



Detachment of Virginia FOCUS



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National Children and Youth Commission Member enters Polar Plunge



Squadron 364 Holds First Initiation Ceremony

National Children and Youth Commission Member and Virginia Past Detachment Commander, Linwood Moore entered a recent Polar Plunge. The Plunge set new records this year. There were over 3,000 plungers to participate and we raised over ONE MILLION DOLLARS this year. I had pledges of almost one thousand dollars with me from fellow workers and from Post #284 Legion Family. The weather wasn't helping a lot with a cold rain and some sleet. The temperature was 38 degrees and water temperature was around 39 degrees.

On January 29, Squadron 364 in Woodbridge held its first ever initiation in the history of its squadron. Over 15 of its members were initiated as members of the Sons Of The American Legion. Detachment Commander Chip Byers and Detachment Vice Commander, AD Carter led the ceremony. Preparations for the ceremony began several months prior and was being organized by Past Detachment Commander, Matt Peters who passed away suddenly in January.

This was an amazing event to be apart of with all of the plungers and the over 17,000 spectators watching.

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Commander's Corner

A tale of four "sons".

As I contemplate the year so far, I have been amazed by the contributions and achievements of our members. Virginia Sons have been involved in so many activities and programs and have demonstrated a true dedication to service to community, state and nation. (From our Preamble in which we say that one of our purposes is “to inculcate a sense of devotion to community, state and nation!!)

The first Son who exemplifies this is Past Detachment Commander Matt Peters of the Woodbridge Squadron.364 Matt served his squadron and the detachment for many years in many capacities. He was involved in planning of a ceremony of initiation for the Squadron when he was suddenly and unexpectedly called to service in Squadron Everlasting by the Commander of us All. Adjutant Williams, Vice-Commander Carter, Chaplain Wilson and myself attended his memorial service. A week later, Adjutant Williams, Vice-Commander Carter and myself participated in the initiation ceremony at Squadron 364. The ceremony was dedicated to the memory of PDC Matt Peters and was very well attended. So, Commander Peters, may you Rest In Peace and continue in service to the S.A.L. In Squadron Everlasting. We were honored to have known you and you are an example to all of us.

The second Son who exemplifies this spirit is Travis J Alvarado from Squadron 24 in Alexandria. He exemplifies our goal of sanctifying our friendship by a devotion to mutual helpfulness. Post 24 in Alexandria along with the City of Alexandria sponsors an annual parade to celebrate the birthday of George Washington. The Department Legion Commander, Department Auxiliary President and Detachment S.A.L. Commander traditionally take part. From what I understand, most years the invitation to the Detachment Commander is extended quite early. For some reason, due to unknown circumstances, no invitation to the Detachment Commander had been made. Travis realized this and on the Friday morning before the parade on the following Monday morning, he went into action and took charge. He contacted me and made all the arrangements for my participation in the parade.

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Commander's Corner

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He was there when I arrived on Monday morning and made sure that I was kept aware of all information I needed to know. He was the consummate host. He arranged which car I was to ride in and made sure that the sign identifying the Detachment Commander was attached properly to the side. After the parade, he made sure that I was directed to the hospitality area for refreshments. Again, thank you Travis!! You made the day wonderful.

The third Son who exemplifies our ideals is Squadron 176 (Springfield) member Michael Phillip Dioquino who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Michael has been a member of the Squadron for many years and his achievement of Eagle exemplifies his service to our Post, Squadron and to the Springfield Community. He has brought great honor upon our squadron. We have other squadron members who are Eagle Scouts, but Michael was the first who was a member of the Squadron when he received this honor.

Finally, another Son who exemplifies the achievements of our Detachment members is Josh Underwood from Squadron 74 in Charlottesville. He has won the Northern Region Legion Oratorical Contest for three years in a row (which means he also won the Post 74 and District 13 contests for those years as well). He is competing for the Department championship here at the Virginia Beach conference. (He won the Department in 2009 and came in second in 2010). Good Luck Josh.

Young members like Michael and Josh are the future of our detachment and they are shining examples of our young people. With young gentlemen like them, I have great hope for our organization and our nation!!

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Commander's Corner

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I want to thank all the Squadrons who have invited me over the last several months and also to let other Squadrons know that I would love to come visit you!! (Special thanks to Squadron 327 and squadron commander Cliff Carney for their invitation to their Law and Order night. I was very well hosted and we had a wonderful time. Thanks also to NECman Jeff Evans and Detachment Historian Steve Gower for their hospitality that evening as well.) Finally, I want to thank Vice-Commanders Leonard Smith, Herbie Williams and A.D. Carter for all their hard work this year. They have made the load easier to carry. Thanks my brothers!! *Chip Byers – Detachment Commander*

Adjutant's Blog

Thanks to all of the Squadrons who turned in their Officers lists this year. Through all of your efforts, we were able to issue our first ever Detachment Directory. We hope that this will be useful information. The Consolidated Report Forms for this year will be available at the Spring Conference and will also be sent out to those squadrons that do not send a representative to the Spring Conference. National Commander Dew would like to have 50% reporting from all detachments. We need to have 35 to 40 Consolidated Reports turned in to meet this goal in the Detachment of Virginia. This is one way that we can toot our own horn. We don't get a lot of acknowledgement or appreciation for what we do. This gives us the chance to show 'who we are.'

Additionally, New Officers forms have been emailed out and will also be available at the Spring Conference. We added a Primary Point of Contact on the form this year. We would like for each Squadron to designate a Primary Point of Contact for us to keep all squadrons informed as to what is going on in the detachment. The Primary Point of Contact must be someone with an email address. The cost of postage and supplies continues to increase and we need to be able to e-mail correspondence, call letters, and other things out to each squadron.

Lastly, please send any articles for our e-letter, The Focus to Scott Williams at SonsVADetAdj@yahoo.com Thanks for all of your hard work this year!! Keep it up!!
Scott Williams – Detachment Adjutant

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Past Detachment Commander, Matt Peters

It is with deep sadness that we end this issue with news of the passing of Past Detachment Commander, Matt Peters of Squadron 364 in Woodbridge. Matt and his father were very instrumental in the early formation of the squadrons in the Detachment of Virginia. Matt was an integral member of Squadron 364 and the Post 364 family. Squadron 364 held the Memorial Service and Graveside Services for Past Detachment Commander Peters on January 22, 2011. The service was followed by a gathering back at the post of family and friends. Squadron 364 has raised over \$4,000 in scholarship funds in Matt's memory. They will be continuing to raise funds through various squadron events to ensure the continuity of the Scholarship Fund.

Upcoming Dates

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| Mar 20, 2011 | Washington Conference |
| June 4, 2011 | SAL/ALR 327 Poker Run |
| July 14-17, 2011 | State Convention, Roanoke, VA |
| Aug. 5 – 7, 2011 | Legion Leadership College, Richmond, VA |
| Aug 25-31, 2011 | American Legion Nat'l Convention-Minneapolis, MN |
| Oct 28-30, 2011 | Fall Conference, Hampton, VA |

Detachment Officers

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