

THE MIDLOTHIAN LEGIONNAIRE

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

A PUBLICATION OF THE MAJOR CHARLES A. RANSOM
AMERICAN LEGION POST 186 - MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



Oct/Nov/Dec 2023

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americanlegionpost186.org



Maj. Charles A. Ransom died on April 27, 2011 at Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan.

Maj. Ransom was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute where he majored in computer science.

He served in the Air Force with the 83rd Network Operations Squadron out of Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Maj. Ransom was killed by enemy gunfire at the headquarters building on an Afghan air force compound in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Maj. Ransom was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals.

Post 186 Calendar

Jan. 2024

2	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
11	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
13	40/8 Breakfast	8am
16	Membership Meeting	7pm
20	SAL Meeting	10am
26	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

Feb. 2024

6	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
8	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
10	40/8 Breakfast	8am
17	SAL Meeting	10am
20	Membership Meeting	7pm
22	Post Social	5:30-7:30pm

March 2024

5	Executive Board Meeting	7pm
9	40/8 Breakfast	8am
14	Legion Riders Meeting	6:30pm
16	SAL Meeting	10am
19	Membership Meeting	7pm
28	Post Social	5:30pm-7:30pm



From the Commander

Brother and sister veterans, this last quarter has been busy completing projects. These included the water heater being repaired, and a new shed installed on the back of the property. These were among other projects that have been finished around the Post.

We had a very successful Christmas breakfast, a super successful Army/Navy game event, and a Brunswick stew fundraising event that sold out thirty minutes after we finished capping the last quart. We have an upcoming Brunswick stew event on January 27th. I am reaching out to all members to pitch in and help with not only the sales of the stew to friends and family but also to come in and help us prepare for the stew. We also need volunteers to come in and help us stir the pot and get the stew ready for delivery. I have received a great many compliments on the stew, and I would like to see the event continue successfully since it is one of the biggest fundraisers we have for the post. I hope that each of you will take the time to think about it and join us.

We all volunteered to serve our country. Shouldn't we also volunteer to help each other at the post and help others in the community?

Executive Board for 2024/2025:

Commander: Don Pierpont
1st Vice: Billy Heflin
2nd Vice: Bill Seif
Adjutant: Richard Hahn
Finance Officer: William Pouch
Chaplain: Dale Mark Benedict
Service Officer: Henry Bowe
Judge Advocate: Richard Jackson
Quartermaster: Richard Hahn

Membership:

December 2023 figures:

Renewed: 147
New: 6
PUFL: 35
On-Line: 64
Total: 246
Goal: 314
Percentage of Goal Met: 78+%
Current Shortfall: 68

Smoking Curtailment:

Please keep in mind, the Post is a completely non-smoking facility.

After Hours:

Key holders remember, you are required to sign in and out when entering the Post after hours. Non-compliance could result in loss of your key privilege.

Post Everlasting:

Norman W. Garrett Sr.
Ryland Bowen Jr.
Edwin S. (Steve) Parrish



Quartermaster:

Building & Grounds

Richard Hahn, Quarter Master

After some coordination and cooperation from the weather, the future spot for the new shed was under way. The spot was leveled, the dirt and gravel brought in and all individuals involved awaited the new shed. The gentleman arrived with the building materials and went to work. He had it completed in one day!

Next step, move some of the outdoor equipment from the old shed into the new one.

Thanks to Richard Hahn for all his efforts in getting the shed project accomplished.



Honor Guard:

Billy Heflin, Honor Guard Coordinator

The mission of the Honor Guard is to show reverence to those veterans who have passed on by providing a proper distinguished military memorial. The Honor Guard also supports patriotic events, in order to promote and preserve our nation's independence.

Currently the Post is in need of an Honor Guard Commander. In addition, the Post continues to solicit volunteers to be members in the Post 186 Honor Guard. If you are able to fill the position of Honor Guard Commander, or become a member of the team, contact Billy Heflin for details.

The Post will subsidize 50% of the cost of personal uniforms for up to 3 new volunteers.

Brunswick Stew

Oct 27 – 28, 2023

The cutters and the choppers began at 9:00am. With only three volunteers for cutting up the potatoes, things were moving pretty slowly at first. Soon more help arrived and cut potatoes were flying into the pot.



The choppers soon started on the chicken and the beef!

By noon all the potatoes had been cut and added to the pot. The chicken and the beef were also finished and ready to be added.

In all, 15 volunteers showed up to assist. Many thanks for their efforts!

Day 2

Work started early for two of our members. At approximately 3am the fire was lit under the stew pot. About 6:30am more volunteers started coming in to help.

Once the fire heated up, the stirring began. With only a few volunteers, stirring was kept to just a few minutes at a time so as not to tire out our stirers!



As the morning progressed, more volunteers arrived and more ingredients were added to the stew.



And the stirring continued,,,



Finally, the stew was ready to be packaged.



The containers were set up and it was time for the final part of the process to begin.



717 quarts later, the pot was empty.



Ready and waiting for our customers.

A special thanks to all those individuals that came and gave of their time to make this event a success!

Every quart we made was sold before 2:00PM!

Just a reminder, we will need volunteers to help prep the stew. Chopping potatoes, cutting beef and chicken, and opening cans are just a few of the things required to get things ready to cook the stew.

Think about coming out to the Post on January 26th at 9:00am, even if just to provide moral support.

We can also use you on January 27th! We need volunteers to stir the pot and package the stew. Volunteers are needed starting at 6:30am. Can't make it that early? We'll be there all morning and half the afternoon, so come out when you can.

Poppies

10 – 12 Nov 2023

The weather was cold and windy for those who were working on Friday. Saturday was cold but not as windy. Sunday was better as the wind had calmed down.

What was good about this weekend was the generous people who donated to the poppy fund. In all, over \$5,600 was collected! Thanks to each and every volunteer who helped out!



Two of the brave volunteers who fought the cold.

Santa Pays the Post a Visit:

The Post was buzzing with kids and adults who were awaiting the arrival of that jolly old man from the North Pole. The group didn't have to wait long for his arrival. The line to see Santa grew fast and wish lists were double checked before giving them to Santa.

Everyone left with a smile and a promise from Santa to do his best to fill their lists.

Here are some pictures from Santas visit.
(Thanks to Bobbie Murphy for the photos)



Tree is in place.



Getting things set up for everyone



Santa and his helpers.



Excitement was in the air.





American Legion Auxiliary

Bea Miller, Auxiliary President

Ladies Auxiliary Board:

President - Bea Miller

1st Vice President - Maura Seif

2nd Vice President - Christina Smith

Secretary - Derenda Lovelace

Treasurer- Anne Weeks

Historian - Bobbie Murphy

Chaplain- Pat Welling

Sargeant at Arms - Frances Bowe

The Auxiliary wants to thank everyone for supporting our food drive. We were able to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to our Military Service and Veteran families.

Our Santa Breakfast was a huge success! We thank the 40/8 for a fabulous breakfast, and Jolly O' Santa, Randy Lofland, for making his appearance. Our children enjoyed meeting Santa, and writing letters to our Veterans, and making crafts. We thank Cheryl Seif for helping our children with their crafts. And we can't forget our Elves, Ava Miller and Emma McDaniel. They both were Santa's big helpers and very attentive to our all of our guests.

We thank all that helped with our Poppy distribution during our Veteran's Day weekend. Also, we thank those that supported our fundraiser at Dominic's Restaurant.

Everyone had a wonderful time at our Oktoberfest event. We want to give thanks to 'The Golden Years Band' for providing the awesome music. A special thanks to our ladies for all of their hard work and to our Post members and guests who supported our event.



We thank our ladies who provided lunch at Lonesome Dove in November. The Veterans, Lonesome Dove Staff, and our ladies always enjoy their time at Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center.

The Auxiliary hopes you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Rental Manager:

Ever wonder what goes into being the Rental Manager? We asked Dan this question, here is his response.

“I answer phone calls regarding questions on renting the Post Hall. I meet potential renters at the Post to show them what’s available. I explain cost & contracts, take deposits, and check all the paperwork.

Then I meet the renter at the Post to give them the key. After the renter departs, I check the condition of the hall, check the paperwork, deposit the rental check, and return the security deposit back to renter.

I also update the paper calendar at the Post to coordinate with other activities.”



As you can see, it takes time and energy to keep your Post running smoothly. Without volunteers like Dan, a lot of other activities and events at the Post would not take place!

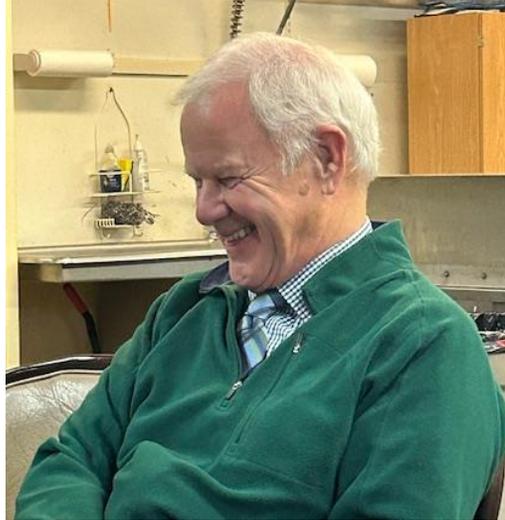
Think about volunteering some of your time to help your Post continue with its outstanding work. Even an hour or two a week would be helpful.

If you, your family, or your friends are interested in renting the Post, contact Dan at 804-677-1587 or use the link at <http://americanlegionpost186.org/post-rental.html>

Again, many thanks to Dan for volunteering his time and energy.

You never know

When you stop by the Post for morning coffee and fellowship, you never know who will be there.



We were surprised when Delegate Lee Ware walked in to have coffee and chat. Mr. Ware visited with the group and, hopefully, enjoyed some lively conversation.

We hope he makes his visits an on-going event.

What Else Does the Post do?

Ever thought about how the Post does what it does?

How do we keep the lights on? Where does the money come from to do repairs? When a veteran needs financial assistance, where does the money come from? Even things needed to stock the restrooms cost money.

Here are just a few of the money-making events the Post supports and an estimate of how much money (gross) each one brings to the Post:

1. Field Days of the Past (\$4,500)
2. Golf Tournament (\$8,100)
3. Brunswick Stew (\$5,700)
4. Rentals (\$20,000)

Stop and think of what goes into supporting just these events. The planning, the coordination, the schedules, ordering supplies, setting up tables & chairs, and, most importantly, getting volunteers.

Let's face it, looking at the average age of the members of the Post – well, we don't have a lot of Spring chickens on the roster. We are, however, fortunate to have members who can handle some of the more physically challenging tasks. Just recently the grass at the Post required mowing. Because we were unable to get a reliable commitment, the Post had to hire a private contractor to do the work.

The Post, your Post, operates first and foremost to help the veteran in need. We know everyone is busy, and free time is sometimes hard to come by. It's understandable you may not be able to physically do certain types of manual labor, but there are numerous tasks that require minimum

physical labor. Sometimes just an hour or two is all that is needed to make phone calls to check on the wellbeing of your fellow members.

At the start of this new year, please think about volunteering your time and energy to help keep the Post going strong and meeting our mission. Your efforts, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated.

Let the Post Quarter Master know a time and date that works for you. He'll check and see what is needed and how to best use your time. Volunteer by calling the Post during business hours and speak with him.

Thank you! Have a great New Year!

Other Activities:

A Veteran in Need

Chesterfield County Sheriff and Legionnaire Karl Leonard advised our VA&R Team that a veteran in Chester was in need of assistance around his home. As a result of some misfortunes, the veteran's back yard had become over grown. His riding lawn mower was inoperable and a section of his fence had collapsed into his neighbor's yard. Henry Bowe, Dick Hahn and Randy Lofland visited the man and determined there was a definite need for assistance.

After the visit, Henry, Dick and Randy stopped to grab some lunch and discuss a path forward. Upon arrival at the restaurant, they found a truck with landscaping equipment in a trailer. When approached in the restaurant, the owner, who has a heart for veterans, volunteered to cut his grass for free.

They found there was an old car blocking the lawn care company's access to the back yard. More phone calls were made and a tow truck operator, upon being told the story, volunteered to move the car at no charge.

Legionnaire Bob Ruehrwein made the necessary repairs to the riding lawn mower to get it running again within just a few days.

Fence-Me-In was contacted and they completed work on the fence three weeks later.

Ultimately, these are the things the American Legion is here for. Being there to help a fellow veteran get back on his feet when times get a little tough makes such a difference.

All involved agreed, it was a highly rewarding experience.

You never know what to expect when the phone rings:

One morning, a few weeks ago, Mike Black took a call from William Bullock's son requesting the use of a wheel chair for Bill to use for an upcoming funeral service. Before Mike even hung up the phone Randy Lofland jumped into action. He had the wheel chair loaded and delivered to Mr. Bullock within 30 minutes of the phone call.

Great job Randy! This is why we are here, always willing to help our fellow veterans.

News From Our Members:

Our rental manager Dan Allen comes from a family of military service. As we know, Dan served 5 years active-duty U.S. Army as an MP and CID Agent.

His father, Ronald C. Allen, Jr., graduated from the University of Maryland in 1955, where he was enrolled in Air Force ROTC. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and served 6 years active duty. He then served 32 years in the reserves, achieving the rank of Major General. The final position held by General Allen was Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Inspector General in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. General Allen passed away on October 22, 2018 at the age of 85. He is buried at Crownsville Veterans Cemetery in Maryland.

Dan's uncle, Edgar L. Stephenson, Jr., served active-duty Air Force from 1952-1979. He retired as a Colonel. Colonel Stephenson passed away on March 5, 2016.

Dan's brother-in-law, Matthew Strohm Evans, Jr., graduated from the Naval Academy in 1964, went to flight school in Pensacola, FL, and got his pilot wings at Corpus Christi, TX in 1966. He flew two tours in Vietnam off the USS Intrepid from 1966-1969. In 1971, he joined the Maryland Air National Guard where he flew the O-2, C-7, and C-130. He retired in 1991 as the Chief of Command and Control, 135th Tactical Airlift Group. He passed away from Covid on January 6, 2021 and is buried at the Columbarium on the U.S. Naval Academy.

Dan's brother, Karl Allen, served many years in the Air Force reserve. He achieved the rank of E-7 prior to his retirement. He served as a crew chief on C-141's, and ended his service as the Production Supervisor/ Flight Line Expeditor for the 459th Air Refueling Wing out of Andrews Air Force Base. Karl recently participated in Wreaths Across America at Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, where he had the honor and privilege of laying the wreath at General Allen's grave.



Fundraising:

American Flag:

Purchase an American Flag from the American Legion Flag and Emblem Store and designate Post 186 to receive a portion of the proceeds when you check out. You simply click the “please click here” below your normal log in, register and designate Post 186, Virginia in the blanks. It’s easy and provides our Post additional funds just by showing your patriotic pride with a vibrant new flag. Order here <https://emblem.legion.org/American-Flags/departments/756/>

Post 186 Hat Sale:

Hey! We just received a new shipment of ball caps and visors. Don’t miss out on this awesome SWAG! Cost is \$16 ea. Contact the post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to place your order.

Cans for Cash Program:

Save your aluminum cans and bring them to the post for recycling. Minimal effort = cash for the Post!

Geezer Talk:

NOT Forgotten...unable to make it to Post events or would like a visit for conversation? Please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785), or americanlegionpost186@aim.com. We care about you and would like to keep in touch.

Notary Services Available:

Need a notary? Don’t look any further than your legion! Barbara Vonada (804-433-9735) is a Commonwealth of Virginia Notary and has volunteered her services to any Legion Family member in need.

Visitation and Transportation:

If you or another Legionnaire you know is in the hospital or confined to their residence due to health reasons, please contact the Post at [804-794-9785](tel:804-794-9785) to let us know and advise us if a visit is appropriate. We take our fellowship obligations seriously and that means assuring our fellow Legionnaires are not alone in times of illness or despair. This also includes assisting with arranging alternate transportation for you if you are uncomfortable driving at night and wish to attend our evening events. It is important you know that when you need us, we will be there for you.

Beyond Our Doors

Blood Donation Program

The American Legion Blood Donor Program www.legion.org/security/blood is easily supported through our local blood centers such as the American Red Cross www.redcross.org/give-blood and Virginia Blood Services donateblood.vablood.org/.

Appointments are available at blood drives through their websites or in person. Persons in good health between 17 and 65 are eligible to donate blood. Donors older than 65 may need special permission from a blood center’s medical director. Current standards set an 8-week interval between donations or limit them to no more than 5x a year.



The American Legion recognizes its donors with a series of blood donor tacks available through the American Legion Store emblem.legion.org/Activities/products/338/2/0 and even a certificate when each level of giving is achieved. National, Department and Post recognition also supports dedicated participants in the program.

My Legion:

 Take a moment to register at MyLegion.org through the American Legion website at legion.org. Select MyLegion.Org at the top right of the page to connect to the Introduction Page and choose the "Members" site. You will benefit from the additional information available to you and the ability to view and edit your personal information. You will also assist your Post leadership provide the best support and administration.

THANKS

Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures and articles dealing with Post 186 involvement. Hopefully you know it's impossible to use each and every one, but we still love getting them.

If you have something of interest to the Post, you may submit your article/pictures to:
communications186@gmail.com

Please try to keep your articles short (two to three paragraphs) and appropriate for the News Letter.

Gotta Love the Military

An off-duty soldier was on the train. When the train reached its first stop, a general walked in, and the soldier stood up. The General said, "At ease soldier, sit down."

The train reached its second stop, again the soldier stood up, and the General once again said, "At ease soldier, sit down."

When the train reached its third stop, again, the soldier stood up. This time, the General looked at him and said, "You don't have to stand and salute every time we reach a stop."

The soldier replied, "No disrespect Sir, but I want to get off. I already missed my stop 2 stations ago."