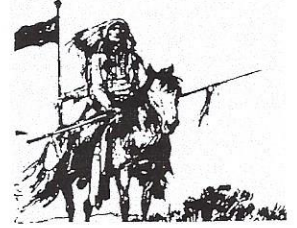


# SMOKE

Billy Caldwell  
Post 806  
Chicago, Illinois

# SIGNALS



We're on the Web at: <http://www.post806.org>

2020 Edition – Issue 2

April / May / June 2020

## Commander's Message

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

Well, I wish I could say Spring is here and now it's time to get ourselves noticed by the community, recruiting new members and carrying out the programs we have always participated in. We may not be able to do everything we would like to during this period, so I can only suggest that we follow the directions of our lawmakers. If you are going out and about, please wear whatever you have to let the people know you served. Let the folks know you are a Legionnaire. I have noticed the people seem comforted knowing we're around. The Post also made a donation to the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, just a small honorarium for what our first responders do to keep us safe.

When we are allowed to go back about our business, I think we should meet at St. Paul to check in on them, also most of us have gathered there several times. If you want to attend the next meeting, please make sure Adjutant Al Coughlin has your email address or phone number. I would like to have as many members attend as possible.

God Bless, stay safe!

## SENIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

You've undoubtedly heard the old real estate saying,  
*"location, location, location".*

Well, in The American Legion world it's,  
*"membership, membership, membership"...*

But, you know what? They're both true! It's like beating an old horse, I know, but without retaining and attracting new members, we *military veterans of the United States*, will lose our voice in advocating for our brothers and sisters who have worn the uniform. Please if you haven't done so yet, get your dues in. In fact, if you can, sponsor a veteran and bring him or her into the organization. Lastly, we are all looking for when we can meet in person again. Until that day, be safe in all that you do and remember that we are Legion Family!

## CHAPLAIN

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

This year's Post Everlasting will be held with our other comrades in the 9th District by special memorial detail at the end of April. Our Post Adjutant Al Coughlin has submitted the names to be added to the roll from our Post.

As we have learned from past national emergencies, that it is at times like these that our nation must be especially mindful of how fragile life, and indeed freedom is. We at Billy Caldwell Post 806 ask God's blessing in all that we do; to protect our members and their families and to give wisdom to our leadership at all levels. Also, let us be ever mindful of our front line leaders that are meeting the challenges of this current health crisis head on. May God bless them always.

Looking forward to May and June, whether assembling in person or not, we at Billy Caldwell Post 806 can be in agreement to pray for our servicemen and women on Armed Forces Day and during the Remembrance of Memorial Day. Likewise, May 7th is the National Day of Prayer and in addition, May is also "Older American's Month" (that includes most of us since the average age of the American Legionnaire is 70). Also in June is D-Day; Flag Day and more. So, as you can see we have a lot of praying to do. We can partake in prayer anytime. We don't need to meet or have a quorum. Just ask God to heal our nation and bless us as we journey forward in service. Hopefully, we will be seeing one another soon!  
God Bless, Chaplain Gregg

## Post Meetings

PLEASE NOTE !!!!

**Due to the current COVID-19 situation, all meetings have been cancelled. This is from direction of the State of Illinois and Chicago, to minimize gatherings. To keep current with Post happenings, check our website at [post806.org](http://post806.org).**

## President's Message

**Mary Collado**  
**(847) 294-6517**

Hello members of Billy Caldwell Unit 806. We are in a difficult time now and I hope everyone is staying safe at home and staying healthy. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of traveling the state with our Department President Sue. It seems like a lifetime ago as we are all observing social distancing and staying in our homes.

We are happy that we are over 100 % in Membership. Thank you to all of you that have sent in your dues. For those of you that have not paid your dues yet, you may do so online or you can send them to me. Please continue to look for new members.

Last week one of our local Units held a drive for items for Fisher House. Our Unit donated items to Fisher House which included paper towels, toilet paper and Kleenex. They were very happy to receive our donation.

Due to Covid19 we had to postpone our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at Department Headquarters. We also had to cancel Patriotic Conference, Junior Conference, ALA Illini Girls State and Department Convention. We need to make sure everyone continues to stay safe. For those of our members of the American Legion Family that are working on the front lines, we THANK YOU!

We want to wish all of you a happy and safe summer. Take Care

## Department President's Message

**Sue Cunniff Coughlin**

What an unbelievable way to celebrate the Auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. With this shelter in place, it's tough being cooped up in our homes and missing our families. Hang in there and remember we are all in this together. I hope that we will become a stronger Illinois American Legion Family when this is over.

It has been devastating having virtually all events cancelled from the middle of March. I was looking forward to a wonderful finish of our year of Celebrating Our Past and Awakening Our Future. Since a resolution was passed that all Department, Division and District Officers and Chairmen stay in place, I am truly blessed to be able to serve until Department Convention July 2021 and continue to serve our mission. Thank you for your support this year and I hope that you will continue to support my next year as President.

Before the shelter in place order, Merle Guild Unit 208 (Arlington Heights) held a 100 year Auxiliary Anniversary Celebration. Members from our Post, Auxiliary Unit and Sons of the Legion Squadron were in attendance. State President Sue Cunniff Coughlin (second from right) is surrounded by her fellow Billy Caldwell #806 members.

## JUNIOR VICE – COMMANDER

**Jim Kostka (224) 766 - 0094**

My Comrades, even though I know we're all going thru trying times right now, I hope everyone is doing ok. Like everything else, our meetings have been cancelled until further notice but not to worry, we will still have a Meeting Luncheon once all this is over. I know staying home is very hard to do but, now is a good time to call family members and let them know you are ok. It might not be a bad idea to call your friends or some of our post members too. FAMILY CHECK and a BUDDY CHECK can go a long way, just to chat with someone and let them know you were thinking about them goes a long way at these bad times. We've all been thru trying times in our life and we made it and we all will get thru this too. Hope to see everyone soon, hang in there, we're all gonna get thru this...

## 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander

**Dale Tippett**

Paul's letter to the Galatians (5:25,ESV) reads, *"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit"*. Easier said than done in times of crisis, right? We know that Paul was an early church leader and that he lead by example. As American Legionnaires we are called to continue to serve and to lead. We are reminded of this call when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. What makes us different from 99% of the population is that we have military backgrounds. We were not trained to panic in crisis, but to ignore our emotions and complete our mission. That matters in this current crisis and always. Our history reveals that focusing on God and Country and bringing to the table specialized knowledge, training and wisdom, we American Legionnaires provide our communities with strength and stability. That is why each and every one of us is important in our respective roles.

Thank you for your service; **past, present and future!** For God and Country



## **Finance Officer & Adjutant** **Al Coughlin (773) 852 - 5561**

Welcome to all of our Members. A special welcome to all of our new members who have joined us whether new or if you have transferred in from another Post or our state holding Post 2910. We're always being asked about the address of the Post. Be assured that we are still a Chicago based Post, primarily located in the Portage Park area. Our Park Ridge P.O. Box is for administrative purposes only.

The 2020 membership term went into effect as of January 1, 2020. By the time you get this newsletter, all of our members should have sent in their dues. Check your mailing label (Legion and S.A.L. members only) on this newsletter, if there is no year indicator (ie; 2020; 2020B, etc ...) then we have not received your dues for the current term). If you haven't renewed please do so as soon as possible by mailing them in to the Post or by renewing on line at the National website at Legion.org, otherwise your benefits as a Legion member expired as of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Why not take care of this today!

## **Service Officer** **Al Pizarro (708) 655 – 5282**

**Due to privacy laws remember to contact me in the event of a death or hospitalization of a member.**



President Donald J. Trump signs S. 504, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service (LEGION) Act Tuesday, July 30, 2019, in the Oval Office of the White House, surrounded by Legion dignitaries (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Be advised that there are new Legion eligibility requirements as of close of the National Convention in August 2019. Why not recruit new members for the American Legion and Billy Caldwell Post 806?

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time.

U.S. Merchant Marine are only eligible if they served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

This opens the door to many veterans who were not eligible earlier. Why not recruit a family member, friend or neighbor for our Post. We have kept their (Legion) initial first year's dues at \$20.

Keep up to date! Please email me your email address so I can put you on the Post notification list so we can email current Post updates to you. Your email will not be shared or given out to anyone. It is for Post use only.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. By phone, snail mail at the P.O. Box or by email at [ALC-LEGION@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ALC-LEGION@COMCAST.NET)

**Rush In  
Your 2020  
Dues Today**




In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed the LEGION Act on July 30<sup>th</sup> that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war. The LEGION Act also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. So please search out those veterans who fall within this group and ask them to join our Post.

**MAILED FROM:**

Billy Caldwell Post 806  
 The American Legion  
 P.O. Box 1322  
 Park Ridge, IL 60068



**POSTAL CARRIER - PLEASE DELIVER TO;**



**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)  
 Memorial Day May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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**The stamp for this mailing**

Honors America's first woman in space, Dr. Sally Ride (1951-2012), who inspired the nation as a pioneering astronaut, brilliant physicist and dedicated educator. The stamp art depicts Ride in her light blue spacesuit with the space shuttle lifting off in the background. After completing her Ph.D. in physics, she joined NASA's 1978 class of astronaut candidates for the new shuttle program. She was the mission control communicator for the second shuttle flight of Columbia in 1981. She first flew on the shuttle Challenger in 1983. Her second shuttle flight was in 1984. She served on both investigative panels for the Challenger and Columbia accidents.