SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

CHARLES A. WOODFORD POST 2007

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Since We Last Met

Aug 28 to Sep 3: The American Legion National Convention was held in Louisville Kentucky. Jay Bowen of Colorado was elected National Commander. As national commander, Bowen emphasizes The American Legion's mission of service through his theme, "Be Part of the Solution (B.P.O.T.S.)," encouraging members to engage actively in their communities, support veterans, and their families, and advance the organization's legislative priorities. Jay is an Army Veteran.

Additionally, Roy Smith, our immediate Past Department Commander was elected as National Vice Commander serving the Central Region.

108th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, August 27 – September 2, 2027.

Sep 12: Poppy Day! The weather was nice and ended with the temp getting warmer by the end of the event. The donations flowed in fairly steady through out the day. Thank to Barb, Todd, Jerry, Bill, Andrew, Theo, Marvin, and the Commander for staffing the event. We raised over $600 for Veteran Programs.

Steve Duff continues to work with several groups to have the fence repaired/replaced at Messinger Cemetery. The fence is the one around the Messinger family plots. Thanks Steve!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Big Three

American Legion: Founded March 1919 in Paris. LTC Theodore Roosevelt led the formation. The Congressional Charter was issued in Sep 1919. First National Convention was held Nov 1919 in Minneapolis.

VFW: Has roots to 1899. Several groups merged in 1914 to form the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Congressional Charter was issued in 1936.

DAV: Founded in 1920. First National Convention was held in Detroit in 1921. Congressional Charter was issued 1932. Judge Marx was the first National Commander.

CALENDAR

- Sep 29, 6PM, VACSCC Meeting, 19 Public Square, 1st Floor Conference Room
- Oct 12, Columbus Day
- Oct 17, Flag Collection, 9AM to Noon, 107 Service Street, Swansea
- Oct 18, 5th Division Fall Caucus, 1PM Start, Post 485 Dupo
- Oct 19, Post Meetings, 6:15PM Executive Meeting, 7PM General Meeting, 216 Service Street, Swansea
- Oct 27, VACSCC Annual Banquet/Meeting, 6PM, Fairview Heights Elks
- Oct 31, Halloween
- Nov 1, Time Change, Fall Back
- Nov 1, 22nd District Fall Caucus, 1PM, Dupo Post 485
- Nov 3, Election Day
- Nov 14, Poppy Day, 9AM to 3PM, Green Mount Commons Lowe's

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



DID YOU KNOW (CONTINUED)

Honoring Army Veteran Marìa Inéz Ortiz

Marìa Inés Ortiz was born in 1967 in Camden, New Jersey, but she grew up in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. After graduating from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) in 1990, she joined the Army Reserve as a Wire System installer. By 1993, she transitioned to active duty, embarking on a career that would take her to Honduras, South Korea and later at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.. There, she was determined to pursue a career in nursing, which she accomplished by becoming a registered nurse in 1999.

Ortiz quickly rose through the ranks, attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) and earning her commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Service Corps. She also graduated from the National Graduate School of Quality Management in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Ortiz soon served as a medical platoon leader and battalion medical operations officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Drum, New York. Later, she deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF/OEF), where she served as the battalion medical operations officer for the 28th Combat Support Hospital.

While serving with her unit near Baqubah, Iraq, Ortiz was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) on June 8, 2007. She was the first U.S. Army nurse killed in combat since the Vietnam War. For her sacrifice, she was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart. In an article written by Patriot-News, her twin sister, Marìa Luisa Medina, said, "She's the person that I want to be like, not because she was a soldier or a nurse, but because she accomplished her purpose in life."

Ortiz's legacy extends beyond her military service. In a ceremony to honor her life and sacrifice that same year, Hon. Robert E. Andrews, the Representative from New Jersey, stated, "She had a smile that lit up the hallways and won the hearts of the medical staff in every hospital she worked."

TID BITS

This Day in History

1928 First issue of the magazine "My Weekly Reader" is published

1956 Commander Jim Page is born in Lewiston Maine

1961 Maiden flight of the CH-47 Chinook military transport helicopter

1970 "Monday Night Football" created by Roone Arledge, premieres on ABC - Browns 31, Jets 21

Alton National Cemetery

Address: 600 Pearl Street, Alton, IL 62002

Visitation Hours: Open daily from dawn to dusk.

This cemetery is closed to new interments.

Alton National Cemetery was originally a soldiers lot in the Alton City Cemetery, in Madison County, IL. Despite the existence of the lot as early as 1870, the government did not own the half-acre tract until July 1, 1940, when the Alton Cemetery Association donated the land. An estimated 163 Union soldiers and 12 unknowns were initially buried here, according to an inspection report of 1870. The men died at the Alton hospital and onboard steamboats passing up the Mississippi River.

November 3rd is Election Day. Have you looked at your proposed ballot, have you compare the candidates? This time leading to the election you can be deciding who you want to represent you. Your vote counts, but only if you cast it! Vote.

Halloween, Oct 31, is on a Saturday. If you have to travel during trick or treat time, please extra careful of the ghouls and goblins in the streets.

Commander Out