

# NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

• 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 •

May 2016

## American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



### LEGION OFFICERS

Commander  
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Sr. Vice Commander  
AL DI LEMBO

Jr. Vice Commander  
DON ROTTMAN

Adjutant  
LINDA WOJNAR

Finance Officer  
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer  
FRANK CAPUTO

Chaplin  
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate  
BOB HARTUNG

Sgt-At-Arms  
RALPH CASCIELLO

Sgt-At-Arms  
STAN TUMAS



### Commander's Call

I will make my Commanders Call a bit short this month as many folks are just beginning to get out and enjoy the great weather. We have a great deal to look forward to over the next up-and-coming months but enjoying our families comes first.



I also want to take a moment in order to let everyone know that our Senior Vice, Al DiLembo, is recovering at home and is in great spirits. I speak to Al on a regular basis and he sounds great. We're looking forward to his return and wish him a speedy recovery.

Another item I want to mention is that I had the honor of writing my story in our last newsletter in the Our Heroes Section. I did, however, forget to mention the branch of service I spent the most time. I got so hung up in my Army experience, since this is where I began my military career straight out of high school, I forgot to mention I served an additional two years in the Army Reserves and 17 years in the Air Force Reserves. I was deployed to Bahrain over the summer of 2002. Oh well, at my age, it's OK to forget....a little...from time-to-time. The Our Hero's Section is just getting warmed up as many stories are forth-coming. You can also look forward to reading John Dillon, President of the Legion Riders, in the current newsletter.

Later this month we will be judging the six finalists in the Oratorical Achievement Award at Thomas Jefferson High School. This should be extremely interesting for both the contestants and their families. Even though we weren't sure what type of a response we would receive this year, thanks to Michael Kilkoyn, Guidance Counselor, and the teachers he consulted, this event will take place. Mr. Kilkoyn remained in contact with us and provided updates to us regarding the student responses. He is a great asset to TJHS. Look forward to reading the names of the award winners in our next newsletter.

*continued on page 6*

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## MAY 2016



CORPORATION  
OFFICERS

President  
RUSS WILSON

VicPresident  
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary  
DAN MACK

Treasurer  
ROB BUTELLI

Board Members

DAVE KRILL

JOHN DILLON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

DON ROTTMAN

Web Master  
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design  
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

<p>1</p> <p>FREE Pool and Juke Box 4:00 - Close</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Happy Hour Mon.- Fri. 4:00 - 7:00 Bucket Special</p> <p>• <b>LEGION MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Every Pirate Game \$1.00 Drafts in May</p> <p>• <b>RIDERS MEETING</b> 7:00</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>FREE Pool and Juke Box 4:00 - Close</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>HEINZ VETERANS COMING TO POST 712 FOR A PICNIC</p> <p>• <b>CORPORATION</b> <b>MEETING 7:00</b></p>	<p>10</p>  <p>FREE POP CORN</p>
<p>15</p> <p>FREE POOL 4:00 - Close FREE JUKE BOX</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Happy Hour Mon.-Thurs. 4:00 - 7:00</p> <p>Buckets of Beer \$7.50</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Free WiFi</p>
<p>22</p> <p>FREE Pool &amp; Juke Box 4:00- CLOSE</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Happy Hour 4 - 7 Monday thru Thursday</p>  <p>• <b>ALA MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>4:00 - 7:00 Bucket Special</p>
<p>29</p> <p>FREE Pool &amp; Juke Box 4:00- CLOSE</p> 	<p>30</p>  <p>Memorial Day Remember those who gave their lives for our country... Luncheon 1:00 - 3:00</p>	<p>31</p> <p>HAPPY HOUR Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00 Buckets of Beer 4 for \$7.50 (Domestics Only)</p>

Check us out... See what's new every day!

Web site: [alpost712pa.org](http://alpost712pa.org)

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## MAY 2016

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Ham BBQ</b></p>	 <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Corn Hole</b>  <b>Cinco De Mayo</b>          \$2.00 Margaritas          &amp; FREE Nachos !!!</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>REG MENU WITH CHICKEN PARM OVER PASTA</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>*See info below  <b>2:00 Kentucky Derby</b>          at 7:00 entertainment by  <b>Tony Janflone Jr. &amp; Curtis Swift</b>          (Blues Rock)</p>
 <p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Sloppy Joes</b></p>	 <p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>New Hours 4-8 w/Regular Menu and Shrimp Stuffed with Crab Meat</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>FREE POOL</b>          FREE JUKE BOX          4:00 - Close</p> 
 <p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Hot Banana Peppers</b>          Take Out Available</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Corn Hole 6:30</b>  <b>Pirates Veteran's Appreciation Night</b>          \$21 Tickets available.          See Chris Bodner and Tom Bodner.</p> 	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Regular Menu and Special Stuffed Chicen Breast, Mashed Pot. &amp; Gravy</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Free Pool</b>          FREE JUKE BOX          4:00 - Close</p> 
 <p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Meatball Hoagies</b></p>	 <p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>• SAL MESSING 7:00</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>New Hours 4-8 w/Regular Menu and Mushroom Swiss Burgers</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Free Pool</b>          FREE JUKE BOX          4:00 - Close</p> 

AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 FEATURES NON-SMOKING ATMOSPHERE IS NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY FRIDAY

\*May 7<sup>th</sup> KENTUCKY DERBY DAY at the legion begins at 2:00 pm \$2.00 mint juleps and snacks provided. Cheer on your favorite horse! Prize for best derby hat! Entertainment Tony Janflone Jr. and Curtis Swift 7-10:00



**POST 712 ANNUAL PICNIC**  
 Jefferson Park  
**August 20, 2016**

Cost: \$5.00 - Cover  
 \$20.00 - Family  
 (more details to follow)





# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



## ALA OFFICERS

President  
MARY ANN MARUNICH

1st Vice President  
DONNA McCRUMB

2nd Vice President  
VICKY GOLDEN

Secretary  
LEIGH ANNE CASTANET

Treasurer  
ANNE GIOVANNITTI

Chaplain  
BARBARA TERIHAY

Sgt-At-Arms  
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms  
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms  
PAT O'TOOLE

## Auxiliary Corner,

*Do you know. . .* that one of our post members is a resident at Southwestern Veterans Hospital? His name is Ed Remdisz. He is in room 312A, and his address is Southwestern Veterans Center, 7060 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15206. Send him a card or better yet go and visit him and say hello. On May 9 the veterans from Heinz hospital will visit our post. We will need volunteers on May 9th to show them a good time. A signup sheet will be at the bar. May 11th we will be visiting Southwestern Center for a cookout. A signup sheet will be at the bar for this event as well. May 19th we will be distributing poppies, 9:00a.m. at Walmart. We need help for that too. Our next meeting be Monday, May 23rd.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich,  
ALA President

## POST 712 ANNUAL PICNIC

*Jefferson Park*

**August 20, 2016**

*Cost: \$5.00 - Cover*

*\$20.00 - Family*

*(more details to follow)*



## SAL OFFICERS

Commander  
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander  
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander  
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant  
JAMES CHRISTOFEL

Finance Officer  
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin  
AL DANKO

Sgt-At-Arms  
TIMOTHY MOWRY

## Sons of the Legion,

*JUST A REMINDER FOR . . .*

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Fathers Day Breakfast**

*TIMES TO BE Announced.*



**Anyone Intrested in Running for the Son's Board . . .  
Let Gary Know.**

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



President  
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President  
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President  
BILL ALLAN

Secretary  
SUSAN DILLON

Sr. Road Captain  
DAN OELER

Road Captain  
STEVE HORVATH

Road Captain  
DAVE PETERSON

Road Captain  
DAN TILLERY

Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms  
TOM BODNER

Sergeant-at-Arms  
ED HARMON

Treasurer  
MIKE DUDENUS

Assistant Treasurer  
BILL WEIKEL

Adjutant  
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain  
MARK SMITH

## American Legion Riders,

Greetings and salutations American Legion Family.

Please join the Riders in extending a **Warm Welcome** to four new Riders who were voted-in during the April meeting. They are Ken Lancaster (Army Veteran); Lee Phillips (Navy Veteran); Beverly Weikel (ALA); and Tim Oeler. Tim is currently serving on Active Duty in the US Air Force. Fly high Tim, we are very proud of your service. To our newest Riders one and all – *Welcome to the American Legion Family of Post 712!*

Big news pertaining to our **Annual Ride** to benefit the Fisher House of Pittsburgh. The Ride will be held on August 14th, mark your calendars. As you recall the ride is going to the Flight 93 Memorial Park near Shanksville, PA, in remembrance as this is the 15 year anniversary of the Attacks of 9/11. Once we arrive at the Memorial we will recall the heroism and sacrifice of the 40 passengers and crew who took back Flight 93 and prevented terrorists from crashing the plane into Washington, D.C. The big change locally is that we will then return to Post 712 for our after-ride cookout, which will feature auctions, a DJ, food and refreshments. Last year the Riders held the after-ride party off-site; however, to better support Post 712 and to take advantage of the great facilities we have right here at the Post, we will conduct our after-ride party right here at our home station. Big thanks to Commander Rich Wojnar for working with the Riders to make this happen!

**Memorial Day** will be observed on Monday, May 30th. At 11:00 AM Jefferson Cemetery is conducting their annual observance that will feature guest speakers, local scout organizations, the Post 712 Color Guard, the Riders and more. Are you planning on attending, or remembering? Did you know that during 2000, the President signed into law, "The National Moment of Remembrance Act?" The Act encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3:00 PM on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the Nation.

Hooah,  
Top

Mark  
your calendar . . .  
**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Benefit Ride**  
to benefit  
Fisher House,  
Pittsburgh

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Commander's Call... continued from page 1

These are just a few of the exciting events that are presently being conducted. Over the summer, I will keep everyone posted as to our progress. If you have any ideas that you would like to pass along, please email, call, use the message box in the lobby or leave a message with the bartender addressed to my attention. I am always open to new areas to explore and suggestions for raising funds for the Legion. We really need your ideas, especially for moving the Legion forward during the summer months – this time of the year when Legion functions usually dwindle down, and rightly so, as everyone is out and about. With that in mind, I will be out pounding the ground on the Legion's behalf.

As always we support our troops.  
Richard J. Wojnar, Commander

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## PENNSYLVANIA YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

Pennsylvania's Yellow Dot Program was created to assist citizens in the "golden hour" of emergency care following a traffic crash when they may not be able to communicate themselves. Placing a yellow dot in your vehicles rear window alerts first responders to check your glove compartment for viable information to ensure that you receive the critical medical attention you need. Participants complete a personal information portion in the booklet, which includes the participant's name contact information, emergency contact information, medical history and medications, allergies and the participant's doctors contact information. A photo showing only the participant's head and shoulders is in then taped on the spot allocated in the booklet.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

For more information on Pennsylvania Yellow Dot Program or to request a kit, visit [www.YellowDot.pa.gov](http://www.YellowDot.pa.gov). You can also call the PennDot Sales Store at: 717-787-6746.

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## POST 712 to HONOR OUR WWII and KOREAN WAR ERA VETERANS in 2016

Post 712 will honor our Legion members who have served in WWII and the Korean War Eras. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters. We would encourage all WWII Veterans and Korean War Veterans to be sure we have your current phone number and email address on file. To update your phone number or email call 412-616-1834 or send an email to: [adjpost712@verizon.net](mailto:adjpost712@verizon.net).

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran facing challenges in your everyday life . . . You are not alone.

There are millions of Veterans and family members who have reached out for support during tough times. Their lives got better. Yours can to. There's a resource just for you. [MakeTheConnection.net](http://MakeTheConnection.net) is an online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends and other supports with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives. I have checked out this web site and it is very interesting and informative [maketheconnection.net/resources](http://maketheconnection.net/resources)

### GIVE IT A LOOK

#### AGIA INSURANCE: \$5,000.00 ACCIDENT PROTECTION LEGION MEMBER-ONLY BENEFIT

- As a Legionnaire, you're eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST To You benefits. But your Confirmation is REQUIRED for full activation.
- Register by phone at: 1-800-235-6943
- Register online at: <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare>

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## 5 REASONS TO USE YOUR VA LOAN BENEFIT IN 2016

This is your year to use your earned benefits. The VA Loan is a special benefit that civilians just don't get; here is why you need to get more information right now:

### Lock in a Low Rate with Your VA Loan

1. Don't Need 20% Down
  2. Get Competitive Low Rate
  3. Can Refinance without Re-qualifying
  4. Never Pay PMI
  5. Can get Financing of up to \$417,000
- Find VA Lenders Ready to Help You Buy or Refinance

## MILITARY NEWS

Just in---Now you can access military news all in one place from anywhere with the new-- the News App from [Military.com](http://Military.com). The latest update allows you to customize your newsfeed to see stories you're most interested in. Download for Android or upgrade for your iPhone. Handpick your newsletter by military branch or news topic. Get notified of top stories, and critical pay & benefit updates. Share breaking news with your social networks. Choose exclusive military discounts on the go. Free. Easy to customize. Made for the Military. Military News App by [Military.com](http://Military.com).

## PROPOSAL TO END VA HEALTHCARE

*This proposal is astounding in its callous disregard for the special treatment circumstances of veterans and the need for historical professional understanding. Furthermore, it proposes the wholesale abandonment of billions of dollars worth of established infrastructure and dismantling of functioning organizations.*

*If the VA healthcare system has problems (and it does from my own experience), then identify those problems and work them. In my view, a lot of the problems exist because of the way the laws were written that set up the systems in use. If the system, or part of it works, then keep it. If it doesn't, then shit-can it and come up with something that does. This proposal is astounding in its callous disregard for the special treatment circumstances of veterans and the need for historical professional understanding. Furthermore, it proposes the wholesale abandonment of billions of dollars worth of established infrastructure and dismantling of functioning organizations.*

## May 19th Pirates Veterans Appreciation Night

Tickets available for the Pirates game on Thursday, May 19th, for Veterans Appreciation Night. The Pirates play the Atlanta Braves at 7:05 PM. Tickets are \$21 per person. POC's for this event are Chris Bodner and Tom Bodner. Great opportunity to see the Bucco's play. Reach out to Tom and Chris for more information.

## CPR Classes will resume in September

Call 412-616-1834

Classes to be held at the Legion Post 712  
Cost: \$10 Per Person  
Class Size: Min. 6 - Max. 12  
call 412-616-1834  
or sign up at the bar

## TAPS



With Honor and Gratitude  
We Remember. . .

**DAVID NICKLAS**  
4/2016

May you Rest in Peace my Friend.





## OUR HEROES

### JOHN DILLON

**President of the American Legion Riders**

*Many of us know John Dillon, or Top, as the President of the American Legion Riders. However there is more to the story of this 25 year Army Veteran. John enlisted in the Army Reserves as a junior in high school and began drilling with the 420th Combat Engineer Company in East Liberty while attending high school and college. After five years he enlisted in the Regular Army and began his active duty career where he served an additional 20 years as an Infantryman and Army CID Special Agent. As an Infantryman John served as a Sniper and Squad Leader among other duties. As a CID Special Agent he held an array of positions including Special Agent-in-Charge and Battalion First Sergeant.*

*During his career John was assigned to numerous locations including Korea, Germany, Fort Campbell, KY and Fort Riley, KS. He deployed or was assigned TDY too many far-flung locations including various locations in the Middle East, England, Portugal, Bulgaria, Israel and even Russia. When asked his favorite assignment John will answer that it is a toss-up between the three years he served as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Augsburg (Germany) CID Resident Agency where he was able to lead a wide array of investigations working with an international community or the three years he served as the CID Battalion First Sergeant at Fort Riley, KS, where he was responsible for all matters involving Non-Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Service Members. This last assignment, as the Battalion First Sergeant, is where John garnered his nickname, "Top"; as the traditional Army nickname for the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Battalion.*



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*John's awards include the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal (4); though he is equally proud of being awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his service to help youth in the Army Community. John also had the distinction of being named as the CID Special Agent of the Year and in being selected to attend the New Scotland Yard Police Academy in London, England.*

*John's life partner is our very own Susan Dillon, ALA member and Secretary of the Legion Riders. Both John and Susan grew up in the South Hills and attended Robert Morris University. John and Susan spend their leisure time riding motorcycles, traveling and volunteering to aid Veterans and youth in need. John currently works as a Director of Security for a Fortune 50 company and is the Executive Sponsor of his company's VetNet program that works to support not only Veteran employees of the company, but also Veteran support organizations throughout Pennsylvania.*



*Liberation of Kuwait, 1991*



*Saudi Arabia, Awards Ceremony*



*Sniiper Team Section, Korea*

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The American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest regarding Abraham Lincoln and the veterans has been closed. There were three essays submitted from our unit. Allison Weidmann, Adam Weidmann and Kenneth McCrumb. Allison and Kenneth were winners at our unit level. Both were sent forward to the county level. Where Kenneth won the county and is now being judged by the state department.

## Keeping Lincoln's Promise

By: Adam Weidmann

Lincoln's promise was to keep all the veterans and their family safe and healthy. Lincoln knew that battle and war are tough because he served as a volunteer in the Black Hawk War. Lincoln showed respect to all vets for their service to our country. We need to keep the promise that Lincoln made to our country veterans and their family.

We can keep the promise to the vets just by doing the little things. First, we can donate food to vets by doing food drives. Next, we can donate clothing to some drives for veterans. Then, those who have glasses can donate them to older vets. Many know of a way we can donate to the retired soldiers who may have been in battle and combat. Lincoln promised to keep the veterans safe and by donating is a wonderful way of keeping that wonderful promise.

Also, we can help keep the promise to the vets by saying a simple five words to them "thank you for your service". Saying those words to veterans mean a lot to them. Those words lighten up his and/or hers day. "The words thank you for your service" puts a smile on their face! On Veteran's Day, call who you know that has served and say, "Thank you for your service."

In short, we have to respect veterans that have served our country by donating things like glasses, food, etc...and by simply thanking them for their service. These are only a few ways to keep the promise. There are many more ways you can keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans.

## How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?

By: Kenneth S. McCrumb

In Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address to the American people, he promised to care for all veterans and their families. We keep his promise today in many ways. I will talk about those ways in the next paragraphs of this essay.

One way we can keep his promise is by making hospitals available for ill and disabled veterans. These are the Veterans Administration hospitals that are in various areas in the United States.

Another way to help veterans and their families is by visiting them, talking to them and keeping them company. My grandmother, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, makes visits with other Auxiliary members to the South Western Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh. They play bingo with the veterans and talk to them while they eat the food the ladies brought for them. Individually, we can make non-perishable food donations, clothing and toiletries.

Another way to donate to help the veterans is through an organization called Fisher House Foundation. There are sixty-five Fisher House locations on twenty-four military installations, and twenty-four medical centers. These houses are a temporary residence and are not a treatment facility, hospice or counseling center. The program began in 1990 and has offered more than six million days of lodging to veterans. There are many donation programs associated with this foundation including, Hero Miles, where frequent flyer miles can be donated and Hotels for Heroes, where Hotel Rewards Points can be donated. Unwanted cars, trucks, RVs or planes, running or not, can be donated through the V-DAC program.

In conclusion, these are some of the ways that we, as Americans, can keep Abraham Lincoln's promise by helping our veterans and their families.

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## Lincoln's Promise

By: Allison Weidmann

Lincoln's promise helps people remember how much our veterans do for us and how much we need to respect them and their families. In Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, he promised, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." This promise from Lincoln helps veterans around the country get the respect they deserve.

There are so many little things that all people can do to keep Lincoln's promise every-day. First of all, no matter a person's size or gender, they should have the manners and respect to our country to thank a veteran or someone currently in the service every time they are seen. If every veteran got the admiration they deserve when wearing a service uniform, I believe more younger kids would have the courage to fight for our country. Kids and teens look up to people who are very well respected and want to become something like them to get the same amount of honor. Also to care for our veterans is uniting us as a strong and brave country. When treating our service men and women as an elite group of the United States, it shows other countries how united we are as a country and a workforce. Saying thank you could be one of the easiest things and can really make a veteran proud of their work and keep Lincoln's promise.

Another way to keep help our veterans and keep Lincoln's promise is to send care packages over sea to the men and women currently serving us. Sending just the simplest things to the military could make their day. In elementary schools, teachers help every student write letters to someone overseas to thank them for all their service to our country. Little do they know that they are making so many people happy and keeping Lincoln's promise just as little kids. Lastly, going to see the many memorials around the United States is another way to respect our veterans without even realizing it. People spend so much time building memorials to dedicate them to our service men and women. This is a huge act that respects veterans, their families, and Lincoln's promise.

Lincoln's promise is a great way that veterans and their families get the respect they deserve. Everyone around the country can do so many little things to keep his promise alive.

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Some PHOTOS from MARCH and APRIL

