



THE BUGLE CALL

A publication of Kelly Ingram Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 668



WWW.KELLYINGRAMVFW.COM

MAY, JUNE, 2011

2010-2011 Officers

Commander – Bucky Walter

Senior Vice – Gordon Hearn

Junior Vice – Tim Haney

Quartermaster – Mike Zarichnak

Chaplain – Roger Salter

Commander's Greeting

Bucky Walter, Commander



Veterans Day, a landmark of Birmingham for over 40 years, is at serious risk of becoming a thing of the past. Mr. Bill Voight, who has been in charge of the preparations for this most valued patriotic event in Birmingham for this long period of time, is stepping down. There are no words to express how much Bill has done for the event.

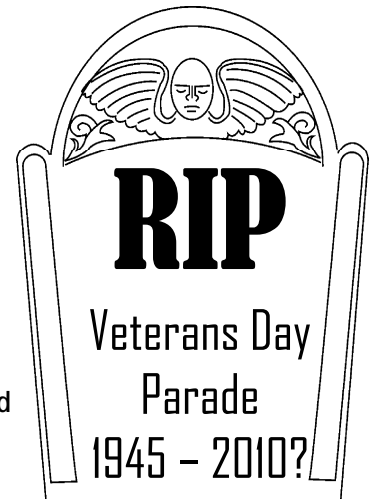
There does not seem to be anyone in sight that will assume these tremendous tasks of arranging luncheons, dinners, and the best parade in the United States on Veterans Day.

The fate of Veterans day is a continuation of the woes facing most veterans groups across the United States. Most of these groups were in their heyday immediately following World War II and played a tremendous role in assisting their fellow veterans back to a normal life. With the rapid depletion of the ranks of the WWII and Korean vets because of age and death, these mainstays of the VFWs, American Legions, DAVs and other older organizations are rapidly fading away.

Kelly Ingram Post 668 has had to consolidate the Ensley and Fairfield Posts into our Post in the past few years. Membership is steadily on the decline. The days of our organizations giving assistance to our fellow veterans, such as building ramps for the disabled and assisting them in other physical ways, are becoming a thing of the past. Our visits to the VA hospital become more rare. We are no longer able to perform these tasks because of the age and physical health of most of our active members. We have tried and continue to try to get our younger counterparts interested and active. We sometimes get them on board for a while, and then they get disinterested and wander off. Thankfully, some stick it out.

Kelly Ingram Post 668 and the VFW will continue to sponsor programs to assist veterans as long as we exist. Our mission remains "Veterans assisting veterans and their families."

We need your help. Sign up a combat veteran friend and get them interested in our activities. The need is NOW!



May History Notes

1871 – Naval Medical Corps established

1966 – Launch of Gemini 8

1942 – First German sub sank by naval air

1994 – Women assigned to combat ships

1947 – Ensign John Lee first Black Naval officer

2003 – Operation Iraqi Freedom Begins

Veterans Advocacy

Michele Pollock



I am so proud of our post for agreeing to host a "Veteran Information Event" on Friday, June 10th. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this event, it is our attempt to bring a large number of the veteran advocacy groups of the area into a single venue to share with each other and our veterans what services they offer. The amazing thing is that they all have the same basic goal - helping and supporting the veterans of Alabama. However; they all have different specialties so it is important to network. Some of these groups focus on supporting the troops who are deployed. Others are focused on recovery, counseling and medical needs. There are also a number of groups who help unemployed or homeless veterans. By knowing what each group does, they can work together to better address the needs of individual veterans. For example: if a veteran who has just lost their home were to approach a member of Soldier's Angels who supported them during their deployment; that member will know how to get in touch with Three Hots and a Cot or the National Pro-Bono Legal Program for Homeless Veterans.

It is my belief that when you bring a group of people together with the same basic goals, regardless of their background, you will create an environment that nurtures the friendship and goodwill necessary to create a positive exchange of ideas. Many of these organizations have been sending representatives to monthly planning meetings for the event since February. We have learned a lot from each other and created a great atmosphere of camaraderie. We have even discussed joint events for the future including a job fair, family fun day and even another banquet. It was decided in our very first meeting that we should have a place to exchange and share our ideas and events online. Veteran Advocates of Alabama was created for that purpose. I encourage you to check it out at www.vetadvocatesofal.webs.com. Keep an eye on the "Events" page. Hopefully, there will be many more opportunities in the future for us to come together and accomplish our goal - supporting veterans and their families.



This is a field just south on Hwy 75 south in Bellevue, Nebraska. A farmer does it with his tractor and not sure if he uses a plow or a disc. He uses GPS to get the letters readable. He has done this every fall for several years now. Here's the view from the flight pattern into OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, just south of Omaha. This is what our servicemen see when landing at Offutt AFB. Hat tip to the Bellevue farmer who made it happen!

From the Senior Vice

Gordon S. Hearn



Bucky's article reminded me of my father's fire and brimstone sermons I heard as a kid. I've had the pleasure of nominating nine guardsmen and women for membership this month, then I realized, "We'd better keep in touch with these folks and give them an incentive to get actively involved in the post!" If they don't, we'll have nobody to blame but ourselves. New members look wonderful on the national roles, but don't do Kelly Ingram a whole heck of a lot of good if these new members aren't welcomed and encouraged to become actively involved in our post.



Robert W. "Bobby" Lowery
U.S. Army

02 January 1937
22 April 2011

A faithful friend to the Post



Veterans Advocacy Groups Information Exchange

JUNE 10, 2011

PROGRAM

Silent Auction
4 o'clock - Meet & Greet
7 o'clock - Buffet Dinner
Following - Awards Presentation

PARTICIPANTS

Alabama Veterans Initiative
Dream Peace
3 Hots & a Cot
Soldiers' Angels
Blue Star Salute
Kelly Ingram VFW &
Ladies Auxiliary

AWARDS

Veteran of 2011
Veterans Advocate of 2011

Maximum seating - 250 guests.

Contact Michele Pellock (205) 218-2855 or mpollock@mindspring.com for passes.

Buck Jenkins Remembrance
Sunday, May 29, 1300
Forest Hill Cemetery



Wreath Laying Ceremony
Monday, May 30, 0900
National Cemetery, Montevallo



WEEKLY MUSICAL LINE-UP



Magic City Boppers

Wednesdays, 8pm
www.magiccityboppers.com
Call the post for dates



Birmingham Beach Shaggers

Tuesdays, 8pm www.beachshaggers.com
Call the post for dates



ARCHERS

Saturdays, 8pm



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Upcoming Events

- May 28 Installation of Officers
- May 29 Buck Jenkins
memorial service
- May 30 National Cemetery
wreath laying
- June 10 Veterans Advocacy
Information Exchange