



Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County Florida Veterans Voice



January 2020

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 Jan. 7 p.m. at
American Legion Post 7 . 1760 Turner St. Clearwater FL.

Commanders Words

Greetings all. Wow! January already! Time sure goes quickly when you are in Paradise. American Legion's 100th Anniversary Celebration on November 15 was a huge success. The honouring of many Veterans, Blue and Gold Star Mothers, patriotic songs, Flag folding demo, many presentations, all made it wonderful night to remember. Commander Bob, his great wife Jossie, and all the members who contributed their time and creative efforts are to be congratulated on a Super Job Extremely Well Done. The next day we were at a moving Memorial Tribute honouring the passing of the long time Leader of the Pinellas County Veterans Council Honor Guard, Herbert John Karkheck. We will remember him. Our first General Meeting of the Season was reasonably well attended, given the time of year, and some current member's circumstances. We started with a Change of Sgt-at-Arms Ceremony, where Doug Hall was appointed as our new Sgt-at-Arms, and we saw Joe Dubuc place the SaA Sash on Doug, then present the SaA Drill Cane to him. Later, nominations got started for our Elections at our January General Meeting. Post 144 Council has had some long meetings working out the affairs of our Post. Things are looking really good. Those who attended the Coalition International Night at MacDill all said they had a most enjoyable time sampling the delicious foods and strong refreshments of the various countries. Of course, Canada's lumberjack themed outfits and maple accented sweets, went along well with the Moose Milk. Our December General Meeting was better attended, as more members were 'down home'. Our annual Christmas Dinner Dance was also well attended. All had a very good time, and the ladies got to sit on Santa's knee for pictures and presents. We trust everyone had a special Christmas with family and friends. On the 27th, the Doo Wop Show & Dance was a smashing, full-house success for Post 7. The Tri-Tones played 50s & 60's tunes, the dance floor was packed, and my seersucker suite won a prize. The next night saw an even fuller house for Post 7's New Years Party, with most attendees well dressed for the occasion. The dance floor was crowded all night. A nice thing was that Brian's Kitchen was open so we could have supper before the parties. Post 7 is to be congratulated on the success it is having since Bob Farrell was installed as Commander. The Post has been extensively refurbished and is operating in the black. You should attend and see the differences. More sad news. One of the strongest advocates for Veterans benefits and rights in this area, a founder of the Pinellas County Veterans Council, and a long time Member

of Post 144, Mike O'Meara, passed away on 26 December, 2019. His Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, 11 January, 2020, at AmVets 67 (details elsewhere). We will not be doing our planned invasion of VFW 9272 on the 11th as all members are encouraged to attend this Celebration. Please wear either Post 144 Uniform or something to show your Post 144 and/or RCL affiliation. We would like everyone who can possibly be there to attend. Then the next Saturday, I will be going to Norfolk, VA for a Celebration of Life for RCL Post 181's long time Adjutant, who passed away suddenly in October. Lastly, to all Members, should you be in the area, we ask that you please attend our General Meeting on Monday, 13 January, 2020, 1900 hrs at AL Post 7, so you may vote in our Election. Those who are not Members, are also invited to attend, to see what we do, as Legionnaires in Pinellas County. Brian's Kitchen is open at 1700 hrs so you could come for dinner before our General Meeting. See you there. Yours in comradeship. Commander Dann.



Your executive at
work!

Officers & Appointments

COMMANDER Dann Oliver CD
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**PAST COMMANDER &
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ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

Position Vacant

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QUARTERMASTER

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MEMBERSHIP Hart Watt

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hart.watt@gmail.com

Sick & Visiting Barbara Carey

727-507-0151

barbaracarey74@gmail.com

Piper-

Chaplain

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

A Post 144 Calendar of Events has been issued to all members ..

PLEASE KEEP IT IN A PROMINENT PLACE FOR REFERENCE!!



Thursday 9 Jan. 12 p.m. 
Korea Veterans International Ceremony. Moose Lodge,



Sat. 11 Jan. 1 p.m. Memorial service for Mike O'Meara. AMVETS Post 67



Monday 13 Jan. Post 144 meeting. **ELECTIONS**



Saturday 1 Feb. 5 p.m. Raid on A/L post 238 Safety Harbor.



Prime rib dinner !!

3 Feb. 4 Chaplains ceremony Info TBA



SATURDAY 15 Feb. Annual pot luck at Lorraine Davy's In Here Dummy Tournament



Saturday 22 Feb. Ed Fletcher's Dinner Theatre 4 p.m.

shutterstock - 88443298

Saturday 29 Feb. Invasion @ VFW 9272



Wednesday 4 March 11:30 a.m. Lunch on the Patio of Tiki Bar @ American Legion Post 252



If you know of

someone who is interested in joining our post, let Membership Chairman Hart Watt know, and he will provide them with a newsletter, and application forms.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

The planned "Invasion" of VFW 9272 on the 11th of Jan. had to be rescheduled due to the Memorial Service for Mike O'Meara. We still plan to invade 9272, but on another day. A suggested date is Sat. 29 February 2020



Many Canadian Legion items, and Post 144 items are now available from your QM Stores, including Post 144 Coffee cups, Post 144 decals, baseball caps, and visors. All will be available at the next meeting. See me at the meeting. Take a look at our catalogue. If I haven't got what you need, I'll get it for you.

Quartermaster

Doug Hall 727-474-3269



Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity



Please gather any torn tattered or faded USA & Canadian flags, and bring them to our meeting. We will ensure that they are properly and ceremoniously disposed of.



Members !!! Please

make sure that your lady gets to read the newsletter. There are a lot of things going on that may be of interest to her. *The Editor*



Post 144 Colour Party

Colour Party

The "ceremony" of marching on the Colours, and playing of the Anthems at our meetings is an important tradition that we need to maintain. **All that**

is required is a white shirt, and headdress. We have five flags, USA - Canada - the Canadian Ensign, United Kingdom, and the Post Banner. Bring your headdress to the next meeting, just in case you're called upon.

We are always looking for volunteers.

We march on the Colours at our meetings at Post 7.

Doug Hall - Colour Party Commander.

727-542-8314



LUNCH ON THE PATIO/TIKI BAR

American Legion 252

11433 Park Blvd. Seminole, FL

On Park Blvd. just West of 113th. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday 4 March. They are expecting us, so please don't disappoint.



They have a beautiful Tiki Bar outside, beside the pool The special on Wed. is meat loaf. Come and enjoy!!

Good friends are good for your health.



TORONTO BLUE JAYS

SATURDAY 14 MARCH

vs Tampa Bay Rays

This will be a premium game. Are you prepared to spend a little more?? We have 60 seats, at \$33.00 each.

We will be in our usual Section 203 1st. Base side.

See me for tickets!



As usual, we are planning to go to VFW post 2550 {360 Douglas Ave.

Dunedin Fl.} after the game for possibly Corned Beef and Cabbage!! You don't have to go to the game to Join us for the fun.

Gord Bennett 727-440-6778

captglbcd@aol.com



Post 144 Dues

Ordinary and Associate dues \$ 40.00

If you want to remain on our mailing list, please make sure your dues are current.

Remember! The American Legion, AMVETS, & VFW Posts will not accept 2019 Cards after 1 January 2020

If you are uncertain of your membership status, contact the Adjutant

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.



Winter Comrades

Suggested Winter Comrade donations are only \$10.00, however, you must produce your current Membership card with the 2020 sticker from your Canadian Branch to qualify as a Winter Comrade.



Post 144 mailing address is

The Royal Canadian Legion
Post 144, Pinellas County Florida
1760 Turner St. Clearwater, FL. 33756



THIS IS WHERE YOU MAIL YOUR DUES



DINNER THEATRE

(The Canadian club has reserved for its members and guests the best 6 tables (ie 48 seats adjacent center stage) at Ed Flecher's Early Bird Dinner Theater(13355 49th. St. N. Clearwater) on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 at 4pm. Everyone is welcome. We filled all 48 seats last year. The night out includes a delicious buffet and a live show and the cost is \$36.00 per person, which includes tax. The live theater play this year is **"The Wild Women of Winedale"**, a comedy that focuses on a feisty and fun loving trio of women at a crossroads in their lives who come up with delightful and surprisingly unorthodox ways to clear the clutter from their lives, their homes and their relationships so they can move their lives forward into a grand new adventure. To reserve your seat(s) you will need to give Neil MacArthur (727-474-6198) \$36.00 per seat on or before our luncheon on February 12th, 2020. Ed Flecher's requires the money at least a week before the event. Many thanks to Neil. He does a great job organizing this event. **Call Neil MacArthur 727-474-6198**
neilmacdent@hotmail.com.



The Canadian Club Canadien

will be meeting for lunch at

Banquet Masters on

Wednesday 15 January. 11:a.m.

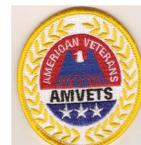
13355 9th.St.N. Clearwater. (SE corner of 49th & Ulmerton) For more information, call

Dann Oliver

727-343-3843



As you are probably aware, there is a reciprocity agreement with the **American Legion** and the **Royal Canadian Legion**. This allows our members to have 'Canteen Privileges' at most American Legion Posts. We have also been given the same privilege with **AMVETS**. It all started with **VFW Post 9272** in Seminole. Since then a number of other Veterans Clubs in the area have agreed to accept Canadian Legion cards at their posts. **Post 2550 VFW** in Dunedin will accept RCL cards, as well as **VFW Post 10304** (724 Tuskawilla St. at Myrtle) in Clearwater. (**Post 10304 and Post 2550 are 'Smoke Free', as well as Post 7)** **Post 119 Largo** is now smoke free!! We should all take advantage of these privileges, as they have been hard won. **Show your RCL card, and make some new friends.**



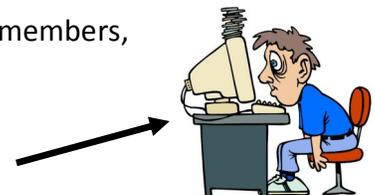
Editors Note:- Canteen privileges at any of the US veterans clubs is a **privilege, not a right**. They have the authority to refuse service to anyone they wish. We are fortunate in that we are welcome and accepted at most VSO Posts in Pinellas County.

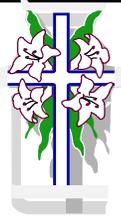
Editor's Note

I requested that all Post 144 officers submit their reports to me with any

info they would like included in the Veterans Voice. I can only print what has been provided. If you have something that you would like to pass on to the members, let me know.

Editor hard at work





In Memoriam Mike O'Meara

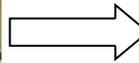
Our Thoughts and prayers for the family.



Mike O'Meara was a member of Post 144 for a number of years. There will be a memorial service



for Mike at AMVETS Post 67 on Saturday 11 Jan. 1 p.m. Post 144 Colour Party will attend, and we would like as many Post 144 members as possible. Make sure you are wearing uniform, or a 144 golf shirt to show your affiliation. AMVETS is located at **512 S. Lincoln Ave. in Clearwater.**



Sunshine State Chapter

Korean War Veterans Association

The Sunshine State Chapter of the KWVA is considered an "International" chapter, due to the fact that there are many members that served in the military of other countries in the Korean War. There is an annual event to honor some of the other countries, and also to honour our departed comrades. The Flags of the USA-Canada-UK-Australia- and Korea will be carried, and the anthems played. We have been doing this for a number of years. Post 144 members have been volunteering to assist as flag bearers, as the aging Korean War veterans are not always able to do so. On the Thursday, the 9th of January this year, members of the chapter will meet at the Moose Lodge in Largo, (Address: 11616 87th St N, Largo, FL). march on the flags, and play the anthems, *traditionally assisted by a number of members of post 144.* The names of the departed members of the chapter embroidered on the "Not Forgotten" flag are read out, and their memories are honoured. We will be entertained by tunes from the Harmonica Band from Gulfport, **and treated to delicious pizzas provided by the Moose Lodge.** It is usually, an enjoyable occasion, and an opportunity for all to socialize. All members of Post 144 are welcome to attend.

As a Korean War Veteran, I am very proud of the fact that members of the Canadian Legion are volunteering to help to maintain the continuation of this tradition. Thank you all so much for your participation.

Gord Bennett



Post 144 Golf & Tee Shirts.

The wearing of post 144 Golf or Tee shirts, especially at our social functions, is a good way to show pride in the post. Whether it is lunch on the

deck at Post 252, the Baseball game, the Invasion of 9272, or one of our picnics etc., members are encouraged to wear the shirts, to advertise the post. When people see how much fun we are having, they will want to join us. If you haven't got yours yet, **see the QM.** *He has a new supply of Men's and Ladies' shirts for sale.*

Doug Hall 727-474-3269

Wear your Post 144 Shirt !



New Sgt-at-Arms Doug Hall receives Drill Stick from Joe Dubuc



Post 144 at MacDill on Remembrance Day 2019



Old Italian proverb... After the chess game, the King and the Pawn

go back into the same box.



Blessed are they who can laugh at themselves, for they

shall never cease to be amused!

(Unknown Author)

Dinner/Dance 2019
Master of Ceremonies

Elections for Royal Canadian Legion Post 144

Pinellas County, will be held at the January meeting. The positions up for election are - Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and Adjutant . Nominations may be made to Nancy Hall, email fancy105@hotmail.com or Carol Styslo, email carol.mcdiarmid@gmail.com. Proxy votes will not be accepted. Each nomination will require a nominator and a seconder. Advance poll will be available upon request.



American Legion Post 238

900 Main St. Safety Harbor .

Saturday, 1 February 5 p.m.

We have been invited to "INVADE!"

AND ENJOY A PRIME RIB DINNER



Doug Hall has made reservations for us, and has tickets @ \$12.50, so let him know if you plan to attend this "RAID", so they will be better prepared to accommodate us.



I shall take you to bed and have my way with you.
I will make you ache, shake, and sweat until you moan and groan.

I will make you beg me to stop!
When I am finished you will be weak for days.
Sincerely,
the Flu.

What did you expect?



To help members find their way to some of our events, I am including the addresses, so you can use your GPS if you are not familiar with the location.



An older, white haired man walked into a jewelry store one Friday evening with a beautiful young gal at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring.

The old man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.'

At that statement, the jeweler went to his special stock and brought another ring over. 'Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000' the jeweler said.

The young lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement.

The old man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.'

The jeweler asked how payment would be made and the old man stated, 'by check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds and I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon,' he said.

Monday morning, the jeweler phoned the old man. 'There's no money in that account.'

'I know,' said the old man, 'But let me tell you about my weekend!'



Bruce Andrew Stewart, as Elvis is coming to Post 7!! Friday 7 Feb.2020. 2 shows on this day. Matinee at 2 p.m and evening at 7 p.m. Ticket sales are limited to 200 per show, so if you are planning to attend, get your tickets ASAP. Reserve a table for 8, or sit with others. Brian's Kitchen will be open for lunch and dinner. Contact Dann at - info@rclpost144.org or call 727-343-3843



George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode



Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington

The **Four Chaplains**, also referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains," were four [World War II chaplains](#) who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship [SS *Dorchester*](#) sank on February 3, 1943. The *Dorchester* was a civilian [liner](#) converted for military service in World War II as a [War Shipping Administration troop transport](#). She was able to carry slightly more than 900 military passengers and crew.^[1]

The ship left New York on January 23, 1943, en route to Greenland, carrying approximately 900 others, as part of a convoy of three ships escorted by Coast Guard Cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche*.^[2] During the early morning hours of February 3 the vessel was torpedoed by the [German submarine U-223](#) off [Newfoundland](#) in the North Atlantic.^[3] The chaplains helped the other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own [life jackets](#) when the supply ran out.^[4] The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

The impact of the chaplains story was deep, with many memorials and coverage in the media. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the [Distinguished Service Cross](#) and the [Purple Heart](#).^[5] The chaplains were nominated for the [Medal of Honor](#), but were found ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.^[6]



A ceremony to honour the 4 Chaplains will be held at American Legion Post 104 (7550 60th St. N. Pinellas Park) on MONDAY 3 FEB. 2020. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion are urged to attend this service. Make sure you are wearing something to identify you as a Legionnaire, like a 144 shirt, and/or a name tag. Colour Party Commander Doug Hall will be asking for volunteers for the Colour Party.

We are assuming that it will be on Monday 3 February, but we are waiting for time and date confirmation by Post 104.



Honours and Awards



Any member that is due to receive an award for service, e.g. 5-10-15-20 yrs etc., please make sure that Joe Dubuc has the details. Presentations will be made at the Memorials and Awards meeting.
9 March of 2020.



We are not aware of any serious illnesses, but if you know of any member who is ill, please let Barb Carey know.

barbaracarey74@gmail.com

727-507-0151 She will send a card .

Barb herself is not well. Joe is looking after her as best he can, but she could use your prayers for a speedy recovery.