Sadly another of our members from the “greatest generation”, World War 2 veterans, passed away shortly before his 92nd birthday on November 30th. Jerry had been a member for 12 years and has been a Life Member since 2010. He was originally from Long Island, New York and after attending our Thanksgiving Day luncheon last year flew to New York to visit family and friends. He lived for many years in Ulladulla in southern New South Wales and when his wife passed away three years ago he moved to a retirement village in Pennant Hills. He served with the US Army Air Force from 1942-1945 with the 13th Troop Carrier Sqdn. Of the 403rd Troop Carrier Group serving in Guadalcanal, Papua New Guinea, the northern Solomon’s and Luzon in the Philippines. He was quite active which belied his age of 92.

WE SHALL REMEMBER HIM

LEST WE FORGET

On a happier note we welcome a new member Michael Schoetter a transplant from sunny California who served with the US Army in the Army Security Agency. He served in all the “garden spots”, Vietnam, Korea and Okinawa. In Vietnam, 1967-68, he served in the central highlands at Pleiku. He attended our Thanksgiving Day luncheon and the Post Commander that we both served in Vietnam in Pleiku separated only by a Montagnard village.

Mike was “recruited” by an old friend and Post member David Hire (goodonya).

Welcome aboard Mike !!!

A tip of the Legion cap to President Sonja of our Auxiliary Unit for another very successful Thanksgiving Day luncheon in the 99 on York Club (Bowlers Club of NSW) with more than 35 attending. A few travelled up to 50 or more, Mike Walsh up from Wollongong and Ted Lange & Elaine from the Gosford area and Anne Shean from Woy Woy. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did, seeing Legion & Auxiliary members whom we see only once or twice at most, as year.

The 28th annual Pearl Harbor Day at Bankstown was as always well attended (I hope it wasn’t the free lunch…….JUST KIDDING). The weather was very good this year not hot as in the past previous years. Someone, who will be unnamed, left his annual Pearl Harbor address at home but this anonymous person promises that if you attend next year he’ll have his 2012 speech plus some additional items too. We had a very good turn out of Post and Auxiliary members to include John & Marjorie LeCerf, Past Vice-Commander Peter Dashwood, Richard Thornley who assisted in lowering to half-mast and raising the American flag, Esme Trainor, Marie Fathers, Gwen Fiddock.
and son Ed, Ern Flint who also placed the wreath at the war memorial for the US Army Small Ships, and Post Historian Don Kennedy to name just a few. My apology to those I didn’t recognize in our newsletter but I thank you all for your support for this very important day, the “date that will live in infamy” that changed the world for all of us.

Our membership for 2013 has now equalled last years, 101!!! Note I didn’t say we were 100%, we were in one sense but unknown to most of you each Post is assessed a “goal” each year by the particular department a Post is in, our department is of course is Department of Hawaii. Our goal is 103 for 2013 which unfortunately is 2 more than our total of 101 for 2012, but THANK YOU FOR YOU EFFORT AND SUPPORT..........but we still have a week or so to go to get two more........there is a prospective new member in the wings and only one more member who needs to renew..........so it’s 101 and counting. Watch this space.

Congratulations are in order to Ted Lange who has recently graduated from The American Legion Extension Institute. You too can enrol and take the course via your computer. For those who took the course several years ago like the Post Commander you will find it less painless as back then the National Hq’s sent you a notebook and several publications some of which had nothing to do with the course. This is the official training program for officer, potential officers and members who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation’s largest veteran’s service organization. You can take the entire course online, cost? $4.95 USD, yes they will take a credit card and it’s a secure site. The program should take less than 2 hours to complete and you do not have to take the entire course at one sitting.

The course is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Upon completion your will receive a Certificate of recognition and a lapel/cap pin. Interested? Go to www.legion.org/ale to register and take the course. When you finish the course please let the Post Commander know and he will extend congratulations to you via a newsletter, no, sorry, no end of year party etc. Hopefully our next Commander is lurking out there and taking this course may help you to step forward for nomination.

Not many travelling this time of year , then again why go up to the northern hemisphere with all that snowy, brrrrrrrrr, cold weather when we can enjoy the warm, and sometimes hot, sunshine . Bill & Sue Skane managed to get up to Maryland so Bill could attend his 50th High School reunion (they sure age in the past 50 years didn’t they Bill) and of course stopped in Hawaii to catch up on the shopping (Sue) and Bill squeezed in a few games of bowls at Ala Moana Park. Did the Hawaiian’s beat you again Bill?

David Hire was visiting family in North Carolina, Peter Lurvey (formerly from Melbourne) sent 5 photos of the November 11th Remembrance Day (Veteran’s Day in the USA) observance with family and friends up yonder in Peoria, Arizona. Hope that Policeman in the photo was a family member or relative Peter and last Jeff Frey was visiting up there in Florida, (Lake Worth?), no worries about snow etc there....and the hurricane season was hopefully over.

Like all of you the Post will be enjoying the holidays and a summer break until February. For those that attend our business meetings the first for 2013 will be Wednesday February 6th.

At the Combined Services RSL Club. First “event” of the new year will be February 22nd at the Cenotaph in Martin Place Sydney. The 71st anniversary of the Battle of the Java Sea in which 5 allied navies participated. Thirty-four allied ships were sunk which included 8 from the US Navy. More details in the next newsletter.

Good news!!! FODPAL now has a website. FODPAL???? Wazzat I hear you say...it is the Foreign & Outlaying Departments & Posts of the American Legion...hey, that’s us I hear you say?... correct... go to www.legion.org/FODPAL and you’ll be brought up to date with all the good news you won’t get on the normal
American Legion website. Did you know there are Posts in Guatemala? Australia (of course), American Virgin Islands? Portugal and even a China Post? Check it out. You have some surprises coming. More on this in the next newsletter.

If you have any news you would like to share with our members like any travels, new babies, grandchildren, great grandchildren, new wives or husbands, just drop us a line.

To all our members and their families of our Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit, Sonja and I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and we wish you ALL a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

As always THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

David Raymond - Post Commander
&
Sonja Raymond - Auxiliary Unit President

60 Gurney Rd., Chester Hill NSW 2162

Phone (02) 9644-6854

Email: austraymond@bigpond.com

If you move or change your email address PLEASE let us know, thank you.

If you receive this newsletter via Post and you have email please forward your email address as we can then send the newsletter to you by that medium.