



## *Newsletter*

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*February 2003 Manny Bacon Post 1758*

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### *Another Broken Promise*

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VA Medicare Subvention: VA Secretary Anthony Principi has announced effective 17 JAN 03 that because demand by nondisabled veterans has far outstripped the VA's funding capacity, the VA will bar enrollment of any new "category 8" veterans, at least for the rest of this year.

These are nondisabled veterans who have incomes above the threshold that qualify them as indigent, depending on where they live. The suspension of category 8 enrollments will affect about 164,000 veterans seeking enrollment this year.

Since 1996, VA enrollment has increased from 2.9 million to 6.8 million today.

All veterans currently enrolled - including those in category 8 are "grand fathered" in the VA health care system.

Category 8, which was established under the VA Health Care Enhancement Act of 2002, includes veterans, without service connected disabilities with incomes above a means tested threshold based on the HUD geographic index , normally \$30,000 to \$35,000.

The new Category 8 is similar to the old Category 7 that was created when VA enrollment was opened to all in 1996.

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### **Welcome Aboard !**

Dennis Rampe and Donald Kellam who transferred in from post 1.

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Our post web site is "<http://americanlegion1758.tripod.com/index.htm>"

**WE have to help ourselves.**

How many members will the post have in 2025 ? Will there be a Manny Bacon Post in Hopewell Jct ?

I cant say for sure what the answers are to these questions

That's a shame considering how much time and effort members (some of whom are no longer with us ) put into this post in the past.

We have the ability , membership and time to ensure that this post will be here long after we all are gone. But WE have to help ensure it.

In this letter you will find an envelope ( there will be one in every news letter.) We are asking all members to make a monthly donation.

All donations will go into the Building Fund. If every member donates \$20.00 a month that would be \$1060.00 a month.

Please help build YOUR post home. If you really cant swing the 5.00 a week (20.00 a month ) then please send what you can each month. I will have to come up with 10.00 a week because my wife is a member !!

If you cant send 20 then send 10 if not 10 send 5 every little bit counts.

Id also like to point out all your contributions are tax deductible . Make check or money order payable to American Legion Post 1758.

All members who make donations will receive a receipt in December for the year so that you may claim it on your taxes.

This is VOLUNTARY

If you don't have 20.00 all I'm asking is you send what you can each month. Also when you send in your first donations , if you would add a note with your home phone number, and E-mail address if you have one . I'm trying to update our records.

We can do it if we all pull together, United we stand, Divided.....

To get the ball rolling my wife and I donated 20.00 each in Feb.

For the new members as you may not be aware the post owns land on Rte 52 but we lack the funds to build on it.

*Storm Riders*

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*The Storm Riders Motor Cycle Club visited the post with an offer of doing a motor cycle run to benefit the post . All they ask is our time and man power. The date will be sometime in Aug. This was just an introductory meeting and nothing firm was discussed. I will get more info to you as it becomes available. They stated we should make around \$3000.00*

## *Bill Mauldin*

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin, whose darkly humorous renderings of GIs Willie and Joe won him the admiration of World War II's combat veterans, died on 1/22/03 in Newport Beach, California after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, family members said.

Mauldin, 81, served as an Army sergeant in Europe, where he drew inspiration from rank-and-file soldiers battling the enemy, loneliness, fear -- and know-nothing officers.

Millions of combat vets saw their own stories in Mauldin's drawings, published in the military newspaper "Stars & Stripes," and many tracked down the cartoonist as he lay dying in a Newport Beach nursing home to send him tributes and good wishes.

He went on to win 2 Pulitzer prizes and wrote several books. He will be buried at Arlington.

## *Pot Of Gold*

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Each meeting members in attendance who wish to play will put 2 dollars into the pot. All members names will be placed into a hat.

The commander will draw the name of one member.

If that member is at the meeting AND he kicked into the pot that night, he gets half the pot.

The other half will go into the building fund. Manny Bacons name is also in the pot. If his name is drawn the entire pot goes into the fund.

If there's no winner the pot will carry over to the next meeting. Name drawn, pot and results will be in each monthly news letter.

There is 28.00 in the pot, Amy Verissimo's name was drawn. No winner.

## *Happy Birthday Sir !!*

The oldest living graduate of West Point and a World War I veteran, celebrated his 102nd birthday Jan. 12 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Steer, who was the first provost marshal of the Air Force, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1925. At the celebration Sunday, he received an honorary promotion to the rank of provost marshal general.

## *Discount Prescription Program*

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### Discount Prescription Program

You are already enrolled simply by being a member of The American Legion.

Simply take your current membership card to one of the thousands of participating pharmacies across the country to receive a discount on prescription drugs. There is also a mail service option available to obtain up to a 90-day supply sent directly to your home. A great benefit for those who take maintenance medications.

Start taking advantage of the savings available to you - today! If you have any questions, simply call the RxAmerica toll-free Help Desk at 1-800-770-8014.

## *Thanks For the Memories*

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The Post donated 100.00 dollars to the Bob Hope memorial being built in San Diego . Bob hope is Americas only honorary veteran and it is his wish that the monument be from "his kids ".

A complete list of donors will be placed in a time capsule in the monument. Our post name will be on that list.

The monument will be dedicated on Bob Hope's 100th birthday on 5/29/2003. The monument is expected to cost about 5 million dollars. Bob Hope is worth every penny and the joy and laughter he brought to all "his kids " overseas is in fact priceless.

See you all at the meeting March 11th.