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President Signs Legislation at Legion Convention

President Trump presents National Commander Schmidt with the pen he used to sign the VA Appeals Modernization legislation during The American Legion National convention in Reno, NV on August 23.

Among those witnessing the signing are VA&R Chairman Bozella and Director Celli. At the right of the photo is VA Secretary David Shulkin who spoke at the convention.

This legislation is the third major piece of veterans legislation that has become law during this session of Congress after the Legion's voice was heard.

Initially the funding for the Choice Act allowing vet-



erans to seek care from their local doctor if they met VA criteria was running short. Plans were announced to divert funding from other programs to continue the Choice program.

The American Legion very strongly opposed that diversion as the wrong way to continue giving veterans a choice.

In response, the Congress after Presidential urging, passed legislation directly increasing funding for Choice.

Recently improvements were made to the GI Bill removing the time limitation on the benefit. That is now referred to as the "Forever GI Bill".

That move received strong support from The American Legion.

This is the first time a President has signed legislation at any of the veterans service organization's conventions. That is an indication of the influence and strength of The American Legion on Capitol Hill in 2017. Strength in membership enables that.

POW Speaker at Unit Meeting

September 15th is POW/MIA Day. In honor of this occasion, the Auxiliary has arranged for Commander Larry Spencer, USN(Ret) to be the Guest Speaker at their monthly meeting at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, September 5.

Commander Spencer is an Iowa native who spent 7 years as a POW in Hanoi. He is an excellent speaker who candidly discusses his time in captivity and his interactions with his fel-

low prisoners during their captivity.

The Auxiliary is opening this portion of their meeting to the Ames Legion Family so that we can all hear and learn from Commander Spencer about the challenges and sacrifices faced by POWs and their families and the importance of this annual observance to our veterans and their families.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Honor Guard	3
Baseball MVP	3
Unit Nut Sale Begins	3



MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Post Commander Pat's Comments

Where has the summer gone? Time has just flown by for our family. Hopefully you have had a great summer as well and looking forward to many activities at the Post this fall. Our fall starts off with our fun Steak Night on the 2nd of September and just keeps rolling from there.

If you haven't heard, the Legion made history in August by electing our first female National Commander. Denise Rohan, from the Department of Wisconsin! is an Army veteran (HOOAH) and has been a Legionnaire for over 30 years. Her motto this year is "Family First". Hopefully, we can get her to our Post this year to support our mission.

Our committees have been put in place this year and I expect that we will have a great year moving our Post forward.

One of the more active groups this summer has been our Honor Guard, now headed up by Doug MacCrea. I've personally enjoyed serving with this great group of Legionnaires.

We are on the lookout for some new members to join this group. If you are a Legionnaire or a Sons member we would love to see you participate. Contact the Post or Doug if you are interested. We always need extras on the list to ensure that we have a full complement at each and every funeral. It means the world to family members of these great veterans, to see us there. Consider joining today!

Membership, Membership, Membership. Every newsletter I share our need to get our dues in early to meet goal. We did it last year and I am extremely

proud of that fact. We were the largest Post in Iowa to meet goal last year and I hope to do it again. We are actively working on reinstating the "Early Bird Dinner" again this year. We plan on doing it with the Auxiliary and the Sons to make goal for each of our family organizations. We will keep you updated as plans progress. Get your dues in NOW and have a free evening of dinner and entertainment on us. Keep a look out for this event.

Again, I want to express my thanks for making our Post one of the BEST in the Department of Iowa. This only happens because of YOU. I've said it before, but when we succeed, it's because of YOU, if we fail it's because of our LEADERSHIP. Help us keep succeeding and visit the Post and participate!

Unit President Jammie's Comments

Greetings and Salutations!

I hope everyone had a wonderful August. The Department Leadership Workshop was both fun and educational. If you were unable to attend this workshop then we will be scheduling a Unit Workshop at the September meeting to go over the various committee plans and the Department Plan of Action.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to chair or sit on one of our various committees. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas on how to advance the ALA mission in our community. If you are interested in learning more about any one of the committees please feel free to reach out to that

chairman or any one of your Unit Officers.

We have lots of events and happenings coming up in September. In honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day (Sept. 15th), a special guest will be speaking at our September meeting. Larry Spencer, a Vietnam War POW for 7 years, will be speaking on September 5th at the Unit meeting. All Legion Family Members are welcome to attend.

The combined District and County Leadership Workshop will be held on September 9th. Please keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for additional activities and updates.

Membership! I know everyone is aware that we are a membership driven organ-

ization. It has been several years since Unit 37 has met the membership goal set by Department; I would love if we could turn that trend around. It is critical that we not only retain our current members but also build our membership.

I would like to challenge each Unit member to recruit at least one new member this year. Remember why you joined this organization and share that passion and experience with your friends and family. Thank you ladies for everything and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on September 5th (6:30 p.m.)

Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

Hello Fellow Sons members and the rest of Our American Legion Family that might feel like reading this article.

I have just returned from National Convention and it was pretty busy. At The Sons Convention we elected Our new National Commander and Our National Vice Commanders. The National Commander is Danny Smith from Nebraska and he will be a Very Good Commander, Hope You get to meet him sometime this coming year.

The National Vice Commander for Our Central Region is Jay Marsten from Missouri and I am sure that he will do a Great Job. We hope that he will be at

Mid-Winter Conference.

Your new officers for this year will need plenty of help and I hope that I can count on the membership to pitch in when needed. There are several committees that can always use new members with Fresh Ideas. Please come to Our meeting on the second Tuesday and check out what we have.

Joel Stahr, one of the 2017 Boys Starters will be at the September meeting to report on his week at Boys State. Come listen!!

We will be responsible for the November Steak Dinner so it is never too early

to get Help lined up. Please volunteer if you are able. If you cannot help please come down and enjoy the meal. We also need to start getting ready for Our Upcoming Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast in December. We will need lots of help with that, that one is our big fund raiser for Our Scholarship.

Remember that we need your Dues to make our programs work, but we Need You More to Help This Squadron get better with Helping Our Post and Our Community. If You have any Ideas as to how we can accomplish this goal PLEASE join us and let us know your feelings.

Clubroom News

Fall is fast approaching and this is when it's really fun to stop into the Clubroom. With fall comes football, and of course, we will have all the top games on our jumbo 110" and 130"TVs. The post is the best place to watch all the Cyclone games. It's time to sit back and relax after this crazy summer. We love to indoor tailgate, so bring in a munchie to share and enjoy the drink specials that we offer on games days. The post is the best place to watch all the Cyclone games! Check out what we have planned for this month:

Saturday, September 9- We will open at 10:30am for you to come in and watch the Cy-Hawk showdown at 11 am. Bring a munchie to share and come cheer along with your friends!

Friday, September 22 Tenderloin Basket Night 5:30-7pm. It's back from

its summer hiatus!! Come enjoy a Tenderloin sandwich and fries for just \$6. Hope to see you then!

Tuesday, September 26 is the Weekly Drawing Bonus Night. There will be 6 drawings of \$50 each commencing at 6:00pm. Members must be qualified for the drawing by consistently entering into the weekly drawing. Along with tacos we will also be offering Maid-Rite and fries.

PLEASE HELP!!! Volunteers needed. Please let us know if you are able to help with any dinner functions at the post. We can only continue these events with help from our members and we would love the participation. Servers and kitchen help are needed. Please call Jodi if you can help. 232-9870.

CLUBROOM COUPON
Any Tuesday in September
Present Coupon to get
2 drinks for the price of 1.
Cash Purchase Only

Legion Riders

The Legion Riders are setting up a poker run to raise money for the Nation of Patriots. We are in the planning stages, with the run expected late September or early October. We are taking most any vehicle, 2, 3, or 4 wheels, old car enthusiasts are encouraged to go. It will be a trip to 5 county Freedom Rocks, Webster, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Calhoun, and Boone. It's a 207 mile route with plenty of places to refresh. More details to follow.

Honor Guard Recruiting and Training

Honor Guard Members Wanted

If you are a Legionnaire or Son and would be interested in being part of the Honor Guard please contact the Sergeant-at-Arms, Doug MacCrea, at 515-450-0773 or drop your contact information off at the Post.

The Honor Guard represents the Post in providing final honors to deceased veterans, presenting the colors at various community events and ceremonies and marching in local parades when possible.

We need to have more members for the Honor Guard so we have the flexibility to meet the increasing demand for their services.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug.



The honors to be given to our departed comrades is one of the reasons The American Legion was formed. We need to ensure that we can continue to provide those honors. If this is the only thing that you can do and even if it is only a few times each year serving with this group to honor our comrades is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Join us on September 7 and learn more about this important duty.

Honor Guard Member Training

The Honor Guard will be holding a meeting and training session for all members at 7:00 PM on Thursday, September 7th at the Post. We will take about one hour to go over the revised Honor Guard uniform requirements, flag folding procedures, weapons safety, updated honors firing commands/ procedures and identify what items we need to procure from emblem sales for Honor Guard members.

Additionally, if you are in possession of either an Honor Guard raincoat or winter parka, please return them to the Post by September 14th so they can be inventoried and we can determine what we need to order to fulfill our upcoming winter and foul weather needs.

Baseball MVP Announced

American Legion Baseball Most Valuable Player Eric Steyer will be honored at the September 14 Post meeting. Eric was chosen as MVP by the team's coaches for his leadership and performance on the field but also in the dug-out and at practice.

The Post has an MVP trophy that dates back to the 1930's. Eric's name will join the others on that trophy. Come to the meeting, meet and congratulate Eric and see that trophy.

Unit Nut Sales Begin

You will find the 2017 Nut Order form as an insert in this bulletin. All of your old favorites are there as well as some new items.

This fundraiser has been very popular in past years and pre-ordering assures that you get what you want. This sale helps the Unit fund their programs. It is a win-win for you and them. If you have questions, contact information is on the order sheet. Be sure and ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to place an order also!

Kudo Korner



THANK YOU Kudos: Thanks again to all those that helped around the clubroom this last month. Your help is very much appreciated. Rodger VanVoorhis, Melissa McEnany, Megan McEnany, John Schomaker, Maggie Schomaker, Michelle Sime, Scott Scoba, Eric Pfleeger, Ken Woodley, Bill Donovan, Hank Goettsche, Andrea Gronau, Jammie Phillips, Sandy Deacon and Mike Deacon.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37

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Ames, IA 50010

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Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON **SEPTEMBER**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37				1 FIREBALL FRIDAY	2
					MUNCHIES NIGHT	STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BINGO	LEGION RIDERS 6:30	TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	DOLLAR DOG DAY HONOR GUARD TRAINING 7:00	FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
BINGO		TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
BINGO		TACO TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN NIGHT 5:30-7:00	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
BINGO		TACO TUESDAY BONUS DRAWING 6-8:30 40&8	WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	