

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • October 2016

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



Commander's Call



LEGION OFFICERS 2016-2017

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FRANK CAPUTO

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CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
LINDA WOJNAR

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STAN TUMAS

We have planned and experienced exceptionally busy months over this past year and September has been no different. From the last week of August until this past weekend, events have been nonstop. Each event requires volunteers. Events are successful primarily because we have dedicated volunteers who come forth and make this happen. Beginning with the Poppy sale at Kennywood Park, under extremely hot weather conditions, our folks did not let that stop them from hauling a portable tent, setting up tables and chairs, performing other various tasks, and then putting on smiling faces to greet the public.

We hosted the World War II/ Korean War Era dinner for our own members of Post 712 which ended up to be the largest event ever held at our Legion. This event has received rave reviews from numerous circles of folks: local veterans who are also politicians, American Legion District and State Representatives, our own members, and most importantly from our honored veterans and their family members themselves. We have received numerous calls and emails from our veterans thanking us for a job extremely well planned and well done. We also had many calls from the members we contacted to invite them to the dinner, but who were unable to attend for a variety of reasons. They couldn't thank us enough for planning an event to honor them. Many of them said they were honored to even receive the invitation. We also received an email from a community member, unrelated to the Post, who after reading the article in the Post-Gazette wished we had put the event on You Tube for all members of the community to experience. I also met with former U.S Navy JAG Officer (Senator) Guy Reschenthaler the next day and both he and his staff said that the event was one of the most honorable and smoothest events that they can recall. As I stated at the dinner, there were numerous volunteers who need to take the bulk of the credit for the success of this event.

On September 11th, we held a remembrance to recognize the heroes who are no longer with us as well as the heroes who lived through this tragic event while saving countless lives of others. Again, please accept my sincerest thank you to all of those volunteers. A few days later we held a ceremony to remember, and to never forget, our past and present POW/MIAs. Volunteering at these military-related events are extremely important. Let us never forget that it is a time to reflect on the meaning behind the "Missing Man" (Fallen Comrade) Table. The table is set up to symbolize the member who is missing from the table. These recognition ceremonies are the fabric that holds our nation together. Next

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Commander's Call continued from Page 1

month, we will include information to explain the symbolism for the items on the POW/MIA Table for those of you who are unfamiliar with this event.

On Sunday, September 18, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) led by the Commander of the SAL, Gary Hartman, hosted a dinner during the Steeler games that was second to none! The parking lot was packed. It was great to see so many folks who shared in this dinner. As with any dinner, the greatest news is that it was so well attended there were no left overs and it was quite obvious why it was so well attended, since the meal was absolutely delicious. Please read our newsletters and plan accordingly so that you, too, can attend the next SAL dinner, but make sure you come early! Wow, what a month – already. Each and every person who volunteered, please accept my sincerest thank you. If you haven't volunteered, please consider doing so. Although our dedicated volunteers offer countless hours of support, you will receive the greatest sense of satisfaction knowing you make a difference, and other members will not feel as though they are the only ones carrying all of these events.

Switching gears to business, we are extremely proud to report that our Post received a certificate from the National Legion Headquarters for reaching a goal of 100% membership in 2016. This is not an easy task. It takes nearly daily communications with our members as well as with the State Legion Headquarters and viewing Legion websites to check for those members who renewed online to be able to send membership cards in a timely manner to all of our members. We are very proud of this award. We are the largest Legion in District 36 and to be recognized for new and renewed membership is a real feat. I would like to thank our first-year Adjutant, Linda, as well as all members who recruited new members in 2016. I would like to recognize Bill Martinis, Treasurer, who writes the checks and mails the cards to the State for all of the memberships. I would also commend the State for providing an online database where we could view the names of members who have moved to our area and who may be interested in joining our Post.

I also need to express my thanks to more folks, but they are not listed in any certain order. First, thank you to Ruth Mowry Satler, who was a 95 year old Army Wac from our area, who has passed away and who listed Post 712 in her will to receive a donation of \$1000 to our Veterans' Fund. Her donation provided immediate support to help us pay for the WWII/ Korean War Era Dinner. As soon as her family sends us more bio information about Ruth we plan to write an article about her as a thank you for her generosity. Some of our WWII members knew Ruth and knew about her extensive military career. Her nearest relative lives in North Carolina. We have contacted her, thanked her, and invited her and her family to

represent Ruth at the dinner. That was the least we could do.

So many times we read or hear that donations, which were designated to be spent on specific charities for special reasons, were put toward salaries of management in the organizations and the money was not utilized as requested. Another thank you must go out to the SAL members for their generous donation to the WWII/ Korean War Era dinner as they host many events at the Post and we must be recognize and support them as well. Thank you to our ALA members for their donations as well. Along with other donations the ALA handed out Remembrance Crosses to every WWII/Korean War Era Veteran who attended our event. This truly was an event we will remember for a life-time. Next month and in future newsletters, we are also going to have a "Thank You" Section on our web page in order to thank the local businesses who came to our aid, some of whom participate behind the scenes for our events. It was very refreshing to see new faces who came forth and volunteered for the Sept 3rd Dinner and the POW/MIA Ceremony. Your assistance and presence did not go unnoticed. Thank you!

As for information sharing, I want to pass along that at the last SAL meeting in August I was voted in as their Adjutant. This is a great honor to me. I am proud to work along with the many unsung folks in this group whose hard work in front of and behind the scenes make their events so successful. I commit that I will give tireless effort to the SAL and their members in order for them to get their just-do.

In closing, and as previously stated, I thank everyone for his or her loyalty, support, and participation. Every decision I make is for the betterment of your Legion and every decision is brought to you, the members, before any implementation.

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

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Service Officer:

DON SMOLEY 412-655-6618

- Contact for information about the rights, benefits, and programs for veterans and their families.

- Assistance with claims - forms or other questions concerning our members

- Members who are in need of VA

Services who are having difficulty getting appointments, etc.

- Notification of death of members –

Requests for Funeral Details/ Services
Adjutant:

LINDA WOJNAR 412-616-1834

- ALL LEGION CORRESPONDENCE (parade requests, community day events, mail regarding ALL Legion business, community requests, etc.)

- Membership – New and Transfers – Verification of DD214's for Post 712

- Requests for Color Guard/ Requests to be on the Color Guard

Home Association Manager:

THAD WEIDMANN 412-512-1301

- Social Membership – New and Renewals

- Key Cards for access to Post 712

Ist. Vice Commander:

FRANK CAPUTO 412-983-5037

- (Downstairs) Room Rentals/ Catering, etc.

- Eagle Scout Projects

RECRUITING FOR POST 712 COLOR GUARD MEMBERS

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Post 712 Color Guard, please call the Post adjutant at 412-616-1834 so that she has your most recent contact information. A list is being compiled at this time for those members who would be available to participate at various events (i.e. parades, Memorial Day services, events at-the-Post, etc. Our next event is marching in the Pleasant Hills Halloween Parade on 10/25.16. This includes Legion, SAL and ALA (flag bearers or rifle team). John Dillon, President of the Legion Riders will be notified of these events as well.

2017 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

From the Post 712 Adjutant
To avoid receiving late notices and reminders from National, you can pay your 2017 dues early by mail to Post 712, online at <http://www.myLegion.org>, or you can pay your dues at the bar.

Please record your phone number on your dues renewal slip or on your check when you pay your dues. It is vital for us to have your most current information on file.

To date, 578 Legion members have paid their 2017 dues. This takes us to 69% of our members who have paid their 2017 dues so far. Please pay your dues as soon as possible so that we reach the target dates National has set for our post.

Thank you in advance!

AMERICAN LEGION PAID UP FOR LIFEPROGRAM (PUFL)

- You may choose 12 monthly installments
- No more renewal notices
- Avoid future dues increases

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card National. For more information about the PUFL program, call customer service at (800)-433-3318.



HOME ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2016-2017

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Vice President
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary

Treasurer

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JOHN DILLON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

FRANK CAPUTO

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.

BOB STOODT

RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

- Submit payment of your annual membership dues;
- Eliminate paper renewal notices by setting your account to have your notices delivered via email;
- If you are already paid for the current year, you can set your account for automatic future renewals using your credit/debit card;
- Have your Legion membership card readily available when you login online;
- The Post receives reimbursement in a timely manner – within 30 days and receives credit immediately toward our membership goals;
- Excellent way to avoid numerous PAST DUE Notices;
- Access the following website to renew your membership online:
<http://www.legion.org/renew>



**SAL OFFICERS
2016-2017**

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO

Sons of the Legion,

We would like to thank everyone that came to the September Steelers dinners. We had our regulars and also had a few new faces. Unfortunately, in October, the cook will not be in town for the October 9th game, but we will be starting up again for the November games. Menus will be in the November newsletter. Hope to see everyone back in November.

Thank you,
Commander of the SONS,
Gary Hartman

Auxiliary Corner,

We have just returned from the spring conference and picked up a lot of new ideas. Please try to attend the next meeting so we can pass these on to you. The dinner that the post had for the veterans was one of the best that I have attended. The commander and his wife saw to it that everything went smoothly. I want to thank all of the ALA members who participated to help make this an event our post will long be remembered for. The final report on the flea market is not in yet and we will be passing that information on to you. We had a lot of help in setting up and selling and proving once again that we have a great group of women. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you to each and everyone. Legion College will be held on November 5th. Anyone can attend and it would be a good way to learn how our ALA operates. We had a good poppy sale and once again we had a good turnout. Thank you ladies.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops
Mary Ann Marunich
ALA President



**ALA OFFICERS
2016-2017**

President
MARY ANN MARUNICH

1st Vice President
DONNA McCRUMB

2nd Vice President
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Secretary
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Sgt-At-Arms
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms
PAT O'TOOLE



American Legion Riders,

Greetings American Legion Family: Please join the Riders in welcoming Army Veteran **Brian Kohl** to the Riders. Hooah!

On September 6th the Riders and guests volunteered to chaperon a Vet's cruise on the Gateway Clipper Fleet. This event allows Vets who are shut-in to spend some time outside with other Vets and relax on the water. Thank You for all you do **Bill Allan, Tom Bodner, Mike Dudenas, Ed Harmon, Dave Englert, Jeff Jackson, Kevin Jackson, Donna McCrumb, Dave Saunier, Mark Smith and Patty Smith.**

The Welcome Home Dinner for WWII and Korean War Era Veterans was a nice event. These Vets enjoyed the day with their families and fellow Veterans. Thank you Riders who came out to support the event by working in the kitchen, serving food and doing all the little chores that had to be done for this event to be successful: **Chris Bodner, Tom Bodner, John Dillon, Susan Dillon, Jim Easley, Lee Phillips, Marge Phillips, Beverly Weikel and Bill Weikel.** And thank you **Ed Harmon** for your Service!

The Riders want to also thank the ALA for all they do to support Veterans and for the ALA's partnership with the Rider's on several different projects throughout the year. **Great job ALA!**

Did you know Rider **Paul Weinheimer** donated a 1/2 barrel of beer to the Riders who provided it to the Post. That beer was used for the Post's Volunteer Party, for bar sales and even for the Post Picnic on August 20th. Wow. Thank you Paul.

The Riders wanted to spruce up and highlight the **Missing Man Table** in the corner of the Post. To do this we placed flag spreaders on the USA and POW/ MIA flags flanking the table. It looked so good we also placed flag spreaders on the USA and Riders flags in the conference room. We hope you like them Legion Family and let's all take a few minutes to remember our brothers and sisters who never came home.

Our September Ride is to Deep Creek, MD for open roads, fresh crabs and great camaraderie. *The Riders next meeting is at 1900 hours, Tuesday, October 4th.*

Hooah,
Top

President
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Road Captains
KEN LANCASTER
BOB STEFANIC
DAN TILLERY

October 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

PIZZA TOPPINGS

Pepperoni

Onions

Sausage

Banana Peppers

we have . . .
nachos
popcorn

ROOM RENTALS • ROOM RENTALS • ROOM RENTALS • ROOM RENTALS

Contact Person: Frank Caputo 412-983-5037 or fdcap@verizon.net

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- Much, much more.....

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• • •

Web Master

THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design

DONNA ROTTMAN

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

| | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----|---|----|
| BEER SPECIAL & FREE NACHOS DURING GAME AT 8:30  FREE POOL 4-8 | 2 |  POST MEETING 7:00 | 3 |  RIDERS MEETING 7:00 MOSCOW MULE \$3.50 | 4 |
|  GAME 1:00 FREE POOL | 9 |  HOME ASSOCIATION MEETING 7:00 | 10 | SAM ADAMS SPECIAL \$2.50 | 11 |
|  1:00 GAME FREE POOL 4-8 | 16 |  WE HAVE NACHOS & PIZZA | 17 | CREAMSICLE DRINK SPECIAL \$2.50  BOWLING | 18 |
|  GAME 4:25 FREE POOL | 23 |  ALA MEETING 7:00 | 24 |  CAPTAIN MORGAN BAEWATCH \$2.50 | 25 |
| 30 | | HALLOWEEN DRINK SPECIAL APPLE CIDER FLOAT | 31 | | |

















October 2016

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Put these dates on your calendar . . .</p> <p>NOVEMBER 12TH LIP SYNC/KARAOKE</p> <p>NOVEMBER 19TH PRIME RIB NIGHT</p> | | <p>NO SMOKING</p> <p>during the</p> <p>Friday Dinners</p> <p>4 - 8:00 pm</p> | |  <p>FREE POOL</p>  <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p> | 1 |
|  <p>5</p> <p>HOT MEATLOAF SANDWICHES & MASHED POTATOES \$6.75</p> |  <p>6</p> <p>6:30</p> | <p>KITCHEN CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE</p> <p>7</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL- BREADED PORK CUTLETS & POTATO PANCAKES</p> |  <p>8</p> <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p> <p>4 - CLOSE</p>  | | |
| <p>KIELBASA & KRAUT \$4.75 SANDWICHES</p> <p>12</p>  |  <p>13</p> <p>FREE POPCORN</p> | <p>14</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL CHICKEN ROMANO, BAKED POTATO, SALAD & ROLLS</p> |  <p>FREE POOL 4-8</p> <p>15</p> <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p>  | | |
|  <p>19</p> <p>STUFFED SHELLS, SMALL SALAD & ROLL \$6.75</p> |  <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL STUFFED PEPPERS MASHED POTATOES SALAD & ROLLS</p> |  <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p> <p>22</p> <p>FREE POOL 4-8</p>  | | |
|  <p>26</p> <p>HOT TURKEY SANDWICHES, MASHED POTATOES \$6.75</p> |  <p>27</p> <p>SAL MEETING 7:00</p> | <p>28</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS, SALAD & GARLIC TOAST</p> | <p>29</p> <p>HALLOWEEN DANCE 8 - 12:00 D.J. TIM & PRIZES AWARDED FOR BEST COSTUME</p> | | |



Thad Weidmann
United States Air Force
April 1966 - February 1970

The government had a lottery system in the sixties to determine who would be drafted. I was rated 1A physically with a low lottery number, so there was no doubt I would be going. I had gone to work for Bell of PA (which eventually became Verizon) soon after graduating high school. I received my draft notice about 6 months later.

There can be times in your life when other people will have a major impact on your life. One of those times for me, was when I went to see an Air Force Recruiter. At that point in my life, just out of high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do for a career, but I felt the Air Force might be a better fit for me, even though it would be for 4 years. When I went back to see him to get the results of the entrance test I took, he said I aced all 4 sections and could pick anything I wanted. I said I did not know which one to pick and asked him what he recommended. He said electronics. I said OK and enlisted in April 1966. Bell of PA gave me a Military Leave of Absence to enlist in the Air Force. When I got to technical school at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi after basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, I had that Eureka moment "Electronics was the career I was looking for!". Getting hooked on Star Trek on it's original network airing while at tech school also helped fuel my fascination with electronics. I finished tech school for Ground Radio Communication Equipment Repair (MOS 30454) in November 1966.

I got my orders at the end of tech school for an 18 month tour at Incirlik AFB in Turkey, which has been in the news lately. My 2 roommates both got orders for Vietnam. I called my then fiancée, Pat Babjak, and said let's get married while I am home on leave. I



did not tell her where I was going until after we got married.

It seemed at the time that the odds were against us getting married. We were both 19 and both parents thought we were too young. Someone stole my wife's wedding dress at an Isaly's after she picked it up to bring home, so she had to go buy another one. We had no place to have a wedding reception, so one of her cousins let us use her unfinished basement. On the plus side, my best man and I both wore our Air Force uniforms for our wedding on December 3, 1966. Somehow, we made it through that and other hurdles. I will be married to my best friend 50 years on December 3, 2016. The church we were married in (the previous Holy Trinity church in Duquesne) was not so fortunate. It is scheduled to be demolished after being abandoned for many years and replaced by the new church in West Mifflin.

I left for Turkey on New Year's Day 1967 on Pan Am flights that took me to the airports in New York, London (England), Paris (France), Athens (Greece) and finally Ankara (Turkey) over several days. I then got a bus from Ankara to Incirlik AFB. For heat on the bus, they used an open can with kerosene on fire. It was an unusual trip, but nothing compared to those who went overseas on troop ships for a month. I felt very fortunate.

My assignment at Incirlik AFB was to maintain the VHF and UHF transmitters and receivers used to communicate with aircraft during takeoff and landing. We also took care of radio equipment at remote surveillance sites in the mountains. Going off base and interacting with the local people was interesting. For some reason, you

had the idea that if you spoke louder, they would magically understand you, which, of course, didn't work. On the flip side, sometimes you were going through animations trying to make the store owner understand what you wanted, only to find out he spoke English. The public men's room was also a surprise with just a hole in the floor and no fixtures.

One of my favorite memories from Turkey was in the Airmen's Club. When the jukebox started playing 'We Gotta Get Out of This Place' by the Animals, everyone stopped what they were doing and started singing the song.

My father's lung cancer got worse while I was in Turkey. The Red Cross got me an emergency leave, along with a seat on a military cargo C-141 Starlifter. I flew home with a replacement jet engine in my lap stopping in Madrid, Spain to refuel and landing in Charlestown, South Carolina. One thing about leaving the states, it makes you appreciate what we have here when you return. The Red Cross also got me a Humanitarian Reassignment to McGuire AFB in New Jersey. Some people are not fans of the Red Cross, but they were a major help for me.

I was supposed to stay within 100 Miles of McGuire AFB, but we wound up driving home to Pittsburgh in a sixty Corvair to see my father almost every weekend. I was hoping that if the car broke down, it would be within 100 miles of the base. My father passed away July 4th.

My assignment at McGuire AFB was to maintain the VHF and UHF transmitters and receivers used to communicate with aircraft during takeoff and landing, similar to Incirlik AFB in Turkey. I was able to live off base and my wife was able to join me. My wife got an office job at a state home for mentally challenged kids. She loved working with them. Our first home in New Jersey was an 8 foot wide trailer with a gravity feed oil furnace. One night our neighbor was beating on our door yelling that our trailer was on fire. The furnace flame had gone out and oil continued to drip into the furnace. With the excess oil in the furnace, flames began shooting out of the chimney after I re-lit it. We were later able to rent a house closer to where my wife worked. Our base was right next to Fort Dix and we could watch them while driving to work. Their basic training was way harder than mine. This was my favorite assignment. It was like a regular job and every once in awhile, you had to watch out for pranks like someone blowing cigarette smoke in the back of a transmitter you just turned back on after repairing it. If I could have stayed at McGuire AFB, I might have stayed in for 20 years.

My last assignment was at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida. I was able to live off base and have Pat stay with me here also. She got an office job at a local department store. I was assigned to a mobile communication

squadron that was part of a joint Army/Air Force task force called the United States Strike Command (See Wikipedia). Our job was to be ready at a moment's notice to go anywhere in the world to provide Short Wave and Microwave communications if US troops were deployed as part of a military action. Our unit had been deployed to North Africa several months before I got there. Some of the guys in our unit had been to Vietnam. Several of them had lost communication with another unit, only to find out the other unit had been blown up by the Viet Cong. To keep our skills up, they would periodically call an alert at 3 AM and have everyone deploy, sometimes to a large field within 50 miles of our base and other times to an Army base like Ft Hood, Texas via C-130 cargo planes. You had to lip read to communicate while airborne because the noise was deafening. We had 3/4 ton trucks with short wave equipment and whip antennas and other 3/4 ton trucks with microwave equipment and satellite type dishes. Both had generators associated with them that you had to keep running when we were deployed by changing the Jerry (gas) cans as they would run out. Snakes would sometimes wrap themselves around the fuel lines to keep warm, so you had to keep an eye open. We also had deuce and a half (2 1/2 ton) trucks that pulled

large trailers used for communication centers that had turbine (like jet engines) generators. We used to warm up our C Rations in the exhaust of these turbines. To keep the communication cables between trucks off the ground, we propped them up on top of lance poles set up like a letter 'A'. Four months before I got out, after coming back to the base after one of these local deployments, I was standing on the front wheel of the deuce and a half trailer with my hand against the lance poles that were strapped to the side of the trailer. I jumped down off the wheel, but my wedding ring got caught on a nail that was sticking out of one of the lance poles. By the time I hit the ground, my finger was ripped off by my wedding ring. Surprisingly, there was very little pain or blood. I guess I was in shock. I took the rest of my finger to the hospital hoping they could sew it back on, but they could not because of the way it was ripped off. The exposed bone hitting the bottom of the aluminum bowl of antiseptic solution they were soaking my hand in sent chills through me. They amputated the rest of the bone sticking out so they could close the wound, put a pressure cast on my arm from my fingers to my elbow and give me a sling. Right after that, my wife had a heavy floor fan fall on her foot and we went to the hospital again, this time for her. We had to laugh at the hospital at how we must have looked walking down the hall with me in a sling and her hanging on me limping with a broken foot. Fortunately, the finger I lost was not critical. I can still function normally, but with a little less lifting ability. I even adapted somehow to continue to be able to touch type without having any idea how I am accomplishing it. The VA gave me a 10% disability. Compared to the many horror stories I soon heard from people trying to make me feel better (like farmers having their foot pulled into their harvesting equipment while trying to clear a jam and then having their arm pulled in while trying to pull their foot out), I was very lucky.

One of my favorite memories from MacDill AFB was watching the B52 bombers take off. It was amazing watching this plane (with wings so long that they had wheels on the end of them to keep them from dragging on the ground) lumbering down the runway and using every inch of it to build up enough speed to take off.

After I got out, I used the GI Bill to further my electronic education doing correspondence courses that included building an entire 25 inch Heathkit transistorized TV that lasted me for 20 years. Bell of PA promoted me to the level I would have been if I hadn't gone into the service and bridged my time so I didn't lose any seniority. The electronics background I got from the Air Force allowed me to excel first as a Switching Equipment Technician maintaining the local switching offices, followed by working in a central monitoring center responsible for all Bell of PA switching offices in Western PA and then as a supervisor for a total of 38 years when I retired in November 2003.

After retiring from Verizon, I became a Life Member of VFW Post 188 in Duquesne and volunteered to be Quartermaster and Adjutant from 2007-2015 (8 years). I also joined the American Legion in Dravosburg and became a Paid-Up-For-Life member. I later transferred to Pleasant Hills when I found out my son, Mike, and his Father-in-Law Don Rottman were members here.

Don Rottman's wife, Donna, and I began working on the current newsletter with Donna developing the newsletter and me making bar copies. I later began a joint web site venture (alpost712pa.org) with Paul McQuade developing the web site and me maintaining and updating it each month from Donna's newsletter. In addition, Paul set up the web site so that I could e-mail Donna's newsletter. I also created a Facebook presence (AmericanLegion.PostSevenOneTwo) to further distribute Donna's newsletter and provide a daily activity broadcast. We are currently distributing Donna's newsletter to approx 400 unique visitors on our web site each month, 198 e-mail recipients, 397 Facebook friends and 100 bar copies for a total of approximately 1095 contacts.

Because of my experience with the Duquesne VFW, I was hired by the American Legion Home Association (Pleasant Hills Post 712 Inc.) in June 2015 to pay the bills and later promoted to Manager in October 2015 to also process bar money and social membership. I

was unable to do both VFW and Legion jobs, so I resigned the VFW Quartermaster and Adjutant positions in October 2015. I attended the final Post meeting of the Duquesne VFW in August 2016. Because of many repairs needed and lack of funds to do them, the insurance company refused to renew their insurance. The VFW members were forced to vote to surrender their charter, building and contents to State VFW.

One rewarding thing involving my time in the Service was my nephew, Mark Babjak, joined the Air Force, went to the same tech school (Keesler AFB), learned the same MOS (Ground Radio Repair), had an assignment at McGuire AFB, had an assignment in

the Middle East at Qatar and used the GI Bill after he got out to further his education at the University of Pittsburgh, earning a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. I thought this was an amazing coincidence until I later found out he had specifically requested these assignments because that's what I had done and he felt that I had done well. It's a great feeling seeing your values being reflected back to you by family members.

*August 28, 2016
Sold Poppys at Kennywood
for the first time.*



SEPTEMBER CEREMONIES AT POST 712



**SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
DAY OF REMBERANCE**



**SEPTEMBER 16, 2016
POW/MIA**

World War II/ Korean War Era dinner held on September 3, 2016

*Pennsylvania American Legion Dignitaries
Guest Speakers and Honored Guests:*

Guy Reschenthaler

- Current Member of Post 712 American Legion
- Former U. S. Navy Judge Advocate
- Requested and served in Iraq
- Pennsylvania State Senator-37th District

Dr. Rick Saccone

- Member of the American Legion
- USAF, Ret. (20 Years)
- Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

William C Kortz II

- SAL Member of Post 380
- Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

William Crookshank

- Deputy Commander of Post 924

See photos on the next page

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • October 2016

WORLD WAR II/ KOREAN WAR ERA DINNER HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2016



Guy Reschenthaler



William C Kortz II



Dr. Rick Saccone



*September 3rd
Dinner*



September 3rd Dinner



Mess Hall



Richard Gardner



William Crookshank



Driveway Lined with American Flags



Come In



*Post 712 Chaplain, Edward Hlad
Korean War Veteran*



*Commander Rich Wojnar accepts
American flag from Congressman
Tim Murphy*



*Ed Harmon, Paul W. Adams
and Raymond Young*



Guy Reschenthaler