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# Harry N. Cutting

## Post 59 American Legion Family

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Waterbury, Vermont

August, September, October 2016

### COMMANDER

Hi Folks,  
I will be your Commander for  
2016-2017 calendar year. I will  
do my best for you.

I would like you to know we  
have a great slate of officers:

Commander, David Dow  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice,  
Alonzo Perry (Bummy)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Michael Freedom  
Finance Officer, Gary Cromie  
Adjutant, Chris Wood  
Service Officer, Sam Miller  
Sergeant-at-Arms,  
Charles Allen (Butch)  
Members at Large, Executive  
Committee:  
Scott Woodard,  
Lester Ayers (Historian),  
Ted Carminate (Chaplin)

All we need for a great year is  
your support. I'm a little rusty  
when it comes to the newsletter,  
so please bear with me.

Hope everyone had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of  
July and a safe one. Last year  
Post 59 had a pretty good year  
thanks to all our volunteer  
workers and our officers.

This year our Legion dues are  
going up to \$40 in July. It's  
beyond our control.



Before I forget, I would like to  
thank Commander Rick Gray  
for his dedication to Post 59 and  
his two years as  
Department Commander.  
Thanks Commander Rick!

Some events coming up:  
August 12th Blood Drive  
10 to 3, Post 59

September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Steak and Lobster Feed  
September 24<sup>th</sup>

Trip Extravaganza SAL  
October 1<sup>st</sup> Veterans Expo  
October 8<sup>th</sup> Fashion Show  
October 7th Blood Drive  
10 to 3

October 14<sup>th</sup> Hockey Calcutta  
October 21<sup>st</sup>  
Senior Center Dinner  
October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Kid's Halloween Party

I'm sure I forgot something.  
I would like to thank  
everyone that keeps Post 59  
going. What I missed in this  
letter, my friend Chris Wood  
will pick up. Chris is an  
excellent Adjutant!

For God and Country,  
Commander David Dow

### ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Summer is in full swing, and so  
are activities at your Legion!  
The summer convention, Post  
picnic, and the start of the 2017  
membership drive are just a few  
of the happenings going on at

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For God, Country and our Veterans

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Adjutant's Notes Continued...

this time of year. Our incoming Commander Dave Dow is off and running, and our outgoing Commander Rick Gray is getting some R&R. Thank you Rick, for a great year and your leadership.

If you have comments or suggestions for what you would like to see going on at your legion, then you can always join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. E-mail your suggestion to Chris Wood at [alpost59@comcast.net](mailto:alpost59@comcast.net).

The membership drive for 2016 came to a close on July first, and a huge thank you to all those that paid your 2016 dues before the deadline. Anyone paying their dues from this point forward will get a 2017 card unless you specifically ask me to renew you for 2016, so that you can keep your continuous years. You have until December to renew for 2016 and not lose your continuous years. We had 24 members renew online for 2016 which is phenomenal, and I challenge you all to double this figure for 2017! We ended up with 146 paid regular members, 65 HLMs paid for by the Post, and 10 PUFL members for a total of 221 which put us at 83% towards our goal of 265 for the year. Thank you for keeping our Post going strong. New members helped offset the ones that transferred out, so tell your veteran friends about our Post so that we can see this number grow for 2017.

We had two high school juniors attend an intensive law enforcement camp in June

Legion members can go to this website to see what a ***Paid Up For Life*** membership (PUFL) would cost.

The main benefit is never having to think about your dues ever again, even if you transfer to another post.

<http://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

funded by Post 59, and we received a letter from a very proud mom thanking the Legion family for our support of her son. This is your dues at work making a difference in our community, and we all have much to be proud of as we support these young future leaders. Please consider encouraging your sons/daughters/grandchildren to apply for Boys/Girls State for next year, as this is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. Students can still register for a Post 59 spot at Green Mountain Conservation Camp, which provides wildlife education and outdoor skills. These programs require that you, Legion Members, nominate your children/grandchildren to participate in the programs while the Post foots the bill.

Reminder that the dues for 2017 are \$40 with \$35 going to Department and National, and \$5 staying at the post. To renew online visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on the renew button. You can use a

credit or debit card to pay your dues from your home, and this updates the national site instantly. I will send you your card as soon as I am notified that you have paid your dues. If you haven't done so, then please sign up for our electronic version of this newsletter by sending an email to [legionpost59vt@googlegroups.com](mailto:legionpost59vt@googlegroups.com) or *me at my e-mail below*. Things can change fast, and we don't want you to miss anything going on at your *Post!* See you there.

Chris Wood, Adjutant  
[chriswood0869@gmail.com](mailto:chriswood0869@gmail.com)

## LEGION RIDERS

Summer is here, and the riding season is in full swing. It was a busy spring, and the Legion Riders have put some miles on their bikes as they traveled around for various events. Memorial Day found yours truly riding in Vermont Thunder to honor Vietnam Vets while a couple of riders participated in Rolling Thunder in Washington DC with a million other riders. Four of us rode down to Rutland to participate in the convention ride-in which traveled from Rutland up to Killington Resort to open up the summer convention. The great weather promises to make for many more opportunities this summer.

There are many upcoming events, so join us at a meeting or just get yourself put on the text list for rides. Interested in becoming a Legion Rider? Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 6

pm just before Post meetings, and rides are usually on Sundays. We focus on safe riding practices and comradery and not on long distances or extended trips. The more members we have, the more we can do for local programs and the veterans that benefit from these programs. In closing, I would like to dedicate this article to the memory of Mike Wood, Vice President of the Legion Riders Group of Post 59 and my Dad. He is sorely missed.

If you would like to be a member of the Legion Riders Group, then contact me at 802-793-4904, e-mail [chriswood0869@gmail.com](mailto:chriswood0869@gmail.com), or visit us at Post 59.

Chris Wood, President  
Legion Riders  
[chriswood0869@gmail.com](mailto:chriswood0869@gmail.com)

## SERVICE OFFICER

### **Dying Veteran Emotional Last Request And the VA Team that made it happen.**

*By Steve Goetsch, Public Affairs Specialist, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio*  
*Edited because of space restrictions here. For the full story, go to:*  
[http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2016/July/Dying\\_Veteran\\_Emotional\\_Last\\_Request.asp#sthash.whNd0bgc.30X0L3Nh.dpuf](http://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2016/July/Dying_Veteran_Emotional_Last_Request.asp#sthash.whNd0bgc.30X0L3Nh.dpuf)

Gonzalez was a member of the 25th Infantry, and on one mission, was selected to be on point during a patrol. What he didn't know was they were walking into an ambush of North Vietnamese soldiers lying in wait. Gonzalez took the brunt of fire, being hit three times:

through both lungs, a bullet hitting and shattering his leg below the knee, and the last striking his abdomen, fragmenting and hitting his spine, creating the shrapnel that led to his paralysis.

He described his wounds with a little sense of humor. "I had holes all over my body, but I made it," he said, grinning while describing the horrendous attack.

The fighting was so intense, they transported him a few miles away to a landing zone (LZ) to be medevac'd. "Every time the chopper lifted off, my blood pressure dropped rapidly," Gonzalez explained. He said they did this numerous times before they flew him out of the hot zone.

Out of his original 14-man squad, Gonzalez was one of only three that had survived. The fellow soldiers he left behind left an imprint on his memory, even 45 years after he returned home. "I saw a lot of bad things over there," he murmured. "I saw a lot of dead people."

### **One of the first patients at Audie Murphy Hospital**

Gonzalez finally came back to the U.S. in 1970, spending the remainder of the year rehabilitating until he could be safely moved. He rehabilitated for 18 months until he finally got back to Premont, Tex. He needed continuous care, and the only availability was a hospital in Houston and returns to Memphis for his specialty care. All of that changed when Gonzalez could be seen at the

newly-established Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital dedicated in November 1973. The new hospital was more convenient and he became one of its very first patients.

### **Ranch in the family since 1800s**

Besides being hospitalized in 1975 for kidney issues, Rosario said Gonzalez was rather healthy, working the 20,000 acre ranch near Premont that has been in the family since the late 1800's.

When Gonzalez fell ill again in 2015, they transported him to a hospital in Corpus Christi, but were delighted that they would be returning to Audie Murphy. "There are some really good nurses in this ward," Rosario said of the spinal cord unit.

Rosario, his wife of 40 years, was a fixture on the ward, staying nearby. His mother, Elodia, who might have been responsible for her son's resiliency, came up frequently, despite being 3 hours from the hospital. "His mom is 92," Rosario exclaimed. "She is a feisty lady, and she is something else."

Does resilience come with spending four decades in a wheelchair, refusing to give up, or is it bolstered by the 10 supportive siblings that help with the ranch? Whatever the case may be, one of the things that kept Gonzalez going were his horses.

### **Wanted to be on the ranch...with his horses**

There was only one place Gonzalez wanted to be...back

on the ranch, with his horses. His face lit up when he talked about them. He missed his ranch and getting into his “big truck” every morning and doing what he did for decades, with his father and grandfather by his side.

The Gonzalez family was holding down the ranch, awaiting his return. “They keep us informed,” Rosario said, speaking of the many nieces and nephews that stepped up in Gonzalez’s absence.

This most recent visit to Audie VA Hospital was taking a toll on Gonzalez. He was tired. “He was very independent, it’s just recently that his body has worn down,” Rosario said.

Gonzalez began losing his battle. He had liver problems, and his kidneys began to shut down. The time came when the staff began to prepare the family. If Gonzalez couldn’t get to the ranch, the Gonzalez family wanted to bring the ranch to him. There were two horses that were favorites of Gonzalez: Sugar and Ringo, but bringing them into a hospital would take some planning.

Dr. Seth Chandler, chief of Audie’s Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) unit, with Nurse Manager Louis Nwojo and their team, consulted with the family and worked out the logistics. The team brought the bed out to the parking lot and the two waiting equine friends to say goodbye. Surrounded by Rosario and his family, the horses gently greeted Gonzalez in a quiet, somber gathering. He passed away just two days later.

Gonzalez leaves quite a legacy; Vietnam Veteran, Silver and Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient, faithful husband of 40 years, the only Texas paraplegic horse trainer, Veteran of the Month and patriarch of one of the biggest, most supportive families you could ever meet ...Roberto Gonzalez was not a casualty of war.

For God and Country,  
Sam Miller, Service Officer  
Telephone: (802) 244-1484  
[LSamMiller1@gmail.com](mailto:LSamMiller1@gmail.com)

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

Your Post will host the following blood drives: Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>. All drives are from 10 AM – 3 PM. Post 59 will continue holding blood drives throughout 2016. Someone you know has or will need blood in a life-threatening situation.

Thanks for all the support,  
Gene Sweetser, Post 59  
Red Cross Blood Coordinator

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

*Hello Squadron and Post 59 Family. It's August – WOW!!*

We’re into our current year/session as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. As we close “last year” and move forward into the 2016/2017 session let’s look at some quick highlights.

*We asked and we received!*

## **STEAK & LOBSTER FEED**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

Contact the Post for times and tickets! 244-8144

A couple of new officers this year to help us drive our programs to benefit Veterans, Youth, and Community.

### **Our SAL 2016 – 2017 Officers**

Commander – Tom Burrows

1<sup>st</sup> Vice –

David “Road” Lowell

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Pete O’Brien

Adjutant – Bill Kernan

Finance Officer – Bill Kernan

Sergeant At Arms – Paul West

Chaplain –

David “Wilbur” Wright

Historian –

Michael F. Woodard

Advisor – Gary Cromie

Please welcome Peter O’Brien and Michael F. Woodard, and congratulations to your elected positions. To the incumbents – great year, welcome back, and thank you for your commitment.

I would like to share with you a proud moment for our Adjutant and Finance Officer – Bill Kernan. Between raising chickens, loving his family, & building pumpkin tossing launchers – Bill not only volunteers for the Sons of the American Legion, he too for years has volunteered as a Waterbury Rotarian. This year our friend and SAL Officer Bill

has been recognized and awarded The Waterbury Rotarian of the Year! *Way to go Bill!!*

As we adjust to year-ends and year-starts we adjust to change. Change in seasons, change in officers, life changes. A short-term change for a couple of months will be the absence of our SAL Chaplain David "Wilbur" Wright. For all of you who know Wilbur, he's about to Venture on a lifelong yearning to the west coast of this nation and back. His van is

packed, he's got his maps, and should be somewhere mid-road trip at the time of this printing. So when you hit the Post and ask "where's Wilbur," we'll be able to share in a bit of his country tour. How you may ask? He got his first cell phone!

His intentions are high -- including seeing a 24" potato chip. And guess where? Yup, in Idaho! **J** Wilbur will be armed with our Post 59 license plates and intends to stop at posts during his trip spreading Goodwill and Cheer. Are you too traveling? Grab a couple of plates and swap them for plates at other posts.

A call out and thank you on behalf of the Post for the Sons, Auxiliary, and Legionnaires that flew our colors and led the Independence Day Parade representing the American Legion, Our Post, Our Community and Our Country!

We are always and currently looking for more participants for the Post Color Guard & Honor Guard (*Firing Squad*). Please

don't hesitate to ask to learn and participate -- Junior members as well. Call the Post or come in and speak with "Butch" Allen or Tom Burrows.

So did you see the parade this year? A great turnout and rolling down Main Street was the Waterbury Babe Ruth Team and manager Brian Delphia.

## POST 59 BLOOD DRIVES

Friday August 12<sup>th</sup>  
Friday October 7<sup>th</sup>  
From 10:00 to 3:00

As a Post we are proud supporters of the team and its impact has been clearly seen in the last few years as supporting and feeding our Harwood High School Boys Baseball. Great work to the team and we thank you for displaying Post 59 and the SAL as team sponsors! Play Ball!

Membership - soon mailings will go out for 2017 memberships. Some members have not renewed 2016. For those who have continuous years of membership, all years have to be paid or your continuous years on your card will revert back to 1 year on the next year you pay.

Remember the Legion's year goes from July this year through end of June next year. So mailings will now go out for 2017 membership. If you are a current paid 2016 member your membership will be good through the last day of this year December 31<sup>st</sup>. As of January

1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, a paid 2017 membership is required!!

- You need 2016 membership paid for now to be valid through 12/31/2016.
- 2017 membership renewal letters going out for 2017 renewals because it is now the "new" year in the American Legions Fiscal year.
- \$22 per year for SAL members,
- \$10 for SAL Juniors and Dual members (both a son and a legionnaire)

Wrapping it up -- key events to enjoy and support:

9/10 -- Steak & Lobster feed at The Post.

9/24 -- here it is . . . The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Son's of the American Legion Squadron 59, "Vacation Get-A-Way" Raffle a.k.a Our Redneck Extravaganza!

HAPPY SUMMER EVEYONE!  
Looking forward to seeing you at our Post and at our Post events!

For God, Country, our Veterans, and Community!  
Bless Us All.  
The Sons of Post 59 ~  
Tom Burrows, Squadron Commander

## AUXILIARY

Hello Ladies,  
First, I want to thank all who helped with the poppies during Poppy Days in May -- Phyllis Grout, Madeline Wright, Mary Grace, Lillian Perry, Marana Allen, Etola & Jim Salmon, and a special thank you to Past Commander Donny Gile. We collected \$1,016.

We installed officers in June:  
 President Wanda Woodard  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lillian Perry  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cheryl Dow  
 Chaplain Betty Jones  
 Sergeant At Arms Marana Allen  
 Treasurer & Historian,  
 Loleta Perry  
 Secretary Arlis Fuglie  
 Executive Committee: Shirley  
 Dow, Mary Grace and Terri-  
 Ann Christie

At the State Convention Loleta  
 Perry was elected Department  
 Historian and is also Public  
 Relations Chairman. Terri  
 Christie is on the Department  
 Finance Committee.

We also accepted the following  
 awards at the Convention:  
 Merle McDermott Public  
 Relations Trophy

**9th Annual SAL Squadron 59  
 Vacation Get-A-Way Raffle**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Pick your Destination  
 "All Inclusive Trip"**

Package Value \$4000 OR Cash-  
 out of \$3500

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$300 Cash**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$200 Cash**

\$40 to per ticket / Admits 2 /

**Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 – Drawing c. 8:30

With The John Lackard Band,  
 Great Food, 50/50 raffle,  
 & Come "Dressed" in your  
**REDNECK** Attire and Win a  
 Prize!

"For our Veteran & Children & Youth  
 Programs" Still Serving America

Pat Petty Past President Award  
 honoring Bella Freedom

Alice Boardman History Award  
 Lynn Barnes Department  
 Chairman's Year End Report  
 (to Loleta Perry)

Our Post Color Guard led the  
 way for the Waterbury NQID  
 parade – Butch Allen, Paul  
 West, Wanda Woodard, Jim  
 Salmon, Marana Allen, Lester  
 Aires – with the help of  
 Commander David Dow.

Remember you're welcome to  
 join us at our meetings on the  
 second Wednesday every month  
 at 7:00pm.

Hope you all have a wonderful  
 rest of the summer!

For God and Country,  
 Wanda Woodard, President  
 Unit 59

**POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**OCTOBER 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <b>Veterans Expo</b>
2 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	3	4 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	5	6 Texas Hold'em 7:00	7 <b>Blood Drive</b> 10:00-3:00	8 <b>Fashion Show</b>
9	10 <i>Columbus Day</i>	11 <i>Yom Kippur</i> Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	12 Legion Riders 6:00 Legion & Auxiliary 7:00	13 Texas Hold'em 7:00	14 <b>Hockey Calcutta</b>	15
16	17	18 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	19	20 Texas Hold'em 7:00	21 <b>Senior Center Dinner</b>	22
23	24	25 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	26 E-Board Meeting 6:30	27 Texas Hold'em 7:00	28	29
30	31 <i>Halloween Kid's Halloween Party</i>					

## POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	3	4  Texas Hold'em 7:00	5	6
7	8	9 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	10 Legion Riders 6:00  Legion & Auxiliary 7:00	11 Texas Hold'em 7:00	12 <b>Blood Drive</b> 10:00-3:00	13
14	15	16 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	17	18 Texas Hold'em 7:00	19	20
21	22	23 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	24 E-Board Meeting 6:30	25 Texas Hold'em 7:00	26	27
28	29	30 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	31			

### SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Texas Hold'em 7:00	2	3
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	7 Legion Riders 6:00  Legion & Auxiliary 7:00	8 Texas Hold'em 7:00	9	10 <b>Steak &amp; Lobster Feed</b>
11	12	13 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	14	15 Texas Hold'em 7:00	16	17
18	19	20 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	21 E-Board Meeting 6:30	22 Texas Hold'em 7:00	23	24 <b>SAL Trip Extravaganza</b> 6:30
25	26	27 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	28	29 Texas Hold'em 7:00	30	

Check with the Post (244-8144) [alpost59@comcast.net](mailto:alpost59@comcast.net) or the website (<http://www.alpost59vt.us>) for more information.

American Legion Post #59  
P.O. Box 417  
Waterbury, VT 05676

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PERMIT NO. 4

## Fall Bus Trip to Gettysburg Battle Field with Howard Coffin

Monday 10 Oct 2016 – Thursday 13 Oct 2016  
All Veterans and Family Welcome



Howard Coffin is the author of *Nine Months to Gettysburg*, *Stannard's Vermonters* and *The Repulse of Pickett's Charge*. He has led tours of the battlefield for 25 years and spoke at the National Battlefield Park Visitors Center on the 125th, 150th, and 151st anniversaries of the battle. For more information about Howard Coffin: <http://howardcoffin-civilwar.com>

**Package Prices** below cover Howard Coffin's historical account of Vermont Brigade Action and much more plus bus travel. Meals and lodging are **not** included in the package. Hotel reservation information will be sent by e-mail to those who express an interest in the trip.

We need 53 confirmed reservations by e-mail no later than 20 Aug 2016. If trip is canceled due to insufficient reservations, you will be refunded your full payment. To express interest or with questions, please E-Mail: [LSamMiller1@gmail.com](mailto:LSamMiller1@gmail.com)

**Early Bird Discount:** Payments of \$240 per person required to Post 59 no later than 20 Aug 2016.

**Regular Rate:** Payment of \$260 per person required to Post 59 no later than 1 Sep 2016.

**Payment Options:** Non-Refundable- PayPal, Check or Cash to American Legion Post 59, PO Box 417, 16 Stowe St., Waterbury, VT 05676

Substitutes Are Acceptable if Unable to Attend.

**Please pass this invitation on to a fellow veteran or family member.**