



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

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



April 2020
Issue # 2020-04

Department of Florida
Central Area, District 16

Post 7 Newsletter

Coronavirus Update

Per the State of Florida guidelines regarding the C-Virus 19

The Post will be Closed between 14-30 days (it depends on future Gov guidelines we receive) .

All planned meetings and events at Post 7 are canceled until further notice.

Bob Farrell

Post 7 Commander

2020 POST 7 ELECTION

NOMINATIONS for Board & Officers

All Offices are open for nomination

The Legion meeting of Tuesday March 31, 2020 was the next Scheduled (second) call for Nomination of Officers. In lieu of the meeting, nominations will be accepted over the internet.

Office	Nominations To date
Commander	Bob Farrell
1st Vice Commander	Bob Christofaro
2nd Vice Commander	Jack Anthony
Chaplain	
Finance officer	
Sergeant at Arms	
Historian	Anthony Cox
E-Committee	Jim Fischer
E-Committee	Doug Birkner
E-Committee	
E-Committee	
E-Committee	

You can submit your nomination Via e-mail for any position to Tom Vitelli Nomination Committee Chairperson at: rvman101@hotmail.com .

From the Post Commander:

I want to thank everyone for helping to bring the post back to life and financial integrity— It has been a team effort and you deserve a well earned thank you from your commander— Please stay safe and obey the quarantine rules— We shall return!!

PS: the Queen of Hearts money \$15,000 is safely on deposit and will resume when we reopen again thanks !!

Bob Farrell

Commander

Auxiliary Unit 7

Hello everyone.

This is such a difficult time for all of us. For those of you unaware our Auxiliary events have been cancelled until further notice. We are staying in compliance with the Governor and our President by staying inside our homes.

So many things in the past few years have changed our lifestyles. For those of us baby boomers we have witnessed so much change. From telephones with operators to cell phones, from cooking on a stove to microwave ovens, from waving to airplanes carrying our family members from inside the terminal to dropping off at entrance. Watching a war taking place on television to having a war brought to our homeland. Now the war we are fighting is the coronavirus which has been devastating throughout the world.

As a family of friends and veterans we pray together that this infection will be contained, and a vaccine be created in the very near future. While we stay a good distance apart from one another, let's remember those who are alone without any distractions to while away the time.

A phone call to say hello could be just the distraction needed to make someone feel better during this social distancing. Until we are together again my prayers and thoughts go out to each of you.

For God and Country
Judy Thompson

President, Auxiliary Unit 7

The Sons of the American Legion Turner-Brandon Chapter 7

Friends and family

As this virus has us huddled in fear, remember your friends and neighbors. Try to avoid panic shopping and allow our elderly citizens the opportunity to obtain the items that are needed.

The SAL rifle raffle is running strong and tickets are still available. \$5 apiece, or five tickets for \$20. Rifle value is approximately \$799. Buy your tickets from any SAL officer or from the Post Canteen. The Post will be closed until the threat of contagion has passed. If you're able, check on our friends and members as you are able to. Take care, be safe, stay distanced for your safety.

Thank you for your support.

Mike Loblein

SAL Commander/Adjutant

Membership Renewals

If you have not renewed your membership for 2020, please do so as soon as possible.

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**.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. All activities were cancelled due to the pandemic.

I am now doing 2 newsletters, both for Post 7 and for Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 522. If you see duplicated articles, now you know why.

If you are a Vietnam Veteran, or served at any duty location during the Vietnam War, you may be eligible to join. Membership in VVA has declined as we get older. A life membership is now only \$50. Membership is open to U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975. Welcome home and thank you for your service.

[CLICK HERE FOR AN APPLICATION](#)

DONATIONS

With all activities cancelled until the coronavirus crisis has been resolved, we have little or no income at the post.

Donations are welcome and can be mailed to the post address.

RENOVATIONS

Post officers and staff have been using the Coronavirus downtime to renovate and upgrade post fixtures that would be difficult to fix with the post open. When life gives you lemons make lemonade.

A very big **THANK YOU** to the post officers and staff who are working on this.

Anyone may donate, even if you are not a post member.

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. You do not have to be present to win.

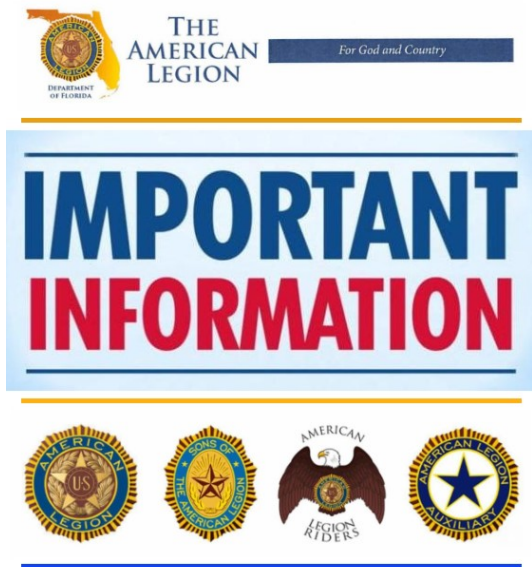
One winner will receive a Gift Card to Bass Pro shops to purchase the rifle, at the current price of \$779.99. Winner is responsible for any taxes and may use the gift card to purchase something else from Bass Pro Shops if so desired.

All proceeds will be donated to the [Special Olympics](#).



Orders for tickets may be mailed to:

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



March 26, 2020

Members of The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, The American Legion Riders & The American Legion Auxiliary,

At this time no one can predict where the current Covid-19 crisis is going or how long we will be in this government mandated quarantine situation. We do know that short term our Posts, Squadrons, Chapters and Units will remain closed for all activities, except take-out food.

All Post, Squadron, Chapter and Unit Meetings, Celebrations of Life, ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS, and anything else scheduled except maintenance by a group not larger than 10 at a Post Home are cancelled until further notice.

We realize each Post, Squadron, Chapter or Unit has their own guiding documents that require elections at specific times. These guiding documents in all cases are superseded by State Law so elections will have to wait, except in the case of The American Legion Auxiliary who have already have set a procedure in place for dealing with this crisis. For Post, Squadrons and Chapters that have held nominations, the actual elections can wait. Those Posts, Squadrons and Chapters that haven't started nominations, at this time do not worry about it. You will get some direction once we have some idea of when things can return to normal.

As to the District Constitutional Conferences (DCC's), at best the schedule is now very tentative. Again, you will get some direction once we have some idea of when things can return to normal.

The American Legion

- Headquarters will remain closed. Calls are being directed to voicemail and employees are answering voicemails and emails. If you have a pressing situation please contact either the Department Adjutant Mike McDaniel or the Assistant Department Adjutant Bruce Comer.

- All Post Commanders and Post Adjutants are advised to get the National Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) and Department Addendum completed online or and mailed into Department Headquarters.
- Also, please submit any members paperwork that are eligible for awards.

The Sons of The American Legion

- All Squadron Commanders and Adjutants need to focus on the Squadron Officer Report Form, Detachment Consolidated Report Form, and the SAL National Consolidated Report Form.
- The Squadron Officer Report form and the Detachment Consolidated Report forms are available on the Detachment website www.floridasons.org Follow the mailing and due date instructions on these reports.
- The National Consolidated Report can be found on the National website www.SonsoftheAmericanLegion.org

The American Legion Riders

- ALR Directors, please forward your chapter's year end totals of hours, and cash donations to your Post Commanders.
- Directors, please also advise your Post Commander the number of Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary members that make up your Chapter.

The American Legion Auxiliary

- The American Legion Auxiliary has already notified their units of their required reports and due dates.

During these uncertain times we have to now, more than ever be concerned and focused on our Mission and giving as we know that many of our fellow Veterans, their families and members of our local communities are in need of our help. We all want to make sure that all monies that our collective groups raise through all of our various channels within The Department of Florida ONLY BENEFITS our Veterans and their families and OUR communities IN FLORIDA. You have OUR pledge that all monies we raise will only be used to benefit our Veterans, their families and in OUR communities.

For God and Country,

William "Rick" Johnson, Commander
The American Legion, Department of Florida

James "Jim" Wineland, Chair, American Legion Riders
The American Legion, Department of Florida

Thomas V. Klinger, Commander
Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida

Ann-King Smith, President
The American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Florida

POW Tap Code

Tap Code allows isolated prisoners to communicate. POWs would use the tap code in order to communicate to each other between cells in a way which the guards would be unable to realize. It was easy to teach, and newly arrived prisoners became fluent in it within a few days. It was even used when prisoners were sitting next to each other but not allowed to talk, by tapping on another's thigh. Using tap code, prisoners were able to keep their moral up, help other prisoners by learning whom was hurting and by donating rations or otherwise support them.

POW Tap code was introduced in June 1965 by four POWs held "Hanoi Hilton" prison: Captain Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, Lieutenant Phillip Butler, Lieutenant Robert Peel, and Lieutenant Commander Robert Shumaker. Harris had heard of the tap code being used by prisoners in World War II and had previously discussed it with one of his US Air Force Instructors.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C/K	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

Morse code is difficult to use by tapping, since there is no easy way distinguish a dot from a dash. In order to keep it simple C and K are used since they both have the hard K sound, allowing a 5x5 matrix for all 26 letters.

Can you decode this tap code message that was popular among US POWs in Vietnam?

**	*	***	*	
*****	*	***	*****	
**	***	***	*	*
*	*****	***	*****	*
*****	*****	*	*	*****
***	*****	***	***	***

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Board held an emergency meeting on March 16, 2020 to address the issue of our employees facing financial difficulty (C-19 virus shutdown) in the coming weeks. The Board has authorized employee salaries to be paid thru the next two pay periods after the March 19 pay period.

VIPs	
Post 7 Commander	Bob Farrell
1 st Vice Commander	Thomas Vitelli
2 nd 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
Auxiliary	
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 at Large	Patricia Cox
The Sons of The American Legion	
Commander	Mike Loblein
1 st Vice Commander	Tom Vitelli
2 nd Vice Commander	Larry Bell
Adjutant	Mike Loblein
Finance Officer	Tom Klinger
Chaplin	Randy Collinsworth
Sergeant-at-Arms	Brian Keefer
Advisor	Tom Vitelli

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.