



Issue 2024-12

November 29, 2024

THE PHOENIX

For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

> MEETING NOTES <

Elected Officers

Commander—**Lloyd Ray**

1st Vice Commander
John Dillon

2nd Vice Commander
Don Smoley

Finance
Thad Weidmann

Appointed Officers

Adjutant
Ann Guttendorf

Judge Advocate
Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr
Don Rottman

Chaplain
Susan Coville-Cook

Executives-at-Large

1. **Nick Krawec**
2. **Don Rottman**
3. **John Caligiure**
4. **Susan Coville-Cook**

Webpage
Thad Weidmann

Editor— **John Dillon**
412-606-8812
USA@ALPost712PA.org

MEETING SCHEDULE: American Legion Post 712 holds Monthly Meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

Like & Follow on Facebook at *American Legion Post 712*
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost712PA>

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on November 19th at 7 PM. The Meeting was Chaired by Commander *Lloyd Ray*.

- ◆ Commander Lloyd Ray noted the devastating effects of Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Helene on the residents of North Carolina and Florida, which generated discussion on what Post 712 could do to help. Service Officer Don Rottman made a motion to donate **\$500** to a charity directly supporting those relief efforts, to be identified through research by Commander Ray (A \$500 donation was subsequently made to the **Pennsylvania American Legion Hurricane Relief Fund**).
- ◆ Legionnaires John Caligiure, John Dillon, Ann Guttendorf and SAL Ray Guttendorf volunteered to attend **Legion College in Latrobe, PA** on Nov. 2nd. Ann and John D. to attend the Adjutant's and Membership Course and Ray and John C. to attend the Legion Riders Course.
Epilogue: All attended Legion College, had a great time and learned a great deal to bring back to Post 712

> MEETING NOTES <

THANK YOU FOR GIVING BACK

Thank You to all of our members who bought and sold tickets for the Veterans Day 50/50 Raffle. We earned a lot of funds to donate back to the community and we made one member of our 712 ALA very happy!



WINNER PICKED!

On Veterans Day, at 6 PM, Monday, November 11th, members of Post 712 met at VFW Post 1810 in Brentwood to conduct a Live Drawing for the Veterans Day 50/50 Raffle.

And the winner is Susan D. of the Post 712 ALA. Congratulations

Susan, that should help fill out Santa's bag of gifts for the upcoming holidays. We then picked again for the second place prize of a \$50 gift card to Gianna Via's Restaurant and Bar and Legionnaire Patrick M. was the lucky winner. Congratulations to Susan and Patrick!

Winner, Winner Chicken Dinner



**Lucky Winner
won \$1,520**

**Post 712
earned \$1,520**

**Commander Lloyd Ray
presents Susan with a
Winners Check of
\$1,520, at the Novem-
ber 19th Meeting of
Post 712.**

> MEETING NOTES <

THANK YOU LEGIONNAIRES!

We thank all members who stood up to be counted and sell raffle tickets for the Veterans Day 50/50 Raffle. Because of you Post 712 may continue to support Veterans and Youth in our Community. **Thank You for all you do!**

A Special *Thank You* to our Top Sellers who went above and beyond!

- ♦ Legionnaire **Terry Choate** (38 tickets)
- ♦ SAL **Ray Guttendorf** (29 tickets)
- ♦ Commander **Lloyd Ray**, 1st Vice Commander **John Dillon**, 2nd Vice Commander **Don Smoley**, & Legionnaire **Bill Weikel** (20+ tickets each)

GOLD MEDAL DONORS

Bill Beers, Ed Breen, Sal Calo, Terry Choate, Dave DiFabio, John Dillon, Bob Essay, Ann Guttendorf, Ray Guttendorf, Michael Hartman, John Kuhla, Nick Krawec, Bill Lyons, Sylvester Olup, Lee Phillips, John Pogranzni, Lloyd Ray, Gary Ruston, Thomas Schantz, Don Smoley, James Stinson, Mike Weidmann, Thad Weidmann, Bill Weikel

Raymond Kondas—We lost our brother Ray during Sept. 24. Though, his family made a donation in honor of Ray. Rest in Peace Brother.

SILVER MEDAL DONORS

John Aloisio, James Bach, Theodore Belajac, Tom Bonura, Paul Bubonovich, John Caligiure, Vince Campbell, Dave Cherpak, Dennis Dachille, Dan Derence, Ed Fedorchak, Frank Ford, Frank Guenther, John Knasko, Ron Macosko, Charles Marwood, Brandon Neal, Jerry Newland, Mike O'Brien, Rich Poleski, Joe Shea, Leo Stanton, Ron Tucke, Frank Wagner, James Ward, Dana Watkins

BRONZE MEDAL DONORS

John Arlia, Tom Barruso, Ron Bretz, Jim Bruder, Susan Coville-Cook, James Ferris, Hilary Flaus, John Fleckenstein, John Gourley, Ed Guballa, Gary Hartman, Mike Mac, Bruce Marchetti, Alex Margita Jr, Ray Michenzi, Paul Roberts, Gary Rohm

> MEETING NOTES <

- ♦ Thank You **ALA Susan Dillon** who purchased six (6) Post 712 T-shirt for the Veterans at **Southwest Veterans Center**. The Vets appreciate and need simple items and a cool-looking T-shirt is right up their alley. If you want to sponsor a T-shirt donation for a Vet at Southwest Veterans Center or any other location, Post 712 will ensure the shirts are delivered appropriately. Call 412-606-8812—it's a great way to give back this Christmas season.
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Christmas 1985. **Santa Clause** standing on the MDL (Military Demarcation Line) in the **DMZ** between **North and South Korea** in the vicinity of the Truce Village of Pan Mun Jom. The white post in the foreground is the actual MDL line.

You can plainly see a North Korean soldier in the background and a South Korean soldier in the foreground. Note the Woodland Camouflage BDU uniform.

Macha A of the DMZ was patrolled by U.S. & South Korean soldiers of the **United Nations Command Joint Security Area Joint Security Force (The JSA)**. The Indian Head Division, **2nd Infantry Division**, patrolled Macha B.

If you have any photos or stories to share send them in. We can help you grammar them up so don't worry about that!

> MEETING NOTES <

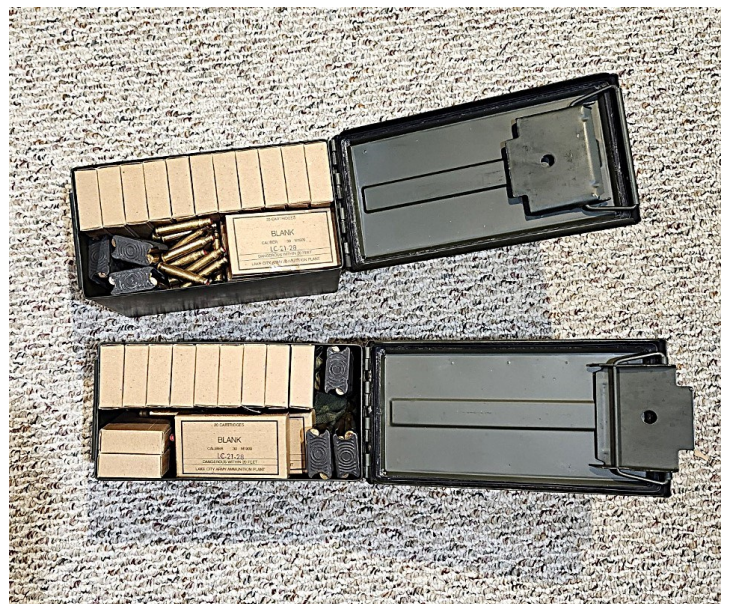


♦ The Executive Board agreed to conduct an **Open House** event at the next Post Meeting on **Tuesday, December 17th**. The meeting will be open to all members of the American Legion Family, perspective members, and guests, and will focus on reviewing Post 712 events during 2024 and discussing Post 712's future events for 2025. **Light refreshments will be provided.** The meeting will be conducted in the Main Hall of VFW Post 1810 at 7 PM. Social time will be available prior to the meeting. Water, pop, and beer will be available from the bar in the Main Hall with each member paying for their own drinks.

♦ **M-1 Garand Rifles:** As discussed and voted upon at a recent Meeting, Post 712 has returned our cache of ten (10) M-1 Rifles back to the U.S. Army. We did this as we do not have a Honor Guard and storage of the rifles was problematic. Commander Ray handled the transactions and the mailing of the rifles. Thank you for your efforts Commander.

♦ The Executive Committee met to discuss what should be done with the **Gun Cabinet** used to store the aforementioned M-1 rifles. The blue in color gun cabinet was indeed a cabinet and not a gun safe. Dimensions on the gun cabinet were approximately 14" x 14" x 42". Post 712 sold the cabinet for \$40 to a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

♦ The Post then had to decide what to do with the **blank ammunition, bandoleers, ammunition clips and ammo cans** remaining as without an Honor Guard or M-1 rifles their was no sense in retaining this equipment. At first we considered selling these items but quickly realized other American Legions would benefit from a donation for their Honor Guard teams. So to cut to the chase we donated everything to **American Legion Post 380 in Dravosburg** and to **American Legion Post 701 in White Oak**.



> FOR SALE <

- ◆ After our donations to Posts 380 and 701, we still had two empty ammo cans; one of them a vintage style from 80? years ago. We know a lot of you appreciate military paraphernalia so we wanted to give the Membership first chance to buy these used ammo cans. Payment by check or cash (check preferred). Pick up in Bethel Park near Cool Springs.

Ammo Cans sold separately

Buy one or both. First Come—First Served. Call 412-606-8812

- ◆ **Current style ammo can is selling for \$25—\$30 on eBay plus shipping so we will sell it to a Legionnaire for \$15.**



- ◆ **Vintage style ammo can is selling for \$45—\$60 on eBay plus shipping so we will sell it to a Legionnaire for \$25.**

Cans are great for storage or as a display item in a military collection.

Fort Lee Rechristened - Fort Gregg-Adams -

DoD Mandate to Cease Honors to the Confederacy Ongoing Series in *The Phoenix*, Article 6 of 9

As you have read in these pages, the Department of Defense mandated all honors rendered to the Confederacy to cease, including Army Posts named after Confederate Officers. During 2023, the Secretary of Defense directed all military installations named in honor of Confederate Officers to be redesignated with names more in keeping with the social norms of society today.

The former Fort Lee, VA began as Camp Lee within a few short weeks after the U.S. declared war on Germany during 1917 for World War I and was home to the 80th Blue Ridge Division (primarily from Virginia and West Virginia). After WWI Camp Lee was closed and the land given back to Virginia during which it served as a Nature and Hunting Preserve. However, Camp Lee reopened during 1940 in preparation of U.S. involvement in World War II. The fort was named in honor of **General Robert E. Lee** (1807—1870), the one-time Commandant of West Point and later Soldier and Statesman of the Confederate Army. Lee, the most famous of Confederate figures, was honored as a way to sooth bitter resentment against the North by some Southerners who still harbored anger over the Civil War from 50 years prior.

As an amateur military history buff I am familiar with most soldiers and leaders for

Previous Name	Location	New Name
Fort A.P. Hill	Virginia	Fort Walker
Fort Benning	Georgia	Fort Moore
Fort Bragg	North Carolina	Fort Liberty
Fort Gordon	Georgia	Fort Eisenhower
Fort Hood	Texas	Fort Cavazos
Fort Lee	Virginia	Fort Gregg-Adams
Fort Pickett	Virginia	Fort Barfoot
Fort Polk	Louisiana	Fort Johnson
Fort Rucker	Alabama	Fort Novosel

whom these 9 Forts were rechristened. Though I had never heard of Gregg-Adams and was surprised to learn during my research that Gregg-Adams is actually 2 different Army Leaders and not a single person. Fort Lee was rechristened Fort Gregg-Adams on **April 23, 2023**, in honor of two Black Officers who excelled as Logisticians. **Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg** rose from the rank of Private to Three-Star General during his career and **Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams** was the highest ranking Black Women in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later known as the Women's Army Corps) in World War II and led the first Black WAC unit to serve overseas.



Lt. Gen. Arthur Gregg was the first Black Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps when he was promoted on October 1, 1972. He subsequently became the first Black Lieutenant General in the Army on July 1, 1977.

Lt. Gen. Gregg enlisted in the Army during 1946 as a 17 year old and shortly thereafter deployed to Germany as a member of the Quartermaster Corps. He attended and graduated from Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1949, just one year after President Truman ordered desegregation of the Armed Forces. Gregg was assigned to **Camp Lee during 1950, which was redesignated Fort Lee that same year.**

Lt. Gen. Gregg, as a newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel served as the Commander of the **96th Quartermaster Direct Support Battalion in Vietnam** beginning in 1965. Gregg has related the 96th was in no shape to deploy, but he and his leaders were able to ready the Battalion for deployment successful and it eventually grew to 4 times the size of a normal Battalion. Gregg also later commanded the PX system, or as it is officially known, the **Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)**. Lt. Gen. Gregg reached the apex of his career as the **Logistics Director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff** prior to retiring in 1981. The Army subsequently created the Lt. Gen Arthur J. Gregg award for logistics innovation and excellence during 2016; of which LT. Gen Gregg was the first recipient. Lt. Gregg died at the age of 96 during August 2024, though did live to see and attend the rechristening of Ft Gregg-Adams.



Though she only served for 4 years (1942—1946), **Lt. Colonel Charity Adams**, later known as Charity Adams-Earley, was the highest ranking Black Woman serving during WW II and was the **Commander of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion stationed in Birmingham, England.** A graduate of Wilberforce University and Ohio State University, she was among the first to join the **WAC Corps as they formed in 1942** to allow women to

serve in the Military for the first time. During 1943 Adams was promoted to Major making her the highest ranking female officer at Fort Des Moines, IA, and one of the highest ranking officers in the WAC. During 1944, Adams deployed overseas as the Commander of the 6888th the first Black WAC unit to deploy outside of the U.S. After WWII, Adams was reassigned to the **Pentagon**, where she worked until requesting a discharge during 1946. Some may think that naming a Fort after a Lieutenant Colonel is unusual, though it is noteworthy that the rank of Lieutenant Colonel was the highest rank a member of the WAC could attain. Lt. Colonel Adams has been honored by many organizations including the Smithsonian Institution as one of the **100 Most Important Black Women in History**, and has even had her likeness placed on a U.S. postage stamp. She was born during 1918 and died during 2002 at the age of 84 years.

> 712 in the 412 <

During 2024, **Post 712 donated a minimum of \$12,000** to local organizations in support of Veterans and Youth and we have **volunteered 519** hours of work to local non-profit organizations and community projects.

We are American Legion Post 712!

Thomas Jefferson Junior Football League, \$300

Thomas Jefferson High School Baseball, \$170

Thomas Jefferson High School 5K For a Cure Race, \$200

Thomas Jefferson High School Theater, \$100

Thomas Jefferson High School Band, \$500

American Legion Post 490 Castle Shannon, \$400

American Legion Post 940 West Brownsville, \$100

American Legion Post 380 Dravosburg, Honor Guard equipment

American Legion Post 701 White Oak, Honor Guard equipment

South Park High School Football, \$100

South Park High School Soccer, \$95

South Park High School Basketball, \$95

Brentwood VFW Post 1810, \$4,400

Operation Troop Appreciation, \$2,300

Veterans Place of Washington Blvd, \$2,400

Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Company, \$100

Pennsylvania American Legion Hurricane Relief Fund, \$500

Volunteer as Veteran of the Game (5) with the Pittsburgh, Pirates

Volunteer at Operation Troop Appreciation

Volunteer at National Cemetery of the Alleghenies

Volunteer at cemeteries to prep graves for Memorial Day

Volunteer at Pleasant Hills Community Day

Volunteer at the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall

The American Legion – Still Serving

> Tee-Shirts Available <

Post 712 Patriotic Tee-Shirts are available in sizes Adult Small to 2XL for only \$15 each. You do not have to be a Veteran to wear one of these shirts. Buy 2 or more shirts and we will deliver them to you if you're in the area. **Call 412-606-8812**



* If you live out of the area we will mail the shirts to you. Though we ask you pay a \$10 shipping fee for postage and wrapping.



> OPEN HOUSE Meeting December 17 <

The next meeting of American Legion Post 712 will be held on Tuesday, December 19th, at 7:00 PM at the Brentwood VFW, 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (PA-51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

- ♦ OPEN HOUSE—The December Meeting will be an Open House with light refreshments served and pop, water and beer available from the bar. All persons are welcome to attend
- ♦ We encourage everyone to come out and attend a meeting to see what is going on with your American Legion
- ♦ Topics for discussion will include organizations, programs and groups we would like to support during 2025



Val F. Ganter
August 22, 2024
American Legion Post 712



Age 84, of Brentwood, on Thursday, August 22, 2024, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease.

Beloved husband to the late Kathleen Ganter; loving dad of The Honorable Deborah (Christopher) Kunselman, Patrick (Monica) Ganter and Christine (Gregg) Symanski; proud grandfather of Andrew, Sophia, Robbie, Sullie, Ethan, Katie and Gavin; brother of Judy (Roland) Liberi, Linda (Bob) Guidotti and Bill (Debbie) Ganter; uncle of Michelle, David, Bobby, Courtney, Bill, Matt, Dan and their families.

Val's family wishes to thank Paramount Senior Living and Paramount Hospice for the excellent care provided to Val. Friends will be received at the John F. Slater Funeral Home, Inc., 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227, Thursday, September 5, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Funeral Prayer on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 9:45 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial in Blessed Trinity Parish, St. Sylvester Church at 10:30 a.m. If desired, family suggests contributions to Brentwood Athletic Association, PO Box 98162, Brentwood PA 15227 or the Brentwood Food Pantry, c/o 3725 Brownsville Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.



Edward F. "Fish" Hlad
January 29, 1932—September 2, 2024
American Legion Post 712



Age 92, of Pittsburgh, currently residing in Mooresville, NC, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 2, 2024.

Beloved husband of 61 years to Betty Carol Hlad; loving father of Lisa Marie (J. Ulrich, III) Matthis; proud grandfather of his "Bud", J. Ulrich Matthis IV.

Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and their families. Edward served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1949 to 1952. He worked for more than 30 years at Bettis as a Senior Technologist. He served as a Eucharistic Minister at Jefferson Hospital and was an American Legion Chaplain. Friends will be received at the John F. Slater Funeral Home, Inc., 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227 on Monday, September 9, 2024 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Funeral prayer on Tuesday morning at 11:15. Mass of Christian Burial in Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish, St. Thomas a' Becket Church at noon. Interment will follow in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies with full military honors at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, family suggests contributions to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

> FOUR PILLARS <

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Our organization's positions and programs are guided by resolutions passed by American Legion National Convention delegates, and by committee and commission members who represent 2.5 million wartime veterans and their families. These programs, and the men and women who take the time to perform them allow The American Legion to make a difference on the local, state and national levels. It's who we are and what we do.

PILLAR I—VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

VA Claims Backlog	Access to VA Health Care	Network of Service Officers
VA Vet Centers	Health-care Funding	Vets with Special Needs
Volunteering	Final Respects	Heroes to Hometowns
Careers for Veterans	Homelessness	GI Bill Benefits

PILLAR II—NATIONAL SECURITY

Support for the Troops	Size of Armed Forces	Quality of Life
Homeland Security	POWs/MIAs	Operation Comfort Warrior

PILLAR III—AMERICANISM

Flag Protection	Illegal Immigration	Scouts of America
Pledge of Allegiance	Voter Registration	Legacy Run
Establishment-Clause	American Legion Baseball	Boys Nation

PILLAR IV—CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Child Pornography	Catastrophic Illness	Intellectual Disabilities
Immunization	Family Integrity	Drug Abuse
Media Violence	Family Support Network	Child Exploitation



Did you know the U.S. Mint honored the American Legion during our 100th Anniversary of 2019 with four Commemorative coins: Two Silver Dollars and two Clad .50\$ cent pieces? Well they did. If you want one the Mint is sold out but you can still find them on secondary markets such as eBay and Amazon.

Send us your photos or your short stories from your days in Service; or from Legion events from previous years. Your Brothers and Sisters from Post 712 would enjoy hearing a few stories and seeing photos.

Send to USA@ALPost712PA.org. If you have questions call 412-606-8812. Don't worry about writing, we can help with that part of the process.



Top: The Chapter 712 American Legion Riders with Santa during 2011 Riders Christmas Party

Bottom: Mark and Pat Smith with Santa also during the 2011 Riders Christmas Party



> American Legion Post 712 <

> AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 <

Contact the Legion

USA@ALPost712PA.org

412-901-0327

Mail—American Legion Post
712, 610 Old Clairton Rd,
Pgh, PA 15236

Facebook page:

American Legion Post 712

Website: *ALPost712PA.org*

712 MEETINGS

The 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw
Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA
15227 (VFW bldg).

*Build your legacy and join
us for a meeting*

We Are The Legion

We are the *New Post 712* building a legacy of camaraderie, service and honor. Supporting Veterans and Youth through donations, sponsorships & volunteering, improving our community and aiding non-profit organizations. Join us—Attend a meeting.

American Legion

Membership Requirements

- ◆ Having served at least one day on active duty during World War I or since December 7, 1941
- ◆ Having served honorably
- ◆ Copy of DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- ◆ Call or email for more information
- ◆ Annual Dues = \$37

Sons of the American Legion Program Membership Requirements

- ◆ Male of any age
- ◆ Parent or Grandparent served in the U.S. Military and were eligible for American Legion Membership (Served at least one (1) day on active duty during World War I or any time from December 7, 1941 to date (Includes adopted sons and stepsons)
- ◆ Provide DD214 of Veteran
- ◆ Yes, Post 712 does have a SAL Squadron. Annual dues are \$9. Give us a call

American Legion Riders Membership Requirements

- ◆ Be a member in good standing with the American Legion, the SAL or the ALA
- ◆ Be the legally registered owner or spouse of a motorcycle
- ◆ Be properly licensed and insured as required by law
- ◆ Riders Chapter 712 meet the the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 PM.
- ◆ Yes, Post 712 does have a Riders Chapter. Annual dues are \$5. Give us a call