friendly Hours - Monday Thru Friday 3:00p - 7:00p</i>	
Monday	3:00p - 11:00p
Tuesday thru Thursday	3:00p - 10:00p
Friday	11:00a - 1:00a
Lunch Hours	11:00a - 3:00p
Saturday	2:00p - 1:00a
Sunday	Noon - 10:00p
Breakfast Hours	8:00a - 11:00a

<u>Post 364 Dinner Menu</u>	
Home Cookin'	
Regular Menu consists of the following:	
Beer Battered Cod \$8.00 Butterfly shrimp \$8.00 Scallops \$8.00 Spaghetti \$6.50 Steak \$14.00	Hamburger w/FF \$4.00 Cheeseburger w/FF \$5.00 Choice of Baked Potato or French Fries; Choice of veggie; Salad Bar
Children's menu: Spaghetti \$3.00 Wing Dings w/FF \$3.50 Chicken Tenders w/FF \$3.50	
<u>This month's Specials:</u> All specials are \$8.00, except for Steak - \$14.00	

Driving Directions to Your Post Home

Take I-95 to Exit 158, Prince William Parkway. Take Prince William Parkway toward Manassas. Past Commuter Lot, bear right onto Caton Hill Road. Turn Right onto Caton Hill Road to Minnieville Road (2nd Stop light). Turn Right onto Minnieville Road to Fowke Lane (about 200 yards). Turn Left onto Fowke Lane (used car dealership on corner) to Jenny Lane (Stop sign). Turn Left onto Jenny Lane to Friendly Post Lane (about 100yds, 1st street on right). Turn Right onto Friendly Post Lane. **Welcome Home!**

The Post-O-Gram is published monthly by American Legion Post 364, Woodbridge, VA.
 Articles are contributed by Post family members