



Kettering American Legion Post No. 598

5700 Kentshire Drive Kettering, OH 45440-4248 Phone: 937-433-9327

January/February 2024

The Commander's Corner...



Greetings everyone: Now that the holidays are over, we are looking forward to the new year. To start off I would like to thank all the people that donated to the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. We gave out 13 baskets for Thanksgiving and 12 for Christmas which fed over 150 individuals for the holidays. The Toys For Tots was a huge success this year! There were so many gifts donated from Post 598 which put us #1 in our area for donations. To everyone that donated you definitely put hundreds of smiles on young kids faces on Christmas morning and that, my friends, is worth more than anything I can say.

Due to the rising costs of everything, food, paper products, cleaning supplies etc. There may be some price increase this year on some of the products. Thanks for your understanding, and please continue to support your Legion home.

Here is a small overview of the post last year in 2023. We donated \$42,725.00 to charitable organizations. We donated \$16,242.00 to veteran sponsored free events. We spent for maintenance and repairs inside and outside the Post: \$76,425.00. Our utility bills combined, water, gas, electric, trash and telephone totaled \$45,312.00 for the year. I will give more updates as they become available in the next newsletter.

We could not be successful without you.

Happy New Year and God bless you.

Gavin Long
Commander

UNSUNG HEROES of 2023

An unsung hero is a person who has achieved great things or committed acts of bravery or self-sacrifice, yet is not celebrated or recognized. An unsung hero may be someone who acts bravely in battle without notice, or someone who sacrifices himself for the good of the group, without recognition.



Phil Stephenson is a Vietnam veteran and has been a member of Post 598 for 18 years. He has been Second Vice for 9 years. During these years he has done over 100 hospital visits at the Dayton VA.

Helping in organizing and distributing of the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets that were distributed to families in need. He has organized and volunteered with Post functions, runs errands and picks up and delivers anything that is needed. He maintains the cleanliness of the Post property, flowers and last but not least he was voted the #1 goose buster in Kettering! He proudly supports youth programs for the American Legion. He has attended many Veterans' ceremonies. He recently received the quilt of valor for dedication and service to the United States of America.

I would personally like to thank both of you for your service and dedication and your continuous support for Post 598, your community, State and Nation. The both of you have gone above and beyond your calls of duty for America. From your Post 598 family we can't thank you enough! Thank you and God bless you



Jim O'Neil is a Vietnam Era veteran, and has been a member of Post 598 and Sgt. at Arms for 21 years. This makes him the most senior officer of the Post. He has taught many people flag etiquette, proper folding, and proper

disposal of the American flag. Also presenting the folded flag to a member of a deceased veteran. He developed and has directed a combined Honor Guard for 21 years. Under his direction they have completed over 2000 events which include flag ceremonies, flag dedications, and veterans' funerals. One thing Jim has instilled into his group is that they will perform funeral ceremonies for any veteran, even if they are not a Post member. Saluting that veteran with a gun salute, playing of taps, folding of the flag, and presenting flag to the veteran's family.

Commander Gavin Long

From the Auxiliary...

A New Year, A Renewed Perspective: HERO Spotlight

As we usher in 2024, it's time to adopt a fresh perspective. Despite the challenges 2023 brought globally, nationally, and even within our own families, these tough times have been enlightening. There's always something positive on the other side of adversity. This year, let's focus on the incredible individuals at Post 598 and eagerly anticipate the promising future ahead. In each edition of this newsletter, we'll feature a different Post 598 HERO, celebrating those who make our community a better place.

Recognizing Unsung HEROES - When we think of "HERO," images of Superman or Wonder Woman might spring to mind. But what about the less-heralded heroes, the everyday people whose quiet but significant contributions enrich our lives? We want to hear about them. Please submit your HERO nominations via our Auxiliary website, [ALA598.org](http://ala598.org).

Gratitude to Our Auxiliary Board - During my three terms as Auxiliary President, I've been privileged to work with an extraordinary group of HEROES — our Auxiliary Board and their significant others. Their dedication has brought us remarkable growth and generosity. We are profoundly grateful for their time, energy, and talents. Exciting Updates: ALA598.org - Our new Auxiliary website is now live and fully operational. I encourage you to explore [ALA598.org](http://ala598.org) and familiarize yourself with its features. Starting in 2024, all Auxiliary-sponsored events, including dinners and children's parties, will require online reservations. This will help us plan more effectively, ensuring each event's success. While many events are free, any charges will be payable by cash or check at the door.

Embracing 2024: Discover the HERO Within

As we navigate through the chapters of 2024, take time to cherish life's small moments with family and friends. Remember, discovering your own courage, determination, and heart might just reveal the HERO inside you. A New Year, A Renewed Perspective. Erica Kubea, ALA 598 President

From the SAL...

Hello & Greetings Fellow Members. I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and happy New Year. The SAL donated \$2400 in Kroger gift cards for this past Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. We also donated \$500 to our 3rd District Commander for his Battle Buddies charity which gives veterans service dogs and a new hope and start in their life. We need our members' support to make this possible.

If you have not paid your 2024 dues, please do so so we can meet our yearly quota.

Look for our upcoming Fish Fry dinner on January 19 and our Jimmy Morris Broasted Pork Chop dinner on February 17. As always, we welcome our members to come to our meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We are also in need of new volunteers.

For those that served...

Doug Spisak, Commander, Squadron 598

From the Riders...

Legion Family: 2023 was a great year for the Riders! We had increased membership, increased our volunteering around the Post, donated \$12,000 to various charities and had a lot of fun doing so! We are already planning for a successful and fun 2024. If you are a motorcycle rider and would like to join us, we'd love to have you. If you aren't a rider and want to join us, you can still join as a support group member. Applications are by the front door and dues are \$12. If you are a current member, please pay your dues by the end of January, 2024. You can pay Jerry Zennie, Frank Burks, Crystal Hawkey, or Brett Hawkey (or put \$12 in an envelope and put it in the riders box behind the bar. Be sure your name is on it).

Congratulations to our new officers for 2024: Director Frank Burks, Asst. Director Brett Hawkey, Secretary Crystal Hawkey, Finance Officer Jerry Zennie, Road Captain Rocky Richardson, Sgt. at Arms Bill Whitaker and Chaplain Steve Rawlins. A special thanks to Thom Fowler for his leadership over the last six years and congratulations as he moves up to Riders Deputy Director for the State of Ohio.

Join us Jan 28 for the AFC championship game. We'll be running a Hot Dog and Nacho Bar again. All proceeds will go to charity. Thanks and God Bless. Frank Burks, ALR Post 598 Director

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January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day Key Cards will be Deactivated if 2024 dues aren't paid	2	3 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	4 Aux. Executive Board Meeting 6:30 pm Trivia with Nora 6:30 pm	5 Pork Tenderloin or Fish Sandwich 6-7:30 pm \$6.00 Jody & Billy 7-10 pm	6 District Bowling Tournament
7 Banquet Billy's Cabbage Rolls \$10 during Bengals/Browns game Reservations-ALA598.org	8 Regular Post Meeting 6:30 pm Aux. Bake Sale 6 pm National Championship 8 pm	9 SAL Meeting 6:30 pm Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	10 DAV Meeting 7 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	11 Aux. Regular Meeting 6:30 pm Bldg. Comm. Mtg. 6:30 pm	12 Pizza Night 6-8 pm \$15.00 Hearts on Fire 7-10 pm	13
14	15 Post Executive Meeting 6 pm	16 Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	17 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	18 Trivia with Nora 6:30 pm	19 SAL Fish Fry All You Can Eat \$15 Pre-sale tickets 6-7:30 pm	20 Guitars For Heroes Band 7-10 pm
21 Omelet Breakfast 10 am - Noon \$8.00	22	23 Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	24 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	25	26 Shrimp Dinner Baked Potato or Fries 6-7:30 pm \$10.00	27
28 Riders Nacho Bar & Hot Dogs 2-4:30 pm \$7 50/50	29 Planning Meeting 6:30 pm	30 Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	31 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	Lunch Served Every Monday-Friday 11:30-1:30		

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
King of Clubs Drawing Every Monday Nite 7:30				1 Aux. Exec. Board Meeting 6:30 pm Trivia with Nora 6:30 pm	2 Pork Tenderloin or Fish Sandwich 6-7:30 pm \$6.00 Free Jukebox 7-10pm	3
4	5 Regular Post Meeting 6:30 pm Aux. Bake Sale 6 pm	6 Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	7 Riders Meeting 6 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	8 Aux. Regular Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Pizza Night 6-8 pm \$15.00 Element 3 7-10 pm	10 Franco's Lasagna Dinner \$15 5-7pm Reservations-ALA598.org
11 Super Bowl Party 5 pm	12	13 SAL Meeting 6:30 pm Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	14 Valentine's Day DAV Meeting 7 pm Burger Nite 5-7 pm	15 Bldg. Comm. Meeting 6:30 pm Trivia with Nora 6:30 pm	16	17 Broasted Pork Chop Dinner \$12 5-7pm Presale
18	19 Post Executive Meeting 6 pm	20 Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	21 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	22	23 Shrimp Dinner Baked Potato or Fries 6-7:30 pm \$10.00	24
25 Pancake Breakfast 10-12 \$6 Cinderella 2 pm Lunch & Ballet \$15-Kids \$10 Reservations-ALA598.org	26	27 Blood Drive 12:30-6:30 pm Dinner Special Tacos \$6.00 5-6:45 pm	28 Burger Nite 5-7 pm	29	Buckets of Beer Specials Every Sunday	



**Kettering American Legion
Post 598, Inc.**

5700 Kentshire Dr.
Kettering, Ohio 45440-4248

Non-Profit
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**“STILL SERVING AMERICA”
The Veteran/The Community
The State/The Nation**

**POST 598 OFFICERS
2023-2024**

Post Officers

Commander	Gavin Long
1st Vice Commander	Joe Law
2nd Vice Commander	Phil Stephenson
Finance Officer	Ed Syron
Adjutant	Betsy Law
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jim O'Neil
Chaplain	Larry Thokey
Asst. Chaplain	Keith Eastman
Canteen Manager	Jim Glaser

Auxiliary Officers

President	Erica Kubea
1st Vice President	Sarah Schwager
2nd Vice President	Regina Goldman
Secretary/Chaplain	Janet Kennedy
Treasurer	Crystal Kahut
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pam Rodkey

SAL Officers

Commander	Doug Spisak
1st Vice Commander	Jim Morris
2nd Vice Commander	Bob Tonar
Finance Officer	Joe Law
Adjutant	Tom Storck
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robin Peck
Chaplain	Joe Law
Advisor	

Riders Officers

Director	Frank Burks
Asst. Director	Brett Hawkey
Secretary	Crystal Hawkey
Treasurer	Jerry Zennie
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill Whitaker
Road Captain	Rocky Richardson
Chaplain	Steve Rawlins

Post Everlasting

Richard Knoll	Nick Maxwell-SAL
John E. Murphy, Jr.	Ray Shannon-SAL
Gerard Steckel	
Carlton Stockslager	Pauline Brown-Aux
Stewart Stull	Connie Crute-Aux
Charles Vaughn	Deborah Garvin-Aux
George Williams	Penny Kronauge-Aux

We honor them for their deeds for God & Country. We wish to those who mourn a departed one the hope that time will heal all sorrow and bring consoling peace.

Larry Thokey, Chaplain

**Memorial Walkway
and Tree Planting
Programs**

“Heritage of Freedom” Memorial Walkway and the Commemorative Tree Planting Programs are available to all members to assist in the beautification of Post 598. Informational handouts with order forms are available in the lobby.

Banquet Room Rental

All your celebration needs start with a great facility.

You can rent our banquet hall at reasonable rates. Great for Weddings, Retirement Parties, Birthday Parties, Reunions, Office Parties, etc.

Call the Post at 433-9327 for information or
E-mail: banquetbilly@yahoo.com
Visit: americanlegionpost598.net

NOTICE

Anyone needing the services of Post 598 Honor Guard should contact:

Jim O'Neil
937-789-9985
or call the Post
937-433-9327.

Hours of Operation: Mon.-Thurs. 11 am-11 pm, Fri. & Sat. 11 am-1 am, Sun. Noon-11 pm