



The Bugle Call Rag

www.alpost134.org

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November 2014

CHRISTMAS PARTY IS COMING



Saturday, December 20, 2014 11:30 AM

DRUID HILLS GOLF CLUB — 740 CLIFTON ROAD NE — RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

All this for \$50 per person / \$55 per person after December 15, 2014

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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

...“to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism.”

You’ve heard that. It’s part of the preamble to the Legion’s constitution which we say in unison at each meeting.

In a period of our nation’s history when diversity is touted as a governing principle, have we overlooked something equally important? That would be the notion of national unity.

Here are some provocative highlights from an address by Yale University historian Donald Kagan:

- Every country requires a high degree of cooperation and unity among its citizens...to achieve the internal harmony that (a) society requires. We live in a time when civic devotion has been undermined and national unity is under attack.
- We, in the academic community, too often have engaged in miseducation. If we encourage separatism, we will get separation and (a) terrible conflict in society.
- In telling the story of the *Commander...Continued on Page 2*



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VETERANS DAY

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Walt Conway—USAF



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American political experience, we must insist on the honest search for truth; (not) seek scapegoats. This country's vision of a free, democratic republic...need not fear... comparison with...any other land.

- In the long and deadly battle against those who hate Western ideals, and hate America in particular, we must be powerfully armed morally as well as materially.

Dr. Kagan's comments were made 13 years ago, but he saw far into the future.

Yes, while we treasure the diversity of our origins, let us proudly stand together and mean it when we say 100% Americanism.

DUTY

There is beauty and grace to be found in duty well performed.

Paramount among our duties as citizens is to exercise our hard-won, and hard-protected, privilege of voting in elections. If we stay home on Election Day, November 4th, or fail to vote early, we surrender to a few the process which works best when decided by the many.

Do your duty.

Vote.

DUES

And speaking of duty, we have an obligation to pay our Legion dues. Some 15-to-20 of our Post 134 members have not attended to this.

Don't be that guy who's the last to pay.

It's dirt simple to pay online. Go to www.americanlegion.org and click on the yellow "renew" box in the upper left of the home page.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

We need to put our shoulders to the wheel to help Chairman Bob Moore on this project by encouraging high school boys or girls to enter the contest. As a practical matter, we must have the names of entrants before Christmas.

Please help us now on this.

Step One: If you have a child or grandchild in high school in the metro area, please suggest that he or she enter.

Step Two: If you know a high school principal, school counselor, or debate team coach, please ask their help in encouraging a student or two to enter. Entrants do *not* have to be from the Post 134 neighborhood.

There is no entry fee or other charge to the contestant. Handsome prizes are available to the winners.

This is a real opportunity to inculcate in young persons our founding fathers' vision for our republic. Don't approach it as an extra-curricular, "make work" project. After all, that vision resulted in the world's finest governing document—the U.S. Constitution.

How do you describe the contest to a student or school official?

You can visit our Post 134 webpage (www.alpost134.org) and click on "oratorical contest" or use the information below.

Since 1938, the American Legion's Oratorical Contest has developed deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. It encourages leadership, ability to think and speak clearly and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. High school students under age 20 are eligible.



Commander...Continued from Page 2

The five levels of competition begin at an American Legion Post. The winner of our Post 134 contest will receive \$250 and advance to Legion District 5 competition. One winner at the state level will receive \$1,300 and proceed to the national contest where the top prize is an \$18,000 college scholarship.

Each contestant will begin by addressing an aspect of the U.S. Constitution. Next they will prepare and deliver extemporaneous remarks on a constitutional topic drawn from a hat.

To be eligible, participants must be (a) citizens of, or lawful permanent residents in, the United States, (b) under the age of 20 years on the date of the national contest, (c) presently enrolled in high

school or junior high (public, parochial, military, private or home school). High school students who graduate early may compete if they are not enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other institution of higher learning at the time of the state contest.

The dates for our Post 134 contest have not yet been announced, but most likely will be in late January, 2015, or early February.

Interested applicants may obtain additional information from our post oratorical contest chair, Robert Moore, bmoore.aegis@mac.com.

For God and Country,

John Ottley, Jr.

VETERANS DAY 2014

Seventy years ago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed what many historians consider the greatest social legislation ever passed by the U.S. Congress. As popular as the GI Bill remains today, it took the horrific cost and bloodshed of World War II to remind many Americans just how great a debt is owed to our veterans.

In 1932, thousands of World War I veterans camped out in Washington, D.C., to petition their government for bonuses that they felt were owed. Their campsite was forcibly overrun by the U.S. Army, and at least two veterans were killed by the police. President Roosevelt told The American Legion National Convention in 1933 that, "No person because he wore a uniform must thereafter be placed in a special class of beneficiaries over and above other citizens."

While Roosevelt would later prove himself to be a great wartime commander-in-chief, what he and others failed to realize at the time is that veterans were not asking to be part of a "special class." They just wanted a shot at the American dream that they fought so hard to defend.

Most Americans profess to truly love our veterans,

especially at gatherings like this on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

And while their feelings are usually sincere, it is important to remember that veterans are defending us 365 days a year. The heroism that has been demonstrated time and again by veterans from the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism is sometimes unnoticed by those of us who enjoy the security that their sacrifice has provided.

Fewer than 10 percent of Americans can claim the title "veteran." Far less than 1 percent of our population is currently defending us in the Global War on Terrorism. And yet many seem intent on trying to balance the federal budget by diminishing the quality of life programs designed for the families who have already disproportionately made these sacrifices.

Veterans have given us freedom, security and the greatest nation on earth. It is impossible to put a price on that. We must remember them. We must appreciate them.

For the complete Veterans Day Speech, visit:

[http://www.legion.org/publications/
160984/veterans-day-speech](http://www.legion.org/publications/160984/veterans-day-speech)

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**News Release**Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov**VA Fights Against Veteran Identity Theft***Launches new identity theft website and toll-free help line*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has launched a new campaign to educate Veterans about identity theft prevention. The new campaign, titled *More Than a Number*, references the personally identifiable information that VA encourages Veterans to protect.

“We recognize that for Veterans, as for all Americans in the digital age, identity theft is a growing concern,” said Steph Warren, VA’s Chief Information Officer. “Our goal is to help educate and protect those who have protected this great country.”

VA’s Office of Information and Technology recently announced the launch of a new website containing identity theft resources for Veterans and their beneficiaries. The website can be found at www.va.gov/identitytheft and features educational information, interactive multimedia and links to other online identity theft prevention resources. The campaign also includes a toll-free help line offering support for Veterans, their beneficiaries and VA employees who have questions and concerns about identity theft. The toll-free number is 1-855-578-5492, and it will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., EST.

In defending against identity theft, VA understands that awareness is critical. With *More Than a Number*, VA aims to educate Veterans on the risk of identity theft and how to avoid becoming a victim.

“Small changes can have *big* consequences,” Warren added. “Little things like shredding banking statements before throwing them away or using strong and unique passwords for all of your accounts can make a significant difference in protecting your identity from thieves who may try to use your personal information.”

VA takes seriously its obligation to properly safeguard any personal information within its possession and has in place a strong multi-layered defense to combat evolving cyber security threats. VA is committed to protecting Veteran information, continuing its efforts to strengthen information security and putting in place the technology and processes to ensure that Veteran data at VA is secure.

In the event of a loss of VA data, VA has safeguards in place to protect against identity fraud. Acting out of an abundance of caution, VA’s standard practice is to provide free credit protection service enrollment, monitoring services and reports, fraudulent charge alerts, and fraud resolution and identity theft insurance to individuals affected by a VA data breach with a reasonable risk for the potential misuse of any sensitive personal information.

For additional information on identity theft, visit www.va.gov/identitytheft or contact the VA Identity Safety Service at vaidtheft@va.gov.



NEW MEMBER PROFILE

VAN SMITH

Van is currently an Associate Broker with Fickling & Company, where he is serving as Director of Leasing for Gateway Business Park in Atlanta.



- He is a graduate from Wake Forest (1968)
- Member of the Scabbard & Blade
- Member of the National Military Honorary Society

Van completed the Basic Finance Officers Course at Fort Harrison, Indiana, and served as the cash control officer, Fort Irwin, California. Additionally, he served as Deputy finance and accounting officer at Fort MacArthur, California.

Van joined Post 134 in July, 2014

BOYS STATE WRAP UP 2014

Mr. Steger and members of Post 134,



I would like to sincerely thank you personally as well as the American Legion Post 134 for your sponsorship. I am grateful for the opportunity you afforded me. I not only learned a great deal about our government at work but about myself and how I may fit into the picture.

- Sam Satterfield

Boys State was an amazing opportunity that I thoroughly enjoyed! For me, I enjoyed being involved with my party, so I was the nationalist chairman for my city and also my county. I also was on the legislative committee for the nationalist party. I was able to meet people from all over the state which was one of the coolest parts, I thought. Again, thank you and the Post 134 for giving me this amazing opportunity!

- Steven Boxer

I would like to personally thank you for the opportunity to participate in Georgia Boys' State. It was a memorable experience that will never be forgotten by my family or myself. The people I met and the activities I did greatly enhanced my social relationships and my knowledge of our government and society. Not only that, but the time I spent was well worth it in that it gave me a camp experience

that was quite unique and engaging. Once again, thank you for the nomination and enjoyable experience that you bestowed upon me.

- Ryan Fuller

Georgia Boys State is real proof of a once in a lifetime experience. As leaders of the next generation, knowledge of how the real world functions politically became very important and attainable. The week exposed me to an abundance of diverse high school seniors throughout Georgia, and how we as individuals were able to collaborate and form structured city, county, and state governments through the essence of leadership and teamwork. Another exposure was to the foundations of why we as Americans are able to respect the United States flag. The most important piece of the reason why we have the freedom to do so is due to the many men and women who fought and even died for the flag to wave every day with honor. This was taught to the seniors through the preamble of the American Legion Charter "For God and Country," giving a stronger meaning to respecting the flag and the many things it stands for. These experiences helped me become a more solid leader and a more outgoing, productive citizen to society, which I'll keep with me for my future endeavors.

- Kenyatta Mallory Jr.





www.alpost134.org

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FOUNDING EDITORS

Todd Copley - Current BCR Editor

Next Meeting — November 13, 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER SPEAKER



Mack Secord
Lt Col (Ret), USAF



50 years ago this month, Mack, and the members of the 464th Troop Carrier Wing (C-130 Hercules) were the recipients of the Mackay Trophy, awarded for the “most meritorious flight of the year.” The humanitarian airlift of some 1,500 hostages and refugees from rebel held territory in the Republic of Congo during November 1964 was to become know as Operation Dragon Rouge, earning him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mack’s bio is long and distinguished: a tour in Korea flying as a FAC in the T-6, in Vietnam as a FAC in the L-19, and a second tour in Vietnam in the C-130. Do not miss hearing this 2014, Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame inductee talk to our post.

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