



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
LEORA WEARE POST 173  
VERSAILLES, IN 47042**

**AUGUST, 2026**

**Our post celebrated our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a very active year of service to our legion family and the community. We had our normal share of enjoyable activities while also suffering illness and loss that affected us all. We held a benefit for the children of the Walters family following a tragic auto accident that took the lives of both parents. We were able to raise around \$16,000. Congratulations to our past commander Mike Sparks for not only a great year of service to our post but also for commuting each week from Greenwood. His dedication is most appreciated.**

**Our new commander, Richard (Rich) Block is a West Point graduate and received a masters degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he graduated first in his class. He has an extensive resume both in the military and in business. In the Army he was rated to fly several aircraft, trained and led units in many different areas of operation, receiving two bronze stars for service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been quite active in youth sports in our community. He would like to continue to make our post more a part of the community and to explore efforts to increase our profitability.**

**The post ended last year with a membership total of 166. Many of us can remember the days when we had twice that number. Our membership drive should be ongoing and our upcoming Labor Day picnic is part of that. Legion, Auxiliary and SAL representatives will be there to collect 2027 dues. Congratulations to our club manager, Julie Elliott, for her outstanding work with Ripley Publishing which brought her not only promotion to newspaper editor but recognition from the Indiana Department of the American Legion for her articles on veterans. The Post would like to show our appreciation to those who work hard to keep our legion park clean and nice looking. A big thanks to Candy Tuller and Tom Cassidy as well as Mert Myers and Doug Schwanholt who do the mowing. Thanks to Steve Scoggins who stepped down as our adjutant after many years of dedication to that very time consuming position. Steve and Jerry Hewitt are breaking in a new group in the Junior Shooting Sports program which we understand is doing quite well. They have run a very successful program for years and have the awards to prove it!**

**The Post scholarships have grown to 20 this year. The program usually held in May is hosted by Sandy Becker and gives \$500 scholarships to those students who apply and qualify for higher education or trade schooling programs. Many are funded by members who have left a self-funding bequeathment to the post for these. We had great weather for our 9<sup>th</sup> Legionfest/Taste of Versailles this July. The food was great as usual although the turnout was less than in former years. The event profit was \$3,000+ which all goes towards scholarships. Thanks to all those who participate in this community oriented event.**

**We no longer have bingo as we have known it for many years. It has been replaced by a new gaming revenue source sponsored by the state. It is referred to as electronic pull tab machines although that term can be a little misleading as they are more like the gaming machines we see at casinos. Revenue has been exceeding our historic bingo income. Play has been steady since it began the first of the year. We have five machines and they are open to the public. The post does have straight line bingo the first Friday of each month starting at 7:00. The post gives annually to several charities including Special Olympics and the Fischer House, which provides housing for families of hospitalized veterans. Our bingo players themselves have given annually to Youth to Yellowstone which is a group that gives select local youth the educational experience of a lifetime at this great national park. Parking cars at the NMLRA shoots in Friendship still brings in annually around \$8,000 to \$9,000 profit total for the spring and fall shoots. We always need more help parking cars during the week. Tell Rich or Roger the day(s) you are available. Most of you have seen our new LED signage that replaced the old message board on the west side of the building. It now contains a lot of information about the post and post activities that were not available before. Please also visit our Post 173 site on Facebook. New concrete work has also been done there on the landing and behind the post. A new sign above the bar entrance is coming soon. The post had a visit from Judy Heath in July. She is the great-niece of Leora Weare. We gave her and her group a post tour and showed them where his marker was located at Cliff Hill cemetery. He is buried, of course, in a military cemetery in Belgium. Lets have a great year supporting Rich and get our membership up! Just ask!**

**Go to our ap: [versaillesamericanlegion.org](http://versaillesamericanlegion.org) to get more information on Post #173.**

**TAPS**

**RON JONES**

**HAROLD McCREARY**

**PAUL CLAYTON**

**RALPH MILLER**

**House Committee for 2026-2027**

**Richard Block, Michael Sparks, Roger Kavanaugh, Mike Daugherty, Steve Scoggins, Kim Jahnigen and Jeff Stegemiller**

**Club/Bar Manager-Julie Elliott**

***POST 173 OFFICERS FOR 2026-2027***

**Commander – Richard Block (812-621-2525)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr – Mike Vichuras**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr – Denny Granger**

**Adjutant – Chris Halcomb**

**Chaplain – Howard Austin**

**Sgt at Arms – Denny Granger**

**Finance Officer – Roger Kavanaugh**

**Historian – Mike Daugherty**

**Service Officer – Candy Tuller**

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026– 2027**

**LABOR DAY PICNIC/MEMBERSHIP – SUN, SEP 6<sup>TH</sup> 1:00**

**HALLOWEEN PARADE/COSTUME CONTEST – SAT, OCT 31<sup>ST</sup> 7:00**

**VETERANS DAY DINNER – THURS, NOV 12<sup>TH</sup> 7:30**

**CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY – 3:00 – 6:00**

**LAW AND ORDER DINNER – THURS FEB 25<sup>TH</sup> 7:00**

**LEGION BIRTHDAY DINNER – THURS, MAR 18<sup>TH</sup> 7:30**

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND PROGRAMS – MON, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 10:00**