April 27, 2026

Charles A. Woodford Post 2007

Commander's Comments

Since We Last Met

Mar 25: VA Town Hall in Swansea. This town hall had about 160 visitors. The VA presented information and was looking for feedback about their program an service. See page two for more details.

Mar 28: Messinger Cemetery Clean Up. Thanks to all that attended: Robin, Jim N, Jerry, Dave, Joe, Andrew, and Todd. A special thanks goes to the Groothuis' for the cookies!

Mar 28: 22nd District Commander Don Scheyer's Birthday!

Mar 29: There was a Women's Veterans Fair in Collinsville. Our 22nd District set up a table to answer questions, provide information about programs, and promote membership.

Apr 8: SrV Andrew Dunham shows up at the VFW Post in Belleville. Nothing out of the ordinary as he shows up on Wednesday for coffee. He also delivered 40 plus flags for retirement. Thanks Andrew for your service to this program.

Apr 10: Artemis II returns to Earth!

Apr 15: Attended a dinner for new recruits. This dinner was show our appreciation to these young volunteers that will be defending our Country very soon. I had the opportunity to chat with this next generation of Veterans!

Note: I have been travelling around the area the last couple of months for the VFW. I have been asking about membership. Many of the local Posts are having the same issues we see in the American Legion. We are all recruiters!

Did You Know?

Because of the switch to an All-Volunteer Force from a Conscription force in 1973, the number of Americans enlisted has dropped over time. Currently, only 0.5% of the American population is enlisted in the US Military. During World War II, 9% of the population was enlisted, and 2% were enlisted during the Vietnam War.

Women have served an important role in the US military throughout history, but permanent roles were not established until 1948. Prior to that time, women often serve as nurses, spies, and for cooking and laundry. In some cases during the War of 1812 and American-Mexican War, women disguised as men would take the place of their wounded husband in combat.

Calendar

- Continue to Work Membership, Announce Plans for Memorial Day Ceremonies, Present School Awards Wolf Branch and High Mount, Flag Retirement Planning for June 14. Invite Scouts
- May 9: 9AM to 3PM Poppy Day at Lowe's at Green Mount Commons
- May 10: Mother's Day, Fly the Flag
- May 15: Peace Officers Memorial Day, Fly the Flag
- May 16: Armed Forces Day, Fly the Flag
- May 16: 9AM to Noon, Messinger Cemetery Clean Up Day
- May 16: 9AM to Noon, Flag Collection, St. Clair Township, 107 Service St., Swansea
- May 18:Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00. Select a Business that should get a award for flying the Flag
- May 24: Messinger Cemetery Clean Up Day, Post flags on graves, place Flags along road, bring Flag to Half Staff
- May 25: Memorial Day, Fly the Flag (Half Staff until Noon), 2:30 Memorial Day Ceremony at Swansea Moose
- May 31, 10AM, 22nd District Convention, Post 365, Collinsville

CHARLES A. WOODFORD
POST 2007

Meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7 PM.
Swansea Improvement Association
216 Service St, Swansea IL 62226

Check Out Our Facebook Page
Swansea American Legion Post 2007

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STILL SERVING AMERICA

Shiloh CBOC

St Clair County VA Clinic

1190 Fortune Blvd, Shiloh

314-286-6988



FROM THE TOWN HALL MEETING

On March 25, Veterans from around the area came to the Swansea Moose Hall to hear what the VA had to share.

They provided information about the sites in St. Louis, John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Centers. Many of you may be aware that the Cochran Center has plenty of ongoing construction. They stated that the new construction will provide single occupancy rooms instead of the current 2 and above occupancy. After the new building is done, renovation will start on the old structure.

JB Cemetery has acquired 35 acres adjacent to the cemetery. This expansion should allow for burials until 2050.

The claims are being processed as quickly as possible. There are currently 79,000 claims that have been in the system longer than 125 days.

The CBOC's, **C**ommunity **B**ased **O**utpatient **C**linics, will be expanding! The Shiloh and Scott AFB (5th Floor) locations are projected to double in size! As with anything, it will take time. The "normal" time frame is 5 to 10 years. We were told that this is projected to be in about 2 years.

As with many of these meetings, there is a small percentage of the people not happy with the care or timeliness they received. Generally the crowd was happy with the VA system. The VA admitted that they do not always get it right! They suggest that you speak or contact a Patient Advocate. Let them know what needs to be looked at.

They can't fix it if they don't know.

TID BITS

On This Day

1773 British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Tea party anyone?

1805 US Marines attack shores of Tripoli

1937 1st US social security payment made

1972 Apollo 16 returns to Earth after lunar exploration, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean 350 km (189 nmi) southeast of the island of Kiritimati

1994 Former US President Richard Nixon buried in Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs publishes A Guide to veteran state and federal benefits and services. You can get a copy at the IDVA website. Go to, veterans.illinois.gov. Scroll to the bottom of the page, under Spotlights, click on IDVA Benefits Guide and download as needed.

www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

This website is your opportunity to express your views to your Federal representatives concerning various Veterans issues. Read the issues and if you agree, send the letter to your representatives. It does not take long but make your voice heard!