



Issue #6

*The American Legion
Post 2000, Loveland, CO.
Newsletter
July 2021*

www.post2000.coamlegion.org



The new officers of Loveland Post 2000



Newly elected 2021 Post 2000 officers in the rear is Judge advocate - Robb Smith. Front row from L-R; Sgt-at-Arms - Ed Bickel, Service Officer - Darrell Stilwell, Historian - Anthony Koch, Chaplain - Joseph Centeno Adjutant/Finance - George "Woody" Woodham, Jr. Vice Commander - David Smith, Sr. Vice Commander - Lynn Cheramie, Commander - Cody Smith. Congratulations to each of you!

Remember; There is no rank among us, for each serves as the equal of his comrade; and all strive toward the same goal, which is the realization in the life of the Republic of the ideals of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty.

Independence Day July 4th, a day our nation's freedom and liberty became a reality when a new nation was born. Celebrate responsibly and with respect to those around you. Take a moment to



know your surroundings before you start drinking or igniting fireworks. your celebration can affect others. A DUI can kill an innocent life while fireworks can bring on PTSD. Be responsible, be respectful, be safe and enjoy our independence.

Post 2000 was sought out to assist with Vietnam Veterans of Loveland High School (LHS). The LHS Vietnam Veterans are having their own Vietnam memorial to never forget those who served during this war era from Loveland. They are currently working with the Loveland Parks department in order to have its own place of honor with the other war era memorial at the South end of Loveland Burial Park.

Know your American Legion

1. The term for Post officers is The American Legion is?
A) 1 year B) 2 Years C) 3 years D) 4 Years
2. The only Post officer who is a paid officer is the Post Adjutant.
True False
3. What officer of the Post is also the membership chairperson and oversees membership of the Post?
A) Commander B) Sr. Vice C) Jr. Vice D) Chaplin
4. What Officer is tasked with being the post expert on flag etiquette?
A) Commander B) Adjutant C) Service officer D) Sergeant-at-arms
5. What officer is responsible for building an atmosphere in which Legionnaires have fun while accomplishing the mission.
A) SR. Vice B) Jr. Vice C) Chaplin D) Judge Advocate

Answers can be found in the **2021 American Legion Officer Handbook** page 16.
Download your copy from <https://www.legion.org/publications>

You can now RENEW for 2022 year

Believe it or not you can renew 6 months in advance to avoid those annoying repeated notices. Its not the Post who send those notices out, its automatically generated by National headquarters. If you want to avoid those notices then renew early. The process can take time. The current membership renewal system is not automated.

Got a friend who wants to Join? Do them a favor and get them an additional 6 months of membership free with their new 2022-year membership card. By your actions of getting 3 new members, you are eligible to receive a National Commander pin. The post can only grow with new members, and who better to join than a friend.



Congratulations to Skip Vonkaenal
This past COVID year Skip and his wife Andrea Vonkaenal produced a large number of handmade facemasks that were handed out at a recruiting event for the American Legion. They had also made a huge contribution to the Loveland veterans assistance fund.

The Department of Colorado News letter



VA to automatically review thousands of 'Blue Water' Navy claims

By: Nick Marlow/Staff Writer
The Department of Veterans Affairs is reviewing thousands of rejected claims from Vietnam War veterans who were denied benefits but may now be entitled to service-connected compensation.

Under court order the VA started reviewing last week the 60,000 claims for Agent Orange exposure that veterans who served offshore during the Vietnam War. These former sailors served aboard ships in the open waters off the coast of Vietnam and have long contended they were exposed to chemical herbicides through the ships' water systems. The chemical herbicides have been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson's disease and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

Congress passed legislation in 2019 that entitled these veterans, known as "Blue Water" Navy veterans, to government benefits. The U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California decided in November that the VA must reevaluate claims from veterans who were rejected for their denial was their lack of in-country service in Vietnam.

This review provides an extra opportunity for veterans with another shot at getting benefits. Thomas Murphy wrote that Blue Water Navy veterans would automatically receive benefits retroactively if the status for their denial was their lack of in-country service in Vietnam.

The agency has been making a large backlog of claims that accumulated during the coronavirus pandemic, Murphy told Congress last week that the backlog was likely to "hit an apex" in August, in part because of the large volume of Blue Water Navy claims.

In its budget request to Congress, the VA asked for more full-time employees to help review these claims.

"VA is working as quickly as possible to review these claims," the agency said Tuesday.

Since the Water Navy veterans became eligible for VA benefits in 2019, the



2020-2021
National
Commander
incentive pin.



2019 – 2021
EVERY YEAR
The national commander will change the Pin in recognition of those who help build the membership of 3 or more. Will you be one the those who will receive a Pin this year?

Sign up for your copy from The American Legion Department of Colorado web site.

JULY 10TH SATURDAY.



This is Post 2000's first year to partner with the Northern Colorado Mustang Car Club (NCMCC) who is hosting the All-American car show. It is expected to have 300+ cars, food vendors, military, various awards, antique vehicles, classic hot rods and more! This is free to spectator's show is 10-1pm

If you would like to volunteer, it's not to late. Various positions are still needed to make this enjoyable for everyone. E-Mail Tdumosch@yahoo.com for details.

Message from Post 2000 Public Relations (PR) staff

The future of the Post is in the hands of the membership. With out it, there is no Post 2000. We all can contribute in some form or fashion. If you like to get out and about particiapate in at least one or two events a year. Please share with us any comments or suggestions you have regarding this newsletter. Additionally, if you have a story to tell, or have an intrest you would like to read about here, let us know.



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