



**The American Legion  
Turner-Brandon Post 7**

1760 Turner ST; Clearwater, FL 33756-6247  
(727) 442-5293 ~ Lounge 447-9204



March 2020  
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Department of Florida  
Central Area, District 16

**Post 7 Newsletter**

**From the Auxiliary President:**

ATTENTION AUXILIARY MEMBERS, VETERANS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Mark your calendar for MARCH 22, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM a CRAFT FESTIVAL. BOOK SIGNING BY THE AUTHORS, BAKE SALE, BLOOD DRIVE (NEED BLOOD DESPARATELY,) A TANKER BRAWL all open to the members and the public. Take advantage of this awesome event. There is sure to be something for everyone.

There will be a grand finale with items being raffled off submitted by each vendor. If you want to bake something for our sale, please do so and bring it for us to sell for our event.

In other news our Poppy Sales are coming up so be sure and donate and receive a Poppy in appreciation of our Veterans past, present and future.

If you have any food items to donate to our Bay Pines Veterans we have a box in our lounge for this purpose. Remember no perishables and easy open items preferably not needing a can opener. Now canned goods are easy open with the pull tops. Potato chips, pretzels, nuts and other snacks. Thanks for all your help during the year.

Please continue to contribute to your Legion/Auxiliary we need the help not only your donations of items, and your donation of dollars, but especially we need your donation of TIME. An hour or two a month would be greatly appreciated.

For God and Country  
*Judy Thompson*

President ~ Auxiliary Unit 7

**Vietnam Veterans of America  
Pinellas County Chapter 522**

VVA Chapter 522 meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00PM at VFW Post 4256 ~ Holiday Isles Post at 12901 Gulf Blvd. in Madeira Beach. The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The cost of a VVA lifetime membership has been lowered to only \$50.00. Membership applications can be found on their website.

<http://vva522.org/JPG/VVA-552-Application.jpg>

**REGULAR MONTHLY POST MEETINGS**

- Auxiliary ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:00PM
- S.A.L. ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00PM
- E-Board ~ Last Tuesday at 6:30PM
- Post ~ Last Tuesday at 7:00PM

**Nominations for Post Officers and Executive Board Members** will be accepted from the floor of the Regular Post Meetings on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in serving as an officer and/or on the Executive Board, please attend the meetings.

**MyLegion.ORG**

Post members who have internet access can create their own account at:

<http://www.mylegion.org>

This allows members to view information on file at National Headquarters, view messages and events published through the department and post myLegion sites, and network with other myLegion members using networking tools.

Out of over 500 Post 7 members, only 20 are currently registered at MyLegion.org. I would like to see this increased as the year progresses.

**ELECTION DAY**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2020**

President George W. Bush, called democracy the noblest form of government. We may or may not agree with that, but democracy is certainly the fairest form of government, as long as we vote.

Every time you do not vote, it has the same effect as casting a vote against everything that you are for, and for everything that you are against. Please exercise the rights we fought for, and vote.



We often take for granted the many freedoms we enjoy as Americans because of veterans. The sacrifices our veterans have made on behalf of this great state and nation stand as examples that underscore the need for us to take our responsibilities seriously, especially our right to vote. Across the nation, statistics show youth voter participation declined dramatically through the 90's and into this millennium. But presidential elections in 2004, 2008 and 2012 showed a slight increase in turnout among younger voters. Our hope is that we can build on this encouraging trend.

To this goal, the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office developed its Vote in Honor of a Vet program, which is presented annually in area high schools. The intent of this program is to encourage voter participation among our senior high school voting-age population, as well as teach them about the sacrifices our veterans have made so that we may continue to live in a democratic society. By exercising our right to vote, we show veterans the respect they deserve for protecting our representative democracy.

This is how the program works. Veterans complete and submit a short biography on a Vote in Honor of a Vet Veteran Biography Form. The form may be completed by veterans or by family members of deceased veterans or those missing in action. Certificates with veterans' biographies will be presented as part of a Voter Registration Drive to high school seniors. After students register to vote they are encouraged to Vote in Honor of Their Vet. Our hope is to personalize the voting experience for high school students by helping them understand the relationship between the sacrifices of our veterans and their right to vote.

We need your participation to make this valuable program a success. You may make copies of the Veteran Biography Form and distribute them as you wish. Completed forms should be returned to the address at the bottom of the form. If you should have any questions, please contact the Voter Outreach Department at (727) 464-5700.

<https://www.votepinellas.com/Veterans>

**Henry .30/30 Rifle RAFFLE**



SAL Squadron 7 is raffling off a gift card for the purchase price of a Henry .30/30 rifle at Bass Pro Shops. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Drawing will be held on July 4, 2020 at the Post Home.

One winner will receive a Gift Card to Bass Pro shops to purchase the rifle, at the current price of \$779.99. Winner is responsible for any taxes and may use the gift card to purchase something else from Bass Pro Shops if so desired.

All proceeds will be donated to the [Special Olympics](#). There are only a limited number of tickets available.



**Special Olympics**

Orders for tickets may be mailed to:

S.A.L. Squadron 7  
1760 Turner Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756-6247

**Respectful Retirement of Unserviceable US Flags**

We have a drop box where patriots can leave their unserviceable US Flags for respectful retirement according to the [US Flag Code](#).



I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy.  
*John Adams*

**Remembering World War I - The Somme Offensive**

July 1 - November 18th, 1916

In early 1916, the French proposed a joint offensive along the Somme River with the British. The British army attacked north of the Somme with fourteen infantry divisions, while the French attacked astride and south of the Somme with five divisions. In defense, the German army deployed seven divisions.

Artillery was the key, but could not cut all the German barbed wire, destroy deep German trenches, knock out all enemy guns, or provide a useful barrage for the infantry attack. At zero hour on July 1, 1916, the artillery shifted away from the German front trenches too soon & left the infantry exposed. The French had heavier artillery & attacked in rushes, gaining more ground with fewer losses.

The Somme Offensive was the first major battle of WWI, with 57,470 British casualties the first day, and over 1 million total casualties during the battle. On August 31, 1916, Harry Butters, a young U.S. citizen serving in the British military, was killed, becoming the first American casualty of World War I. Butters had lied to the British Army, saying he was born in Britain, to join the British Army. In letters home, he had written.

*"I find myself a soldier among millions of others in the great allied armies fighting for all I believe right and civilized and humane against a power which is evil and threatens the existence of all the rights we prize and the freedom we enjoy". "It may seem to you that for me this is all quite uncalled for, that it can only mean either the supreme sacrifice for nothing or at best some of the best years of my life wasted; but I tell you that I am not only willing to give my life to this enterprise (for that is comparatively easy except when I think of you), but that I firmly believe—if I live through it to spend a useful lifetime with you—that never will I have the opportunity to gain so much honorable advancement for my own soul, or to do so much for the cause of the world's progress, as I am here daily...I think less of myself than I did, less of the heights of personal success I aspired to climb, and more of the service that each of us must render in payment for the right to live and by virtue of which only we can progress."*

**Harry Butters**

Butters and his unit were at the Somme, firing on Trones Woods, outside Guillemont, when his unit received a direct German hit during a massive barrage; he and all the members of his battery were killed.

"I don't exaggerate when I say nearly 100,000 shells dropped that day in an area of about 800 square yards," wrote Rev. A. Caseby recounting Butters' death.

Harry Butters was buried in the Commonwealth Graves Commission Cemetery at Meulte, France. In accordance with his request, his gravestone reads simply "An American Citizen."

The British high command reverted to an old form of warfare, tunneling under the enemy, and setting of enormous mines consisting of tons of explosives. The tunnels were about 90-95 feet underground, and as they dug underground and neared the enemy positions, soldiers would dig with bayonets, lest the German enemy would hear them digging. Another hazard was that the chalk deposits in the soil actually caused snow blindness in many of the diggers. The tunnels were dug at a slight upgrade, allowing the body fluids and gore to drain after the explosion. Nine such mines were set off during the Battle of Somme, leaving huge craters, many of which are still there today, as veterans' memorials and ponds. About 500 such underground mines were set off

during WWI. Many of the bodies were obliterated or buried and never found. Tiny fragments of bone and buttons can still be found in area.

The 'Great War' which ended on November 11, 1918, produced a vast number of casualties and deaths - and similarly vast numbers of missing soldiers.

Precise numbers are shrouded in the passing of time and the counts are aggravated by incomplete records.

During battles, accurate records are not always kept, and when they are, they are often lost by subsequent actions. Such are the conditions of war. The list of casualties can only be regarded as a fair estimate of military losses by country. There are no reliable figures are available for civilian casualties throughout the world.



**Lochnager Crater**

The Lochnager mine was detonated at 7:28AM on July 1, 1916  
The crater is now a veterans' memorial

WWI Casualties				
Country	Dead	Wounded	Missing	Total
Africa	10,000	-	-	10,000
Australia	58,150	152,170	-	210,320
Austria-Hungary	922,000	3,600,000	855,283	5,377,283
Belgium	44,000	450,000	-	494,000
Britain	658,700	2,032,150	359,150	3,050,000
Bulgaria	87,500	152,390	27,029	266,919
Canada	56,500	149,700	-	206,200
Caribbean	1,000	3,000	-	4,000
France	1,359,000	4,200,000	361,650	5,920,650
Germany	1,600,000	4,065,000	103,000	5,768,000
Greece	5,000	21,000	1,000	27,000
India	43,200	65,175	5,875	114,250
Italy	689,000	959,100	-	1,424,660
Japan	300	907	3	1,210
Montenegro	3,000	10,000	7,000	20,000
New Zealand	16,130	40,750	-	56,880
Portugal	7,222	13,751	12,318	33,291
Romania	335,706	120,000	80,000	535,706
Russia	1,700,000	5,000,000	-	6,700,000
Serbia	45,000	133,148	152,958	331,106
South Africa	7,000	12,000	-	19,000
Turkey	250,000	400,000	-	650,000
USA	58,480	189,955	14,290	262,725
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,956,888</b>	<b>21,770,196</b>	<b>1,979,556</b>	<b>31,483,200</b>

<b>March</b>			
Americanism Month			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	7:00PM	Karaoke with Ann Purser
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tue	7:00PM	Boomers Band 7-10PM
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	11:30PM 6:00PM	RCL 144 Lunch on the Patio Double Trouble 6-9PM
6 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	1:00PM 6:00PM	Red Shirt Friday ~ 1-4PM Double Trouble 6-9PM
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	7:00PM	Sequel Band 7-10PM
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	7:00PM	Karaoke with Ann Purser
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>RCL Post 144 Meeting</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tue	7:00PM	Boomers Band 7-10PM
11 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	11:30PM 6:00PM	Canadian Club Luncheon Simply Acoustic 6-9PM
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>S.A.L. Meeting</b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	7:00PM	Bill Castner 7-10PM
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sun		101 <sup>st</sup> American Legion Birthday
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	7:00PM	Karaoke with Ann Purser
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>VOTE</b>	<b>POLL DAY ~ Time to Vote</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Auxiliary Meeting</b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	5-8PM 7:00PM	St Patrick's Day Corned beef & Cabbage Dinner Riptide ~ 7-10PM
	Tue	7:00PM	Boomers Band 7-10PM
17 <sup>rd</sup>	Tue	7:00PM	Riptide 7-10PM
19 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Noon	Bingo until about 3PM
20 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	1:00PM 6:00PM	Red Shirt Friday ~ 1-4PM Riptide ~ 6-9PM
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sat	7:00PM	DooWop Show ~ 7-10PM
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	9:00AM 4:00PM	Craft Fair, Tank Battle, Blood Drive 9AM-2PM RCL 144 Flag Ceremony & Farewell to Snowbirds
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mon	7:00PM	Karaoke with Ann Purser
24 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	7:00PM	Boomers Band 7-10PM
25 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	6:00PM	Simply Acoustic ~ 6-9PM <b>Congressional Medal of Honor Day</b>
27 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	TBD 6:00PM	Rehearsal Dinner Boots N Lace 6-9PM
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	7:00PM	Flashback Band ~ 7-10PM
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sun</b>		<b>Vietnam War Veterans Day</b>
31 <sup>st</sup>	Tue	8:00AM 7:00PM	Life Line Screen 8AM-4PM Boomers Band 7-10PM
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>6:30PM</b>	<b>e-Board Meeting</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Legion Member Meeting</b>

"In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

*Mark Twain*

#### LEGAL NOTICES

Turner – Brandon Post #7, Incorporated The American Legion Clearwater, Florida, and the Post 7 Auxiliary are Not-for-Profit corporations under Chapter 617 of Florida Statutes, and are non-profit organizations under IRS Code 501(c)(19).

This Post 7 Newsletter is a monthly periodical.

<b>March Weekly Events</b>	
<b>Mondays</b>	
Bar Poker	2-4PM
Kitchen Open	5-8PM
Karaoke with KJ Ann Purser	7-11PM
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
Dog N Suds	1-4PM
Kitchen Open	5-8PM
Live Music	7-10PM
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
Kitchen Open	5-8PM
Live Music	6-9PM
<b>Thursdays</b>	
Kitchen Open	10AM-2PM
Bingo	Noon-3PM
<b>Fridays</b>	
Red Shirt Friday	1-4PM
Kitchen Open	5-8PM
Live Music	7-10PM
<b>Saturdays</b>	
Got IT! Games	3:00PM
Live Music	7-10PM
Queen of Hearts Drawing	8:30PM

<b>VIPs</b>	
Post 7 Commander	Bob Farrell
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Thomas Vitelli
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Jack Anthony
Finance Officer	VACANT
Chaplain	VACANT
Historian	Anthony Cox
Sergeant-at-Arms	Horst Heinze
Past Commander	Frank Russo
Executive Committee	Harry Coble
Executive Committee	Doug Birkner
Executive Committee	Joe Corcoran
Executive Committee	James Fischer
Executive Committee	VACANT
Adjutant	Henry Coble
Judge Advocate	VACANT
Service Officer	Bob Christofaro

<b>Auxiliary</b>	
President	Judy Thompson
1st Vice-President	Tammy DeLuca
2nd Vice-President	Jean Vitelli
Secretary	Cindy DeLuca
Treasurer	Terri Carlisle
Sergeant-at-Arms	Lou Lauster
Chaplain	Burneice Stevenson
Executive Committee	Gigi Jansik
Executive Committee	Geogia Pettibone
Executive Committee	VACANT
Member a Large	Patricia Cox

<b>The Sons of The American Legion</b>	
Commander	Mike Loblein
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Tom Vitelli
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Larry Bell
Adjutant	Mike Loblein
Finance Officer	Tom Klinger
Chaplin	Randy Collinworth
Sergeant-at-Arms	Brian Keefer
Advisor	Tom Vitelli