

Post 90 Gazette

We the People

Of the United States,
in Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
promote the general Welfare, and secure
the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and
our Posterity, do ordain and establish this
Constitution for the United States of America.

September 2021 Edited by Amy Ostler



POTLUCK and General Post Meeting is BACK!

September 22nd at 6:00 PM at the Legion Hall. Picnic Style - Sloppy Joe's

A-G Dessert H-M Salads N-S Vegetables T-Z Bread, butter

Hope to see you there!!

Meet the National Commander

Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd national convention.

His theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind." He first joined The American Legion in 1969. **See page 2.**

2022 American Legion dues are due

2022 MEMBERSHIP started 7-1-2021 to 6-30-2022. DUES NOT PAID BY 12-31-2021 will cause membership to expire. You can go ONLINE at mylegion.org or mail your check with membership dues notice to

Post 90

PO Box 910931
St George, Utah 84791

IF YOU ARE not planning on renewing, moved, or do not wish to renew PLEASE let us know as soon as possible. IF you need help with your annual dues, please also let [Marti Bigbie](mailto:MartiBigbie@gmail.com) know as soon as possible. Email martibigbie@gmail.com or call 435-668-5770.

VIETNAM VETERANS

Dear Vietnam Veteran

Color Country Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is sponsoring a special commemoration event to honor those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 through May 15, 1975 regardless of service location.

Please see the attached flyer for additional details on page 9



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

Looking for volunteers to help carry flags for the 9-11 First Responders Program at St George Town Square. If interested please give me a call at 435-668-5770.

Must be able to stand during the program that starts at 10:00 am (about 40 minutes long).

Thanks to Post 90 members who have renewed their 2022 membership. For those who haven't forwarded the renewal dues of \$40.00 please help the Post to reach the established goal of 50% paid members by September 9th. If you need help please call so arrangements can be made to help.

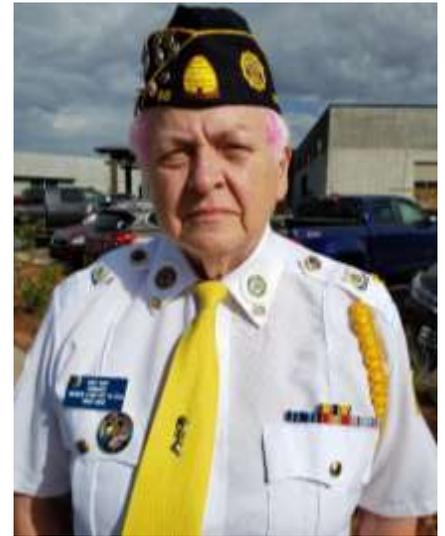
Remember that we will be starting on September 22nd with our dinner meetings at the Legion Hall and starts at 6:00pm. Family members are encouraged to attend.

Stay Safe and see you soon.

Post meeting and pot luck dinner on September 22nd at 6:00 pm at the Legion Hall. Sloppy Joe meat will be furnished by the Legion.

– Picnic style –

A-G Dessert H-M Salads N-S Vegetables T-Z Rolls, bread, butter



Area 4 Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

Still waiting for the 2022 membership goals but in the meantime continue to forward the members' dues collected to the Department Office or pay online by September 9th the 50% paid membership goals.

Meet the new National Commander

Paul E. Dillard, National Commander of The American Legion

Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd national convention. His theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind." He first joined The American Legion in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro



High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered the insurance business specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of American Legion Post 265 in Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman.

Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas commander in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

Dillard married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri, and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017-2018.

CALL TO ACTION!

Dear Family Members and Loved Ones:

Today I am writing to you regarding a special topic. Please read this article:

<https://www.deseret.com/utah/2021/8/12/22598817/the-great-resignation-burnout-and-opportunity-driving-record-wave-of-quitting-covid-19-jobs>

Folks, this phenomenon is happening across our community, including here at the Southern Utah Veterans Home. For approximately the last 18 months our employees have been on the front lines of this pandemic. Our employees have continued to bravely come to work and battle the risks, inconveniences, and stress associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these extra stressors have included:

Employees have been asked to limit or control activities with their own families, out of caution of catching the virus.

For many, many months our employees have had to endure mandatory testing, usually twice per week. They have had to come to the facility at least twice a week for tests, often on their days off.

The staff have been required to wear masks, shields, and other personal protective equipment. While most are thankful for the virus protection, it does make it difficult to breath, see through steamy shields, and hear

each other speak through this equipment. It is hot and uncomfortable. This adds to the daily demands of what are already difficult jobs.

The stress of being constantly “on guard” and under the pressure of trying to control the spread of the virus can be very draining.

It is stressful to endure the daily pandemic debates as they rage in the traditional media and on social media. In our facility we know masks are effective and that vaccination is the right thing to do. But many of our staff are torn, as they are also getting contrary messages from their families and friends.

We typically employ approximately 220 employees. Usually, almost half of them are C.N.A.’s. We also employ housekeepers, laundry aides, dietary aides, dishwashers, cooks, etc. Most of these employees work in entry level jobs with lower entry level wages.

A year ago, the pandemic was still new, but generally there was hope that it would be mostly controlled by the end of this year. Instead, we find ourselves in the middle of a new surge, with no real end in sight. This has damaged the hope of our staff, who would love to see the pandemic end.

Here is my call to action. We would LOVE to have our family members write special letters or thank you cards to all of our employees who are so diligently striving to carry on the important work of the Veterans Home. Will each of you please take a few minutes to write notes of encouragement and thanks to our staff? We will post them in a place where all of the staff can see them and know that they are appreciated.

Here are some instructions and helpful hints for this activity:

Handwritten or typed letters or cards are best. We can also print emails, but it seems more meaningful if the notes have been handwritten or typed.

Send them to: The Southern Utah Veterans Home; Attention: Jerry Olson; 160 North 200 East; Ivins, Utah 84738.

You may also drop them off at the front door.

Please forward this email to extended family members and also encourage them to write these notes.

We prefer that at this time you refrain from sending food items or other gifts. We prefer only thank you notes.

If you have a family of several members, please have all family members send their own letter. We would like to flood the staff with as many thank you notes as we can get.

Please do this as soon as possible. We will post ALL of these messages in a place where staff can see them. Hopefully this will help to encourage them to continue on with the Veterans Home.

Thank you in advance for your assistance! We remain as optimistic as we can be, and we are so thankful for the chance to care for our Veterans! Thank you to all of you; and may God bless you!

Feel free to reach out to me any time. My email address is: jerry.olson@avalonhealthcare.com.

Sincerely,

Jerry Olson, Administrator

A Rare Miracle from World War II

Pretty remarkable story.

CENSOR

Should there be some law, rule, or regulation against sending the picture below to my wife, please seal the flap above and return - it is an unduplicatable shot and one I should hate to lose.

Harry
H. Mueller
1st Lt., A.C.

DAMAGE COURTESY OF
WILLIE HANSEN
R.I.P.
X His Mark



PHOTO BY
"Cliff" Burtford

OLD "ALL-AMERICAN" "SOMEWHERE OVER NORTH AFRICA"
FEBRUARY 1, 1943

THE CREW:

PILOT - Ken Bragg Jr.
COPILOT - A. [unclear] Jr.
NAVIGATOR - Harry C. Mueller
BOMBARDIER - Ralph Burbridge
ENGINEER - Joe C. James
RADIO OPERATOR - Paul A. Ballouay
BALL TURRET GUNNER - Elton Conda
WAIST GUNNER - Michael Zuck
TAIL GUNNER - Sam J. Saylor
GROUND CREW CHIEF - Hank Weyland

B-17 "All American" (414th Squadron, 97BG) Crew

Pilot- Ken Bragg Jr.

Co-pilot- G. Boyd Jr.

Navigator- Harry C. Nuessle

Bombardier- Ralph Burbridge

Engineer- Joe C. James

Radio Operator - Paul A. Galloway

Ball Turret Gunner- Elton Conda

Waist Gunner- Michael Zuk

Tail Gunner- Sam T. Sarpolus

Ground Crew Chief- Hank Hyland

In 1943 a mid-air collision on February 1, 1943, between a B-17 and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, this became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WW II.

An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a Flying Fortress named "All American ", Piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron.

When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away.

The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged. The fuselage had been cut almost completely through . . . connected only at two small parts of the frame.

And the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged.

There was also a hole in the top that was over 16-feet long and 4 feet wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner's turret.



Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind, and twisted when the plane turned. And all the control cables were severed, except one single elevator cable still worked, and the aircraft miraculously still flew!

The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The waist and tail gunners used parts of the German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart.

While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his bomb run and released his bombs over the target.



When the bomb bay doors were opened, the wind turbulence was so great that it blew one of the waist gunners into the broken tail section. It took several minutes and four crew members to pass him ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward part of the plane.

When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner, the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off. The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position.

The turn back toward England had to be very slow to keep the tail from twisting off.

They actually covered almost 70 miles to make the turn home.

The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky. For a brief time, two more Me-109 German fighters attacked the "All American".

Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters.

The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns.



The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the "All American" as it crossed over the Channel and took one of the pictures shown.

They also radioed to the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail . . . and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out.

The fighters stayed with the Fortress, taking hand signals from Lt. Bragg and relaying them to the base.

Lt. Bragg signaled that 5 parachutes and the spare had been "used" so five of the crew could not bail out. He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the plane to land it.

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 40 miles away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal roll-out on its landing gear.



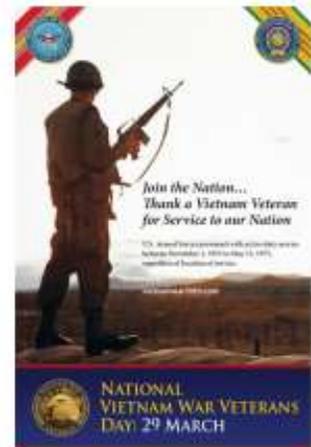
When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured.

No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition.



The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed.

This old bird had done its job and brought the entire crew home uninjured.



Honoring our Vietnam Veterans

Tuesday, Nov 9, 2021, at 2:00 pm
St George Senior Center

A commemorative ceremony recognizing our local Vietnam veterans has been organized by Color Country Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. This ceremony, scheduled for November 9th at 2:00 pm, will take place at the St George Senior Center, 245 North 200 West in St George, Utah.

All local veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of duty location (in-country, in-theater or stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period) are invited to attend this special recognition ceremony.

The *United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration* program was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. It was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense and signed into law in Jan 2008. Commemoration activities began in 2012 and are scheduled to continue through Veterans Day 2025. Color Country Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is a registered "Commemorative Partner" who has volunteered to plan and conduct events that recognize Vietnam veterans for their service, valor and sacrifice in conjunction with the *Commemoration* effort.

As a lasting memento of the Nation's gratitude, a special Vietnam Veterans lapel pin has been designed for Commemorative Partners to publicly present to each veteran who served during the Vietnam War period. All local Vietnam War veterans who register to attend the upcoming November 9th ceremony will receive this special pin in addition to a personalized certificate.

If you would like to attend this special event recognizing our Vietnam veterans, please send an email to colorcountrychapter@gmail.com. Veteran name, branch of service and exact years served is required to register. This information will be used to create your personalized certificate. You may bring guest(s) but space is limited so please let us know how many in your party will be attending in your registration email. If you would like to speak directly to a Color Country Chapter member for more information, please contact Karen Mangano at 435-414-8890.

Registration deadline is October 1, 2021.