

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 9785**

*Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries*

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**"All American Post"**



**MARCH 2011**

**Commander**

**Marty Harris**

**Ladies Auxiliary President**

**Tina Stoddard**

**Men's Auxiliary President!**

**Al Stoddard**

## SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Nils Hviid continues to recover at home, as does Gary Newman, Jim Garbe, and John Peck. Jane Keller is back from her follow-up and Crystal Adams is seeing better and better after her Lasix surgery. Frank Redgrave continues to have falls at home. 1531863

Hey folks, it's almost summer, so be careful out there – no one has time to be sick or injured this time of year!

Suellyn Wright Novak Post Service Officer

## LADIES AUXILIARY INCOMING PRESIDENT

Hello Sisters;

The 66<sup>th</sup> VFW and 46<sup>th</sup> Ladies Auxiliary Department Convention is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's Department Convention is being hosted by VFW Post 10252 and Ladies Auxiliary. Help support and attend our Ladies Auxiliary Department Convention on an Auxiliary and Department level. The meetings are open to *all* Ladies Auxiliary members. Meetings will be held at the Coast International Inn Hotel near the Ted Steven's Anchorage International Airport. By attending the meetings, you will gain valuable information and an insight to what our organization is all about, and what programs we work on throughout the year. Please let me know if you need a (tentative) schedule of meetings/activities planned during Department Convention and I will see that you get a copy of the schedule.

The summer months are generally slow around our Post home. Due to the many Post or Auxiliary members engaged in summer activities such as gardening, hiking, RVing, camping, fishing, etc., the Ladies Auxiliary has not planned many activities for the summer months. There is one holiday, and one Chugiak/Eagle River event coming up this summer during the month of July.

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### ***WHERE POST 9785 STANDS as of 23 May 2011***

*2009-10 Membership – 1419 members*

***2010-11 Membership – 104.44%***

<b><i>Life Members</i></b>	<b>1328 (+1)</b>
<b><i>Continuous Members</i></b>	<b>83 (-)</b>
<b><i>New Members</i></b>	<b>52 (+3)</b>
<b><i>Reinstated Members</i></b>	<b>19 (-)</b>
<b><i>Unpaid Members</i></b>	<b>101 (-)</b>

***Did you know we are the  
15<sup>th</sup> largest Post in the world?***

## LADIES AUXILIARY INCOMING PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page 1)

There is the Independence Day Parade and the Bear Paw Festival Parade. Details to come soon, so look for flyers in the Post within the next few weeks. Mark it on your calendar and help our Post and Auxiliaries out with these two events. You don't know what kind of fun you're missing out on when you don't volunteer. The work is easy and you'll have a lot of fun while serving our local community. Come out and volunteer even for just one hour. This gives some of our volunteers a brief break from the Food Booth to enjoy the festivities going on. Sharing your time and effort is addictive. It also helps our Post, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary towards Community Service hours. Let's show our patriotism and willingness to help improve a Veteran's life and volunteer on a Post, Ladies Auxiliary or Men's Auxiliary project. Thank a Veteran for their sacrifice towards serving our country. Without them, we wouldn't have the freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis. 2000082938

Our meeting this month will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Mark it on your calendar and plan on attending.

Loyally,

Tina Stoddard

Incoming President



Sunday, June 19, 2011

## MEN'S AUXILIARY

Summer time is upon us. Get out and enjoy all the fishing, nice weather, and other summer activities.

We need volunteers to help out with Friday night hamburgers, which will start the first Friday in June. If you can help, let myself or Mike Garganta know. Get involved. This is your chance to help out. 5769685

Congratulations to the new officers for the coming year that were installed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. They will take their respective Office in June after Department Convention. The new Officers are: President Al Stoddard; Senior Vice-President Warren Frigon; Junior Vice-President Chris Stoddard; Secretary/Treasurer Mike Garganta; and Chaplain Dave Ford.

Our Men's Auxiliary is selling raffle tickets on a series of three different prizes. First Prize is a Vietnam Commemorative Collectors Knife; second prize is five (5) Silver Dollar Coins and third prize is a \$50.00 gift card. The drawing will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Get out there and sell some tickets. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20

We do need more volunteers around the Post. Help out your fellow Post and Auxiliary members. There is Friday night Hamburgers and other special events. 9187004

This month's meeting will be on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Al Stoddard



President

## COOTIES CACOON

Listen Cooties,

First I would like to thank each and every Cootie within the MOC and MOCA for a very successful year. We finished with our last Scratch on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Post looked like a sea of red. We had a very large surge of new members this year. This is new energy with new ideas and new skills. They will look to our more tenured Cooties for guidance and wisdom. I have no doubt that we have one of the best Pup Tents in the country and together we will have an even better year than last. This Pup Tent will be so entrenched that we can rest assured its survival for years, no, generations to come. Yes I dream big. That is because we are big. One big team of Cooties that has big hearts and takes the time to help others. 5006

Speaking of that, we had some very large turnouts at our Hospital visits and Senior Center BBQs. Some folks worked all week putting in some long hours and in some cases had only one day off and still volunteered. That is really great! Hats off to our volunteers. I would also like to mention the nice upgrade to the Post entrance that Hal Rodgers, Marvin Banbury and Roger Wortman put a lot of effort into. Who says Cooties don't volunteer? All of our work is in the name of the MOC, MOCA, but most of all in the name of the Post.

Now I call on all members of the Post, its Auxiliaries, Committees and employees. We need to work together more as a cohesive unit. That means no walls, no grudges and most of all, no bad mouthing. No one comes to the Post to be hammered on and be called names. I pledge full support to each and every Auxiliary and Committee to the best of our ability whether it's to help sell raffle tickets, recruit new members or roll the sleeves up and do some work. Keep in mind the Cooties Hospital visits and Senior Center BBQs are not an option for us. We must conduct these events

to keep our MOC and MOCA charter. If you have a fundraising event planned, we will support it. We will continue to help make improvements to the Post while working with the House Committee.

Our summer lull is fastly approaching. For those who have been members a long time you know it's like someone turned off the lights. This is prime time to get together as a whole and discuss our plans and thoughts to support each other as a whole. In the past we have bumped heads with too many raffles going on at the same time. Let's work it out together as we all have the same goals. I suggest all key players from all Post groups have a joint meeting soon and let's take care of business.

Last thing I would like to say to all is have fun this summer and most of all; be safe!

Ken Monti

Seam Squirrel (Again)

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
Of the United States of America  
And to the Republic for which it stands,  
One nation under God, indivisible,  
With liberty and justice for all

The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy and printed in a Boston magazine on September 8, 1892. The first pledge read, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The words "of the United States of America" were added sometime later. On Flag Day, 1954, President Eisenhower signed a law which added the words "under God" to the pledge.

## HISTORY OF FATHER'S DAY

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which fathers are honored by their children. On the third Sunday in June, fathers all across the United States are given presents, treated to dinner or otherwise made to feel special. .

The origin of Father's Day is not clear. Some say that it began with a church service in West Virginia in 1908. Others say the first Father's Day ceremony was held in Vancouver, Washington.

The president of the Chicago branch of the Lions' Club, Harry Meek, is said to have celebrated the first Father's Day with his organization in 1915; and the day that they chose was the third Sunday in June, the closest date to Meek's own birthday!

## HISTORY of D-DAY

The selection of a site for the largest amphibious landing in history was one of the biggest decisions of World War II. Allied planners needed a sheltered location with flat, firm beaches and within range of friendly fighter planes based in England. Most important was a reasonable expectation of achieving the element of surprise. Five beaches, code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword, on the northern coast of Normandy, France, met all the criteria and were chosen as invasion sites.

On the evening of June 5, 1944, more than 150,000 men, a fleet of 5,000 ships and landing craft, 50,000 vehicles, and 11,000 planes sat in southern England, poised to attack secretly across the English Channel along the Normandy coast of France. This force was the largest armada in history and represented years of training, planning, and supplying. Because of the highly intricate Allied deception plans, Hitler and his staff believed that the Allies would be attacking at the Pas-de-Calais.

In the early morning of June 6, thousands of Allied paratroopers landed

behind enemy lines, securing key roads and bridges on the flanks of the invasion area. As the sun rose on the Normandy coastline, the Allies began their amphibious landings, traveling to the beaches in small landing craft lowered from the decks of larger ships anchored in the Channel. The attack on four of the beaches went according to plan. But at Omaha Beach, between Utah and Gold, the bravery and determination of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division was tested in one of the fiercest battles of the war.

Surrounded at both ends by cliffs that rose wall-like from the sea, Omaha was only four miles long. To repel the Allies at the water's edge, the Germans built a fortress atop the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc overlooking Omaha from the west. They dug trenches and guns into the 150-foot bluffs lining the beach and along five ravines leading off it. As Allied troops waded into the surf, many were cut down as the doors of their landing craft opened. The survivors had to cross more than 300 yards across a tidal flat strewn with man-made obstacles. Winds and currents pushed landing craft into clumps as the men moved ashore. As a result, soldiers ran onto the beach in groups and became easy targets. Of the more than 9,000 Allied casualties on D-Day, Omaha accounted for about one-third. Allied planners had hoped that the forces at Omaha would advance 5 to 10 miles after 24 hours of fighting. Stiff German resistance, however, stopped the invaders cold on the beach. Progress inland was excruciatingly slow and painful. The Allied forces reached their first day goal only after more than two days of bloody fighting. Although many died, the Allies eventually took control of the beach and fought their way inland.



# THE KOREAN WAR

June 1950 - July 1953

On 25 June 1950, the young Cold War suddenly turned hot, bloody and expensive. Within a few days, North Korea's invasion of South Korea brought about a United Nations' "police action" against the aggressors. That immediately produced heavy military and naval involvement by the United States. While there were no illusions that the task would be easy, nobody expected that this violent conflict would continue for more than three years.

Throughout the summer of 1950, the U.S. and the other involved United Nations' states scrambled to contain North Korea's fast-moving army, assemble the forces necessary to defeat it and simultaneously begin to respond to what was seen as a global military challenge from the Communist world.

Though America's Armed Forces had suffered from several years' of punishing fiscal constraints, the end of World War II just five years earlier had left a vast potential for recovery. U.S. materiel reserves held large quantities of relatively modern ships, aircraft, military equipment and production capacity that could be reactivated in a fraction of the time necessary to build them anew. More importantly, the organized Reserve forces included tens of thousands of trained people, whose World War II experiences remained reasonably fresh and relevant. 5098

In mid-September 1950 a daring amphibious invasion at Inchon fractured the North Korean war machine. In the following two months UN armies pushed swiftly through North Korea. However, with victory seemingly in sight, China

intervened openly, and the Soviet Union not-so-openly, on the side of their defeated fellow Communist neighbor. The UN was thrown back midway into South Korea. Early in the new year, the Chinese army was in turn contained and forced to retreat.

By the middle of 1951, the front lines had stabilized near where the war started twelve months earlier. Negotiations began amid hopes that an early truce could be arranged. But this took two more frustrating years, during which the contending forces fought on, with the U.S. Navy providing extensive air and gunfire support, a constant amphibious threat, relentless minesweeping and a large logistics effort.

Finally, on 27 July 1953, with a new regime in the USSR and the blunting of a final Communist offensive, negotiations concluded and fighting ended. However, the Cold War, considerably warmed up by the Korean experience, would maintain its costly existence for nearly four more decades.

Though some insist it should be referred to as the "Korean Conflict" or a police action because the participants never officially declared "war," there are few veterans who would disagree that the fighting in Korea between 1950 and 1953 was as bitter as any war. In recent years, the Korean War has been called "The Forgotten War," because it has been overshadowed by the more immediate memories of Vietnam, Desert Storm and the fiftieth anniversary commemorations of World War II. With four million casualties, however, the war that President Truman declared a testing ground in the conflict between communism and democracy has left an indelible imprint on the history of the twentieth century.

## PEACE TREATY of VERSAILLES

The Treaty of Versailles was the peace settlement signed after World War One had ended in 1918 and in the shadow of the Russian Revolution and other events in Russia. The treaty was signed at the vast Versailles Palace near Paris - hence its title - between Germany and the Allies. The three most important politicians there were David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau and Woodrow Wilson. The Versailles Palace was considered the most appropriate venue simply because of its size - many hundreds of people were involved in the process and the final signing ceremony in the Hall of Mirrors could accommodate hundreds of dignitaries. Many wanted Germany, now led by Friedrich Ebert, smashed - others, like Lloyd George, were privately more cautious.

World War One had left Europe devastated. Those countries that had fought in it, had suffered casualties never experienced before. The total deaths of all nations who fought in the war is thought to have been 8.5 million with 21 million being wounded.

Alongside these statistics, was the fact that vast areas of north-eastern Europe had been reduced to rubble. Flanders in Belgium had been all but destroyed with the ancient city of Ypres being devastated. The homes of 750,000 French people were destroyed and the infrastructure of this region had also been severely damaged. Roads, coal mines, telegraph poles had all been destroyed and such a loss greatly hindered the area's ability to function normally. 009072

The victors from World War One were in no mood to be charitable to the defeated nations and Germany in particular was held responsible for the war and its consequences. During mid-1918, Europe was hit by Spanish flu and an estimated 25 million people died. This added to the feeling of bitterness that ran through Europe and this anger was primarily directed at Germany.

The treaty was signed on June 28th 1919 after months of argument and negotiation amongst the so-called "Big Three" as to what the treaty should contain.

Who were the "Big Three" and where did they clash over Germany and her treatment after the war ?

The "Big Three" were David Lloyd George of Britain, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson of America.

David Lloyd George of Great Britain had two views on how Germany should be treated. His public image was simple. He was a politician and politicians needed the support of the public to succeed in elections. If he had come across as being soft on Germany, he would have been speedily voted out of office. The British public was after revenge and Lloyd George's public image reflected this mood. "Hang the Kaiser" and "Make Germany Pay" were two very common calls in the era immediately after the end of the war and Lloyd George, looking for public support, echoed these views.

After agreeing to the Armistice in November 1918, the Germans had been convinced that they would be consulted by the Allies on the contents of the Treaty. This did not happen and the Germans were in no position to continue the war as their army had all but disintegrated. Though this lack of consultation angered them, there was nothing they could do about it. Therefore, the first time that the German representatives saw the terms of the Treaty was just weeks before they were due to sign it in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles on June 28th 1919.

There was anger throughout Germany when the terms were made public. The Treaty became known as a Diktat - as it was being forced on them and the Germans had no choice but to sign it. Many in Germany did not want the Treaty signed, but the representatives there knew that they had no choice as Germany was incapable of restarting the war again.

In one last gesture of defiance, the captured German naval force held at Scapa Flow (north of Scotland) scuttled itself i.e. deliberately sank itself.



# FLAG DAY

June 14, 2011

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