



## **The Phoenix**

**712 Magazine**

**American Legion**

**Post 712**

**Pleasant Hills**

**February (2024-2)**

### **Elected Officers**

**Commander** – Dave Halpern

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** – Lloyd Ray

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** – John Dillon

**Finance** – Thad Weidmann

**Sergeant-at-Arms** – Tom Bodner

**Executive-At-Large**

1. Susan Coville-Cook
2. Nick Krawec
3. Don Rottman
4. Ed Harmon

### **Appointed Officers**

**Adjutant** – Terry Choate

**Chaplain** – Susan Coville-Cook

**Judge Advocate** – Nick Krawec

**Service Officer** – Don Rottman

**Webmaster** – Thad Weidmann

**Editor** – John Dillon

**LegionPost712@gmail.com**

**American Legion Post 712**

**610 Old Clairton Rd**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15236**

**412-901-0327**

**Meetings – 3rd Tuesday at 7  
PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run  
Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227**

**The Phoenix**

**712 in the 412**



## **American Legion Post 712**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 712**

**As we kick off 2024, let's review the**

### **Four Pillars of the American Legion Family**

The American Legion Family is focused on supporting the **Four Pillars of the American Legion** through fund raising, financing, lobbying efforts with Congress, sponsorship both locally and Nationally, and volunteer efforts. *We hear this phrase often but what does it mean, how does it affect me, and what are the Four Pillars of the American Legion?*

#### **Pillar I: VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION**

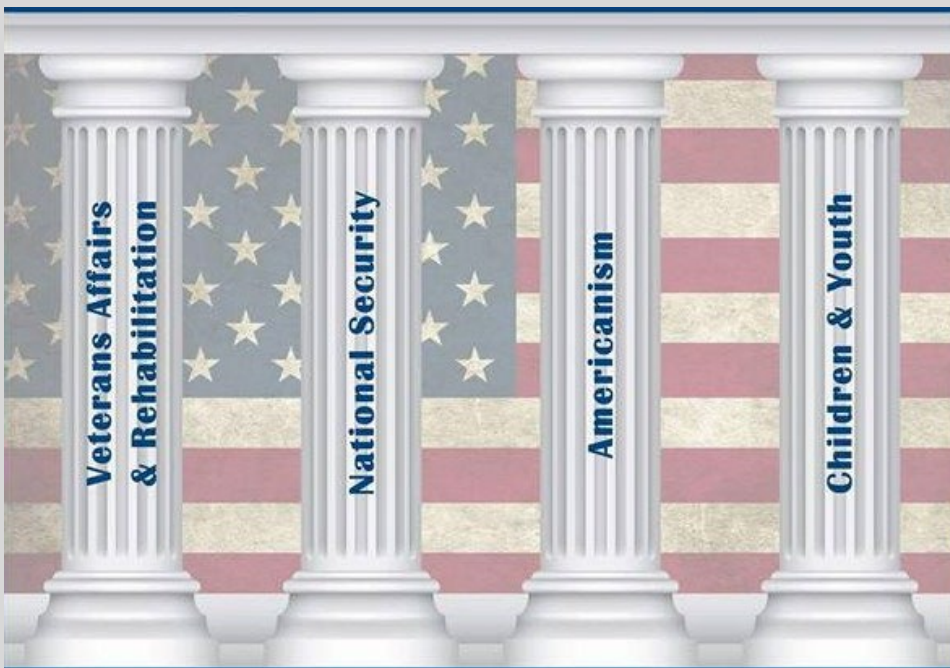
Focus on programs that improve the lives of Veterans and their families. This focus includes Employment and Small Business Opportunities, Veterans Education, Support to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services Program, Veterans Health and access to VA Health Care, Veterans with Special Needs, Help for Homeless Veterans, Assistance with VA Claims, Foreign Relations, and Final Respect support.

## Pillar II: NATIONAL SECURITY

The Legion's position on National Defense, Homeland Security, Border Control, and Support to the Military and their families states the key to peace and world stability is a strong, well-resourced defense and to have such a defense the Military, it's Members, and their families must be supported. Legion programs supporting National Security include Operation Comfort Warrior, POW/MIAs, Support for Tri-Care, National Emergency Fund, Border Security and Immigration, Blue Star Banners, Blood Donor Program, and the list goes on (Of note, the American Legion does not support any political party or candidate, though the Legion does support acts of legislation that benefit Veterans, the Military, and their families).

## Pillar III: AMERICANISM

**Action**, Pillar 3 is about action in our own community and support of programs such as the Oratorical Competition, Boy Scouts of American, Education Assistance, Legacy Scholarship, ROTC, Flag Protection, Voter Participation, Shooting Sports, and the Legion Riders. Get out and Volunteer in the community. The Post should consider sponsoring an activity such as a youth sports team, develop scholarship opportunities for community kids, or put another way, get off your duff and do something.



## Pillar IV: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children & Youth pillar is guided by 3 main objectives:

1. Strengthen the family unit.
2. Support organizations that help children in need.
3. Provide communities with well-rounded programs to provide hope & opportunity for young people facing difficult challenges. The Family Support Network is designed to provide support to families

of Military deployed overseas. This help may include a ride to the doctor's office or mowing the grass. If you know of a family struggling while their loved one is deployed the **Family Support Network Hotline is 800-504-4098**. Other programs include the Child Welfare Foundation or something as simple as a safe and fun Halloween night for kids.

Post 712 has Volunteer and Sponsorship opportunities for those who want to be part of something bigger – attend a meeting and get involved. Meetings begin at 7 PM, the third Wednesday of the month at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227. All members and perspective members are encouraged to attend.



## Wreaths Across America Clean-Up & Name Drop for Post 712 on WPXI News

On January 20<sup>th</sup> Members of the **Post 712 family** braved the subzero wind chill to volunteer at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies to pick-up holiday wreaths and return the cemetery to pre-holiday solemnity. This is an annual event. Despite 5 inches of snow on the ground and

subzero wind chill a few hundred people turned out from a wide array of groups including youth sports teams, VFW's, American Legions, concerned citizens, and families of Veterans laid to rest in the cemetery.



There are approximately 16,000 graves at the Cemetery and each one was honored with a wreath, so there were a lot of wreaths to pick up. Though with all the help, Volunteers worked for 45 – 60 minutes and completed the job. The volunteers then loaded the wreaths into the trucks for local farmers who use the wreaths as food for their animals. It's

a great system in which nothing goes to waste and does not cost the taxpayer anything as the Wreaths are donated and the work is all-volunteer. Following work, the 712-team, as is typical, met at the nearby Kings Restaurant for a delicious breakfast and good camaraderie. Volunteering for Veterans and chowing down, it was a terrific way to spend the morning.

**On an exciting note**, **Susan Dillon**, of the 712 Legion Riders and the ALA was interviewed by WPXI News (Channel 11) who were on-sight to do a story about the volunteer effort. The interview ran on TV news for two days and remains on the internet. Susan did an excellent job and was able to mention Post 712. You can catch Susan's interview online at (Control-Click)

[Volunteers gather in the Cold to clean the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies](#)



# COMMITTEE TO RETURN PHOTOGRAPHS TO PAST COMMANDERS

The Committee is pleased to report a total of 16 photographs in frames and name plaques have been returned to Past Commanders of Post 712 or their family members to date. To refresh your memories, the Membership voted that framed photographs of Past Commanders that were in storage should be returned to those Past Commanders or their families as a memento of their volunteer service to Veterans and to Post 712 rather than remain in storage and gather dust. The overwhelming response from Past Commanders and families has been extremely positive and thankful to the Membership of the Post. Thanks to Committee Members who have undertaken this project: Tom Bonura, John Caligiure, John Dillon, Ed Harmon, Thad Weidman, and Bill Weikel.

The following photos have already been returned and are presented here for review and for a trip down memory lane ...



**Russell E. Webb** 1954-1957  
**J.W. Roberston** 1973-1975 &  
 1979-1980  
**Robert Hartung** 1980-1981  
**Edward Clark Jr** 1983-1985  
**Rich Pruni** 1985-1987  
**John Scrima** 1989-1991  
**Edward Swatko** 1995-1998  
**Bob Lype** 1999-2000  
**Harry Fulmer** 2000-2002

**Loren Jerome** 2002-2005  
**William Thieret** 2003-2004  
**Ed Miller Jr.** 2004-2006  
  
**Bonita Yogan** 2006-2010  
**Jim Bach** 2010-2013  
**Carl Anderson Jr** 2013-2015  
**Richard Wojnar** 2015-2017







RICH PRUNI  
1985-1987



JOHN SCRIMA  
1989-1991



EDWARD A. SWATKO  
1995-1998



BOB LYPE  
1999-2000



HARRY FULMER  
2000-2002



LOREN JEROME  
2002 - 2003



WILLIAM THIERET  
2003-2004



BONITA N. YOGAN  
2006 - 2010



JIM BACH  
2010 - 2013





CARL L. ANDERSON, JR.  
2013 - 2015



RICHARD J. WOJNAR  
2015 - 2017



J.W. ROBERTSON  
1973-1975 / 1979-1980



ED MILLER  
2004-2006

The Committee will mail the photo and name plate to a Past Commander or family member if they are out of the area. If local, the Committee will hand deliver to save packaging and postage costs.

We are still trying to locate a few points of contact. If you know how to contact the following Past Commanders or their families, please email the Editor at [LegionPost712@gmail.com](mailto:LegionPost712@gmail.com). **THANKS!**

**William S. Hoop**

**Thomas Tindall**

**Jack Sabina**

**A.T. Mates**

**1952-1953 &  
1959-1961**

**1968-1969**

**1970-1972 &  
1978-1979**

**1975-1978**

**Rege Donnelly 1991-1993**

**Robert Burch 1993-1994**

**Dave Prop 1994-1995**

**Frank Caputo 2017-2018**

**WE NEED YOUR  
HELP TO LOCATE**

# Info to Know about your ...



# DD214

## Department of Defense Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

**Q. Have you ever wondered what the Legion does with your *Department of Defense Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, or as it is universally known, your DD214?**

**A.** You should wonder about this and how other organizations and businesses protect your Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI).

In days gone by occurrences of Identity Theft were rare. However, we now live in the computer age in which criminals have the instantaneous ability to steal and transmit information around the world in the blink of an eye. A total of 33% of all Americans report having been the victim of identity theft. Examples of ID Theft include credit card fraud, utilities fraud, loan fraud, and Gov't benefits fraud.

To answer the first question, the Legion and Post 712 previously stored all hardcopy DD214's. However, within the last few years the Legion established a best practice of examining, but not keeping DD214s. A perspective member must show a DD214 to prove they meet the Membership Standards of the Legion. However, the person keeps their DD214. Given the prevalence of ID Theft, the Legion's thought process is to maintain only information absolutely required to be on file – and once your credentials are established, the Legion has no business need to maintain your DD214. As for those DD214s already on file, they, along with other documents, are being shredded through a company that specializes in shredding. This is our effort to keep your confidential information ... private.

**Q. Why do I need my DD214?**

**A.** It is through your DD214 that a plethora of potential benefits become available to you and your family. Your DD214 also proves your Military Service and the character of your service. In the coming months we will outline benefits available to Veterans. Though to name a few of the better-known there is a VA Mortgage Loan, Life Insurance, and Medical Benefits and, a burial benefit. Whether you desire to be buried in a National Cemetery, if you want a tri-fold Flag provided for your funeral and if you want a Military funeral, your surviving family will need a copy of your DD214 available to prove you have earned these honors. I recommend keeping a copy of your DD214 with your Will and estate papers, so it is readily available when needed by you or your family.

**Q. I lost my DD214. How do I get a copy of it?**

**A.** As it turns out there are several diverse ways to track down a copy of your DD214.

- A. **National Archives.** Complete a *SF-Form 180, Request pertaining to Military Records*. It takes about 10 days to receive your DD214. If you request additional documents, it will take longer. Mail the completed form to the appropriate Service (addresses provided on SF-180).
- B. **National Archives online** You may request a copy of your DD214 from the National Archives online. (Control-click)
- C. **National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).** A third option is to mail your SF180 to the NPRC at 1 Archives Dr., St Louis, MO 63138. The turnaround time is about 10 days.

## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW –

# NICHOLAS D. KRAWEC, ESQ

*Nick Krawec is a member of Post 712 who is elected as an Executive-at-Large and is also serving as the appointed Judge Advocate. The following was published in the Newsletter circa 2016 and is presented once again as we remember Operation Desert Storm on this, the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of that conflict. If you would like to meet Nick, attend a Post meeting as he will usually be there.*



This year, 2016, marks the 25th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, and I have seen several reminders of that fact. Those reminders have included transcripts of interviews with General Colin Powell remembering Desert Storm, various recollections of the late General Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf, and even reminders from my employer, acknowledging the anniversary of my being plucked out of civilian life in early January 1991, shortly after the Christmas holidays, for a government paid trip to the Middle East, specifically the Persian Gulf.

I was in the U.S. Naval Reserve at the time, an officer in **Naval Embarked Advisory Team**, Detachment 105 (yes, that's right, **NEAT** ... what's the Navy without acronyms)? Our unit mission was to serve aboard civilian Maritime Prepositioned Ships (MPS), to provide these vessels secure naval telecommunications capability with accompanying U.S. Navy warships once these MPS vessels joined up with a Naval Amphibious Task Group. Given the expected nature of the conflict (desert warfare), I was confident that the Navy Reserve (except for some Seabee and cargo handling units) would not be mobilized, and that's what I told everyone who asked me if I thought I would be mobilized. Boy, was I wrong about that! But I was thinking that way in 1990 - 1991 because the Reserve forces had not been mobilized in any significant numbers since World War II, and at that time we were still experiencing the benefits of the naval buildup during the Reagan years.

So, I was among the fortunate few Reservists to have been mobilized in support of a major military operation in 50 years. "lucky me," I thought. But upon reflection, it was an important growing experience in my life (even though I was in my mid to late 30's at the time) as I was placed in charge of a group of men who primarily had been civilians, unexpectedly removed from their comfortable routine, and unexpectedly taken away from family and friends for who knew how long. But we quickly bonded in a way that only those who have served (and those who are reading this) can understand and appreciate.

That bonding served us well as we arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the **MPS Ship Motor Vessel 1 LT Alex Bonnyman** (named for a WWII Marine who was awarded the Medal of Honor).





Waiting for our arrival aboard Bonnyman, in addition to the civilian crew, were a USMC logistics unit and two Navy Reserve units, Cargo Handlers and an Amphibious Seabee unit.

Initially our orders were to proceed through the Strait of Hormuz and rendezvous with the approaching amphibious task group in the Arabian Sea; then re-enter the Gulf with the task group. However, those orders changed, and we were to return to the UAE, and rendezvous with the task force after it entered the Gulf.

This is when it got interesting for us. Some members of my unit were topside, installing and connecting our communications equipment, when the Marines onboard, fully armed, began taking positions along the starboard side of the ship. The Gunnery Sergeant, politely and professionally, asked me to suspend our equipment installation and take my unit back inside the ship. I, and two of my Sailors, climbed down the nearest ladder where I undogged the nearest door and led my men inside a fan room! (Okay, so I didn't remember the layout of the ship as well as I thought). From the confines of that fan room, I heard a single shot and nothing else. After the passage of a few more minutes, we emerged from the "*protection*" of the fan room, and everything seemed back to normal. I headed to the pilothouse where I saw the Gunny briefing the ship's Captain on what had occurred. I learned from that briefing that several small boats had approached our ship from the direction of Iran. An attempt was made to fire warning shots from the starboard .50 caliber mount, but it had, well, let's just say malfunctioned! One of the Marines then fired a warning shot with his M-16, which caused the small boats to scatter and exit the area (leaving me reasonably certain that these were not suicide bombers). But that's not the end of the story.

The following day, the Gunny approached me with a chuckle in his voice and informed me the makeshift sign, "*USMCOWS*" next to the starboard 50 caliber mount, had been altered overnight. Someone had used a marker to embellish on the "*COWS*" part of the sign, so it now read "*Crap It Won't Shoot!*" He said he thought it was funny, but some of his more junior

Marines were less than amused, and suspected some sailors had a hand in it. So, I dutifully inquired with the members of my unit at morning muster if any of them knew who "edited" the Marines' sign. After the initial snickers subsided, nobody in my unit took credit for the creative change. However, I can't speak to the guilt or innocence of the cargo handlers or CB's. But as our time in the Gulf went on, whatever bad feelings resulted from the unsolicited creativity with the Marines' sign, had passed. By the time the Gulf War ended, the sailors and Marines aboard Bonnyman, Active and Reserve, from various parts of the country, and diverse backgrounds and walks of life, had bonded in the face of adversity, despite a bit of a rough beginning. That is the most cherished memory I have of my experience in Operation Desert Storm, on the 25th anniversary of that conflict.

**MV 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Alex Bonnyman (T-AK-3003) circa 2005**



**In Service: 1980 - 2009**

## THINGS TO DO

If you're looking for the atmosphere of the American Legion but don't know where to go, then we have a solution for you. **American Legion Post 490, 1008 Castle Shannon Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15234** is nearby and has a full calendar of activities. **Post 490** is located adjacent to the corner of Route 88 and Castle Shannon Blvd and has parking in the rear. Make sure you carry your American Legion Card to show you are a member of the Legion in good standing.

### Hours

Monday & Thursday 2 PM – Close

Tuesday & Wednesday 2 PM – 7 PM

Saturday 1 PM – Close

Sunday 12 PM – Close

*On Facebook as American Legion Post 490  
(Control-Click)*



**SUNDAY FEB 11<sup>th</sup> 3-11pm**  
**½ TIME FOOD**  
**\*DESSERTS & APPS WELCOME\***

**BAR BINGO**  
**THUR FEB 15<sup>th</sup> Starts at 7**



**DJ/KARAOKE SAT FEB 17<sup>th</sup> 7-11pm**

**LEFT RIGHT CENTER**



**SATURDAY FEB 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm**

## SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, February 20, Post 712 Meeting**  
at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227  
[On Facebook as American Legion Post seven on two](#) (Control-Click)
- **Wednesday, February 7, Chapter 712 Legion Riders Meeting**  
at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227  
[On Facebook as American Legion Riders Chapter 712](#) (Control-Click)



# ||| Being a Veteran |||



*I have been thinking about what it means to be a Veteran, and to be a person of action in our society today. However, I was having difficulty putting pen to paper and could not get started. Recently, a colleague and friend was invited to be the Guest Speaker at the Bonita Springs, FL Veterans Day Committee event. Chief Warrant Officer 5 and Senior Special Agent (Retired) Louise Goetzelt had a distinguished*



*career, and was the Deputy Operations Officer and a supervisor to me and others when we served in Germany with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID). Her comments served as inspiration for my own thought processes during which I built upon the text of Louise's speech by adding my own thoughts. My service in Germany was from 1991-1995 (Ansbach, Germany) and 1995-1998 (Augsburg, Germany); both in the beautiful State of Bavaria. John Dillon, First Sergeant, U.S. Army (Retired).*

**Pride in Service:** Be proud of your military service. There are many ways to show pride in service, you may wear a t-shirt or cap, you may have a tattoo, march in a parade, you may volunteer to continue giving back to society, the community, and others, or join the American Legion and help others through the Legion, or you may just stand a little straighter and walk a little taller. Regardless, be proud, and graciously show appreciation to those who notice and thank you for your service. **Those who did not serve may not comprehend or “get” you and have only television and movies to help them understand what Military Service does for, and does to, a Veteran.** Regardless of your length of service or your era of service, the telltale signs of military service will show themselves when needed the most. The ability to lead others, to stay calm when others become excited, to make tough decisions, to take the minority position based of values, beliefs, and righteousness when others take the easy or popular side of an argument whether right or wrong, or when others simply ignore a wrong and walk away. Your

military service will come to serve you as a Veteran and whether you realize it or not, may become a defining characteristic of who you are.

Veterans find other Veterans regardless of branch of service or era.

As for the civilians who do not “get” you and do not understand those Military values so deeply ingrained in your psyche, *don't worry too much*

*about them as your Veteran brothers and sisters will “get” you and will remain part of your extended family forever.*



**Share and Educate**: In 1980 a full 18% of U.S. adults were Veterans. Today, 2024, the percentage of Veterans continues to dwindle to only 6%, and that is after 2 decades of war and continuing deployments to the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. ***The few protect the many***. Today there are 18.3 million Veterans in the U.S. The VA anticipates a decrease to 12.1 million Veterans by 2048. Veterans are a dying segment of the population. This drop coincides with decreases in active-duty personnel. Over the past half-century, the number of people on active duty has dropped from 3.5 million in 1968 to a mere 1.4 million in today's all-volunteer force (or less than 1 percent of all U.S. adults). Adding to the challenge are the ongoing difficulties the services are experiencing in recruiting. Military service is a way of life and teaches us responsibility, respect, leadership skills, and further instills a presence in a person that enables a person to face head on those challenging situations when the need arises. These abilities and many others gained through military service carry a person forward in life, often far outpacing contemporaries who have not had the same life experiences. **There is a reason employers want to hire Veterans over non-Veterans**. Dedication, commitment, teamwork, values, staying calm in a crisis, putting the needs of others over your own wants, and doing the right thing even when no one is looking. Share your responsibility, your values, and your life experience with others, especially the younger generation and their parents. *Let them know what it means to be part of the 1% of Veterans in our society.*

**Benefits are Earned**: Our government offers you, the Veteran, many "benefits." You and your family have earned them, they are not merely "Free-Be's" or entitlements. I encourage you to apply for and use your earned benefits. The vast majority of Americans support Veterans, Though, occasionally you may hear a non-Veteran question why Veterans receive benefits and not understand that Veteran benefits are earned not given, they are part of a social contract with our government in which the Veteran has promised to, ***Protect and Defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic***, to face danger, injury, disfigurement, separation from loved ones, lack of control over where you live or work,



and hardships others cannot even begin to understand and ultimately to face the potential of a violent death at a young age. Nearly all people in our Nation whether a citizen or not, may choose to earn those same benefits through Military Service, though so many of the complainers chose to let others wear the uniform and to let others stand-alone on the

watchtower of freedom to defend our Nation and our way of life. As the colloquialism goes, ***a Veteran has written a blank check to our Nation for a value up to and including, his or her own life***. That is a hard pill to swallow for so many others blindly absorbed in themselves and little else. How many times have you heard non-Vets exclaim, *"you're lucky to get benefits"* though no one thinks you're lucky when you are far from home in a foreign land suffering hardships that would crush others.



**"The Job"** (adapted from the internet pertaining to law enforcement, author unknown): When a Servicemember leaves Active Duty and moves on to a "better life as a civilian," some are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already separated or retired, wonder if they know what they are leaving behind. None of us truly know until it is too late. We know that after years of camaraderie, commitment, and dedication typically experienced by only those in the service, such special camaraderie will remain unequaled moving forward as a Veteran in civilian life. We know that in the military there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are folded into a duffle bag and stored in the back of the garage. We know even if you throw those uniforms away, vestiges of those very uniforms will be with you every step you take for the rest of your life. That is where the American Legion comes in.

**We also know how the very bearing of a person speaks of what they were and who they still are.**

Never think for one moment you have escaped from "that life." You only escaped the "job" and were merely allowed to leave "active" duty. So, what I wish for every one of you in post military

life, that in your heart you never forget for one moment that you were and remain, very special, nearly unique, *"Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God,"* and you remain a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

**Never Stop Serving:** Finally, I encourage you to continue to serve. As a member of the greatest military force in history you contributed to changing the world for the better and righting wrongs on a global scale. As a Veteran you can continue to serve, though now you may serve your community, your neighborhood, other Veterans, children, and those in need. You may no longer be part of an Active-Duty force, but you can continue to serve through volunteer service and acts of kindness that decidedly impact your own small corner of the world for the betterment of all. *You can continue to make a difference in the lives of others and the satisfaction and fulfillment you receive will continue to instill in you that sense of military purpose and drive.* Never Stop Serving! This too is where the American Legion come into play by giving each Veteran a platform from which to continue to serve. **This is the value of American Legion Post 712, to harness the ability of our Veterans and serve our community.** Are you ready to give back to society and to continue to lead through service? Attend a Post 712 meeting and start 2024 with a purpose and drive to be part of something larger than any one individual. Lead through action by adding service, purpose, and fulfillment to who you are.

**Post 712 has Volunteer and Sponsorship opportunities for those who want to be part of something bigger – attend a meeting and get involved. Meetings begin at 7 PM, the third Wednesday of the month at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.**

## ||| MEMBERSHIP |||

### **Q. Who is eligible to join the American Legion?**

**A.** If you served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or you are still serving active military duty honorably, you are eligible for membership with The American Legion. Simply show your DD214 (we can help you obtain a copy) and attend a meeting or **contact Post 712 at 412-901-0327. Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.**

On Facebook as (Control-Click) [AmericanLegion PostSevenOneTwo](#)

### **Q. Who is eligible to join the American Legion Riders?**

**A.** Any member of the American Legion Family, a Veteran, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, or a member of the Sons of the American Legion, may join the Riders. Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws. The Riders are a family-oriented group who believe in taking care of the families of the fallen, in providing aid to those injured in service to our Nation, in celebrating service to our Nation, and in supporting our local community; and we believe in doing all of this from the back of a motorcycle. Our members are men and women, from their 20's to their 80's who ride every make and model of motorcycle imaginable including trikes and similar vehicles. You may be a member of any American Legion Post and still join the Riders from a different Post. Not all Legions have Riders Chapters, and some Members may want to join a Riders Chapter from another Post – that is fine you may remain with your current American Legion Post and join the Post 712 Chapter of the Riders. **Contact Riders Chapter 712 at 412-606-8812. Our meeting is Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.**

On Facebook as (Control-Click) [American Legion Riders Chapter 712](#)

### **Q. Who is eligible to join the Sons of the American Legion?**

**A.** The male descendent (including adopted sons and stepsons) of a Veteran who served during World War I, or any period from December 7, 1941, to the present. Does Post 712 have a Sons of the American Legion Squadron? Not right now, though we have had Sons in the past and want to start up a Squadron as soon as possible and will provide all assistance necessary to do so. If you are interested in kick-starting a Squadron **contact Post 712 at 412-901-0327 or attend our next meeting on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.**

Read about joining a Squadron (Control-Click) [Join a Squadron](#)



## ||| ODDS & ENDS |||

- You may reach the Editor of the Post 712 Newsletter, *The Phoenix* at 412-606-8812 and [LegionPost712@gmail.com](mailto:LegionPost712@gmail.com).
- **BUSINESSES – GET THE WORD OUT** – Are you a business or do you have a message to share and would like to support American Legion Post 712 with a donation and reach thousands of potential new customers? Consider posting your business information in *The Phoenix*. The Newsletter publishes a minimum of monthly and is posted on our Facebook page and on our homepage and the webpage of the Chapter 712 Riders where it reaches over 3,600 Facebook Followers from the local area. The Phoenix is also emailed to several hundred members with each publication. As a digital newsletter, our Members forward their copy of The Phoenix to family and friends. It's a fantastic way to get the word out and support a Veterans Nonprofit Organization.  
Suggested Donations are Full Page \$100 ||| ½ Page \$50 ||| ¼ Page \$25.
- **||| PHOTOGRAPHS |||** Do you have photos of yourself or family members in military service? If so, considering sharing a picture or two with your American Legion Family Members. We would love to post photos of you or your family members while serving in the military either today or years ago. Have a little fun and share your photos.
- **GOOD NEWS**: Do you have good news to share with your American Legion Family? If so, contact the Editor and we may be able to include your good news in the next edition of *The Phoenix*. Share good news about your family and friends with your American Legion Family.
- **SAVE THE DATE**: The next meeting of American Legion Post 712 is on **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM**, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (VFW 1810 building). If you have questions, contact the Post at 412-901-0327.
- **SAVE THE DATE**: The next meeting of the American Legion Riders Chapter 712 is on **Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM**, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (VFW 1810 building). If you have questions, contact the Riders at 412-606-8812 or [LegionPost712@gmail.com](mailto:LegionPost712@gmail.com).

***Don't forget Valentines Day is February 14<sup>th</sup>. You know what you must do!!!  
Have a great February and see you at the Post Meeting and the Riders Meeting!***

***/// End ///***