



@ THE POST
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Towson Post 22

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anita Stewart-Hammerer



Unity, is defined as the state of being united or joined as a whole. The Collins Dictionary states that “when there is unity, people are in agreement and act together for a particular purpose.” For me, this defines how we should act as a Legion. This also is a good opportunity to remind all Towson Post 22 members and guest about proper decorum at the Post. Remember that our speech and behavior is what makes our Post a better place to visit and socialize with fellow veterans. Legionnaires don't forget to show your updated membership card to the bartender and to sign in guests.

We need to learn to work together as opposed to working against one another. We also need to reach out to other Legion family members and Posts. Call that Legion member that you have not seen in a while or visit another Legion Post. As I visit other post and attend county and district

meetings I've come to appreciate the conversations and discussions. It has been a wonderful learning opportunity.

Within the coming weeks, I will be having a Town Hall like meeting so Legionnaires, SAL, Auxiliary, and Riders can come together to talk about what's happening at the Post and how we can make this Post even greater. Finally, let's all learn and grow with one another. After all, we have served our country or are related to someone who has served. And we are still willing to serve not only ourselves but other veterans and their families. Remember Legionnaires I've got your six.” Do you have mine?



Post 22 Commander Anita Stewart-Hammerer posing with Federal Post 19 Commander Betty Bonds.

Legion Meetings

Legion Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting
4th Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

Sons of American Legion Meeting
3rd Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

Auxiliary Meeting
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:30 pm

Legion Riders Meeting
1st Wednesday of each month
7:00 pm

2019-2020 Post Officers

Towson Post 22 Supporting Military and Veterans in the Community

Within the last two months Towson Post 22 has opened its doors to Loyola's ROTC, various Boys Scout Troops, and Towson University for a Super Bowl Salute fundraiser supporting the Nick Ziolkowski Scholarship Endowment.

All the proceeds from the fundraiser supports the Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski Scholarship Endowment and the Military & Veterans' Center at Towson University. The Endowment honors Cpl. Ziolkowski who was killed in the battle for Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004 while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Tracy Miller, mother of Cpl. Nick Ziolkowski, accepts a citation from a representative from the Baltimore County Executive's office.

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act Passed

Beginning January 1, 2020, the Department of Veterans of Affairs in accordance to The Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL116-23) extended the presumption of herbicide exposure--such as Agent Orange--to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. They began processing claims for veterans who served on Navy vessels off the shores in Vietnam. You do not have to prove that you served the 12 nautical miles offshore of the Republic of Vietnam. The Veterans Benefits Administration will take care of this when you file your benefits claims.

If you were denied a claim, you must refile, because the law requires claimants to receive back pay based on the date you file the original claim. If you are a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness; you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. If you were denied your Blue Water Navy Veteran's service-connected disability claim in the past, you may be eligible for DIC benefits based on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. For more information go to <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp> or contact the MDVA Service and Benefits office at 1-800-446-4926.

*Reprinted from VA Veteran Disability Online Newsletter

Commander
Anita Stewart-Hammerer

1st Vice Commander
Vacant

2nd Vice Commander
Angela Phillips

Adjutant
Linda Bishop
410-591-6758

Finance Officer
Regina Simpson

Historian
Jeffery Whye

Chaplain
Vernon Crider
443-823-5585

Asst. Chaplain
Jesse Mixson

Sgt-at-Arms
Norman Zickuhr

Service Officer
Sonia Young

Judge Advocate
Vacant

Past Commander
Craig Dean

Where to Find Help for Veterans

The American Legion national website now offers a handy state-by-state directory of veterans' benefits, some of which are little-known.

From health-care services to hunting and fishing license exemptions and free passes to state parks, the new online guide details state and federal benefits alike for those who have served the nation in uniform, and their families. In some states, different benefits are available for veterans with service-connected disabilities. The web page is <http://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/state>

Towson Post 22 Honors Four Chaplains

Sunday, Feb. 2, marked the 77th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard. The Dorchester tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

On Sunday, February 9, Post 22 led by Chaplain Vernon Crider held a memorial service that paid tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night.



Legionnaire Dan Odom



MD Air National Guard Chaplain, 175th Wing CPT Josh Vanderstel speaking during the service.



Towson Post 22 Chaplain Vernon Crider lights one of four candles in honor of the Four Chaplains of the Dorchester.



Boys Scouts Troop 151 from Hampden presented the colors during the service.



Four Chaplains memorial table.



Memorial attendees listening during service.

**The American Legion
Towson Post 22
Presents**

**Annual Shrimp, Oyster, &
Bull Roast**

**Sun, 26 April 2020
1pm - 5pm
125 York Road
Towson, MD
410.823.8030**



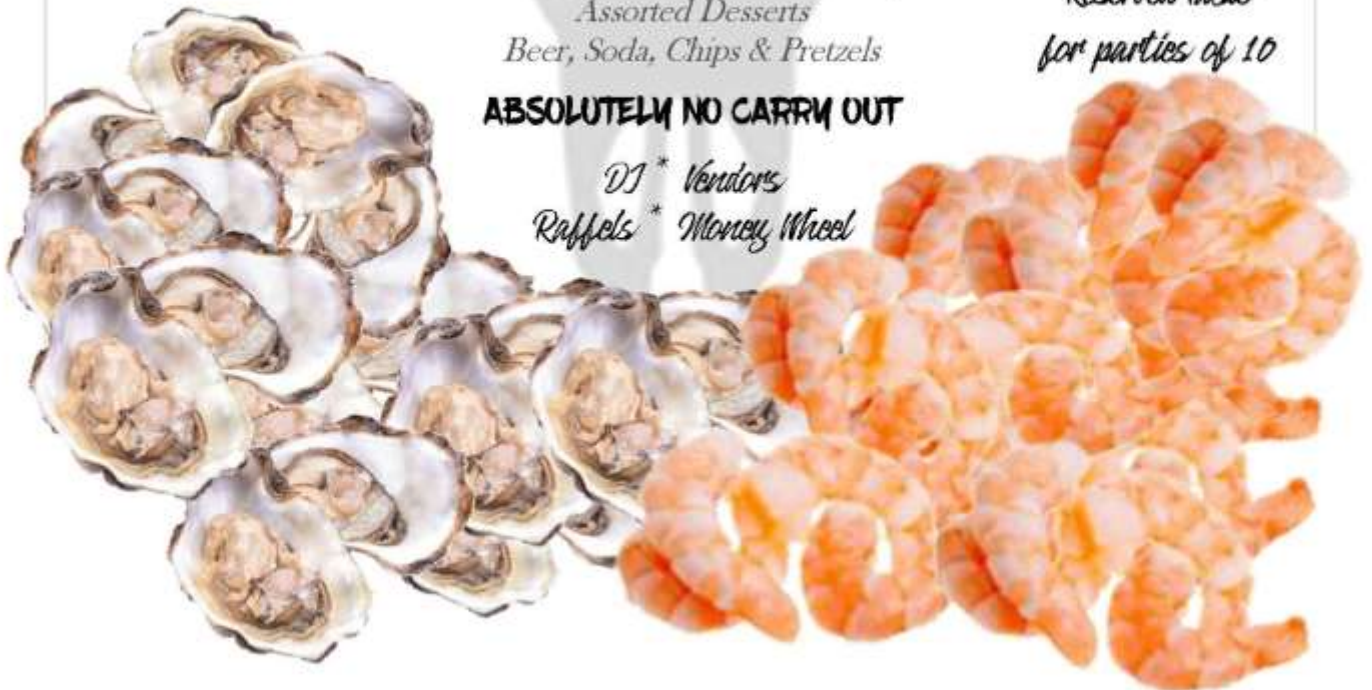
*Tops Rounds of Beef, Smoked Turkey Breast,
Black Forrest Ham, Raw Oysters on the
Half Shell, Steamed Shrimp w/ Cocktail Sauce,
Maryland Crab Soup, Baked Ziti, Fried Chicken,
Sweet Italian Sausage w/ Peppers & Onions, Green Beans,
Caesar Salad, Roasted Red Potatoes,
Fruit & Veggie Tray, Assorted Bread, Rolls
Assorted Desserts
Beer, Soda, Chips & Pretzels*



*Reserved Table
for parties of 10*

ABSOLUTELY NO CARRY OUT

*DJ * Vendors
Raffles * Money Wheel*



Auxiliary President

Lynette Dean

Spring is here! We are keeping the Spring theme in our hearts while we are busy planning our 2nd Annual Spring Fling on May 9th. This is the day before Mother's Day but what lovely handcrafted, affordable gifts you can find!

Also coming up is the annual District Membership Rally--We are hosting again this year! April 3rd at 7pm in the Grand Hall. Our tickets are free, but you need one to get in so let me know if you are coming so you can have a seat at the table.

Spring is time for new growth and renewed feelings of "Need to help". Hope by now everyone has gotten their dues in. What an excellent way to honor those that have gone before us by serving our country and by giving of themselves. Those Legionaries that are women – did you know you can be a dual member? Those Legionaries who are married (male or female) – did you know you can sign up your spouse and your daughters?

The Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp of Gladbrook, Iowa, will be visiting Maryland on March 21-23, 2020. Many activities are being planned for her visit. Hope you'd be interested in meeting her and will contact me about the events. Lastly, please come to the upcoming Post/Unit functions and support our fundraising activities. We have been lucky to have a few raffles at the Post and SAL functions,

There are only two more Spaghetti Dinner dates on the calendar. They are March 18 and May 20, 2020. These few things along with our membership are why we can donate to local schools and Veterans like we do. The more we make, the more we can give! Without our membership and everyone's support, we couldn't do what we do – and yes, you are part of it all! Thank you for your continued support of this Unit, Towson 22 and their projects.

Sons of the American Legion

The Squadron just mailed membership renewal notices with self-addressed envelopes. If you receive one, please don't forget dues for regular members are \$25 and for those under 21 or a dual card member of the Legion dues are \$15.

the American Legion Legacy Foundation. In July, we will again have a ride to benefit HERO-DOGS, a local provider of service dogs to veterans and first responders living in Maryland. So please come out and support the Riders. Even if you do not ride, cars are welcome. The Riders meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

Post 22 Legionnaire on the Move



During a recent visit to Florida, Towson Post 22 Past Commander Kraig Dean exchanged license plates with Post 103 in Punta Gorda, Florida. Remember to share your Legion news with Post members by submitting pictures or articles to the newsletter editor at 125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204.

Towson American Legion Riders

Director John Horner

The Riders are alive and well and riding season is just around the corner. If you have not paid your 2020 dues yet, please pay your \$15.

We have set our ride schedule for 2020. This year we will again help the Post sponsor the Maryland Gold Star Ride. This year's goal is \$60,000 (last year we raised \$55,000) for



Save the Date

Spring Craft Fair presented by the Towson American Legion Auxiliary Unit #22

Saturday, May 9 from 9am-2pm

125 York Road, Towson, MD

Maintaining American Legion Nonpartisanship

This year ushers in a presidential election. And while American Legion posts are encouraged to promote “Get Out the Vote” (GOTV) efforts, it is important to remember to re-main nonpartisan in the process.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party. Since its inception in 1920, The American Legion’s Get Out the Vote program has encouraged Americans to exercise their right to vote and help others understand the importance of the electoral process. The program suggests activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout such as calling potential voters to get to the polls, volunteer in their communities by providing rides to and from the polls if necessary, use social media to share information about poll locations and times, and place newspaper ads or public service announcements in local media that promote registration and voting.

To help with GOTV efforts, American Legion Family members can download The American Legion’s “Get Out the Vote” and “Vote, America” brochures at www.legion.org/vote/publications. GOTV public service announcements and news releases are also available.

You can still encourage voting registration and participation while remaining nonpartisan, and here's how and why.

Q: How can an American Legion post avoid the appearance of partisanship when conducting GOTV activities?

A: Volunteers working on an American Legion-sponsored registration and voting drive should not wear campaign buttons or make their personal views about candidates, parties and issues known in any way while they are engaged in nonpartisan activities for their post. Campaign materials or literature should be removed from an area where nonpartisan activities are taking place.

Q: Can a member be active in a campaign when the Legion has to remain nonpartisan?

A: As individuals, Legionnaires can be as partisan as they like. Legionnaires engaged in partisan activities – such as attending a candidate’s rally – should do so without wearing the American Legion cap or other Legion attire. When working for the Legion post, a member must treat all candidates equally without making candidate endorsements. To do otherwise will endanger the post’s nonprofit status with the IRS.

Q: Why can’t The American Legion endorse a candidate?

A: Federal election laws require that any registration drive conducted or sponsored by groups like The American Legion

be nonpartisan. In other words, the IRS mandates the strict nonpartisanship of all such activities by organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under Section 501(c)(19) of the Code. Failure to do so could endanger an American Legion post’s nonprofit status. A nonpartisan organization does not support, oppose or provide aid to any candidate for public office or to any political party. In a nonpartisan drive, registration and voting assistance, and information and materials must be offered and made available to all, regardless of which candidate or party they support. *(Reprint of American Legion digital article “American Legion reminds you to vote in 2020”, February 03, 2020)*

Free Dental Clinic

Baltimore Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic
(No root canals, crowns, dentures, or partials)

Wednesday, April 1

Starts at 2pm

Limit 200 patients

Prescreen x-rays only

Thursday April 2

Starts at 6:30am

Limit 400 patients

Fillings and extractions

Friday, April 3


Starts at 6:30am

Limit 400 patients

Fillings, extractions and cleanings

Location: Patapsco Arena, 3301 Annapolis Road, Baltimore, MD 21230

For more information, call 410-895-1535 or www.uwcm.org/bmom



Veterans
and military
served first,
bring
documents



Bring list of
medications

No
insurance
required

Military Caregiver Month							March 2020							April ▶
Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat		
1		2		3 Navy Reserve Birthday ACE of Spades		4 Riders Meeting—7pm		5 Seabee Birthday		6		7		
8 Daylight Saving Begins		9		10 ACE of Spades		11 Post Membership Meeting—7:30pm Auxiliary Meeting—7:30		12		13 K9 Veterans Day		14		
15		16		17 Saint Patrick's Day ACE of Spades		18 SAL Meeting—7pm Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner 5-7pm		19 Start of Spring (Spring Equinox)		20		21		
22		23		24 ACE of Spades		25 Executive Committee Meeting—7pm		26		27		28 Earth Hour		
29 Vietnam Veterans Day		30		31 ACE of Spades										

Military Child Month							April 2020						
Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
						1 Riders Meeting—7pm		2		3 District Membership Rally—7pm		4	
5 Gold Star Spouses Day		6		7 ACE of Spades		8 Post Membership Meeting—7:30pm Auxiliary Meeting—7:30		9 Holy Thursday		10 Good Friday		11	
12 Easter		13		14 ACE of Spades Air Force Reserve Birthday		15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) SAL Meeting—7pm		16		17		18	
19		20		21 ACE of Spades		22 Executive Committee Meeting—7pm		23 Army Reserve Birthday		24 Arbor Day		25	
26 Post Shrimp, Oyster Bull Roast		27		28 ACE of Spades		29		30					



Towson Post 22, Inc.
The American Legion
Department of Maryland
125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204
www.towsonamericanlegion.org

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Upcoming Events

March 18—Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner

April 3—District Membership Rally

April 26—Shrimp, Oyster, Bull Roast

FOR EVEN MORE POST INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.TOWSONAMERICANLEGION.ORG OR CALL (410) 823-8030. TO SUBMIT AN
ARTICLE OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT POST COMMANDER AT
AHAMMERER@JUNO.COM.