



# The American Legion

## Chapel Hill Post No. 6, American Legion, Inc.

3700 NC Highway 54 West, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

### *Note from the Commander – June 15, 2020 No. 20*

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The next few weeks for American Legion Post 6 will be seminal events in our history. We will be closing down the old post and locking the door behind us. I will be discussing those events in the following paragraphs. However, I think it would be appropriate to address some of the unrest and discord that is happening in the United States right now. The National Commander (James Oxford) drafted a statement which I am paraphrasing here for you. The American Legion stands firm in a value it has upheld, in the form of a national resolution, first adopted 1923. That resolution reads as follows:

*"WHEREAS, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all peoples equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and...*

*WHEREAS, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in a time of great national stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed, or class; and...*

***RESOLVED, ...That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and be it finally***

***RESOLVED, That we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion."***

This resolution's place in The American Legion's conscience is so timeless it was reaffirmed, in full, at the organization's 99<sup>th</sup> National Convention in 2017.

"Throughout its history, The American Legion has fought to improve racial equality not only for veterans, but for the communities they serve. In 1919, African-American veterans of World War I were among the organization's founders who adopted a mission statement - the

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Preamble to The American Legion Constitution - that pledges among other things 'to maintain law and order,' 'promote peace and goodwill on earth' and 'safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.'

"Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned, without prejudice. Our nation has much to consider as we continue to strive toward a shared goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: 'with liberty and justice for all.' All means all. Anything less than complete equality in the execution of these values today is as un-American now as it was in 1923."

In Post 6, we have between 20 and 25 minority members (men, women, and mixed racial minorities) and many currently serve in leadership positions on our Post Executive Committee. In addition, both the District and Vice District Commanders are minority members from Post 6.

As we begin our transition to the new Post, I hope we do so with a dream of equality for all where, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." I am personally very thankful for all of the minorities we have at our Post and I am even more thankful for their exceptional contributions to our membership and our Post. Now that we have the nicest Post in the United States, I think it is very important that we have the most inclusive Post in the United States...**with liberty and justice for all.**

Now, back to the closing of the old post. This next week I will be working with the moving committee and we will be taking the final objects that are usable over to the new post...everything else that is residual will be sold or discarded within the next two weeks. The moving committee will be staging everything that we have for sale in the small meeting room and will be selling things on 20 June and 27 June from 10AM to 2PM. After that everything will be discarded. If you would like to see some of those treasures, please drop by the post and make an offer on something.

In addition to the moving committee, I am looking for two or three volunteers to sand and repaint the artillery gun that we have outside of the old Post. I would like to get that done within the next 10 days and move that over to our new post. If we cannot salvage the old stands, we may need to build a new brick foundation to hold the cannon. If you are interested in this job, please call me at 919-201-0167 and I will sign you up for that event. In addition, you will need your own tools (probably a sander that you can attach to a portable drill). We will still have electricity, so if you have an



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electric drill you can also use that as long as you bring a long extension cord.

I'd like to thank all of the people that have been providing their help and assistance at the new post with the watering and the lawn cutting. Initially, the watering was taking about five or six hours however, we now have that down to a couple of hours. In addition, there are three or four people who have become very proficient at using the zero-turn lawn mower. By doing this work ourselves, we are saving \$300 to \$400 a month and that's a big deal since we don't have any income yet.

I am keeping my eyes and ears open and listening and watching for the guidance that Governor Cooper and the County Commissioners are espousing. As I said in my last note, I think it will take about three weeks to put a program together once we can fit enough people in the post without violating state and local mandates...I'd hate to get raided at our first event.

I hope this note finds all of you well and I look forward to our "soft opening" as soon as possible.

Warm regards,

William Munsee, Commander

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