JULY 27, 2026

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

July 4: 250th Birthday of our Country! Hope you had a great celebration.

July 7: the Executive Committee met for our Organizational meeting. We discussed event options and set dates for our Post events. The Post calendar will be sent out.

July 25: There was a 22nd District Organizational Meeting. Membership will be a focus for the District. It was noted that there were many deceased members last year. The team is looking forward to the challenges of our Legion. This years Officers are: Commander Doug Thompson, Sr Vice Brian Humphrey, and Jr Vice Shane Wagner. Robert Thomas also attended the meeting.

All Month: The talk around all Veteran Service Organizations has been HR 9237. This Bill has energized all groups of Veterans. Some are in favor and others oppose. The issues are varied and can be complicated. In the end, you have to look into the "issues" and make your decision. After that, you needed to contact your Representatives. The week of July 13 –17 was busy on Capital Hill. The Representatives heard our voice. On July 16, the Bill was pulled from the floor! While that sounds like a win for veterans, the fight is not over. We suspect the Bill be rewritten and sent to the floor again. I will continued to be plugged in on the Bill. I encourage you to do your research and contact your Representatives. If we sit on our hands, benefits will erode. Once a benefit is lost, it will be extremely hard to get it back.

Grassroots Action Center on the National Legion Website

Make direct contact with lawmakers to advance American Legion priorities.

CALENDAR

- July 28, VAC Commission Meeting, 6PM, 19 Public Square, 1st Floor Conference Room
- August 15, 9AM to Noon, Flag Collection, 107 Service St. Swansea
- August 15, 9AM to Noon, Messinger Cemetery Clean Up, 3450 Old Collinsville Road
- August 23, Post Meetings, Executive Board at 6:15PM, General Membership at 7PM, 216 Service St. Swansea
- August 24, VAC Commission Meeting, 6PM, 19 Public Square, 1st Floor Conference Room
- September 7, Labor Day
- September 12, Poppy Day, 9AM to 3PM, Location to be Determined
- September 19, 9AM to Noon, Flag Collection, 107 Service St. Swansea
- September 28, Post Meetings, Executive Board at 6:15PM, General Membership at 7PM, 216 Service St. Swansea

LEGION MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Aura

Save up to 75% Award-Winning Digital Safety Protection

Protecting your country shouldn't come with the burden of online crime. Whether it's financial fraud, identity theft, spam calls, or even cyberbullying, Aura has the tools to keep your family safe online. We make online security easy, with identity and financial fraud prevention and tools like parental controls. And in the event of an incident, Aura's White Glove fraud resolution team is available 24/7 to help you navigate credit bureaus, initiate credit freezes or locks, and work with you around the clock to resolve it.

Aura is honored to thank members of the military, Veterans and their families for their service with up to 75% off Aura protection plans. You have made many sacrifices for our country, but your safety online shouldn't be one of them.

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

Who is Eligible for Legion Membership?

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces from December 7, 1941 to present and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

Put this in your Membership Tool Box!

DID YOU KNOW

VA benefits claims backlog drops below 70K for first time since 2020

July 7, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA disability compensation and pension benefit claims fell below 70,000 for the first time since February 2020, during the first Trump Administration.

Hitting this milestone means the department has now cut the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by over 74% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% under the Biden Administration.

A VA claim for compensation or pension is considered backlogged once it has been pending in the claims inventory for more than 125 days. In 2013, 70% of claims were older than 125 days — the most ever — compared to just 11.6% today.

VA has also reduced the average time it takes to process a claim to a record low. Today, claims take an average of 77.7 days to process – the fastest ever. Since the second Trump Administration took office, VA has decided more than one million claims in less than 30 days.

"This is what putting Veterans first looks like," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "We are incredibly proud of these historic numbers, which mean faster decisions, better service and more benefits for the men and women who have worn the uniform."

From the VA News Website

TID BITS

This Day in History

1789 US Congress establishes the Department of Foreign Affairs, now referred to as the State Department

1837 US Mint opens in Charlotte, North Carolina

1844 Fire destroys US mint at Charlotte, North Carolina

1909 Orville Wright successfully tests the Wright Military Flyer, the world's first military airplane, with a record flight of 1 hour, 12 minutes, and 40 seconds, flying approximately 64 km (40 mi)

1940 Bugs Bunny, Warner Bros. cartoon character created by Tex Avery and Bob Givens for the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies series, debuts in "A Wild Hare"

1953 North Korea and the United Nations sign armistice to stop fighting and divide Korea at the 38th parallel

Do you have any ideas for:

- Community Service
- Fundraisers
- Get our Post out in the Community
- Any Others

Contact someone on the Executive Committee. If you are interested in leading a Committee, let us know! We would love to have you on the Post Leadership Team.

Commander Out