



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> HERD NEWS**

**Autumn Edition**

**September 2009**

**DISTRICT OFFICERS**

**COMMANDER**

*John F. Kopp  
 417 Melrose  
 Liberty MO 64068  
 (816) 407-9740  
 (816) 699-8719  
 e-mail: jfkopp@att.net*

**NORTHERN VICE**

*John-Paul Kopp  
 (816) 407-9740  
 (816) 529-8227  
 e-mail: jpkopp@att.net*

**SOUTHERN VICE**

*Chuck Collier  
 P.O. Box 502  
 Excelsior Springs MO 64024  
 (816) 848-4410*

**ADJUTANT**

*Robert Emery  
 (816) 833-7285  
 e-mail: remery18@comcast.net*

**FINANCE OFFICER**

*Gary Reno  
 (816) 628-5773  
 e-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com*

**CHAPLAIN**

*Rev. Donna Warren  
 PO Box 417  
 Liberty MO 64069  
 e-mail: Dimlitwit@aol.com*

**SGT. AT ARMS**

*Calvin Bumgarner  
 5212 Cody  
 Shawnee KS 66203  
 (913) 522-1103  
 e-mail: cbumgar522@aol.com*

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

*Gary Reno  
 (816) 628-5773  
 e-mail: greno001@kc.rr.com*

**FROM GARY NICHOLS**

I wish to thank all of the officers of District Three for all of the support and assistance rendered to me over the past couple of years. It has been a good two years and the accomplishments over those years could not have been attained without your assistance. I would also like to thank all of the posts commanders for all their hard work and dedication to our district, department, and to the Legion. It has been an honor to have had the opportunity to represent you, my fellow Legionnaires, at all the department and district functions.

Again, thank you, one and all.

Gary Nichols, Past District Three Commander

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**JUST A REMINDER**

By

**Gary Reno, Judge Advocate**

Within the past several years the tax laws concerning non-profit, tax exempt organizations have changed. It is extremely important that each post check with its tax preparation person to make sure that the post is in compliance with all of the new tax laws governing their tax exemption. Failure to comply with the law could result in that post losing its tax exempt status. If you have any questions, please call the Department Judge Advocate:

**Roger (Jim) Davis  
 H (816) 373-1523  
 C (816) 853-3537  
 Jdavis457@comcast.com**



EMANUEL CLEAVER, II  
5TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI  
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
CONSUMER CREDIT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
GLOBAL WARMING  
REGIONAL WHIP (Region 4)



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Emanuel Cleaver, II

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE:  
1641 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4535 (PHONE)  
(202) 225-4403 (FAX)

KANSAS CITY OFFICE:  
101 WEST 31ST STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108  
(816) 842-4545 (PHONE)  
(816) 471-5215 (FAX)

INDEPENDENCE OFFICE:  
211 WEST MAPLE AVENUE  
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050  
(816) 833-4545 (PHONE)  
(816) 833-2991 (FAX)

emanuel.cleaver@mail.house.gov  
<http://www.house.gov/Cleaver>

Dear Veteran:

I am looking forward to seeing you, a Vietnam Veteran, on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Vietnam Veterans Town Hall Appreciation Event. The location is the front lawn of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library at 2:00 p.m. Vietnam Veterans will be honored as the generation of brave Americans who valiantly served our country. My hope is that you will extend an invitation to family and friends so that they may share in this tribute to you.

History has recorded that it has been 50 years since the first casualties occurred to United States Military Assistance Advisory Group due to the declared war by Ho Chi Minh. As the war escalated so did our casualties and the sacrifice of Americans who served. So we look forward to your attendance at this special town hall appreciation event that honors you, the patriot who did your job for all of America.

Please complete the attached form and a photocopy of your DD214 so that we may have information to include on your certificate. Please return your completed form and DD214 as soon as possible. We also encourage you to invite family members of a Vietnam Veteran who has passed away. There will be a time during the event when we will turn to their families to acknowledge their loved one's contribution. Please have their relative complete the attached form if a deceased veteran's family will attend.

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance obtaining your DD214, please contact Nicki at my Independence Office at 816-833-4545 or by e-mail, [nicki.cardwell@mail.house.gov](mailto:nicki.cardwell@mail.house.gov).

Warmest regards,

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

# United States Representative Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO-05)

## Vietnam Veterans Town Hall Appreciation Event

The information from this form and your DD 214 will provide information for your certificate, awarded at the September 12, 2009 event. Please return as soon as possible so that your certificate can be presented on the day of the event.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch Unit Rank

Enlistment \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Entry Tour of Duty in Vietnam Separation Date

Information for Certificate, please include the following:

Theaters (cities, firebases, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Operations (major conflicts): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Medals and Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide proof of service by attaching your DD214 or if you have a Service Officer that has worked on a case for you please request their signature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Service Officer Signature Organization Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veterans Signature Date

For assistance in obtaining your DD214, please contact Congressman's Independence Office  
 U. S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II  
 Independence Office: 211 W Maple, Independence, MO 64050  
 Phone: 816-833-4545 Fax: 816-833-2991 Staff: Nicki Cardwell

# DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark you calendars for the next district meetings:

Date: **September 14, 2009**  
 Place: Tweedie-Murray Post 117  
 Braymer, MO.  
 Time: 1200PM Lunch  
 1300PM Meeting

Date: **January 10, 2010**  
 Place: Clyde Gustine Post 236  
 208 Veterans Memorial Dr  
 Excelsior Springs MO  
 Time: 1200PM Lunch  
 1300PM Meeting

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**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

By  
**John F. Kopp, Commander**  
**District Three**

As I begin my first year as District Three Commander, I am awed at the size of the shoes I am attempting to fill. There is no way our district could possibly properly thank Gary Nichols for the job he has performed over the past two years. His dedication, hard work, and accomplishments are such that they will continue for many years to come. Thank you, Gary.

One of my desires is to expand this newsletter. Communication is vital to any organization, and this is but just one form in which we can get information to our posts. In like manner, if any post has an activity planned, feel free to send me the information and I will be happy to add that information to the newsletter. I will try to send out the newsletter at least a month prior to the district meeting, if possible. And, since The American Legion is a family, I would also like to invite our District Auxiliary officers and/or departments to add anything they wish, and also any Squadrons of the SAL.

I do ask that when the adjutant receives this that he or she makes sure the Commander sees it and also as many post members as possible, and possibly even reading it at your scheduled meeting. If your post has an Auxiliary Unit and/or SAL Squadron, please share this with them also.

For more information contact me: [jfkopp@att.net](mailto:jfkopp@att.net)

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**DISTRICT THREE FALL MEETING**

By  
**John F. Kopp, Commander**  
**District Three**

The District Three Fall Meeting will be hosted by **Post 117 in Braymer Missouri on Sunday, September 13, 2009**. Lunch begins at 1200 Hrs. with the meeting beginning at 1300 Hrs. This will be a full meeting with our Post Everlasting Ceremony and the installation of our new officers. Please plan to attend or send a representative. Come and meet your new officers.

We are honored to have Past Department Commander Marvin Harper to conduct the installation of officers.

If your post experienced the passing of any member over the past year, please forward his/her name to either our adjutant Robert Emery or the district commander so he/she can be honored at our ceremony

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## A NEW YEAR

By  
**John-Paul Kopp**  
**Membership Chairman**

A new membership year is upon us. Now is the time to retain current members and recruit new members. This will take help from each post.

I will be contacting each post to discuss membership retention. The best way to reach our membership goal is to start with current members. We can attain a good part of our goal by contacting our current members. If you cannot contact a member, look at the ways you have tried. Often we try by a phone call or by an e-mail, but it is one or the other. We need to follow up on these contacts. Our goal is to retain the member, so we have to e-mail and call or even talk to them in person. An Idea that the Past National Commander had for those members that are not the easiest to retain is to suggest paying for two years. Also think about suggesting PUFL (Paid Up For Life). This will eliminate having to collect dues for those members.

I also want to discuss membership recruitment. Our goals can be met or surpass our membership expectations by recruiting new members. I had the pleasure to attend the department convention where I had the chance to listen to the Past National Commander talk about his little town of about 400 people and his post of about 100 members. This can be done with almost any small town. A lot of our high school kids are talking to recruiters each day. We know a lot of them and do not think about having them join the American Legion. Just a little encouragement and support through their military career can make a legionnaire for life. I can tell you that it doesn't take much. After just a few years in service and all the support from my post I decided to become a PUFL Member. Another place we do not look is in our family. Do you have a grandparent, parent, sibling, child or cousin that served? When you ask if someone has served and they say yes, ask them what Legion post they belong to. It will help break the membership ice.

I will be traveling with the District Command on his post visits. I will discuss with each post what your plans are. I will also help in any way possible with any issues the post has with membership. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact me.

### 2009-2010 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

<b>Early Bird/NEF Kickoff*</b>	<b>Sept. 9,2009</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Fall Meetings</b>	<b>Oct. 14, 2009</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>Nov. 11, 2009</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Pearl Harbor Day*</b>	<b>Dec. 9, 2009</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Mid-Winter</b>	<b>Jan. 13, 2010</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>President's Day*</b>	<b>Feb. 10, 2010</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Legion Birthday</b>	<b>Mar. 10, 2010</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Children &amp; Youth *</b>	<b>Apr. 14, 2010</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b>May 12, 2010</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Delegate Strength</b>	<b>30 days prior to National Convention</b>	

\*\*This date is also a renewal notice cutoff date.

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**BOYS STATE**

By  
**John F. Kopp**  
**Boys State Chairman**

I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard to make this year's Boys State a success. We sent the same number this year as last, seventy citizens. Keep up the good work.

I know it may seem pretty early to be thinking about this, but really now is the time to be contacting the high school counselors in your area and talking with them about Boys State. Also, it is a very good time to begin talking with potential sponsors for next year. Be sure to thank this year's sponsors, also. Maybe the economy will improve enough for them to sponsor one more boy.

If you need any assistance, would like to have a representative of boys state come and talk at your schools, or what ever, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can have a representative get in contact with you in no time.

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**2009 DEPARTMENT OF MISSIOURI  
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

By  
**John F. Kopp, Commander**  
**District Three**

This being my first ever convention I really had no idea what to expect or what would be expected of me. District Three had seven delegates attending: District Commander Gary Nichols (Post 58); Past District Command Bob Box (Post 626); Past District Commander Roy Rash (Post 61); District Judge Advocate Gary Reno (Post 95); Commander-Elect John F. Kopp (Post 95); Sergeant-at-Arm-Elect Calvin Bumgarner (Post 61); Northern Vice-Commander-Elect John-Paul Kopp (Post95).

Over all it was quite a learning experience for me. I was lucky to attend the conference on membership. It turned out to be more a motivational session than anything The session was conducted by Past National Command Marty Conaster. Besides being a very vibrant speaker, he had many ideas and suggestions concerning membership, recruitment and maintaining membership. Over the next several months we will be sharing with you many of these suggestions and ideas.

If you have never had the opportunity to attend a convention or a conference I urge you to try to attend one. They are extremely informative and a lot of fun. You meet new people and greet old friends. Many of those folks you are always reading about in the various legion news papers and magazines are there, full of knowledge and more than willing to share all of it with you.

I would urge each post in our district to try to send one representative to the department's conferences. If the post can afford it I would suggest that the post provide some financial assistance for any member wishing to attend. Then, upon his or her return he/she can share what he/she had learned. Send that person to the conference armed with questions to be answered, If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or any of the district's officers. We will be glad to answer any and all questions. If we do not know the answer, rest assured that we WILL get it for you.

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**WE ARE HAVING A CHICNIC**



**Where:**

Wallace State Park  
Cameron MO  
I-35 to Exit 48  
Follow the green information  
Signs

**When:**

Saturday August 29, 2009  
Time: 1:00 PM

**Hosted By:**

40et8 Nuef Comtes Voiture 1379  
A Non-Profit Fun and Honor Society  
Of Veterans

All you can eat BBQ Chicken and Beef Brisket with all the fixings

Donation: \$10.00 Adults  
\$ 6.00 Children 13 and under  
Door Prizes and a Raffle

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD**  
**NURSES TRAINING**

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DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL EVENTS TO  
REMEMBER

**National Convention**

- 2009 - August 21 - 27, Louisville, Kentucky  
2010 - Aug 27 -Sept 2, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
2011 - Aug 26 - Sept 1, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
2012 - August 24-30, Indianapolis, Indiana  
2013 - August 23-29, Houston, Texas

**Fall Conference**

- 2009 - October 23-25, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City

**ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP  
COMPETITION**

The new school year has begun. Now is the time for the individual post Oratorical Chairman to contact your local high school and present the Legion's Oratorical Scholarship to them so they can find and prepare our young orators for this year's competition. Remember, any student who makes it to the district completion automatically is presented a \$2500 scholarship to Lindenwood University.

Several posts in our district are offering a \$100 scholarship for the winner of their high school contest. Remember Brittany Sanders? She was sponsored by District 5, though she lives in our district (her school is in Kansas City). She visited the Department Convention this year. Remember she won the department contest and went on to national. One of the things she said was, because of the scholarships she had won, she will be able to attend and graduate from Princeton University and be debt free. There are opportunities.

District 3 News  
C/O John F. Kopp  
417 Melrose  
Liberty MO 64068