THE CLINTON POST 259 JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Post 259 American Legion Family

I would like to thank American Legion Post 259 family members and guests for attending our Memorial Day program. We had over 70 members and guests in attendance to honor those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and Post 259 Legionnaires transferred to Post Everlasting. Our guest speaker, Dr. James Dula, Prince George's County Veterans Affairs Officer, gave us an excellent message on the meaning of Memorial Day and its impact on Gold Star families. He also presented a proclamation from the office of the County Executive for Prince George's County, Maryland, Angela Alsobrooks. This proclamation recognizes the tremendous and lasting achievements of the American Legion Post 259 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 259 during our Centennial Celebration year.

I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers of Post 259, Unit 259, and Squadron 259 for the new administrative year (2019-20). The post installation ceremony for new officers is scheduled for June 22, 2019. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the canteen. The installation is free for members and $10.00 for 1 guest. The cutoff date for sign up will be June 18, 2019. Cocktail hour is 5-6 pm, dinner 6-7 pm and program starts at 7 pm. The money for guests will be collected at the door on the day of the installation ceremony.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day was March 29, 2019. I have made contact with Department of Defense Vietnam War Partner, Mayvee Smith, to come to our post for a pinning ceremony. A Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony serves to provide Vietnam Veteran lapel pins for dignified public presentations to living U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War as a lasting memento of the nation's thanks. U.S. veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin. We will have this pinning ceremony at our June 24th general membership meeting. **The ceremony will start prior to the meeting. If you meet the eligibility requirements and have not already received your pin, please forward your name to vietnampinceremony@gmail.com. We must receive your name by no later Friday, June 21, 5:00pm.**

The Department of Maryland American Legion Convention will start on July 15-19, 2019. A separate email was sent out on June 1st with information on the hotel Princess Bayside that provides a discount rate for legionaries attending the convention. To make reservations call 1-888-622-9743 or 410-723-2900 and ask for the American Legion rate. You must book by June 10th, to receive the discount rate. I have included a list with the names of the post members who are delegates for the convention in this newsletter.

I hope to see all of you at our next general membership meeting on June 24th. Dinner at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Yours in service,

For God and Country,

Murray S. Hall

Commander AL Post 259

Commander
Murray Hall
1st Vice Cmdr.
Willie Evans
2nd Vice Cmdr.
Raymond Butts
3rd Vice Cmdr.
George Martin
Judge Advocate
Elbert White
Finance Officer
Lamont Gibson
Chaplain
Charles Johnson
Service Officer
James Woodland
Historian
Shay Brown
Sergeant at Arms
John Jackson
Executive Committee
Helen Smith
Joe Morgan
Marie Vanness
Review Board
James Boyd
Cynthia Davis
Tonya Ford
Walter Harvey
Latisha Huston

Alternate Review Board Member
Tramell Peterson
Stephanie Boykin
* Both James Woodland and Stephanie Boykin were nominated at the May meeting for open vacancies.

American Legion Post #259 Delegates to Department Convention, Ocean City, Md.

July 15 – 19, 2019

Murray Hall

Elbert White

Gary Gifford

Hayward Moss

Thomas Carr

George Martin

Joe Morgan

Helen Smith

Anthony Hinnant

Glenda Brown

Charles Sturdivant

Roy Brown

Shay Brown

Dick Switzer

Ronald Dickens

Willie Evans

Ray Butts

Mathew Garofalo

POST OFFICERS

Commander	Murray S. Hall
1st Vice Commander	Willie Evans
2nd Vice Commander	Raymond Butts
3rd Vice Commander	George Martin
Adjutant	Robert A Wilson
Asst. Adjutant	Glenda Brown
Judge Advocate	Elbert “Ed” White
Service Officer	James Woodland
Finance Officer	Lamont Gibson
Asst. Finance Officer	Dorothy Russell
Historian	ShaWanda Brown
Chaplain	Charles Johnson
Asst. Chaplain	James Burrows
Sgt At Arm	John Jackson
Executive Committee Helen L. Smith Roy Brown Anthony “Tony” Hinnant	**Treasurer** **Department of Maryland** Gary W. Gifford

Auxiliary Officers	**Legion Rider Officers**	**S.A.L. Officers**
President: Brie O'Neal	Director: Vacant	Commander: David Hutchinson
Vice President: Ginger Latimer	Asst. Director: Murray Hall	1st Vice: Vacant
Recording Secretary: Chauncia Jones	Treasurer: Vacant	2nd Vice: Kenny Hendrix
Treasurer: Helen L. Smith	Chaplain: James Burrows	Finance Officer: Dave Desmarais
Historian: Chauncia Jones		Sgt At Arms: Michael Thomas
Chaplain: Vacant		Adjutant: Rich A. Walsh Jr.
Sgt At Arm: Irma Moss		Historian: Vacant
Executive Committee: Michelle Davis Maria Miller Judith Woodland		Chaplain: Gary "GJ" Shafer Advisor: Eugene Murray

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flag Day – June 14, 2019 – Legion
AL Golf Tournament – June 2019 – Legion
Installation of Post 259 Officers – June 22, 2019 – Legion
Pinning Ceremony Honoring Vietnam Veterans – June 24, 2019 - Legion
Ocean City Conference – July 15-19, 2019
Gary A. Castleman Golf Tournament – September 2019
Veterans Day Service – Nov. 11, 2019 – Auxiliary
Children's Christmas Party – December 2019 – Legion
Adult Christmas Party/Shotgun Raffle Drawing – December 2019 Legion
Super Bowl Party – February 2020 – Legion
Oratorical Contest – February 16, 2020 – Legion
American Legion Birthday – March 15, 2020
Palm Sunday Brunch – April 14, 2019 – Auxiliary
Memorial Day/Voting of Post 259 Officers 2020 – Legion

June 2019 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 S.A.L. Meeting 7pm	4	5 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30pm ---------- Pinochle	6 Karaoke 7-11pm	7 Bingo Early Bird 7:15pm	8
9	10 Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	11	12 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30pm ---------- Pinochle	13 Karaoke 7-11pm	14 Bingo Early Bird 7:15pm Flag Day	15
16	17 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	18	19 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30pm ---------- Pinochle	20 Legion Riders 7pm Karaoke 7-11pm	21 Bingo Early Bird 7:15pm	22 Installation of Post 259 Officers – Clinton Post Starts @ 5pm
23	24 General Meeting Dinner 6:30, Meeting 7:30	25	26 Shrimp Night 5:30-7:30pm ---------- Pinochle	27 Karaoke 7-11pm	28 Bingo Early Bird 7:15pm	29
30	Pinning Ceremony for Vietnam Vets before Meeting (24 June 2019)					

Message from Judge Advocate Ed White

Notes from the Department Adjutant (Russell Myers) and National Commander:

The following bills are pending in Congress for expanding eligibility in The American Legion by having Congress rightfully declare that the U.S. has been involved in armed conflict during the Cold War and many other undeclared Wartime periods.

The American Legion is asking you (the members) to contact your Congressman and Senator as soon as possible and urge them to co-sponsor the legislation and support its passage this year. Attached is a link to The American Legion Legislation Center that will help you find your elected officials and the info you need to contact them.

http://capwiz.com/legion/dbq/officials/

Please help get the co-sponsors needed for the passage of these bills! Take Action!

Additional information follows:

The American Legion must continue to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation's capital. The power of our voice is only as strong as our membership allows to be. The American Legion's Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our organization.

Today, we need your help in contacting your members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Please reach out to your assigned Senator and Representative and ask them to Co-Sponsor S. 504 and H.R. 1641, respectively. Your member needs to encourage congressional leadership to bring the LEGION ACT (S. 504) and the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (H.R. 1641) to the floor for a vote, and to promise to vote for this legislation, to ensure all veterans are able to be recognized for their contributions and sacrifice in service to this country.

Because The American Legion's membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. These acts expand membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war since World War II.

Since the end of World War II, the Federal Government has designated specific periods of war, the dates of which are important for qualification for certain benefits or membership in veterans organizations established by Congress. In between those recognized periods of war, during so-called peacetime eras, the US military has been involved in not fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the US Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous US combat casualties. In the

spirit of our 100th celebration, we need Congress to take immediate action so we may welcome and recognize through membership all of our fellow veteran brothers and sisters. A select number of members of Congress have come together in bipartisan fashion to introduce S. 504 and H.R. 1641.

Contact your Senator and Representative today to tell them to support S. 504 and H.R. 1641 today!

“These veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods. Because The American Legion is congressionally chartered, we are unable to welcome many of these veterans as members of the nation’s largest veterans organization. It is fitting that during the 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Thom Tillis (NC) are introducing the LEGION Act, bipartisan legislation that will recognize all veterans who served honorably since the start of World War II, while also fostering growth within the veteran community ... We hope that the American people will encourage all members of Congress to support the LEGION Act. It is an appropriate ‘thank you’ to those who served.”

Brett P. Reistad
National Commander

James Woodland is now the Post 259 Service Officer!

Thank You for accepting the position. Contact James at JWoodl@comcast.net.

Who will volunteer for this worthwhile cause? Legionnaire James Woodland did!

Message from 3rd Vice Commander George Martin

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government

The Department of Maryland's Boys State will be held at McDaniel College, Westminster, MD, June 16 to 22, 2019. Post 259 is sponsoring nine rising seniors who will be part of 187 Maryland and international students attending the weeklong civic program.

Gary Gifford and I along with about 25 veterans volunteer to serve as counselors and support staff for the program. The program can always use additional help, please consider volunteering.

For a firsthand look at the what we do, please pay us a visit. Programs run all day from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Tuesday through Thursday are the best days to get a good overview of the program.

Hope you can join us.

George Martin

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State. It is held, the same week, at Salisbury State University, Salisbury MD.

Messages from 1st Vice Commander Willie Evans

Membership:

The 2019 membership campaign comes to a close at the end of this month (June). The Post's membership currently stands at 867, which is 69 members short of our goal of 936. A review of the Post's membership records shows that there are over 100 members that have yet to renew their membership. Are you one of them! Help us achieve 100% membership status by renewing your membership by June 25th. Several options are available: You can (1) pay online on the National website at www.legion.org, (2) leave payment with the Post's bartender on duty, or (3) you can mail your payment made out to Clinton Post 259 to: American Legion Post 259, P. O. Box 44, Clinton, MD 20735. Your membership matters, as it helps keep The American Legion strong!

Congratulations to the following new **Paid Up For Life** (PUFL) member: Theodore C. Ford

Welcome to the following New Members:

Craig A. Alford - Air Force
Stephanie D. Boykin - Air Force
Kera D. Douglas - Air Force
Robert L Hill - Air Force
Melvin Jones - Air Force
Michael L. Jones - Army
Kevin E. Slaton - Air Force

New Members Taking the Oath

Do You Know About the Mission Act?

If you are a part of the VA Healthcare system, you received a letter in your mail from the Department of Veterans Affairs on a new healthcare law beginning June 6, 2019. The law, called the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act (MISSION Act) of 2018 “strengthens VA’s ability to deliver the best care and services at VA sites and in the community.”

Below is more information on the MISSION Act.

From the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, to all of our Veterans and supporters across the country, a note explaining the Mission Act.

Bringing Bipartisan Reform to Veterans

Imagine if Republicans and Democrats worked together to pass reforms that improve the lives of millions of people.
And imagine if those reforms put America's Veterans at the center of their healthcare decisions, leading to better customer service for our Nation's heroes.

This isn't hypothetical. It happened last year when Congress passed the MISSION Act.

Through state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, and increased clinician recruiting and retention incentives, VA continues to enhance its coordinated care system through high-quality VA health care and community care provider networks.

The legislation sailed through Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and the strong backing of Veterans' service organizations.

President Donald J. Trump's signature put us on a path to implementing these reforms. On June 6, the MISSION Act will enable VA to consolidate the Department's community care efforts into a single, simple-to-use program that will empower Veterans with the ability to choose the healthcare providers they trust.

So what can Veterans expect on June 6?

Less red tape, more satisfaction and predictability for patients, more efficiency for our clinicians, and better value for taxpayers.

Veterans will be eligible to get community care for a variety of reasons, including when VA can't provide the treatment they need or when care outside our system is in the best medical interest of the patient.

We listened to Veterans and heard they preferred standards based on drive times rather than driving mileage because those standards better reflect Veteran experiences, especially in large urban areas with lots of traffic.

To ensure our Veterans are spending their time getting care instead of driving to it, patients facing an average drive time of 30-minutes or more for VA primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider closer to home. For specialty care, the drive-time standard will be an average of 60 minutes.

And to get Veterans the care they need when they need it, VA patients facing a 20-day or more wait time for primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider who can deliver that care faster. For specialty care, the wait-time standard will be 28 days.

For additional convenience and timely treatment, eligible Veterans will also have access to urgent, walk-in care that gives them the choice to receive certain services at participating community clinics in their communities. (To access this new benefit, Veterans will select a provider in VA's community care network and may be charged a copayment.)

Veterans will be encouraged to ask VA about these new options, and well-trained staff will be available to help them quickly understand their choices.

These exciting and important changes speak to my top priority – delivering the best medical customer service and offering Veterans more healthcare choices.

While we still have more work to do, the VA is making progress.

We are seeing more patients than ever before, more quickly than ever before and studies show VA now compares favorably to the private sector for access and quality of care – and in many cases exceeds it.

And Veterans have noticed.

Patients' trust in VA care has skyrocketed to 87.7 percent, and in the last fiscal year VA completed more than 58 million internal appointments – a record high and 623,000 more than the year before.

VA employees are noticing improvements as well. VA ranked sixth out of 17 Federal Government agencies in the Partnership for Public Service's most recent "Best Places to Work" survey, up from 17th the year prior.

To maintain the trust of our Veterans, we must continue to deliver. And we will constantly innovate, upgrade, and pursue ways to better serve our Nation's heroes.

The MISSION Act is a vital part of this effort, giving VA the ability to implement the best practices we've learned in our nearly 75 years of experience offering community care.

With the MISSION Act, the future of the VA healthcare system will lie in the hands of Veterans – precisely where it should be.

For more information on the Mission Act, and what this will do for all Veterans, please go to www.MISSIONAct.va.gov

DOUBLE YOUR NIGHTS - DOUBLE YOUR FUN AT POST 259!!

THURSDAYS 7-11pm

Fridays @ 7:15 – HELP WANTED

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7:15 AT THE CLINTON AMERICAN LEGION

$23 MINIMUM GUARENTEED JACKPOT $500

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

TONYA FORD@ (301) 661-6149

Guest Speaker Dr. James Dula Gives Compelling Speech in Honoring Memorial Day

American Legion (AL) Clinton Post 259 once again commemorated the fallen heroes of each branch of military service during a Memorial Day event on May 27. The program, “Memorial Day, Remember and Honor,” was the theme as a gathering of over 70 assembled in the Elbert White Hall.

Clinton Post 259 Commander Murray Hall gave recognition to those present which included Gold Star families, Legionnaires. Past Post Commanders, County, District, and Department Commanders, and National Executive Committees. Hall then introduced guest speaker Dr. James Dula, PhD, a retired Air Force officer (Major) and commander. Dula serves as the Veterans Affairs Officer under the County Executive in Prince Georges County.

“It gives me great honor to be here today,” said Dula. “I’m going to ask Commander Hall to step forward…it gives me great honor to give this proclamation to you from the County Executive.”

Dula then read the proclamation complimenting Post 259 and Auxiliary Unit 259.

“As a member of the community and now a member of Post 259, I am happy to be here to give the Memorial Day address,” Dula said.

“And to the American Legion, in recognition of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and democracy, I want you to stand and give yourselves and give them a hand, because we would not have a democracy we have today; for those who were willing to stand up and fight for what they believed in and that is the greatest nation on earth – the United States of America!”

With that, all stood and applauded.

Dula continued by naming the wars and conflicts America took part in. He named people he knew that went into the military and died during combat.

Dula talked about Emily Jazmin Tatum Perez, a resident of Prince Georges County, who was a graduate of Oxon Hill High School. Perez then attended and graduated from West Point. She was assigned as a medical service officer in Iraq when a makeshift bomb exploded near her Humvee. Perez died on September 12, 2006 at the age of 23.

“Emily Perez of Prince Georges County…one of our finest, one of our greatest, one of our most accomplished…Emily Perez,” said Dula.

Dula concluded his remarks by emphasizing the phrase “United we stand, Divided we fall,” to support grieving families, and to always remember the ultimate sacrifice of those who gave up their lives for the price of freedom.

“The least we can do is honor them again, and remember them on this day in 2019, as we continue to come together,” said Dula.

Clinton Post 259 Adjutant Robert Wilson then read 36 names of Post 259 members who transferred to Post Everlasting. A bell tolled after each name was said.

Attendees then proceeded outdoors in front of the Post building for the placement of wreaths and to hear “Taps.”

American Legion Resolution 288, read at the beginning of the program, was done by Clinton Post 259 Judge Advocate Elbert “Ed” White, which supports all POW/MIAs.

White Hall

SHIRTAN
Shopping Center

The Program from the Kalas Funeral Home program that was held on May 25th can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Below are pictures that apply for the event.

Blood Drive

Silver Hill Lions Club
American Legion Post 259

Main Hall
9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, MD 20735

Thursday, June 27, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please contact 800-REDCROSS or log on to www.redcrossblood.org (enter sponsor code "Silver Hill Lions") to schedule your life-saving donation.

For Eligibility questions, please call (866) 236-3276

Not enough people donate blood. Only you can fill the #MissingTypes.

Download the Blood Donor App | 1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/MissingTypes

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The American Legion **Clinton Post 259** **9122 Piscataway Road** **Clinton, Maryland 20735** **Phone: 301-868-2550** **Website: www.post259.org**	**We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments or questions for future issues. Forward to Editor Linda Poulson at poulin515@gmail.com (subject to change)** **Clinton Post 259 Newsletter is published monthly**

Editor's Note: Pictures from the Dula article provided by 3rd Vice Commander George Martin and editor. Pictures from the Kalas dedication provided by Executive Committee member Helen Smith. Many Thanks to you both!

Congrats to incumbents and newly elected officers!

Memorial Day
(adapted from a poem by Michelle R. Keim)

As we stand here looking
At these flags that represent graves
Know they also represent
A few of the true American brave

Who fought for their Country
As man has through all of time
Except that these whom we remember
Fought for your country and mine.

As we all are gathered here
To pay them our respect
Let's pass this word to others
It's what they would expect.

I'm sure that they would do it
If it were me or you
To show we did not die in vein
But for the red, the white and the blue.

Let's pass on to our children too
And to those who never knew
What these heroes died for
It's the least we can do.

Let's not forget their families
Great pain they had to bear
Losing a child, parent or spouse
They need to know we still care

No matter which war was fought
Or when these heroes died
I stand here looking at these flags
Filled with American pride.

So as the bugler plays out Taps
With its sweet and eerie sound
Pray for these soldiers wherever they lie
For theirs is sacred, hallowed ground

Take home with you a sense of pride
You were here Memorial Day
Celebrating the way Americans should
On this solemnest of days.

Memorial Day Weekend
Salute

WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE

Saturday, May 25, 2019
2:00 P.M.

Presented by:

Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory
6160 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

and

American Legion Post 259
9122 Piscataway Road
Clinton, MD 20735

Program

Welcome and Introduction
George P. Kalas, III, Director
Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory

Master of Ceremonies
Chaplain Charles Johnson
American Legion Post 259

Presentation of Colors
Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem
Debbie Smith

Invocation
Chaplain Charles Johnson

Presentation of the POW Flag
Honoring POW's from all wars who have died in captivity

History of Memorial Day

Letters to Home

Procession to Outside Flag Pole

Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony

Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory

Laying of the Wreath
George P. Kalas, III

Taps
Jari Villanueva

Benediction
Chaplain Charles Johnson

Thank You

Many thanks to all of you for participating in today's program. We appreciate your time this holiday weekend to remember those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy.

A special thanks to Chaplain Charles Johnson, Commander Murray Hall, American Legion Post 259, Ladies Auxiliary of Post 259, Commander Mike Eason, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9376 and Matthew Garafalo for their attendance and support for this Memorial Day Weekend Celebration.

We also gratefully acknowledge Sharper's Florist and Milloff's Catering who have made this tribute so special. Please join us after the ceremony for light refreshments. On behalf of the entire Kalas family and staff, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable rest of your holiday weekend.

George P. Kalas, III
Vice President