On June 6, 2014 thousands entered the gates of the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia from all over the United States to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. Operation Overlord was the code name for the Battle of Normandy, the operation by the Allies that launched the successful invasion of Nazi-occupied Western Europe. Operation Overlord began on June 6, 1944 with the Normandy landings. An aerial assault by 1,200 aircraft and a massive naval bombardment preceded the assault on D-Day of 5,000 vessels. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on June 6, and more than three million allied troops were in France by the end of August. It has been said that D-Day was the moment when liberty was reclaimed for the world. The price was high on D-Day though; with about 2,500 American soldiers killed on just that one day. Proportionally, Bedford suffered the nation's severest D-Day losses. This is why Bedford was chosen for the D-Day Memorial.

My 91 year old uncle James L. Lynch came to Bedford for the 70th anniversary. James landed at Normandy with the 125th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), manning a 30 cal. machine gun on an M-8 Armored Car. In an interview James told me how fierce the fighting was as they moved across Normandy. Certain encounters with the enemy have been on his mind every day for 70 years. Ultimately, his unit was first to meet the Russians on April 30, 1945 near the Elbe River in Appolensdorf, Germany.

As I walked around the D-Day Memorial a few hours before the program began, I spotted a woman with a “WWII Veteran” cap on. I walked up to her and asked her about her experiences in WWII. SC native 1st Lt Agnes Bowen (Kleckley) was a nurse with the 24th Evacuation Hospital. Just two days after D-Day the 24th was only 3 miles from the frontlines, treating wounded and sick soldiers. They followed behind the front, setting up tent hospitals along the way. Agnes showed me pictures of a device she invented to push plasma into the wounded soldiers quicker, so they would have a better chance of surviving. With the help of others, using pieces of whatever they could find, she made a simple hand-cranked pump which worked very well. For her efforts she was awarded a well-deserved Bronze Star medal. Agnes will be 96 years old on August 16, 2014, which I can hardly believe.

Raleigh N.C. sent dozens of WWII Veterans to the Memorial that day. I walked around and talked to several of them and met one very interesting man. Raleigh native D.C. Lawson joined the Marine Corps at a young age to serve his country in WWII. He saw a lot of combat on the island of Okinawa and has vivid memories of his experiences. DC was wounded by machine gun fire and survived multiple hand grenades thrown into his foxhole. 25,000 Marines were killed there, so he’s feels very fortunate to be one of the survivors. At 87 years old, he’s certainly among the youngest of WWII-era Veterans.
Dear Auxiliary Members,

Under the leadership of President Mackzum, we ended our year on a high note, full of excitement and enthusiasm. As we change officers for the coming year, I am certain we will continue to grow and expand. With our newly formed committees, which are a blend of experienced and new members, we will move forward to serve our Veterans, children and the community. Thank you to all who helped with the July 4th picnic. You worked long and hard and were awesome as usual.

Our first project this year will be the distribution of school supplies on August 12 at the Post Home from 2-5 pm. Anyone with children needing these supplies can pick them up then. Leftover supplies will be distributed to other areas where they are needed.

Past President Angela is working on a Backpack Drive for children who have deployed parents. You can contact her for further details.

Under the Chairmanship of Sarah Maddox, we are starting an active Juniors group. Juniors dues are only $6 for the year. Our Juniors are the Auxiliary of the future so sign up your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

If you have any name, address, or telephone changes please notify Ann Woods at 434-821-2770 or Mary Baker by e-mail at mellenb@hotmail.com or phone or text 434-841-2471. Also, if you would like to receive reminders and updates by e-mail or text please send me that information. I will post meetings and events on our Facebook page as well.

Our membership meetings are the Third Thursday of the month starting at 7 p.m. Please join us.

For God and Country,
Mary Baker, President Unit 16
mellenb@hotmail.com Phone or text 434-841-2471

Ladies Auxiliary Calendar

August 8 - 10 Leadership College
August 11 - Sort school supplies 2-4 pm Post 16
August 12 - Distribute School Supplies 2-5 pm Post 16
August 21 - Membership meeting
August 22-28 - National Convention, Charlotte, N.C.
September 18 - Membership Meeting
October 2 - New Member Night 7 p.m.

On June 18, 2014 Sheila Schaefer and Joe Trent sang at the event at Post 16 for the residents of The Summit in Lynchburg. Maurice Millner danced with as many women that would dance. A great time was had by all. (Pictures courtesy of Sheila Schaefer)
Volume XCI Issue No. 4
The American Legion
Post 16 Dispatch

Published bi-monthly as a free publication to our members. Advertising inquiries, change of address, ideas for articles, comments, etc.; submit to:

Post 16 Dispatch
C/o editor Bobby Ricketts
American Legion Post 16
1301 Greenview Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24502-2707

Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month prior to the issue month.

Editor: Bobby Ricketts
post16editor@verizon.net
Website: www.amlegionvapost16.org
Webmaster: Lynn Franz

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnist, and are not necessarily those of the National, Department, District or the American Legion Post. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the American Legion of the products, service or officers advertised or profiled.

Support our Veterans by Supporting our Advertisers
Records from our Honor Guard, recorded from Veterans Funeral Services were used for this list. Also, notifications from family and friends are added when they are received. God Bless these Veterans for their service to our country.

Thank you to Robert Cardwell for maintaining this Post Everlasting list.

Charles Rowe
David Lee Ward Sr.
Robert Kanthack
Thomas E. Jennings
Karma Rae Walsh, W
Kermit Ford
William Finney
William Maxey
Lyburn Payne
Robert Saville
Margaret Nelson
Delaine Pace
Eddie Hicks Jr.
Charles Beasley
Edward “Pop” Whitten
Aubrey Miller Sr.
Rufus Orange
Clyde Emswiler
Garland Miles
Emmett Saunders Jr.
Ralph H. Reider III
James Anderson
George Taylor Sr.

Post 16 Calendar of Events

August
17 - 2014 ALR Legacy Run Begins - No AL Riders Meeting in August
21 - Membership Meeting 7pm
30 - Dash for Dogtags

September
1 - Labor Day Cookout with the "Return of Elvis"
17 - AL Riders Meeting 7pm
18 - Membership Meeting 7pm

Every Friday 12-1PM - Troop Rally at Monument Terrace!

The American Legion Post 16
August/September 2014
Post 16 Dispatch

Commander - Jerry “Doc” Bumgarner
1st Vice - Leslie Baker
2nd Vice - Wayne Dooley
3rd Vice - Doc Reed
Adjudant - Frank Leonard
Finance Officer - Dawn Reed
Sgt-At-Arms - Loyd Woodford

Executive Board
Maurice Millner
Otto Davis
Herb Craft
Calvin Smith
Jim Fishel
Bob Woods
Haden Laughlin
Bobby Ricketts

Support our Veterans by Supporting our Advertisers
Buying or Selling Real Estate?

Turn to a Fellow Veteran
US Army Veteran 1967-69
Served in Vietnam 1968-69
Certified Residential Specialist
Associate Broker
43 Years of Real Estate Experience
I am never too busy for your referrals

Bob Sherman
RE/MAX
1st Olympic, REALTORS
Cell: 434-258-2233
Email: Lbgbroker@aol.com

Carmel Vacation Cottage for Rent
OBX - Duck, NC - Sleeps 8
www.vrbo.com/462807
1-888-853-7770 or 252-261-7911

WOMEN MADE ME DO IT
A true story about love and war as I remember it
Book by Vietnam Veteran
Tony Marlin Buchanan
248 Arrowhead Drive
Madison Heights, VA 24572
434-929-4490 - Book $9.95
Free Shipping
Please Send Check

1968 Marble Mountain, Vietnam
Service Officer  Just a reminder the Post Service Officer is a “volunteer” position. As the numbers of clients that have been requesting assistance has increased dramatically over the past few months, I have been forced to go to appointments only to guarantee the Veteran can be seen and provided the quality of services they need and deserve.

You may email the Service Officer at alpost16@aol.com or contact me at 434-239-0039 to schedule an appointment. Sarah Maddox

VA Hospital Patients Need/Want List

Wendy Hoffman is collecting donations for VA Hospital Patients. Please bring your donations to Post 16 and please write her name on them. This is an ongoing project and your help is much appreciated.

Examples of needed items - Monetary Donations, Canned Coffee (5lb Cans) – Regular and Decaf, Instant Creamer – Large Jars 5lb or 10lb bags of sugar, Sweet N’ Low - Clothing Items: New T-Shirts – Only XL, XXL, XXXL – Men’s and Women’s, Shower Shoes – Men Sizes 10, 11, 12, Personal Hygiene Items (Regular Sizes Only), Deodorant, Combs, Lip Balm, Travel Size Shaving Cream, Razors (Packaged), Misc. Items: Art Supplies for PTSD Program, Movie Tickets, Baseball Tickets (Salem Red Sox), New Pool Cue Sticks, Relaxation Stress Balls (Used by Patients on Ventilators), Acoustic Guitar Strings and Acoustic Guitars, etc.
I want to thank everyone who helped to make the 4th of July cookout a success. Everyone worked very hard. The new entertainment committee has been working very hard to get more entertainers that you might like. If you have any suggestions, please talk to Adele.

We will be starting a V-Tabs tournament shortly. If you are interested, please sign up at the Social Club. Information will be posted. We are still trying to have food every Friday & Saturday evenings in the Social Club; however when we have a function in the main room and serving food, we do not have enough volunteers to man both kitchens. These volunteers work very hard to preparing the food and to serve you. If you would like to help out, please see Larry or Loyd. I am sure they will be very happy to hear from you. Again, I want to thank everyone, bartenders, kitchen help, and cleaning people, who help to keep this social club going.

We will be having our annual Labor Day Cookout on Monday Sept 1, 2014. We are pleased that we have secured a great young local entertainer for this event. He is an Elvis Impersonator, who I am told is great. He has performed in Las Vegas and at Graceland, along with many other places. The program will be from 1:00 to 5:00PM. Advance tickets are $15.00 ($20.00 on Labor Day) Children ages 6 to 12 - $7.00 at the door. Children under 6 free. Food included in the price of the ticket. Each Ticket will be entered in a drawing for $250.00, $150.00, $100.00, & two $50.00. Ticket Sales Are Limited, so get your ticket early!

Thank you for your support.
Bob Woods, Club Manager

The kitchen will continue to be open Fri. & Sat. nights from approximately 6 to 8 PM. The menu will be mostly Open Grill with an occasional special. Check the menu board for updates. The Post 16 sandwich and the Club sandwich that Larry developed are doing well. We will continue to offer new items and later this fall we hope to offer a full scale special on one night each week, in addition to Open Grill (More on this in the next newsletter). Many, many thanks to all who helped with the “Songwriting With Soldiers” dinner, especially the ladies of Unit 16 Auxiliary. We could not have made it happen without everyone’s help.

All suggestions are welcome and don’t forget on Fri. & Sat. nights to come hungry and bring money!

The Kitchen Staff

Social Club Music Schedule

August:
1 - Gary Scott
2 - Prime Cut Band
8 - Mike Farlow
9 - Off the Cuff
15 - Angie
16 - On 3
22 - Billy Blue Eyes
23 - Blackwater
29 - BRB Band
30 - Joe Trent & Friends

September:
1 - Labor Day Cookout featuring the “Return of Elvis”
5 - Mae
6 - Chase Band

“Schedule subject to change. Check with Social Club.”

DSLLC
Diversified Solution LLC
Division of Strategic Benefits, Inc
Founded 1983
Complete Line of Embroidery/Promotional products at very competitive pricing
Kimberly Grant
President
Direct Dial: (434) 455-5951
diversifiedkim@comcast.net
www.diversifiedsolutionllc.com
Visit Our Online Store!
P.O. Box 4709
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Toll Free: (800) 745-9352
FAX: (434) 845-6200

Finch & Finch, Inc.
“A Family Serving Families Since 1905”
809 Main Street • Altavista
(434) 369-5621 • Fax: (434) 369-5037
finchandfinchfh@aol.com
Flynn Branch • 124 Flynn Street • Gladys
(434) 283-1234
www.finchandfinchfuneralservice.com

Funeral and Cremation Service
The Post 16 Honor Guard is training new members to assist in honoring our deceased Veterans. Those who willingly give of themselves by becoming an Honor Guard volunteer are truly a breed apart. Members of the Honor Guard take great pride in upholding their high standards and fulfilling their mission of, “Honoring those who Served.” This is a service we must continue for our veterans, however we need your help so we may continue rendering Military Funeral Honors to our deceased veterans. If you can dedicate any amount of time to this worthy service to our veterans, please contact:

Sergeant-at-Arms - 434-401-0423

Please come forward to join with your comrades-in-arms to show respect and honor to our comrades who have passed on.

The Department of Defense has website to help combat Stolen Valor

Adapted from article by Leo Shane III and Chris Carroll
Stars and Stripes
WASHINGTON — The Defense Department created a website, which is designed to help citizens see if someone is lying about military medals.

Record keepers from each military branch began compiling awards records when the Supreme Court struck down the federal Stolen Valor Act, arguing that the punishments for those lying about military medals infringed on free speech.

The website is hosted at valor.defense.gov and now list only the recipients of the military’s highest awards for valor — the Medal of Honor, service crosses, and Silver Star.

Pentagon staffers are researching whether lesser awards can also be compiled into a database.

Pentagon officials refused to comment on how far into the past it would eventually extend. The DOD has long insisted that a complete accounting of all major medals would be impossible to compile.

They cite various obstacles, including a 1973 fire at a records center in St. Louis that destroyed millions of servicemembers’ files.

The website is not designed to replace congressional efforts to pass a new Stolen Valor Act penalizing fakes for claiming military honors. In its ruling, the Supreme Court justices said narrower legislation, prohibiting specific harm or profit from the fraud, would likely withstand a constitutional challenge.

Doug Sterner, an archivist who began cataloguing medals privately in 1998, said he was glad the DOD was making a start — but it’s only the barest minimum of a start.

“It’s a step in the right direction and it’s a reversal on their position before,” said Sterner, whose work appears on the Military Times Hall of Valor website, as well as his own Home of Heroes website. “Now we need to make sure it gets done and we support them in doing it, but we want to make sure it gets done right.”

Sterner has personally entered 100,000 awards into his database. He said other records could fill in the gaps left by the 1973 fire, and that DOD should move quickly to digitize them before they too are lost.

“If [a fire] could happen in 1973,” he said, “it can certainly happen again.”
July got here in a hurry and as far as Post 16 ALR is concerned the weather has been great. I know some gardeners needing rain would disagree. We have participated in several events since the last Post Dispatch. On May 31 Post 50 at Crewe hosted a Poker Run. Nine of our members; Sted Gray, Richard Berkley, Jimmy Carson, Lynn and Jason Boteler, David Reynolds, Frank Wingal, Bobby Fleshman, and Ray Wynn participated. On 6/5 members of our chapter met with other motorcycle groups at the D-Day Memorial in Bedford to escort a group of WWII Vets from the Memorial to Lynchburg. Post 16 ALR members were Stedman Gray, Richard Berkley, Lynn Boteler, Frank Wingal, Nick Mays and Randy Maddox. On 6/6 Richard Berkley joined with other motorcycle groups to escort another group of WWII Veterans to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford. 6/7 Post 3 Salem founded an ALR Chapter. Attending the ceremonies were Sted Gray, Richard Berkley, Jimmy Carson, Jeff Lewis, Sonny Rogers, Frank Wingal, Randy Maddox, Dickie Smith, and Randy Zak. On Independence Day, July 4, we were honored to be invited to ride in the Concord Fire Dept. Parade. Anyone with no other plans next year I would highly recommend your attending it. Post 16 ALR members riding this year were Sted Gray, Jimmy Carson, Lynn Boteler, Craig Eichorn and Suzie “in” their Gold Wing, Nick Mays, David Reynolds, Jeff Lewis, Bobby Fleshman on his 1919 Harley-Davidson, and Frank Vigal.

The 2014 National Legacy Run will begin 8/17 from American Legion Post 64 in Indianapolis. This year’s route will cover more than 1300 miles and go through 8 States ending in Charlotte NC, site of the National Convention 8/21. Post 16 ALR will be well represented with 9 Riders... who are, Stedman Gray, Richard Berkley, Jimmy Carson, Marshall Gray, Frank Wingal, Lynn Boteler, Jason Boteler, David Reynolds, and Ray Wynn. There will be photos, stories, videos posted daily @ www.Legion.org

Due to the Legacy Run participation we will not have a meeting in August. Our next monthly meeting will be September 17 @ 1900. As always our door is always open to new members.

Thank You, Sonny Rogers - Public Relations Officer ALR VA Post 16.
Engraved Bricks (2nd Installation) Dedication
Global War on Terror Memorial Ceremony
June 21, 2014