

SUSQUEHANNA POST 135 NEWSLETTER

American Legion Susquehanna Post 135
PO Box 98, 300 Cherry Street
Perryville, MD 21903
410-642-2771
post135@verizon.net
www.AL135.org



Spring 2016

OFFICERS ELECT 2015-2016 LEGION

Commander.....Douglas G. Hornberger
1st Vice Commander.....Donald L. Griffith, Sr.
Finance Officer.....Nancy S. Polk
Chaplain.....Robert "Blair" Smolar
Historian.....Ernest C. Miller
Sgt-At-Arms.....James "Richard" Hall
Adjutant.....Charles F. Cunningham

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Charles F. Cunningham
W. Dodson Lyons
Terry W. Marrs
Charles W. Thomas
Thomas P. Ward

AUXILIARY

President.....Eleanor Deal
1st Vice President.....Holly Charsha
2nd Vice President.....Sally Fayer
Secretary.....Terri Grove
Treasurer.....Cyndie McMullen
Chaplain.....Donna Lindenmuth
Historian.....Colleen Chamberlain
Sgt-At-Arms.....Wendy Kramer

SAL

Commander.....Emory Thompson
1st Vice Commander.....Mark Fayer, Sr.
2nd Vice Commander.....Jeffrey Jolliffe
Finance Officer.....Thomas Deal
Chaplain.....Joe Carabetta
Historian.....Larry (Bear) Weinzirl
Sgt-At-Arms.....John Buck

LEGION RIDERS

Director.....Terry Marrs
Assistant Director.....Marc Orlando
Secretary.....Vicki Marrs
Treasurer.....Brooke Conway
Sgt-At-Arms.....Gene Fromm
Road Captain.....Michael Huffman
Membership Chairman.....Robert Chenoweth
Safety Officer.....Tim McLaughlin



Commander's Message

Dear Fellow Legionnaires:

Spring is a beautiful time of the year and a season of rebirth, rejuvenation and renewal. My journey as your Post Commander over the past two years has certainly been one filled with the same types of emotions brought on by the season of spring.

I continue to be uplifted and rejuvenated by the caring spirit of so many of our Post members who always step forward to lend a helping hand or take on extra duties to ensure that we are serving veterans, active service members, our local school system, churches, fire department, boys and girls clubs, etc.

Just as family members feel comfortable expressing their opinions in a loving and accepting environment, I feel fortunate that our Legion members have been able to express their views, exhibited respect for one another and resolved issues that affect the future of our Post. By working together, we have made great strides to enhance the appearance of our Post home through completion of roofing, rear deck and hall enhancement projects, appliance and security system upgrades, and a new computerized cash register system.

Some noteworthy accomplishments include our ongoing commitment to hospitalized veterans at our local Perry Point VA Medical Center and support of the ongoing initiative to provide housing on the grounds of the Perry Point campus to assist veterans at risk of homelessness. I have also been impressed by the efforts of our Post's service officers who now provide, on a monthly basis, the opportunity for veterans to meet with them and provide assistance with their VA compensation claims.

Additionally, our Post has played an active role in cultivating a foundation to help young people learn about Americanism and how our country is governed through participation in the Boys and Girls State programs totally funded by the American Legion. We have also supported several local Boy Scouts in their endeavors to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

Our Post remains committed to offering activities that bring families and friends together, such as bingo, entertainment on the weekends, daily meals, Thursday night pizza, Friday night fried chicken, and Saturday night chicken wings, all at very reasonable costs. We also offer our beautiful Post hall for rental for your family or community events.

(Continued on Page 3)

POST EVERLASTING

Hazel E. Boyle (ALA)
Arthur E. Cantler
Landis H. Eshleman
Gladys Keesee (ALA)
Joseph Ralph Sumpter

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to the family and loved ones of our departed comrades and friends.

2016 Membership Dues

We are still collecting dues for the 2016 membership year. Dues are \$30 for Legionnaires, \$20 for SAL and \$20 for ALA.

Please help us in our effort to recruit new members. If you know a Service Member on Active Duty or a Veteran who has served in the past, please inform them about our great organization and The American Legion's many programs and encourage them to join.



Commander's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

None of our many accomplishments would have come to fruition without the continued loyalty of our Post members, particularly our Executive Committee, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, American Legion Auxiliary, our administrative staff, cooks and bartenders.

Please continue to take every opportunity to encourage active duty service members and veterans to consider membership with the American Legion Susquehanna Post 135. For more information, please feel free to contact me at the Post at (410) 642-2325 or email me at post135@verizon.net. You can also visit our website at www.al135.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Through active participation and support by American Legion members, we can continue to provide services and programs for those who have served and our local community.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Commander.

God Bless America,
Douglas G. Hornberger
Douglas G. Hornberger
Commander, Susquehanna Post 135

**A MAJOR WEEKEND EVENT:
MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION ("MPT")
SALUTES VIETNAM VETERANS
LZ MARYLAND
JUNE 18 - 19, 2016
The Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium**

LZ stands for "landing zone," a place of safety. It's fitting that we salute Maryland's Vietnam-era veterans here where their roots are planted. Those in conflict knew that an LZ was a safe, clear and ready place for helicopters to land without harm. MPT will make LZ Maryland reflect the same safety. The event message is simply: *This landing zone is secure from the hurt and pain of the past. We have created a safe landing and welcome you home. We thank you for serving your country. We gather here - with you and your family and friends - to celebrate your service, valor and sacrifice.*

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
Monday, May 30, 2016
11:00 AM**

Please join us in honoring the heroes who selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice for our beloved nation.
We will always remember you - and all of your comrades - of all wars - who laid down their lives for our country.

Light Refreshments Following Ceremony

In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, nominations of Post Officers for the coming legion year 2016-2017 were conducted on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. Please see the list of nominees shown in this newsletter. Elections will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at the Post home from 10 AM - 4 PM. I encourage all members to exercise your right to vote. Absentee Ballots are available for those who cannot vote in person. You may pick up an Absentee Ballot at the Post or request one in writing.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

**AUXILIARY UNIT 135
BINGO**

Every Monday
Doors Open At 5:30 PM
Games Begin At 6:30 PM
Early Birds, 5 Specials, Winner Take All & 50/50
Progressive Number Jackpot Game
Payout: \$500
Food Available for Purchase

SAL TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 16th
\$25 Buy In
Cash Game 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Registration 12:00 PM
Game Starts at 1:00 PM

Food Available for Purchase

Proceeds Support The Sons of the American Legion Programs

~ INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING ~

Elections for Susquehanna Post 135 Officers and Executive Committee will be held on



Saturday, June 4, 2016
10 AM - 4 PM

To be eligible to vote, members must be in good standing (i.e., current paid members for the year 2016).

You may cast your vote on Election Day at the Post. If you are unable to come to the Post on Election Day, you may pick up an Absentee Ballot at the Post or request one in writing.

SUSQUEHANNA POST 135		6 Apr 16
NOMINATIONS FOR POST OFFICERS 2016-2017		
COMMANDER	No Nominations	
1ST VICE COMMANDER	Jeffrey R. Dennis Terry W. Marrs	
2ND VICE COMMANDER	Robert L. Hiles	
FINANCE OFFICER	No Nominations	
HISTORIAN	Ernest C. Miller	
CHAPLAIN	Robert "Blair" Smolar	
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	James Richard Hall	
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Charles F. Cunningham	
	Donald L. Griffith, Sr.	
	Douglas G. Hornberger	
	Frederick F. Reil, Jr.	
	Thomas P. Ward	

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

On Thursday, February 11, 2016, a fellow American Legion member, J. Ralph Sumpter, 96 years, of Port Deposit, MD, was born unto eternal life. He came into this world on June 19, 1919, one of five children of Kyle E. and Virginia Alice (nee Mitchell) Sumpter. His final resting place is in West Nottingham Cemetery, Colora, MD.

As a man born in 1919 in Blythedale, MD, he would see much change in Cecil County during his entire life, from horse drawn wagons used in transportation, to a man landing on the moon, and how daily life was revolutionized by the computer age. His generation is forever noted for their personal resiliency, hard work ethic, generosity towards others and simple humility in daily life. In addition, as a young man he was propelled onto the center stage of world history during his military service starting in 1941 and ending in October 1945. He is "reported to have been the second draftee" inducted in Cecil County, MD. During this period he survived and personally experienced 230 days of combat in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) as a member serving in the 4th Armored Division. To this day, military historians consider this division to be the finest American Armored unit serving in ETO during World War II. As a soldier assigned to the 37th Armored Battalion, he personally participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe campaigns. His family experienced loss during WWII when his brother Leonard was killed in the Pacific Theater of Operations in 1945.

Along with his brothers, Ralph answered the call of the nation in 1941, and they all were the epitome of the American Citizen Soldier. From May 1941, when Ralph enlisted, to June 1944 marked a period of intense preparations and rigorous training for mobile warfare under the direction of General John Shirley Wood, who served as one of the first commanders of the division. General "P" Wood, which stood for Professor, is called the "American Rommel of the West" and whose aggressive offensive tactics called for constant "attack and maneuver" to operate behind enemy lines. This mobile warfare doctrine led to the 4th Armored Division (AD) to be called the "Breakthrough Division" which required even the logistical support units to immediately follow behind the armor and mechanized infantry units in all operations. The 4th AD was the "Tip of the Spear" for the 3rd Army which was commanded by the legendary and flamboyant General George S. Patton. His Battalion Commander was the brilliant Lieutenant Colonel Creighton Abrams, for which the Army's Main Battle Tank is now named.

The 4th AD arrived in Normandy on D plus 35 and was immediately committed into combat operations on July 17, 1944, part of the main effort in breaking out of the "Hedge Row Hell" during Operation Cobra. For Ralph and his fellow soldiers their rapid advance across the French countryside was one of great personal privations that was marked with extreme physical and mental hardship, constant fatigue due to little or no rest, and the fear of uncertainty due to a continual threat of enemy counter attack, especially when running out of fuel. From the start of the 4th AD's lead in Operation Cobra to the crossing of the Meuse River, Ralph's unit logged 1,000 miles in a period of approximately 48 days.

The developed doctrinal tenets of offensive operations became a deeply engrained SOP for Ralph and his fellow Soldiers. The 4th AD set the standard to be personally "characterized by aggressiveness and teamwork." As a cohesive team, the commanders and soldiers "believed that the division's proper place was deep in the enemy rear." As one tank commander, long accustomed to operating behind German lines remarked, "They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards!"

(Continued on next page)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (cont.)

On one occasion Corporal Ralph Sumpter personally "borrowed" a truck to drive 50 miles so as to visit his brother Newt, who was assigned to the 99th Infantry Division (Checker Board Division); which was located on the Meuse River. This division was key in delaying the advance of the 1st SS Panzer Corps during the Battle of the Bulge. As history has shown, it was Ralph's 37th Armored Battalion that was a part of the "Rendezvous with Destiny" in being the first element to "Breakthrough" the German encirclement of 101st Airborne Division during the Battle of Bulge, fought from December 16, 1944 until January 25, 1945. During this period, Ralph and his fellow soldiers were called upon to move 150 miles in 19 hours in severe winter weather to save their fellow Soldiers besieged in Bastogne, Belgium. This military operation is still studied to this day.

After the Battle of the Bulge, his unit advanced into Germany and then finally securing a bridgehead on the Otava River at Strakonice, Czechoslovakia, with advance units physically in Pisek. The Czech citizens of these towns to this day celebrate their liberation by the Americans versus the Soviet Red Army. As a seasoned combat veteran of many campaigns, he and his unit members witnessed the greatest of "man's inhumanity to man" in April 1944 with the liberation of Ohrdruf concentration camp, which was a sub-camp of the Buchenwald concentration camp system. This was the first Nazi camp liberated by U.S. troops.

The horrific discovery of this camp is beyond description, which resulted in General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, to personally visit this place on April 12, with Generals George S. Patton and Omar Bradley. Immediately after this visit, Eisenhower cabled General George C. Marshall, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, describing what he witnessed at Ohrdruf. Many first-hand accounts speak of soldiers of the 4th AD openly weeping at the ghastly sights that were the direct result of Nazi cruelty.

Ralph Sumpter will be collectively missed by one and all within the American Legion community, and especially by his family. He was a model Citizen and Soldier in all ways of life. His many attributes are captured in the scripture verse of Proverbs 27:17 (DRV), "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of a friend." He truly gave much of himself to our country, to the community, to his friends and most importantly to his beloved family, whom he treasured above all else.

April 2016

SUN <u>Shrimp</u>	MON	TUE	WED	THU <u>Pizza</u>	FRI <u>Chicken</u>	SAT <u>Wings & Shrimp</u>
					1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2
3	4 ALA Bingo	5	6 <i>US Entry into WWI 1917 Gen. Membership Meeting 7 PM</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>ALA Birthday 1919</i>	11 ALA Bingo	12 SAL Meeting 7 PM	13 ALA Meeting 6 PM	14 ALR Meeting 7 PM	15	16 SAL Texas Hold'Em Tournament
17	18 <i>Patriot's Day</i> ALA Bingo	19	20 <i>Leadership Meeting 6 PM Exec. Comm. Meeting 7 PM</i>	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23 FISH FRY In the Main Hall 1pm - 5pm
24	25 ALA Bingo	26	27 <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	28	29 <i>Arbor Day</i>	30 In the Lounge 8pm-12am Band "Prime Time"

May 2016

SUN <u>Shrimp</u>	MON	TUE	WED	THU <u>Pizza</u>	FRI <u>Chicken</u>	SAT <u>Wings & Shrimp</u>
1	2 ALA Bingo	3	4 Gen Membership Meeting 7 PM	5 <i>National Day of Prayer/ Holocaust Remembrance Day/Cinco de Mayo</i>	6	7
8 <i>VE Day 1945 Mother's Day!!!</i>	9 ALA Bingo	10 SAL Meeting 7 PM	11 ALA Meeting 6 PM	12 ALR Meeting 7 PM	13	14
15 <i>Peace Officers Memorial Day</i>	16 ALA Bingo	17	18 <i>Leadership Meeting 6 PM Exec. Comm. Meeting 7 PM</i>	19	20	21 <i>Armed Forces Day</i>
22	23 ALA Bingo	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Memorial Day!!!!</i> 	31				

June 2016

SUN <u>Shrimp</u>	MON	TUE	WED	THU <u>Pizza</u>	FRI <u>Chicken</u>	SAT <u>Wings & Shrimp</u>
			1 Gen Membership Meeting 7 PM	2	3	4 AL POST 135's ELECTION DAY!!!
5	6 <i>D-Day 1944</i> ALA Bingo	7	8 ALA Meeting 6 PM	9 ALR Meeting 7 PM	10	11
12	13 ALA Bingo	14 <i>Flag Day</i> SAL Meeting 7 PM	15 <i>Leadership Meeting 6 PM Exec. Comm. Meeting 7 PM</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>Father's Day!!!</i>	20 <i>Summer begins</i> ALA Bingo	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Korean War begins 1950</i>
26	27 ALA Bingo	28	29	30		

HOURS OF OPERATION

KITCHEN		CLUB/LOUNGE	
Monday-Wednesday	11AM - 8PM	Monday-Thursday	10AM - 12AM
Thursday-Friday	11AM - 3PM	Friday-Saturday	10AM - 2AM
Saturday	11AM - 4PM	Sunday	12PM - 8PM
Sunday-Steamers Shrimp	12-6 PM		
Monday-Spaghetti AYCE	4-8 PM		
Tuesday-Hamburger Steak	4-8 PM		
Wednesday-Flounder	4-8 PM		
Thursday-Pizza	6-8 PM		
Friday-Chicken	6-8 PM		
Sat.-Wings & Fried Shrimp	6-8 PM		



RENTALS

Our Activity Hall is available for rent for weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries and special celebrations. The Ladies Auxiliary has a variety of menus to choose from for your special event. We will make every effort to make it a special occasion for you and your guests. We also have meeting rooms that would be suitable for monthly meetings, luncheons and small parties. For more information and to book your activity, please call 410-642-2325.

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SPACE AVAILABLE

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These businesses support the American Legion through donations and/or discounts. 

THE AMERICAN LEGION
SUSQUEHANNA POST 135
PO BOX 98
PERRYVILLE, MD 21903
410-642-2771

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 4
North East, MD 21901

MONTHLY MEETING TIMES

AL - 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:00 PM
ALA - 2nd Wednesday 6:00 PM
SAL - 2nd Tuesday 7:00 PM
ALR - 2nd Thursday 7:00 PM