



Bolingbrook Legionnaire



American Legion Post #1288

P.O. Box 1133 • Bolingbrook, IL 60440

An Award Winning Post Newsletter

August 2004

Volume 7, Number 8

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

POST INSTALLATION

Bolingbrook Post 1288 will hold its installation of officers at the August meeting on the 2nd. Those to be installed are:

Commander	Elden P. Laffoon, Sr.	630.783.2669
Sr. Vice Cmndr	Larry Shaver	630.759.1274
Jr. Vice Cmndr	Bettye Carter	630.378.1433
Adjutant	Joe Rojek	630.759.6450
Finance Officer	Wayne Macejak	630.378.6223
Service Officer	Wayne Macejak	630.378.6223
Chaplain	Rev. John Skanse	630.378.4749
Judge Advocate	Mel Hansen	630.739.4439
Sgt.-at-Arms	Frank Zwettler	630.759.1575
Historian	Bettye Carter	630.378.1433

The installation officer will be Virgil Banker (Joliet Harwood Post #5), the first commander of Post 1288, and Past Commander of Will County and the 11th District. The Installation Sgt.-at-Arms will be Tony Sallesse (Post #5) and the Installation Chaplain will be Mel Hansen.

Light refreshments will be served.

Also at the meeting, Matthew Baker, the Bolingbrook High School Jr. student selected to be the Post's delegate to this year's Premiere Boys State event will provide the post with remarks on his experience.

POST TO STAFF COUNTY LEGION TABLE AT COUNTY FAIR

Post 1288 will again staff the Will County Council information and recruitment table in the Commercial Exhibits building at the Will County Fair. We obtained our traditional time of 2 – 6 p.m. on Saturday of the Fair (August 28th). Four people would be a great turn-out. We have 2 committed so far. How about putting it on your calendar?

POT OF GOLD

Now stands at \$106.25.

2004 POPPY DAYS

Poppy Days for 2004 are set for November 5 and 6. Please mark your calendar and help us be among the top ten posts again this year.

POST 1288 SEEKS MEMBER E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you have an e-mail address and have not received an e-mail contact or request for verification of your address in the past month, please send an e-mail message to the post at ilam1288@aol.com. The post is seeking to update our address list for administrative contact, emergency or short notice event alerts, newsletter distribution, etc. The list will be available to the current officers and the newsletter editor. The ilam1288 address goes to the webmaster: Mel Hansen.

POST TO PROVIDE COLOR GUARD FOR VIETNAM VETS RECOGNITION

Post 1288 will assist with a Color Guard at Bolingbrook Library Aug. 1 at 1:30 p.m. for a ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans on the 40th anniversary of the Gulf of Tonkin incident which escalated U.S. involvement in that war. If you can help, be there at 12:30 p.m. If you are a Vietnam Vet, come out and be recognized. Guest speakers include a Vietnam Medal of Honor winner from Naperville, and the director of a Chicago based Vietnam Veterans museum.

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday, Aug 1, 12:30 p.m.: Vietnam Vet Ceremony - Bolingbrook Library.
- Monday, Aug 2, 7:30 p.m.: Post meeting - Installation of Officers, Levy Center, 251 Canterbury Lane
- Monday, Aug 9, 7:30 p.m.: VAC meeting. – 128 N. Scott, Joliet
- Friday, Aug 20, 7:00 p.m.: Will County meeting and Installation of Officers – Peotone Post #392, 109 W. North St.
- Saturday, Aug 28, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: Post 1288 staffs the County Legion table at the County Fair.
- Monday, Sept 6, 7:30 p.m.: Post meeting, Levy Center, 251 Canterbury Lane.
- Saturday, 9/11: Patriot Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial, Village Center – Fly U.S. Flags at half staff.
- Friday, Sep 17:
 - Dusk (7:30 p.m.): POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial, Village Center
 - 8:00 p.m.: County meeting, Steger Post #521, 34 W. 34th St.

Post #1288 meets the 1st Monday of the Month in the Levy Senior Center, 251 Canterbury Lane at 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Motto: *Get Involved*

VA'S HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. For deaths that occurred before Sept. 11, 2001, VA may furnish a headstone or marker only for graves that are not marked with a private headstone.

Headstones and markers are provided for eligible spouses and dependents of veterans only in national, military post or state veterans cemeteries. Spouses and dependents buried in private cemeteries are not eligible for a government headstone or marker.

Flat bronze, granite or marble markers and upright granite and marble headstones are available. The style chosen must be consistent with the cemetery's rules. VA national cemeteries order the style used in their cemeteries. Most V A national cemeteries use upright granite or marble headstones, which measure 42 inches in height and 13 inches in width. Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains.

Eligibility

Any deceased veteran discharged from the U.S. armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible to receive a government headstone or marker. For enlisted persons whose service began after Sept. 7, 1980, and for officers whose service began after Oct. 17, 1981, service must have been for at least 24 months, or the period for which the person was called to active duty.

Members of the reserves and National Guard who die on active duty or while performing training duty may receive a headstone or marker. Reservists and National Guardsmen with 20 years service who are entitled to retired pay are also eligible. A copy of the Reserve Retirement Eligibility Benefits Letter must accompany the application. People who had only active duty for training while in the National Guard on reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances, such as death while on duty or as a result of training.

If the death occurred before Sept. 11, 2001, by law VA may only furnish a headstone or marker if the grave is unmarked.

The same eligibility criteria apply for burial in VA's national cemeteries.

How to Order a Government Headstone or Marker

When burial or memorialization is in a national, military post, or state veterans cemetery, cemetery staff will order a headstone or marker, using inscription information provided by the next of kin.

Source: (Illinois) Department News - June/July 2004

WAYNE MACEJAK TAPPED FOR DEPT. ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS

Wayne Macejak from our Post has been selected by the incoming Department Sr. Vice Commander to be one of 5 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms for the Department of Illinois. Wayne will serve as the Sgt.-at-Arms for department activities/events in our 2nd Division (there are 5). Wayne will also continue to serve as the Service Officer for the Post, Will County, 11th District and 2nd Division. When you see Wayne in a white hat with gold braid, that will be his Department office hat.

POST 1288 MEMBERSHIP CLOSES AT 121

Our Legion Post reached 121 members for the 2004 membership year as of the close of books on June 25th. We not only reached our 2003 membership total of 119, we also reached our Department established goal of 121 (101.68%). For a while it was a very close race, but last minute efforts by an active membership team to call and visit members whose dues were still out paid off. Thank you to all for your continued support.

A WORD OF THANKS

As your retiring Commander of the last six years, I would like to say "Thank You" to the post membership. We have come quite a ways since I first assumed command in August of 1998. At that time our membership stood at 98, Poppy Days collections were \$800 and Gifts to Yanks received \$1356. Now we are at 121 members, \$1500 for Poppy Days (down from a record \$2700 in 2003) and our Gifts to Yanks receipts topped \$3000, which placed us in the top ten posts in the Department.

Our monthly meetings were averaging six to eight faithful attendees as we met on the last Friday night. With the passing or relocation of a number of "the faithful," our meeting attendance average dropped to 3 to 5, hardly enough to keep the post alive. For a while some of us toyed with the idea of letting the post fold so the members could transfer to other area posts that had a post home and more active membership. Then we switched to Monday night meetings and things picked up a bit. In the last three or four years we began actively recruiting members from the State's generic post into our post. This helped immeasurably, as many of these members have become a stable, active nucleus for the post. Meeting attendance is now running from 12 to 16 with people who are willing to become involved in the Legion's activities. We are still grateful for those of you who can contribute only your continued membership support, for we recognize that in our busy world, people cannot be actively involved in everything they belong to.

I am very pleased to be able to turn over to our new commander, Elden Laffoon, a post of active, committed members who, as do I, see value in Legion programs.