



LAMM LIGHTS Newsletter for December 2021
AmericanLegionPost622.com



CHRISTMAS IN VIETNAM '68

A scrapbook of pictures of Troops in Vietnam during the Christmas of 1968 and a short story of some reminiscences of that season.

- see **page seven**



Hi everyone,

Hi everyone, I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving day with your family and friends. It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of December. Unfortunately with the COVID-19 numbers increasing every day, hospitalizations on the rise, and the Board of Health requirements regarding masks indoors it has become necessary to do the following.

Until further notice, we will not be having our Membership meetings at the Post. Only our Executive Committee and Enterprise Board will be meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. Some of you may have noticed that we were unable to provide our Lamm Lights for the month of November. This was due to the fact that our programming system was hacked.

We are hopeful to have it available by mid-month. Until next time I hope that everyone and their families stay healthy and safe. My family and I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

For God and Country
 Commander Phil



LAMM POST OFFICERS 2021

Commander: Phil English.....	398-8008
1st Vice: Paul Shea	906-9257
2nd Vice: Steven Sams.....	807-2894
3rd Vice: Don Helminiak.....	668-2905
Adjutant:	Open
Mobilization:	Open
Sgt-At Arms: Don Helminiak	668-2905
Service Officer:.....	Open
Finance Officer: Bob Bruno	574-5574
Corp President: Phil English	398-8008
Chaplain: Robert Thornton.....	689-0334
1st Asst. Chaplain: Ernie Bacon	1-585-317-8946
2nd Asst Chaplain	Open

EXECUTIVE BOARD AT-LARGE MEMBERS 2021

Frank Barone	833-4138
Paul Laurenzi:	335-4881
David Shia:	907-2329
Paul Shea	906-9257

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2021

President: Debbie Diebold	836-9617
1st Vice: Theresa English.....	Unlisted
Secretary: .Susana Colon.....	491-2429
Treasurer: Mary Ann Bush.....	759-1171
Chaplain: Sharon Huber	901-1092
Sgt-At Arms: Lynne Nowak	361-0772

Contact the Post at
gflamm962@gmail.com

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"ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR
THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS FOR
GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING"



**THANK YOU LAMM POST
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HAVE SERVED TO KEEP US
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To get involved contact: Richard A Wojtowicz - President 716-634-2730
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US Army Veteran
Korean War
52 year member
of Lamm Post
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Many families come to us already having Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Health Care Proxies in place but ask if it is time to update their documents. During the course of our lives, there are many life events that may occur that will affect your Estate Plan.

Couples get married or divorced, have young children, have children that have become adults since the last update to their documents, decide they no longer want a person named as a beneficiary or executor in their Will, or have a death in the family. The happening of any of the above events is the time to sit down and re-evaluate your Estate Plan.

If you are unsure whether or not your Estate Planning documents need to be updated, call the Stamm Law Firm today to make an appointment for a consultation with one of our attorneys.

**The information provided in this article does not and is not intended to constitute legal advice. All information and content of this article are for general informational purposes only. Readers of this article should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to any legal matter.*





Rutowski Pharmacies



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Sinclair Pharmacy 75 North Main St
Warsaw
716-786-2330

Wanakah Pharmacy 4923 Lakeshore
Dr. Hamburg
716-624-3232

Cys Elma Pharmacy 2317 Bowen Rd,
Elma, NY
716-652-3920

Kenmore RX Center 2818 Delaware
Rd. Kenmore, NY
716-874-6360

Family Medical Pharmacy 120
Plaza Dr.
Williamsville, NY 716-568-0800

Who We Are:

Rutowski Pharmacies are a locally owned group of six New York State accredited pharmacies dedicated to offering professional healthcare services to members of our community.

What We Do:

- Medication dispensing
- Medication organization (pill packs)
- Medication and device education
- immunization (flu shot)
- Compounding
- Institutional services

Institutional Service

Flu Shot Clinics: We provide onsite immunization service for employers, schools, health care facilities, and groups.

Medication Organization: We provide medication organization services to individual patients as well as health care facilities such as nursing homes. We can tailor our services to fit any institution's needs. Our standard offerings include pill pack and blister cards.

Medication dispensing: We are able to provide medication dispensing services to an inpatient facility such as nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, group homes, etc. This includes delivery services and medication review if required.

The Christmas Peace of World War I - 1914

There were odd moments of joy and hope in the trenches of Flanders and France. One of the most remarkable came during the first Christmas of the war, a few brief hours during which men from both sides on the Western Front laid down their arms, emerged from their trenches, and shared food, carols, games, and comradeship.

Their truce—the famous Christmas Truce—was unofficial and illicit. Many officers disapproved, and headquarters on both sides took strong steps to ensure that it could never happen again. While it lasted, though, the truce was magical.

The first signs that something strange was happening occurred on Christmas Eve. At 8:30 p.m. an officer of the Royal Irish Rifles reported to headquarters: "Germans have illuminated their trenches, are singing songs and wishing us a Happy Xmas. Compliments are being exchanged but am nevertheless taking all military precautions." Further along the line, the two sides serenaded each other with carols—the German "Silent Night" being met with a British chorus of "The First Noel"—and scouts met, cautiously, in no man's land, the shell-blasted waste between the trenches. The war diary of the Scots Guards records that a certain Private Murker "met a German Patrol and was given a glass of whisky and cigars, and a message was sent back saying that if we didn't fire at them, they would not fire at us."

The same basic understanding seems to have sprung up spontaneously at other spots. For another British soldier, Private Frederick Heath, the truce began late that same night when "all down our line of trenches there came to our ears a greeting unique in war: 'English soldier, English soldier, a merry Christmas, a merry Christmas!'"

'Come out, English soldier; come out here to us.' For some little time we were cautious, and did not even answer. Officers, fearing treachery, ordered the men to be silent. But up and down our line one heard the men answering that Christmas greeting from the enemy. How could we resist wishing each other a Merry Christmas, even though we might be at each other's throats immediately afterwards? So we kept up a running conversation with the Germans, all the while our hands ready on our rifles. Blood and peace, enmity and fraternity—war's most amazing paradox. The night wore on to dawn—a night made easier by songs from the German trenches, the pipings of piccolos and from our broad lines laughter and Christmas carols. Not a shot was fired.

Fighting erupted again the next day, though there were reports from some sectors of hostilities remaining suspended into the New Year. And it does not seem to have been uncommon for the resumption of the war to be marked with further displays of mutual respect between enemies. In the trenches occupied by the Royal Welch Fusiliers, Captain Stockwell "climbed up on the parapet, fired three shots in the air and put up a flag with 'Merry Christmas' on it." At this, his opposite number, Hauptmann von Sinner, "appeared on the German parapet and both officers bowed and saluted.

The war was on again, and there would be no further truce until the general armistice of November 1918. Many, perhaps close to the majority, of the thousands of men who celebrated Christmas 1914 together would not live to see the return of peace. But for those who did survive, the truce was something that would never be forgotten.



Ashland Pest Control

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Ashland Pest Control is a local, family-owned, and operated pest control business in Buffalo, NY. We began operations in 1968 under the vision of owner Richard Muscarella, Sr. His son Richard Muscarella, Jr., took over the company in 1980 and has carried it through to today. Ashland Pest Control has always relied on ethical pest management services, including integrated Pest Management strategies. We do what we can to provide the most customer satisfaction for our clients.

Our services are available for home and business owners throughout Buffalo and Western New York. We pay special attention to environmental factors and regulations with each service we provide. These effective services rely on the latest technologies and updated methods. Our technicians are all New York State DEC-certified and continue to stay up-to-date with the latest techniques and changes to state regulations so we can provide the absolute best services.



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A Christmas in Vietnam, '68

AdHere's a memory from a former Huey pilot, J. C. Pennington (Dolphin 14/Shark 4 1968-69) to share with everyone:

I was flying as a Dolphin AC. The 174th supported the 11th LIB and we must have had three or four ships take the battalion re-supply missions that day. Marmite cans with hot gravy smashed 'taters and turkey. I don't remember what my mental state was, but I must have thought something like, "What the hell, I can fly the mission and still have time to get drunk before the sun goes down". My volunteer co-pilot, Will, was a slightly overweight 1LT. This large co-pilot begged for a Santa suit. I'm laughing out loud as I write and remember this. I remember him, between giggles, saying, 'I can't believe I'm really doing this.'

Just before we took off, I remembered that my family had sent me a little battery-operated Christmas tree that was about a foot high. Turn it on and the lights flash. I brought it out to the ship and we taped it to the glare shield above the instrument panel right at the bottom of the windshield. Will had no hope of reaching it, even if we had put it on the top of the cyclic.

Before we took off, we loaded up on extra sundry packs from the mess hall. They had cigarettes, razors, stationery, pens, and lots and lots of candy.

We cranked up and flew to the TOC of the battalion we were supporting and got the locations, frequencies, and call signs of the units we would deliver hot chow to. I told Will that we needed to rehearse our 'act' so when I called the TOC the first time, it went something like, 'Lightning ops, this is Dolphin 14, about three minutes out with a VIP on board.'

There was a pause and we heard: 'Dolphin 14 we don't have any VIPs scheduled.' That's when Will keyed his footswitch and transmitted, 'Ho-Ho-Ho. Merry Christmas!'



I added, 'Come on out to the re-supply pad and meet your VIP.' About that time we were circling the pad in a right-hand orbit, I had turned on the flashing Christmas tree lights and Will was flinging candy and sundries to the grunts guarding the perimeter. They were laughing and pointing, the gunner and crew chief were waving and throwing candy.

We landed and a bunch of guys started loading up the hot chow in the marmite cans and many more just ran to the cockpit to shake our hands and thank us, taking pictures of 'that big Santa flying our re-supply bird' and just suddenly remembering that it was Christmas Day.

The rest of the day was more of the same, only more satisfying. When the grunts in the field saw us circling with Santa, tossing candy and goodies out of the cockpit. We had guys run up just to touch Santa's sleeve, yell a huge 'Thank you over the roar of the Huey, and, believe it or not, scramble like crazy for the candy just like kids back home.

It was a memorable Christmas Day. In many ways, my most memorable. Will was the best Santa I've ever seen. He should have been awarded a red and green Air Medal that day."

Merry Christmas Everyone!
J.C. Pennington
174th AHC
Duc Pho 1968-69text



