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*FOR GOD AND COUNTRY...*  
Brian S. Kern, Commander

**JULY**

**DANIEL B. KALLEMYN, EDITOR**

**2010**

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Well, this is it. My final Commander's message. I realize we currently do not have an incoming Commander, but I'm confident this will be remedied at the June regular membership meeting as a candidate or candidates step forward.

Let me start by expressing my great appreciation to my fellow Post members for placing your confidence in me as Commander for the last two years. Much was accomplished but even more remains to be done. The successes of the Post over the last two years are largely yours. The responsibility for things unaccomplished is mine.

Some of you may recall when I was running for my first term, I had three basic goals in mind. These were, "Building on the Post's Past, Strengthening the Post's Present, and Preserving the Post's Future." Although you are the final judge, I'd like to believe I accomplished those goals. Our membership numbers remain strong and, while we didn't make 3-star this year, we did last year. The Post continues to be recognized as one of the leading Posts in the Department of Maryland and I'm confident that trend will continue at the upcoming State convention. We've identified and at least started to address some of the long term issues facing the Post and perhaps the greatest issue facing the Post is its finances. On that point, we've reduced or eliminated many expenses, but we have yet to resolve the revenue portion of the financial accounting equation. As soon as the identity of the incoming Commander is known, I hope to work with him or her to develop a standing committee focused on identifying ways to ensure the long term financial viability of the Post.

As I transition to my role as a Past Commander of Post 259, let me be clear in that is exactly what I will be...a Past Commander. While I hope the next Commander feels free to solicit my advice, he or she needs to be free to chart his or her own course free from any attempts on my part to continue or push my own agenda. I will offer my support, make suggestions when pertinent, and respect any decisions made by the next Commander. Upon completion of my service as Commander, it will be my privilege to return to being for all intents and purposes a regular member of Post 259. That in and of itself is a great honor. During my terms as Commander, I never looked at Post 259 as "my Post", but rather as "our" Post. You and I, the regular members, hold the key to the Post's future.

That's it folks. Next month you will hopefully read a message from the next Commander. I ask that you provide him or her as much support as you have given me. Again, thank you very much for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as your Commander.

In Legion Service, Brian Kern, Commander

## **CHARLOTTE HALL**

The post held their monthly BINGO at the home on 9 June. The VOLUNTEERS helping me out this month were Bob Levendusky, Al Elmon, Mike Gilbert, Rose Hoffman and Adele Williams. We had 78 veterans in attendance and they were glad to see us. Thanks to the Auxiliary for sending down the snacks for the evening. The next BINGO will be 14 July. Hope to see you there!!

Say THANKS to a VET.

Mike Strotkamp, 301-645-2397

## **LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**

### **Baseball Bits**

Our Post 259 baseball team opened the 2010 season with two losses and a rain-out. The Laurel added to the punishment with another loss at La Plata High School. Enough of this! Then our boys whipped College Park-Greenbelt 7 - 2, Sandy Springs 5 - 3, and Gaithersburg 10 - 1, to make the record 3 wins and 3 losses. There are 16 games remaining, with 2 rained out games to be played.

There is lots of baseball left to play and our team has snapped out of the lose mode and are hitting, running, and pitching like winners. Our team has lots more baseball at Cosca Park. Make it a point to come out and give some support to our tem. They are looking for you!.

Jim Panor, Baseball Chairman

### **Golf Tournament Follow Up**

On June 9th, we had the Post's annual golf tournament at Marlton Golf Course. This year was a little smaller than in the past years. But, everyone there had a great time.

I would like to thank the people that stepped up again and helped me make sure the tournament went on in its usual grand manner; Gary Castleman, Anne Richards, Diane Miller, George Buxklew, Irene Gilbert, Tina King, Cookie King, Kenny King, Liz White, Connie Puryear, Jimmy Blume, Mike Moroney, and Dick Coppage.

I would like to thank Al Festomocher for his continued support of our tournament. Al donates

many golf clubs and golf equipment for us to give away as door prizes year after year.

We have several hole sponsors I would like to thank as well; Caton Enterprises, LLC, Senator Mike Miller, B.K. Miller, Popeyes Chicken of Clinton, Jack and Vivian Rhine, The Breakfast Club, Jones and Associates, Auxiliary Unit 259, SAL Squadron 259, Color Crafters, United Termite and Pest, Kalas Funeral Home, Complete Building Service, and Anne, Gary, Duke.

Without these hole sponsors, the tournament would not go off as well as it does. I thank everyone of them. We have been doing this tournament for about 25 years and some of them have been there every year. You can't ask for more support than that.

Please keep in mind that the S.A.L. will be having their golf tournament on September 8th, also at Marlton.

Another special thank you goes out to Dick Coppage (P.A.G.E.). He has made our hole sponsorship signs for almost every year, and at no cost to us. This really helps us save money and means a lot to our final profits. Thank you, Dick.

Mike Hunnicutt

### **Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout**

On behalf of Commander Kern, Post member Chuck Rentz presented an American Legion Citizenship Award to Eagle Scout Thomas DiSalvo during his Eagle Scout Court of Honor held on June 6th. Post 259 is proud to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 1237 of which Thomas is a member.

### **Special Committee under Consideration... Interested?**

The formation of a special committee focusing on the long term financial viability of the Post is under consideration. The purpose of the Committee would be to develop and present ideas to the Executive Committee for further action. Examples of potential ideas include long term rental of Post facilities, "downsizing" to a smaller Post facility, and exploring new sources of revenue. Many of our members have business, financial, or other skills that may be useful to the contemplated committee. If you have those skills and would like to be considered for the committee, please contact current (and outgoing) Commander Kern or the incoming Commander when known. We need your help and ideas.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2010</h1>						
				1	2 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	3
4 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!!</b>	5 S.A.L. 7:30 PM	6	7 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle	8	9 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	10
11	12	13	14 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle	15	16 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	17
18	19 Post Executive Committee 7:30 PM	20	21 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle	22	23 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	24
25	26 General Membersh 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Meeting	27	28 Shrimp 5:30 - 7:30 PM  Pinochle	29	30 BINGO Early Bird 7:15 PM	31