



Department
Membership Caravan



On January 15th the Department of Illinois annual "Membership Caravan" made three stops at Posts in the Chicago area. The stops were at Howard Rhode Post 888 in Northlake, then on to Wayne Wright Post 1052 in Lakeview and finishing up at the Broadview Hillside Post 626. Featured guest speakers were the Department Commander and President and the special guest speaker was Past National Auxiliary President Sharon Conatser. Four of our members were in attendance all day. We were represented by Auxiliary members Sue Cunniff Coughlin, Mary Collado, Legion members Gregg Weghorst, Pete Hirt, Al Pizarro and Al Coughlin. The Legion and the Auxiliary received certificates of participation for turning in membership during the event.

Dec. 6, 1941 75 Years

A quiet day at Pearl Harbor

Did you notice something strange in the last newsletter? The remembrance photo concerning Pearl Harbor showed December 6th instead of December 7th as the "Day of Infamy"? Editor's error. The actual article needed to be eliminated due to available space. Here is that article and this way you'll understand why December 6th was indicated.

At the behest of a commanding officer, Arles Cole went Christmas shopping on Dec. 6, 1941. He vividly remembers some of the battleships being "all stacked up in the harbor". The Nevada, Arizona, Tennessee and his ship, West Virginia. "The captain told us that whoever wanted to go ashore to buy Christmas presents for our mothers, our families, our friends must do that this Saturday night," said Cole, who was 17 at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. "I went by myself and brought several gifts back to the ship and put them atop my locker." But those weren't the only gifts he bought on that blissful day in paradise. He bought two identical pictures of a Hawaiian bird for his oldest sister and grandmother. "The beauty of the flower and the birds in Hawaii, I was impressed with these pictures with all that color. They had made the pictures out of the feathers of the birds." When the storekeeper asked if Cole would like those shipped to his home, he accepted. "Those two presents came back home," he said. "They kept them for years. My grandmother kept hers for many years until she died, then it went to my mother and then my wife." After his wife died, Cole displayed it outside his home, where it was stolen. Of course, the other presents Cole bought on Dec. 6, 1941, were lost forever the following day. The night of Dec. 6 Cole decided not to sleep in his regular bunk. He

retrieved a pillow and a mat and went up to the navigational bridge to sleep on the chart table. "I missed breakfast then stepped out about 8 a.m. and stepped out on the wing of the navigational bridge," he recalled. "A few minutes later, I heard some strange noises and heard some explosions. Over on Ford Island, black smoke was coming from the airport." Within minutes, someone yelled, "We're under attack," Cole remembered. "Then a plane with giant red balls on its wings flew over the bridge of the West Virginia. Sure enough we had just watched the beginning of the attack on our airplanes, our airfields, our airmen. The Japanese decided to destroy our airports first." Cole and other sailors valiantly tried to fight the fires aboard the West Virginia, which was hit by seven torpedoes and two bombs. But eventually the order was given to abandon the battleship. Cole, who lives in Tulsa, Okla., nearly didn't join the Navy. He almost joined the Army a year earlier when an aggressive recruiter wanted to sign him up along with his older brother, Jay. Arles was bigger and stronger than Jay. But their father declined the recruiter's wishes, telling him he wouldn't lie about his son's age. Instead, Cole joined the Navy when its "Kiddie Cruise" program allowed 17-year-olds to join. Cole has some advice for today's generation of service members. "Hang in there," he said. "Train, train, train. Do your job. Learn because the Navy can give you a good job, so can the Army. And so can the Marines and Air Force." It's a message that paid off for Cole and his shipmates 75 years ago this week. He explains that as the attack unfolded, a dud bomb hit the West Virginia but did not explode. "It made a hole, made an opening," Cole said. "I'm three decks below the main deck, can't get out and drowning. Water is nipping at my tail and I'm trying to get out of there. "It's amazing what we did during World War II. We did something right. I believe God was on our side."

JUNIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Jim Kostka

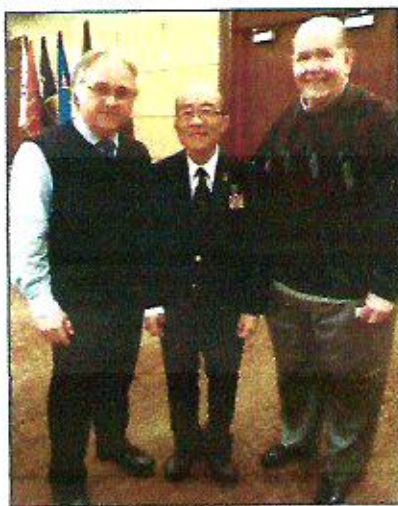
Our meeting in May will be held on Saturday May 13th, 2017 and what a treat it will be! We will have a full social meeting with limited business. The event will be held at Old Warsaw Restaurant located at 4750 N. Harlem Avenue in Harwood Heights (just south of Gunnison). Plenty of parking and just about a mile equally between the Kennedy Expressway and Irving Park Road with good CTA access. The doors open at 11:30 AM. The brief meeting will begin at Noon and then lunch. The cost of the lunch buffet will be on the Post! This is open to our Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. members and their spouse/significant others. In order to get a count of how many will be in attendance, please contact Adjutant Al Coughlin at (773) 852 – 5561 or email at alc-legion@comcast.net.

Please attend our Memorial Day Ceremony at St. Paul's on Monday May 29th see information at right. We are also planning to place flags on the Chicago Veterans graves at Mt. Olive Cemetery at 3800 N. Narragansett Avenue in Chicago on the Memorial Day weekend. Please give the Adjutant a call and get the details if you would like to participate. The details will be put up on the website also.

Chaplain

Gregg Weghorst

I was asked by Commander Dale if I would accept the appointment as Post Chaplain and I welcomed the opportunity. I've been pretty active since I transferred to Billy Caldwell last year. The Commander and I attended the Arlington Heights Prayer Breakfast in February, it was a rewarding experience. I hope to see you at a meeting soon.



Cmdr. Dale and Chaplain Gregg Weghorst attended the Arlington Heights Prayer Breakfast on February 2nd. They are with guest speaker Major General Mukoyama

Al Coughlin, Goran Anderson and Cmdr. Dale met with Paddy Homan and Andrew Kazmierczak of St. Paul's House on February 9th to present a donation from the Post



**Memorial Day
May 29th, 2017**

REMEMBER

*The thundering line of
battlestands, and in the air
death moans and sings, But day
shall clasp him with strong
hands, and night shall fold him
in soft wings*
-Julian Grenfell
(killed in action – 1915)

This year the Post will honor Memorial Day with a ceremony at St. Paul's House, 3800 N. California, Chicago.

This will take place on Monday May 29th in the auditorium, doors will open at 1:30, ceremony at 2 PM. Please join us.

CIB



Billy Caldwell member George Hitzman was instrumental in leading the push for a new veteran's license plate in Illinois. The CIB plate honors those who earned the "Combat Infantryman Badge" while in the military. This plate was just released for issue and it along with many other military style license plates can be ordered through the Illinois Secretary of State website at www.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM. If you have any questions about the plate you can contact Amy Moser at the Secretary of State at (217) 782 – 7758 or you can also contact George about the plate or the CIB Association at (773) 283 - 4085 Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to this project George!

