



THE PHOENIX

For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

Elected Officers

Commander—**Dave Halpern**

1st Vice Commander—
Lloyd Ray

2nd Vice Commander—
John Dillon

Finance—**Thad Weidmann**

Sergeant-At-Arms—
Tom Bodner

Executives-at-Large

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

Appointed Officers

Adjutant—**Terry Choate**

Chaplain—**S. Coville-Cook**

Judge Advocate—
Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr— **Don Rottman**

Web—**Thad Weidmann**

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

> MEETING NOTES <

MEETING SCHEDULE: American Legion Post 712 holds our Monthly Meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (Rt 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW Post 1810).

All Members and Perspective Members of the American Legion Post 712 Family are Welcome to attend Monthly Meetings — This includes Veterans, Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)!

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on April 16th at 7 PM. The Meeting was Chaired by 1st Vice Commander *Lloyd Ray*. We had a great turnout and a strong meeting with much accomplished.

One of our partners, Brentwood VFW Post 1810, held their annual elections earlier this month. Three Legionnaires from Post 712, who are dual members of the VFW, were elected to office at 1810. Congratulations to **Dave Masslon** who was elected Commander—Way to go Dave! Staff Judge **Nick Krawec** was elected as Junior Commander and 2nd Vice Commander **John Dillon** was elected as a Board Member. Do good things for the Legion, VFW, Veterans and our Community!

> MEETING NOTES <

- ◆ **Post 712 Elections** will be held during the June Meeting (June 18th). Nominations for positions begin during the May Meeting (May 21st). We currently have 15 Elected and Appointed Officers and I know some of those folks would not mind stepping down for a break to allow others to lead the way. If anybody would like to get involved a little or a lot you should consider becoming a member of the Executive Committee for example. For insight you may speak to Staff Judge Nick Krawec, 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon, or any Officer.

A BIG Thank You goes out to President **Mary Ann Marunich** and the **ALA** for all you do and for your donation to Post 712. Mary Ann attended the Meeting to share ALA activities as she always does and presented the Post with a \$50 donation to highlight all of our commitment to being One Legion Family! **Thank You ALA!**

Check out Page 3, > Save the Date < and take note the ALA are visiting the Southwest Veterans Center for Bingo on the afternoon of Monday, May 13th and will be selling Poppies at Sams Club during the morning and afternoon of Friday, May 24th. If you would like to jump in and support the ALA I recommend you do so. Call Mary Ann for details. Her number is in the Newsletter.

Observe Page 3 of the Newsletter, > Save the Date < and you will note we have great events on the horizon. It's time to get off your back side & do something. Give back, socialize with your fellow Veterans, & just have a good time. Worth Repeating! Going to the SW Veterans Center with the ALA is always a great afternoon. Been there, done that, and hope to go this trip. Member **Nick Edinger** will lead a discussion on Vietnam on Tuesday May 7th, at the Jefferson Hills Community Center—I'm Going!

- ◆ **Sponsorships!** You know, we keep trying to give away money to support the community and seem to be having a tough time doing it. Don't be shy. Do you know of a worthwhile community activity for Post 712 to sponsor. It may be an event to support Veterans, to sponsor a youth team, to sponsor a scouting program, or to do a good deed. Be a hero to your kids, grandkids, or neighbors and talk to an Officer about Post 712 sponsoring a worthwhile event or program.
- ◆ To enhance the **American Legion Family of Post 712**, all Members and Perspective Members of Post 712, of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), of the Chapter 712 Legion Riders, and of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) are welcomed and encouraged to attend Post Meetings from start to finish. I know several people, including ALA and Sons who plan on attending. The doors are open, c'mon in and check out the great things being done by the Legion!

> POST 712 IN ACTION <

- ◆ **Post 712 Elections** will be held during the June Meeting (June 18th). Nominations for positions begin during the May Meeting (May 21st).
- ◆ **May 7th, Tuesday, *Travel Back to Vietnam* with Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) (Retired) and Post 712 Member *Nick Edinger*** who was in-Country 1969-70 and visited during December 2023. Nick will discuss his observations and cultural changes. Reception is planned. Cost is free. 6:00 PM at the Jefferson Hills Municipal Center. Please Register in advance at www.jeffersonhills.librarycalendar.com
- ◆ May 13th, Monday, ALA visit **Southwest Veterans Center** for Bingo with the residents. Meet at 1 PM at the Post 712 office located at 610 Old Clairton Rd. This is a fulfilling time. Great way to spend part of the day. Call Mary Ann, 412-330-7863.
- ◆ **Pittsburgh Pirates Veteran of the Game:** Congratulations to 712 Veterans who have been chosen as the Pirates Veteran of the Game:
May 6th—*Loren Contreras* May 8th—*Nila Porter* May 12th—*Pat Mostyn*
May 22nd—*John Dillon* May 26th—*Lloyd Ray*
This opportunity was provided by Operation Troop Appreciation (OTA). These Veterans volunteer at OTA and their Legion dues are paid. Have Fun—Represent well!
- ◆ May 19th, Sunday, **5K For a Cure, Team Cassidy**. Post 712 is a sponsor of this event at South Park to support a Jefferson Hills High School student battling brain cancer. Come out, enjoy the weather, participate or simply watch. Participants Register online <https://tjhs.ludus.com/index.php>
- ◆ **Post 712 Evening at Texas RoadHouse—Tuesday, June 5th.**
- ◆ May 24th, Friday, ALA selling **Poppies at Sam's Club** in West Mifflin, 9 AM—3 PM. Those interested in taking a shift contact Mary Ann, 412-330-7863.
- ◆ ***May 27th, Monday, **Memorial Day**. Post 712 and the 712 Riders will attend several Memorial Day events. Details will follow.
- ◆ June 25—30, ***Flying Legends of Victory Tour 2024***. B-25 *Maid in the Shade* and B-17 *Sentimental Journey* visit Allegheny County Airport. Flights and Walk-thru Tours available. Let's plan on picking a day to attend together!
- ◆ August 10th, Saturday. **Pleasant Hills Community Day**, Noon—10 PM. Post 712 will set up a stand. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day.
- ◆ August 28-September 1, **The Vietnam Traveling Wall** at Frick Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Sponsored by Gallagher's Pub and Operation Troop Appreciation.

WHY DO WE WEAR RED POPPIES?

The Poppy is worn in remembrance. In 1920, the American Legion recognized the Red Poppy to officially memorialize those who fought and died in all wars for the United States.

How do you wear a Poppy? Red Poppies were originally worn on the outermost item of clothing on Memorial Day. However, Red Poppies may now be worn on any day, or displayed at any time. The important part is that you remember.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row.*

*That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

During 1915 as WW I raged, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) John McCrae, a surgeon with the Canadian Army looked upon the fields of Flanders, Belgium where a large battle occurred that resulted in the death of 87,000 Allied Soldiers.

He noted despite the battlefield being turned to rubble from the chaos of war, the Red Poppies shown brilliantly in contrast to the destruction around them.

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 27TH, 2024

Reprinted from open source USMemorialDay.org

The meaning of Memorial Day sometimes gets lost in translation. Below, we'll cover everything you need to know to finally understand the full Memorial Day meaning.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origin or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead. On May 5th, 1868, General John Logan who was the National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

The origin story as to the history and meaning of Memorial Day will show that in General Logan proclaimed, *“The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.”* Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General Logan named it Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery while General James Garfield made a historic speech.

New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. It was recognized by all northern states by 1890.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
AMERICAN LEGION POST 712
PLEASANT HILLS, PA

**WE PROUDLY DEDICATE THIS MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF ALL THOSE
WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN A TIME OF WAR AND PEACE.**

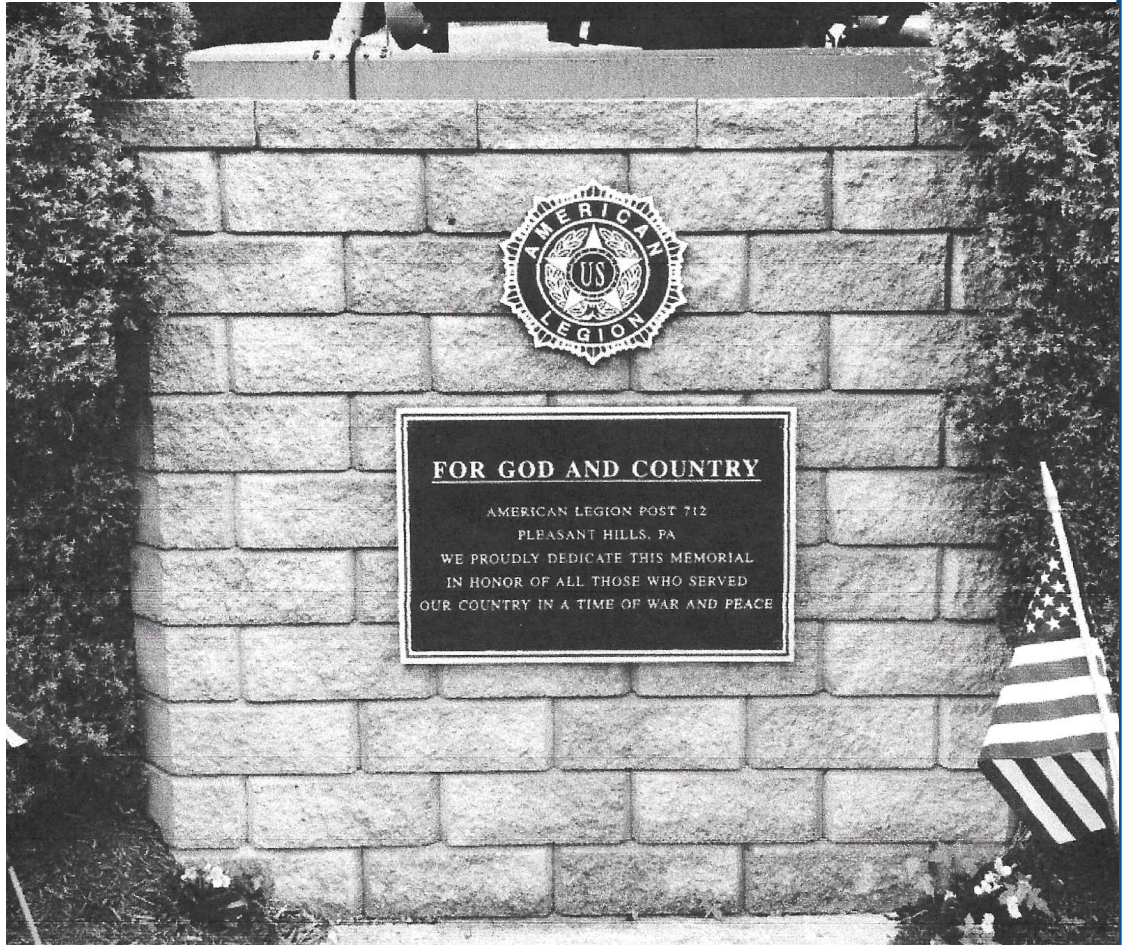
Differently, the South refused to acknowledge Memorial Day and honored their dead on separate days. This went on until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring all Americans who died fighting in any war.

With the Congressional passage

of the **National Holiday Act of 1971**, Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday in May by almost every state.

This helped ensure a three-day weekend (Memorial Day Weekend) for Federal holidays. In addition, several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis's birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee .

National Moment of Remembrance: The meaning and history of Memorial Day wouldn't be complete without the birth of the "National Moment of Remembrance", which was a resolution passed during December 2000, that states at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans should, "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."



> OSCAR MIKE <

“**Oscar**” and “**Mike**” are used in the phonetic alphabet to denote the letters “O” and “M.” When brought together as a phrase, “**Oscar Mike**” becomes a colloquialism historically used over the radio by Army Infantry Patrols to signal, “**On the Move**” meaning the patrol has left their patrol base and are on mission.

This colloquialism, as with many such phrases, migrated from the Military to the Civilian community over time. Another such phrase, ***Good to Go***, comes to mind. Oscar Mike is frequently used during outdoor activities and has retained its original meaning of action, “On the Move.”

The traditional symbol of “Oscar Mike” is the **Army Star**, a **5-pointed star encased in a circle**, which you may recognize as the same star used on Army Vehicles dating to World War 2 (1942). *The informal name of the Army Star, which is the Army National Symbol is, “Oscar Mike.”*



As with many military symbols, customs, and sayings, Oscar Mike has been commercialized. In fact, I have an Army Star on the hood of my truck to denote being an Army Veteran.

Though, most famously in the commercial realm, **Jeep uses the Oscar Mike** on select vehicles to denote action. So, if you see the Army National Symbol of a 5-pointed star it typically means the person is an Army Veteran, such as myself, or the person is using the symbol to denote they are an outdoor person, a person of action, and a person who is, “**On the Move**”.

Come to think of it, **the Oscar Mike would be an appropriate insignia for the New Post 712 as we are *On the Move!***



POST 712 OSCAR MIKE

SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

January 2024

- ◆ Volunteered at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies as part of the Wreath's Across America Memorial Program
- ◆ \$1,200 Donation to Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard to support local Veterans housing, skills, and life training (Equal to our 2023 donation of \$1,200)
- ◆ \$200 Donation to Brentwood VFW Post 1810
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation

February 2024

- ◆ \$170 Sponsorship to Thomas Jefferson High School Baseball Team
- ◆ \$100 Sponsorship to Thomas Jefferson High School Theater for their production of *Beauty and the Beast*

March 2024

- ◆ \$2,000 Donation to Brentwood VFW Post 1810 for building improvements
- ◆ \$1,100 Donation to Operation Troop Appreciation in support of programs to help local Veterans and Service Members
- ◆ Wooden Model Cobra Attack Helicopter, made in Vietnam, approx. 2 feet long, Donated to White Oak American Legion Post 701
- ◆ Plaque of Appreciation presented to Castle Shannon American Legion Post 490 by the 712 Legion Riders in appreciation of continuing support
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation

April 2024

- ◆ \$200 Donation to *5K For a Cure, Team Cassidy*, sponsored by Thomas Jefferson High School, in support of a student who is battling brain cancer
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation (multiple opportunities)

Fort A.P. Hill Rechristened Fort Walker

DoD Mandate to Cease Honors to the Confederacy

Ongoing Series in *The Phoenix*, Article 2 of 9

As previously discussed, the Department of Defense ordered the Army to rechristen all Posts and Forts named in honor of Confederate Generals to a name more in keeping with the appropriateness of society today. All renaming had to be completed by January 2024. To accomplish this mission each Post formed a naming committee of Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers and developed recommendations that were eventually whittled down to one name.

Have you ever heard of the Maneuver Center at Fort A.P. Hill, VA? *The Hill* as it is called locally is named in honor of Confederate General and native Virginian, Ambrose Powell Hill Jr? The fort is a maneuver center utilized by all Branches of the Service and is located just a couple miles northeast of Bowling Green, VA (Not to be confused with Bowling Green, KY). A maneuver center is a fort that is very large and can accommodate war games and live-fire ranges not only pistols and rifles, but also hand artillery and tank fire – the big stuff. Fort A.P. Hill has about 76,000 acres of land for war games.

But wait, I'm calling it Fort A.P. Hill and that is no longer correct. The Fort was re-

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

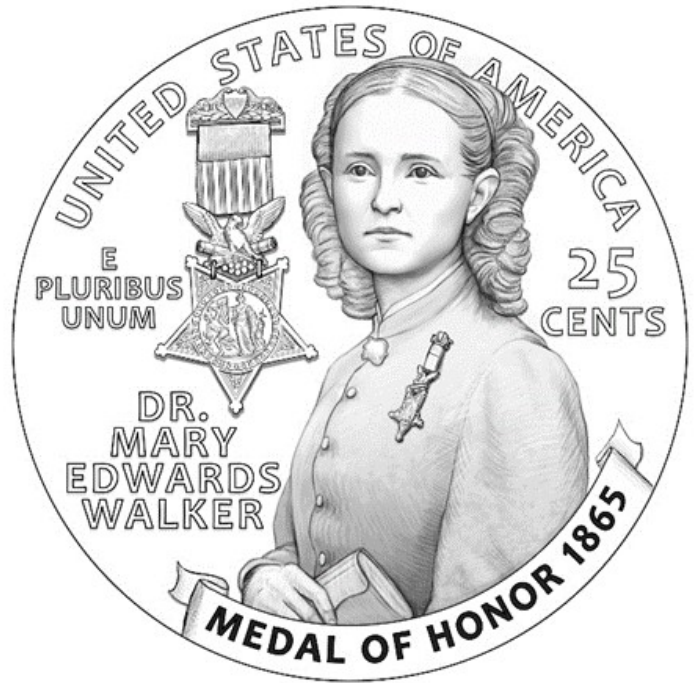
christened as Fort Walker in honor of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, making it the first Military Installation named solely in honor of a woman. Dr. Walker, a surgeon, is the only woman to ever receive the Medal of Honor (MOH) and the only person awarded the MOH who was not a Soldier.

Mary Walker was born during 1832 in Oswego, NY and attended Syracuse Medical College, where she met her future husband, fellow medical student Albert Miller. Though contrary to custom, Dr. Walker refused to take Dr. Miller's name and even more contrary to the

times, Dr. Walker divorced her husband a few years later.

With the outbreak of war, Dr. Walker volunteered as a surgeon to the Union. However, the Secretary of War noted the Services did not have female surgeons and refused the offer. Though, Dr. Walker was afforded the opportunity to volunteer as a nurse, to which she refused. Despite all of this, Dr. Walker made her way to and served in the Battles of Fredericksburg and Chickamauga as a volunteer where she operated and saved many lives.

Recognizing patriotism and valor, Dr. Walker was “allowed” to serve as an unpaid volunteer at the U.S. Patent Hospital where she then arranged for her duties to be transferred to the battlefield. During 1863 Dr. Walker became the first female U.S. Army surgeon as she was commissioned as a (civilian) “Acting Assistant” Contract Surgeon. In 1864 Dr. Walker was serving with the 52nd Ohio Infantry Regiment and true to her nature crossed battlefield lines to treat civilians. Unfortunately, she was captured by the Confederacy, **labeled a spy and imprisoned as a POW.** Later that same year she was released to the Union in a prisoner exchange. To this day historians are not certain if Dr. Walker was working as a spy or not for the Union.



Following the war Dr. Walker became a recipient of the Medal of Honor as bestowed upon her by *President Andrew Johnson*. However, the MOH was stripped from her and many others during 1917, by a review panel. Later, during the administration of *President Ford* followed by that of *President Carter*, others petitioned to have Dr. Walker’s MOH reinstated. Both administrations denied the petition. However, during 1977 another such review panel conducted by low-level staffers at the DoD, re-instated Dr Walker’s MOH and given the political climate of the times, the Carter Administration did not negate the reinstatement.

During her life Dr. Walker was a nonconformist fighting for women's suffrage, equality, and reasonable clothing standards [Women wore long dresses with corsages and steel wire hoops - even nurses on the battlefield]. Dr. Walker was frequently disparaged for her choice of dress as she typically wore men's pants and a short skirt; and was arrested numerous times for, *dressing like a man*. Her physical bravery and commitment to helping others cannot be questioned serving as a volunteer surgeon on the battlefield and perhaps (or perhaps not) a spy for the Union Army moving deep into Confederate held lands. Her moral standard was ahead of her time as it often the case with social warriors who bring about change and advancement.

Dr. Walker is being honored during 2024 not only by having an Army fort named in her honor, but also by being recognized and celebrated by the U.S. Mint in having her name and likeness emblazoned on the reverse of the 2024 quarter in the *American Women Quarter* series. It is noteworthy that President Washington, arguable the greatest American Hero of all, is honored on the obverse of the very same quarter.

Dr. Walker lived a long life for her era passing away at 86 years of age on February 21, 1919. She is buried in her home town of Oswego, NY. Given the honors bestowed upon her **she is assured to be remembered as an American Hero.**

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, *"has rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways,"* and that she was assigned to duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Maj. Gens. Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made; It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her. Given under my hand in the city of Washington, D.C., this 11th day of November, A.D. 1865. ~ Andrew Johnson

Veterans, Military Discharges & American Legion Eligibility

If asked to define, “Veteran” we may each have a slightly different definition. However, there is a very real, very legal definition of being a Veteran ...

U.S. Law—Per Title 38 of the U.S.

Code of Federal Regulations: A person is qualified as a Veteran if they have “**served** in the active military, naval, or air service” and have been discharged or released under conditions **other than dishonorable** (A Service Member must have served on active duty for a minimum of **one day** to have earned the title, *Veteran*).

American Legion Eligibility: Members must have federal military **service** during a qualifying period (December 7, 1941, to present), be a **Veteran** per the legal definition as noted in Title 38 of the U.S. Code and have received an **honorable discharge or a discharge under honorable conditions**.

There are 5 types of Military discharges and only 2 of 5 are under honorable conditions and eligible for American Legion membership. Three are Administrative and two are Punitive. Your Military discharge is important as your discharge classification determines your access to VA and Veteran benefits and it even determines if you are a “Veteran.” The three types of Administrative discharges are ...

1. **Honorable Discharge:** *This is what most of us have.* Eligible for VA benefits, hiring preference for federal jobs, home loan assistance, eligible for GI bill, eligible for retirement pay when you exit the Service, and eligible to reenlist. **Eligible for the American Legion.**

2. **General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions:** Eligible for many but not all VA benefits. Not eligible for GI bill, not eligible for retirement, and not eligible to reenlist. **Eligible for the American Legion.**

3. **Other than Honorable:** Also referred to as an **Undesirable Discharge Under Conditions Other than Honorable**. This is where it gets bad as this means you were fired from the Military for some type of criminal misconduct and are probably lucky you were not court martialed. Whew! An **Other than Honorable or Undesirable Discharge** is administered when the Service Member’s conduct results in punishment for a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The person is not eligible for Veterans benefits. **Not eligible for membership in the American Legion.**

4. **Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD)**: Arrest by Military or Civilian authorities. Criminal offenses. May be court-martialed and imprisoned. Under such conditions the Service Member is not recognized as a Veteran and forfeits all pay and Military and Veteran benefits. Not eligible for VA benefits unless a special petition is granted. Not eligible to reenlist. **Not eligible for membership in the American Legion.**

5. **Dishonorable Discharge**: Usually applied when someone has committed murder, fraud, treason, sexual assault, or espionage. Typically involves incarceration. Loss of all VA benefits. Disqualified from working for the federal government, loss of civilian rights, not eligible for some civilian government benefits such as unemployment pay. Not eligible to reenlist. **Not eligible for membership in the American Legion.**

What's the harm in letting someone embellish their military service? Isn't a discharge just a tool for the military to classify your character of service? Yes, exactly! Your discharge is an exceptionally important document used to classify your character of service. It tells the world the **quality of your service** to your country and when viewed as an indicator of each individual, the **quality of your character**.

An honorable discharge is a big tool in your tool box for your future and your families' future. The difference in discharges could involve hundreds of thousands of dollars when you consider medical care, education benefits, and VA housing loans.

How do we protect the integrity of American Legion membership? Our first line of defense is the Adjutant of each American Legion Post. It is critically important when a Post takes on a new member, whether new to the Legion or a transferring Legionnaire, for the **Adjutant to review the Veteran's DD-214** to ensure the person is an actual Veteran and not a liar committing Stolen Valor and the person, if a Veteran, is eligible to join the American Legion based on the classification of their discharge.

If a person has an Undesirable, Bad Conduct or Dishonorable discharge they may petition the Department of Defense for a discharge upgrade. However, the process is not easy as quantifiable proof is required to show a reason an upgrade is deserved, such as a mistake was made when the discharge was originally issued. Discharge upgrades are not granted for sentimental reasons, but that's an article for another time.

Do you and your family know where your DD-214 is located? If not, take the time to find and secure your DD-214 with your important papers.

> American Legion Post 712 <

> AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 <

To enhance the **American Legion Family of Post 712**, all Members and Perspective Members of Post 712, of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), of the Chapter 712 Legion Riders, and of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) are welcomed and encouraged to attend Post Meetings. Join us for a meeting and social hour afterwards. Have a little fun!

Contact the Legion

USA@ALPost712PA.org

412-901-0327

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

Facebook: *American Legion
Post 712-Virtual*

Website: *ALPost712PA.org*

712 MEETINGS

The 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw
Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA

Military Etiquette

Officer: Do you have
change for a dollar?

Soldier: Yeah

Officer: Is that how you
speak to an Officer? Now
lets try that again! Do you
have change for a dollar?

Soldier: *No Sir!*

Membership Requirements

- ◆ Having served at least one day on active duty 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 = \$37.00

Who We Are

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

Join us to build your legacy. New Members Welcome!

What's the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

Much has been written trying to answer this question. Though I believe the answer is straight forward. On Memorial Day we honor our dead, those men and women who never came home. It is a day of solemn remembrance and honor to those who gave all. On Veterans Day, we celebrate our Veterans one and all, those men and women who stood up to be counted and defended our Nation against all enemies foreign and domestic. We salute one another and revel in the camaraderie of being a Veteran.

> The American Legion Family <

Legion Riders

OFFICERS

Director—Lloyd Ray
Assistant Director—John Dillon
Road Captain—Chuck Durney
Treasurer—Beverly Weikel
Secretary—Susan Dillon
Chaplain—Mark Smith

MEETINGS

The first Wednesday of the Month at 7PM. The next Riders Meeting is May 1st at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, PGH, PA 15227 (VFW bldg.). All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Be a Member of the Legion Family, Veterans, SAL or ALA (Spouses welcome also).
2. Own a motorcycle, trike, Can-Am or similar vehicle.
3. Be licensed and have insurance.
4. You may be a member of any Legion Post and still join the Post 712 Riders.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Top at 412-606-8812
- ◆ USA@ALPost712PA.org
- ◆ *American Legion Riders Chapter 712* on Facebook

ALA

OFFICERS

President—Mary Ann Marunich
1st Vice President—Donna McCrumb
2nd Vice President—Carol Stoodt
Treasurer—Eileen Halpern
Secretary—Chris Bodner

MEETINGS

The third Monday of the month at 6PM. The next ALA Meeting is May 20th at the Post 712 Business Office, 610 Old Clairton Rd, PGH, PA 15236. All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion; and/or
2. female descendants of men or women who served during 1917/1918 and any time beginning December 7th, 1941 to the present: and/or
3. female descendants of men or women who died in the line of duty or who received an Honorable Discharge; or
4. Female Veterans w/Honorable Discharge.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Mary Ann at 412-330-7863
- ◆ Snookie1938@aol.com

> Final Countdown <

Do you know someone in the Legion, Sons, or ALA who has not provided Post 712 with an **email address**? If so, encourage them to submit their email address to **USA@ALPost712PA.org** so we can include them on our email distribution list rather than having to send them information thru snail mail. E-mail is faster and free. Snail Mail is expensive and every dollar we spend is money that could have been spent on Veterans, Youth, or Community Programs—Thanks!

Why did you join the Legion? It probably had something to do with that feeling you had in the Military of camaraderie and being part of something bigger than yourself. You may have even wanted to find an avenue to give back somehow to your Community, Veterans and Youth. **So here's your chance.** The doors are open and Post 712 is the perfect vehicle for you to achieve these goals as we are focused on camaraderie, supporting Veterans and giving back. All we need to complete the circle is you! Attend a meeting. Attend an event. Attend a volunteer opportunity. Become part of something bigger than yourself and make a difference standing shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Veterans. **Next meeting is Tuesday, May 21st, at 7 PM.**

Have you signed up to attend *Nick Edinger's **Travel Back to Vietnam*** at the Jefferson Hills Community Center on **Tuesday, May 7th from 6:00—7:30 PM**? **I have!** A reception is planned, the event is **free** and come as you are. You do not have to be a Veteran to attend. Really looking forward to this as it a great way to spend a Tuesday evening. Thanks for doing this Nick!

Has anyone seen the new show on History Channel, ***The Proof is Out There: Military Mysteries***? Episode 1 aired on Monday, April 22 at 10 PM. You can catch it on History channel and on Hulu. I recommend it based on the first episode.

Since we're talking TV, have you seen the new mini-series on Apple TV, ***Masters of the Air***? If you're an **Air Force Vet** you're definitely going to want to see it. It's only 9 episodes and they have all aired. If you don't already have Apple TV you have to pay a subscription of \$9.99 a month. Unleassssss, you sign up for a free week-long trial, binge watch *Masters of the Air*, and then cancel your free trial ... just saying!