



Columbia Post 300 Department of Maryland



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Issue 18

Serving The Youth & Veterans of Howard County

August 2006

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not due to social connections. Our growth is due to veterans getting together to provide service to other veterans and the community. After attending our meeting for the first time, Jim MacDonald decided to join!

Sponsoring New Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in Long Reach - John Esworthy and Al Grinspoon presented the new Boy Scout and Cub Scout group we are planning to sponsor in Long Reach. We need agreement from the local church to get meeting facilities and support. This is an area that we might have to help finance individuals in need. In my past life in Maryland State Wrestling, we paid for a pair of wrestling shoes for a young man, who had never wrestled before, while my son was the High School Team Captain and Howard County Champion. That young man went on to become a State Champion and achieved All-American standing taking second place in the High School Nationals - all from a pair of wrestling shoes that his family could not afford to buy! Providing an opportunity to youth to go to the Howard County Bear Tracks, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, etc. can make all the difference in someone's life. This is service to the community. We need Post 300 member support.

Veterans Benefits Update - Our Service Officer and VA expert, Ed Houston, because he works at VA, shared with us the recent changes in VA housing guarantee limits. It is worth your time to come to our meetings to get a benefits update. Continued on page 3

Post Member in attendance at monthly meeting

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Roger Chang | Dean Witt * |
| Al Grinspoon | Ed Trumble, Sr. |
| Shelby Rogers | Tom Sexton |
| Edward Houston | Norman North |
| Dick Russell | Lou Amster |
| James Macdonald * | John Christy |
| Joseph G. Wall | Donald R Lewis |
| | Vernon Workman* |
| John Esworthy Guest | * New Member |

Commander's Report - Roger Chang



2007 Goal to Beat the Record - Our Post has broken the recruiting record for Maryland and most other states with a 284% growth over the four star goal. We have a challenge to beat our own record in 2007!

New Members at Meeting - As we added 3 new members to our Post last night at our General meeting, one key differentiator becomes crystal clear - we serve our community. Lacking permanent facilities, we are welcome at the restaurants of other local American Legion and VFW posts, so our growth is



Columbia Post 300

Chaplin's Corner



Chaplin Robert Virts

(410) 247-7864

robertvirts@yahoo.com

Call him to report any problem, illness, or death.

Post Everlasting

ROBERT KING

2 years

2006



Post 300 will be at the 50 Plus expo. Held at Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD. The Expo will be on October 20th from 9:00am till 3:00 pm.

Stop by to see us and lend a hand if you can. Tell all your friends that we will be there.

Service Officer Ed Houston

(410) 997-3590

ekhouston55@comcast.net

When you need help your first best step is to contact Ed our New Post 300 Service Officer



Service Officer: "You have been singly honored by this Post by your election to perform fundamental, unselfish work, not only for the benefit of the members of this Post, but for those War veterans particularly in need of your service. Yours is the choice responsibility of looking out for the welfare of all concerned. The duties of a Service Officer are highly important and exacting, and while your accomplishment will be deeply appreciated by those immediately concerned, the work itself will not be sufficiently conspicuous to catch the headlines in the newspapers. Depending upon satisfactory performance of duty, there will come to you the heartfelt gratitude of each and every member of this Post. I congratulate you upon the opportunity to serve so constructively and so unselfishly."

WHO WE ARE!

This month we highlight our Post Adjutant, Robert A Berlett Sr.



Bob was born in Baltimore into long time area family.

Graduated Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

One year as Instrument Flight instructor - Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah.

One year Air Traffic Controller - Camp Humphrey, Korea.

Became Columbia residents Feb 1970, following ETS.

Married 38 years to wife Cathleen, retired Montgomery County teacher. (Met at UMCP)

Two fantastic loving sons - Andrew Jr, and Martin.

Professional Tennis Official 25 years. Current President of St Paul Lutheran Church Council.

On Oakland Mills Village Board, 1985-87. Chairman 1987.

Howard County Volunteer of the year - 1987.

Oakland Mills Election Committee 20 years.

Columbia Tennis Committee - 30 years. {Current Chairman}

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Columbia Post 300

Commander's Report Continued from page 1

D-Day Events Remembered - Lou Amster shared his research into the Omaha Beach events during D-Day, when the 29th National Guard Division of Maryland went ashore.

Senior Festival Commitment - Friday, October 20, 2006 at Wilde Lake HS from 9am-3pm, we need volunteers to man our table in 2 hour increments. Please contact Ed Trumble at (410) 480-0025 or email eltps@comcast.net to schedule your time slot to meet and recruit new members and support for our various service efforts.

Second Book Collection USN Comfort Hospital Ship - Norm North has over 30 boxes of books at his house for the second pickup, so we decided to make his house the point of pickup unless someone is donating 60 boxes of books this time! We are accepting magazines, children's books, hard cover and soft cover books for the Chaplain's Library on the ship, which is likely to go on many more humanitarian missions for hurricanes like the Katrina situation. Contact Norm for directions at 410-997-8655 to 6725 Groveleigh Dr off Route 29 and Seneca Drive Exit 17.

Job Fair Training and Support for Veterans - Ed Trumble reported on a great service organization helping senior Veterans get training and finding jobs. More information can be gotten from www.mcvet.org

Medical Reserve - Howard County is establishing a Medical Reserve organization to help respond to major disasters and emergencies in our area. Past medical experience, an all weather vehicle and other skills would be needed if we faced a Katrina like disaster. Tom Sexton will be coordinating a guest speaker and has more information on this service that we are considering supporting.

Vote in the September Primaries - Right after Labor Day, Maryland will be holding primary elections for each of the party's candidates. Our votes count heavily to determine who will represent their party in the General Election in October. Although the Post and the American Legion are not endorsing particular candidates, individual members are always free to express and discuss their opinions. We obviously support candidates who have helped veterans in the past.

Attendance Up! - Even with many of our core members on vacation or at other commitments, we managed to nearly fill our seats at this late summer meeting! Thanks for coming to our General Meeting and thanks to all for participating. Each member of Post 300 is taking on increased responsibilities for the many service projects we are executing so that we are making a difference.



Attention Post 300 Members & Friends

What are the grate truths in life?

1. Anything worth doing is worth doing right.
2. Time is money.
3. There is no such thing as a free ride.
4. Post 300 has honorable and lofty goals to support the Youth and Veterans of Howard County. It is going to take the support of our members and friends to accomplish those goals. That means time and money. We know we have many good eggs for

member that step up to the plate when the call goes out for help. We also know that we have members with good harts that would like to do more to help, but because of health problems or life circumstance are limited in their ability to do as much as they would like. Therefore, the challenge is how to bridge the gap. That is where the Post 300 on-line shopping mall can help. The Christmas shopping season is coming soon and with every item you purchased through our on line mall you will bring the Post closer to achieving its goals.

5. Everyone has to shop. We just ask that you do it with us and support the Post in achieving its goals in supporting the Youth and Veterans of our community.

The Post 300 On-Line Shopping Mall is 1,000 different merchants like:

Macy's, JC Penney, Sears, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Target, K-mart, Bass Pro Shop, Cabala's, Dicks Sporting Goods, Eddie Bauer, ACE Hardware, Office Depot, FTD, Home Depot, West Marina, Circuit City, Best Buys, and even eBay and many more quality merchants.

When you see this logo on the Post 300 web page and click it you will then be taken to our shopping mall page.



Who We Are (Continued from page 2)

- Driver for the elderly in Owen Brown area. Very frequent Blood Donor.
- Fanatic Tennis Player, playing in 7 leagues during the year.
- Team finished 2nd [05] and 5th [04] in the nation.
- Currently work for Chuck Morgan - State Farm Insurance on Dobbin Road.
- Cathy & I plan to stay in Columbia and continue assisting others ; as God gives us the strength to continue to provide that help.

Motto: Life is Beautiful



American Legacy Scholarships

As an unfortunate consequence of Operation Iraqi Freedom and America's war on terror, many children of our active-duty military personnel are now members of single-parent families. In most cases, this also means their chances to attend college have greatly diminished. Children of military personnel killed on active duty are entitled to receive money toward a college education. But it's not enough.

We are raising funds to ensure that higher education will be a reality for these families. Providing for the children our military personnel left behind is our civic duty. An education is a powerful way to show our thanks. That is why we have established the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. But we need your help.



Columbia Post 300



MD CENTER FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING Check it out at www.mcvet.org

For More info call
MCVET (410)-576-9626 Ext 214



What is the Legion to Me?

- A Place and time to be with men and woman who were there with me.
 - A place to provide help to the men and women who were there with me.
 - A place to help those who are now where I was.
 - A Place to help the Families of those who are where I was.
 - A Place to help the families of those that do not return.
- What is the American Legion to You.

Need a driver and vehicle to make house calls to fence sitters. Mostly on Saturday afternoons. Call Ed Trumble 410-480-0025 or eltps@comcast.net .



LEST WE FORGET

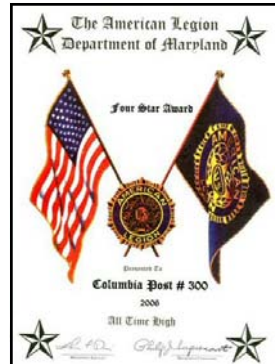


Membership.

We did great Last year. We were first in County, Department, and State. Our goal has been increased this year to 123 members. If we just renew all present members we would again be a Four Star Post. The Dues are still \$22.00 a month until January 10, 2007.

If you could get them in early you can save and help us reach the new goal. If each member could bring in one new member we could be the largest post in the County.

Goal:	123
Present Count:	66



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