



**Robert E. Coulter, Jr. Post 1941
& Auxiliary Unit 1941**

American Legion
Department of Illinois



May 2015

70 Years of Service for God & Country
Volume 66 No. 10



Commander's Message: Gigi Callaway

Cell: [708-670-5539](tel:708-670-5539)

Cmdr@AL1941.org

Post Officers

Commander
Gigi Callaway

Senior Vice Commander
Ray Hodson

Junior Vice Commander
Jason Coclans

Adjutant
PC Al Krenz

Finance Officer
PC Joe Delaloye

Service Officer/Chaplin
Jerry Matuch

Spring is a very busy season for us as Legionnaires. It is time to brush off your Legion cap and come on out for many of the events on the agenda. Even if it's just attending the social meeting which is one not to miss and free too. (ref to JVC's article.)

The American Legion's four pillars are Americanism, National Security & Foreign Relations, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Children & Youth. The roots of the fourth pillar, Children & Youth, reach back to the combat-weary doughboys who founded The American Legion. They survived trench warfare, machine-gun firefights, mid-air dogfights and mustard gas. When they called their first caucus at Paris in 1919, they focused not on themselves but on the children and youth of America. They knew that many children were made orphans by the war, and that many had little chance to succeed without help. We continue with that commitment in many ways. One of which is scouting, particularly to Boy Scout Troop 19 which we sponsor. They are the same scouts that will be assisting our Adjutant at Lyonsville Cemetery placing veterans' stickers and again on Memorial Day at LTHS's North Campus with crosses and participating in that ceremony by reading the names of those killed in action from our community. Additionally, the troop will hold its annual pancake breakfast

Sergeant-at-Arms
Guy Vorsanger

Building Trustee
PC Bill Manders

Executive Committee
Fred Hartman

Wally Pidde

PC Don Baumgart

PC Len Sherwin

on May 17th at our Post home. Cost is \$5 per person. Come on down and enjoy the breakfast! This year during the Memorial Day weekend, we are proud to be a part of multiple veterans memorials ceremonies and traditional services. During this most honored time we ask that you carry a service flag or rifle. The information and schedule have been provided to you under the Family Legion News section of this newsletter. Our Sgt-at-Arms is awaiting your reply. Additionally, for the 69th consecutive year, we will be leading off the Pet Parade. Those that would like to carry a flag in the parade contact our Sgt-at-Arms. If you cannot walk we are taking names for those to ride with the Military Vehicle Association. (Contact the post, leaving your name and telephone number.) The Pet Parade will be held the first Saturday after the Memorial Day weekend (May 30th) and is sponsored by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce (WSSC). Our post is a member of the WSSC.

This annual event is famous world-wide. There are approximately 10,000 people that attend the parade and millions watch on TV. This event runs throughout the weekend with children rides and games.

Speaking of events. There were back to back events in April. The Blind Vet Dinner was enjoyed by all the blind veterans that came from Hines. Legionnaire Elaine Hoyt chaired the event. We thank her for those efforts and the team she put together to ensure that event went well. We thank the efforts of S.A.L. Commander Gregg Gammie and his team for hosting the very first Chili Cook-off. It was also the very first event hosted by Post 1941's SAL. Assisting the SAL was the Legion and the Auxiliary in a joint family event. Great tasting chili! Nice time for all of us and the community.

It's time to get your name and/or a name of a loved one on one of those memorial bricks if you have not done so already! During the month of May you can purchase a memorial brick for our walk way by the Memorial in front of our building for only \$75.00 per brick. Please pick up a form and see an officer to order your brick. PC Bill Manders for years has been managing the memorial bricks. Thank you Bill.

The last reminder is to recommend a student for Boy or Girls State. The student should have completed their junior year. There are many more programs which our Adjutant has mentioned in his articles. Missed opportunities for family members (or friends) are painful when we have made efforts to inform members. Looking forward to seeing those applications.

For all of our Legion Family Mothers: Happy Mothers' Day!



Sr. Vice Commander's Message: Ray Hodson

Home: [708-496-0930](tel:708-496-0930)

SVC@AL1941.org

What is going on in our beloved country? We veterans are being adored and the front line of civility (our police) are being vilified on a national level. To quote my retired police officer daughter, after she read the disparaging article in the Sun Times. People expect the police to fix everything. Fix their bad kid. Fix the neighbor. Make something offensive/annoying go away. Fix addiction. Fix mental illness. It is a fact that the demographic that feels abused by the police invites them into their lives the most. I'm relieved to be a normal citizen with a much lower chance of having to kill someone who happens to not be of the same race as I am and being made into a racist monster. It is a rough time for the people in blue! Am I a proud dad or what. The next time you're pulled over by the people in blue hand the officer a copy of this article. It might work. And thank you for letting me rant. A Dad.

A fast and easy way to get your renewal in is with the online renewal process. Click here or enter www.legion.org/renew . It is simple, easy and secure. Please be sure you have your legion ID number, which can be found on your membership card or renewal notice.



Jr. Vice Commander's Message: Jason Coclanes

Cell: [708-204-2262](tel:708-204-2262)

JVC@AL1941.org

Welcome to May fellow Legionnaires...

Another quick reminder on the Ways and Means committee (WAME). The committee will have regular scheduled meetings on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Post's Club Room (basement). Our next meeting is May 8th.

Over the past few months, the WAME has met to identify a list of top priorities. We have discussed topics such as:

- Establishing a fund raising campaign to assist with updates and repairs needed for the Post Home. Tentatively, we have called the campaign "Operation Rehab". More information on Operation Rehab will be provided in the next newsletter.
- Creating new sources of revenue for the Post Home and the annual activities to support our troops and the communities that we are members of.
- Modifications to existing fund raising programs such as GTTY and the Fall Fest

If you'd like to become a committee member, please send me an e-mail or you can call me on my cell number listed above. We are always looking for fresh ideas to allow us to keep on with our mission.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our social meeting on May 20th. The District 105 band and special guests will be providing the entertainment for our final social meeting of the fiscal year.

In closing, we are still looking for a new **BINGO CHAIR**. If you are interested in serving as chair, please send myself or Ray Hodson an e-mail and we'll provide you with more details on the position. As well, we are always looking for Bingo helpers. We can never have too much help during Bingo Mondays. Bingo is one of the Post Home's most important fundraising activities, let's keep this tradition alive.

Thank you and have a wonderful May.



Adjutant's Message: Al Krenz

Home: [708-352-0751](tel:708-352-0751)
Adj@AL1941@org

Now that May is here, activities will be picking up at the Post.

The Coulter Post Americanism awards will be presented at the end of the month and early June to worthy students at the following schools; St. Cletus, St. John of the Cross, St. John Lutheran, Highland Middle School, St. Louise de Marillac, Pleasantdale Middle School, Gurrie Middle School and McClure Junior High. Additionally, Americanism awards and scholarships will be presented to four senior students; two at Nazareth Academy and two at Lyons Township High School. Congratulations to all winning students and a "thank-you" to Post members that were able to present the awards.

Our annual Memorial Day activities will be taking place. As we've done in the past, we will be conducting short services followed by a rifle salute at Lyons Township High School, several local cemeteries and veteran's memorials. These ceremonies will be followed by a program at the Post Home. As always, we will be looking for volunteers to man a color guard and rifle squad. Our Sergeant-at-Arms will be contacting members to fill positions on these two teams. Please help if you can.

As of this writing, our membership is at 92.88%. As I've said before, we still have a number of our members that haven't renewed for the 2014-15 Legion year. I still fail to understand why some members continue to delay their membership renewals. The initial notices were in the mail mid-July of last year! I'm still trying to call members that have yet to renew but I am not able to reach many members as we don't have telephone numbers on file for many of you. I've left messages for others and haven't received the courtesy of a call-back. If you are reading this and haven't renewed, please do so.

For the last time this year, I am listing programs for 2015 that have come down from the Department of Illinois as I've had zero response from when they were first listed in my articles. Should you have even the slightest interest in any of the programs, please let me know and I will be glad to forward detailed information to you and discuss further.

- 2015 Youth Police Program - June 21 - 26 in Springfield, IL. Open to males and females, ages 14 - 16.
- Boy Scouts - Numerous awards and scholarships available for 2015.
- Illinois Boys State - June 13 - 19 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. Open to males that have completed their junior year of high school. Nine college scholarships totaling \$17,000 available to participants.
- Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - Application deadline: May 30, 2015.
- Department Firefighter of the Year - Application deadline: May 30, 2015.
- Al Dahm scholarship.

Remember that if you would like to see minutes from a specific (or all) Executive Committee meeting; let me know and I will get them to you, either by E-mail or postal mail. To date, I have received one request. However, the offer remains open so let me know - if you have any interest in decisions made by the Executive committee that impact our Post.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and at our social events. Should you need to contact me, you may call at [708-352-0751](tel:708-352-0751) or E-mail me adj@AL1941.org



Service Officer/Chaplain: Jerome S. Matuch
Home: [708-579-1094](tel:708-579-1094)
SvcOff@AL1941.org

I attended a Memorial Service for Legionnaire Harley Caithamer who passed away earlier this year at The Western Springs Baptist Church and said some Post Everlasting prayers in honor of him. I also attended a Memorial Service for David Zahalka, brother of Auxiliary member Alice Ewert at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in La Grange Park, IL. Please keep the following Legionnaires in your prayers for a healthy recovery. PC Joe Delaloye, PC Ed Hagstrom, Wallace Pidde, and Ed Pechous.

A Prayer for this coming Memorial Day on this memorial day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. In union with people of goodwill of every nation, embolden us to answer the call to work for peace and justice, and thus, seek and end to violence and conflict around the globe. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



TRANSFERRED TO POST EVERLASTING
Francis Mc Monagle April 21, 2015

Combined Legion Family News

We are asking for volunteers for Memorial Day Honor Guard to either carry a flag or rifle as part of the Post's Honor Guard. As part of our Honor Guard, you would act as a honor guard in carrying one of the service flags, posting and/or retiring the colors. If on the rifle squad, you would carry and/or render the rifle 21 gun salute when given the command while rendering to the proper customs and courtesies given for this occasion. (We will give you instructions as it is not difficult.) This time-honored traditional detail adds dignity and solemnity to any military-related activity while showing respect to our nation and those who have served it. Please contact the Sgt-at-Arms Guy Vorsanger at home [708-354-9134](tel:708-354-9134) cell: [708-533-5300](tel:708-533-5300), or work [708-215-5300](tel:708-215-5300). (Leave a message regarding the day(s) you are available.

Memorial Day services and program schedule

Sunday, May 24, 2015:

LaGrange Park ceremony will be held at LaGrange Park's Veterans' Memorial at 1:00 p.m.

Honor Guard will meet in the Post Club Room at 11:30 a.m. The Honor Guard will be given gear and Sergeant-at-Arms will take us through a short drill and briefing prior to our departure.

Monday, May 25, 2015:

Honor Guard will meet in the Post Club Room at 8:00 a.m. The Honor Guard will be given gear, assist in loading the bus and board the bus by 8:15 a.m.

Memorial ceremonies:

- Lyons Township High School (north campus) - 8:30 a.m.
- Parkholm Cemetery - 9:15 a.m.
- Lyonsville Cemetery - 10:00 a.m.
- St. John's Cemetery - 10:45 a.m.
- Hodgkins Memorial site - 11:00 a.m.
- Countryside Memorial Park - 11:45 a.m.
- final ceremony will be at the American Legion Post Home at 1:00 p.m.

Those that have volunteered for Honor Guard will be in *summer uniform.

*Summer Uniform: White Shirt, Blue Pants and Legion or SAL Cap

(If Auxiliary, no cap is required)

Son's of the American Legion **S.A.L. NEWS**

SAL Commander's Message: Gregg Gammie
whippet@whippetracing.org
[708-732-5480](tel:708-732-5480)

I want to thank everyone who helped with the first annual Legion Family Chili Cookoff. Several came out to help for the first time and were a big help. Thanks to you all. We had a great time with lots of fun. People loved being able to try all the different chili's and the entrants loved having everyone try out their efforts. We are all looking forward to next year.

The next SAL and Legion Family effort will be the Turkey Shoot next fall. Planning is going on now. We are going to have a great time with this. We'll be giving away many turkeys.

Again, we thank all of the contestants that came from the entire Legion family of SAL, Auxiliary and Legion. Votes were cast by tasters and many of them said, "All of the chilis were very good which made it difficult to choose."

SAL Don Peterson won first place (3rd from the right), 2nd place was Gigi and, her sister, Diane (2nd and 1st from the right, respectively), and 3rd place was Ray Hodson (5th from the right).

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS

President's Message: Anastasia Kwit
anastasia@seven10.com
[708-831-3289](tel:708-831-3289)

As our year begins to wind down, the ladies of Auxiliary Unit 1941 can look back on all that we have accomplished with great pride while keeping our eyes on a few upcoming events. This month we focus our thoughts on all of the servicemen and women we have

lost over the years and salute them by remembering their service, their sacrifice, their names and their families. We especially honor our Gold Star members, Jean and Kalyn Harris (mother and sister of Army Sgt. Joshua Harris) and Nancy Kenney (daughter of Navy SM1c Bill Mabin). The women of the Auxiliary look forward to honoring all veterans during the annual Memorial Day ceremonies along with the Legion Family.

This year the annual Legion Family Poppy Day program will be organized on a smaller scale solely by the Auxiliary while the Legion focuses its resources on future fundraising. We welcome any Legion or SAL members who wish to volunteer for Poppy Day with us as we exchange poppies for donations throughout the La Grange community. **Please attend our May meeting for more details on how to participate and to sign up for volunteer shifts on Memorial Day weekend, or call us for information on volunteering.**

The Auxiliary had hoped to host a virtual Poppy Day Walk, Run and Roll this month, but it will be delayed until summer due to late developments in the Poppy Day collection program. This virtual event will be a fundraiser for both our poppy and general funds as well as a way to reach out to the community, and we want to put on the best event possible. Check back soon for more information!

We will hold our annual memorial service at our May 13 unit meeting, and I ask all members to wear white blouses or sweaters to uphold our traditions. Also that evening, the nominating committee will announce their slate of candidates to serve as Unit Officers for 2015-2016. Any members who wish to be nominated should contact Dolly Sullivan at [\(708\) 728-0063](tel:7087280063) / dolly1945@comcast.net. Elections will be held in June. Positions open to election are Unit President, Vice President, Treasurer, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. The incoming president will appoint the positions of Secretary and Chaplain.

We wish to extend congratulations to Julia Mueller, the winner of this year's Poppy Poster Contest! Julia is a junior member of the Auxiliary and the granddaughter of Legion member, Harold Perry. Best of luck to Julia as her poster moves on to the state competition!

At the end of March, we held our inaugural Project Day, and to say it was a success is quite an understatement. We have received positive feedback from many members and community volunteers as well as the Auxiliary Department of Illinois! Nearly 40 volunteers and donors attended and helped to serve veterans and military families in the following ways:

Collected and donated 40 grocery bags / 459 pounds of food to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

- Collected 452 Beanie Babies and sent 200 to Operation Gratitude for active duty military care packages, and delivered the balance to Hines VA to spread cheer to hospitalized veterans.
- Assembled 105 paracord survival bracelets and also shipped them to Operation Gratitude. This was one of the most popular projects, and we are investigating ways to continue it at lower costs.
- Created 330 greeting cards which were delivered to Hines VA to brighten the days and rooms of hospitalized veterans.

- Clipped and organized over 2,000 coupons which were shipped to military bases for families to use at their local commissaries.
- Organized over 400 personal hygiene items which were donated to Hines VA and soon to Lovell FHCC / Midwest Veteran's Closet.

THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and donors! We will be planning more Project Days in the coming months!

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers and mother-figures! Thank you for shaping us into strong women! This month we fly the flag especially on May 10 for Mother's Day, May 16 for Armed Forces Day, and May 25 for Memorial Day (half-staff until noon). A suitable alternative to a half-staff flag is to attach a black ribbon to the top of the pole just above the flag. This may apply to residential flags mounted on a wall, garage or railing.

For the most up-to-date news about Unit 1941, attend our monthly meetings (May 13, 7pm), visit our website (www.auxiliary.AL1941.org) and LIKE us on facebook! If you haven't been receiving emails directly from the Auxiliary, we do not have your email address! Our list is open to all members of the Legion Family. Please sign up here --> <http://j.mp/elist1941>



Sick and Visitation: Mary Duckett
Home: [708-354-6191](tel:708-354-6191)

We have not received any notices of any member's illness or under the weather. Stay warm and hope Spring comes back and stays here. Take care of yourselves and enjoy each and every day.

Legion and Auxiliary May Birthdays

Richard Bambach, 25 William Barreuther, 26 Leo Bauer, 1
 William Bogle, 10 John Brom, 14 Cmdr. Gigi Callaway, 2
 Jay Chamberlain, 18 Dennis Craddock, 5 Michael Dougherty, 2
 Irene Dziekan, 8 Wilbert Ewert, 19 Tammy Fischer, 1
 John Flood, 3 Robert Fritz, Sr. 15 Michael Greer, 19
 Donald Hitchcock, 12 Larry Holman, 7 Alexander Kerr, Jr. 6
 C. Richard Kriebel, 27 William Kuta, 28 Michael Landt, 26
 Warren Lindeman, 23 Frank Matuch, 26 Jeanette Mazzuca, 31
 Paula Mercer, 19 Robert Mihajlou, 8 Robert Pietras, 23 Patrick Quinlan, 27 James
 Ratcliffe, 26 John Rymark, 15 Robert Smith, 8 David Steward, 22 Wayne Straza,
 29 Dolly Sullivan, 2 Robert Szczytko, 18 Peter Viramontes, 19 Lee Vitort, 26

Hire a Veteran

Have a position and want to hire a veteran?
 Contact our PAO at coulterpost1941@gmail.com for details.

Coulter Post is seeking a Custodian / Setup Person. Candidate should be a team player that is willing to get the job done! This position is responsible for setups and cleanliness (inside and out) of the post home and for all activities / rentals. Scheduling times may vary with each booking which most likely will include nights and weekends. Person must be able to lift more than 50lbs, bend and stand with ease and be able to climb ladders and stand for long periods of time. This is a part-time position. NO phone calls please. Serious candidates are to forward resume to bldmgr@al1941.org

For other job postings click: [Jobs](#)
or visit: <http://illegion.org/jobs/>

Calendar of Events

May

Bingo Mondays, 4th, 11th, 18th and NO BINGO ON THE 25th
Wednesday, May 6, Executive Committee Meeting 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 13, Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20, Executive Committee Meeting 6:15 and
Social Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 24, Memorial Day Ceremony*
Monday, May 25, Memorial Day Ceremonies*

June

Bingo Mondays, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and NO BINGO ON THE 29th
Wednesday, June 3, Executive Committee Meeting 6:15 p.m.
Wednesday, June 10, Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17, Executive Committee meeting 6:15 and
Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

* See Family Legion section for details

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 Forward to a Friend



Robert E. Coulter, Jr. Post 1941

900 So. La Grange Road La Grange, IL 60525

* Looking to rent for that graduation celebration or a birthday or anniversary party?
Consider the Grand Coulter Hall (at Post 1941) as the location!
Call us at [708-354-3300](tel:708-354-3300) or 708-497-9REC (708-497-9732)
(Ask about membership discount)