



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER – December, 2017, January, February, 2018**  
**Commander’s Message to Our Legion Family**

Fellow Legionnaires:

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. The calendar year is coming to a close and our post is on target to operate without a loss. Our post’s purpose is to help veterans and veteran’s families. Our financial committee has revised our food and bar prices to reflect the increased prices from our suppliers. New pricing will become effective 29 November, 2017. We are continuing to experience heating problems in the lounge and we are working to correct the problems, so please be patient with the lounge staff. They have no control over the problem.

Thank you to the Auxiliary for two great Veterans Day Dinners. It is wonderful what you do for our veterans.

Keep the dates open for the Post Christmas Party on December 16<sup>th</sup> and the New Year’s Eve Party.

Again, best wishes for a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

For God & Country,  
Bill

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**Membership from Chairman, Bill Nash Questions: 410-833-1600**

Our current membership is at 427 and we are 168 short of last year’s renewals. Renewals processed prior to December 16, 2017 will save our post \$588.00 before the state increase on January 1, 2018. Thanks to all who have renewed. We welcome all veterans who have honorably served. If you know a veteran who is not currently a legion member, please encourage them to sign up. Applications are in the lobby and all we need is a copy of their DD214. The application and the membership fee is \$35.00. Thanks for recruiting.

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**Dues can be paid NOW for 2018:**

- American Legion: \$35.00 (80 years old and older, the post now pays your dues)
  - Auxiliary: \$25.00
  - Sons of the American Legion: \$25.00
  - Juniors (SAL or Auxiliary): \$7.00
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***American Legion Gun Raffle..It’s a Henry 30-30!***



Henry 30-30 Steel Round Barrell, Model H009  
20” Barrell Length (Round Blued Steel) \$850.00 Value  
**Tickets \$5.00 each**

Profits go to the new Carroll County Veterans Center (in the old Army Reserve Center)  
Tickets will be available after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at the bar or see Marvin  
Drawing will be on Friday, January 12, 2018 at Post 200.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER Dec. 2017 Jan. – Feb. 2018**



**Membership:** is progressing – and once again if you have paid your dues and you get a notice from Department, **PLEASE** disregard it. Dues are to be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Membership is up to **293**. **Let's try to get our dues paid for 2018 before the New Year begins.**

**November: 2017**

5 DEC in DorWic #218  
6 Unit Meeting  
18 Commander's Feed  
19 District Meeting - #168 Thurmont  
27 Christmas Tree goes up in the Lounge

Note:

Don't forget our Christmas Lights Fundraiser. \$5.00 for each light in honor or in memory of a loved one. See Stacey Nash (443) 744-1184 or [staceynash1@gmail.com](mailto:staceynash1@gmail.com)  
Forms available in the lounge.

**December: 2017**

3 Senior's 1-3 and Children's 4-6 Christmas Parties. Be sure to bring out the children for their Christmas party.  
4 Regular Meetings and ALA Christmas Party. A.L, SAL and Riders are invited.  
16 Post 200 Christmas Party  
24 Christmas Eve  
25 Christmas Day  
31 New Year's Party in the lounge. Bring a dish to share at 7 pm

**January: 2018**

1 Happy New Year!  
8 Regular Meetings 7 pm  
28 Western Md District Mtg at Morris Frock Post #42

**February: 2018**

4 ALA DEC Meeting at Glen W. Eyler Post 282, Woodsboro  
5 Regular Meetings  
24 Shrimp Feed 4-7 pm

**You are already a success in so many ways?**

**FOR GOD & COUNTRY**

**President**

**Mary Jane Wickline**

*With loving memory, we have lost one of our Presidents, Faye Dell. Her first years of presidency were from 1974-1977, and then another series of years from 2006-2014. She served the most years of any president. She did so much for so many; Newsletters, Membership, Department Executive Committee and much, much more. Thank you, Faye. May you rest in peace.*

**A Huge Thank You!**

Thank you to all who baked, cooked, served, helped in any way and attended the free Veterans Dinner on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Both seatings were full; the food was delicious and enjoyed by all. We are honored to be able to give this small token to those who have given so much for our freedom.

God Bless Our Veterans!

Most of them believe that their contribution was small; just part of their duty; but it is these individual efforts that have combined into a mighty force for freedom. These contributions, in combination, make up the bigger story of America itself; a story of courage, sacrifice, faith, honor, love and the commitment to preserve and protect our precious liberties.

Veterans, we thank you every day!



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION December, 2017, January, February, 2018

We are readying for the Holidays and support of our Veterans and their Families .....

The S.A.L. is equipping Post 200 with 3 First Aid Kits - 1 for Upstairs, 1 for the Main Floor and another for the Pavilion.

We recently donated \$150 to the Perry Point Recreation Therapy Center, our portion, along with matching support from our Legion Family at Post 200 - this group effort was initiated and coordinated by our Legion Riders - along with their active Bicycle Program; S.A.L. member and Riders Director Tony Ottomano noticed a need for additional Therapy Equipment in the Bowling Program at Perry Point.

The S.A.L. recently received a Thank you from our Troop Support for care packages sent to Active Duty Personnel overseas. Remember, if you have an Active Duty Soldier - the S.A.L. can & will provide full support, we pay dues for Active Service Soldiers and also assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Major Jeffery Painter {4 tours} honored us with a Flag and Certificate - presently being framed for display. We can assist with membership questions, acquiring documentation {DD214} for joining Post 200 -- ask yourself when was the last time you reached out and brought in a new member ?

We recently assisted a Veteran, now paralyzed with a Department Service Officer from the American Legion Department of Maryland ..... the S.A.L. has also joined forces with our Legion Family and Carroll County to help revamp the old Army Reserve building in Westminster into a Veteran Center to assist Homeless Veterans and their Families. There are approximately 18 Veterans and their families [known] presently needing this type assistance. Bring those Veterans to our attention, we can help.

Your S.A.L. membership is developing new Fundraisers to generate the monies needed to support such efforts -- these Fundraisers will be disguised as Dinners and Feeds, unique Raffles with Opportunity; and these are Fundraisers {we put the Fun into raisings Funds!!} -- Don't miss supporting these opportunities -- we can fill your hearts and bellies ..... & also your pocketbook .... That's what your Dollars and our raffles & dinners do when join forces.

Don't forget "Plum Crazy" on Wednesdays run by Past Commanders Tom Clavell and Roger Mazzone. S.A.L. meetings are held 1st Monday of each Month -- come on out join the Legion Forces.

Jerry Bevard (Dual Member) is our new liaison with the American Legion - the S.A.L. is under the Charter of the American Legion and we act in their best interests - with his coordination and assistance the S.A.L. will develop closer ties and programs needed.

Past Legion Commander and Chaplain Gerald Bevard is also a VFW member with his experience and expertise we plan to develop our Flag Education and Replacement Program, Special Ceremonies including Funeral Services and Holidays and Civic Functions. "To foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism".

Plans to further develop the POW/MIA Pavilion are being formed for Springtime Action; Commissioner Dick Weaver has assured us full support.

S.A.L. member Bobby Martin will act as consultant and advisor - and we look forward to further complementing the efforts of the Volunteers and workforce that has already brought this needed Addition to Post 200.

Bless all who support our Veterans and their Families. Pray for those who don't.

In your Service,

Charles E. Bevard

S.A.L. Commander, Squadron 200, Post 200



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS,**  
**December, 2017, January, February, 2018**

On Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> the Riders met at the Post in the morning to prepare for the Bob Gerst Memorial Ride. It was a beautiful day to ride and we had 33 bikes and a few cages (cars) with a total of 52 people in attendance. Geno Antonelli and I led the group to Big Falls Inn to their *Fallen Bikers Wall* where we had added our fallen comrade's name. After a brief ceremony everyone enjoyed lunch. At our October meeting Bob's mom, Doris Kerlin and his sister, Tracy Murray were in attendance. Michele Burton presented them with a check for \$1200 that was to be donated to the American Heart Association in Bob's name & memory, which were the proceeds raised from the ride. Thank you to all who participated and lent a hand in obtaining donations and organizing this event.

December will find us once again making a trip to Perry Point Veterans Medical Center in Perryville to drop off 35 bikes needed for their PTSD program and HUD-VASH program (Housing Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing). Barney Cable has bikes ready for us. We will also be delivering 4 handled bowling balls which are needed for the Recreational Therapy program. There is a bowling alley on site and quite a few of the veterans are not able to use a regular bowling ball. The special order bowling ball has a handle that the moment the ball is released, the spring loaded handle drops below the ball's surface allowing the ball to roll perfectly down the lane. We would like to thank the Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary families for contributing with us to purchase the handled bowling balls.

As a reminder, the Riders \$10 2018 dues are due to our Membership Coordinator, Michelle Mattheu. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. This is our Christmas Potluck meeting so everyone bring a dish to share and plan on celebrating the holidays with your Riders family.

Ride Safe,  
Tony Ottomano, ALR Director

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**Four Chaplain's Sunday**

February 4, 2018

Remember those four chaplains who gave their life jackets and their lives to save their fellow service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers who were on board the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester* enroute from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland when they were hit with a German submarine's torpedo on February 3, 1943 and sank in less than 20 minutes.

**Iwo Jima**

Let us not forget....

The **Battle of Iwo Jima** (19 February – 26 March 1945) was a major battle in which the U.S. Marines landed on and eventually captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese Imperial Army during WW II. This five-week battle comprised some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the War in the Pacific during World War II.

**A reminder for parents**

Members are responsible for minor children. They should not run, play on steps, make excessive noise or use the pool tables in the lounge if under age 16. Liquor Board rules do not allow minors to sit or stand at the bar or play games of chance. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Another Huge Thank You**

Thank you to all those who answered the call to help put flags on the graves of our veterans in our local cemeteries on Memorial Day. The response was heartwarming. This can be a monumental task and you all have made it so much easier. God Bless you all. We can never forget those who gave so much for our freedom. Thank you!

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Don't forget to burn those green lights for vets.  
It's so nice to see all those green porch lights.

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Steamed Shrimp	2 Hall Set up for Senior/Childrens Christmas Parties Blaine Brown DJ
3 1-3 Aux. Senior Christmas Party 4-6 Childrens Christmas Party	4 Regular Meetings, 7pm Legion, Aux, SAL Aux Christmas Party	5	6 Plum Crazy 7:30	7 Nat'l Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (flag half staff)	8 Turkey Dinner	9 Karaoke by Lou Marshall
10 ALA Dept Christmas Party at Dewey Lowman	11	12	13 Riders Meeting 7pm Plum Crazy 7:30	14	15 Baked Fish	16 Post Christmas Party 1-4 pm
17	18	19	20 Plum Crazy 7:30	21	22 Lasagna w/salad and garlic bread	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas Post is closed	26	27 Plum Crazy 7:30	28	29 Crab Cake	30
31 New Year's Eve Party in lounge Bring a dish!						

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Plum Crazy 7:30 House/Executive Meeting 7 pm	4	5 Meat Loaf	6 Blaine Brown DJ
7	8 Regular Meetings, 7 pm Legion, Aux, SAL	9	10 Riders Meeting 7pm Plum Crazy 7:30	11	12 Pork Chop Henry Gun Raffle Drawing	13 Karaoke by Lou Marshall
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17 Plum Crazy 7:30	18	19 Steamed Shrimp	20
21	22 Carroll County Meeting at Post 31	23	24 Plum Crazy 7:30	25	26 Turkey Dinner	27
28 ALA WMD Meeting at Morris Frock #42	29	30	31 Plum Crazy 7:30 House/Executive Meeting 7 pm			

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day Baked Fish	3 Blaine Brown DJ
4 ALA DEC Mtg. at Woodsboro AL WMD Mtg. at Williamsport #202 <b>Four Chaplains Sunday</b>	5 Regular Meetings 7 pm Legion, Aux, SAL	6	7 Plum Crazy 7:30	8	9 Lasagna with salad and garlic bread	10 Karaoke by Lou Marshall
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Mardi Gras	14 Valentine's Day Riders Meeting 7 pm Plum Crazy 7:30	15	16 Crab Cake	17
18 AL DEC Meeting at Laurel Post #60	19 President's Day Battle of Iwo Jima began 1945	20	21 Plum Crazy 7:30	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Meat Loaf	24 Aux/SAL Shrimp Feed
25 Wine Jug at Cascade Post #239 12 noon	26	27	28 House/Executive Meeting 7pm Plum Crazy 7:30			

## Pray for our sick....*may they be healed.*

Bobby and Cathy Martin	Elyse Weckesser
Diane Harroll	Richard Hess
Jim Erb	Janet Griffith
Joan & Phil Wilson	Mark Smith
Bill Wright	Fran Stonesifer
Caroline Marschall	Brenda Rohrbaugh
Carolyn Evans	Jackie Russo
Liz Watson	
Warren & Laura Fishpaw	

## Post Everlasting

May they know everlasting peace.

George Rupp	Donald Snyder
John Rill	Charles Bunce, Sr.
Thomas Green	John Kristian Jr.
Raymond Woollard	Robert Weisenmiller
Walter McGee	Melvin Toups
Albert G. Grelli	Faye Dell
Grace Dutterer	

## Dates to Remember

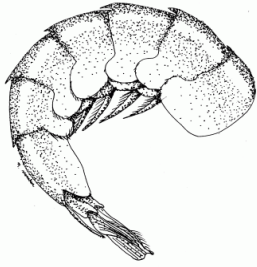
*Strengthen them in their struggles and bring them deep and lasting peace and make them well again.*

**Note: Although we try to make sure everything is correct, there might be changes to the dates, times and information that appear in the newsletter after its printing. Check the TV in the lounge for updates.**

**December 3, 2017**, Auxiliary Senior's and Children's Christmas Parties in the hall. We will be decorating gingerbread houses again this year. There will be kits for each child this year. So bring the children for food, fun and crafts..

**December 16, 2017**, Post 200 Christmas Party in the lounge.

**February 24, 2018**, Auxiliary/SAL Shrimp Feed in the upstairs hall. Tickets will be available soon at the bar.



# Auxiliary/SAL Shrimp Feast February 24, 2018 from 4 – 7 pm

Menu: steamed shrimp, chicken, hot and cold vegetables, rolls, dessert, soda, fresh brewed iced tea, beer and wine.

**Tickets are available in the lounge beginning January 8th.  
\$35.00. Age 21 and over.**

Sponsored by Auxiliary Unit 200 and SAL Squadron 200

*Call to reserve a table ASAP to Darwin or Patty Sater text or call  
443-789-1183 or Joe or Sharon Prajzner 410-812-3231  
This event sells our quickly.*



## Christmas Tree Lights



The center tree, behind the war memorial in the center of The Town of Hampstead, will again be covered with Red, White, and Blue lights. Each light, representing someone's memory or honor, is available for purchase with a donation to the Auxiliary of **\$5 per light.**

If you are interested in sponsoring a light, we ask that you send the form on the bottom of the page (or get additional slips at the bar) with your donation to the Auxiliary.

The tree will be lit Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Santa arrives at 7 pm to light the tree.

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All donations will go directly to the Hampstead American Legion Auxiliary. Please mail donation and information to

H.A.L.A # 200, 4600 Legion Lane, Hampstead, MD 21074, Attn: Legion Lights.

Your Name	
Send Acknowledgment to this address	
Circle One: <b>Honor or Memory</b>	
Name	

If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Nash (443) 744-1184 or [staceynash1@gmail.com](mailto:staceynash1@gmail.com)

# The Origin of “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" is a [Christmas carol](#) based on the 1863 poem "Christmas Bells" by American poet [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#). The song tells of the narrator's despair, upon hearing Christmas bells, that "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men". The carol concludes with the bells carrying renewed hope for peace among men.

In 1861, two years before writing this poem, Longfellow's personal peace was shaken when his second wife of 18 years, to whom he was very devoted, was tragically burned in a fire. Then in 1863, during the American Civil War, Longfellow's oldest son, Charles Appleton Longfellow, joined the Union cause as a soldier without his father's blessing. Longfellow was informed by a letter dated March 14, 1863, after Charles had left. "I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave but I cannot any longer", he wrote. "I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be of any good". Charles soon got an appointment as a lieutenant but, in November, he was severely wounded in the Battle of New Hope Church (in Virginia), during the Mine Run Campaign. Charles eventually recovered, but his time as a soldier was finished.

Longfellow first wrote the poem on Christmas Day in 1863. "Christmas Bells" was first published in February 1865, in *Our Young Folks*, a juvenile magazine published by Ticknor and Fields. References to the Civil War are prevalent in some of the verses that are not commonly sung.

The following are the original words of Longfellow's poem:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along the unbroken song of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day. A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth the cannon thundered in the South, and with the sound the carols drowned of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent the hearth-stones of a continent, and made forlorn the households born of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said; "For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to men."

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**“We will always remember. We will always be proud.**

**We will always be prepared, so we may always be free.” Ronald Reagan**  
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**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with us!**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!**