



LARRY A HOFF ePOST 2100



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COMMUNICATION IS POWER

TO OPT OUT OF OUR NEWSLETTERS, E-MAIL cgoetz@myemc.net

OUR NEXT MEETING

February 18th at 7:30, is slated for our next tele-meeting using [ooVoo](#) .

On ooVoo, I am **robertgreen00109**

Our tele-meeting is provided for you to learn about and have input regarding our ePost.

Have you visited [Our Web site](#), lately?

OUR HELP DESK STANDS READY TO ASSIST VETERANS WITH FREE COMPUTER-RELATED AID.

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BOB GREEN: (770) 786-702

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WEB SITES

Our national Web site is: <http://www.legion.org/>.

Our Ninth District Web site is: <http://gadistrict9americanlegion.weebly.com/>.

Our State of GA Department Web-site is: <http://www.galegion.org/>.

Notice, our own Post's Web site, <http://epost2100.org/>,

is on the Department's left menu!

Yes, we ARE sort of "special", as not every state has a cyber post to serve those unable to attend brick-and-mortar posts.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Here we are at the second month on 2016, already! On January 21st we had a luncheon social/meeting with spouses at the Golden Corral in Winder, GA. Of all the good things about ePost physical meetings there is a problem in trying to pick a convenient meeting spot so the least amount of our members will have to travel farther. I believe it will be best to try to schedule these types of get together on a weekend in the future. While a lot of us are retired, many of our members still work or volunteer during the week. I'll discuss this in more detail, later in this message.



We have a few important dates in February: Groundhog Day on the 2nd [never seems to make any difference about the weather]. Valentine's Day on the 14th and President's day is on the 15th. Ash Wednesday is on the 10th. That covers my normal calendar and I didn't get a calendar from the American Legion, VFW or other patriotic organizations. There is one more extremely important date for me, personally, and that is Pat's and my 49th Anniversary on the 11th. It would be very bad for me to forget that!

I was reading the other day about our COLA raise this year being zero for Veterans and Social Security. The government employees, however, are getting a very small increase and their union is complaining saying they are over-worked. This is about the most untrue statement I have ever heard about the government employee being OVER-WORKED, in my opinion. It used to be you went to work for the government for the benefits, not the salary. Now they get both benefits and salaries, do little work and still complain! I have never been a fan of the unions since high school but I'm wondering if they may help the veterans and the active duty get a fair share! It was just a thought that ran through my brain for an instance.

Speaking of government workers, the Attorney General of the U.S. decided not to press charges to two VA senior executives [one with \$400,000 worth of relocation expenses] for her promotion and defrauding the VA. They get to keep their job and go through a dismissal process that will not happen because of the union. Once again, crime and such being swept under the rug and Veterans can't get a claim through in reasonable time or a fair hearing. Perhaps the VA employees should spend a couple of weeks on a forward outpost in Afghanistan or wherever we go next before they can evaluate a VA claim! Last year, the VA was found to have over a billion dollars of wasteful spending, according to Senator McClain. Wouldn't that help a lot of veterans who need their fair share in a timely manner!! As the saying goes, the Veteran and Jesus Christ are the only ones who have given up their lives for us [Jesus] and the soldiers who signed a blank check up to and including their lives when they swore their oath to "defend the country against all enemies foreign and DOMESTIC" !

Continued page 2

Commander continued from page 1

That oath may have been changed since my time, but I doubt it, and mine has no expiration date.

We have a lot on our plate this year, as I want to take on more projects that benefit veterans and active military. I will be sending out a list of American Legion projects. We need each of you who are now silent members to pick something you are interested in pursuing and help out. Everyone's time is valuable, so I want you involved in something you like to do. If the list has nothing, tell us what you would like to do. Along this line, keep a record of your time and talents on the volunteer work you do. I'll call these projects and it helps our Post to report our time to District and Department. The biggest reason I would like your involvement is the great feeling you get when you help a veteran or active military member! Remember our motto is "Vets Helping Vets".

A project is anything from planning, doing, or reporting. These activities involving miles traveled and are tax-deductible for Legion business.

I mentioned more info on physical meetings and would like your input on locations from your perspective. It could be a weekend trip or just a late lunch or dinner as spring approaches. Please send any of us your input and I'll send out a poll in a couple of weeks.

One last tip for those who travel a lot on business or pleasure! Many of us belong to several organizations. If you are a VFW member, they have a great travel assistance program that covers you and your spouse in case of an accident, illness, etc. They will transport your car back home or a family member to get your car, evacuate you by air and repatriate you if necessary. The cost for this for a year is \$129.00 for you and spouse. I rarely advertise for anybody in this column, but this is important as I have it, and almost had to use it from a fall I had on a cruise ship. The cruise line picked up the tab because it was their fault and I didn't need it, then. Contact me if you want more information. My contact information is in this newsletter.

Thank all you for what you do for Veterans and Active Duty!

Ed



It has been said that one of the most daunting activities for a person to face is giving a speech in public.



Our American Legion Oratorical Contest addresses not only that concern, but also promotes knowledge and understanding of our nation's *Constitution*, which serves as the basis for the prepared and extemporaneous speeches given by high-schoolers in the contest.

I have the honor of having been chosen to serve as a judge in the District 9 contest. It is rewarding to listen to these teenagers give their personally-prepared speeches and their shorter extemporaneous ones.

Perhaps we veterans could benefit from re-reading the *Constitution*. Perhaps our local and national leaders could also benefit from such an activity.

Here is a useful site:

<http://www.usconstitution.net/const.html>

Maybe you can share this reference with others as you E-mail to folks?



Bob

770-786-8702

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A CUSTOMER SERVICE TIP

Ever find yourself in a convoluted call to customer no-service?

Ever get confused over which number to press or find no category fitting your needs?

Ever find pressing zero does not work, but takes you back to the menu?

Try using the word: REPRESENTATIVE or AGENT.

This often cuts short the questioning process and brings on a human who "may" be of assistance.

<http://shadowwarriorsproject.org/>

The above link was promoted on Fox, Megyn Kelly's show.

You might consider it one way to help our wounded warriors.



MEMBERSHIP DATES

Below, are the eligibility dates for those veterans seeking membership in the American Legion:

WWI: 4/6/17 TO 11/11/18

WWII: 12/7/41 TO 12/31/46

KOREA: 6/25/50 TO 1/31/55

VIETNAM: 2/28/61 TO 5/7/75

LEBANON/GRENADA: 8/24/82 TO 7/31/84

PANAMA: 12/20/89 TO 1/31/90

GULF WAR /WAR ON TERRORISM: 8/2/90 TO THE PRESENT

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Commander [Ed McMillan](#) or Adjutant, [Ted Richards](#).

A REFRESHING BROWSER TIP

An Auxiliary officer told me that my latest change to the State's Web site <http://www.galegionaux.org/> was not made.

I asked her to refresh her browser, as many do not bring back the latest URL, but keep the last one to expedite display.

To refresh, try your keyboard's F5 key or left-click on arrow at top browser menu.

VETERANS' COURTS

Veterans' courts are hybrid drug and mental health courts that use the drug court model to serve veterans struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. They promote sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug and mental health courts in addition of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, the Veterans' Benefits Administration, and, in some programs, volunteer veteran mentors and veterans' family support organizations.

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/11181.htm>

<http://www.justiceforvets.org/>

<http://veterans.georgia.gov/>

GAME FIX?

Some computer games may not be compatible with Windows 10, and as a result they will download and install, however when you click to open the game, nothing happens.

You can try to resolve the problem and allow the games to open by:

- Right-clicking on the game icon from the desktop and choose 'Properties'.
- Select the 'Compatibility' tab.
- Check 'Run this program in compatibility mode for: 'Windows XP (Service Pack 3)'.

Also try choosing the 'Windows 7' option if Windows XP does not work.

•**Make sure you check the box "run this as an administrator"**

•Click 'Apply' and then OK.

HELP PAYING BILLS

You, or others, may find these links of benefit for those who need help in paying bills:

<http://helpwithpayingbills.org/>

This link is for Georgia residents:

<http://helpwithpayingbills.org/georgia-bills-assistance-programs/>

ACTIVE SHOOTER DEFENSE

Good advice if found in an active shooter situation; you may want to share:

<http://activeshooter.lasd.org/>

THINK BEFORE SENDING

Before sending E-mail to several others, be sure that the addresses are in the Bcc., not the Cc: or To: fields to insure privacy of others.

OUR POST OFFICERS

FROM **NAUS** VIA ED

COMMANDER 770-757-6136	ED MCMILLAN
SENIOR VC 770-596-5635	LES GREEN
JUNIOR VC 770-786-8702	BOB GREEN
JUNIOR VC	MARK FENLEY
JUNIOR VC	PAUL AUST
FINANCIAL OFFICER 706-219-4209	CHUCK GOETZ
JUDGE ADVOCATE 404-754-0415	TED RICHARDS
EXEC COMMITTEE	LES GREEN
EXEC COMMITTEE	PHIL GALANTI
ADJUTANT 404-754-0415	TED RICHARDS
CHAPLAIN 770-355-2320	MICHAEL FUINO
SGT-AT-ARMS	HERSCHEL PILCHER
SERVICE OFFICER 404-944-5281	PHIL GALANTI

Federal prosecutors have decided not to press criminal charges against two former executives at the Department of Veterans Affairs who were accused of manipulating the agency's hiring system for their own gain.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia said Thursday it has declined a referral from the VA inspector general for criminal prosecution of Diana Rubens and Kimberly Graves.

The inspector general said in a report this fall that Rubens and Graves, acting like thugs, forced lower-ranking regional managers to accept job transfers against their will. Rubens and Graves then stepped into the vacant positions themselves, keeping their pay while reducing their responsibilities.

Rubens had been earning \$181,497 as director of the Philadelphia regional office for the Veterans Benefits Administration, while Graves earned \$173,949 as leader of the St. Paul, Minnesota, regional office. Before displacing the regional managers to take their jobs, Rubens was a deputy undersecretary at the VA's Washington headquarters and Graves was director of VBA's 14-State North Atlantic Region.

Rubens and Graves also took more than \$400,000 in questionable moving expenses through a relocation program for VA executives, the inspector general's report said.

The unfortunate U.S. Attorney's decision suggests referral of the matter "to the VA for any administrative action that is deemed appropriate."

Rubens and Graves were demoted in November, but their demotions were rescinded this month after a paperwork mix-up. The stumbling VA has said it will reissue the demotions after the problem is resolved.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PRESENCE

Our Post's Web site: <http://epost2100.org/>

Our Post's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ePost2100?fref=ts>

OUR DINNER MEETING AT WINDER'S GOLDEN CORRAL



Few members were able to attend our business dinner meeting the 21st, but much important business was brought up, and later shared on our [ooVoo](#) meeting.

The wives at our meeting are shown here with guest speaker, Cheryl Kieler, who provided us with ways to help veterans via the [National Homes for Heroes Program](#).

KROGER DONATES TO US !

By going to the following URL, you can painlessly help Kroger donate a portion of your Kroger purchases to our ePost 2100.

In fact, anyone who designates our ePost as a recipient, can join in supporting our Post.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

MICROSOFT DOWNLOADS

Check out this link to the Microsoft 2007 Office download for pdf updates and other free downloads:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=7>

It provides optional downloads before going to the site for the pdf add-on.

GREEN LIGHT A VET

<http://www.greenlightavet.com/>

This is a way we can show appreciation for veterans...burning one green light on our porches. I have one **yellow** and one, **green**, as does another neighbor.

POLITICIANS RATED

From [Military.com](#):

Task & Purpose recently published an article on where each of the presidential candidates stand on veterans' issue. Using the [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](#) organization's annual 11-point [policy agenda](#), *Task & Purpose* rated the 2016 candidates' platforms and comments about the most pressing issues facing veterans and their plans to address them. The results are available on the [Task & Purpose website](#).

Keep in mind that this is but one input for your own research and judgement for the upcoming elections.

Bob



Ask Yourself Two Very Important Questions...

1. Are you or your spouse a ...
Fire Fighter? Police or Public Safety Officer? Teacher?
Healthcare Worker? Veteran, Active Duty or Retired
Military? Then we consider you a hero!
2. Do you want to save up to thousands of dollars when
you buy, sell or refinance a home?

Service Deserves Its Rewards... Homes for Heroes is here to say Thank You

If you, or someone you know, is a part of the military, education, medical, law enforcement, or fire protection professions, HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc. and Cheryl Kieler of Prestige Property Specialists want to say 'Thank you' for your service with significant savings on your next real estate purchase or refinance. We are proud to offer the Homes for Heroes program.

At HomeBridge, we know we do something very special. We don't just process transactions or close deals. We help families achieve their dream of home ownership. Recently, we proudly helped one Veteran's family in North Carolina fund the rebuild of his home.

In 2015, we helped over 50 heroes save \$152,470.58!

Gianni is also a proud supporter of the Wounded Warriors Project and the USO charity organization.

Call us today for more information or to find out if you qualify.



100 Heroes Served Club



Gianni Cerretani

Mortgage Loan Originator

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Cheryl Kieler

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Homes for Heroes Agent

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HomeBridge Financial Services, Inc. is located at 112 TownPark Drive, Suite 300, Kennesaw, GA 30144. Corporate NMLS #6521. Georgia Mortgage Lender License 22495. Alabama Consumer Credit License 21077.

**SUBMIT THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, BELOW, DD-214 AND CHECK FOR
\$30.00**

TO: CHUCK GOETZ

706-219-4209

675 WASHBOARD ROAD, CLEVELAND, GA 30528

Your Name (required)

Email (valid email required)

Phone Number (required)

Mailing Address (required)

City (required)

State (required)

Zip Code (required)

\$30.00 Application Fee

Please check the Appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service :

Aug 2, 1990 - Cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government
 Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990
 Aug.24 1982 to July 31, 1984
 Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

June 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955
 Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946
 April 6, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918

U.S. Army
 U.S. Navy
 U.S. Air force
 U.S. Marines

U.S. Coast Guard
 Merchant Marines
12/7/41 - 8/15/45 (Only Eligibility)