



# Bolingbrook Legionnaire



American Legion Post #1288

P.O. Box 1133 • Bolingbrook, IL 60440

An Award Winning Post Newsletter

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On the Web: <http://members.aol.com/ilam1288>

## DO WE WANT A POST HOME?

Some of the post membership is expressing renewed interest in attempting to secure a building, by one means or another, for use as a post home. There are numerous advantages to having a fixed post home, as well as numerous additional responsibilities, tasks and costs. There is at least one potentially viable opportunity that could be explored, given sufficient membership interest and commitment.

Such an undertaking would be more than a one or two person effort for just the exploration and planning. It would certainly take the efforts of 10 – 12 (or more) to eventually help run and maintain a facility.

It would really be great to have a place to call our own (or to rent space in for a token amount), but it would take the commitment and effort of a core group of members, supported by many of the rest of us. Do we have members who would be willing to take on the challenge of exploring options? Are there enough of us who would step up to the plate and commit to being willing to do the work of managing a post home if a viable opportunity could be arranged? We need to know the answers to those two questions to determine if the time is now right to make another push for a home (either on our own, or in rented space in, perhaps, a community veterans' facility – or some such).

If you would be willing to help make it happen, let us know. We are looking to see if there are more than a few good men and women willing to take the challenge, leap into the breach and start a sustained charge. Will you help? Come to this month's meeting and let us know. E-mail us at [ilam1288@aol.com](mailto:ilam1288@aol.com) to let us know. Mail us at the Post's P.O. Box to let us know. Phone one of the officers to let us know. Out of 119 members, only 12 to 15 are participants in post activities. Everyone has their own priorities, and participation in the Legion at whatever level of involvement is appreciated (from simple membership and annual dues support to the equivalent of full blown voluntary part or full time support). Commitment to supporting a post home is more in the range of a part time commitment. It is surely more than a meeting a month. Are you interested? Can you help? Will you help? We need to know.



## COMING EVENTS

- Monday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Center, 251 Canterbury Lane
- Monday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.: VAC Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., VAC Office, 128 N. Scott, Joliet
- Friday, April 16, 8:00 p.m.: County Meeting, Harwood #5 - 705 S. Larkin Ave (S.W. corner I-80 & Larkin)
- Sunday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.: 11<sup>th</sup> District Meeting: Joliet 1080, 2625 Ingals, Joliet, Past Commanders Luncheon precedes.
- Saturday, April 24, 1:00 p.m.: Illinois Aviation Museum Dedication, Clow Airport. (Noon arrival).
- Friday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.: Bolingbrook Air Force Jr. ROTC Dining Out (Awards Presentation), Levy Center.
- Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Center, 251 Canterbury Lane
- Thursday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.: Romeoville Marine Corps Awards Ceremony, Romeoville H.S.
- Friday/Saturday, May 21-22 – Poppy Days**
- Saturday, May 29: – World War Two Memorial Dedication Activities
- 8:00 a.m.: Prayer Breakfast and Honoring of WWII Bolingbrook, Legion and VFW members – Golden Coral. Open to all interested persons.**
- 1:00 p.m.: Memorial Service to departed WWII veterans**
- Monday, May 31: Memorial Day.

## ILLINOIS AVIATION MUSEUM DEDICATION

Post 1288, along with VFW Post 5917 has been invited to participate in the dedication of the Illinois Aviation Museum at Clow International Airport on April 24, 2004. In a program that starts at 1:00 p.m., we have been invited to participate in a joint color guard and firing squad.

The theme of the dedication will be "A tribute to Illinois Veterans." It is envisioned that the museum will eventually hold numerous military and civilian aircraft.

You may recall that a replica of the Wright brothers' original plane was assembled at the airport. Housing that craft gave the birth of the idea for the museum.

Post #1288 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month in the Levy Senior Center, 251 Canterbury Lane at 7:30 p.m.

American Legion Motto: *Get Involved*

## DID YOU KNOW? – LEGION CAP ETIQUETTE –

The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district, or state lettering.

If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:

A) Additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post, or to an officer title (such as “Past Commander”),

B) Cap insignias or badges (for Past or Present officers),

C) Consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military services decorations.

The Legion Uniform Cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

- A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion Uniform Cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.

- The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.

- Legion posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship. and recover after marching through the door.

- Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service, and will recover after leaving the place of worship.

- When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard). At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.

## Did You Know (con't.)

- In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.

- Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

## DO YOU HAVE A LEGION CAP?

If not, show your support and membership at community veterans' activities by ordering one from the American Legion Emblem Sales. To order call 1-800-453-5566. The style is Post Cap Style 2, with or without lining; Regular, Fort Knox or Women' crown. There is also a mandatory State insignia for the front of the cap (Lincoln's head for Illinois). A plastic cap cover (# 70999) for \$1.95 is a good investment to keep your cap looking fresh. Ask for a catalog while you are at it. If you have a cap, call for a catalog. They are free.



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEGION

Post 1288 now has three copies of “The American Legion Extension Institute,” a four booklet basic course on what the Legion is and how it works. It is a short course of study that gives members of the Legion family the opportunity to learn and discover the rich history, programs, policies, developments, positions and future goals of our organization. Graduates receive a cap patch and a certificate. The materials also serve as a handy reference set on the workings of the Legion.

Check out a set at the Post meeting. Find out just how great the Legion really is.

## POT OF GOLD

**Robert Freshcorn** would have won the “Pot of Gold” which now stands at \$102.50 if he had been at the last meeting. Will you win it by being at this month's meeting in case your name is drawn? Each meeting, those members present put a quarter into the “Pot of Gold.” At the end of the meeting a name is drawn from the pot containing all active members of the post. If you are present when your name is drawn.

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS \$1000.00 FREE INSURANCE POLICY

A number of years ago the Department of Illinois offered a \$1000.00 free accidental death life insurance policy to its members through a national company. Of course, there was an option to purchase more, but the basic \$1000 policy was free. This program is still in effect and available to Illinois Legion members. The policy remains in effect as long as members are current in their dues. If, at the time a claim is filed, National shows that the member's dues are current, then the claim will be honored.

You are eligible to apply for this free policy. Call the Plan Administrator at 1-800-624-5417. The Plan Administrator changed a year or so ago. If you did sign up for the policy it would be a good idea to check with the Administrator to confirm the status of your policy. If you did not sign up then, or have become a member since the initial offering, you can still sign up. A free \$1000.00 policy is not a lot of insurance, but it is a free \$1000.00 policy. Free money ain't easy to come by. It is another good reason to be a Legion member.

## BRAC 2005

In a report to Congress SECDEF Donald H. Rumsfeld certified that the military has about 24% of excess base capacity to support the armed forces. The Army has the most that need to be closed (about 29%), followed by the Air Force (about 24%) and the Navy/USMC at about 21%). His report states that if the 2005 round of base closures produces a 20% reduction, DOD would see a net savings of about \$5 billion by 2011 and reoccurring annual savings of about \$8 billion. The four previous base closure rounds now save our military \$6.6 billion dollars each year. Nevertheless, there is a movement to derail the next round of base closures by convincing people it is cheaper to keep all bases open and lease land to earn money; thus expanding what is known as Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) facilities. This robs local communities of business property taxes and rarely produces net profits as cozy relationships result in contracts in which the government still pays for property maintenance. Small military bases are inefficient to operate since each base usually has a housing office, equal opportunity office, public affairs, chapel, library, auto shop, medical clinic, dental clinic, commissary, exchange, base headquarters, base security, decal office, fitness center, reception center, swimming pool, child care center, enlisted club, officer club, teen club, family support center, temporary lodging, education center, dining hall, maintenance office, golf course, theater, post office, and various recreational facilities. Therefore, shifting "tenant" units to larger bases with room for growth saves a great deal of money and manpower in the long run, although moving units requires money for relocation and some new construction. Reserve, National Guard, and federal civilian activities at closed bases can continue as they do elsewhere without a military landlord.

Base closures also allow the elimination of outdated organizations which have been preserved as jobs programs by members of Congress

The 2005 round will begin in March 2005 when the President, in consultation with congressional leaders, will appoint the nine-member base closing commission. Two months later on 16 May, the defense secretary will submit his list of facilities to be closed. It will take seven members to add a facility to that list, but just a simple majority to remove a facility. The President may approve that list and send it to Congress, or reject it and send it back to the commission. Neither Congress nor the President can make changes to the list. If he accepts the list, it becomes law unless Congress votes against it within 45 days. This has never happened since Congressmen from districts spared closures think the list is fair.

Army bases currently proposed for realignment or closure in 2005 include: Carlisle Barracks PA, Detroit Arsenal MI, Fort Belvoir VA, Fort Buchanan PR, Fort McPherson/Gillem GA, Fort Monmouth NJ, Fort Monroe VA, Fort Polk LA (to realign), Fort Richardson AK, Fort Sam Houston TX, Fort Shafter HI, Lima Army Tank Plant OK, Natick Soldier Center MA, Picatinny Arsenal NJ, Redstone Arsenal AL, Rock Island Arsenal IL, Sierra Army Depot CA, and Yuma Proving Ground AZ. Arizona.

Air Force bases currently proposed for realignment or closure in 2005 include: Altus AFB OK, Beale AFB CA, Brooks AFB TX, Cannon AFB NM, \*Columbus AFB MS, Ellsworth AFB SD, Goodfellow AFB TX, Grand Forks AFB ND, Hanscom AFB MA, Kirtland AFB NM, Los Angeles AFB CA, McConnell AFB KS, Nellis AFB NV (to realign), Seymour Johnson AFB NC (to realign), Shaw AFB SC, and Vance AFB OK.

Naval bases currently proposed for realignment or closure in 2005 include: Ingleside Naval Station TX, Naval Postgraduate School CA, Naval Air Station Meridian MS, Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst NJ, Naval Recreation Station Solomons Island MD, Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane IN, Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division VA, Navy Supply Corps School GA, New Orleans Naval Support Activity LA, Pascagoula Naval Station MS, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard NH, and Saratoga Springs Naval Support Unit NY.

Marine Naval bases currently proposed for realignment or closure in 2005 include: Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany GA, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow CA (to realign), Marine Corps Air Station Miramar CA, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare School CA, Marine Reserve Support Unit, Kansas City MO, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego CA (realign or close). For more information about the DOD position concerning BRAC refer to [www.defenselink.mil/brac](http://www.defenselink.mil/brac) [Source: RAO Bulletin Update 30 March 2004 using NAUS Update 26 MAR 04, S&T Resources and Program Development]