



AMERICAN LEGION

Columbia Post 300

Newsletter May 2026



Renew 2026

- Online: 1, 2, or 3 year at current price pay up front. Auto renew with credit card on file: <https://www.legion.org/renew>
- Mail: Post 300, PO Box 6812, Columbia, MD 21045 (\$45 Check to American Legion Post 300)
- Questions? George Delaney (240) 381-5909, delprops9@gmail.com

Remember

- Breakfast fellowship Saturday May 9 at Bob Evans 8325 Benson Dr., Columbia at 8am.
- Luncheon fellowship meeting is Friday May 15, 2026 at Mission BBQ 6270 Columbia Crossing Circle at 11:30 am.
- General meeting Thursday May 28, 2026 at Cornerstone Church 7277 Eden Brook Dr. at 7pm.

Post 300 Website

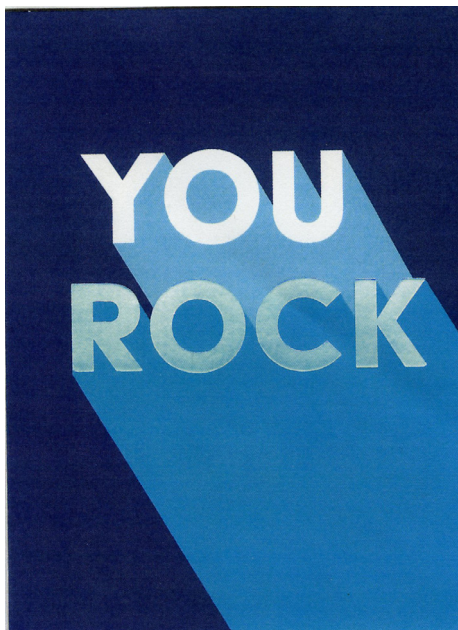
<https://americanlegionpost300columbiamd.com/>

For Newsletter & Vignettes Submissions

Roger Chang - Newsletter
(240) 319-0794
roger.chang1@verizon.net

Be the One - Call for Help

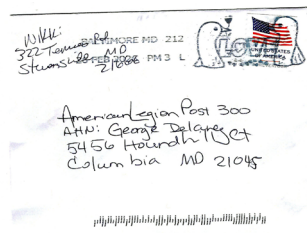
Vivian Clark - Buddy Check Leader
(410) 992-6945
vivianmsclark3@gmail.com
George Delaney - Commander
(240) 381-5909
delprops9@gmail.com



Columbia Post 300 Rocks

Breakfast April 11 Rocks

State Commander Nikki Randolph attended our first Bob Evans Saturday morning breakfast and wrote a note of praise for our initiative in expanding social events for our veterans to enjoy. We recruited a number of new members there.



Dear George and Columbia Post 300 -
The front of this card says it plainly - You All in fact DO ROCK! You guys are an excellent example of One Team, One Dream, Family Strong. In just a few years Post 300 has risen to the top of how a Legion can expand. Thank you for your commitment to the Veterans + family you serve in your community with 1 you quality programs. You growing + you are making a difference in the people + community you serve. Thank you! We enjoyed coming to your inaugural breakfast. You will continue to be the shining light. Thank you & your Post -
You are Amazing - Nikki Dep. Co.

Handwritten Letter from Commander Nikki



Marine Corps Silent Drill Teams Gives Spectacular Performance - Our Commander George Delaney joins for a Group Photo

HoCo 250th Salute Apr 19

Thanks Howard County for celebrating our 250th anniversary at Belmont Manor. The five hours of festivities honoring military services were well organized and executed by Greg Jolissant Post 156, Bill Swain Marine Corps Det, and Paul Turlington Sons of the American Revolution.



Our Post 300 wife hostess with the mostest Lisa Terry supported host County Executive Calvin Ball.

This great celebration brought us together.



Sea Cadets Helped Post 300 During Both Set Up and Tear Down - Pictured with George Delaney, Charlie Otter, and Roger Chang



Sorry we couldn't get everyone in the photo with two rows and a booth at Mission BBQ April 17 luncheon, and a table of drawing gifts.

Mission BBQ Fellowship Apr 17

We missed Commander George Delaney at this luncheon. Without George, we didn't have a welcoming cake and didn't recruit any new members that luncheon. This month George has recruited 51 new members to Post 300 so he is again applying for Gold Brigade for the second year earlier than the June deadline.

Mission BBQ Free May 11-16

For Armed Forces week we are getting free sandwiches on each day for all services. Even though each branch has a special day, we are welcome every day. Thanks Mission BBQ Columbia.

May 15 is our normal monthly meeting luncheon, but any members interested are welcome to meet at 11:30 am each day if available for free sandwiches. Thanks Maryrose Casazza and Mission BBQ for remembering us.


COME CELEBRATE

ARMED FORCES WEEK

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS
FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.
 Thanks For Your Service.

ARMY	MON, 5/11
MARINE CORPS	TUE, 5/12
NAVY	WED, 5/13
AIR FORCE & SPACE FORCE	THU, 5/14
COAST GUARD	FRI, 5/15

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS




ARMED FORCES DAY

LUNCH WITH THE HEROES.....

Join us for a FREE SANDWICH and be sure to arrive before Noon for our live National Anthem.

11:00AM-2:00PM

SAT, 5/16

MISSION BBQ 
The American Way.



Penguins in Antarctica



Antarctica Briefing by Dave Obermeier



Commander George Delaney Congratulates Drew Pecora and Dave Obermeier



Drew Pecora Wins the Mission BBQ Raffle Basket - Congratulations!

What You Missed April 23

Our Cornerstone Church meeting featured Captain Dave Obermeier, USCG (ret) speaking about his experience in Antarctica.

Our SFLC Commander Coast Guard Captain Pecora, who hosted our Curtis Bay tour in 2025 came to meet his friend and our member speaker. At the close of the meeting The Mission BBQ gift basket and \$50 gift coupon winning ticket was won by Drew Pecora.

Columbia Post 300 will be sponsoring Joseph Obermeier, our speaker's son for Boys State this year. Congratulations as Commander George Delaney confirmed all applications needed are 100% complete.

Charlie Otter shared his wonderful Honor Flight experience at the BWI Hilton Lone Eagle reception because future service dog Charlie has not been trained to speak English yet. Having learned English myself as a second language I understand the challenge for poor Charlie even though Eric Winters and his wife give the best care and training possible. Charlie has been to more American Legion events than the majority of human members.

Commander George Delaney shared our 2026-2027 slate of Post 300 officers.

- Commander - George Delaney
- 1st Vice Cdr - Greg Prieur
- 2nd Vice Cdr - Birney Smith
- 3rd Vice Cdr - Darwin Pitts
- Adjutant - Charlie Otter
- Finance Officer - Roger Chang
- Chaplain - Doug Banks
- Judge Advocate - Richmond Davis
- Resource Officer - Shelby Rogers
- Historian - George Delaney

Lone Eagle Honor Flight April 13

Our Honor Flight Team of Ernest Puls, Birney Smith, Charlie Otter, and service dog in training Charlie greeted a busloads of veterans at the BWI Hilton.



Future Service Dog Charlie

North Central Region Banquet April 11

The annual banquet was held in Aberdeen with families being honored from the Auxilliary and the Son of the American Legion.



George Delaney with other State American Legion Officers

District 4 Bull & Oyster April 25



George Delaney, Roger Chang, Dennis Thornton, Ernest Puls, Eric Winters, future service dog Charlie, Jenny Winters

May 2026 Opportunities

- 5/2 Saturday Honor Flight Reception Atholton HS 6520 Freetown Rd, Columbia 6:15pm
- 5/9 Saturday Breakfast Fellowship at Bob Evans 8325 Benson Dr., Columbia 8am
- 5/11-16 Armed Forces Week Free Sandwiches at Mission BBQ at 6270 Columbia Crossing Circle 11:30am
- 5/14 Thursday Veterans & Military Families Monument Dedication at Columbia Lakefront 11am
- 5/15 Friday Member Fellowship Meeting and Luncheon at Mission BBQ 6270 Columbia Crossing Circle 11:30am
- 5/28 Thursday Encore Lorien Memorial Day 11150 Resort Rd, Ellicott City 11am
- 5/28 Thursday General Meeting Cornerstone Church 7277 Eden Brook Dr. 7pm

May 2026 Opportunities

- 6/12 Friday SFLC Change of Command Ceremony US Coast Guard Yard. 2401 Hawkins Point Rd, Baltimore 10am-12noon Registration Required Our Captain Pecora will be departing his command.
- 6/13 Saturday Breakfast Fellowship at Bob Evans 8325 Benson Dr., Columbia 8am
- 6/19 Friday Member Fellowship Meeting and Luncheon at Mission BBQ 6270 Columbia Crossing Circle 11:30am
- 6/19 Friday Special Olympics Dance \$30 Post 109 1610 Old Sulfur Spring Rd, Halethorpe 7-11pm
- 6/25 Thursday General Meeting Cornerstone Church 7277 Eden Brook Dr. 7pm

STATE CONVENTION OCEAN CITY DATES:

JULY 14 TO 17TH, 2026
JULY 18TH TO 24TH, 2027
JULY 16TH TO 22D, 2028
JULY 15TH TO 21ST, 2029

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

LOUISVILLE,	AUGUST 28TH TO 3 SEPT., 2026
KANSAS,	AUGUST 27TH TO 2 SEPT., 2027
COLUMBUS,	AUGUST 25TH TO 31ST, 2028
INDY,	AUGUST 24TH TO 30TH, 2029
SALT LAKE,	AUGUST 23RD TO 29TH, 2030

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE

1. Honor Flights

Chair: Earnest Puls, eepuls@verizon.net, 410-979-7754 Members: Birney Smith, John Skarvelis, Darwin Pitts, Treva Pitts, Dana Pitts

2. Americanism: Flag Retirement Ceremonies, July and November Parades, Boys and Girls State, JROTC, Color Guard, 27 Flags Ceremony at Post 109; Representation on Department of Maryland Americanism Commission; Northern Central Region quarterly meetings; District 4 quarterly meetings. Suggest 5 team members Flag Retirement Volunteers: Charlotte duPont, Darwin Pitts, Marcelino Bedolla

3. Outings: We are planning an outing to the Curtis Bay Coast Guard Station commanded by our new Post 300 member Captain Pecora. Cochairs: Darwin Pitts, Greg Prieur

4. High School Outreach: (Boys and Girls State, JROTC, Speakers. Establish and Maintain relationships with Howard County High School Points of Contact for early planning of events. Air Force JROTC Lead Bill Nadolski COL USAF (ret)

5. Assisted Living/Home/Center Visits: Plan and staff annual visits and ceremonies. (Sunrise, Residences at Vantage House, North Laurel Over 50 Senior Center, and homes of our age 90+ members) Others under consideration. Chair: George Delaney; members: Earnest Puls, Darwin Pitts, Crystal Crandall, Lenora Benekin

6. Post 300 Awards Program and Training: Organize suitable Awards with presentation of certificates at least twice a year for exceptional participation and performance. Identify and publicize Legion on line and classroom training opportunities throughout the year. Publicize within the Post the Annual Ocean City Convention Training class schedule as soon as it is published on the MDLegion.org Website. Print schedule on flyers for Mission BBQ Fellowship and regular Meetings. Explain on line registration. Chair: Needed

7. Post 300 Public Relations, History and Photography: Attend Legion related events and activities, taking photos and notes to be typed into Field Reports. Since it is difficult for one person to attend all events, it is helpful to have Team members volunteer for some events and provide photos and notes to the Chair. Chair: George Delaney, All Post Members share photos to be published

8. Post 300 Our Stories "Vignettes": Keep meetings informative and entertaining. Any member can join in to entertain us and make our meetings more memorable and entertaining. If you have special musical, artistic or other talents, this is a place to show your stuff for ten minutes. Our stories are historic and are captured in our Post History Book and website. Chair: Roger Chang roger.chang1@verizon.net, 240-319-0794

9. Meeting Speakers: Identify suitable speakers of general interest to members, interview and invite them, seek member feedback. Chair: George Delaney, Meeting Agenda Roger Chang email: roger.chang1@verizon.net

10. Buddy Check 90+ Visit Team: Coordinate Buddy Check Call Assignments, Review Call Reports and refer as needed for further action. Chair: Vivian Clark (410) 992-6945, vivianmsclark3@gmail.com, Crystal Crandall, Lenora Benekin

11. Fund Raising: Coordinate Fund Raising events for Post 300 and other fundraising requests in support of District 4, Northern Central Region, or for the Department of Maryland. Manage the distribution, sales and collection of tickets and revenue. Deliver to our Finance Officer. We suggest one team member handle each requirement separately. Fundraising collections at fundraising tables are managed by the membership volunteers who turn them in to our Finance Officer Roger Chang. Chair: Needed

12. Scouting: Coordinate with Scout Troop 540 which is officially sponsored by Columbia Post 300. Support parades and other joint efforts to include retention of the Columbia Post 300/Scout Troop 540 Banner. This is an officially recognized position by the Souts of America. Chair and Chartering Organization Official Representative (COR): Diane Sendlenski

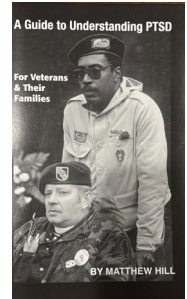
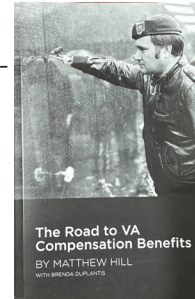
13. Support to Deployed Military and Families Left Behind: This includes providing food and support to departing and returning active duty military and activated National Guard and Reserve members and their families. Need two co-chairs. (1) Deployed Military (2) Families Left Behind.

Resources, Publications, On Line Bulletins, Newsletters & Self-Help Tools

American Legion Maryland State and National Website Links Maryland <https://www.mdlegion.org/> and for National <https://www.legion.org/>

Hill & Ponton Nationwide Veterans Disability Lawyers free case evaluation and free information. Contact Eric Rohrback (386)257-2100, ericrohrback@hillandponton.com, <https://www.hillandponton.com/>

Free Books by email request to Roger Chang
at Mission BBQ Fellowship or Cornerstone Church Meetings
roger.chang1@verizon.net



-Department of Maryland **Service Officer**, Adrian Gamboa, Cell 240-357-7391, Work 410-230-4500 x11009, adrian@mdlegion.org, Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite G603, Baltimore, MD 21201

-**Grassroots 7/24 Crisis Line** 410-531-6677

-To find a **VA facility** near you, 1-800-MYVA411 "is always the right number"

-**Veteran Outreach Specialist** Steven Fyfe, Veteran Outreach Specialist, email is steven.fyfe@va.gov. He operates out of the Dundalk Vet center at 410-282-6144

-**Veterans Crisis Line:** 988 Press "1"; "CHAT" (link); or text 838255

-**Vet Centers:** 1-877-927-8387,

Steven Fyfe, Veteran Outreach Specialist, steven.fyfe@va.gov, 410-282-6144

-**VA Women Veterans Call Center:** 855-829-6636

-**Financial Help for Veterans in need:** Maryland Veterans Trust Fund 410-260-3836

-**MDVF Cemeteries:** Russ Ware, Director, 410-923-6981 Presentation Jan 22, 2026.

-**MDVA Laurel Center:** 410-313-0229

Howard County Veterans Multi Service Center (MSC) Suite I, 9900 Washington Blvd N. Laurel, MD 20723

Katherine Perkins, Veterans Benefits Specialist, phone: 410-313-0729

Emergency Status Hotline: 410-313-0220 for 50 plus centers, Multi Service Centers, Loan Closet, and Family Support Center to find if open during weather emergencies and other safety concerns. Website has a link to 18 MSC Partner Agencies. Walk-ins welcome. All MSC services are free to Howard County Residents MSC Website: howardcountymd.gov/office-local-childrens-board/multiservice-center

-**Volunteer Transportation Network:** Baltimore VA Green St (410) 606-7000 ext 5-6731 or 5-6733 Leave message

-**Homeless Veteran Resources:** 1-877-424-3838

-**Caregiver support:** Kathy Wehr, Program Manager, 410-313-5955. Multiple Presentations 2024-2025.

-**County Resource Guide:** https://online.fliphtml5.com/qhyhp/aging2026_final-for-web/#p=1

-**Caregiver 24/7 on line access tool:** "TRUALTA". Free access. Log on to hococaregivers.trualta.com

-**Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families ebuletin** (Veterans@howardcountymd.gov)

-**Veterans.Maryland.gov bi-weekly newsletter** #VetResources (VA weekly newsletter)

-**Legion monthly magazine:** legislative achievements (included in membership)

-**Dept. of Maryland "Free State Warrior":** MDLegion.org (included in membership)

-**Veteran Discounts:** https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=14JAN2026 (Thanks Birney Smith)

Honor Flight Instructions from Randy Bohn:

Greetings everyone! Major changes to the Honor Flights process from last year. Jenny Brawley is our new BWI Honor Flight Coordinator replacing Jennifer Abner. The annual Honor Flight schedule is now automated allowing one to electronically fill in request(s) for a Gate Access Pass. The flights listed will automatically fill in if there are any changes in time or additions/cancelations of flights. I will no longer be sending out monthly calendars. First flight into BWI airport is on March 28. Let's have a great year in which these Legionnaires feel honored and welcomed to view 'their' Memorials!

Randy Bohn, Honor Flights Committee Chair AL Post 156 email: pinnochle@aol.com

Honor Flight Volunteer Opportunities at BWI Airport

Welcome to our new email and schedule for 2026! You may unsubscribe at any time.

This email will provide a regular updated schedule of arrivals and departures at BWI, as well as a link to our new online signup form to request gate passes to greet inside security, or to greet outside security. This link should go live shortly.

This email will also include the entire schedule for those who want it. Please see a test report below. I welcome any feedback to this, as I (Jenny) would like to go live with this by the middle of February. People are already inquiring about our schedule.

This new process will allow subscribers to manage their own access - and can unsubscribe at any time.

To view the schedule and be able to request Gate Access Passes (GAP's), copy this URL here into your browser for much more information:

<https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-schedule/>



Honor Flight Salute (Photo Courtesy Birney Smith)

For Columbia Post 300: Please send confirmation of participation to Chairman:
Ernest Puls, eepuls@verizon.net, 410-551-3375 (H), 410-979-7754 (C)

BWI Honor Flight Schedule

Listed below are Honor Flight arriving in the next two weeks.

Monday April 27, 2026 – Kansas Honor Flight Wamego High School arrives at 9:15 on SWA 3012 from MCI with 25 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below)! The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date. They return to the airport on 4.28.26 at 17:40.

Thursday April 30, 2026 – Great River Honor Flight arrives at 8:06 on SWA 4440 from STL with 32 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below). The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date.

Friday May 1, 2026 – Honor Flight Southland arrives at 14:05 on SWA 345 from LAX with 37 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below)! The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date. They return to the airport on 5.3.26 at 12:00.

Friday May 1, 2026 – Honor Flight San Diego arrives at 16:00 on Alaska #9666 from SAN with 90 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below)! The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date. They return to the airport on 5.3.26 at 8:30.

Saturday May 2, 2026 – Honor Flight Long Island arrives at 10:40 on SWA 993 from ISP with 46 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below)! The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date. They return to the airport on 5.2.26 at 19:30.

Saturday May 2, 2026 – Honor Flight Connecticut arrives at 10:15 on Breeze charter from BDL with 65 Veterans. Please use the gate pass sign up form for the Long Island arrival to greet this group at the gate. They return to the airport on 5.2.26 at 20:30.

Tuesday May 5, 2026 - Lone Eagle Honor Flight arrives at 14:50 on Breeze #6201 from Gulfport, MS with 40 Veterans. Gate passes are not available. Please use Section Two of the link below to request parking validation.

Saturday May 9, 2026 - Honor Flight Cleveland arrives at 7:00 on SWA 1371 from CLE with 24 Veterans. Gate passes are offered (see below)! The form to request gate passes closes two days prior to the flight arrival date. They return to the airport at 19:00 departing on SWA #1094.

For Columbia Post 300: Please send confirmation of participation to Chairman:
Ernest Puls, eepuls@verizon.net, 410-551-3375 (H), 410-979-7754 (C)

Concourse and gate information can be found by monitoring the FlightAware app or website, or on the overhead monitors at the airport.

NOTE: this information is provided by the hubs and is subject to change. BWI Ground Crew is not responsible for inaccurate or incomplete information.

The entire 2026 schedule can be viewed at <https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-schedule/>. This schedule provides up-to-the-minute information in real time as soon as our hub enters the information into our system, including new trips and changes. It's the best way to confirm arrival/departure times, flight numbers and other viable information for upcoming Honor Flights before you head to the airport.

If desired, you can also click this link <<http://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/as-of-april-14-2026.pdf>> for a PDF document containing additional arrival / departure details (such as the day of the week, # of wheelchairs, type of flight, bus company and # of buses, and departure time). This list is updated on a weekly basis with new trips highlighted in blue and changes made by hubs since the last report are highlighted in yellow.

New Gate Pass Request Form

We have also rolled out a new process for requesting gate passes with airlines who offer them. The first section of our new secure online form is for greeters requesting gate passes. Scroll down the list to select the desired arrival and click the link to complete the form.

The second section of the form is for hus arriving on airlines that don't provide gate passes or for those who prefer to greet outside security. All departure greetings will be held outside security. While it is not mandatory that you let us know if you are greeting outside security, completing this form allows you to let us know if you desire parking validation.

Sign-ups are now open by accessing this webpage <https://dcwelcome.honorflight.org/bwi-meeting-greeting-info/> and scroll down to the appropriate section. Please bookmark this webpage so it is readily available to you to sign up at your convenience! The link for each specific arrival will close 48 hours prior to the arrival date. After the link closes, gate passes cannot be requested.

For Columbia Post 300: Please send confirmation of participation to Chairman:
Ernest Puls, eepuls@verizon.net, 410-551-3375 (H), 410-979-7754 (C)

Commander's Corner

TEN WAYS THE AMERICAN LEGION STRENGTHENS YOUR COMMUNITY PREPARES YOUR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED

1. American Legion scholarships **
2. National oratorical contest scholarships **
3. Boys and Girls State one-week intensive leadership experience (tuition is available). Graduates include U.S. presidents, congress and business leaders. **
4. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) leadership skills to become good citizens while building character, teamwork, and physical conditioning **
5. Veterans speak at elementary schools during Veterans Day and Memorial Day week to share memories and answer students' questions. We teach Americanism.
6. Visits to isolated Veterans and families to help prevent suicides.
7. Flags for children at Veterans Day and Memorial Day parades and community outreach events.
8. Outreach visits bringing benefits information and how to apply for assistance in your community.
9. Fellowship gatherings for veterans, families and community members and cemetery visits.
10. Support for troops, reservists and national guard deployed and their families left behind.

**These programs strengthen University, Military Academy and Employment applications.

The American Legion is building the Legion of the Future One Member at a time. One Team-One Dream-Family Strong.



Columbia Veterans Day Parade with Scout Troop 540 Sponsored by American Legion Columbia Post 300