



Issue 40

# Columbia Post 300 Department of Maryland

post300@american-legion-post.us  
<http://www.american-legion-post.us/300/>



July 2008

Serving The Youth & Veterans of Howard County

ALL VETERANS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



## Commander's Report Roger Chang

This month 6 members of Columbia Post 300 attended and participated in the State Convention at Ocean City covering various events . We received 3 plaques for Membership growth from the State for both achieving our goal and breaking the record of our highest previous Post membership. Our County also received recognition as did Post 156 with a 3 star rating. Congrats to all. Diane Sendlenski, Service Officer,

Ed Trumble, Membership, Shelby Rogers, Finance Officer, Bob Berlett, Adjutant, Ken Woods, 1st Vice Cdr, and Roger Chang, Commander all attended various functions making this the largest Post 300 participation at any State Convention. This was duly noted.

Diane and Shelby attended the Service Officer class and Ed gave a presentation at the Membership class on computerized support for recruiting.

Roger, Ken, Ed, and Shelby attended the Awards presentations to pick up our various Post Awards.



Bob attended the State Exec Committee meeting on the last day.

On July 4, we had a great turnout by members and supporters for the Riverhill parade. Mac MacDonald brought his Russian motorcycle with sidecar for Roger Chang to ride in again this year. Jim Lawson brought his Viper and drove our VIP guest from VFW. Tom Sexton came bringing two convertibles! He is such a ladies man, the rest of us can't keep up! Shelby Rogers was again driven in style by his supporter with a Lexus two seat convertible. County Commander, Bill Volenick joined us in his Lincoln packed with three other members of Post 156. And last but not least, Diane Sendlenski and our Judge Advocate Larry Blosser went on foot handing out patriotic Tootsie Rolls.

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## Officer Contact Information

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This was largest and most diversified crowd I have ever seen in our many years of supporting this parade. Thanks to Ed Trumble, Bob Berlett, and our numerous supporters for making this a great event and better than ever.

Our support to the 400 MP Co US Army Reserve in Iraq has been greatly appreciated. We have been invited to their Family Support Picnic at Fort Meade on Sunday August 3 at 11:00a. Personnel without a valid Military ID will need to enter at the Main entrance Visitor Center at Rt 175 and Reece Rd at 10:45a to sign in. I should be able to sign in anyone, who failed to get on the list being collected by Ed Trumble. I will bring my 7 passenger vehicle, if I need to take anyone in. Thanks for all your donations and postage money. This appears to have made an impact in Iraq.



Post 300's Web site has won the Best Web Site for 2007 in The National American Legion Press Association Contest. Website designer: Ed Trumble, Jr.

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Editor / Publisher Ed L. Trumble, Sr. [eltps@comcast.net](mailto:eltps@comcast.net)

Assisted by Shelby Rogers.

Deadline for submissions is the Saturday following the

### Health Issues

Call 410-480-0025 or E-mail [eltps@comcast.net](mailto:eltps@comcast.net) to report Any health Issues in Post Members.

Bob Walton Recon Dragon [recondragon@hotmail.com](mailto:recondragon@hotmail.com)

fighting a heart and blood pressure problem.





# Columbia Post 300



## SEND a "CARE" Box to Iraq

Columbia American Legion Post-300 has sent Over 40 boxes of needed items to MP Company 600 that is now on a Tour in Iraq. Our Post has adopted this detachment and is sending items that assist them while away from their home base at Ft Meade.

A significant quantity of 'Beanie Babies' have been shipped; they are used to spread 'goodwill' with youngsters. We have been able to obtain a steady flow of items to send to our troops. As a small & new American Legion Post, shipping each box at \$11 each was not in our budget. We need help to continue this worthwhile activity.

Your check for \$11 payable to American Legion 300 : mailed to 5456 Hound Hill

Columbia, MD 21045 will allow continued shipments to our friends return home

Aug 19 NCD 1PM

Aug 21 Officers Meeting 7:30

Aug 28 General Meeting 7:30

Sept 18 Officers Meeting 7:30

Sept 25 General Meeting 7:30

Oct 1 Toby's Dinner Theater "The Producers" \$37.50

Oct 16 Officers Meeting 7:30

Oct 17 50+ EXPO Wilde Lake HS 8:00am 4:00

Oct 24 Howard County & Gen Meeting 7:00

Nov 3 Charlotte Hall 'Open House' 8:00AM-3:PM

Nov 13 Veteran's Day Meeting event

If you have unwanted DVDs, we will donate them to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on

**Ongoing MP'IRAQ Bring to Regular Meeting**

**McVets Clothing \*\*\* Used & Clean Clothing  
\*\*\*Maryland Center for Veterans**

**Education & Training**

## *The Post 300 On-Line Shopping Mall*

Over 1,000 different merchants like:

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

Click on this link and shop till you drop.

<http://www.careclicks.com/group.php?groupID=739>

When you shop at our Mall you get a small savings.

Then the store gives money to the Post for our

## **It's That time Again Annual Dues are Due.**

The 2009 membership cards are in. If you bring your \$27.00 in to the regular meetings you can pick up your new membership card. You can also send your check made out to American Legion Post 300 to Robert Berlett 5456 Hound Hill Ct. Columbia, MD 21045-

2238. Include A return address envelope with Postage.

2008-09 Membership Goal should be a minimum of 200 members and to have those new members and renewals in place by the end of this year. Our membership Chairman, Ed Trumble, has done yeoman work in promoting Post-300 growth.

But there at least two 'simple' procedures that need to be implemented "Now".

Ed, has developed 1800 potential transfer names from the 297 'holding post' ; some hands-on contact is needed to enlighten our neighbors as to how much more we provide to our local community than does 297. We also need a shared responsibility for retention of our members; we cannot afford to lose current members, because those losses will reduce potential for any Net gains. More of our Total membership must help to continue our growth.

**2009 Goal 200 Present Count 110**



**THE RETIREMENT OF DARWIN PITTS, HMC(SW/AW), USN, by  
SHELBY L. ROGERS**

On 03 Jul 08, Ed Trumble and Shelby Rogers attended the retirement ceremony of Darwin Pitts HMC (SW/AC), USN. The retirement of Navy Chief Pitts, one of the newest members of Columbia Post 300, was held in the beautiful sanctuary of the Bethel Assembly of God Church located at 9001 Vollmerhausen Road in Jessup, MD. His mother, wife, Teva Lynn and five children were in attendance and all received Certificates of Appreciation provided by the Navy. His wife and mother were presented with bouquets of roses.

The ceremony was attended by many of the sailors serving on the USNS (Hospital Ship) Comfort along with many sailors known by Chief Pitts from all over the area. Even though being held in a church, it was an official, and sometimes emotional, ceremony that was officiated by USN CPT Mary Jean Herden. The ceremony ended with the USN Flag Ceremony and the end of which the folded flag was presented to Chief Pitts and he presented it to his youngest daughter Dakota to present it to his mother.

After the ceremony, we all went to the church basement to partake in a very delicious lunch along with slices of retirement cake. Ed and I had more than one slice each. Darwin and Teva Lynn will soon be on their way to board a plane to Miami to leave on a cruise of the Caribbean. They should be back in plenty of time to attend the August meeting of Columbia Post 300. Darwin's official retirement day is 31 Jul 08.

**Diane M. Sendlenski RN  
Service Officer**

As the newly elected Service Officer of Post 300, I have just returned from the American Legion Convention in Ocean City, where I attended the very informative, Department Service Officer Seminar.

I would like to share with you some of the information that I learned but since the Service Officer training was comprehensive, I will discuss more topics in upcoming newsletters. The topics presented were: The Role of the Post Service Officer and the Department Service Officer, The War Memorial; Baltimore, MD, Maryland Veterans Cemetery and other Programs, National Cemeteries, Burial Allowances, Flags and Markers, Compensation and Pension, Hospitalization and Out Patient Treatment, Discharge Reviews, Correction of Military Records, Maryland Veterans Home and the Maryland State Honor Guard Funeral Detail.

**The Role of the Post Service Officer (PSO) Presented by Valerie Cochran, Department Service Officer, The American Legion:**

The PSO is often the initial contact between the American Legion and the veteran when submitting claims for VA benefits. The PSO can assist veterans and any other worthy person in gathering information to



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prepare the proper forms and applications to provide viable claims for benefits, to the Veteran's Administration. The PSO works very closely with the Department Service Officer (DSO) to ensure that any paperwork submitted by the veteran is forward to the DSO in a timely manner to ensure proper service. The Post Service Officer is a valuable resource to veterans; frequently the veteran will receive a greater reimbursement from VA Claims through the assistance of the PSO.

Legion membership is not a requirement for help from a Service Officer. We "Still Serve America" by helping anyone who needs our services.

**The Role of the Department Service Officer (DSO) Presented by Valerie Cochran, Department Service Officer, The American Legion:**

The DSO is an accredited professional service officer of a Department or a State Veterans agency. Their office is usually located in the Regional Veterans Administration Office.

They have specialized training and experience that contributes a through knowledge of VA regulations and are familiar with the broad range of VA programs and operations. They are responsible for providing assistance and representation in any claim for VA benefits. Frequently the veteran will receive a greater reimbursement from VA Claims through the assistance of the DSO and the PSO.

**The War Memorial, Presented by Mr. Doug Henley director, War Memorial Commission:**

the War Memorial in downtown Baltimore. If you left the military after November 1979 and your discharge address or your home of record was Maryland, than there is a chance your DD214 is on file with the Maryland Veterans Commission in the Fallon Federal Building.

These documents are available to veterans, immediate family members, veteran's organizations, funeral directors and others who are authorized to conduct business on their behalf. You can obtain these records by submitting a notarized request by mail or in person from the War Memorial.

The War Memorial also serves as a place of meeting for all veterans, patriotic and civic organizations, a depository for trophies of wars in which our country might engage, and a tribute to those citizens of Maryland who gave their lives and service to their country in World War I and previous wars. "Sacrifice to Patriotism," a mural of Baltimore covers the entire rear wall of the balcony in the auditorium. It also serves as the headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

Another place where service records are stored is the Archive in St. Louis. They can be attained by going to our web site [www.american-legion-post.us/300/](http://www.american-legion-post.us/300/) Then go to the links page. Obtaining these records can take from 3 weeks to 6 months.

It is absolutely crucial that every veteran or veteran's family (next of kin, friend etc.) have a copy of or access to their Service Record or DD214. It is strongly recommended that every veteran get the form registered with the VA or your county court house. Make several copies; give one to a family member or friend for safe keeping, store in a fire proof locked box along with your Last Will and Testament and make sure someone has immediate access to the document in the event of hospitalization or death. During a time of tragedy is not the time to be searching for or trying to obtain that required and crucial information.

Next Newsletter topics: Maryland State Honor Guard Funeral Detail, Maryland Veterans Cemetery and other Programs please visit <http://www.mdmildep.org/FuneralProgram/hgbrochure.pdf>



Facts and Trivia by Diane M. Sendlenski RN Service Officer

**Where do I wear my flag lapel pin?**

That no part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform.

However a flag or a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organization. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

**"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."**

**Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!"**

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**90<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention**

**By Diane M. Sendlenski RN**

**Service Officer**

Having just returned from the American Legion Convention in Ocean City, I am honored and energized to be the Service Officer of American Legion Post 300.

Along with myself, other attendees were Commander Roger Chang, First Vice Commander Ken Wood, Adjunct Bob Berlett, Post

Historian Shelby Rogers and At Large Officer Ed Trumble Sr..

We had the distinct honor of being addressed by several dignitaries including The National Commander Marty Conatser, National Commander Candidate Dave Rehbein, and Maryland Department Commander Butch Haggard. Among others we also had the honor of meeting many distinguished officers including, First Vice Commander Gail E. Murdock, Service Officer Valerie Cochran and District CommanderCarolynn G. Baker.

The message conveyed to us was of the value the 2.7 million American Legion members bring to our country. Whether we send care packages to troops in Iraq or support youth programs, Blood Drives, Scholarship Funds or what ever we do, we improve the lives of those in our communities. We must also dedicate ourselves to recruiting new members and renewing existing members so we can do even more for our military and our communities.

As a Registered Nurse and Service Officer of Post 300, I dedicate my self to assisting veterans with many of their service issues. In order to use my experience and expertise effectively, I will be attending more intensive Service Officer training in order to meet the complex needs of our existing and newest members.