



# LARRY A. HOFF ePOST 2100



Issue #52 JULY, 2017

COMMUNICATION IS POWER

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

## OUR NEXT MEETING

July 20th at 7:30 PM is slated for our next tele-meeting using [ooVoo](#). Click on [robertgreen00109](#).

Our tele-meeting is provided for you to learn about and have input regarding your cyber Post.

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

## THESE ARE OUR OFFICERS

Commander [ROBERT GREEN](#) 770-786-8702  
Senior Vice Cmdr. [LES GREEN](#) 770-596-5635  
Junior Vice Cmdr. [PAUL AUST](#) 770-315-2189  
Junior Vice Cmdr. [MARK FENLEY](#) 678-661-1031  
Finance Officer [CHUCK GOETZ](#) 706-219-4209  
Judge Advocate [TED RICHARDS](#) 404-754-0415  
Exec Committee [RICK SCHIRMER](#) 678-687-7270  
Exec Committee [ED MCMILLAN](#) 770-757-6136

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



TED RICHARDS: 404-754-0415  
[tkr1258@gmail.com](mailto:tkr1258@gmail.com)  
BOB GREEN: (770) 786-8702  
[rgreen1@greenunicorn.com](mailto:rgreen1@greenunicorn.com)

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

We are starting off our fiscal year in relatively fine financial shape, compared to years, past. Much of this largess was due to efforts of our past commander, Ed McMillan, who also spearheaded our membership drive to achieve Department of GA membership goals.



## YET ANOTHER HOLIDAY ?

Well, here it is, yet another national holiday: [Independence Day](#), the Fourth of July. So that means BBQ, fireworks, no mail and time off work, for some, right?

For us veterans, Independence Day also has a more serious side, celebration of our breaking away from England and embarking on a unique political experiment with its roots in the [Declaration of Independence](#) and the [Constitution](#).

Meaningful celebration will encompass inspirational speeches, musical renditions/concerts, parades, and yes, BBQ, fireworks, no mail and time off work.

Because of the cyclical nature of national holidays, some might lose sight of their significance and bearing on our lives and of those we hold near and dear.

We veterans recall our freedoms came at a cost and maintaining those freedoms carries the same price tag. — *Bob*

In May, we tried out a different mode of communication for our meetings, [FreeConferenceCall](#). This was tried during the early stages of our cyber post, along with expensive [GoToMeeting](#). The drawback on our current free mode, [ooVoo](#), is some attendees' bandwidth can pixilate video and only 12 attendees can be served.

Summer vacations may limit attendance at some brick-and-mortar organizations, but our cyber post overcomes that, taking just one hour, or so, using a computer, tablet or cell 'phone anywhere on our planet. (assuming access to the Internet).

The summertime can also be a time for heat-related concerns, so if you or others you care for are needing to take precautions (*i.e.* sunscreen, hydration, over exhaustion), please help them.

Independence Day, July 4th, is coming up and I know most of us will try and impress on others the importance of the holiday, aside from maybe being off work, BBQ, but also parades, ceremonies, etc.

*Bob*

## 20 A DAY

An average of about twenty of our veterans commit suicide each day. Hard to image, perhaps, but those are the latest and sometimes contested rising figures.

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/veterans/2016/07/07/va-suicide-20-daily-research/86788332/>

Seventy percent have not used VA services, assuming they were able to get them. Interventions are probably few and far between, though there are supposed to be some warning signs, often in the form of a failed attempt (a last desperate plea for help).

What can you do, apart from donating money to help worthy causes, to reduce the number of suicides among our veterans?

The VA is utilizing 13 mobile apps to support Veterans and their families with tools to help them manage emotional and behavioral concerns. <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/factsheets/Suicide-Prevention-FactSheet-New-VA-Stats-070616-1400.pdf>.

Check within your own community to see what local resources might be available and need support, such as [Mission 22](#).

If you find someone contemplating suicide, provide them with one of the many suicide hotlines: such as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: **1-800-273-8255** <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

## OUR PROGRAMS

You might want to refresh your recollection of the many good works for which we stand. [The Four Pillars](#) provide us and the public with information on our worthwhile contributions and benefits.

The pdf linked above is well-worth your review.

## RETIREMENT

A PhD walked into my office and asked if we would hire him, at no pay. He was divorced, no children, retired, no pets, no hobbies, and had to get out of his house. We did not hire him, but I did suggest he look into expanding his areas of life, such as getting a hobby, maybe a pet (such as a dog), do volunteer work, travel, return to school, and maybe re-examining his religious faith.

His situation is not much different from that of some retirees who may have planned well for their financial well-being, but not for life after loss of employment.

A retired colonel moved into our neighborhood and while meeting him, I asked how we should address him (i.e. Mr. Smith, William, Bill). He said just call him, Colonel. Some military retirees are “married” to their jobs identify with their job title. These people are more than a title; they are an individual, but if too closely tied to a position/title, loss of the job/status can be disheartening as they might embark on a new phase of life. Look into our [VA Retirement information](#).

Finances can be a serious concern for retirees, but military benefits can soften the blow. Some of us retirees find we are financially better off during retirement years than when having been gainfully employed. However, others find it necessary to find full or part-time employment, which harkens back to my PhD friend who was seeking work, though there was no financial need.

Lastly, consider one’s “safety net”, those people who bolster and support efforts and offer solace along with their friendship. Besides having a friend, be a friend.

*Bob*

## MILITARY DISCOUNTS

You may have to ASK if military/veteran discounts are offered at some locations, but here is just one of many lists of places offering discounts, though some may not be near where you live:

<http://militarybenefits.info/military-discounts/>.

## USING OUR NEWSLETTER

This digital medium allows you to **enlarge** text, copy and paste text and graphics, print, forward and E-mail items.

The bluish underlined text is a link to the Internet URL/ source, so there is more to your newsletter than meets the occasional eye.

Sometimes, the URL/address of a site is included for those who wish to copy and paste it without going to the Internet site.

Our cadre's E-mail and phone numbers are included so that we can be contacted, not just names on a newsletter.

Because the newsletter is our main connection with members, your input is welcomed, so just contact the [editor](#), 770-786-8702.

## ONLINE UPDATES

**Do you receive the American Legion Online Updates?**

<http://editor.legionemail.com/vo/?FileID=00a58005-1b75-417e-ab1c-ff2c38bf8421&m=f21beb0e-06eb-4605-b71c-baa3e49a106f&MailID=33488935&listid=84772&RecipientID=13496000766>

## GIVING BLOOD

As a cyber Post, existing on the Internet with no brick-and-mortar location, we hold no blood drives on our own, but we CAN participate in those held by other American Legion Posts (and maybe share with them what we have to offer?).

The [American Red Cross](#) has blood drives independent of Legion Posts, so if you have no local Post, try the Red Cross.

Your blood really can be a life-saving act, costing only your time, unless you are ineligible to contribute.

## LEGION 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 Adjutant, [Ted Richards](#).**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 99th Annual National Convention will be Aug 18-24 in Reno, NV 2017 .

Fall Meetings will be Oct 9 - 12 in Indianapolis, IN.

Our 2017 Department Fall Conference is scheduled for Oct 21 - 22 in Duluth.

*Paul*

## EMERGENCY CUTOFFS

Be sure you know where the utility cutoffs are for your water, gas and electricity and how to turn them off. You might have to get a special tool for the water meter cutoff.

By the way, do you have a fire extinguisher a first aid kit, and an emergency evacuation plan?

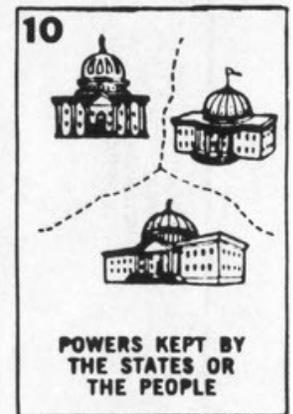
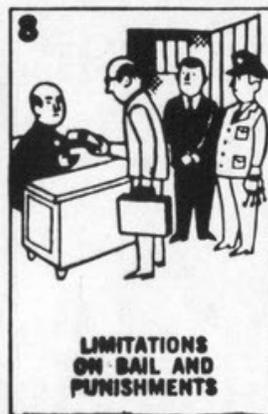
If you have all the above, what about your relatives, friends and neighbors,?

Remember the Boy Scout motto: Be Prepared!



# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

## The First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution



## JUST A REMINDER OF OUR GUARANTEED RIGHTS

- **First Amendment:** Freedom of Religion, Speech, and Press, the Right to Assemble Peaceably and to Petition the Government *“for a redress of grievances.”*
- **Second Amendment:** Right to Keep and Bear Arms- *“A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”*
- **Third Amendment:** Quartering of Troops- *“No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.”*
- **Fourth Amendment:** Search and Seizure- *“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”*
- **Fifth Amendment:** Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self-Incrimination, Due Process
- **Sixth Amendment:** Criminal Prosecutions – Right to a speedy public trial by an impartial jury, to confront witnesses and to counsel for defense.
- **Seventh Amendment:** Common Law Suits –Right to a Trial by Jury
- **Eighth Amendment:** No Excessive Bail or Fines or Cruel and Unusual Punishment- *“Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.”*
- **Ninth Amendment:** Non-Enumerated Rights or “Rule of Construction of the Constitution”- *“The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”*
- **Tenth Amendment:** States’ Rights- Rights not explicitly delegated to the Federal Government in the Constitution are reserved to the States or to the People.

[Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence Pocket Edition.](#)

**AMERICAN LEGION EPOST2100 (CYBER POST) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**YES!** I'll help my fellow veterans by becoming a member of The American Legion. I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked below and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

**epost 2100 mailing address ---->** Chuck Goetz  
675 Washboard Road  
Cleveland, GA 30528

Application may be made in any of the following methods:

1. Complete this application and mail it to Ted Richards, epost 2100 Adjutant along with a check in the amount of \$35.00 (payable to American Legion) and a copy of DD214
2. Simply call and make application telephonically (less than 5 minutes).
3. Visit our website at epost 2100.org and make application there

Please check applicable "Dates of Service" and "Branch of Service":

DATES OF SERVICE	BRANCH OF SERVICE
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG. 2, 1990 - OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. ARMY
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC. 20, 1989 - JAN. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. NAVY
<input type="checkbox"/> AUG. 24, 1982 - JUL. 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. AIR FORCE
<input type="checkbox"/> FEB. 28, 1963 - MAY 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. MARINES
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 25, 1950 - JAN. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. COAST GUARD
<input type="checkbox"/> DEC. 7, 1941 - DEC. 31, 1946	
<input type="checkbox"/> APR. 6, 1917 - NOV. 11, 1918	
<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. MERCHANT MARINE - DEC. 7, 1941 - DEC. 31, 1946	

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

BIRTH DATE

SIGNATURE

**Receipt of Dues**  
*(Please Print)*

From \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**You can pay the annual dues of \$35.00 now or we will bill you later.**

Make Checks payable to: "The American Legion ePost 2100"

If mailed send to:  
Charles Goetz, Post Finance Officer  
675 Washboard Rd  
Cleveland, GA 30528

**TO JOIN  
THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
SUBMIT THE  
MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION,  
A COPY OF YOUR DD-214 ,  
AND A CHECK FOR \$35.00  
TO:  
Chuck Goetz  
675 Washboard Road  
Cleveland, GA 30528**

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Excursions add to the fascination of this unique occupation showing the Lincoln Industrial Site, Washington Monument, and the Capitol along the National Mall. (Photograph by Gary Shroyer)

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

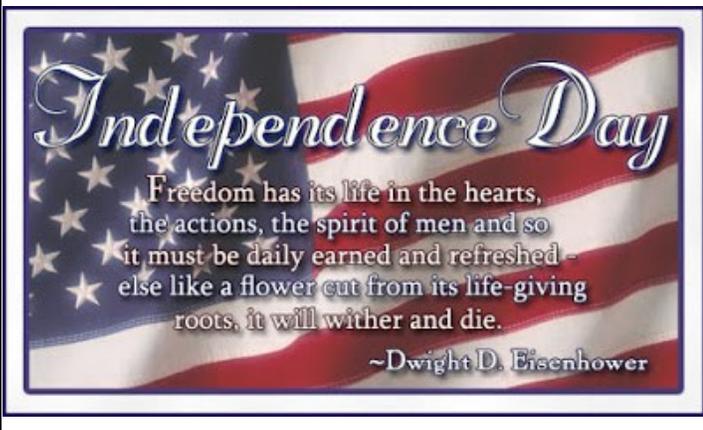
# JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> 1847: Indian emissaries arrive in St. Louis to negotiate a treaty with the U.S.
<b>2</b> 1817: President Monroe is welcomed to London by Charles Fitzroy, former ambassador of the Capital.	<b>3</b> 1817: Bowdoin College's president is killed in a duel provoked by the president's refusal to resign.	<b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i> 1875: Construction of the first United States Great Lumber and BNC... begins in Boring, OR.	<b>5</b> 1817: Residents inquire when a good one will be built and will pass Joseph Lyons, MD.	<b>6</b> 1817: Edward Savage, who painted the first known portrait of Washington family (1796), dies.	<b>7</b> 1875: President Monroe, visiting Fairbank, says free government is based on "natural wealth and intelligence."	<b>8</b> 1817: Charles Francis Adams begins editing one roll of copies in TB, GA, and the Alabama Territory.
<b>9</b> 1817: Spain's ambassador reports that physicians were creating Cholera in Bay with Spanish intentions.	<b>10</b> 1817: Pres. Monroe is told that his political appointments will be a "total Federalist support in New England."	<b>11</b> 1875: Boston editor William Thayer, former Pres. Monroe's chief biographer, dies "great good."	<b>12</b> 1817: Alabama Territory settles issues for the federal territorial law applied to include Native Americans.	<b>13</b> 1817: French newspapers praise the national four-armed shield a preparation for war.	<b>14</b> 1875: Bowdoin College officials in London. The president's term would be extended beyond Portland, ME.	<b>15</b> 1817: John Adams writes to John Jay, the first President of independent and continues army.
<b>16</b> 1875: Pres. Monroe is authorized of South American Commission's imminent departure.	<b>17</b> 1817: Alfred Gallatin looks forward to post-Napoleonic Europe's restored balance of power.	<b>18</b> 1817: Bill becomes effective to create a special ceremony for president's use without legislative approval.	<b>19</b> 1817: DC's Daily National Advertiser, which issued a camp periodical meeting in nearby Quantico, County VA.	<b>20</b> 1817: President Monroe writes his course was going "daily forward so many people wanted to see him."	<b>21</b> 1875: Surgeon General Joseph C. Forster, who served in both Lincoln and Garfield, is born.	<b>22</b> 1817: New York Daily Tribune reports a "hearty good" of successful economy.
<b>23</b> 1817: Cassin A. Mather publishes the first issue of the South American Commission.	<b>24</b> 1817: Pres. Monroe is in Charleston, praising VT's role in the Revolution War.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## IT'S JULY, ALREADY!

The month of July was named by the Roman Senate to honor the deceased Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. Prior to that, it was called Quintilis, a god and the fifth month of the calendar. Unfortunately for Caesar, he was fatally unable to "beware the ides of March".

As this second half of our calendar year begins, perhaps it is a good time to take stock in what we have done with our lives thus far and what we might yet achieve or at least appreciate.



## COVERT RECRUITING

What to do after perusing your monthly American Legion [magazine](#) other than recycling or tossing them out?

Yes, it is filled with so many ads, but I guess they help pay the bills, right?

However, the magazines can also help in informing the public about our organization and maybe even help in recruiting!

Simply blacken our or cut out your address on the front cover page and taken them to places where you notice other magazines on the table, such a doctor offices, barber shops, etc. Ask the person in charge if you might leave a current copy of the magazine, which can also show their support for our veterans.

Perhaps drop by each month or so and replenish the magazines if the owners do not do so. I see many old magazines in some offices and businesses.

Pretty sneaky, but, it is for a good cause, costs nothing and is not fattening! For something that IS fattening, see Page 7.

*Bob*

## FROM OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

Too often, when I tell young troops or new veterans that The American Legion wrote their GI Bill of Rights, campaigned tirelessly to get it passed and continue every day to work to improve it, they are astonished. "I had no idea The American Legion did that ... I thought it was a government program," they say, almost collectively.

So, it is with great pride and purpose that I encourage you to visit the National WWII Museum in New Orleans for "**The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Salute to the GI Bill.**" The multi-media exhibit opens Tuesday, June 20, with a reception at 5 p.m., followed by a moderated panel discussion, led by American Legion 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee Chairman Ted Roosevelt IV. Among the panelists is Vietnam War veteran and former U.S. Sen. James Webb, author of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The panel discussion will focus on the GI Bill's legacy of success and the changes it has needed to best serve 21st century veterans.

Visitors planning to attend are asked to call the museum at **1-877-813-3329, extension 412**, to reserve a place. The event, scheduled to finish about 7:30 p.m., is free. **The panel discussion will also be streamed live online at the museum's website at [nationalww2museum.org](http://nationalww2museum.org).**

Through touch-screen videos and illustrated panels, the exhibit brings to life the dramatic story of the Legion's fight to get the bill passed. The WWII museum will host the exhibit until Dec. 18, 2017, at which time it will travel to a different venue.

The exhibit showcases the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 cover and signature pages, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Speaker of the House Samuel Rayburn and Acting Senate President pro tempore Guy Gillette, on loan from the National Archives. Also displayed are the typewritten and hand-edited speech FDR gave after signing the bill and one of the pens he used to sign into law The American Legion's 10-point plan to improve opportunities for veterans, a measure that would ultimately transform U.S. culture, economy and defense.

I thank the National WWII Museum for this outstanding display space and the National Archives and the FDR Presidential Library and Museum for allowing The American Legion to borrow the original documents. The Legion is also grateful to Sen. Webb, Student Veterans of America President and CEO Jared Lyon and VA Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Curtis Coy for sharing with us their insights on the benefit's current state and future plan.

It is my sincere hope that, as The American Legion centennial story is told over the next two years, that new generations will understand what this organization has done, is doing and will continue to do in a second century of service.

Carry the legacy forward.



## West Point Commencement Speech - Gen Mattis (You can enlarge to better read)

Here's the speech, as prepared:

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: what a day... It is a great honor to be here today at West Point, one of the foundational keystones of our nation, and to join you on behalf of our commander-in-chief, President Trump, to pay his respects, and the respects of the American people, to the Military Academy's class of 2017.

I would never have imagined when I joined the military at age 18 that I'd be standing here, nor can you anticipate where you'll be many years from now. By the time this class was in first grade classrooms in every state in our union, our country had been thrust into a war by maniacs who thought by hurting us they could scare us. Well we don't scare, and nothing better represents America's awesome determination to defend herself than this graduating class. Every one of you could have opted out. You'd grown up seeing the war on 'round-the-clock news. There was no draft. Colleges across this land would have moved heaven and earth to recruit you for schools that would never make such demands on you as West Point, starting with Beast Barracks, an aptly named introduction to the long gray line, creating American soldiers who are at their best when times are at their worst. Today in honoring you graduates, in celebrating your achievements and giving thanks for your commitment, we can see clearly your role in our world. You graduate the same week that saw the murder of 22 innocent young lives. Manchester's tragic loss underscores the purpose for your years of study and training at this elite school. For today you join the ranks of those whose mission it is to guard freedom and to protect the innocent from such terror. We must never permit murderers to define our time or warp our sense of the normal. This is not normal and each of you cadets graduating today are reinforcing our ranks, bringing fresh vigor, renewing our sense of urgency and enhancing the Army's lethality needed to prove our enemies wrong. You will drive home a salient truth: that free men and women will volunteer to fight, ethically and fiercely, to defend our experiment that we call, simply, "America." You graduates, commissioned today, will carry the hopes of our country on your young shoulders. You now join the ranks of an army at war. Volunteers all, we are so very proud of you, cadets, for taking the place you have earned in the unbroken line of patriots who have come before. Your oath of office connects you to the line of soldiers stretching back to the founding of our country...and in the larger sense, it grows from ancient, even timeless roots, reflecting the tone and commitment of youth long ago who believed freedom is worth defending. In terms of serving something larger than yourself, yours is the same oath that was taken by the young men of ancient Athens. They pledged to "fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city...to revere and obey the city's laws and do [their] best to incite a like respect" in others, and to pass on their city-state as "far greater and more beautiful" than they had received it.

In that sense, it is fitting the cadet cover you wear today, for the last time, features the helmet of the greek goddess Athena, echoing respect of civic duty found in a democracy, and of a nation, in President Lincoln's words, of the people, by the people, for the people. After four years at West Point, you understand what it means to live up to an oath; you understand the commitment that comes with signing a blank check to the American people, payable with your life. My fine young soldiers, a few miles northwest of Washington at Antietam battlefield cemetery is a statue of a Union soldier standing at rest, and overlooking his comrades' graves. It is inscribed with the words, "not for themselves, but for their country." How simple that thought. So long as our nation breeds patriots like you, defenders who look past the hot political rhetoric of our day and rally to our flag, that Army tradition of serving our country will never die. To a high and remarkable degree, the American people respect you. We in the Department of Defense recognize that there are a lot of passions running about in this country, as there ought to be in a vibrant republic. But for those privileged to wear the cloth of our nation, to serve in the United States Army, you stand the ramparts, unapologetic, apolitical, defending our experiment in self-governance...you hold the line. You hold the line...faithful to duty...confronting our nation's foes with implacable will, knowing if there's a hill to climb, waiting won't make it smaller. You hold the line...true to honor...living by a moral code regardless of who is watching, knowing that honor is what we give ourselves for a life of meaning.

You hold the line...loyal to country and Constitution, defending our fundamental freedoms, knowing from your challenging years here on the Hudson that loyalty only counts where there are a hundred reasons not to be. Behind me, across Lusk Reservoir, stands a memorial dedicated to the American soldier.

**Continued on Page 8**

## Continued from Page 7

On it are inscribed the words: “the lives and destinies of valiant Americans are entrusted to your care and leadership.” You have been sharpened through one of the finest educational opportunities in America, given to you by the American people via General Caslen’s superb faculty, who expect admirable leadership by example as soldier leaders. My view of a great leader is the player-coach. We need coaches, men and women who know themselves, who take responsibility for themselves, coaching their soldiers to the top of their game. Every soldier in your platoon will know your name the day you step in front of them. Your responsibility is to know them. Learn their hopes and dreams. teach them the difference between a mistake and a lack of discipline. If your troops make mistakes, look in the mirror and figure out how to coach them better. And while we never tolerate a lack of discipline, we must not create a zero-defect environment, because that would suffocate initiative and aggressiveness, the two attributes most vital to battlefield success. In leading soldiers, you will have what F. Scott Fitzgerald called, “riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart.” So recognize you should never permit your passion for excellence to neutralize your compassion for the soldiers you serve, and who will follow you into harm’s way. Remember that when the chips are down, it will be the spirits of your often rambunctious soldiers that will provide the reservoir of courage you will need to draw upon.

Rest assured that nothing you will face will be worse than Shiloh. Nothing can faze the U.S. Army when our soldiers believe in themselves. The chips were down in the freezing cold days before Christmas, 1944, when the Nazi army was on the attack in the Ardennes. A sergeant in a retreating tank spotted a fellow American digging a foxhole. The GI, Private First Class Martin, looked up and said to the sergeant in the tank, “are you looking for a safe place?” “Yeah,” answered the tanker. “Well, buddy,” the private said with a drawl, “just pull your vehicle behind me...I’m the 82nd Airborne, and this is as far as the bastards are going.” On the battlefield, no one wins on their own. Teams win battles, and if you can win the trust and affection of your soldiers, they will win all the battles for you. If you wish to be a credit to our nation, you must carry West Point’s ethos everywhere you go and practice every day the integrity that builds your character. When destiny taps you on the shoulder and thrusts you into a situation that’s tough beyond words...when you’re sick and you’ve been three days without sleep...when you’ve lost some of your beloved troops and the veneer of civilization wears thin, by having lived a disciplined life, you’ll be able to reach inside and find the strength your country is counting on. You are privileged to be embarking on this journey. You will learn things about yourself that others will never know. We can see the storm clouds gathering. Our enemies are watching. They are calculating and hoping America’s military will turn cynical. That we will lose our selfless spirit. They hope our country no longer produces young people willing to shoulder the patriot’s burden, to willingly face danger and discomfort. By your commitment you will prove the enemy wrong. We are not made of cotton candy. You are a U.S. soldier, and you hold the line. The class of 2017 now joins an Army that left bloody footprints at Valley Forge...an army that defeated the Nazis’ last gasp at Bastogne...

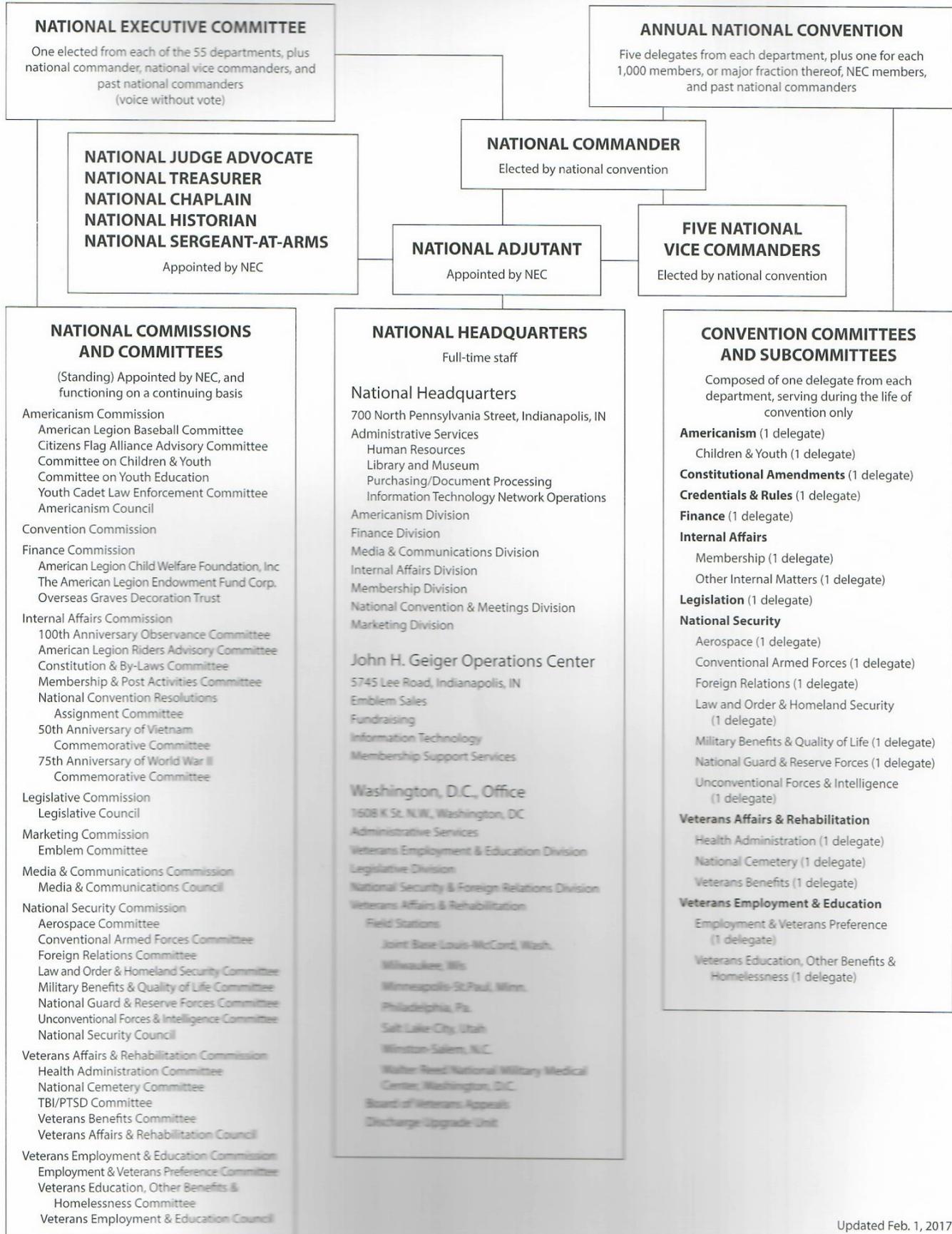
Your class will be remembered for an Army football team that took to the field of friendly strife and beat Navy... but you will also be remembered for the history you are about to write, and when you turn over your troops to their next commander, they will be as good or better than you received them. I may not have had the pleasure of knowing each of you personally, but i have very high expectations of you... Your country has very high expectations of you... And we are confident you will not let us down because while we may not know you personally, we do know your character, West Point character. So...fight for our ideals and sacred things ...incite in others respect and love for our country and our fellow Americans...and leave this country greater and more beautiful than you inherited it, for that is the duty of every generation. To the families here today, I can only say: apples don’t fall far from the tree. Thank you for the men and women you raised to become U.S. soldiers. Thank you too, General Caslen and your team, who coached these members of the Long Gray Line. they will write the Army’s story, and in so doing will carry your spirits into our nation’s history. For duty, for honor, for country...hold the line. Congratulations, class of 2017, and may God bless America.

## EXPAND YOUR ROUTER’S PORTS WITH A HUB



If you run out of open ports on your router, consider adding a multi-port hub to give you more connections to your router.

# ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Updated Feb. 1, 2017