



## Post 10 Bulletin Board

*Editor: Matt Symins*  
*E-Mail: [Symins@ec.rr.com](mailto:Symins@ec.rr.com)*

*April, 2007*

*Post Home 799-3806*  
*Web Site: [nclegion.org/post10.htm](http://nclegion.org/post10.htm)*

---

### **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Our Legion Birthday celebration was on Thursday the 15th. This was well attended with about 60 in attendance. Our leading candidate for Department Commander 2007-2008 Richard Neville was our speaker and delivered an excellent speech outlining the American Legion program in today's world. The dinner was donated and prepared by Tom and Mable Edge. This was delicious and I thank the Edge's and the kitchen help for preparing this dinner. Thanks also to Clare Mills and Byrnina English for setting up the Hall for the event.

Remember our Post Officer nominations are ongoing for April and May with elections in June.

This will be the last month to nominate/sponsor a High School junior for the American Legion Boys' State program.

Our Legionnaire of the Year for 2006-2007 is our Chaplain, Richard Wadninski, Jr., Richard has carried out his duties of Chaplain by attending funerals making hospital visit, contacting and sending cards to our members.

He also assists each Tuesday evening with Bingo and many of our other Legion functions.

Legionnaire on the Month Matt Symins: Matt has assisted me with many tasks through out the year. Everything from Membership for part of the year to Bulletin editor. Matt has been most helpful with many projects that otherwise would have fallen through the cracks.

**Milton Woodle, Commander**

---

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Should you have anyone who would be interested in running for office, for the up coming year please present their names to the nominating committee. The members of the committee are Charlie Smith, Marty Pederson and Dick Riano.

---

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE, HERE COME THE JUDGE**

Some interesting info from Washington. The fiscal 2008 Department of Veterans Affairs budget request unveiled by the White House on 5 Feb, proposes \$36.6 billion in health care funding and seeks to establish new higher fees for veterans. The VA healthcare co-pay would almost double, from the current \$8 to \$15. It was also announced that the VA is seeking to create enrollment fees of up to \$750 for veterans with certain higher family incomes. Last year, in the President's budget, he proposed doubling the cost of prescription drugs and an increase in fees.

**Richard (Dick) Riano, Judge Advocate**

## **CHAPLIAN'S CORNER**

Dear Comrades, this is sad to report, but the following Legionnaires have passed away, Ralph Edward Carter, Jr., 16 Feb 2007, Howard Douglas Bridges passed 22 Feb 2007, Donald James Gale passed 23 Feb 2007, David Martin, Sr., 11 March 2007, Chaplain sent cards and went to all wakes and graveside services.

Sick call, Don Williams is still in the Nursing home, I have no news of any one else being sick at the moment.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all departed, also for are sick and disabled veterans and to include are active duty men and women stationed around the globe, and never to forget our POW and MIAs they may never be forgotten.

April 1st is Palm Sunday the Lord's Passion and beginning of Holy Week, the Holiest time in the Christian calander. We celebrate the entrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem to fulfill his Paschal Mystery, the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, followed by his crucifixion on Friday and the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. The Father sent His only Son unto this world to save us all from eternal damnation, Jesus said, " I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, No one can get to the Father except by means of me".

Question of the month:

When have you been generous enough to forgive someone who has hurt you deeply?

I wish everyone a Happy Easter Holiday, I pray for all those who are ill, that they may be healed, for are departed that they may know the joy of everlasting life with Christ, and may God Bless each and every one of you.

Please help by passing on information of sick, hospitalized or deceased veterans of the post so I can offer the respect due them on behalf of the post, you can reach me at 910-796-3462 or e-mail at [flyboy8336@aol.com](mailto:flyboy8336@aol.com)

**Richard J. Wadzinski, Jr., Post 10 Chaplain**

---

## **CANTEEN HIGHLIGHTS**

**Stop by the Canteen and enjoy the fellowship and good eats.....**

**Canteen Staff**

**Phyllis .. Dorcas .. Janet .. Sarah .. Barbara  
Personal Pizzas and Hot Dogs Available Daily**

**Nothing was submitted by the canteen manager for publication. For any special events or affairs please contact the canteen directly.**

ANTEEN HOURS: (Sun. Noon – 8PM) (Mon. 11AM – 10PM) (Tues. 11AM – 11PM)  
(Wed. 11AM – 10PM) (Thurs. 11AM – 11PM)  
(Fri. 11AM – 11PM) (Sat. Noon – 9PM)

**Bill Coddington, Canteen Manager**

---

## **AUXILIARY**

March meeting many programs discussed and plans completed. April we need volunteers for hours and locations to distribute our Poppies on May 26. We would like to have two people at each location for at-least two hours. The Nobles will be at The Legion to receive tan count your donations. Refreshments will be provided. If you would to contribute time or money for this much needed cause call me at 791-6184.

Legion Birthday was celebrated with great food provided by The Edges. The decorating was in good taste by Byrnina and Claire. You could see The Legion Family working together. The Commander and I appreciate the support given for this special occasion.

Lotty Herring is collecting paper back books to give to our military personnel as they are deployed. If you can assist with this need contact Lotty Herring.

The disturbing news about our VA Facilities should have each of us contacting our Congressman immediately. Let me know if you receive any acknowledgement from your efforts. Please make a statement of concern this is why the American Legion was formed. We promise to take care of our returning veterans.

Great news we welcome Betty Brownlee a new member to Unit 10 but senior to the auxiliary programs. Your newly elected officers for 2007-2008 are President Betty Brownlee, Vice-President Susie Woodle, Secretary Lotty Herring, Treasurer Susan Parham, Historian Kathy Lewis, Chaplain Claire Mills, Sgt-At-Arms Thelma Gates. Appointments- Girls State Chairman Lee Reynolds, Bereavement Byrnina English and Claire Mills. We ask you continued support. We are here for God and Country to serve.

**Freedom is not Free.  
Susie Woodle, President**

---

### **POST 10 BASEBALL**

Well it will be less than 2 months until Post 10 Baseball is in full swing. Play will begin near the end of May. The schedule is currently being put together and as soon as it is complete, it will be posted on the Post 10 website as well as in the canteen. We urge every member to support your program and these young men by attending the games. Simply come to the ballpark and show your 2007 Post 10 membership card and get into the regular season games for free. We simply ask for you to patronize the concession stand.

Post 10 Baseball is looking for some volunteers to help with the concession stand as well as the gate. If anyone is interested in helping with the baseball program, please let me know as soon as you can. We usually have about 15 games at home that we need help with.

We will be selling tickets for a reverse drawing starting about the second week of April. Post 10 Baseball will be selling the tickets for \$50.00 each with the opportunity to win the grand prize of \$2,000.00 at the game on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Only 200 tickets will be sold for the drawing. Door prizes or money will be given away during every inning, so support Post 10 Baseball, buy a ticket and you may be a winner.

It is with great sorrow to report that Doug Bridges, a long time member of Post 10 Baseball has passed away. Doug was Athletic Officer for at least 8 years and was an active member of the committee for the last three years. Doug truly loved baseball and the young men that were apart of this program. Doug will be greatly missed and we wish Betty and the family the best.

**Dale Funderburk, Chairman/Athletic Officer**

---

### **EDITORS APOLOGY**

Mistakes are made and apologies offered. I must offer my apologies to Harold Davis. Harold has offered to write articles for the bulletin to inform our membership of interesting facts. Last month the article was entitled "Wilmington's First Legion Post" his name as author was accidentally omitted. I am truly sorry for this oversight and will make certain it doesn't happen again.

## **LEGION MAKES LEADERS**

There was a time when The American Legion was a stepping-stone to a successful career. It has been said that one would not seek the office of Dog Catcher without the endorsement of the local American Legion post. For various reasons The American Legion today has lost its community influence and leadership.

Many prominent lawyers were leaders of the Legion in North Carolina. Wade H. Phillips, Dept Commander 1924-25 became a state senator, R. Gregg Cherry, Governor of the state of North Carolina 1945-1949.

President Harry S. Truman was an active legionnaire having served as a delegate to several National Conventions. Woodrow Wilson was the first legionnaire to serve as U S President, being a member of Post #1 in the District of Columbia. He qualified as being Commander-in chief in WWI. President Roosevelt paid dues to a legion post in Poughkeepsie, NY. He was not technically eligible to belong to The American but the issue was never raised.

Wendell Wilkie commander of legion post in Akron Ohio ran for president of this country in 1940. The first legionnaire to serve as Vice President was Charles G. Dawes. President Eisenhower was a life member of Post 39, Abilene Kansas. President Kennedy was a member of Post 281 Boston Mass. President Johnson was a member of Post 352 Blanco Texas. President Nixon was a member of Post 51 Whittier Calif. And President Ford was a member of Furniture City Post Grand Rapids Michigan. President Carter is a life member of Post 2 Americus GA and President Ronald Regan was a member of Post 383 Pacific Palisades Calif.

The American Legion has been a training ground for many of this nations leaders. These leaders did not make The American Legion. It was The American Legion that made the leaders.

**Harold Davis**  
**Coordinator**

---

**Military Funeral**  
**Need Someone for Taps?**  
**Call Me Bill Merlack**  
**910-793-3524 wmerlack@earthlink.net**

---

### **Bulletin Advertising**

Please be advised that Matt Symins has returned as editor of the bulletin. Should you have any questions please contact him 910-231-1647 or by e-mail [symins@ec.rr.com](mailto:symins@ec.rr.com)

To off set the cost of the bulletin which is on the rise we will be offering advertising space for business a 2" X 2" ad will cost \$120.00 per year, a 3 ½" X 2" ad will cost \$200.00 year for an additional charge you can have an exclusive add being the only business of that type placing an ad. Arrangements can be made for larger ads.

We will also be establishing booster memberships to help off set bulletin costs. For \$25.00 you can place a booster which will run for a calendar year in the bulletin as a memoriam, birthday greeting, anniversary etc. Contact Matt Symins at 910-231-1647 or e-mail [Symins@ec.rr.com](mailto:Symins@ec.rr.com).

---

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 BOOSTER PROGRAM  
BULLETIN BOOSTERS RECEIVED AFTER THE 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY WILL APPEAR IN THE  
FOLLOWING MONTH**

**MARCH, 2007**

Memory of Charles R. Herring  
Jack & Anne Labruyere  
Memory of Frederick Truedson

**APRIL, 2007**

**MAY, 2007**

-----CUT-----

Yes, I would like to be a bulletin booster. Enclose is my check for \$25.00 made out to American Legion Post 10 with the word bulletin booster on the lower left side of the check

Name or Family to be listed each month

---

-----  
**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS AD HERE**

**CONTACT MATT SYMINS 231-1647**  
-----

**POST 10 EVENT CALENDAR**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
4-3	Tuesday	7 PM	Bingo
4-5	Thursday	7 PM	General Membership Meeting
4-6	Friday	11AM -7PM	Fish Fry
4-7	Saturday	8 AM	Breakfast Club
4-8	Sunday		Easter Sunday
4-9	Monday	7 PM	Auxiliary General Meeting
4-10	Tuesday	7 PM	Bingo
4-12	Thursday	7 PM	Executive Board Meeting
4-14	Saturday	8 AM	Breakfast Club
4-17	Tuesday	7 PM	Bingo
4-18	Wednesday	7 PM	General Membership Meeting
4-21	Saturday	8 AM	Breakfast Club
4-24	Tuesday	7 PM	Bingo
4-28	Saturday	8 AM	Breakfast Club

---

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

I have had enough and am going to give my perspective on the news about Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Please understand that I am speaking for myself and I am responsible for my thoughts alone. The news media and politicians are making it sound like Walter Reed is a terrible place and the staff here has been abusing our brave wounded soldiers; what a bunch of bull!

I am completing my 24th year of service in the Army next month so you decide for yourself if I have the experience to write about this topic. I have been the senior clinical chaplain at Walter Reed for four years and will leave to go back to the infantry this summer. I supervise the chaplain staff inside Walter Reed that

cares for the 200 inpatients, the 650+ daily outpatients from the war who come to us for medical care, the 4000+ staff, and over 3000 soldiers and their families that come for clinical appointments daily. Walter Reed has cared for over 5500 wounded from the war. I cannot count the number of sick and non-battle injured that have come through over that timeframe. The staff at this facility has done an incredible job at the largest US military medical center with the worst injured of the war. We have cared for over 400 amputees and their families. I am privileged to serve the wounded, their families, and our staff.

When the news about building 18 broke I was on leave. I was in shock when the news broke. We in the chaplains office in Walter Reed, as well as the majority of people at Walter Reed, did not know anyone was in building 18. I didn't even know we had a building 18. How can that happen? Walter Reed is over 100 acres of 66 buildings on two installations. Building 18 is not on the installation of Walter Reed and was believed to be closed years ago by our department. The fact that some leaders in the medical brigade that is in charge of the outpatients put soldiers in there is terrible. That is why the company commander, first sergeant, and a group of platoon leaders and platoon sergeants were relieved immediately. They failed their soldiers and the Army. The commanding general was later relieved (more about this) and his sergeant major has been told to move on--if he gets to. The brigade sergeant major was relieved and more relief's are sure to come and need to. As any leader knows, if you do not take care of soldiers, lie, and then try to cover it up, you are not worthy of the commission you hold and should be sent packing. I have no issue, and am actually proud, that they did relieve the leaders they found who knew of the terrible conditions some of our outpatients were enduring. The media is making it sound like these conditions are rampant at Walter Reed and nothing could be further from the truth. We need improvements and will now get them. I hate it that it took this to make it happen.

The Army and the media made MG Weightman, our CG, out to be the problem and fired him. This was a great injustice. He was only here for six months, is responsible for military medical care in the 20 Northeast states, wears four "hats" of responsibilities, and relies on his subordinate leaders to know what is happening in their areas of responsibilities. He has a colonel that runs the hospital (my hospital commander), a colonel that runs the medical brigade (where the outpatient wounded are assigned and supposedly cared for), and a colonel that is responsible to run the garrison and installation. What people don't know is that he was making many changes as he became aware of them and had requested money to fix other places on the installation. The Army did not come through until four months after he asked for the money, remember that he was here only six months, which was only days before they relieved him. His leaders responsible for outpatient care did not tell him about conditions in building 18. He has been an incredible leader who really cares about the wounded, their families, and our staff. I cannot say the same about a former commander, who was my first commander here at Walter Reed, and definitely knew about many problems and is in the position to fix them and he did not. MG Weightman also should not be held responsible for the military's unjust and inefficient medical board system and the problems in the VA system. We lost a great leader and passionate man who showed he had the guts to make changes and was doing so when he was made the scapegoat for others.

What I am furious about is that the media is making it sound like all of Walter Reed is like building 18. Nothing could be further from the truth. No system is perfect but the medical staff provides great care in this hospital. What needs to be addressed, and finally will, is the bureaucratic garbage that all soldiers are put through going into medical boards and medical retirements. Congress is finally giving the money that people have asked for at Walter Reed for years to fix places on the installations and address shortcomings. What they don't want you to know is Congress caused many problems by the BRAC process saying they were closing Walter Reed. We cannot keep nor attract all the quality people we need at Walter Reed when they know this place will close in several years and they are not promised a job at the new hospital. Then they did this thing call A76 where they fired many of the workers here for a company of contractors, IAP, to get a contract to provide care outside the hospital proper. The company, which is responsible for maintenance, only hired half the number of people as there were originally assigned to maintenance areas to save money. Walter Reed leadership fought the A76 and BRAC process for years but lost. Congress instituted the BRAC and A76 process; not the leadership of Walter Reed.

What I wish everyone would also hear is that for every horror story we are now hearing about in the media that truly needs to be addressed, you are not hearing about the hundreds of other wounded and injured

soldiers who tell a story of great care they received. You are not hearing about the incredibly high morale of our troops and the fact that most of them want to go back, be with their teammates, and finish the job properly. You should be very proud of the wounded troopers we have at Walter Reed. They make me so proud to be in the Army and I will fight to get their story out.

I want you to hear the whole story because our wounded, their families, our Army, and the nation need to know that many in the media and select politicians have an agenda. Forget agendas and make the changes that have been needed for years to fix problems in every military hospital and the VA system. The poor leaders will be identified and sent packing and good riddance to them. I wish the same could be said for the politicians and media personalities who are also responsible but now want it to look like they are very concerned. Where have they been for the last four years? I am ashamed of what they all did and the pain it has caused many to think that everyone is like that. Please know that you are not hearing the whole story. Please know that there are thousands of dedicated soldiers and civilian medical staff caring for your soldiers and their families. When I leave here I will end up deploying. When soldiers in my division have to go to Walter Reed from the battlefield, I know they will get great medical care. I pray that you know the same thing. God bless all our troops and their families wherever they may be. God bless you all,

**+Chaplain John L. Kallerson**  
**Senior Chaplain Clinician**  
**Walter Reed Army Medical Center**

---

**THIS IS NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT**

**\$4 Dollar Prescriptions at Wal-mart.** Veterans can purchase more than 300 different generic prescription drugs at most Wal-mart stores nationwide for as low as \$4 per prescription for a 30 day supply. That is half the cost of filling 30 day prescriptions at VA pharmacies. According to Wal-Mart, "The program is available at all Wal-mart, Sam's Club and Neighborhood Market pharmacies (except in North Dakota where Wal-mart does not operate its own pharmacies but instead lease space to third party providers". The Wal-mart program began as a pilot in Tampa, Florida in September 2006. Quickly expanded, it is now available in 27 states. Approximately one dozen other large regional and national retail pharmacies are offering similar services. Fully aware of the difference in cost, the Veterans Health Administration has convened a work group to examine options for making generic drug co-payments more affordable for veterans. For more information, including a list of qualifying drugs visit [www.walmart.com/pharmacy](http://www.walmart.com/pharmacy) and access "Generic Drug Program."