



*@ THE POST*  
***THE AMERICAN LEGION***  
*Towson Post 22*

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Anita Stewart-Hammerer



Take advantage of the changing seasons—that was the topic my husband suggested to me when I sat down to write this column. I just looked at him and then realized that he was on point.

The changing of the seasons is the most opportune time to get outside and go for a walk or to just soak up the sun. It's also the best time to do a "Buddy Check". Doing Buddy Checks can have a tremendous impact on the veteran that you are calling. It can also make you feel good checking on someone you may or may not know.

In the Army, we called them Battle Buddies. Or perhaps you are familiar with the term crewmate or shipmate. Regardless of the name, looking out for your Buddy was paramount. So too, should it be today with your fellow Legionnaire. Make the call or visit someone that hasn't been to the Post in a while. Why not volunteer when the Post does Buddy Check phone calls.

By making a simple phone call you could save a life. The number one issue facing those who served is veteran suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. Sadly, no fewer than 17 veterans die each day by suicide. The report also stated that the rate of suicides for Veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

**BE THE ONE** In 2022, the American Legion launched its "Be the One Campaign" to help end veteran suicides. The campaign wants to remove the shame or disgrace a veteran may feel when asking for mental health support. "Be the One" is intended to make the veteran understand that they are not alone and that someone cares about them. The campaign asks that you do the following: ask veterans in your life how they are doing; listen to them when they need to talk; reach out when a veteran is struggling and finally pledge to Be the One at [betheone.org](http://betheone.org) by signing up for email updates.

If you are a veteran in crisis, please know that there is help available 24 hours a day. Please call 988 and press 1 or text 838255. You can also visit the VA Crisis Line website.

**Legion Meeting**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 pm

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 pm

**Sons of American Legion Meeting**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 pm

**Auxiliary Meeting**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 pm

**Legion Riders Meeting**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month  
7:00 pm

## FIRST VICE

Tee Morton

Good news Legionnaires, as of April 2024, we are at 87% of meeting our 2024 annual membership goal of 404 paid members. We must reach 100% no later than 31 May 2024.

Please renew your 2024 annual membership (\$35) ASAP and before 30 June 2024 as annual membership dues for **Post 22 will increase to \$45 on 1 July 2024**. The quickest and easiest way to pay dues, **setup annual renewal** and **PRINT YOUR OWN MEMBERSHIP CARD** online at <https://www.legion.org/membership/renewals>

There is a **new multiyear membership option** for Legionnaires to renew and lock-in a three (3) year membership before the membership dues increase. It can only be done online and it's as easy as going to [legion.org/renew](https://www.legion.org/renew), type in your membership number and last name and select the three-year membership option. Several of our members have already taken advantage of this 3 year membership option.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION:

Legionnaires please continue to recruit to new members. But just a reminder, **DD 214 must be provided with all new member applications and transfer requests**. We CAN NOT process these potential members without proof of eligibility. Active duty Soldiers are free for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of membership with proof of active service.

Just a reminder, Post 22 pays the membership dues for all our **WWII and Korean War Veterans**. These Legionnaires DO NOT need to send in a membership dues payment. **A SPECIAL POST 22 "THANK YOU"** goes to these members for their service and commitment to this great nation and any donations to Post 22.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has a website for veterans to access their DD 214 online: [vetrecs.archives.gov](https://vetrecs.archives.gov). We have several members that have not updated their contact information, i.e. address, phone number, email etc. Please TEXT our membership team at 667-383-5617 with any updated info.

If you have made a verified dues payment and have not received your membership card; you can go online at <https://www.legion.org/membership/> to print your membership card or you TEXT our membership team at 667-383-5617 with receipt/proof of payment.

Your annual membership card reflects your continuous years of membership. If you miss a year of paying dues, your continuous years start over at one year. If you still need to pay your 2023 or previous years dues to maintain your continuous membership please mail and make check payable to: American Legion Post 22, Attn: Membership Team, 125 York Road Towson. MD 21204

**Please write on your check what year the payment is for and your membership number.**

## 2023 Post Officers

**Commander**  
Anita Stewart-Hammerer

**1st Vice Commander**  
Tee Morton

**2nd Vice Commander**  
Michael Pitter

**Third Vice**  
Sonia Young

**Adjutant**  
Rosalind Robinson Ambrose

**Acting Finance Officer**  
Fred Hofferbert

**Historian**  
Mark Serio

**Chaplain**  
Harold McFadden

**Sgt-at-Arms**  
Brian Riley

**Judge Advocate**  
Ed Jones

**Past Commander**  
Kraig Dean

# THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2024 WITH POST 22



Post 22 Family members celebrating Mardi Gras with traditional pancakes and sausage, beads, and plenty of laughter.



Of course, the celebrations continued with St. Patrick's Day and the corn beef and cabbage.



We could not forget the children. So much fun at the Easter Celebration. Music and dancing galore.



## ANNUAL POST ELECTION: WEDNESDAY June 12, 2024

**Towson Post 22 will call for a slate of officers and then vote on candidates for the upcoming 2024-2025 year.**

**If you are interested in running for an elected office, Please attend the meeting. Voting is open to all current dues paying members.**



# ELECTIONS

### **Elected Officers include:**

#### **Post Commander**

The Commander is the chief executive officer of the Post and shall supervise, lead and manage the Post and its Officers. The Commander shall preside at all Board Meetings, General Meetings, Special General meetings and Special Board Meetings; nominate Standing Committees and Temporary Committees and their Chair, perform the duties necessary to keep the Post operating in an effective and efficient manner; have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board, Bylaws or as promulgated by the American Legion; and preserve the integrity of the Post Charter.

#### **First Vice-Commander**

First Vice Commander is the Chair of the Membership Committee and shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander.

#### **Second Vice-Commander**

Second Vice Commander is the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, assist with Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, public affairs and community outreach as directed by the Commander and shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of First Vice-Commander or Commander, in the absence or disability of such officers.

#### **Finance Officer**

The Finance Officer shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee, and responsible for overseeing the financial records of the Post.

#### **Historian**

The Post Historian shall compile and preserve a pictorial Post history for print and electronic distribution.

#### **Sergeant-at-arms**

The Sergeant-at-arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him by the Commander.

#### **Chaplain**

The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of Post members and will offer divine but non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters.

#### **The Adjutant**

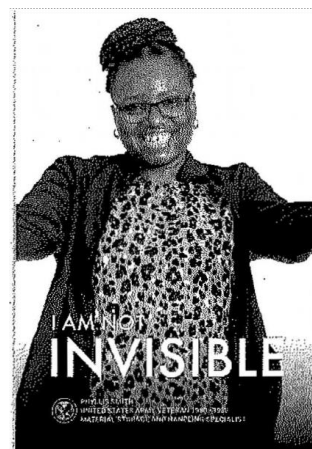
The Adjutant is the Secretary of the Board. Under the direction of the Commander, the Adjutant shall: receive and answer all correspondence of the Post; have charge of and keep a complete and correct record of the proceedings of all Official Meetings; and prepare summarized meeting minutes and reports for publication.

#### **Judge Advocate**

The Judge Advocate's duties shall be to advise the Post Commander on the interpretation or modifications of the post's Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, and be responsible for an annual financial audit and the Post Responsibility Audit as described in the American Legion Officer's Guide.

## Local Women Veterans Showcased in New VAMHCS Display

A new display featuring women who served has been added to the walls outside the Women's Health Clinic at the Baltimore VA Medical Center. The display, the second at the center to be created as part of the National VA "I am Not Invisible" campaign to showcase women veterans, features Towson Post 22 Legionnaire Phyllis Smith.



Phyllis Smith



## CEREMONY

May 26, 2024, at 1pm

Location: Wayside Cross

Corner of York and Shealy Avenue  
Sponsored by American Legion,  
Towson Post 22

# HISTORIAN

Mark Serio

Greetings, Comrades!

Last fall, I visited the World War II American Experience Museum located near us in Gettysburg, Pa. It's a new museum and I just learned it was even there, so if you're interested in WWII vehicles, uniforms, and realistic exhibits, it's certainly worth the trip. Tanks, Tank Destroyers, Jeeps, Red Cross vehicles, and period displays abound.

Our very knowledgeable docent, Mr. David Peters (pictured), explained that the museum was founded by the Buck family. As children, the Bucks developed a passion for WWII history having had relatives that served in the war to include an uncle whose plane was lost while on a bombing mission with the 449<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group stationed in England in 1945. Unfortunately, and after 30 years of searching, very little is known about his disappearance.



The collection and exhibits, and personal stories further remind us of the sacrifices made by our veterans during our nation's many conflicts. As the American Legion, we should be proud of our role to keep their memories alive and support museums that share our mission. Their website is [www.visitww2.org](http://www.visitww2.org).

As always, if you have an event for the Post Yearbook, please email to [MarkSerio@Outlook.com](mailto:MarkSerio@Outlook.com) and be sure to include a picture or two.



Kaare Christian

## Remembering Post 22 Members We Lost

**Kaare Christian**, longtime Legionnaire, passed away in February. Most people knew him as George. He was a WWII veteran and could be often seen at the Post lounge socializing and enjoying a beverage. He will be missed..

**Cynthia Sorrell**, a longtime Legionnaire and the sister of fellow Legionnaire Ed Wilson, died in late March. Rest in Peace!

**Robert Kennick**, Marine veteran and 25 year member of the Post, passed last December. He was 98.

**Ronald Heath Sr.**, another longtime Legionnaire, died in January at the age of 75. Rest in Peace!

# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER #22

John Horner

As of this writing spring has sprung and baseball is back, and so will the motorcycles be back on the roads. Please watch for motorcycles when you are driving.

Towson Chapter again this year is proud to be the sponsor of the **Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run**, that will be held the weekend of June 7th. For a three-day ride around Maryland to raise funds and bring awareness to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. The American Legion Legacy Foundation is now self-sustaining, so the riders have been asked to change mission.

This year's ride will shift focus and raise funds for the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. This foundation provides grants to veterans with children that are in financial distress and to help train service officers who help veterans get the VA benefits they deserve. Over the last 10 years \$6 million dollars in grants have been made and over \$14 billion dollars of VA benefits have been received by veterans from the help of service officers.

Reach out to any Chapter member or myself if you would like to become a sponsor for just \$100. Sponsors will get their name on the back of our ride t-shirt. The deadline to get on the shirt is May 1st. The other option is that you can donate any amount; this can be made any time before or during the ride. If you want to do the ride, the cost is \$50 to participate with all of the money raised going to the foundation. You can go on two, three or four wheels, all are welcome. Last year, we raised \$211,000. Our eight-year total is \$611,000 for Legion charities. If you want more information on the Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run, please contact me. July 6<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual HERO-DOG Ride. Please come out and support any of our rides. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm, again all are welcome.

**Maryland  
Gold Star Legacy Run**



**June 7-9, 2024**  
To Benefit:  
**American Legion  
Veterans and Children Foundation**

The proceeds of this ride will help provide grants to needy veterans with children and help with training Service Officers who help veterans get the benefits they deserve.

Starting Friday June 7, 2024 we will leaving from Harry White Wilmer Post 82 in LaPlata, MD at 7:30 am and traveling over 300 miles around Maryland to our final stop on Sunday June 9, 2024 at Gold Star Families Memorial in Havre De Grace.

We need your help by riding with us, sponsoring us or making a donation. Last year we raised and donated \$211,000.00 to the Legacy Scholarship Foundation.

**This year we have set a goal of \$100,000.00.**

This would make the total donated from the MD Gold Star Legacy Run over the last nine years \$711,000.00

We need you help to reach it!

More details and exact route information can be obtained at our Facebook page: MD Gold Star Legacy Run or by emailing Joe Gladden at joadad13@aol.com or John Horner at johnhorner@verizon.net

**Registration: \$50.00 per Bike**  
(Includes patch (if first year) and rocker)

## AUXILIARY

Lynette Dean

Happy Spring everyone. Hope everyone is doing well. Our year is winding down, but your help is still needed. The best way to find out what is happening is to come to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month meeting of your American Legion Auxiliary meeting here at Towson Post 22.

Please make sure your dues have been paid. If you no longer want to belong and support our Veterans, please let us know. It would save us both time. If your card doesn't say 2024 on it then you are no longer entitled to Post privileges. The National President is in town this month. There are several ways you can meet her. Let me know if you have an interest in doing so.

Do make it to our "Prom with a Purpose"? April 13<sup>th</sup> – only \$25 at the door. Come join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month and learn of our activities. Hope to see you soon!

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON #22

Bob Gambill

Many thanks to Mission BBQ for providing food for our March meeting. We enjoyed it very much. Nice to know there is a business that supports Veterans and veteran's organizations so strongly.

Your Squadron members have been active in the Post, providing, preparing and serving food in the Lounge for various events. All in an effort to make Post 22 a fun and rewarding place to visit for members and their guests. The Squadron is about to host our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harry Sult Cornhole Tournament on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m. If you would like to play, contact Ricky Edwards 814-688-1883. Cost is \$20 per person. If you'd like to sponsor a board it's \$30 per board. Come join us!

If anyone is interested in participating more actively, the Squadron could use some help. We need a Finance Officer, a Chaplain, an Adjutant and a Historian. The duties of these vacant offices are being performed by those of us in other elected positions. And we can always use help at our various events. Many hands make light work! If you haven't done so already, please send us your email address to Towsonsq22@gmail.com. Hope to see you at a meeting or an event.



Towson Post 22, Inc.

The American Legion  
Department of Maryland  
125 York Road, Towson, MD 21204  
[www.towsonamericanlegion.org](http://www.towsonamericanlegion.org)



Dial 1 for  
Veterans

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Luth./Tim., MD  
Permit No 247

**Upcoming Events** Check Facebook or  
the Post Website for Events

FOR EVEN MORE POST INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.TOWSONAMERICANLEGION.ORG](http://WWW.TOWSONAMERICANLEGION.ORG)  
OR CALL (410) 823-8030.