



Columbia Post 300 – Department of Maryland NEWS LETTER

News Letter # 4 June 2005

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



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Commander's Report -

Period April-June 2005

During this quarter, Columbia Post 300, the only new Post in Maryland in 20 years, achieved a four star status thanks to the diligent efforts of our active members and Officers. Of special note are our Adjutant Bob Berlett, 1st Vice Commander Norm North, and our Information/Historian Ed Trumble. We have recruited at the Columbia Post Office, distributed newsletters, maintained email newsletters, and a web site with online registration.

Working with Columbia Post 156 Ellicott City, we distributed ROTC medals at two ceremonies, one for Army and one for Air Force JROTC, held at the Fort Meade Club.

Participating with Post 109 Arbutus, we participated in the Memorial day ceremonies and luncheon.

On June 11, 2005 three members of Post 300 responded to a two day notice request to make a presentation to an Eagle Scout inductee, Brad Fowler, supporting another Legion Member, Gene

Shaeffer. The response to our presence was very positive as we were the only award presenters to have a physical presence.

On June 14, 2005, a full slate of new officers were installed by NCD Commander Joe Bruno at a joint Post 156/300 County Meeting and Post 300 Open House for recruiting.

In support of the 117 Cave Regt in Iraq, Post 300 members have collected and preparing to ship several pallets of donated paperback books for leisure reading for our troops in Iraq as coordinated by Tom Sexton. The books were picked up from 16 homes by Edward Trumble Sr. and Dot Morrell, then placed in boxes. Ed Trumble Jr. set up 10 new Sponsors for a total of \$335 to help pay for the shipping. Bill Volenick the County Commander also supplied \$200 toward postage. Larry Johnson's Church provided 192 lbs of Books:
Our Shepherd Lutheran Church



Post 300 is planning to distribute Poppies for donations to the Post on July 2, 2005 to support our numerous community service efforts. The event will start at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. The location is the Giant Food Store at the Cradlerock Shopping Center. Please come by to help and contribute.

Member of Post 300 will also participate in the July 4th Parade with Riverhill community. Contact Roger Chang if you can take part.

We continue to grow and draw interest and support for the good of the Legion.

Serviceman's Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
Grant a courageous heart,
a quick mind,
and a serene spirit
to those now in our armed forces,
ready to offer their talents,
and if necessary their lives,
for the cause of truth, justice, and
liberty.
Keep them close to You
in every way.
Make them always,
even in these difficult
circumstances,
true witnesses to Your
goodness, love, and compassion.
And finally, bring them safely
back
to their homes and families.
Amen*

*Copyright 1966 by Donald F. Van Achen, B.S.,
L.L.B. and Rev. John J. Dietzen, M.A., S.T.L.*



REMEMBER YOUR VETERANS!

It is your **VETERAN**, not the religious leader

Who has given us freedom of religion?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us freedom to assemble?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the lawyer,
Who has given us the right to a fair trial?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the politician,
Who has given us the right to vote?

It is your **VETERAN**, not the civil libertarian,
Who has fought for our flag?

It is your **VETERAN**, after giving his/her all,
Who is laid to rest under it.

First Woman Gets Silver Star Since WWII



Associated Press
June 17, 2005

WASHINGTON - A 23-year-old sergeant with the Kentucky National Guard on Thursday became the first female soldier to receive the Silver Star - the nation's third-highest medal for valor - since World War II.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, who is from Nashville, Tenn., but serves in a Kentucky unit, received the award for gallantry during a March 20 insurgent ambush on a

convoy in Iraq. Two men from her unit, the 617th Military Police Company of Richmond, Ky., also received the Silver Star for their roles in the same action.

According to military accounts of the firefight, insurgents attacked the convoy as it traveled south of Baghdad, launching their assault from trenches alongside the road using rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. Hester and her unit moved through enemy fire to the trenches, attacking them with grenades before entering and clearing them.

She killed at least three insurgents with her M4 rifle, according to her award citation. In the entire battle, 26 or 27 insurgents were killed and several more were captured, according to various accounts. Several Americans were also wounded in the firefight.

"Her actions saved the lives of numerous convoy

members. Sgt. Hester's bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism," her award citation reads.

"I'm honored to even be considered, much less awarded, the medal," Hester told the American Forces Press Service, a military-run information service. "It really doesn't have anything to do with being a female. It's about the duties I performed that day as a soldier."

Hester, a native of Bowling Green, Ky., joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in April 2001 and moved to Nashville in 2003, according to a biography provided by the Army. She works as a retail store manager. Her unit deployed to Iraq in November 2004 and remains in the Baghdad area, escorting convoys and assisting the Iraqi Highway Patrol.

Hester's father, Jerry, also of Bowling Green, said: "I'm overwhelmed at what she's accomplished in Iraq. It's something to be very proud of and my wife and I are. Leigh Ann is a very good soldier."

He added: "She played softball and basketball all through high school, and she's won a lot of games. But those games didn't mean nowhere near what this medal does and what she's done for her country."

Also receiving the Silver Star for that action was Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein of Henryville, Ind., and Spc. Jason Mike of Radcliff, Ky. Five other members of their unit received other medals for the action, including another woman, Spc. Ashley Pullen of Edmonton, Ky.

The awards to Hester and Pullen come only weeks after some Republicans in Congress abandoned an effort to curtail the roles of military women in combat zones. The Pentagon and some Democrats and other Republicans opposed the measure.

Current Pentagon policy prohibits women from serving in frontline combat roles - in the infantry, armor or artillery, for example. But the nature of the war in Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than in any previous conflict.

DUES:

Dues payments for 2006 paid prior to Dec. 1st, 2005 will benefit the post. We urge early bird payments of \$22 for the 2006 dues. Send to:

American Legion Post 300
% Robert Berlett
5456 Hound Hill Ct.
Columbia, MD 21045-2238

ATTENTION ATTENTION

If you are getting the News Letter by snail mail ie U.S. Postal Service and you have an e-mail address please sign up for e-mail notice when the new letter is posted on the web. That way we can save some money on postage and paper. To sign up e-mail eltps@comcast.net or go to the Post's Web Page to the *News Letter e-mail Form link*.

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