

Clay-Ray Veterans Association
200 Concourse, P.O. Box 297
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024
(816) 630-7711

clayrayvets@mchsi.com · www.clayrayvets.com

Home of American Legion Post 236, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary,
Sons of The American Legion and VFW Post 741

2nd Quarter 2007 Newsletter

May Bulletin – Missing in Action

The May bulletin is *missing in action!* Although the bulletin was delivered to the post office on April 28, no one has received it to date, and the post office is looking into the “disappearance.”

Memorial Day Services – Monday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m. – Join us for this year’s Memorial Day services. Our very own Tom Brown, member of both American Legion Post 236 and VFW Post 741, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. We are excited to announce that the High School band, new to this year’s service, will perform three songs throughout the program. Upon conclusion of the services, free lemonade, tea and cookies will be served compliments of the Ladies Auxiliary. The SAL will be serving ribs, brisket, and chicken for \$6.00/plate.

A True American Hero

We are honored to announce that this year’s *Memorial Day Speaker* is **Jack Jackson**, Retired from the United States Marine Corps. **Jack** flew over 600 combat missions in Vietnam. A highly decorated veteran, **Jack** is the recipient of four Distinguished Flying Crosses, 33 Air Medals, Navy Commendation Medal for Heroism and Valor, a host of campaign medals and, most recently, the Legion of Merit for Service to His Country. He was called back to active duty for Desert Shield where he served as a Harrier Instructor Pilot.

While serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, **Jack** was Chairman of the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security and Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. **Jack** received the “Legislator of the Year Award” from the Missouri Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars in June 2003, 2005 and 2006 and the “Legislator of the Year Award” from the American Legion in 2004. He also received the National Aide-de-Camp award from the National Commander of the National VFW.

A reception for **Jack** is scheduled for Sunday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Post’s reception hall. This is a special event for all veterans and any persons currently serving on active duty or in the Reserves, National Guard, or Coast Guard, along with friends and family to be able to meet and visit with Jack. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Flags up at 6:00 a.m. – We will meet at the Post at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25 to put flags up throughout Excelsior Springs. Afterwards, free breakfast will be provided. **Flags down at 4:00 p.m.** on Memorial Day.

Waterfest – It’s back and bigger than ever!!! Waterfest will be held June 29-30 and July 1. Organization and membership information will be displayed by all organizations. And yes, we have a tent reserved. If you are able to volunteer for a 2-hour shift (or more), please call and leave a message for Tom Brown at the Post. Remember, this year’s Waterfest is a 3-day event, so any amount of time you can volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

Veterans’ Room / Military Veterans Honored - Created to honor all Excelsior Springs veterans, the new Veterans’ Room at the *Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives* serves to record, showcase, and preserve memories and artifacts from local veterans’ military experiences. Planned to span the decades from the city’s beginning in 1880 to the present, the exhibits will include the Spanish-American War (1899), World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), Korean War (1950-1953), Vietnam (1961-1972), Persian Gulf War (1991), and the War on Terrorism (2001-present). The Museum is requesting information and donations of uniforms and military memorabilia from Excelsior Springs’ veterans or families. A *Military Experience Survey is available to tell about your experiences in military service*. You can pick up a survey at the Post, or by one of the following ways: send an email to clayrayvets@mchsi.com, call the Post at 816-630-7711, send a letter, or download a copy from the Post website homepage at www.clayrayvets.com.

Missouri Veteran Stories – Spearheaded by the Office of Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, the *Missouri Veteran Stories* project is intended to honor Missouri’s military veterans by capturing their stories on DVD, to be preserved for future generations. This project is *open to all men and women currently residing in Missouri, who have served in any branch of the United States Military*. Five- to seven-minute fully edited digital stories will be produced from interviews and conversations with each veteran to be part of the permanent *Missouri Veteran Stories* archive. This archive of stories will be available through the internet at www.missouriveteranstories.com, and elsewhere. A simple, one-page nomination form is all you need to nominate yourself or a fellow veteran. You can pick up a nomination form at the Post, or by one of the following ways: send an email to clayrayvets@mchsi.com, call the Post at 816-630-7711, send a letter, or download a copy from the Post website homepage at www.clayrayvets.com.

Scholarships – The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and VFW all awarded many scholarships to graduating seniors at both the Excelsior Springs High School and the Career Center. The American Legion awarded six scholarships totaling \$3,000. *We were able to award the scholarships using proceeds from Friday night bingo*. We desperately need volunteers for bingo. Just one night a month would make a huge difference. If you are able to help out and would like more information, please contact Donna Johnston at 519-7755 or leave a message at the Post at 630-7711.

Post Activities – Make sure you read your monthly bulletin for a list of activities, such as Thursday night pool tournaments, family fun nights, Monday night football, NASCAR, and many more.

Volunteer Help – If you would like to volunteer, but your availability is limited, there are other opportunities throughout the year when volunteer help is needed. Please let us know if you would like to be added to a volunteer list for future activities/events. We do not have an expectation or want anyone to feel obligated if you are unable to volunteer for an activity/event if called.

Post Email – If you would like to be included in a *group email* for newsletters, general information, announcements, etc., please send your email address to clayrayvets@mchsi.com. Also, you can forward the names and email addresses of any family members, friends, etc., you would like to add to the group email list.

Post Website – If you have visited the Post website since you received the last newsletter, it has not been updated. OK, as my husband always tells me, “It’s not an excuse, but the reason.” The Reason - I have had a packed schedule and can now dedicate the time needed to get the website completed, as well as keeping it updated. It already has Post information on the homepage, as well as some valuable resources and links on the Resource page. I will continue to work on each organization’s customized site (American Legion Post 236, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, SAL, and VFW 741), and I will do my best to get them completed as soon as possible. Please forward any information, links, etc., you think would be helpful and serve as a valuable resource. As a reminder, the website address is www.clayrayvets.com.

Bricks – For \$50.00, you can purchase a brick and have one name inscribed on it, which will be included as part of the Veterans Memorial Walkway. You can mail your checks payable to American Legion Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 297, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024, or you can call 816-630-7711 for more information.

Membership Opportunities for Family Members - Wives, mothers, daughters, and granddaughters of veterans and military personnel currently serving on active duty are eligible to join the *American Legion Ladies Auxiliary*. Sons and grandsons of veterans are eligible to join the *Sons of the American Legion (SAL)*. The Ladies Auxiliary and the SAL are a vital part of the American Legion and provide and assist our Post in many ways, both financially and through various volunteer opportunities.

American Legion and VFW Caps – If you would like to order an American Legion cap, please call the Post with your cap size. The cost for a cap is \$48.00, which includes the insignia, city name and state, and shipping. Please contact Tom Brown for a VFW cap, which is \$40.00.

Monthly Meetings

American Legion Post 236-2nd Thurs. of every month at 6:30 p.m. / American Legion Aux.-2nd Thurs. of every month at 7:00 p.m.
Sons of the American Legion (SAL)-1st Thurs. of every month at 6:30 p.m. / VFW Post 741 – 2nd Tues. of every month at 7:00 p.m.

~~~~~  
I look forward to working with you & participating in the many activities we provide for our veterans and our community.

**Donna Johnston**  
**(816) 630-7711 – Post; (816) 630-5210 – home; (816) 519-7755 – cell**