FEBRUARY 23, 2026

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Feb 1: Travelled to Fairfield for the 5th Division Winter Caucus. Many reports were given, no earth shattering news. We were provided updates and proposed plans for some programs. One item of note from the Haven Board. They were notified that one of the contractors working to widen the access roads had cut the telephone line. It would take several weeks to repair.

Feb 3: I was honored to attend a medal presentation for Korean War Veteran David Van Der Helde. David was awarded the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal. This Medal is for Veterans of the Korean War. This is a way for the South Korean Government to say Thank You to our Veterans.

Feb 14: Attended the Swansea Park Board Meeting. There was considerable discussion on a Memorial Day Ceremony. The Swansea Moose is interested in hosting a ceremony at their site. It is going to take some additional planning. The Moose is planning to have a planning meeting in the near future. I would like the Post to be part of the ceremony, Color Guard and bugler. More details later.

Feb 17: Past Department Commander Cheri Stanton has been called to serve in Post Everlasting.

This month has been filled with plenty of sport, mainly the Olympics. There has been Figure Skating, all types of skiing, sliding events, Speed Skating, Ice Hockey, and of course, Curling. Our Teams have been doing well.

Just finished watching the Women's Hockey Team win the Gold! It was a very exciting win in overtime.

I never get tired of the U S A chants.

DID YOU KNOW?

IL PROGRAM DATES

IL PREMIER BOYS STATE

Pre Registration is now open for the June 13th – 19th, 2026 Boys State Session

IL GIRLS STATE

June 21 – 27, 2026

Note: Boys and Girls State will be held at Eastern IL University in Charleston IL

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Camp Lincoln Military Academy. Springfield, IL

June 21 - June 26, 2026

CALENDAR

- Post Focus Topics: Continue work on Membership, Buddy Checks, Community Activity Event, Select Boys State Attendee
- Mar 10: McAlister's Fundraiser, Shiloh location, 5-8PM
- Mar 15: 5th Division Spring Caucus, Post 647 Du Quoin, 1PM
- Mar 21: Flag Collection, 107 Service St, Swansea, 9AM to Noon
- Mar 21: Swansea Improvement Association Work Day
- Mar 22: 22 District Spring Caucus, Post 110 Nashville, 1PM
- Mar 23: Post Meetings, Executive at 6:15 and General Meeting at 7:00, Post Nominations in April, Annual Dinner Planning, Invites for Dinner (Scouts, FD, Police, Mayor, Assisted Living Managers, Bar)

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

Post Email:
ILLEGIONPOST2007@gmail.com

STILL SERVING AMERICA

Four Chaplains of USAT Dorchester

Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister from Pennsylvania;

Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Reform rabbi from New York

Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Reformed Church in America minister from Ohio

Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from New Jersey.



DID YOU KNOW (CONTINUED)

VA MOVES TO IMPROVE DENTAL CARE ACCESS FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS

For immediate release

February 10, 2026, 10:01 am

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a request for proposals for a new dental care administrator to operate the department's next generation network of community care dental providers.

The goal is to contract with a vendor that will support the department in building and maintaining a robust national network of licensed dental providers and practitioners. The network will include general and specialty dental care, preventive dental services, and pharmacy support.

Through this new contract, VA aims to improve and standardize dental care delivery, ensuring Veterans receive the preventive and restorative dental services they need to maintain their health.

VA's community care program enables Veterans to access health care from non-VA medical providers at the department's expense. Community care has been an integral part of caring for Veterans since the World War II era. In 2018, President Trump enshrined this right for Veterans by signing the bipartisan MISSION Act. Today, about 40% of all VA care is provided through community care.

Of the nearly nine million Veterans enrolled in VA health care, approximately 26% are eligible for dental care. In fiscal year 2025 alone, 888,051 Veterans received dental care through VA, with more than 3.5 million dental procedures delivered through community care.

"Dental health is a critical component of overall well-being," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "This RFP will result in a contract that dramatically improves our ability to provide quality dental care to eligible Veterans while ensuring they can choose the provider that's best for them.

Taken from news.va.gov/press-room

TID BITS

On This Day

1836 The Alamo is besieged for 13 days until March 6 by the Mexican army under General Santa Anna; the entire garrison is eventually killed

1896 Tootsie Roll introduced by Leo Hirshfield

1945 US Marines raise the flag of the United States on top of Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima. Pulitzer Prize-winning photo by Joe Rosenthal later becomes iconic, inspiring the Marine Corps War Memorial sculpture

1954 First mass inoculation against polio with the Jonas Salk vaccine takes place at Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1967 25th amendment (US Presidential succession) adopted

The Veterans Assistance Commission, VAC, provides help to Veterans and their families. This help can come as a VA Compensation Claim or financial. Either way, the Commission is there to aid our Veterans in their time of need.

If you or you know of a Veteran needing help, please visit the Commission's website at www.vac4scc.org. At the site, you can schedule an appointment and fill out documents prior to your visit. You can still call 618-277-0040 to get help. Please know that the Team continues to serve many Veterans, please be patient.

There have been many collar Counties that have formed VAC's. The latest County was Monroe. Several Veterans will be working to help the Veteran Service Organizations of Randolph County establish their VAC in the near future.