



American Legion Post 735 Newsletter

35 Legion Parkway West Seneca, 14224
(716) 675-7613

May 27, 2024

Memorial Day

April 2024

Volume 24 Issue 04

Commander: Daniel Lagoda

Chaplain: Ken Herkey 716-671-2797 *Service Officer:* Tony Drzyzga 716-697-9084



In memoriam: Ronald T. Puckett 1942-2024

Commander's Message

Commander Dan Lagoda reports:

The passing of Ronald T. Puckett, our tireless Legion Post Commander who gave a lifetime of service to our Post, has left a big hole in our hearts. Ron gave unselfishly with his time and energy to make Post 735 the best in Erie Country. I am sure that he would have asked each member to commit themselves for the betterment of his beloved Post.

Important dates of the month include May 1st when Loyalty Day and Silver Star Day are recognized. May 8th is celebrated as Victory in Europe (V-E) Day with the end of fighting on the Western Front during World War II. We also celebrate Armed Forces Day on May 16th, a day dedicated to honoring the members of our armed forces. We close out the month with Memorial Day on May 27th, when we honor all those who died in the service of our great nation. West Seneca will pay tribute to the fallen, on Monday, May 27th with a Parade down Union Road from Southgate Plaza starting at 10:30am, followed by a Ceremony immediately after the Parade at the Walkway of Freedom.

An important date for our Post is Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12th. The S.A.L. will be sponsoring their Annual Mother's Day Breakfast from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Bring Mom to the Post for a scrumptious breakfast and great company. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children under the age of 4 years old. Hope to see you there

Lastly, Ron left big shoes to fill, but we are confident with the officers in place and help from all of our members, our Post will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Ron will have wanted it that way.

Sick Call & Relief

Chaplain Ken Herkey reports:

Sadly, Commander Ron Puckett peacefully passed away on April 16, 2024. Ron had honorably served for many years as Commander of Post 735. In addition, he was Past Commander of Erie County Committee American Legion.

Also sad to report that David Dascomb, Post 735 Trustee and Historian, departed this life on April 18, 2024.

Ron and Dave first met as children when their families attended the same church.

We salute you, Comrades. Rest in Peace.

1st. Vice Commander PC

Dan Lagoda reports:

Post 735 is currently holding at 327 paid members for the 2024 year. Our post goal remains at 412. Tell a friend to join, let's hit our goal!

Attend the monthly meetings and get involved, the new year post nominations have started. Let's keep the post going strong!

2nd Vice-Commander PC

Jerry Johnson reports:

No Report This Month

Auxiliary President

Liz Kuciel reports:

No Report This Month

S.A.L.

Commander Bob Saar reports:

There are 45 outstanding members, that need to be paid by July 1, 2024 to be considered not delinquent. The second round of nominations are at next meeting. If you are interested in taking an office, please show up April 15, 2024

Veterans Activities Chairman

Jerry Johnson reports

The winners of the 2024 Legion Scholarships are: Nora Piotrowicz: \$1500, Hailey Haniszewski: \$1500, SAL awarded a \$1500 to Lucas Dembski, and a \$500 to Elizabeth Turner. I would like to thank my committee, Jim Manley, Dave Courteu, Dale Wright, Tim Hayes, and Mike McCarthy

Color Guard Captain

Mark McMahon reports:

I would like to thank all of our members who participated at the wakes of our recently deceased members; Past Commander Joe Kretz, current Commander Ron Puckett and Color Guard member Dave Dascomb. These members will never be forgotten for their service to our Post. As a reminder our regular monthly meetings resume Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:35 pm. As always, your participation is important in planning for the upcoming parades and events that we are invited to attend. Thanks in advance.

Board of Directors

Dennis Kessler Reports:

May 11th is training day for all Post employees and elected Post Officers from 8:00am till 1:00pm. Classes will be on the Tips Program, Sexual Harassment, AED (Defibrillator), CPR, and Emergency Procedures. The training is State mandated, and also for Insurance purposes. The training will be recorded so if we hire a new Employee or had to replace an Officer, they can view this training on the computer.

Post Wide G.I. Party on May 18th. 8:30 am coffee and we will work from 9:00am till 12:00 pm. We will be working both outside and inside the post. We will be painting the shed, picnic table, wishing well, mortars, canon, rear ramp and parking lot lines. The Boy Scouts will be scraping, and painting the concrete base around the post. We will also work inside, cleaning windows and blinds, etc. We will resume our normal Monthly work details on Tuesday, June 18th. Hope to see you there!

Kitchen News: 4 new cabinet doors were installed with new hardware, thanks to Shell Fab and the installer's and it looks great!

Tony's Catering has a new updated menu, and the new menu is posted on our web site for you to take a look. The new Post 735 menu will start this Friday.

We are still trying to put together a pistol course with Kevin from Kevins Guns and trying to work out dates and times to do this. More to follow.

Music: We are happy to announce daytime music at the Post Home. Music by Diamond Sound on the last Tuesday for the following months:

May 28th

June 25th

August 27th

September 24th

We are working on setting up Music for Saturday Nights at the Post. More to come on this next month.

We are currently looking for day bartenders. You must be a member of the Post; criminal record checks will be performed on all applicants. Applications are behind the bar, just ask the on-duty Staff Member for the paperwork. Once completed, the application can be addressed to the BOD and placed in the BOD mailbox. All applicants will be contacted by phone or email.

Drink Price Increases: We will be raising drink prices effective May 1st, 2024. Beer will increase 25 cents; Well Liquors will increase 25 cents; and High-end liqueurs will increase 50 cents. The BOD will post the brands that will increase 50 cents. Cost increases are due to the increased cost of products, and we have not adjusted prices in years. The Post has been eating all the price increases, fuel surcharges, delivery fees, etc.

Thank You to the Vigilant Fire Company for the use of the Mourning Bunting due to the passing of our Commander. We lost our Post Commander, Ronald T. Puckett and he strived to always take care of Post 735 and its members. We had a moment of silence in honor of Commander Puckett, his empty chair, before we started our monthly BOD meeting. The Commander supported everyone and all activities that the Post sponsored, meetings, phone calls and record keeping of events. It was a pleasure and honor to serve with him. He will always be with us in our hearts. RIP Commander Puckett.

God Bless our Troops & God Bless America

Important May Dates:

- 1st - Auxiliary Meeting
- 7th - Color Guard Meeting
- 14th - General Meeting
- 20th - S.A.L. Meeting