



Columbia Post 300

Department of Maryland



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Issue 17

Serving The Youth & Veterans of Howard County

July 2006

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Since July 4 was our normal Executive Committee meeting, we held the meeting just before the parade rather than at night. We concurred with the promotional Mall on our website as proposed by Ed Trumble Jr. to raise revenues for the Post website to cover expenses.

During our July 11, 2006 General Meeting, we focused on methods to attract more participation in attending the regular meetings. Among the possibilities were a presentation on the USS Comfort to be coordinated by Al Grinspoon and include a potential tour of the hospital ship that we donated the June 17, 2006 book collection to. We also have 40 more boxes of books with Norm North for donation to the Comfort's Library being handled by the Ship's Chaplain. John Ellsworth will help coordinate the Eagle Scout Awards background and planning meeting and a potential Cub Scout pack to be sponsored in the Long Reach area with the help of the local church. We look forward to your ideas for guest speakers. Several other ideas surfaced and will be explored.

Bob Berlett reported on the North Central District meeting in which he became a White Hat - Congratulations!

Bob and Ed Trumble Sr and Jr attended classes at the State Convention in Ocean City. Ed contributed a great deal of information and provided CDs on our successful recruiting approaches that made us the Maryland outstanding Membership Post for 2006. Thanks, Ed.

Commander's Report - Roger Chang



We supported the Riverhill Community 4th of July parade again this year. We had a great time in Jim Lawson's Viper. Maria LeDane drove a convertible also. Sergeant at Arms, Al Grinspoon drove his Corvette with wife Jeanne and their grand daughter. We gave away all our poppies and could have given 4 times as much with the larger crowds this year.

Post Member in attendance at monthly meeting

Roger Chang	Bob Virts
Al Grinspoon	Robert Berlett
Shelby Rogers	Tom Sexton
Byron Bonebreak	Norman North

Excused Absence
 Ed Trumble Sr.



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



Ladies Auxiliary

We are looking for someone to help form Post 300 Ladies Auxiliary. Sorry to say that because of health concerns we have lost our former "spark plug", Mary Ellen. The Auxiliary could be a big help to our Post by helping to carry out our Programs of Family support and support of our hero's in uniform.

Please contact Ed Trumble, Sr at 410-480-0025 or eltps@comcast.net if you know of a courageous Lady that could fit the bill.

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



IF AT FIRST YOU SUCCEED DO NOT SHOW SURPRISE



What You should know When Leaving The Military Service!!

You have plenty of benefits coming. You could even be qualified to receive a disability.

The American Legion invites you to take advantage of a free benefits and records review with a qualified American Legion Service Officer.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides compensation and free health care to military veterans suffering from chronic disabilities, not due to willful misconduct, incurred in or aggravated while on active duty. You don't have to be completely disabled to qualify for benefits.

Disabilities are "rated" based on the level of severity, which is determined by the extent to which the disability impacts your employability. Ratings may range from zero percent (non compensable) to 100% (\$2,193). Although there is no time limit for filing a VA disability claim, it is best not to wait too long.

When claims are filed within a year after separation from service, the effective date for any benefit awarded goes back to the day after you got out. If you wait a year or more to file a claim, the effective date assigned for your benefits would be the date VA received your claim.

As veterans who left the service in the past, just as you will do at some point in your military service, we strongly recommend that you make a complete copy of your service medical records (SMRs) while in the process of separating or retiring, even if you do not plan on filing a VA claim. Although VA will obtain a veteran's SMRs when you file a claim, it is not uncommon for records to be lost or destroyed.



Columbia Post 300

A Legionnaires Biography



Commander

Roger Chang has been the Post Commander of Columbia Post 300, since the original Charter night. Roger served in the US Army on active duty and the Reserves for over 30 years. He was commissioned in ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate from MIT and retired as the Senior Army Reserve Officer at the National Security Agency over 30 years after commissioning.

Roger's other accomplishments and contributions to the service of our community and veterans include; Scholarship chairperson and presenter for the Professional Electronic Warfare (Association of Old Crows) Organization in Maryland for over 20 years giving scholarships to high school seniors and grants to enlisted service members totaling over \$200,000.

He and his wife, Lula, also make a memorial scholarship presentation to a deserving high school senior, who helps others and brings laughter to their associates like their son in the Mike Chang Sunshine Fund. Mike completed a TV segment on "Live Like a Star" helping a friend to get a gallery showing. The segment was dedicated in his memory and aired on FOX and UPN nationally in major cities repeatedly.

Attention Post 300 Members & Friends

We would like to announce a new addition to our web page.

The Post 300 On-Line Shopping Mall. The Shopping Mall is a way for member & friends of Post 300 to shop on-line with 1,000 different merchants like:

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

ity merchants. When you see this logo on the Post 300 web page and click it

SHOP OUR ONLINE MALL

Support us while saving money and time. Over 1000 merchants ...
Make us better one purchase at a time.



you will be taken to our shopping mall page. You may type in the name of the store you wish or choose a category like electronics then choose a store from a list that fits that category.

When you shop in our on-line shopping mall you never pay more and with available special offers you will more then likely save money, while at the same time donating to American Legion Post 300.

You will even find that you can order on line at some stores like Sears and Best Buy and pick it up at the local store if you like and other stores will offer you a percentage off your purchase for shopping using our on-line mall like FTD 15% off only to our mall patrons and other merchants will offer free shipping at times.

You will be able to see a range of how much a particular merchant will be donating back to the post before you even enter their web page. This is a opportunity to support Post 300 by doing nothing more than shop for the items you would buy normally but making the conscious decision to shop through our on-line mall to do so. So when you have that urge to shop till you drop please start by shopping with us.

MARYLAND DEPT.

STATE CONVENTION

The American Legion 85th convention was held IN Ocean City, MD from July 11 through the 14th.

On the 11th Robert Berlett attended the Commanders and Adjutants class.

Ed Trumble Sr. attended the First half of the Judge Advocate class.

Both Ed Trumble Sr, And Jr. attended the Membership Class. Ed Jr. Presented the class with the Shopping Mall program. Ed Sr. Presented Post 300's membership program to the class. Both were well received.

On July 13th, Post 300 was presented 5 Plaques for the success of our membership program for 2006. The Post set an all time record of 284% of it's membership Goal.



Columbia Post 300

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On the 13th Post 300 was represented in the Parade by Robert Berlett driving his car decorated with an American Flag and signs on each side of the car. In the car with Mr. Berlett were Roger Chang, Tom Sexton and Ed Trumble, Sr. A great time was had by all present.



MD CENTER FOR VETERANS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

I was introduced to this new program at the State convention. Currently, MCVET is serving more than 240 veterans daily through five distinct programs: Day Drop-in facility; short term Emergency Shelter; transitional Housing; permanent housing program, Single Room Occupancy and the follow-up program. As the veterans travel through this program, they receive an array of services that support our primary goal of empowering them to return to their families and the community.

Day drop in is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Seven days a week. They can handle 50 a day. The shelter offers showers, clothing, and crisis intervention.

Emergency Program 50 beds for 13 week stay.

Transitional Housing 120 beds up to two year stay

Single-Room Occupancy. For More info call

MCVET (410)-576-9626 Ext 214



LEST WE FORGET



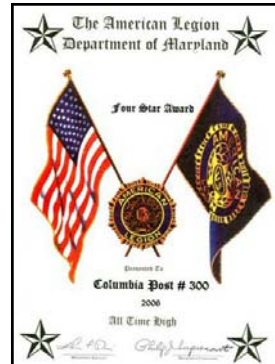
Memorial Day with Post 109

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 December 31st 2006.

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:	45



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