



# LARRY A HOFF ePOST 2100



Issue #32 NOVEMBER, 2015

**COMMUNICATION IS POWER**

TO OPT OUT OF OUR NEWSLETTERS, E-MAIL [cgoetz@myemc.net](mailto:cgoetz@myemc.net)

## OUR NEXT MEETING

November 19th 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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## ED's REQUEST

Our Commander wants to share this URL with us. I saw it some time ago, but did not think to share it.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/A1jeJmeeMjs?version=3&rel=1&fs=1&showsearch=0&showinfo=1&iv\\_load\\_policy=1&wmode=transparent](https://www.youtube.com/embed/A1jeJmeeMjs?version=3&rel=1&fs=1&showsearch=0&showinfo=1&iv_load_policy=1&wmode=transparent)

If you find appropriate item URL's and want it/them in our newsletters, please E-mail me:  
[rgreen1@greenunicorn.com](mailto:rgreen1@greenunicorn.com).

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

As I sit down to write November's message, it is really October 25th. Our newsletter editor deserves and needs time to organize and edit this month's material. It really takes him time to edit mine which I truly thank him for doing so well with so little material.



You may not know that our newsletter goes out to many people in Department of Georgia and the 9th District. There are others on the list as well and, of course, our membership. This is your membership, ePost2100, and we welcome any contribution of material to be published that would be of benefit to the Post or veterans.

Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention membership dues! We are now at 67.5% surpassing a goal of 65% for November 11th. If you have yet to renew membership, know that we need your help to get you your dues of \$25.00 in now so we can get on with our business of helping vets and their families.

We are helping vets in many ways, but mostly in claim and health applications and/or advice. We have helped homeless vets, several times, as well as vets in need of handicap ramps, odd jobs around or in their location. Presently, we have a grant pending with Home Depot for approval of a ramp. Once we are accepted [file paperwork correctly] we will have a much quicker process in the future. We also applied for a homeless grant for up to \$10,000 that puts us in the running for several awards of different amounts. We will continue to apply for any grants or donations we can. We can't get an award until we apply. The odds are not automatic for us, but fair to good in some applications. If any of you are aware of any grants or company donations, please call or email anyone of our staff.

Nothing is too small to put in for. We operate on a small budget for our officers [\$0 in most cases].

We donate or help veterans or spouses with our funds and do NOT hold money for a rainy day. It is important to renew with your \$25.00 dues so we can get OUR SHARE, \$5.00, in the kitty. Also, for anyone who would like to donate any sum, I assure you it will go to good use in helping veterans!

**Continued on Page 3**

## \$5.00 DUES INCREASE

Because National dues will be increased by \$5.00, we will have to raise ours by that same amount in order to remain financially solvent.

Dues have not been increased since 1972 and this is the smallest amount, so far.

Some young members may want to consider being a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member and avoid future increases and being asked to pay each year.

<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>



Well, another Thanksgiving has rolled around and many folks will celebrate by eating a festive (turkey) meal.



It was President Abraham Lincoln who declared the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving.

SOME folks will also celebrate by attending religious services.

But do we need a one-day-a-year holiday to remind us from whence cometh our daily bread?

Should we not be thankful each day for what we have (what God has given us)?

Sadly, many people DO need that special one day reminder to be grateful and express thanks.

When one has lost what one has taken for granted (*i.e.* freedom), one can then truly appreciate the value of what was lost.

Perhaps we might begin to treat each day as one of thanksgiving.

Learning to give thanks begins in the home and is reinforced by religious institutions, but is made less significant by commercialization, such as the expression, Turkey Day.

We can enjoy Thanksgiving Day parades and football, but we can also consider other ways to celebrate.

Our family considers this holiday as a religious one, thanking God for what we have.

I recall this childhood blessing:

Thank you for the world so sweet,  
 Thank you for the food we eat.  
 Thank you for the birds that sing,  
 Thank you God for everything.

**Bob**

### OUR POST OFFICERS

(You might want to be one?)

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\* Executive Committee

### 1940's CARRIER

1940's Aircraft Carrier In The Pacific - Rare color footage. This is 16mm color (not "colorized") footage that you may not have seen before of carrier action in the Pacific. Not many color shots in the '40's - extremely expensive then, with a complicated and exacting processing procedure. Click on the link below to see this.....

[WW II: RARE COLOR FILM : AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN THE PACIFIC](#)

## OUR HELPING HAND

Georgia's American Legion Auxiliary's Web site <http://www.galegionaux.org/> has not been regularly maintained, so a call went out to secure a (free) Webmaster.

Since our ePost is Web-oriented, I was contacted about the situation and asked to take over the site's maintenance.

Currently, I maintain three Web sites, so the additional task was more of a labor of love than being onerous.

Web sites have become an almost necessary validation of legitimacy, though some are not.

The American Legion auxiliaries are a vital part of brick-and-mortar Posts, so I am honored to serve as the Webmaster for Georgia's Web site. *Bob*

## MILITARY DISCOUNTS

My wife and family from out of town visited Zoo Atlanta.

I proffered my American Legion I.D. Card and was granted reduced admission pricing.

Zoo Atlanta extended that reduced ticket pricing to five other members of our party, as per their policy of up to six allowed on a military discount.

There might be others who extend pricing?

## DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS

### 2015-2016 9<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Schedule:

September 13, 2015 – Duluth Post 251

December 13, 2015 – Buford Post 127

February 14, 2016– Cleveland Post 16

May 15, 2016– Cumming Post 307

REMEMBER, UNDERLINED TEXT USUALLY LINKS TO OUTSIDE SOURCES, SO CLICK ON THOSE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION.

## COMMANDER, CONTINUED

### Continued from Page 1

The American Legion Conference was just held and Chuck, Ted and I attended for most of the day on Saturday. No one attended the same presentation to maximize our education and we expensed \$27.99 for lunch for 2 of us. This was a mistake. We should have gone next door to Friday's for a better meal. Anyway, in my 3 years in the Post I have been reimbursed less than \$150.00. So you can see, we do not do this for the money or reimbursement. It's all for the vets!

Don't forget to get your freebies on Veteran's Day, such as a carwash, donuts, meals to numerous places, free, mostly. We will send or publish a list, maybe both, as a reminder.

We are also working to add new members and a presentation on Veterans Day for a location in the Roswell Area that has requested one. This is right up our alley, as it will be a PowerPoint presentation. Many more are planned.

Thank you for your membership renewals, time, and earning the right and privilege to be a member of a veteran's organization! God bless all of you!

Serving Vets,

*Ed McMillan*

Commander

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

When you attend Veterans Day ceremonies, I hope you will bring along some other folks to not only support the activities, but to build and show appreciation to and for our veterans.

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

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

## HALF-STAFF RESOLUTION

If you have been unable to lower your American flag to half-mast, our American Legion has a solution: the black ribbon.

My own flag is on my porch's railing with a mount which can vary the staff's angle, but the black ribbon is an option for those with immovable staffs: <http://emblem.legion.org/ HALF-STAFF-RIBBON/productinfo/120.213/>.



## 311 VET APP MAY HELP

Ed sent in this application (APP) <http://www.311vet.com/> which may provide help in very many veteran-oriented areas.

Download the APP and try it out?

## SO WE WENT TO THE ZOO...

We took our son, his wife and three children to Zoo Atlanta. I asked at the ticket window if they had a military discount, and they did.

What I did not realize was that my military service (showed my ID Card) would also reduce the price of tickets for five other people! You may know of other places where this practice could help defray expenses for veterans. Never hurts to ask!

## CONTACT CONGRESS RE PARKS ADMISSION

Rep. Rich Nugent (R-FL) is seeking co-sponsors for *Veterans Eagle Parks Pass* (H.R.1505) – a bill to allow veterans lifetime access to national parks for a one-time \$10 fee.

Currently, active duty personnel have free annual admission and this bill would simply extend that privilege to them after their military career. The \$10 fee was at the request of the National Parks Service to cover a processing fee.

While there is a lifetime pass for national parks for seniors (over 62) that costs the same, this would allow all veterans to get the pass before becoming a senior.

*Ed*

## SELF-DEFENSE

Defense legislation lawmakers agreed to this week would let commanders authorize troops to carry guns on military bases in the U.S.

[http://www.military.com/daily-news/2015/10/01/bill-would-let-commanders-authorize-troops-carry-guns-us-bases.html?ESRC=army\\_151006.nl](http://www.military.com/daily-news/2015/10/01/bill-would-let-commanders-authorize-troops-carry-guns-us-bases.html?ESRC=army_151006.nl)

## RESOURCES

U.S. Medicine has published their annual [Directory of Federal Medical Treatment Facilities](#). The *Directory* is a detailed listing of all U.S. federal medical facilities (which includes VA facilities), including the address, telephone and fax number, key medical personnel and workload data.

1. [2014 Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors\(pdf\)](#)
2. [New VHA Beneficiary Travel Handbook](#)
3. [Health Care Services for Women Veterans Handbook](#)
4. [Trauma Recovery Program \(TRP\) National Directory](#)
5. [Compensation and Benefits Handbook \(.pdf\)](#)
6. [2015 Directory of Federal Medical Facilities \(.pdf\)](#)



# MEDICARE INFORMATION

Medicare Part B Premiums to rise 52% For 7 Million Enrollees.

For seven in 10 Medicare beneficiaries 2016 will be much like 2015. They will pay \$104.90 per month for their Medicare Part B premium just as they did in 2015. But 2016 might not be anything like 2015 for some 30% of Medicare beneficiaries – roughly 7 million or so Americans.

That's because premiums for individuals could increase a jaw-dropping 52% to \$159.30 per month (\$318.60 for married couples).

And for individuals whose incomes exceed certain thresholds, premiums could rise to anywhere from \$223.00 per month up to \$509.80 (or \$446 to \$1,019.60 for married couples), depending on their incomes.

To read more about those who will be affected by the large Medicare increases click this link COLA story:

<http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT01MTA-1NDg5JnA9MSZ1PTEwMzExNjM2NzUm bGk9MzE0MTE4MzI/index.html> .

Two bills that would avert the premium increases. S. 2148, sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), and H.R. 3696, sponsored by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV), were introduced on Oct. 7 and would block premium increases for 2016.

*Ed*



Experts say the MXT135 means that enemy troops will no longer be safe if they take cover.

The rifle appears to be the perfect weapon for street-to-street fighting

that troops in Afghanistan have to engage in, with enemy fighters hiding behind walls and

only breaking cover to fire occasionally.

The weapon's laser finder would work out how far away the enemy was and then the U.S. Soldier would add one meter using a button near the trigger.

When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly one meter past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the Taliban fighter.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### VA Health Resource Center

The number to call for additional information on health benefits, enrollment, copayments and billing.	1-877-222-VETS (8387) Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern
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### Veterans Benefits Administration

Call to get information regarding your VA claim status, compensation, pension, education, burial and loan guaranty programs	1-800-827-1000
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### National Cemetery Administration

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office provides interment scheduling service for all VA national cemeteries.	1-800-535-1117
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### National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

If you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, make the call	1-877-424-3838
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### VA Foreign Medical Program

If you are traveling or living overseas, this program provides VA health care benefits	1-877-345-8179
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### Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis, their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.	1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 chat online @ <a href="http://veteranscrisisline.net">veteranscrisisline.net</a> send a text message to 838255
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### Important Phone Numbers

Main Hospital	404-321-6111
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## OUR BOYS STATER CHOSEN

## COLAS AND PAY



Chuck Goetz congratulates Eli Pontes, a Junior at White County High School, for being chosen to represent ePost 2100 at Boys State, next June.

Eli plays in the WCH Marching Band, and has a GPA of 91.7. He works on weekends at a local burger restaurant as well Picking up other odd jobs, when he has time. Eli has one brother and four sisters. His father is in law enforcement and his mother also works during the week.

From [Military.com](#):

Come January, some military retirees are sure to ask why the haven't seen an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in first-of-year paychecks. About the same time, some active duty members will grumble that their annual pay raise has been capped again, this time at 1.3 percent, on the heels of record-low one percent pay hikes in both 2014 and 2015. That's also when some military folks might begin to wonder whose paydays have been pinched harder lately, service members or retirees? To that question we have an answer, thanks to Pentagon pay experts who helped to crunch the numbers. For more, see [this Military Advantage post](#).

[View the proposed military pay charts for 2016.](#)

**ED FELT THE ITEM, BELOW,  
WOULD BE OF INTEREST  
TO OUR MEMBERS**

BY: [Morgan Chalfant](#)

October 20, 2015 5:37 pm

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D., Conn.) on Tuesday blocked an up-or-down vote on legislation meant to hold VA employees accountable for misconduct.

The Democratic lawmaker denied a motion for unanimous consent after Sen. Marco Rubio (R., Fla.), a GOP presidential candidate, brought the VA Accountability Act of 2015 to the Senate floor for immediate consideration.

The bipartisan bill would allow Department of Veterans' Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald to remove or demote a VA employee because of poor performance or misconduct. The House [passed](#) the legislation at the end of July. However, Rep. Jeff Miller (R., Fla.), who introduced the bill in the House, [said](#) before its passage that McDonald does not support the legislation.

President Obama has [threatened](#) to veto the legislation, calling it "counterproductive" and insisting that it would "have a significant impact on VA's ability to retain and recruit qualified professionals and may result in a loss of qualified and capable staff to other government agencies or the private sector."

Meanwhile, an independent assessment released last month [found](#) that the Department of Veterans' Affairs network of health facilities faces "crises in leadership and culture" and other problems warranting a "system-wide reworking" of the Veterans Health Administration.

Various VA inspector general reports published in recent months pointed to serious [flaws](#) at specific VA facilities as well as [waste](#) at the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Concerned Veterans for America CEO Pete Hegseth slammed Blumenthal in a statement Tuesday for standing with "Washington special interests and corrupt VA bureaucrats" by blocking the vote.

"Almost every day, there is a new story of VA employees engaging in misconduct or corruption—demonstrating that a year and a half after the wait list scandal began and after promises of change from the Obama Administration and Congress, a toxic culture still infects the VA," Hegseth stated. If the Senate does not move the legislation through regular order as quickly as possible, Hegseth said, lawmakers will be sending "a message to the millions of veterans who use the VA that they are not a priority for the United States Senate."

**SUBMIT THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, BELOW, DD-214 AND CHECK FOR  
\$25.00**

**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)

### \$25.00 Membership 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)