



## The American Legion Department of Maine

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### Weekly Update



June 1, 2007

**A smile confuses an approaching frown.**

☺ SMILE ☺

#### Membership

You are probably getting tired of me dishing out kudos for our membership accomplishments this year and rightly so. I have one last atta-boy to give to everyone however and that is for the Department of Maine leading the Northeast Region in membership almost for the entire year. We have led the region at each of the intermediate target dates, which has netted our Commander Don Simoneau \$25 for each one. We have now received notification the Department of Maine took first place in the Northeast Region for the "Final" target date incentive, which brought Commander Simoneau a check for \$200. Don is certainly proud of each and every person who made this possible and further, National Vice Commander (NVC) Lloyd Woods of Madawaska Post 147 is definitely proud of you as he is the NVC representing the Northeast Region (12 departments). We are currently in third place in the nation.

Thank you all for a job well done. Walk proudly my friends; you have earned it.

#### Welcome Home Ceremony

You are invited to the Welcome Home Ceremony for the soldiers of B Company 3/172<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Mountain) and other returning soldiers at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 23, 2007 at the Bangor Auditorium. This Freedom Salute Ceremony will mark the successful return of soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and show our appreciation for a job well done.

The Adjutant General, Major General Bill Libby said: "Your support of the Maine National Guard soldiers and airman has been invaluable and I offer this invitation for you to say welcome home and thank you for a job well done. I look forward to you joining us." Please contact Major Michael Backus at 626-4390 with your availability or questions.

**Senate Should Consider  
Our Security**

By National Commander Paul Morin

Let me get this straight. Senator, you want to legalize people who enter our sovereign nation illegally, ignore our immigration laws, steal our identities and lie to employers? People who draw from our public services, get free health care and education, all paid for by you and me and American taxpayers? And, if I'm reading this right, many if not most, of our illegal visitors fail to pay taxes while sending huge sums of money back to their homeland.

Excuse me; am I the only one that sees something wrong with this? Isn't it apparent that this deal is one-sided, and not in the best interest of the United States?

As I travel across this nation as the spokesman for The American Legion, people tell me they are frustrated, upset and concerned that little or no attention in this national debate has been given to national security implications. Some say that more Americans are being killed in the United States by illegal aliens than are dying on the battlefields in Iraq.

Sometimes they remind me that 30 percent of our federal prison population is illegal aliens and more than half of them have committed multiple crimes. The sad reality is that most of them will be released on our streets to commit more crimes; crimes against we, the American taxpayers, who are unknowingly funding their very existence in this country.

Yes, I know. I've heard the arguments. They are just hardworking men and women who come to this country to better themselves and to feed their families. But at what cost to the United States? Can we say with complete assurance that this is all they want?

Millions of illegal undocumented people in this country are a security time bomb and the clock is ticking. It is imperative that we, as a nation, put our national security up front, priority number one, when considering immigration reform. The bill being considered in the U.S. Senate does not do that and leaves this nation vulnerable to acts of terrorism.

Local and state law enforcement agencies that do not report violations of immigration laws to federal authorities are gambling with our safety. Similarly, cities and municipalities with sanctuary policies for illegals are aiding and abetting. They are putting our nation at risk and recent history has proved that.

Mohammed Atta, one of the 9-11 terrorists, was stopped several times for traffic violations but his immigration status was not checked. If it had been, almost 3,000 people who perished that day might be alive today.

Earlier this month, Dritan Duka, Djivir Duka and Shain Duka were arrested and charged with plotting to attack military bases and slaughter American service men and women. They might have been successful if it were not for an observant store clerk who reported their suspicious behavior.

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Authorities had many opportunities to end this conspiracy but they did not check their immigration status. The Dukas were stopped 75 times for traffic citations and other violations between December 1997 and May 2006. Since they lived in a “sanctuary city,” law enforcement officials missed 75 opportunities to uncover the conspiracy and protect American lives. Instead, it was the observant store clerk who saved the day.

The American people have reason to be upset with our government because it is not doing its job. It’s time to put Americans first by dealing with illegals as uninvited visitors to our sovereign soil. Illegal aliens are trespassing and they are threats to our security. Let us pray that our elected representatives will come to that realization sooner rather than later.

**Thank You’s**

A big Thank You to all Legion family members who came to see me while I was in Rehab., called, or sent cards. I really appreciate it.

Chuck Berube, Chairman  
Athletic Committee

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Dear Legionnaires:

Thank you for granting me the James V. Day scholarship. I plan to attend the University of Maine in Orono to major in Elementary Education, with a minor in Music. As a student of the Honors College, my studies are my top priority, however I will also be a member of the Football Cheering Squad. Go Black Bears!

The American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion have always been an important part of my life. Between playing Taps for Memorial Day and helping in the kitchen for Legion breakfasts among other things, I plan on working very close next year with Charlotte “Kitty” Wing in the Public Relations department.

Thank you all again and I look forward to seeing you at the State Convention in June and the National Convention in Reno in August.

Amelia Catherine R. Butman  
Greenville Unit 94

**Kudos**

Gray Post 86 for their donation of \$1,500 to support their Legion baseball team.

**Donations**

THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU    THANK YOU

Madawaska Post 147  
Robert “Ki” Owen

\$100.00 – Maine Special Olympics  
\$100.00 – National Commander’s Campaign

**What’s Happening**

**American Legion Riders:** June 3, Rockland Post 1, 1:00 p.m. Informational meeting on the Legacy Run and social gathering. All Legion family members are welcome.

**Togus Barbecue:** June 14, VA facility at Togus. Looking for volunteers to assist with a barbecue for the patients of the geriatrics unit at Togus. If you can help, please contact Lorna Hatch at 622-4886 or Mary Barger at 443-4807.

**District Meetings**

**15<sup>th</sup> District:** June 10, Calais Post 3, 2 p.m.

**12<sup>th</sup> District:** June 12, Trenton Post 207, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p. m. meeting.

**4<sup>th</sup> District:** June 14, Rangeley Post 120, 2 p.m., cookout and meeting.

**Sick Call**

Ralph Smart, Past Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms of Post 45 in Danforth, 122 Thornton Rd., Bangor 04401

**Sons of The American Legion  
Detachment News**

Membership continues to come in and WE are so close! We need 23 members to reach that goal of 100%. This has been extraordinary to completely change our membership schedule around this year.

I have read a little more of that 1946 Squadron Handbook and I will let you know that in those days a Commander was called a Captain. The first Vice Commander was called a First Lieutenant and the Second Vice Commander was called a Second Lieutenant. These are the only differences in the Squadron Executive Committee and again this showed an organization that was supposed to be for kids. It certainly was geared that way and by 1953 The Sons of The American Legion was all but extinct with a little over 5000 members nationwide. We know that after that The Sons began to gain strength in membership and continued to do so. In 1993 we went over 100,000, and just 14 years later there are over 315,000 members nationally. I found that The American Legion had really put some thought into what to do with the age difference. Platoons were what were in place. "Platoon A should be made up of Senior High School Class age and upwards; Platoon B members of 12 years of age up to the Senior Class age; Platoon C from six to 12 years of age, and Platoon D from the date of birth to six years of age." I think that today's 12 year old would not mix well with an 18 year old and so there would probably have to be another age group in that Platoon B. All of the platoons are supposed to teach and assist the preceding platoon and help them develop into the next level. Unfortunately in that process of growing, the Sons average age is now 43 years old and so it is not necessarily a younger organization that requires a whole lot of supervision. That is not to say that your squadron may be younger or even older. We have to know what our squadrons are interested in and what type of supervision is needed in order to satisfy the squadrons needs and to keep them growing.

Activities for Platoon D consisted of flag drills, toy rhythm bands and really just social events that could help them grow and learn. For Platoon C it was The Ten Ideals Program Holiday Observances; Learn to Swim Program and Physical Fitness Training. Platoon B are to be involved in The Five Points of Service Program which in turn leads to the Five Star Award, Occupational introduction, Holiday Observances and Athletics. Platoon A was to be involved with Boys State, Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball, Uniformed Groups, S.A.L. Rifle Clubs, Rifle Teams, Americanism Councils and Legion Service. More next week.

Don Allisot  
Detachment Commander

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor  
Department Adjutant

**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE, THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**20 \_\_\_\_ - 20 \_\_\_\_ POST OFFICERS**

ELECTED: \_\_\_\_\_(DATE)

Commander \_\_\_\_\_

(Name) (ID Number) (Mailing Address) (Zip)

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Adjutant \_\_\_\_\_

(Name) (ID Number) (Mailing Address) (Zip)

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Finance Officer \_\_\_\_\_

1st Vice Commander \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Vice Commander \_\_\_\_\_

Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_\_\_

Historian \_\_\_\_\_

Chaplain \_\_\_\_\_

Americanism Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Service Officer \_\_\_\_\_

(Home telephone) (Business telephone) (e-mail address)

Meeting Nights and Time \_\_\_\_\_ Post Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address, Post home \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the name, street address or Post Office box, town, zip code and telephone numbers of **ALL** officers and return this form to: THE AMERICAN LEGION, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, ME 04903-0900. If additional page is needed please use same.

Note: In order for your post to receive correspondence or be listed in The American Legion State Directory, this form must be filed with the Department Adjutant's office, at the address listed above, on or before the deadline. **This form needs to be completed every year, even if your officers do not change.**

**DEADLINE: June 1**

(Name of Post) (Location) (Post No.)