

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • December 2017

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



Greetings from the Commander

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
FRANK CAPUTO

1st Vice Commander
DON SMOLEY

2nd Vice Commander
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
LEE PHILLIPS

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
BILL WEIKEL

Let us keep our troops and their families in our thoughts and prayers during the holiday season. I hope everyone had a very nice and Happy Thanksgiving, here's wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Reflecting on our very first Gun Bash, we sold over 400 tickets and had over 300 people attend the event, the food was exceptional. I would like to thank everyone who stepped up to help. Tom Bodner, Don Smoley, Craig Kern, Lee Phillips, Bill Allen, Pat Flaherty and Ray Michenzi came Friday to set up tables. They worked the entire day on Saturday as well. I don't have all the names of the people who helped at the event. We had help from post members, Riders and the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you to all who chipped in to help. Thank you to everyone who attended the first Gun Bash of Post 712.

God bless our troops and God bless America.

Frank Caputo,
Commander



From the Desk of the Adjutant

We would like to thank all of our members, vendors and friends of our Legion for the effort they contributed to our Gun Bash on Saturday November 18th at Salvatore's. It was our first attempt at a fund raiser this big. We will be doing a project post-mortem to analyze how much we made, what worked well and what we need to improve if we decide to do this again.

Rather than just watching our savings continue to dwindle, we are proactively investing in improvements at the Post to help us raise more revenue so that we can hopefully reach a break-even point. For our Social Hall, we purchased round tables, with optional LED lights, so that we could offer a banquet hall atmosphere for people renting our hall for special occasions like birthdays, showers, receptions etc, in addition to standard long tables for events like meetings, training sessions etc. We also asked Dan Bilski to build a partition downstairs in the room next to our social hall so that we could close off our storage area and make the room an annex to the social hall for stuff like registering members for training sessions, serving food, distributing gifts etc. For our bar area, we are investigating adding a decorative partition so that we can provide a smoke free dining area with its own air handler and at the same time allow smoking at the bar with its 2 air handler + smoke eater systems. We have members that feel strongly on both sides of the issue, so hopefully we will be able to meet smoker and non-smoker needs at the same time.

Finally, we would like to thank our Manager/Bartender Lisa Deiley for taking on the additional role as Manager and doing an outstanding job for over 5 years to keep our bar and kitchen running. Lisa recently requested to step down as manager, but will remain as bartender and will assist in helping our new Manager Debra Michalski learn the details about our Post. Deb is an ALA and Riders member with Bethel Park Legion and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience on how to run a bar and kitchen. She has many ideas on how to spruce up the bar and bring in additional revenue. Welcome aboard!

Post 712 Website:

alpost712pa.org

Letter to the NFL Players

You graduated high school in 2011. Your teenage years were a struggle. You grew up on the wrong side of the tracks. Your mother was the leader of the family and worked tirelessly to keep a roof over your head and food on your plate. Academics were a struggle for you and your grades were mediocre at best. The only thing that made you stand out is you weighed 225 lbs and could run 40 yards in 4.2 seconds while carrying a football.

Your best friend was just like you, except he didn't play football. Instead of going to football practice after school, he went to work at McDonald's for minimum wage. You were recruited by all the big colleges and spent every weekend of your senior year making visits to universities where coaches and boosters tried to convince you their school was best. They laid out the red carpet for you. Your best friend worked double shifts at Mickey D's. College was not an option for him. On the day you signed with Big State University, your best friend signed paperwork with his Army recruiter. You went to summer workouts. He went to basic training.

You spent the next four years living in the athletic dorm, eating at the training table. You spent your Saturdays on the football field, cheered on by adoring fans. Tutors attended to your every academic need. You attended class when you felt like it. Sure, you worked hard. You lifted weights, ran sprints,

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studied plays, and soon became one of the top football players in the country. Your best friend was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. While you were in college, he deployed to Iraq once and Afghanistan twice. He became a Sergeant and led a squad of 19 year old soldiers who grew up just like he did. He shed his blood in Afghanistan and watched young Americans give their lives, limbs, and innocence for the USA.

You went to the NFL combine and scored off the charts. You hired an agent and waited for draft day. You were drafted in the first round and your agent immediately went to work, ensuring that you received the most money possible. You signed for \$16 million although you had never played a single down of professional football. Your best friend re-enlisted in the Army for four more years. As a combat tested sergeant, he will be paid \$32,000 per year.

You will drive a Ferrari on the streets of South Beach. He will ride in the back of a Black hawk helicopter with 10 other combat loaded soldiers. You will sleep at the Ritz. He will dig a hole in the ground and try to sleep. You will "make it rain" in the club. He will pray for rain as the temperature reaches 120 degrees. On Sunday, you will run into a stadium as tens of thousands of fans cheer and yell your name. For your best friend, there is little difference between Sunday and any other day of the

week. There are no adoring fans. There are only people trying to kill him and his soldiers. Every now and then, he and his soldiers leave the front lines and "go to the rear" to rest. He might be lucky enough to catch an NFL game on TV. When the National Anthem plays and you take a knee, he will jump to his feet and salute the television. While you protest the unfairness of life in the United States, he will give thanks to God that he has the honor of defending his great country.

To the players of the NFL: We are the people who buy your tickets, watch you on TV, and wear your jerseys. We anxiously wait for Sundays so we can cheer for you and marvel at your athleticism. Although we love to watch you play, we care little about your opinions until you offend us. You have the absolute right to express yourselves, but we have the absolute right to boycott you. We have tolerated your drug use and DUIs, your domestic violence, and your vulgar displays of wealth. We should be ashamed for putting our admiration of your physical skills before what is morally right. But now you have gone too far. You have insulted our flag, our country, our soldiers, our police officers, and our veterans. You are living the American dream, yet you disparage our great country. I am done with NFL football and encourage all like-minded Americans to boycott the NFL as well.

POST 712 HOME ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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BOB STOODT

Vice President
FRANK CAPUTO

Secretary
ED HARMON

Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Board Members

JOHN DILLON

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.

Future Legion Events

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**Dec. 9
ARMY/NAVY
Game**

**Dec. 16
Childrens
Christmas
Party**

**Dec. 24 & 25
Merry
Christmas**

**Dec. 31
New Year's
Eve Party**

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Sons of the Legion,

I would like to thank everyone who made our hoagie sale very successful. We sold approximately 300 hoagies and had over 13 volunteers that helped with the making of the hoagies.

Once again, we will be hosting the

ARMY/NAVY game on December 9th. Cost is \$10.00.

Festivities start at 2:30pm and kickoff is at 3:00pm

Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Draft Beer and soft drinks

Come cheer on your team and wear your colors!

Upcoming events: Bus trip to a Casino (February or March)

Thank you and Merry Christmas

Gary C. Hartman

Commander of the Sons of the American Legion

SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO



Auxiliary Corner,

Thank you to Donna McCrumb for all the work she did in making the Soup Cook-Off a success. A big thank you to all of the ladies who made the soups and those who made monetary donations, along with donations for the liquor basket that was raffled off at the soup cook-off. The first place soup was Bridget Kellerman, second place soup was Chris Bodner, and third place soup was Rose Breen. Thank you to our junior member, Allison Weidmann, who helped at the welcome desk.

Changes have been made at the Post in regards to our Sarris candy sales and the **Enjoy Books**. If you would like to purchase any of these please ask the bartender, as they are not be in sight at the bar.

A sign-up sheet is at the bar for the Children's Christmas party on December 16, 2017. Please register your children and grandchildren (ages birth to age ten). Cut-off date is December 2, **no exceptions**. We will need volunteers for the day of the party and volunteers to fill the treat bags on December 13th at 5:30pm at the Post.

The Christmas party for Southwestern Veteran's Center will be on December 28, 2017 at the Center. We need volunteers to fill bags on December 27, 2017 at 6 pm at the post. Post members are welcome to join us. We welcome your attendance and assistance. On the day of the party, December 28, we leave the Post at 6:00 pm sharp.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

God bless and protect our troops.

Mary Ann Marunich

American Legion Auxiliary President

ALA OFFICERS

President
MARY ANN MARUNICH

1st Vice President
DONNA McCRUMB

2nd Vice President
VICKY GOLDEN

Secretary
MARGARET PHILLIPS

Treasurer
ANNE GIOVANNITTI

Chaplain
BARBARA TERIHAY

Sgt-At-Arms
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms
PAT O'TOOLE

NO Meeting in
December.
See you next
year 2018!



American Legion Riders,

Greetings Legionnaires:

Let's give a very special thank you with sincere appreciation going out to the Riders who attended the Veteran's Day activities at Thomas Jefferson High School on November 10th. These Riders participated in a short parade on motorcycle, no small feat during November, and interacted with the kids during their annual day of appreciation for service and recognition of Veterans: **VP Bill Allan; Sr Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner; Rider John Caligiure; Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon; Rider Dave Harris; VP Kevin Jackson; Rider Lee Phillips and Road Captain Bob Stefanic.** Thank you, Veterans and Patriots, one and all, for volunteering and paying it forward to the next generation.

The Post Gun Bash was held on November 18th and seemed like a great success. Everyone who attended had a great time and allot of lucky winners won valuable prizes. Hopefully Post 712 will make the Gun Bash an annual event for fun and as a means to raise money for the Legion. Thanks to all the Riders who Volunteered their time to support this great event: **VP Bill Allan, Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Secretary Susan Dillon, Sr. VP Ken Lancaster, Rider Paul Marthinsen, Rider Lee Phillips and Rider Margie Phillips;** though a very special shout-out goes to Susan, Lee and Margie for the work they did running all day long during the gun bash. Because of Volunteers good things happen!

The Riders are very happy to donate \$250 to the Southwest Veterans Christmas gift fund which supports the Veterans in this VA facility and another \$100 to the Post 712 Angel Tree to purchase gifts for a disadvantaged child. The Angel Tree is located at Post 712 and all patrons of the Post are very highly encouraged to support this great effort to brighten Christmas for a child.

The Riders annual Christmas Party will be held at Post 712 on Saturday, December 2nd. Invitations have been mailed so get your RSVP's turned in or call or email your response. Plans are underway for a great party. Thank you **Treasurer Beverly Weikel** who is leading the charge in planning the Christmas Party along with her committee of **Secretary Susan Dillon and Special Events Coordinator Chris Bodner.**

You can check us out on our Facebook page, *American Legion Riders Post 712* or www.facebook.com/groups/516028081916303/. The next Riders meeting is at 1900 hours, Tuesday, December 5th. See you there.

Happy Thanksgiving to One and All,
Top

Look for our Facebook Page.
American Legion Riders
Post 712 or

[www.facebook.com/
groups/516028081916303/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/516028081916303/).

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Sergeant-at-Arms
ED HARMON

Sr. Road Captain
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Road Captain
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Post 712 "First" GUN BASH 2017



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