



DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS to Life Member and Past Sgt-at-Arms *Ralph Ferber*, for his 96th birthday on February 24th and for his award from the National Commander for 60 years of Continuous Years. This award is issued in grateful appreciation for faithful and dedicated service to The American Legion and the Post. Thank you for your support ***Ralph*** and your dedication to the Post these past 60 years.

Are you no longer faster than a locomotive? Are you unable to leap over tall buildings in a single bound? Do you even know what a locomotive is? Do you no longer wear your cap back to front? If you answer yes to these four questions then you are about to apply for US Social Security , already receiving it or will be in the very near future, then you should know about this important benefit.

If you served on active duty between January 1, 1957 to December 31, 2001 (this program was done away with in 2002) you qualify for a higher Social Security payment. For every \$300 in active duty pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 earnings up to a maximum of \$1200 per year of earnings credit will be credited at the time of your application, which can make a substantial difference in monthly social security payments. **This benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it.** You must produce your DD-214 (Record of Service) to the SS Office at time of application. Now for those living in Australia the US Government more or less thinks we are living on the dark side of the moon so you will find the local US Consulates will refer you to the Social Security Office at the US Embassy in Manila, The Philippines. Frustrated? No need to be, the Manila office is very helpful. They can be contacted on line at www.fhb.manila@ssa.gov. They are very helpful and will probably ask for your phone number and they may call you and/or contact you via email if you have a computer (yes folks some people do not have computers) **GOOD LUCK**, the larger font is in deference to those veterans who have hit the 65 year mark).

TIME TO CELEBRATE

March 15th will be the 95th birthday of the founding of The American Legion by serving members of the American Expeditionary Force at a caucus in 1919 in Paris. The idea of a veterans organization to represent those who served during World War 1 was not new. Earlier organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the United Soldiers of the Confederacy for Civil War veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, (VFW), founded in 1899 to represent those who served in the Spanish-American War. In January 1919 four line officers who served in France during World War 1 met in Paris to renew acquaintance. Each had led at Battalion or Regiment into battle. Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr, 1st Inf. Div., son of former President Theodore Roosevelt who had died earlier in the month. Lt. Col. Roosevelt would go on to D-Day 1944 as Asst. Division Commander of the 4th Inf. Div and awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH). Lt. Col. George White, 41st Inf. Div., Lt. Col. William Donovan, of New York City's 69th Inf. Regt, (the famous Fighting 69th) awarded a MOH in World War 1 who during World War 2 led the OSS the precursor of today's CIA; and Maj. Eric White, 88th Inf. Div. who had been an attache' at the American Embassy in Paris and had witnessed the first horrific opening weeks of the war in 1914. The Paris caucus was held March 15-17, 1919 to establish the new organization and what it should be called. Among some were "Veterans of the A.E.F. In Liberty League" but eventually all agreed on The American Legion. Later in 1919 another caucus was held in St. Louis to select a National Commander. Most wished it to be Theodore Roosevelt Jr but he declined and eventually the first National Commander was elected, Franklin D'Olier of Pennsylvania who was installed at the first National Convention in Minneapolis in 1919, leader of the new organization with 700,000 members.



THE AMERICAN LEGION *Centennial celebration*

In 2019 the 100th birthday of The American Legion will be held at the National Convention in Indianapolis, headquarters of the Legion, with the Chairman of this special anniversary the son of one of the founders, Theodore Roosevelt II, the National Convention preceding the 100th will be in Minneapolis. **HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY.....a year "younger" than *Ralph Ferber*.**

There is a new simplified Paid-up-for-Life (**PUFL**) program. Basically it's as follows: No more yearly dues even if they go up, no more dues reminders. You sign up online or download the application at www.legion.org/join/PUFL and mail it in with your check (or cheque if you prefer) or credit card details. No computer? Contact the Post Commander and he will send you all the details. You pay in full at time of application or choose a 12 month time payment option. If you pay in full at time of application you will get an automatic discount of \$100. In the February issue of the magazine there was a small article on this at the bottom of page 52. The fee is based upon age, see the schedule below. **Remember the fees quoted are in American dollars**, and yes they will accept an Australian credit card and no there is no fee for using a credit card like some organizations here in Australia.

AGE:	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89
Fee:	\$1,399US	\$1,275US	\$1,120US	\$935US	\$740US	\$550US	\$399US

If paid in full at time of application you get an automatic \$100 discount

ANZAC DAY

Two organizations here in Sydney have combined due to several valid reasons and as a result two commemoration ceremonies we have attended in past years have been combined into one. The Battle of the Java Sea and Coral Sea Commemoration Committee have invited our Legion Post to attend and lay a wreath at the **Java Sea and Coral Sea Battles Memorial Service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney on Friday March 21, 2014 at 10:30 for 11:00.**

We have been invited to attend and place a wreath for the annual **Merchant Navy Memorial Service on Sunday April 13th 10:30 for 11:00 in the Chapel adjacent to the Merchant Navy Lawn Cemetery and Cenotaph at the corner of Hawthorne Ave and Necropolis Dr., Rookwood Cemetery , Lidcombe.**
ANZAC DAY....Tuesday April 25th: There are a few changes which would not affect our group dramatically. A new contingent, this year only, called the **Modern ANZACS**, members of the Australian Defence Forces who have served in various "peace keeping" or wars since 1990, i.e- Gulf War, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan etc. They will be preceded by the Australian National Flag Contingent, The Governor of New South Wales, Senior Australian Defence Force Officers, Victoria Cross Recipients, RSL of Australia (NSW Branch), The Pay Corps (?) and then the Modern ANZACS.



As you are aware all Australian combat troops have just returned to Australia from Afghanistan and this is a special "THANKS" for their service in these hostile areas.

All Australian World War 2 troops will March together in their own service groups but the majority will be riding in Australian Army Land Rovers for as you know most are at least 90 years of age as Australia went to war in September 1939. Many also will be seated in a special area in George St. near Market St.

This area is for all World War 2 veterans who decide not to march.

Our assembly area is about the same as the past two years, Pitt Street Mall facing on King St. We may be asked to move into King St by the Marshalls as this is where the Modern ANZACS will initially form up. Remember, we lead the Allied Troops, we are listed as AMERICA not USA and the formation of Allied Troops is alphabetical. For those who receive the newsletter in the USA, some may be unaware that there are several hundred allied veterans in the ANZAC Day March, not only Sydney but all the other capital cities in Australia. In Sydney we have American, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, France, Greece & Crete, Ireland, Korea, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Turkey & Vietnam.

ANZAC DAY

As the March is SUPPOSED to be shorter the RSL has for the first time issued suggested form up times, ours is approximately 11:20 am. As with every year it will still be a “hurry up and wait” affair, so use that 11:20 as a guide. If you show up at 11:30 and we’re gone don’t blame the messenger. The question was asked at one of the meetings I attended at RSL Hqs.” Approximately when would the March be over The answer? April 25th. The Post Commander was stationed in Turkey 1958-59 very near Gelibalu, unfortunately I didn’t know it was Gallipoli so never visited the area. Yes we will have a Land Rover for our contingent for those that unable to march due to health problems or age. We of course will share any extra space for other allied veterans if space is available. The vehicle holds seven in the rear and one in the cab with the driver.

YOU MUST REMAINED SEATED AT ALL TIMES

You will just have to sit and smile when you pass the TV cameras.

Not too many members travelling this time of year then again why waste this warm summer weather here in exchange for all that snow up there in the colonies. Member **Doug Wright** up in “sunny” Lakeville, Minnesota emails their winter has been mild, only 65 inches of snow...so far. **Chuck & Rhonda Kizis** are off to the colonies on March 19th until early May to Florida where they will take two cruises (see, those Social Security checks do come in handy) . I hear that Italian cruise ship Captain has a new ship sailing out of Ft. Lauderdale, then to Arizona taking in Phoenix, Tucson and Tombstone then visiting son Bret and grand-daughter. **Don and Wynne Kennedy** just returned from Dubai visiting their daughter. There was a rumor (or rumour if you wish) that they were seen in Sydney airport each pulling a jerry can with wheels as a carry on, they wouldn’t have been full of cheap petrol from Dubai would they? At about \$1.64 a litre here last week you wouldn’t blame them.



[Click here to see the short clip from the 2013 Anzac Day march in Sydney, Australia.](#)

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS



Rhonda Kizis had a bad fall off a ladder and ended up in hospital with a few stitches in her head. Happily she has recovered and will be able to enjoy her richly deserved holiday in the USA. However a bit of advice from **Post Commander David** to her husband **Chuck**. Next time she wants to go up a ladder, do the husbandly thing and hold the ladder for her.

Please send some news for our next newsletter from both Post and Auxiliary Unit members

THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU ON
March 21st, April 13th or April 25th.

Nicole Raymond and her dog Dolton will be once again doing the RSPCA Million Paws Walk in May.

They do have a target amount they would like to hit and if anyone would like to donate no matter how small amount you can spare, all is very much appreciated. To donate click here and it can all be done online [Click here](#)

Thank you.



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