



The American Legion

Post 385 Weston FL Communique



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On December 10th, Commander Roy Schofield and Adjutant Joe Motes presented the Americanism Medals to the follow Weston Civil Air Patrol cadets during their awards ceremonies. Receiving the Gold Medal is Cadet C/2Lt Jonathan Deng (not pictured), the Silver Medal is Cadet C/CMSgt Amanda Lenardson and receiving the Bronze Medal is Cadet C/SMSgt Thomas Lynch.

Happy New Year

From our Commander....

Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to all!

I want to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your hard work and dedication to our veterans and to the American way of life. Your participation so far this year (since we chartered this Post) outreach of good will towards our veterans, their families and their communities -- from the post level -- is above reproach and is God sent.

Service to veterans is what we do best, and it is what we love doing. This past week, Legionnaires across America had an opportunity to make Christmas for 54 wounded soldiers a special one. The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes asked our help in providing Christmas gift checks in the amount of \$500 to these wounded soldiers who are listed as Category 1, 2 and 3 veterans. Most were injured this past fall in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our efforts with The Coalition, a small but effective nonprofit outfit, stems from Resolution 20 "Support of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes." The coalition raised the funds and coordinated their efforts with DOD. The Legion's role was to make contact with the soldier and make arrangements to personally deliver the gift check to that troop

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OUR MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 3 MONTH:

JANUARY 10th 2006

FEBRUARY 7th 2006

MARCH 7th 2006

EVERGLADE HIGH SCHOOL in MIRAMAR

Our Post meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm!

Take I-75 to Miramar Parkway exit, go west on Miramar Pkwy to First light (Dykes Road). Turn Left (South) on Dyles Road and go to Bass Creek Road. Turn Right (West) on Bass Creek Road and go past open field on left. First entrance to school is faculty parking lot, turn left at cyclone fence and follow around to "Y" in road. Bear to Left and turn Right into parking lot. Park anywhere convenient and proceed to the flag pole at the entrance to the school. Go all the way down the open courtyard until you see a stairwell on your right. Walk to the left of the stairwell and through the double doors. At the first and only cross hallway turn left and the second door is the JROTC Room 330.

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As you can suspect, our Legionnaires went the distance to deliver the checks. In most cases, the Departments of The American Legion identified a local point of contact in or near that soldier's hometown within 24 hours after National contacted them.

Many Legionnaires and their post membership went all out for these brave American warriors. One of the first occurred in St. Charles, Missouri, where the members of Post 312 invited Sgt Dunya Bryant, his mother and his fiancé to the post. There he was given a hero's welcome, a membership and many offers of support and assistance. The members of the Department of Missouri, from the Department level down to the post level, let this young man know that he will always have an extended family beyond his military – a family known as The American Legion.

This ceremonious approach is being repeated or matched across America, orchestrated by Legionnaires who volunteered to be contacts for these brave soldiers.

In many ways, what we do is God's work. We have been given a wonderful opportunity to be at this place, at this time to provide that needed service to our veterans, their families and their communities. And you, as a family, have done your work well this year.

Whether it was challenging those who would see veteran's health care reduced, or standing tall against those who would see an end to our religious and patriotic heritage, you have been quick to respond on behalf of our veterans and America. You worked as a team to identify veterans and advocacy issues and to coordinate timely responses and courses of action. You work as a family when it came to enhancing our programs of veteran's affairs and rehabilitation, legislative and Americanism, children and youth. And as

dedicated members of the Legion family, you mobilized support on short notice and providing assistance to over 2,300 Legionnaires who were victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma and other natural disasters.

Your performance as dedicated members of this great veteran service organization has been on the mark since the start of this Post in 2005. I am sure that your quality of performance will shine on through 2006 as we continue our commitment to our fellowship of veterans.

If Christmas is a time to express good will and love to our fellow man, then everyday is Christmas for The American Legion family.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in 2006 as we continue to do what we do best -- provide service to veterans in our area.

May you and your family have a joyous, holy holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year, God Bless

Words from Dennis Teitge, Vice Commander

Post 385 sponsors several events to support the youth in our community. Our high school programs are affiliated with Cypress Bay, Everglades and Flannigan High schools. The combined population of these three schools is well over 10,000 students with over 1,000 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets.

Shooting Sports Program

The American Legion recognizes that guns are a part of sports and recreation in our society and strives to teach youngsters the proper use of firearms before accidents occur. We sponsor the Army JROTC programs at Cypress Bay and Everglades, as well as, the Navy JROTC at Flannigan with their air rifle marksmanship teams who compete in the National American Legion Matches. We pay the registration fees to support two full competitive teams and eight individual shooters entry from each of the schools. Please look in future newsletters for pictures and results from this competition.

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Our Post along with District 9 Officers and other area Posts met with the Department Commander Larry White to host the 75 % Membership Drive with a “Christmas with the Vets” Program at the Alexander “Sandy” Nininger Veterans’ State Nursing Home on Saturday, December 3 rd . The Nursing Home has 120 residents and we will need to provide to accommodate both residents and guests. The program started at 11:00 am with the Posting of Colors by the Miramar JROTC and the Ft. Lauderdale Civil Air Patrol had volunteers helping with passing out lunch and gifts to the Vets, “Christmas with the Vets” provided hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, slaw, and condiments with sodas and beer to the nursing home residents. All the veterans and friends sang music and had lots of fun during this occasion.

Words from Peter Moore, Service Officer

I’d like to start my first Post newsletter article by telling you a little about me. I am a Vietnam Vet who served with the US Army’s 3/5 Cavalry, Troop A Armored Recon, from 1966-1968.

Over the past 3 ½ decades I have held numerous administrative positions in law enforcement, corporate security and the US Coast Guard Aux. So I consider myself very adapt to handling paperwork, especially when it comes to bureaucracy’s.

When the post was formed earlier this year, I asked to be the Post’s first Service Officer for a number of reasons. Mainly, because I had just spent the past two years going through the VA’s long disability process and then going through it’s Appeal process, too.

I did it without the help of the Legion, VFW or JWV organizations and it was huge learning experience! Fortunately, I work for the Broward County Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy and got some early advice from other vets at BSO on where to get started.

The VA Vet Center, in downtown Ft. Lauderdale, not only provided me with that guidance, but much needed and long overdue counseling for PTSD. My counselor at the Vet Center sent me to the only Broward County employee whose sole purpose is to assist vets in the County, but also to get them started on the paper process of filing a disability claim with the VA.

I was suppose to attend the Legions annual conference in Orlando this past October to receive my official two-day Service Officer certification, but Wilma put a wrinkle in those plans. Maybe next year.

So, although I haven’t received the training yet, I still feel well prepared to assist any member who needs help, guidance or just someone to listen too. Please call me and we’ll walk the path together.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Post 385 meeting. Get involved. Support your community and brothers/sisters in arms. **“Lest we forget”**

“If you ain’t Cav, you ain’t!!”

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Beside national competition these programs provide training in gun safety and marksmanship for cadet shooters in their schools. The Legion hosts an annual national air rifle tournament that draws more than 1,200 contestants annually. Our schools shooters will shoot from prone, standing and kneeling positions in Sporter category. As they develop and refine their skills, we will sponsor teams in the precision category as well.

The American Legion Junior Position Air Rifle Tournament is an annual tournament that begins with postal matches to determine state and regional champions and the top thirty competitors in their specific category. Postal matches are fired at the home ranges and targets are mailed into the American Legion National Headquarters for scoring.

The 16th annual Junior Air Rifle 3-Position National Championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match that will be held at the USA Shooting Range Facilities at the Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, CO., August 1 - 6, 2006. The National

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2005 - 2006 Post 385 Officers

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PUBLICITY OFFICER - OPEN

Champions in both categories receive \$1000.00 college scholarships generously donated by the Sons of The American Legion.

Awards Recognition program for Schools and Students

Post 385 sponsors two JROTC awards for each of our schools; namely, the Military Excellence Ribbon and the Scholastic Excellence Ribbon. These awards are presented annually at each of our three school's JROTC spring awards ceremonies in recognition of the school years achievement. These awards are approved for wear by the Department of Defense.

Another award we present annually at each school is the American Legion School Award medal presented to the graduating senior demonstrating the most courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service from the entire school population.

One additional award we have is the Patrick Henry Oratorical Award for the school winner representing our post at the regional American Legion competition. This requires the student to compose and present from memory a speech based on a patriotic theme which changes annually.

Post 385 also has presented leadership recognition awards for Boy Scouts who attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

We have also begun recognizing those youth in our community Civil Air Patrol units who distinguish themselves as outstanding leaders.

Words from your Adjutant, Joe Motes...

I hope you all had a great holiday and are off to a great new year! Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter, as we will be publishing on January, April, July and October of each year. This is your newsletter, so I welcome any articles you would like to have printed. But most of all, this newsletter is to keep you all informed with our Post activities within our area here in Western Broward. If you have any questions concerning your membership with our post, please feel free to call me or e-mail me anytime. I hope eventually I will meet each and everyone one of you.