



## **THE PARKER POST - May 2016**

**"The active American Legion dry Post"**

**THE FRANK C. PARKER JR., & SON  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 901**

**and**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
SQUADRON 901 JEFFERSONVILLE, PA  
P.O. BOX 301, NORRISTOWN, PA. 19404  
85 School Lane, Jeffersonville, PA.**

**E-mail address: [theparkerpost@verizon.net](mailto:theparkerpost@verizon.net)**



### **Officers**

Post Commander: Bob Klampfer  
Post First Vice Commander: Louis DeVaughn  
Post Second Vice Commander: Alan R. Karver  
Post Finance Officer: John Axsom  
Post Adjutant: Dave Candelori  
Post Chaplain: Austin McGuire

Post Historian: Albert Momme  
Post Judge Advocate: J. Robert Wagner  
Post Membership: Louis DeVaughn  
S.A.L. Squadron Commander: Ryan Candelori  
Sergeant Of Arms: Paul Candelori  
Newsletter Editor: J. Robert Wagner

### **Meetings**

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August at the Jefferson Fire Company; 85 School Lane, Jeffersonville, PA. The Post meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., and the S.A.L. Squadron meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. The meeting hall and parking lot are located at the rear of the building and are handicap accessible. Entrance is through the rear of the Jefferson Fire House.

**Post Officers were elected on June 14, 2016 and some of the new officers being inducted by Deputy Commander Carl Wenhold on September 13, 2016 are shown below.**



Commander Bob Klampfer & First Vice Commander Louis DeVaughn



Chaplain Austin McGuire



Finance Officer John Axsom



Children searching for Easter eggs at Jefferson Firehouse. There were three areas assigned according to different age groups for the hunt.



Post members on 26 March, 2016 are shown assisting children with the jelly bean contest in the Jefferson Firehouse hall during the West Norriton Township Annual Easter Egg Hunt.



Dave Tomlinson, Paul Candelori, Austin McGuire, Commander Bob Klampfer, Bob Wagner, Joe Caracappa and Louis DeVaughn getting ready to ride in the 16 April, 2016 West Norriton Township Little League parade.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our submarine force consisting of only two percent of the overall Navy's personnel, sank nearly 4,800,000 tons of merchant shipping (55 percent of the war total) and destroyed Japan's economy.

Reference: Proceedings, p23, U.S. Naval Institute, May 2016.

On Thursday April 28th there was a "Dining for Dollars" event at Bertucci's restaurant located at South Trooper Road. 15% of what an individual spent and having the required coupon, was donated to our Post. Altogether we received a check for \$147.49 for the event. We thank Bertucci's for assisting us in this fund raising event.



The Montgomery County Police Officers Memorial Ceremony was held on 6 May, 2016 at the Norristown Court House. Because of the rainy weather the ceremony was not held at the memorial situated on Main Street, but rather inside the court house in Court Room A. The ceremony is dedicated to the offices in Montgomery County who lost their lives in the line of duty.



Shown above are wreaths to honor The US Forces, Fraternal Order Of Police and the Montgomery County Police Memorial.



State Representative Mike Vereb speaking at the Police Memorial ceremony.



Police Officers from the various Montgomery County Townships took their turns to place a flower and give a salute. Rick Seltcer and Bob Wagner had the honor to represent the Frank C. Parker, Jr. & Son Post 901 by also placing a flower and giving their salute.



Attendees and a large Honor Guard standing in the background.

## TAPS







Rick Seltzer, George Dewees, Bill Keyes, Paul Candelori, Bob Wagner

## AMERICAN FLAG PLACEMENT

On May 12<sup>th</sup> members of the Post shown, placed flags on Veterans graves on 3 different cemeteries. Because of a shortage of help two other cemeteries could not be worked on the same day. Alan Karver who is a member of the Post and a professional photographer, used his skill and equipment to take these pictures for the newsletter.



George Dewees



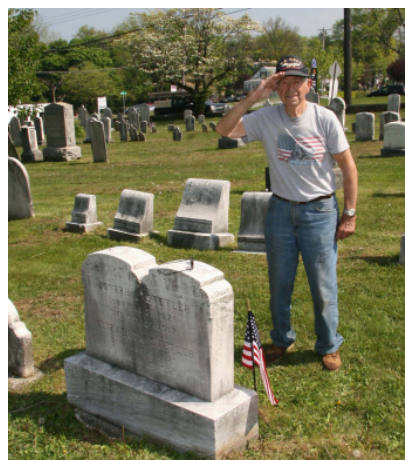
Alan Karver



George Dewees, Rick Seltzer



Rick Seltzer



Paul Candelori



Bob Wagner





On Saturday May 21st American flags were placed on Veterans graves at Montgomery and Norris Cemeteries. Individuals included Charles Becker, Bill Grill, Ralph Nealman, Mike Custer, Dan Bailey, Bill Keyes and Tom Magill (Bob Wagner is not shown).

## **MEMORIAL DAY at the West Norriton Township Anchor Memorial**





## MEMORIAL DAY at the Jefferson Firehouse Veterans Memorial



## MEMORIAL DAY at Valley Forge



World War I reenactor at Valley Forge Memorial Service



Dave Tomlinson, Bob Wagner, Paul Candelori and Joe Patti just prior to serving as Color Guard

A Memorial Day Service was held at the Valley Forge Chapel on 29 May 2016 to honor men of the American Expeditionary Forces 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division, who fought in Germany during World War I. Relatives and friends of the 314<sup>th</sup> filled the chapel to capacity. Members of the Frank C. Parker Jr. and Son Post served as Color Guard for the occasion. It is likely that this year's service will be the last to be held at Valley Forge as the cabin long in place at Valley Forge, was dismantled and shipped to Fort Meade to be reassembled in time for a 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary ceremony that is expected to be held at Fort Meade in 2017. Post members Frank Dube and Joe Patti are direct descendants of their fathers that served in the 314<sup>th</sup>.



## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

An American flag retirement ceremony was held on Flag Day June 14<sup>th</sup> at Norris Cemetery which is adjacent to the East Norriton Township building, Members from many Veteran's organizations were present including the fire department to burn the flags in an efficient and safe manner. To begin the ceremony Austin McGuire said the following prayer.

“Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. We thank you for our country and it's flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. To a clean and purging flame we commit these flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may your holy light spread over us and bring our hearts renewed devotion to God and country, Amen.”





# SKIPPACK PARADE JULY 4, 2016

Photo Credit: Paul Candelori



## POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

For political correctness the Marines have now established new terms.

Antitank missileman = Antitank gunner

Field artillery operations man = Field artillery operations chief

Reconnaissance man = Reconnaissance Marine

However: Rifleman, mortarman will remain unchanged.



On September 18-22 your editor attended the Escort Carrier Sailors & Airmen convention in Mobile AL. One of our tours was to visit the USS Alabama Memorial Park with lunch served aboard the USS Alabama BB-60. The battleship Alabama is a 1938 South Dakota battleship class and was built at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The 35,000 ton battleship is 680 feet long, had a speed of 27.5 knots (31.6 mph) and was launched 16 February 1942. She at first spent a short time in the Atlantic sailing with the British Home Fleet units. The battleship soon redeployed into the Pacific where she saw extensive action providing air cover to our aircraft carriers, shelling Japan and providing support for Army and Marine invasions of the Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, Tarawa Atoll, Marianas and heavy raids of Tinian, Saipan, Guam, Okinawa and other locations.



The battleship was armed with 9 16 inch Mark 6 guns, 20 5 inch 38 caliber guns, 24 Bofors 40 mm guns, 22 Oerlikon 20 mm cannons and OS2U Kingfisher Scout planes. USS Alabama fired 1,250 16 inch shells during enemy bombardment and shot down 22 enemy aircraft and earned 9 battle stars. She did not lose a single man due to enemy action and as a result was nicknamed the "Lucky A". However, 5 sailors were killed and 11 more wounded when one of the 5 inch gun mounts accidentally fired on one of the other 5 inch gun mounts.

**THE USS ALABAMA BB-60**



**ONE OF FOUR PROPELLERS FROM THE USS ALABAMA**



**AFT 16 INCH TURRET OF THE USS ALABAMA**



Also at the USS Alabama Memorial Park, there is a replica of the H. L. Hunley Confederate States torpedo boat/submarine. The original Hunley was built in Mobile in 1863 and was shipped by railroad to Charleston. On the night of February 17, 1864 in an attempt to break the Union blockade, her 8 man crew manually operated the propeller while the captain steered the vessel with a 135 pound torpedo attached to a long spar against the USS Housatonic. Upon backing off, a detonation rope was used to set off the explosive charge. The Housatonic erupted in flames and sank within minutes, killing 5 sailors on the Union ship. While the Hunley was able to signal their fellow members on shore with a blue magnesium flare that they had successfully attacked the Union vessel, the Hunley for unknown reasons with all hands aboard, vanished



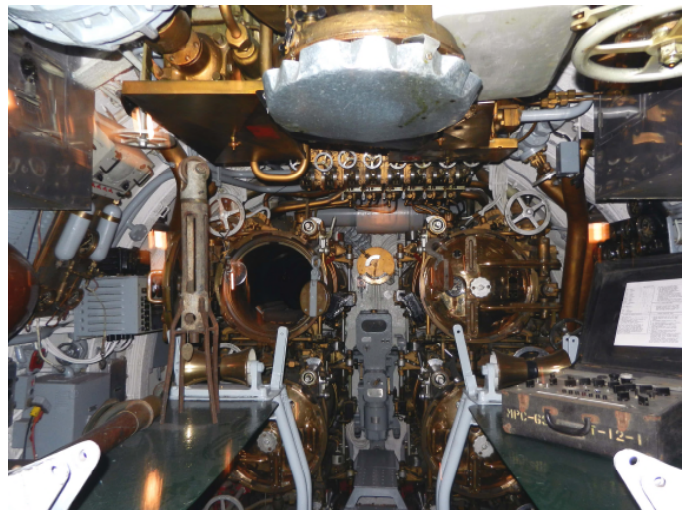
**REPLICA OF THE H. L. HUNLEY**

until it was discovered just outside the Charleston Harbor in 1995. It was raised in August 8, 2000 and is now on display in Charleston.



**USS DRUM SS-228**

The USS Drum SS-228, a 311 foot 9 inch long Gato-class diesel-electric submarine, was launched 12 May 1941. During World War II. She sunk 15 ships for a total of 50,580 tons of enemy shipping which is the eighth highest of all US submarines in total Japanese tonnage sunk and received 12 battle stars for her service.



**USS DRUM'S FORWARD TORPEDO ROOM**



**A-12 SPY PLANE**



If the A-12 with a speed of 2,210 mph left the West Coast and flew to the East coast of the U.S., the A-12 would reach the East Coast 7 minutes before a bullet at 2,800 ft/s fired at the same time from an M-1 Garand rifle even if the bullet could maintain its initial muzzle velocity.



## **NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM Pensacola, FL**



**FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE NATIONAL  
NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM**



**BOB WAGNER STANDING ALONG SIDE  
THE AF-2S GRUMMAN GUARDIAN**

The Escort Carrier Sailors & Airmen Association visited the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola FL on one of their tours. The enormous museum has the aircraft exhibited according to the WW-I, WW-II, Korea and Vietnam war periods in which they were flown. During the visit, Bob Wagner was able to see the exact same AF-2S Grumman Guardian Bu No. 123100 aircraft that he flew in as an air crewman while in the U.S. Navy in the 1950s era. Upon showing the docent a page from his flight log book of having flown in the same aircraft, museum personnel brought out a work stand and Bob was able to climb aboard the aircraft and peer into the cockpit. It was noted that the radar scope and pickle switches for the bomb racks and rocket rails were missing. They took some pictures and indicated that a write-up about the visit would be put into their news letter.

## **WEST NORRITON HALOWEEN PARADE OCT. 29, 2016**





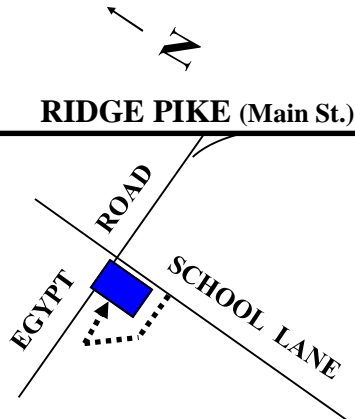


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 JEFFERSONVILLE, PA  
 P.O. BOX 301, NORRISTOWN, PA 19404



**Directions to Post 901 meeting hall.**  
 85 School Lane, Jeffersonville, PA.

**PLEASE MAIL THIS APPLICATION TO THE P.O. ADDRESS  
 SHOWN ABOVE OR COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING.**



Post 901 meeting hall is located at the rear of the Jefferson Fire Company. Parking is also located at the rear of the building and is handicap accessible.

**The American Legion Membership Application**

_____ (Name)		_____ (Phone)	
_____ (Mailing Address)		_____ (Date)	
_____ (City)	_____ (State)	_____ (Zip)	_____ (Post #)

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 2, 1990-cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Govt. | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982-July 31, 1984                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961-May 7, 1975   | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918                                       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41-8/15/45 (only eligibility)               |   |

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Dues)



I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of recruiter

PLEASE DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE OR CURRENT RESIDENT

FRANK C. PARKER JR., & SON  
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 901  
 P.O. BOX 301  
 NORRISTOWN, PA 19404

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