

**Minutes of the Detachment Executive Committee Meeting**  
**February 27, 2010 Hyde Park, MA**

Commander Dave Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M. With the colors in place, Commander Johnson called upon Sgt-At- Arms Richard Smalley to lead the meeting in a salute to the colors. Acting Detachment Chaplain John Brown gave the invocation. Commander Johnson read the POW/MIA resolution. Commander Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Johnson read the Blue Star Banner Resolution. Commander Johnson led the Preamble to the Constitution.

Commander Johnson called upon Detachment Adjutant Clifford Smith for the roll call.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

Commander – David Johnson - Present  
Vice Commander– Joseph Poplaski - Excused  
Vice Commander – Mark McCue - Present  
Adjutant – Clifford Smith - Present  
Finance Officer – Clifford Hall - Excused  
Chaplain- Phil Samko - Excused  
Historian – Tom Friend - Present  
N.E.C. – Tom Wigmore - Present  
Alt. N.E.C. – Carl Rossi - Present  
Sgt at Arms – Richard Smalley - Present  
Judge Advocate - Brian O’Hearne – Excused  
Past Detachment Commanders: - Clifford Smith, Thomas Wigmore  
DISTRICT REPRESENTATION: Present: Four, Five, Six, Seven  
DEPARTMENT ADVISORS:  
Whitey McKittrick - Excused  
James Testa - Present  
Milton Lashus - Present  
Ray Samko – Present  
DISTRICT ADVISORS: Present: Four, Five, Six

Adjutant Smith stated a quorum was present.

Commander Johnson now called for the reading of the previous minutes. Motion made by Mark McCue and seconded by Carl Rossi to accept the minutes as previously distributed. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson called for Adjutant Smith to read any correspondence.

Adjutant Smith moved to have all correspondence received and filed except for those that would be brought up under new business. Motion seconded by Mark McCue. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson now called for Officers Reports.

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

**Vice Commander – Joseph Poplaski:**

.

**Vice Commander – Mark McCue:**

Mark gave a verbal report on Squadrons contacted in Districts Four, Five and Eight. Sent letters to all zero Squadrons and will, be following up on those who are still zero as of this meeting

**Historian – Tom Friend:**

**Chaplain – Phil Samko:**

**Sergeant – At – Arms – Richard Smalley:**

**National Executive Committeeman- Thomas Wigmore:**

**Alternate National Executive Committeeman- Carl Rossi:**

**Commander – David Johnson:**

**January 10, 2010:** Attended the Combined Committee Meetings at Dudley/Gendron Post 414 meeting in the morning and then attended District 5 County Council Meeting at Malden Post 69 in the afternoon to speak about the Detachments programs.

**January 30, 2010:** Attended the POW/MIA meeting at Vernon Hill Post 435 in Worcester.

**February 7, 2010:** Attended the Operation Total Warrior Pre- Mobilization ceremony at the DCU in Worcester to support the 181<sup>st</sup> Yankee Division pre-deployment to Afghanistan.

**February 20 2010:** Attended the Boys State Committee meeting at Vernon Hill Post 435.

**February 21 2010:** Attended the Combined Committee Meetings at Dudley/Gendron Post 414.

\*Note: I have also been in contact with East Side Post 201 in Worcester in regards to starting a Squadron at their Post.

Motion made by Carl Rossi and seconded by Richard Smalley to accept all Officers Reports as given and as one in progress. Motion carried.

Commander Johnson now called for Committee Reports.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Report: - Clifford Hall:**

Adjutant Smith stated that the new signatures and new procedures for the Detachment account should be completed within a week after many who are involved return from the Washington Conference.

**Americanism – Carl Rossi:**

**National Emergency Fund –**

**Boys State – Thomas Wigmore:**

**POW-MIA – John Brown:**

Chairman Brown stated that at the last meeting of the committee they reviewed a CD of the program taken during the POW MIA Recognition Ceremony which was edited by Jo-Anne Nolan and Adjutant Smith. With some minor editing to be done this will be copied to hopefully distribute to various Post to show what the program is all about.

**Community Service - Phil Samko:**

**Children & Youth- Milton Lashus**

Chairman Lashus presented information on the Locks of Love Project. Locks of Love provides prosthetic hair pieces to children suffering permanent hair loss due to sickness or injury. Chairman Lashus also gave a detailed report on the Oratorical program.

**Child Welfare – Milton Lashus:**

The Detachment has sent in \$1271.00 which is 63.6% of our goal of \$2000.00.

**“Partnership for Kids” and Children’s Miracle Network- Clifford Smith:**

Current donations to the hospitals are as follows: Squadron 19 -\$380.00, Squadron 79 \$250.00, Squadron 435 \$250.00 and Squadron 106 \$250.00, Norfolk County District Six \$250.00. Adjutant Smith will be sending a follow up mailing on this program to all Squadrons.

**Resolutions – Brian O’Hearne:**

**American Legion College: Brian O’Hearne:**

**Legislative – Clifford Smith:**

**The American Legion Washington Conference will be held March 1-3, 2010**

Legislative Priorities we will be addressing with lawmakers

**LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY SHEET**

**VA Appropriations for FY 2011** -- The American Legion agrees with the majority of the funding levels proposed for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) within the President's budget request of \$125 billion in FY 2011, as they are consistent with the recommendations offered by National Commander Clarence Hill before a joint session of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs. With the enactment of Public Law 111-81, advance appropriations for VA medical accounts are now included in the budget request.

**VA Claims and Adjudication Process** -- The American Legion intends to continue working with VA to improve the timeliness and accuracy of VA disability claims. Congress has provided additional funding to hire and train more claims representatives and adjudicators in order to aggressively meet the challenging claims backlog. The American Legion believes quality initial training of new hires, continuing education of qualified adjudicators, and retention of trained adjudicators are the key elements in achieving timely and accurate claims decisions. The American Legion feels that critical to the process is a renewed focus on credit for quality work rather than volume of work by adjudicators. Another critical component is making sure claims are properly developed before they are given to VA for a decision. This is an important role for our Department Service Officers when assisting veterans with their initial claims.

**Medicare Reimbursement for VA** -- The American Legion supports legislation to authorize VA to collect third-party reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the treatment of allowable, nonservice-connected medical conditions of enrolled Medicare-eligible veterans within VA medical facilities. VA is a national integrated health care delivery system authorized to

collect third-party reimbursements from private health insurers, to include Medicare supplemental coverage, for veterans receiving treatment in VA medical facilities. Medicare is a Federally-mandated, public health insurance program. Unlike the Department of Defense (DoD) Medical System and Indian Health Services, VA is prohibited from collecting reimbursements from CMS. In essence, scarce discretionary appropriations are being expended by VA to provide timely access to quality health care for Medicare-eligible veterans without receiving any reimbursement from the nation's largest health care insurer.

**Enhancements for the Post-911 GI Bill Educational Benefits** - The American Legion supports legislation to expand the benefits of this landmark legislation to include those veterans opting for vocational education, rather than attending a public or private institute of higher education, with appropriate financial assistance to achieve their employment goals. Not all veterans want to attend college; however, they do want to obtain marketable job skill sets that require extensive vocational training. The American Legion supports providing these veterans with tuition, housing allowance and annual book-stipend to cover the cost of vocational training.

**Repeal of the Disabled Veterans' Tax (Concurrent Receipt)** - The American Legion supports a complete repeal of the Disabled Veterans' Tax. Service-connected disabled military retirees should not have their retiree pay offset, dollar-for-dollar, by their VA disability compensation.

**Repeal of the Military Widows' Tax (Survivors Benefit Program Offset)** - The American Legion supports legislation to repeal this current injustice that offsets a military retiree's surviving spouse's monthly annuity payment by the amount, dollar-for-dollar, of VA's awarded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to surviving spouses of service-connected disabled veterans who died due to their service-connected medical condition(s). The Survivors Benefit Program (SBP) is an optional annuity insurance program available to military retirees because when military retirees die, their retiree pay is terminated. Military retirees, who opt to participate in SBP, make monthly payments in order to participate in this annuity program. This personal financial investment should not be offset by a Federal benefit awarded to the survivors of service-connected disabled veterans.

**VETS Appropriations for FY 2011** - The American Legion supports increased funding for programs administered by the Department of Labor's Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Services (VETS) to better serve veterans facing unemployment or underemployment. Meaningful employment is the key to fulfilling the American dream and the eradication of homelessness within the veterans' community. The American Legion strongly recommends congressional oversight hearings to evaluate the achievements and shortcomings of VETS.

**Fully Fund and Increase the Size of the Armed Forces** -- The American Legion recognizes that a strain exists on many service members in the Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, as well as on their equipment and training needs, which is caused by the continuing overseas contingencies conducted against global terrorism. The American Legion urges Congress to fully fund the Armed Forces; to reset units with new equipment and replacement parts; and to provide training for specific skills that are required for critical mission performance across the full spectrum of conflict. The American Legion urges an increase in military personnel end strengths to levels that reduce the frequency of deployments on service members, to reduce the stress on service members and their families, and to reduce the risk to national security that results from conventional warfare missions being relegated to a lower priority for training, planning and resourcing purposes.

**Quality of Life for Service Members, Military Retirees and their Military Families** -- The American Legion supports recent initiatives and funding provided to improve military quality of life for the All Volunteer Armed Forces. The American Legion urges Congress to provide full funding for:

- achieving civilian equivalency in military salaries,
- quality military health care,
- TRICARE and TRICARE for Life without fee increases,
- quality military housing on well maintained military installations,
- wounded warrior care,
- effective transition assistance programs,
- the Military Family Readiness program, and
- fairness and timeliness in the DoD Disability Evaluation System.

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – John Gurry:**

**Fundraiser – Milton Lashus:**

The drawing for the 150 Club was made. Winners were as follows:

#21 David Johnson (S435), #24 Joseph Dowdall (P106), #55 Mark Mc Cue (S443),  
#58 Mark Mc Cue (S443), #41 Mark Mc Cue (S443).

**Membership – Tom Wigmore:**

As of 02/27/10 we are at 75.24 %. The next two membership target dates are March 10 for 80% and April 14 for 90%. On April 23, 2010 the 3<sup>rd</sup> post card mailing for those who have not renewed is slated to be mailed. May 1, 2010 is the cutoff dates for all preprinted cards for the 2001 membership rosters. These dates are very important and we hope to have everyone with a correct pre printed card next year. I am encouraging all Department Officers and Detachment Officers to contact the Squadrons in their area and ask them to send in any dues they may have.

**Information Technology – Mark McCue:**

We marked our first anniversary of the web site. There is a lot of information on the site however, some of it is starting to get stagnate. I encourage all Officers and Chairman and Squadrons to send in new information to update the site. The IT Committee's goal is to create a tool that will assist you in performing your duties more efficiently and to provide our Squadrons with information they are looking for. The only way that is possible is with your help and your input. We need everyone to let your contacts know about [www.salma.org](http://www.salma.org).

**Convention – Clifford Hall:**

Adjutant Smith stated that there are 20 rooms blocked at the Governor Bradford Hotel for the Sons of The American Legion. You must go through the Legion housing Chairman for these rooms. You must also have at least a two day stay. Our convention will start on Friday June 4 at 1:00 PM and run through Saturday June 5. It is suggested to get rooms for Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday June 4<sup>th</sup> so you can attend all the events at the convention for the S.A.L.

AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of Massachusetts  
2010 CONVENTION  
Hotel Reservation Form

**Rooms will ONLY be reserved through the Housing Chairman**

**Changes will ONLY be processed through the Housing Chairman**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor Bradford  
Water St  
Plymouth Ma 02360

TWO-night minimum stay required. Room rate: \$110.58 per night, including tax

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5
_____	_____	_____	_____

***ALL rooms are NON-smoking. (cleaning fee is \$250)***

2 beds \_\_\_\_\_ 1 bed \_\_\_\_\_ H/C accessible \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Deposits are credited to the final night of your stay. No Show's will be charged one night and remainder of reservation will be cancelled.

Check \_\_\_\_\_ A one night deposit must accompany this form.

Credit card: type \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Ken Holmes, Housing Chairman  
30 Lady Slipper Dr.  
Plymouth, MA 02360-3582  
e-mail: holmeskth1620@aol.com

Cut off date:  
May 1, 2010

**Training & Education – Clifford Smith / Brian O’Hearne:**

**Department Advisor Report – Leslie McKittrick:**

**Gift Committee – Clifford Hall:**

A motion was made by Carl Rossi and seconded Mark McCue to accept all Committee Reports as one’s in progress. Motion carried.

**SICK CALL & RELIEF:** None at this time

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion was brought up about purchasing Detachment Golf Type shirts. There is a vendor who has been researched that we can get a high quality shirt for \$30.00 a piece. They will be maroon in color have the S.A.L. Logo and Detachment of Massachusetts around the logo. We are trying to see how many people will be interested in buying these shirts. If you send me an e-mail that you are interested and enough interest is generated then we will go ahead and make an order for future sales.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion was made by Tom Wigmore and seconded by Carl Rossi to expend up to \$100.00 to purchase a banner with the Detachment Web Address on it. This will be displayed at the convention and all official meetings. Motion carried. We have eight people going to the Eastern Region meeting in New Hampshire and a motion by Mark McCue and seconded by Rich Smalley was made to cover the hotels rooms and banquets cots of the attendees. This expense will come from budget line items. Motion carried. Motion made by Thomas Wigmore and seconded by Carl Rossi to expend \$445.00 for Commander Johnson to attend the National Management Institute in Indianapolis during the spring N.E.C. meeting. Motion carried. Funds to come from the Commanders budget line item.

During the meeting a booster sheet for the National Commanders Testimonial was passed around. We encourage every Squadron to make a copy of this form and make a donation showing your support of the visit of the National Commander of The American Legion.

We also discussed the testimonial banquet honoring Detachment Commander Dave Johnson to be held on May 15, 2010 at Vernon Hill Post 435 in Worcester. (See Poster Below). We are asking that you bring this up at your Squadron meeting and display this poster at you Post home for all to see. Motion was made by Carl Rossi and seconded by Tom Wigmore to give Commander Johnson a gift of \$500.00 at the banquet. Motion carried.



# NATIONAL COMMANDER'S TESTIMONIAL

BEST WESTERN ROYAL PLAZA  
181 BOSTON POST RD  
MARLBORO MA 01752  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

**PLEASE PRINT**

**DEADLINE FOR BOOSTERS**

**MARCH 31, 2010**

POST # \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:

DEPT OF MA, AMERICAN LEGION  
MARK CHECKS "BOOSTERS ONLY"

\$1.00 PER PERSON

\$2.00 MR & MRS

**P L E A S E P R I N T**

1. _____	21. _____
2. _____	22. _____
3. _____	23. _____
4. _____	24. _____
5. _____	25. _____
6. _____	26. _____
7. _____	27. _____
8. _____	28. _____
9. _____	29. _____
10. _____	30. _____
11. _____	31. _____
12. _____	32. _____
13. _____	33. _____
14. _____	34. _____
15. _____	35. _____
16. _____	36. _____
17. _____	37. _____
18. _____	38. _____
19. _____	39. _____
20. _____	40. _____

**SEND ALL BOOSTERS AND CHECKS TO THE DEPARTMENT BOOSTER CHAIRMAN:  
ANTHONY J. BICCHIERI, JR. - PNEC, PDC  
84 ABINGTON AVENUE  
HOLBROOK, MA. 02343  
781-767-2623**



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TESTIMONIAL BANQUET HONORING  
COMMANDER DAVID L. JOHNSON, JR**

**VERNON HILL POST 435  
267 PROVIDENCE STREET  
WORCESTER, MA 01607  
SATURDAY - MAY 15, 2010**

**SOCIAL HOUR  
3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

**DINNER  
4:00 P.M.**

**BUFFET STYLE**

**HAM & TURKEY  
GARDEN SALAD - IRISH BAKED POTATOES  
SEASONAL VEGETABLES - ROLLS & BUTTER  
DESSERTS - COFFEE & TEA**

***\$20.00 PER PERSON***

**TICKETS**

**CHAIRMAN – LINDA JACEVICIUS - PHONE (508) 335-0513  
CO-CHAIRMAN – CLIFFORD A. SMITH – PHONE (508)-261-1629  
E-MAIL: CLIFF106@JUNO.COM  
CO- CHAIRMAN - THOMAS WIGMORE – PHONE (617) 697-2276  
E-MAIL: WIGGY3604@AOL.COM**

**FOR TICKETS CONTACT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**VERNON HILL S.A.L. SQUADRON 435**

***PLEASE DO NOT CALL POST 435 FOR TICKETS.***

**CUTOFF DATE FOR TICKETS – MAY 8, 2010**

**NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT DOOR**

**BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:**

Commander Johnson presented Carl Rossi and Clifford Smith a picture of them placing a wreath at the Viet Nam Wall in honor of Daniel Dabreau who was from Sharon Ma. Tom Wigmore stated that Squadron 118 will once again be hosting the Healing Field and a formal ceremony will take place on May 28, 2010. Ray Samko noted that Commander Johnson, Rich Smalley and John Brown helped at a

table The American Legion had set up at the Pre-Mobilization Ceremony held at the DCU in Worcester. During that time 72 members were signed up for The American Legion.

Commander Johnson called upon Acting Chaplain John Brown for a closing prayer.

With no further business to come before the meeting Commander Johnson called upon Sgt-At Arms Richard Smalley to render a right hand salute to the flag of our country.

Commander Johnson now declared the meeting adjourned at 12;51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Clifford A. Smith*

Clifford A. Smith

Detachment Adjutant