



The High Desert BUGLE



Happy New Year!

January / February 2012

**American Legion Post 56, Auxiliary Unit 56, & SAL Squadron 56
PO Box 2848, Carson City, Nevada 89702**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM [except for special events],
Veterans Memorial Hall at the corner of Curry and 2nd Street, Carson City.
Our next meeting will be held on January 12th at 6:30 PM.

Visit our website at <http://american-legion-post56-nv.us/>

POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Marty Martin	392-0327
1 st Vice Commander	Gabe Koory	246-0907
2 nd Vice Commander	Chuck Rankin	267-9737
Adjutant	John Dickinson	246-4024
Finance Officer	Marco Manor	267-4794
Chaplain	Katherine Baran	888-2088
Sgt-at-Arms	Joe Hanus	883-5131
Historian	Del Dennis	887-7827

UNIT 56 OFFICERS

President	Nancy O'Malley	883-9640
1 st Vice President	Barbara Dickinson	246-4024
2 nd Vice President	Vacant	883-9640
Secretary	Irma Manor	267-4794
Treasurer	Christine St. Leger-Barter	783-0502
Chaplain	Dorothy Cole	841-4765
Sgt-at-Arms	Donna Duncan	882-7276
Historian	Jean Tomlinson	267-2408

SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Mike Herlihy	434-8337
1 st Vice Commander	Jack Ralph	882-8269
Adjutant	Marco Manor	267-4794

Commanders Comments

Comrades,

I trust you all had a happy and healthy holiday season and let's all hope that 2012 will bring better times to all of us.

This past quarter four members of our Color Guard were privileged to attend two events where we posted the colors.

In October we attended the Governor's banquet at the Grand Sierra Hotel in Reno honoring the victims and families of the Reno Air Race and IHOP tragedies. The Governor along with numerous dignitaries provided an evening of thoughtful reflections of the heroes and events that were being honored that night.

On December 7th the Color Guard also attended the Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the Capitol honoring and remembering the 70th anniversary and several surviving members who were there when the Japanese attacked. It was a very emotional event.

A very special thank you to Rick Kaspar and Terry Anderson for volunteering to spearhead the annual calendar and candy sales. It was a great success. Thanks, too, to the comrades who volunteered their time to sell the excess candy at the Carson Mall just prior to Christmas. All the candy was sold.

In case you are not aware, Post 56 will be hosting the 94th Annual Department of Nevada Convention in Reno June 22 through June 24. You can get additional details at the Post 56 web site at <http://american-legion-post56-nv.us/> . If you can, please plan to attend some or all of the convention.

And now for our membership goals. With much effort we did manage to meet our December goal of 75% membership renewals. That's the good news. The not so good news is that we are dead last in renewals compared to the other Posts in District 4. We haven't seen any renewals for almost two weeks and that being the case, we have a rather large hill to climb to meet January's goal to be at 80%. All the other Posts are well over 80%. So at this time it is imperative that if you haven't already renewed, please do so today. If you know of any Post 56 members that have yet to renew, please remind them their support is needed. We all want to keep Post 56 active and viable and in order to accomplish this we need to maintain our membership as well as grow it.

I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year

Marty Martin
Commander

Adjutant's Report

Comrades,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

We are still short of our membership renewal goals. Please, if you have not yet renewed, please do so. Membership support allows the organization to achieve everything we do.

John Dickinson
Adjutant

Chaplain's Report

Comrades:

May God bless you and yours this coming year and always!

Please pray for healing and grace for Bill Martinez, Gabe Koory, Jim Kelley and Joe Hanus.

A prayer for their families wouldn't hurt, either!

God be with you!

Katherine Baran
Post 56 Chaplain

Honor/Color Guard Report

We now have four of our members on disability. We hope to see Joe, Jim, Gabe, and Bill back soon. The best thing that has happened was that Bill Martinez made it home for Christmas after several months in the hospital and rehab.

Our Color Guard team participated in the Nevada Day Parade; the Veterans Day Parade in Virginia City; and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony at the State Capitol.

The Honor Guard participated in 6 military funerals and did a ceremony with the Dayton VFW on Veterans Day.

We are still looking for more members to join our team. I am meeting with a Capitol Post 4 member this week to fill out all of his paperwork. Hopefully he will be dressing for our next funeral in January. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me for more information on the requirements.

Have a safe New Year.

Marco Manor
Captain of the Guard

Unit 56 President's Report

Happy New Year!

I want to thank all the ladies who helped at our annual Christmas Party, especially Dorothy Cole for selling so many raffle tickets; Barbara Dickenson for making that beautiful afghan; and Pat Baer and Irma Manor for donating all those many raffle gifts. We had a fun party with over 60 attending.

January 12th we will have our regular meeting

In February, we will plan our fund raisers and donation list for 2012.

We all need to support the Post and do our part in planning the Auxiliary 2012 Department Convention to be held in Reno at the Sands. We will be making several gift baskets for the officer's rooms and we need to decide if we want to do a basket raffle as a fund raiser at the Convention.

Thank you,

Nancy O'Malley
Unit 56 President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12 Jan: 6:30 PM – Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – Veterans Hall
- 16 Jan: Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed
- 25 Jan: 6:00 PM – Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – Veterans Hall
- 02 Feb: Groundhog Day
- 09 Feb: 6:30 PM – Post/Unit 56 Member Meeting – Veterans Hall
- 14 Feb: Valentine's Day
- 20 Feb: Presidents' Day
- 22 Feb: 6:00 PM – Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – Veterans Hall
- 29 Feb: Leap Day

What The American Legion Does:

- Processes more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- Gives emergency financial assistance to Legion Families hit by Hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other disasters.
- Urges Congress to provide enough VA funding to take care of veterans' medical needs - and provide it in advance.
- Awards college scholarships to children whose mothers or fathers have sacrificed their lives in the global war on terrorism.
- Volunteers about one million hours every year at about 160 VA Medical Facilities nationwide.
- Helps families of deployed troops through the Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach.
- Through its Temporary Financial Assistance program, helps the children of veterans who are suffering hardships.
- Donates about 100,000 pints of blood annually to the American Red Cross.
- Lobbies Congress to upgrade and improve Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits (Legion wrote the original 1944 GI Bill that educated 8 million veterans).
- Through its Heroes to Hometowns program works with communities to welcome back their returning veterans and help them make the transition to civilian life.
- Sponsors more than 5,000 American Legion Baseball Teams, which are made up by more than 100,000 ballplayers.
- Raises funds to improve quality of life for active duty troops with the Wounded Warrior Recognition Program and Operation Comfort Warriors.
- Offers community programs that encourage the intellectual and social growth of America's children (Boys State, National Oratorical Competition, and Boy Scouts).

In a Nutshell: If you're a Veteran, The American Legion will help you. It will help you with VA health care, GI Bill benefits, sudden emergencies and the needs of your children. And The American Legion does it all for free, because we have an army of volunteers - each one a wartime veteran. So we understand. That's why we're here now - helping veterans, service members and their families.

To find out much more about what The American Legion does, please visit www.legion.org

NOW AVAILABLE

RENEW ONLINE!



Now you can renew your American Legion membership online!
Simply visit the web address shown below and follow the easy instructions.

You'll be able to renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card.



www.legion.org/renew

11/20/09/15/04/02/011

The defense authorization bill passed by Congress on Dec. 15 includes several American Legion-backed provisions, including an increase in research funding for Gulf War illnesses, a measure that will expand health-care access for service members, tying TRICARE fee increases to military retirement pay increases, and a study for the creation of a Unified Medical Command.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes \$10 million in funding for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs on service-connected illnesses of Gulf War veterans – a 25 percent increase from last year. “That’s pretty remarkable in the current fiscal environment,” said Tim Tetz, The American Legion’s Legislative director. “The House approved that funding level last summer, and we worked hard to get the Senate to agree.” Tetz said the Senate, initially, provided no funding for the research.

Provisions of the Service members’ Telemedicine and E-Health Portability (STEP) Act are also part of the NDAA, and will go far in extending mental health-care services to active-duty personnel and to veterans – especially those living in rural areas. The STEP Act will provide much-needed flexibility by removing the requirement for health-care providers to be licensed by the state(s) in which their patients are being treated.

“You have this awkward kind of situation where a VA or DoD health-care provider in Chicago needs to treat some patients via telemedicine in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska,” Tetz said. “Under the current rules, you’ve got to have licenses from all three of those states, in addition to Illinois, where you’re physically located. But that will all be changed by the STEP Act provisions, so that telemedicine and e-health applications can be used across state borders.”

Early on in the debate over TRICARE fee increases, The American Legion urged Congress to link any payment hikes to cost-of-living allowances (COLA) for military retirement pay. That is precisely what is included in the new NDAA. Some proponents wanted to link fee increases to those reflected in the National Health Care Index, which are typically higher percentages than COLA.

Creation of a Unified Military Command is also established by the defense bill, a concept endorsed by the Legion’s membership in a May 2010 resolution that urged Congress “to direct re-organization of the Military Health Care System into a Unified Military Medical Command preceded by a study, if necessary, to determine the operational gains and cost savings of this proposed command structure.”

Part of the NDAA tackles the military’s downsizing requirements in the wake of the Iraq War. Several incentives have been authorized for DoD use to reduce the number of America’s men and women in arms: a 15-year retirement option (instead of the current minimum of 20), voluntary retirement or separation pay and early release from active duty for enlisted members.

“Some of these incentives were used in the 1990s to reduce DoD forces after the fall of the Soviet Union,” Tetz said. “But the real question we should be asking is not whether these incentives are good or bad ideas, but whether it is a good idea to reduce our force levels at all.”

The American Legion passed a resolution last October that strongly opposed further reductions to America’s armed forces, calling such a move a threat to our national security.

The 2011 Post/Unit 56 Christmas Party at the Fandango



Department of Nevada Commander Jeanette Rae



Commander Rae & Marco Manor



Dept. 1st Vice Commander John Warden and Post 56 Commander Marty Martin



Post 56 Adjutant John Dickinson and Department Adjutant Lionel Motta



Unit 56 President Nancy O'Malley and Commander Marty Martin



Unit 56 Member Dorothy Cole



Unit 56 Member Irma Manor



Unit 56 Members Irma Manor and Shirlee Ralph

NOTE: ALL OF THE CHRISTMAS PHOTOS ARE PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE