HARRY W. COLMERY MEMORIAL PLAZA

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Pat Michaelis, Chairman of the Colmery Memorial Plaza project, and Jimmie Foster, Adjutant, Kansas American Legion welcomed those in attendance.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.

The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Plaza was dedicated June 22 in downtown Topeka. The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the G. I. Bill.

Presentation of the Plaza was done by Eddie Shirron, Colonel U. S. Army (Ret.), Mina Steen, granddaughter of Harry Colmery, Vincent Frye, President and CEO of Downtown Topeka, Inc., and Larry Wolgast, Mayor of Topeka.

The dedication coincided with the 72nd anniversary of the signing of the G. I. Bill.
Greetings American Legion Family. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Department Commander this year. I am looking forward to a very exciting and busy year! I am excited to work with a great Department Staff, as well as the Department Vice Commander, Terry Marr.

I started my year out with The American Legion Leadership College in Concordia. Thank you to all who attended and a very big thank you to the Concordia Post #76 for all your hard work. We had a very successful DEC meeting and the speakers were very informative. Damon Christensen did a great job on those arrangements. I believe much was accomplished. The dinner at the Post on Saturday evening was very good, and the auction following was very interesting (thank you Jimmie) with a fair amount of money raised for Child Welfare.

Next on my agenda was Boys State in Manhattan. Vice Commander Terry and I attended on Tuesday and I had the honor of presenting the plaque to last year’s Governor. I was very impressed with the program and the boys there. R. C. Shoemaker and his staff are doing a great job! There were over 475 in attendance.

Then on to Girls State in Lawrence, with around 180 girls. My goodness how I was impressed. There I had the honor of capping this year’s Governor while the Auxiliary President, Claudia Satterlee pinned her. And on to Cadet Law in Salina. I joined Elgin Wahlborg, Gaylord Sanneman, and Ida Myers on stage at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Center to present the graduates with their certificates. What great programs The American Legion has for our youth!

The Legion Riders held their annual Legacy Run starting June 9, at the McPherson Post #24, with visits to Marquette, Ellsworth, Osborne, Concordia, Topeka, Marysville, Manhattan, Ottawa, Pittsburg, Independence, Arkansas City, and Hutchinson Posts along the way ending on June 12. Over $9,000 was raised! Thank you to each and every Rider, and special thanks to Al Lonstang for taking over as the new Director for the Riders!

The National Membership Workshop for the Department Commander, Department Adjutant, Department Vice Commander, and the eight District Vice Commanders will be held in Indianapolis on the 29th and 30th of July.

My Commander’s Homecoming will be August 13, at my Home Post, Pittsburg #64. On that day I am having a Community Day as well, starting at 8AM with booths from the Police Department, Fire, EMS, Sams Club, National Guard, and anyone else that would like to get more information out to the public about The American Legion such as the Riders, Auxiliary, Boys and Girls State, Cadet Law, etc. A dinner and program will be in the evening with social hour beginning at 6PM. Meal reservations may be made through the Department at $15 per person. The Lamplighter Inn will set aside rooms for those wishing to stay.

And...now...membership!!! Get out there and get members. Reach out to your colleges, Police Departments, Fire Departments, EMS...a lot of them are veterans!!! If you have any membership to turn in, get them in ASAP!!!

Hope to see everyone this year! God bless our great country and our troops, and God bless you!!!

At Concordia the districts’ collective Posts’ membership and Adjutant’s packages were received and delivered to the proper Posts establishing the needed “contact” between Post officials and District officers. We wish them well and hope that during the contact discussions included the necessary points including annual reports and the need to establish a productive process of keeping information which would enhance their reporting abilities.

I really wish to thank our adjutant, Mr. Foster, for his humor and creativity at this year’s Concordia Post’s Child Welfare fundraising event. An event which generally has lots of items to offer, but not this year. I’ve not witnessed such laughter and genuine enjoyment while digging out cash for challenges. Only Dave went home with a “toy” and the others answering to the many challenges walked off with smiles of satisfaction. Thank you Jimmie!

Next, was our Second Annual Legacy Run fundraiser. 1,400 miles more or less for those that participated in this year’s event. Thank you so much for your interest and hard work, either personally participating in the run as bikers, fundraisers, or those many hands helping to feed us.

For those who would be interested in where we went, the people we visited and just some great photos, visit Facebook, Kansas Legacy Run. This is where the fun is!

Remember, donations are still being collected up to the hour we donate them at National Convention so there’s still time to yet collect those donation jars at your local grocery store or vendor!

This next year will be more rewarding, I’m sure. Keep our fingers busy and our minds sharp and most of all enjoy what it is you do and let the public know just what we do for them! Enjoy the summer!

Thank you all for your vote of confidence as your Department Vice-Commander for 2016-2017. Our organization will grow and be better for ALL in the next year!

The 5th District finished in first place at 96% membership. Contact each member who did not renew last year and personally ask them to renew. Each Post should establish a Membership Team of three to five members to help with renewals, recruiting new members, and revitalizations.

Post Consolidated Reports information should be used to compile a news article and submit it to your local media (newspaper, TV or radio stations). Let the public know how much we do for our veterans, their families, our Children and Youth programs, and our communities.

A great time was had by everyone at Leadership College in Concordia. We learn more about our organization every time we attend. Boys State and Cadet Law programs were very successful this year and attendance was great. The Legacy Run was a huge success and raised over $11,000. All District Vice Commanders and I had a wonderful learning experience at the Indianapolis Membership Workshop.

Commander Munson’s Homecoming in Pittsburg was unlike any I have ever attended. A full day of fun, excitement, camaraderie, and food. Well done Post 64!

Contact Department any time if you’d like me to attend a meeting, or attend a function at your Post. I’d be happy to attend either.

Fears are temporary, regret is forever! For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness!

---

LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING
Saturday, August 13
2815 N. Joplin, Pittsburg, KS 66762
RSVP by August 8

Name _____________________________

Post//Unit/Squadron __________________________

Guest Names ____________________________

No. of Adults ($15 each) ________

No. of Kids (10 & under $3 each)________

Enclosed is my check  in the amount of____

Mail to: Cheryl Eastep
215 W. 8th St.
Pittsburg, KS 66762

---
VA Secretary Grants Relief for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has granted equitable relief to more than 24,000 Veterans following a national review of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) disability compensation examinations conducted between 2007 and 2015. Equitable relief is a unique legal remedy that allows the Secretary to correct an injustice to a claimant, where the VA is not otherwise authorized to do so within the scope of the law.

TBI BACKGROUND

Signature injury during the Iraq conflict

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA)
- Establishing a VHA polytrauma network
- Collaborating with the Department of Defense
- Screening of Service members/Veterans
- Updating rating criteria for evaluating TBI disabilities in October 2008

VHA established a standard for diagnosing TBI
- Initial TBI examination must be completed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, neurosurgeon, or neurologist if a diagnosis is not already of record (claims for service connection)
- Review TBI examination may be completed by a TBI Disability Examination Office (DEMO) certified clinician (claims for increased evaluation)

OVERVIEW OF EXAMINATION ISSUE

Minneapolis VAMC completed self-initiated review of initial TBI exams performed between 2010 and October 2014
- 317 living Veterans identified whose compensation & pension (C&P) exams were not performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist, neurosurgeon, or neurologist

VHA/VBA guidance on requirements for “Big 4” clinician use unclear for this period

Nationwide review of VHA and contractor exams from 2007 to 2015 revealed additional 24,588 Veterans whose C&P exams were not performed by designated specialist

CORRECTIVE ACTION by VA

On May 3, 2016, Secretary of the VA (SECVA) granted equitable relief to affected Veterans
- At Veteran’s request, VBA will order new initial TBI Exam with designated specialist
- Veterans will be allowed to submit additional evidence in support of their prior TBI claim
- VBA will reprocess the prior TBI claim, substituting The new TBI exam for the inappropriate exam
- If appropriate, VA may award an effective date as early as the date of the TBI claim associated with the with the C&P exam at issue

VETERAN NOTIFICATION

VBA is preparing to send letters to Veterans and their representatives offering the opportunity for re-examination and reprocessing of prior TBI claims
- Mailing tentatively set for end of May 2016
- Veterans will have one year from date of letter to request re-examination

Veterans awarded equitable relief will have their e-folder marked with a special “TBI Equitable Relief” flash

(Continued Page 5)
I am proud to be selected as First District Commander. I will do my best to serve you well. It is very unfortunate that Vice Commander Darrel Farmer, who should have been your Commander this year passed away, because he would have done great things for our District. You have me as a rerun/ substitute (Commander 2005-2006) to fill in and I will make this a good year for his memory.

My primary goal is to get the First District back into FIRST PLACE where it should be. It seems that everything is based on membership and rightly so, without membership we do not have an American Legion. Without an American Legion everyone suffers, veterans, Children and Youth, etc. I will not be the one to get us into first place, you will. I will work with you and together we will get there.

You received your dues notices about July 1st so write that check and don’t lay the notice about July 1st so write that check and don’t lay the no-...
EIGHTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
LARRY ‘PETE’ HALL
PO Box 216
Sublette 67877
620-271-8483
VICE CMDR.
LARRY OCHS
PO Box 1460
Syracuse 67878
620-384-6142

Greetings to all Department of Kansas and Eighth District Legionnaires. I want to thank all Eighth District members for supporting me as your 2016 – 2017 Eighth District Commander. We are looking forward to a good year for our District and the Department of Kansas.

Many Posts are also planning some sort of festivities to celebrate this Country’s Independence Day on July 4th. I hope you will all take part as we celebrate 240 years of independence. May that only be a beginning of great things to come.

Coming up we have leadership school in Indianapolis and our National Convention in Cincinnati. Following that will be the state fair in Hutchinson and anyone interested in helping with The American Legion booth should contact one of the District officers.

Once again we look forward to the 2016 – 2017 year and pray that it will be successful for all. Thank you and God bless America and God bless our men and women in the military.

SEVENTH DISTRICT COMMANDER
TERRY WARNER
505 Washington St.
LaCrosse 67548
785-259-8323
VICE CMDR.
MARK RADKE
1785 Avenue V
Sterling 67579
620-204-8508

Greetings District 7 Family. We are in the middle of summer and starting to get ready for our Back to School activities.

Last year I had the privilege of participating in the Oratorical Program and was very impressed. So impressed that I came back to LaCrosse and set up an appointment with the High School Counselor to meet with her in August and go over the different programs that the Legion has to offer. She was very excited that The American Legion would take an interest in her students.

I want to encourage your Post to get involved with the schools in your area and help some student obtain a scholarship or a grant. Even if they don’t win or place, these programs build character and promote citizenship.

The LaCrosse Post held its first gun raffle and we were able to send a student to Boys State as well as support several other Legion programs. If our Post, who meets in the City Auditorium, and has no canteen, can run a raffle, so can a small Post like yours.

District 7 state fair dates are September 10th and 18th. I need volunteers from all the Legion Family. Drop me an email or call if you can help.

It appears District 7 has moved out of last place in membership and finished 4th for the year. This year will be challenging so get your life members renewed first so your Post won’t be at 0% starting off the new membership year.

ARTICLES ACCORDING TO ISSUE

Since the Sunflower Legionnaire is going quarterly all those required to submit newsletter articles need to readjust your thought process and make sure that you get your articles in on a timely manner. Following is a list of items that will now be in each quarterly edition. Your help will be deeply appreciated in keeping the members of The Department Kansas informed.

July - September
Baseball Champions
Camporama
Department Committee List
(space available)
Eisenhower Pilgrimage
National Commander Tour
State Fair Schedule
State Golf Tournament
Results
Vice Commander
Homecoming

October - December
Big Red 1 Turkey Run/Christmas
Eisenhower Pilgrimage
Fall/Winter Sweepstakes
Legion Bowling Tournament
National Vice Commander Tour
Oratorical - Dist. & Dept. Information
Vice Commander
Homecoming
Winners of Flags - State Fair

January - March
Boys State Buckle Up, Lights On & Live Cadet Law Enforcement Academy
Dept. & Dist. Conventions
Law Enforcement Officer & Firefighter of the Year
Legion Bowling Tournament
Legislative Reception
Mid-Winter Forum
Oratorical Sweepstakes

April - June
American Legion Leadership College
Baseball
Bowling Tournament Results
Child Welfare Foundation Dinner
Dept. & Dist. Conventions
Legacy Run
Mid-Winter Sweepstakes Results

POST SERVICE OFFICER

(Continued from Page 3)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Veterans will have one year from the date of VBA’s letter to request re-examination and reprocessing of their prior TBI claim

A standardized application form is not required to request review

- Must clearly express desire for reprocessing of prior TBI claim
- Request may be submitted in writing or via telephone
- Veterans who are currently service-connected for TBI disability may request review, but re-examination may result in proposed reduction of current evaluation.
- Any proposed reduction will be prospective and follow current policies and procedures
- Any increased evaluation shown based on new C&P exam
- May be assigned as early as the date of the prior TBI claim

LIT Products and Services

Exclusively for Legion Families

The Legion families in this Department are very fortunate to be part of something that has been around almost half a century – the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT). The Department joined with the other 49 Departments that make-up the LIT. The LIT became this Department’s sponsored insurance program and remains so today. Make no mistake, the broad range of insurance products and services found under the LIT umbrella are your products and services. These products and services are not available to just anyone – other veterans included – but only to members of this Department’s Legion Family.

By combining this Department’s insurance programs with the other LIT participating Departments, we can be assured our products and services are continually reviewed and updated (plus new programs added) so that you have access to the best selection possible. The oversight of the programs of the LIT is done by a Board of Trust Directors – one Legionnaire Director from each participating Department. Like most Legion “jobs,” it is an unpaid appointment so the Director is serving on your behalf and not his; which is one more way to make sure you are getting the best possible coverage when you buy through your Department.

Again, this Department sponsors a broad range of insurance products and services – ranging from the “no-cost” AD&D to HOSPITAL HELP to CANCER CARE to Emergency Assistance + (EA+) to Medicare Supplement and more - so one or more will likely fill a need or void in your family’s insurance portfolio. But, let’s talk a bit about buying insurance – the best way to buy is to shop, compare, and then purchase the coverage from a source you trust. We invite you to compare this Department’s endorsed products with any on the market and then you can buy with the confidence of over 49 years of continuous service to Legion families behind the LIT. (By the way, buying through the LIT also helps the Department in its ability to serve our veterans and the communities.)

To learn more about your Department’s insurance products and services please call the LIT’s administrator at (800) 235-6943 or check out the programs at www.thelIT.com. Either way, there will be no hard-sell or obligation to buy when you do.
Now, that the 98th Department Convention is behind US and WE have a New Slate of Department Officers to lead US into and through the 2016-2017 Membership Year it is time to keeping finding Veterans that want to join Our Great Organization.

The Delegates of the Convention were given the opportunity to hear their National Leaders of ALL three Entities of The American Legion Family. Legion National Vice Commander Alan Davis from Minnesota, Auxiliary National Vice Commander Lynda Lancaster from West Virginia and S.A.L. National Vice Commander Steve Ward from right here in the Detachment of Kansas enlisted US with a vast amount of knowledge about their individual Organizations and thanked the Department of Kansas for their support and camaraderie.

National Emblem Sales Director Richard Keith brought a huge display of items that are available for purchase and was able to explain down to the nitty gritty the vast amount of programs that Emblem Sales produces to get Our Brand Awareness out across the Country. He was truly impressed with the Delegates and how enthustastic they were in helping promote The American Legion Family.

All Our Guests stated that looked forward to returning the Great State of Kansas, so all of you must be doing things right. Keep up the Great Work!!!

Both, the Kansas Boys State Program and the Kansas Law Cadet Program was well attended this year and well educated and highly motivated young Adults represented their individual Cities and Towns across the State of Kansas well. Every time I attend one of these events, I get rejuvenated that there is still hope for America’s youth.

If you are a Kansas Life Member you need to check with your Post Adjutant for a complete update.

The D.E.C. also voted to drop the publication of the Sunflower Legionnaire from six issues to a quarterly edition due to extremely high amount of funds to prepare, publish, and mail this paper out to the Members. Every edition is available for reviewing on the Kansas Legion Website. Also, the Department Adjutant’s newsletter is posted on the Website as soon as it is sent out to the Posts within the Department of Kansas.

Many Members complained that their Adjutant wasn’t putting out any News items to the Blue Cap Legionnaires. By going to the Department Website you can basically see just about everything that is being circulated to the Post and Department Officers.

Since the Sunflower Legionnaire is going quarterly all those required to submit newsletter articles need to redraft your thought process and make sure that you get your articles in on a timely manner. I have posted a list of items on page 5 that will now be in each quarterly edition. Your help will be deeply appreciated in keeping the Members of The Department Kansas informed of upcoming Events.

The Information Letter has been mailed to those that were selected as Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. National Staff has worked hard to ensure that those attending will be rewarded with informational and fun times. Make sure you pay close attention to the submission dates. These dates are non-negotiable by Department and National for contract purposes.

The finale of this article was the Dedication of the Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park that took place just yesterday. National Commander Dale Barnett and his Aide, Dewey Moss, from the Department of Georgia made a special trip back to the Department of Kansas to partake in this very deserving ceremony. They diverted from Reno, Nevada, and after being picked up and then dropped off at the Kansas City Airport, they were on their way to Fargo, North Dakota. There was well over 300 people gathered under and around the large tent on Kansas Avenue downtown Topeka on the hottest day in Kansas, so far this year, at 102 degrees. Many World War II and Korea Veterans from across the Great State of Kansas were also in attendance.

Those attending were able to hear many Guest Speakers and the unveiling of the three statutes that make up the Memorial. One of the statutes was Colmery saluting the Active Duty Soldiers during the time that the Serviceman’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly known as The G.I. Bill) was passed. This statue was unveiled by the three Department Commanders that were in office during the period from the inception of the Colmery Memorial Park Committee to its completion, Today! They were Past Department Commanders Emery McKindie and Ray Vail, and the current Department Commander, Bob Munson.

Next was the statue of former military personnel in their “Post” military roles due to their using the G.I. Bill to enhance their careers and lives. This statue was unveiled by The Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park Committee Members. Last, but certainly least, was the Statue of Colmery Himself. His statue was unveiled by his Granddaughter, Mina Olander Steen (one of the Guest Speakers) and other Members of the Colmery Family that were in attendance.

The last item on the Agenda was the singing of God Bless America by Nancy Goodall, accomplished pianist.

 Afterwards, those attending the Ceremony were able to enjoy music from Nancy Goodall and USO Troupe Topeka.

The Committee’s goal was to have the Ceremony last no more than fifty (50) minutes. It lasted fifty-one (51) minutes in length.

In talking to Jean Roberts, the 96 year old niece of Colmery, at the Post Dedication Reception about being one minute over our scheduled Agenda, she stated to me, are you including the singing of God Bless America in the total time, and I told her, yes. She then told me, that singing God Bless America doesn’t count on the time limit because it was the right thing to do, you were under the time limit.

She further told me that time wasn’t something she had much of it left at the age of 96. I guess it is how one perceives things. She made my day!

Until next time, continue to support the Greatest Veterans and their Families, in the Greatest Veterans Organization in The Free World, The American Legion (in my opinion).
Declaration of Dependence Upon God – Romans 8:21

The month of July we as citizens of the United States of America are celebrating a wonderful holiday. It is celebrated on July 4th since 1776; 240 years. There are many across these United States who recognize it not only as “Declaration of Independence” but also as by our fore-fathers who declared it, “Dependence upon God.” The most important part of this Celebration is our Declaration of Dependence upon God.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Alexander Hamilton (1755-1804) a Founding Father who co-wrote the Federalist Papers, stated concerning the nature of Liberty:

“The fundamental source of all your errors, sophisms, and false reasons, is a total ignorance of the national rights of mankind. Were you once to become acquainted with these, you could never entertain a thought that all men are not, by nature, entitled to a parity of privileges. You would be convinced that natural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator to the whole human race; and that civil liberty is founded in that and cannot be wrested from any people, without the most manifest violation of justice.”

I invite all my readers to take a moment to read again the founding documents for the establishment of a new land and a new people called, Citizens of the United States of America.

May God continue to Bless these United States of America.

COLMERY DONATIONS

Following is a list of donations received since the May/June issue of the Sunflower Legionnaire for the Harry W. Colmery memorial. Rural Development Corp., Stonebridge, CT; American Legion Champaign Post #24, Champaign, IL; Roger & Karen Viola, Topeka; John Parolo, Mulberry; Post #23, Leavenworth; Jerry & Patricia Reece, Mission Hills; Council Grove; KS; & Patricia Reece, Mission Hills; Tri-County Voiture No. 1510, Memorial. Rural Development Corp., Stonebridge, CT; American issue of the Sunflower Legionnaire for the Harry W. Colmery memorial.

AM immediately following the Presidential wreath laying ceremony.

Memorial Roses may be purchased for placement on the wall around the “IKE” statue by sending $10 to the Eisenhower

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Glenn Patterson

Department Headquarterst

1314 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS 66612, 785-232-9315

Department Headquarters Email Addresses:

Jimmie L. Foster: jimmyl@ks legion.org; Jeff Bond: headquarters@ks legion.org; Charlotte Grim: finance@ks legion.org; Mitch Johnson: membership@ks legion.org; Denise Crossman: sunflower@ks legion.org.

News deadline is the 15th of each month for the next issue.

THE AMERICAN LEGION VA HOSPITAL SERVICE OFFICERS

Robert J. Dole Regional VA Medical Center, Wichita; 316-688-6814

Dwight D Eisenhower VA Medical Center, Leavenworth; 913-758-4297

Colmery-O’Neill VA Medical Center; 785-350-4489

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

To learn more about your Department’s insurance products and services please call the LIT’s Administrator at 800-235-6943 or check out the programs at www.let.com.
The following is a list of scheduled days that each District is responsible for manning the American Legion Booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson:

- Saturday, Sept. 10 – 7th District
- Sunday, Sept. 11 – 4th District
- Monday, Sept. 12 – 8th District
- Tuesday, Sept. 13 – 1st District
- Wednesday, Sept. 14 – 5th District
- Thursday, Sept. 15 – 2nd District
- Friday, Sept. 16 – 6th District
- Saturday, Sept. 17 – 3rd District
- Sunday, Sept. 18 – 7th District

Harry W. Colmery Memorial Park Dedication. Jean Robart, 96 year old niece, standing next to Uncle Harry. Janet Zoble, Topeka artist, was commissioned to design and construct a life-size statue of Harry W. Colmery, as well as the two 7x9ft. reliefs which complete the Memorial Park.

Vice Commander Terry Marr
Homecoming
Eisenhower Library
Immediately following the Pilgrimage
Saturday, October 15

No. of Luncheon Reservations, $15.00 each Amount Enclosed
Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Mail to:
Kansas American Legion
1314 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 10, 2016