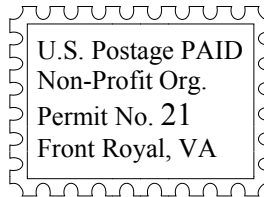


Giles B. Cook
American Legion Post 53
22 West 8th Street
Front Royal, VA 22630

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Larry Funk, Post Commander
Glen Brown, SAL Squadron Commander
Kathy Hartsell, ALA Unit President



THE COOKIE SHEET

Giles B. Cook Post 53
American Legion Family Newsletter
June—July 2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 2016

June 4—SAL Squadron 53 Meeting @ 1:00 PM
June 8—Post 53 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 PM
June 9—Post 53 Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM
June 11—Post 53 Legion Family Installation of Officers @ 5:00 PM
June 14—Flag Day—Fly your US Flag Proudly!
June 14—Virginia General Primary Election for 6th District—Get Out The Vote!
June 25—Dance—Bobby G and Friends Band \$5.00 Cover (Open to the Public)
June 27—ALA Unit 53 Meeting @ 6:00 PM

July 2016

July 2—SAL Squadron 53 Meeting @ 1:00 PM
July 4—Happy Independence Day!
July 8-10—Department Convention in Richmond, VA
July 13—Post 53 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:00 PM
July 14—Post 53 Membership Meeting @ 7:00 PM
July 25—ALA Unit 53 Meeting @ 6:00 PM

From the Post Commander...

Greetings to the Post 53 Family. I am pleased to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the good folks at our Post Home for allowing me to once again serve as your Commander. We are truly Blessed to have an outstanding officer corps in place for this new term of service .

This newsletter I am beginning a new item that I believe will be most interesting to the members of our Post. It will also enlighten some of our members regarding not only the incredible service records of so many of our veterans, but also the continuing history of their service to the community long after their military service is over. I call it "**Spot Light on Veterans**":

My first Spot Light will be upon a most familiar face at our Post ... Adjutant" Doug Ramos". Did you know that Doug retired from U.S. Navy Fleet Submarine service after a 20 years service career with a Chief Petty Officer Rank. Doug has served as Post 53 adjutant for over 15 years and has been a Post 53 member for 42 years ! ... His American Legion service is most impressive also, Doug served as District Commander six times, District Vice-Commander three times, Department Vice-Commander one time, Department. Commander one time, and Post 53 Commander one time. A most extraordinary record of service to the country and the community !!! ... As I have stated time and again, veterans represent a unique place in our beloved America, they are the brave patriots who put their lives on the line to defend all that we hold dear and their selfless service does not end there ... most often the community greatly benefits from their legacy of helping others in so many positive ways! ... Thank you for your continued service Doug !

On another subject: many of you at the Post Home have noticed my posted fliers regarding the up coming Blue Ridge Young Marines No-Tap Bowling Tournament at Royal Oak Lanes on July 23. 1400-1700 Hrs. Please consider signing up for a four person team and or sponsoring a lane. The proceeds from this Tournament will greatly assist the unit with its program expenses. The Unit Commander of Blue Ridge Young Marines is Russ Reeder is a member of Post 53.

One Last Item : Like a shadow declining swiftly ... away ... Like the dew of the morning gone with the heat of the day; like the wind in the tree tops, like a wave of the sea, so are our lives on earth when seen in the light of eternity ... By Ruth Bell Graham. ... Please remember on Memorial Day all those magnificent military personnel who gave their lives in defense of our beloved Republic ...

Thank God for their unprecedented valor and sacrifice ! ... Until we meet again ...
Gods Grace and Peace be yours ! ... L. Funk Commander

The **First Annual Virginia Freedom Festival** will offer the music of: Larry Gatlin, Jimmy Fortune, Scythian, Martin Family Circus, Lisa Meadows, Woody James (from Nashville), Danny Figgins, Richard Parker (as Elvis), a Red Tie Tribute to our veterans and military, and much more! We will have a Car & Motorcycle Show on Saturday, and a wonderful, dedicated Children's Area with inflatables, face painting and more both days! There will be great food and vendors in this family-friendly environment on **July 2nd and 3rd at the Warren County Fairgrounds.**

Buy your tickets online now at: www.VirginiaFreedomFestival.com
Saturday advanced purchase tickets are \$15; at the gate \$20;
Sunday advanced purchase tickets are \$25; at the gate \$30.

If you are a veteran, bring a Veteran ID card with you and pay at the gate to receive 1/2 price admission.

Cindy Kokernak, Freedom Festival Secretary

Installation of American Legion Family Post, Unit and Squadron 53

Saturday, June 11, 2016

Social starts at 5:00 PM

All American Legion Family Members are invited to attend!

Are you on the Internet or Social Media?

If you do not have time to stop by our Post Home, Please check out our Post 53 Website and/or Facebook Page for information on Post, Unit and SAL activities and events.

Website: <http://www.alpost53.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alpost53/>

FROM THE AUXILIARY UNIT PRESIDENT...

The date for Installation of 2016 Giles B. Cook Post, Unit & Squadron Officers is June 11, 2016. We hope to have a good showing of support from our Legion Family members.

Our entire American Legion Family is supporting the Virginia Freedom Festival. It will be July 2-3, 2016, at the Warren County Fairgrounds; more information on this event will be shared soon, so save the dates!

Our 2016 Poppies are in! We have them displayed in the clubroom. If you have not picked up your poppy, please stop by the club and get one!

Our next meeting is Monday, June 27, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Please come out and join us! For more information please call Kathy at 635-9341.

Thank you!

Kat Hartsell, President

2016-2017 Post 53 Officers

Commander—Larry Funk
1st Vice-Commander—Clarence “Buddy” Hartsell
2d Vice-Commander—Rodney Jones
Adjutant—Doug “Buster” Ramos
Chaplain—Yael Michelle Edwards
Finance Officer - James “Jim” Edwards
Sgt-At-Arms—John Kokernak
Executive Committee—At Large
Robert “Bob” Conrad, Robin Persons, Terry Persons, Charlie Zaun

From the Club Room....

The Queen of Clubs continues on Tuesday evenings! Be sure to get your tickets!

2016 Membership Cards are now needed to access the Club Room and you will need a white door card to access the Club Room! Please be advised that the Stewards will be checking for current membership cards. The Purple Door Cards no longer work!

We serve Breakfast Daily & have Daily Lunch Specials! Come on in and join us!