

# Commander's Call (Continued)

nights a huge success. The Children's Halloween party and the Post Costume party were both wonderful activities.

This is not the month to slow down. We have a number of local Veteran's Day activities to attend, including a parade, ceremony at the National Cemetery and a Flag Disposal Ceremony at our Post. We continue our normal monthly activities and celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Please read this newsletter carefully and pay attention to the calendar both here and on the website for the many events that are planned. Each needs your support and assistance.

Legionnaires please renew your membership for 2007 now if you have not done so. This year more than in the past, it is important for you to do so before 30 December. You all have heard by now that National and Department have increases in dues that become effective after the first of the year. The result is that our dues will also increase at that time; however, you can still get the current rate through 2007 if you renew now! Thank you for taking care of this important piece of business. Read the 1st Vice Commander's article on Paid Up For Life (PUFL) for more savings over the future years.

I hope each of you enjoys this newsletter with the added pages and our sponsor's insert. This allows extra information from all of our Legion Family and provides the communication that is desperately needed for our organization.

Do not forget to review the Website or Bulletin Board for the meeting agendas and up to date activities. If you wish to address the meetings with an item, please forward to the Adjutant or me before the meeting. My "Commander's Call" for this month will be on November 30th at 7:00 p.m. This is your time to meet one on one and discuss any issues you wish.

**"Back to Basics; Forward to the Future!!"**

For God and Country, *Nick*

# Auxiliary News (Continued)

breakfast to all. Many thanks to Georgia Horner, Sue Mills and Ada Wear for their hard work. Also, all those who assisted with the meal for the Mike Lewis family and friends. Our hearts go out to Rosemary at this difficult time. Our condolences to Barbara Derenda, Unit President 667, whose husband Art passed away October 5. You may remember Art as the Santa Claus at our Annual Senior Dinners. To any member who is ill or recovering, get well soon.

Our last month's Quiz Question was "What is the difference between the Constitution & By-Laws and the Standing Rules?" Answer: The Constitution & By-Laws applies to all Auxiliary Units and the Standing Rules are rules for individual Auxiliary Units according to their needs. Each of these can be amended only by vote of the members and approval of Department.

November's Quiz Question : What are the two classifications of Auxiliary Membership?

Our next Membership Meeting will be December 6th at 7:30.

*Loyally, Ada*



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# Chaplain's Corner



By Dennis Ducharme, Post Chaplain

November is a special month. Veteran's Day is November 11th. Please be sure to take a moment to reflect on all the sacrifices made by our service men and women to ensure our freedom and way of life. Thanksgiving is November 23rd. Again, it's appropriate to stop and give thanks for all the blessings which have been bestowed upon us.

Recently, I received an email which seems so appropriate right now. It said that there have been only two people willing to die for us: Jesus and the American GI. One died for our soul, the other for our freedom. November is certainly the most fitting of months to reflect on this.

I can't think of a more traumatic occurrence than when a loved one dies. Now, if that loved one dies and didn't leave behind a will, or didn't have their personal affairs in order, it's even worse for those left behind. Folks, please don't let that happen to you!! I've included in this expanded issue of the newsletter a very basic form to be talked about between you and your loved ones. It's something that will take some thought and some planning to complete, but really.....do you NOT want your family to be prepared? Please look at it, think on it for a time, and get your affairs in order.....now.....before it's too late.

Finally, with the benefit of the Internet, I've found several EXCELLENT resources to help arrange your personal affairs. I have several categories of information, including Financial Planning, Pre-death planning, and Post-death activities. I created a new page for this on our website and you can visit it at [www.Post593.org/PlanAhead.htm](http://www.Post593.org/PlanAhead.htm). There are articles, checklists and links to outside resource that you can read, download and visit. Please.....do it now.....for your family. Plan ahead.

May God bless and keep each and every one of you.

*Dennis*

# Service Officer News



By Sebastian Rodriquez, Service Officer

**Issue:** Government retired pay promises must be kept, including annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to prevent erosion of retirees' purchasing power by inflation.

**Background:** Despite previous prospective changes that reduced future retired pay value by 25% since 1980, and subsequent retention problems that led Congress to repeal those changes in 1999, some government and private sector critics continue to allege the military retirement system is "overly generous." During the 1990's, legislators proposed or enacted multiple changes or delays in annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), singling out retired servicemembers for discriminatory COLA penalties. Too often, critics wrongly equate federal retirement compensation-earned by decades of selfless service and sacrifice-with unearned federal welfare programs.

Civilian retirement standards don't apply to the military, which entails far more arduous service conditions: 20 to 30 years of hazardous duty, frequent moves, extended family separations, overseas service, long hours of overtime without extra pay, forfeiture of many personal freedoms most civilians take for granted, and an "up-or-out" promotion system. The vast majority of military members face forced departure from service before age 50, with no vesting before 20 years. Retaining a high-quality career force over the long term requires a strong reciprocal commitment between member and service.

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