

**Vietnam War Memorial**

**August 2020**



# American Legion Post 639

Wow! The Wall 2020 was a great success! Thanks to hundreds of volunteers, thousands of hours of service, and a number of generous donations over the course of the last five years, we were able to bring the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and the museum, “Through Their Eyes,” to Springfield. This project was truly a team effort with contributions not only from our Post, Auxiliary, and ALR, but also from numerous other veterans’ groups such as Vietnam Veterans of America, the Marine Corps League, AmVets, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Post 1214, and many other veterans organizations. In addition, we had numerous volunteers who aren’t veterans but who support our mission and wanted to help. I am truly inspired by the hard work of so many, and the potential of what we can accomplish when we join with our brothers and sisters to further the mission of the American Legion.

We brought the Wall back in 2020 because of the opportunity it creates for us to reach out to our community, to educate our youth, to inspire patriotism and a sense of honor and respect for all our veterans and service members. We accomplished that mission. Thousands of people came to visit the Wall, to show their respect, and to walk through the Museum. I saw several Vietnam Vet grandpas answering questions and explaining to their young grandchildren what it was like to serve. I saw high school students from local ROTC programs, as well as other young people, showing their respect and saluting the people whose names are on the Wall. I saw some teary eyes as people rubbed a special person’s name as a remembrance to take home.

I’m so proud that our Post showed our community the meaning of valor, patriotism, respect, honor, duty, and sacrifice for five straight days. Our Post and the project was featured in local media, and got a lot of attention on social media, too. Today, more than ever, these projects are needed to inspire and unite our community around the mission of our Legion to promote patriotism, educate children and youth, and provide support for veterans and active duty military. Thank you again to all who were involved in any way. We showed Springfield and the Ozarks who we are, and we did well.

We’ll be swearing in our Post Officers for the 2020-21 year on Tuesday, August 4th at our general meeting. Thank you for your support and confidence in electing me as Commander for another year. As you know, I don’t take the job lightly, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve another year. I look forward to bringing more projects like the Traveling Wall to the Post in the next year, and focusing our efforts on our Mission. I have several ideas in mind and several projects are already being investigated. If you have ideas for ways we can serve the community and accomplish our Mission, please reach out to me any time.

Semper Fi,  
Darin Hargis



## Chaplain

The wall has come and gone with a lot of memories from people that have lost loved ones and family that are in their hearts and on the Wall. It will touch your heart. I saw people praying and shedding tears for people that have been part of their lives. I hear stories, both good and bad. It was quite an experience.

We had elections of new officers, and I hope the Post can go forward now. Please support the post.

That's all for now, and as always the post and its members are in my prayers.

Chaplain Rex Krasche

## Finance

We are now encountering new requirements for the wearing of face masks under direction of the declaration issued by the Mayor of Springfield. We hope that our members and guests will continue to patronize LZ639 for food, beverages, and activities.

The Missouri Lottery pull tab machines activity continues to be our major source of revenue. During the Vietnam Traveling Wall visit, our bar and kitchen revenue was also up a considerable amount.

Our Queen of Hearts pot has increased in the past few weeks, so come on out and join in the search for the mysterious Queen.

As those of you who attended the July general meeting know and may have passed on to other members, this will be my last report. I did not run for re-election, but one of my finance team members has been elected to replace me. Nathan Carlson has considerable experience in non-profit organization financial activities, and I believe he is an excellent replacement.

Thanks to all who have supported me during my nearly four years as your Finance Officer. Thanks also goes to all who help Post 639 by having food and beverages, playing the Lottery games, and other fundraising efforts.

Gary Bockman

## ALR

July started as a very busy month at Post 639. 65 motorcycles left our post to escort the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall from Thayer, Missouri to

Springfield. It was a great escort to honor our Vietnam veterans.

Thank you to Joplin Highway Patrol for escorting our riders, and The Wall, safely to Springfield. (During a thunderstorm!)

Thank you, Riders. Outstanding job!

ALR was assigned security detail during The Wall event. Wow, you guys rock! You put in lots of hard work 24/7 while The Wall was on display at our post. Thank you, thank you to all security staff.

A big thank you to our commander and Jenni for the great food during The Wall event. Outstanding job!

Our ride to Jasper, AR was a success. Great job, Larry. Good location!

New Officers for ALR 2021:

Director: Marsha Crom

Assistant Director: Kathy Davis

Secretary: Bob Kalwat

Treasurer: Ron Jackson

Sergeant at Arms/Ride Coordinator: Larry Tuck

Chaplains: W. Ogden and H. Burkett

Membership: Vonnie Buis

Recruiting/Retention: Lenny Buis

Judge Advocate: W. Ogden

We have several upcoming events:

August 29th- 104.7 Cave Bike Event



POW/MIA flags were placed in front of panels with names of POW/MIA's

August 30th- Motorcycle Awareness Ride

September 12- Ride to Live (Suicide Awareness)

Mark your calendars to attend all the event and help our post by volunteering to help with these events.

Ride safe, enjoy your wind therapy!

Marsha Crom

ALR Director

## Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Visit

On July 2, 2020 we welcomed The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at American Legion Post 639. We had quite a turnout for this event. Thousands of people from all over the Ozarks visited and paid tribute to our fallen servicemen and women.

Many of the contributors to this newsletter have mentioned this fantastic event in this edition. However, we'd like to go on record as saying that this opportunity for the community to experience something as incredible as the Vietnam Memorial Wall would not have been possible without your donations, volunteer service, and countless other contributions.

We truly appreciate every member of this Post. Thank you for making this event not only possible, but amazing for the people of the Ozarks.



Post member Ned Reynolds performs master of ceremony duties at the opening ceremony.

## Message from Nolan

By the time you read this The Wall will have been gone over three weeks.

I thank each of you AGAIN that went out of your way to assist with this huge project a year and a half in the making.

I do not have a guess as to how many visited The Wall but it was a very successful event for the community and your Post, as well as for all organizations that took part.

We asked Doc to pencil us in for September 2025 which will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Semper Fidelis,

Nolan R. Moody

## Auxillary

I'd like to say congratulations to the 2021 officers: President, Diana Cooperider, Vice President, Terra Cooperider, Secretary Paula Maxheimer, Treasurer, Hallie Scott, Historian Vonnie Buis, Sergeant at Arms, Mary Foss, and Chaplain Suzanne Igou. Our new Members at Large are Susan Heppard, Maria Davis, and Charlotte Kelly. Looking forward to a great year. I've really enjoyed working with a fantastic group of ladies.

Your support this last year was greatly appreciated. Now we will come together to support these new officers and have another great year.

Janey Tuck

Unit 639 President

## Post 639 Elections

We held Post elections on July 7th. Many of our officers remain the same, however we did have a few changes. First of all, we have a new Finance officer. Gary Bockman is stepping down after many years of service. Replacing him will be Nathan Carlson. We also have two new Members at Large: Will Ogden and Don Weiss. We're very grateful to Gary for his dedication to our post, and we look forward to welcoming the new officers.

## **Cavestock: Bikes, Brews, and Music**

On August 29, 2020, the American Legion Post 639 will host 104.7's Cavestock: Bikes, Brews, and Tunes. Come on out for live music, food, drinks, and more! The event will be at our Post, 2660 S. Scenic Ave., from 10am-5pm. Join us...and show off that bike!

## **Fundraiser to Benefit Our Kitchen**

We are currently attempting to raise money to benefit our Post's kitchen. As we all know, our kitchen helps bring much-needed revenue to the Post. We have been fortunate enough to have an anonymous donor pledge \$16,000 towards this project. The donor has challenged us to raise another \$10,000. This is a goal we can certainly reach, with the help of our many members. Please take the time to donate to this worthwhile cause. We could really use your help.

## **Our Response to the Springfield Mask Ordinance**

As many of you know, Springfield issued a mask ordinance on July 16, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Legion, we plan to follow this ordinance unless our members have some condition that excludes them from wearing masks. In these instances, we leave it up to you to determine whether or not a mask is needed. If you enter the Legion without a mask, we will assume that you have a qualifying condition that prevents you from wearing one.

Thanks for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you soon. Stay well.

## **Kitchen Success!**

We recently changed our lunch menu and added some items. With our new range of options, you can be sure we have something for every taste.

Come try our classic Reuben, our impossibly big chili dog, or our pork tenderloin. We also have fried chicken sandwiches, chicken fried shrimp, and your favorite hamburgers and cheeseburgers. All entrees are served with fries.

We also have terrific appetizers! Stop by and grab some onion rings or fried mushrooms while you sample our



"Through Their Eyes" museum exhibit



Junior ROTC posting the Colors

drink selections.

The American Legion is free and open to the public, and our kitchen is open every weekday till 5PM, so bring your friends and encourage others to stop by and visit us. As you know, our kitchen is one of our main sources of revenue, so the more people we can get in here, the better!

We appreciate your patronage!



The many names on the Memorial Wall



Honoring our fallen brothers and sisters during the event at the Post



A look inside the "Through Their Eyes" museum



Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
02 Aug	03 Aug	04 Aug <b>General Meeting</b> 7pm	05 Aug Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	06 Aug	07 Aug	08 Aug
09 Aug	10 Aug	11 Aug	12 Aug Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	13 Aug	14 Aug	15 Aug <b>Sub Vet Meeting</b> 1pm
16 Aug <b>ALR Meeting 6pm</b>	17 Aug <b>Aux E-Board</b>	18 Aug	19 Aug Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	20 Aug	21 Aug <b>Newsletter ARTICLES Due</b> 8am	22 Aug
23 Aug	24 Aug	25 Aug <b>E-Board Meeting 6:30</b>  <b>News Letter Crew 12 Noon</b>	26 Aug Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	27 Aug	28 Aug	29 Aug <b>The Cave 104.7 (Cavestock)</b> <b>Bike Show/Music/ Food</b>
30 Aug <b>Awareness Ride Registration 11:30</b> <b>KSU 1pm</b>	31 Aug	01 Sept <b>General Meeting</b> 7pm	02 Sept Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	03 Sept	04 Sept	05 Sept
06 Sept	07 Sept	08 Sept	09 Sept Queen of Hearts 6-8pm 	10 Sept	11 Sept <b>Patriot Day</b>	12 Sept <b>Sub Vets Mtg 11am</b>  <b>Ride To Live Event 3pm to Close</b> <b>KSU 4pm</b>



On July 18 the Officer Mark Priebe motorcycle ride fundraiser departed Post 639.



Spectators for the motorcycle fundraiser for Officer Priebe

## FUNDRAISER LEAVES FROM POST 639

On July 18, 2020, the Springfield community came together to help Officer Mark Priebe, injured when he was struck by a vehicle at the Springfield Police headquarters, by having a motorcycle fundraiser.

The fundraiser was held to benefit the family of Officer Priebe to assist with medical costs related to his injury.

American Legion Post 639 was the starting place for the fundraiser trip, hosting over 200 motorcycles that made

## Volunteers Needed

American Legion Post 434 (Nixa) needs funeral Honor Guards, and in need of Legion and Auxiliary members.

Contact Glen Smith at (417) 849-8522



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JENNIFER R. HARGIS  
Member  
[jhargis@evans-dixon.com](mailto:jhargis@evans-dixon.com)

LZ639 Pizza Company will make available to our members of Post 639 and families your choice of 12 different pizzas that we offer to area bars. There is a minimum order of 6 pizzas and they will only be made when we are making orders for our wholesale customers and will be **take out only**.

The price is **\$6.00** per pizza for 10" pizzas. This is for personal use and cannot be resold. See Connie or the bartender for additional information and to order.



Vietnam War Memorial  
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Permit Number 451

Office	Officer	Office	Officer
Commander	Darin Hargis	Adjutant	Tom Newsom
1st Vice Commander	Justin Adamson	2nd Vice Commander	Nolan Moody
Finance Officer	Nathan Carlson	Judge Advocate	Will Ogden
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Jackson	Service Officer	Bob Scott
Chaplain	Rex Krasche	Historian	Jim Cooper
Member at Large		Member at Large	Don Weiss
Member at Large			