



Columbia Post 300 – Department of Maryland

NEWS LETTER

News Letter # 7 September 2005

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



Numbers to Call

Post Commander
Roger Chang
(410) 765-0506
roger.chang@ngc.com

Judge Advocate
Rufus Clanzy
(410) 997-5242
janryk@yahoo.com

Adjutant/Finance
Bob Berlett
(410) 997-3863
columbia_berlett@juno.com

Service Officer
Shelby Rogers
(410) 730-5182
shelby_rogers@verizon.net

1st Vice Commander
Norman North
(410) 997-5655
nenjan1951@gmail.com

Historian/Communications
Edward Trumble, Sr.
(410) 410-480-0025
eltps@comcast.net

2nd Vice Commander
Byron Bonebreak
(410) 561-1077
bbjr@erols.com

Sergeant-At-Arms
Al Grinspoon
(410) 730-0541
sail.3@netzero.net

3rd Vice Commander
James Savoy
(410) 381-2744
ksavoy@comcast.net

Chaplin
Clarence E. Frazier
(410) 730-5269
emmanuel1925@comcast.net

Web Site
Edward Trumble, Jr.
(302) 398-3427
n3rsn@american-legion-post.us

Thanks to Clarence Frazier for becoming our new Chaplain and Al Grinspoon for becoming our new Sergeant at Arms. I have known both individuals for years and we can count on their support.

Our web site has created an excellent communication and recruitment vehicle. Ed Trumble, Jr. has done a super job of maintaining our web site and adding fresh information collected by Ed Trumble, Sr. What a team!

We are now at 53 members for 2006 have signed up already and 38 of those members were directly gotten from web site and follow-ups and 5 new members pending were from email and mail solicitations. We have 27 new promised transfers pending from these sources. We have 25 members 2005 not renewed. Total Members today 83

We are planning to recruit again at the Columbia main post office on the Saturday before Veterans Day, Nov XX! 2005 from 0830 to 1230. Join our recruiting team if you can, at any time in this period.

Thanks for your support,
Roger Chang, Post Commander



Commander's Report -



Although hurricane Katrina drew a large number of resources, we continue to be engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan. To support those requirements, I was unable to be at our September meeting.



Bob Berlett, Norman North, Clarence Frazier, Byron Bonebreak, Ed Trumble Jr., Ed Trumble Sr., Kenneth Reese - First Timer, Phillip Tucker - First Timer, Shelby Rodgers, Joe Wall, Al Grinspoon were in attendance

Approved Al Grinspoon as Sgt-at-Arms
Clarence Frazier as Chaplin

Approved Ed Trumble Jr. dues being paid for 2006 for all his work in setting up and maintaining the website.

Approved purchase of 300 Poppies for 11/5 membership drive a Columbia Post office. Made a request for more members to attend and help. We need to get form filled out while they are there.

We have reached our goal on membership requirements. Now is the time to shine and grow. We will continue to aggressively solicit Post 297 members.

Call was made for Patches and Crests for our Patch box for display at functions .You can get new ones at www.priorservice.com

We now have a link on our web site to help get a new copy of your DD214 if you need one.

List of Post 300 members has been removed from our website. We are starting a new List of Proud Members of Post 300. Let us know if you would like to be included. Only your first and last name will be placed there.

At the November meeting do we wish to honor older vets in some special way? Please supply names of those to invite to the meeting.

We need to find a new project, perhaps a book drive or something else for the troops.

If you check out the Web page you will see Relief Donation "Options"

The next meeting is 10/11 in the Elkhorn Room. From 7:00 to 7:30 is the County Meeting, and at 7:30 our meeting. We need a large turn out to impress them. Refreshments will be served.

Holiday Co-ops with 109, 60, or 156 was discussed.

Under new business a request for a Post Motto was put forth by Ed Trumble, Jr. It will be brought up in the next executive meeting and brought to the floor in October meeting. Do you have any suggestions?



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

We have 53 early birds How about you?

Post 297 Members

We wish to congratulate Bernard Cook pending marriage of his daughter.

**In Hospital: Frank Heideck
In Nursing Home: Julius Pryor and John P. Simmons.**

The biggest theme for this year is to transfer all Post 297 members into a regular Post so the State can avoid excess charges. When you transfer into a new Post no paid dues are forwarded to the new Post. So if you make your payment after your transfer request the dues will count for the New Post.



Late Breaking News

**Post 297 Raises dues to \$25.00 a Year
Post 300 Dues still \$22.00 a Year
Transfer and save plus more benefits**



To all active duty personnel If you join the American Legion now the first years dues is free.

ATTENTION ATTENTION

If you are getting the News Letter by regular mail, U.S. Postal Service and you have an e-mail address please sign up for e-mail delivery. That way we can save some money on postage and paper. To sign up for e-mail send to post300@american-legion-post.us

There is a lot of News about Katrina. It is being well covered by our web site. <http://www.american-legion-post.us/300/> and National. You can get to the national web site through a link from our site.

The veterans from the Gulfport Armed Forces Retirement Home evacuated to the D.C. Armed Forces Retirement Home. The Vets have the following needs(and/or wishes) : **ITEMS SHOULD BE NEW**

ALL sizes are needed small to x-lg

Clothing; Pajamas, bath robes, underwear, socks, slippers, shower shoes, shirts(polo, tee), shorts, slacks, hats, belts, tennis shoes.

Personal items: Laundry detergent, towels, wash cloths, blankets, bed pillows, twin bed sheet sets, bed spread, electric shaver, disposal razors, hair dryer, curling iron, shave crème, feminine hygiene items, tooth paste, tooth brushes, dental floss, mouth wash, denture adhesive, denture cups, cotton balls, cotton swabs, adult diapers, tissues.

NOTE: items are needed for both men and women.

Other items: small TV, small radio, small refrigerator, personal CD player/CDS, writing paper, envelopes and stamps.

Phone cards -- to call family
discount coupon for eyeglasses
Discount tickets or free admission to recreation / sporting events (close to D.C. area)
Plastic or paper bags to be used to dispense items (medium size)

Hurricane Katrina contact line - toll free 800 332-3527 or Call Sheila Abarr at (202) 730-3043 at AFRH

Drop off location: AFRH, 3700 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011 (Intersection of Rock Creek Church Road & Upshur Street). To learn more follow the link on our Web Page.



From a Military Doctor

I am a doctor specializing in the Emergency Departments of the only two military Level One-trauma centers, both in San Antonio, TX and they care for civilian Emergencies as well as military

personnel.

San Antonio has the largest military retiree population in the world living here As a military doctor, I work long hours and the pay is less than glamorous.

One tends to become jaded by the long hours, lack of sleep, food, family contact and the endless parade of human suffering passing before you. The arrival of another ambulance does not mean more pay, only more work.

Most often, it is a victim from a motor vehicle crash. Often it is a person of dubious character who has been shot or stabbed. With our large military retiree population, it is often a nursing home patient.

Even with my enlisted service and minimal combat experience in Panama, I have caught myself groaning when the ambulance brought in yet another sick, elderly person from one of the local retirement centers that cater to military retirees. I had not stopped to think of what citizens of this age group represented.

I saw "Saving Private Ryan." I was touched deeply. Not so much by the carnage, but by the sacrifices of so many. I was touched most by the scene of the elderly survivor at the graveside, asking his wife if he'd been a good man. I realized that I had seen these same men and women coming through my Emergency Dept. and had not realized what magnificent sacrifices they had made. The things they did for me and everyone else that has lived on this planet since the end of that conflict are priceless.

Situation permitting, I now try to ask my patients about their experiences. They would never bring up the subject without the inquiry. I have been privileged to an amazing array of experiences, recounted in the brief minutes allowed in an Emergency Dept. encounter. These experiences have revealed the incredible individuals I have had the honor of serving in a medical capacity, many on their last admission to the hospital.

There was a frail, elderly woman who reassured my young enlisted medic, trying to start an IV line in her arm. She remained calm and poised, despite her illness and the multiple needle-sticks into her fragile veins. She was what we call a "hard stick." As the medic made another attempt, I noticed a number tattooed across her forearm. I touched it with one finger and looked into her eyes. She simply said, "Auschwitz." Many of later generations would have loudly and openly berated

the young medic in his many attempts. How different was the response from this person who'd seen unspeakable suffering.

Also, there was this long retired Colonel, who as a young officer had parachuted from his burning plane over a Pacific Island held by the Japanese. Now an octogenarian, his head cut in a fall at home where he lived alone. His CT scan and suturing had been delayed until after midnight by the usual parade of high priority ambulance patients. Still spry for his age, he asked to use the phone to call a taxi, to take him home, then he realized his ambulance had brought him without his wallet.

He asked if he could use the phone to make a long distance call to his daughter who lived 7 miles away. With great pride we told him that he could not, as he'd done enough for his country and the least we could do was get him a taxi home, even if we had to pay for it ourselves. My only regret was that my shift wouldn't end for several hours, and I couldn't drive him myself.

I was there the night MSgt. Roy Benavidez came through the Emergency Dept. for the last time. He was very sick. I was not the doctor taking care of him, but I walked to his bedside and took his hand. I said nothing. He was so sick, he didn't know I was there. I'd read his Congressional Medal of Honor citation and wanted to shake his hand. He died a few days later.

The gentleman who served with Merrill's Marauders, the survivor of the Bataan Death March, the survivor of Omaha Beach, the 101 year old World War I veteran, the former POW held in frozen North Korea, the former Special Forces medic - now with non-operable liver cancer, the former Viet Nam Corps Commander. I remember these citizens.

I may still groan when yet another ambulance comes in, but now I am much more aware of what an honor it is to serve these particular men and women.

I have seen a Congress who would turn their back on these individuals who've sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. I see later generations that seem to be totally engrossed in abusing these same liberties, won with such sacrifice.

It has become my personal endeavor to make the nurses and young enlisted medics aware of these amazing individuals when I encounter them in our Emergency Dept. Their response to these particular citizens has made Me think that perhaps all is not lost in the next generation.

My experiences have solidified my belief that we are losing an incredible generation, and this nation knows not what it is losing. Our uncaring government and ungrateful civilian populace should all take note. We should all remember that we must "Earn this."

Written By CPT. Stephen R. Ellison, M.D.



Ed Trumble, Jr. bought 2 new sets of eyeglasses at Lens Crafters. Mentioning that he was a Legion member saved him \$343 %40 off.

News Letter printing and postage sponsored by
Dot Morrell Century 21 HT Brown