



The High Desert BUGLE



January / February 2014



**American Legion Post 56, Auxiliary Unit 56, & SAL Squadron 56
PO Box 2848, Carson City, Nevada 89702**

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM,
Veterans Memorial Hall at the corner of 2nd and Curry Street, Carson City.
Our next meeting will be held on January 9th at 6:30 PM.

Visit our website at <http://american-legion-post56-nv.us/>

POST 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Leon Werner	265-2621
1 st Vice Commander	Rick Kaspar	684-9757
2 nd Vice Commander	Ben Casad	335-6927
Adjutant	John Dickinson	246-4024
Finance Officer	Marco Manor	267-4794
Chaplain	Katherine Baran	888-2088
Sgt-at-Arms	TJ Dennington	420-0151
Historian	Vacant	

UNIT 56 OFFICERS

President	Barbara Dickinson	246-4024
1 st Vice President	Vacant	
2 nd Vice President	Vacant	
Secretary	Irma Manor	267-4794
Treasurer	Christine St. Leger-Barter	783-0502
Chaplain	Betty Sherwood	575-6219
Sgt-at-Arms	Dorothy Bolander	883-0345
Historian	Kendra Sherwood	575-6219

SQUADRON 56 OFFICERS

Commander	Matthew Sherwood	575-6219
1 st Vice Commander	Jack Ralph	882-8269
Adjutant	Marco Manor	267-4794

Commanders Comments

Comrades,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and here is wishing you the best for the New Year.

As veterans we are the people that have served our country to give it the blessings of freedom and justice. As American Legion members we are here to support those military members and families that are still making the sacrifice to keep our country free.

You should be aware of a marketing scam targeting veterans trying to reach the Department of Veterans Affairs National Call Center or GI bill Call Center. A marketing company has established two fraudulent numbers that differ from the two official VA call center numbers by one digit. If the fraudulent number is dialed by mistake, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain personal and financial information, including credit card information, from the caller. The answering party may even transfer the caller to the VA after the caller's information is obtained. Note that VA will never ask you for a credit card number or banking information over the phone. Before giving personal sensitive information over the phone, make sure you know who you are talking to.

The numbers to be avoided are:

800-872-1000 and 888-442-4511

VA has notified law enforcement authorities to address this situation.

There is a new dental plan available for eligible veterans. This program is called the Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program (VADIP). Eligible VADIP beneficiaries include:

Any Veteran enrolled in VA healthcare.

Any individual enrolled in VA's Civilian Health and Medical Program.

To enroll in VA health care or for VADIP eligibility questions, visit the Veterans Affairs website or call 877-222-8387. Enrollment for this program started on 15 November. If you enroll prior to 31 December your coverage will begin on 1 January, 2014. Going forward, coverage begins on the first day of the following month. For example, if you enroll any time during the month of February, 2014 your coverage would go into effect on 1 March, 2014.

The American Legion serving past and present and future Veterans, Veterans still serving America.

For God and Country,

Leon Werner
Commander

2nd Vice Commander's Report

Members of Post 56,

I would like to thank all those who attended the Christmas Party for making it a nice evening. A special thank you to Marco, Irma and Hallmark for their time and donations making this event a memorable one.

I discussed with the Commander, past Vice Commander and Chaplain/Honor and Color Guard Captain, the veterans related days during the year that we don't have activities and events on. Flag Day, December Seventh and others would be appropriate days for recognition if we have the means and support within our Post. Ideas, suggestions and comments will be appreciated at the coming meetings or email me at the address below.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year.

For God and country.

Ben Casad
Second Vice Commander
bencasad.ft@gmail.com

Adjutant's Report

My seasons wish for all is for a better year in 2014. Please keep our active military comrades in your thoughts and prayers in the New Year.

For GOD AND COUNTRY.

John Dickinson
Adjutant

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 01 January: New Year's Day
- 09 January: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 20 January: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 January: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 02 February: Groundhog Day
- 12 February: Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 February: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 14 February: Valentine's Day
- 17 February: President's Day
- 22 February: Washington's Birthday
- 26 February: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 09 March: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 13 March: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 17 March: St. Patrick's Day
- 20 March: First Day of Spring
- 26 March: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM
- 10 April: Post 56/Unit 56 Member Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 23 April: Post 56 Executive Board Meeting – 6:00 PM

Legion-backed vets' job measures pass Senate

American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger is lauding the U.S. Senate for its passage of a measure that would help streamline the military to civilian licensing and credentialing process. Key provisions of the Legion-backed "Troop Talent Act of 2013" – which dealt with licensing and credentialing issues – were included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA was given the Senate's nod on the night of Dec. 19.

The Senate version of the Troop Talent Act was introduced earlier this year by newly elected Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine. It was his first bill. Legion staff conferred with Kaine and his staff on the text of the measure and provided Kaine with a letter of support for the bill.

Upon learning of the Senate's action, Dellinger said, "On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I congratulate the Senate for its inclusion of the Troop Talent Act provisions within the National Defense Authorization Act. The Legion worked closely with Sen. Kaine and his staff on this measure and we take pride in its passage as part of our longstanding and ongoing campaign to streamline military to civilian licensing and credentialing for our servicemembers, veterans and their families."

In a press release from his office, Kaine is quoted as saying, "It will now be the law to provide active duty servicemembers with the tools they need to more easily receive credentials for the skills they acquire through military training, greatly easing their transition to a civilian career. This is a small but important step to help whittle away at the unacceptably high rate of veterans' unemployment – particularly among those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan." The Troop Talent Act related provisions of the 2014 NDAA include a requirement that information on civilian credentialing opportunities be made available to servicemembers at every stage of their military training. The newly passed NDAA also contains as a requirement that information on military training and experience be provided, upon request, to civilian credentialing agencies and other approved entities.

The American Legion provided Troop Talent Act support to U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois as she introduced the House version of the legislation earlier in the year, too.

The American Legion has been concerned with the issue of military to civilian licensing and credentialing for a decade and a half. In 2012, Legion leadership passed its [Resolution No. 326](#): Support Licensure and Certification of Active-Duty and Selected Reserve Personnel. In that same year, the Legion hosted a National Licensing and Credentialing Summit. The two-day event brought together stakeholders from national and state government, the Pentagon and private industry, and boosted the Legion's veteran's employment campaign significantly.

VA Christmas card ban defies law

Handwritten Christmas cards from schoolchildren were denied distribution to veterans at the Dallas VA Medical Center this week because they referenced the holiday by name, and American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger is not happy about it. Neither is the Liberty Institute, which has sided with the Legion in opposing a number of other attempts to prevent free expression of speech and religion.

Also this week, the VA hospital in Augusta, Ga., announced a new policy that turned away high school students who intended to sing Christmas carols to veterans, as they traditionally have in past years. And in Iowa City, American Legion members were told they could not hand out presents to veterans if the wrapping paper said Merry Christmas, a problem they solved by filtering the gifts through the VA chaplain.

The American Legion has asked VA Central Office for an explanation of why it appears that Christians are being singled out for restrictions, especially when the holiday honors the birth of Jesus Christ.

“First of all, VA’s decision to prohibit the delivery of Christmas cards that mention Christmas is ludicrous,” Dellinger said today after Texas teacher Susan Chapman was told Monday that her students’ cards would not be delivered to veterans. “Second of all, VA has been down this road before, and recently. VA has been warned through a federal court decree to stop denying freedom of religious expression at its facilities. It’s pretty obvious the Dallas VA did not get that memo.”

When high school singers arrived last Friday at the Augusta, Ga., VA Medical Center, officials reportedly gave them a list of 12 approved, secular holiday songs. Unprepared to sing them, the students opted not to perform. “That’s censorship, pure and simple,” Dellinger said of the rejected carolers. “Every Christmas, every religious holiday, Christians are more and more often targeted for censorship and restriction at VA facilities. Veterans in these hospitals fought to protect such freedoms.”

Chapman, the wife of a U.S. military veteran, has requested that the Dallas VA Medical Center immediately rescind its discriminatory policy and allow her and her students – and any others in the future – to distribute Christmas cards that say “Merry Christmas” or “God Bless You” or mention Jesus. Writing to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and VA North Texas Health System Director Jeffery L. Milligan, the Liberty Institute set a deadline of Dec. 27 for confirmation in writing “that Mrs. Chapman and her students may distribute cards that contain the phrase ‘Merry Christmas,’ ‘God Bless You,’ or that contain other religious references to veterans at the Medical Center and at all other VA hospitals, and that the holiday card policies of the Department and the Medical Center (are) brought in line with applicable law.” “Of course, for this year’s schoolchildren, it’s a little late, and that’s really disappointing,” said Dellinger, who leads the 2.4-million-member American Legion, largest veterans organization in the country. “VA needs to let those children deliver cards to the veterans now, and those who wrongly banned them owe an apology to the children, the teacher and the veterans who were supposed to get them Monday. This is a clear case of discrimination on the basis of religious expression; the courts have already ruled that such policies are unconstitutional. The American Legion fully concurs with that interpretation.”

POST 56 DUES ARE STILL ONLY \$25.00 PER YEAR.



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