



Fort Cumberland

Post 13

Michael Hayes

206 E Harrison Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

History of

Post No. 13

The American Legion

Cumberland, Maryland

For 2021 to 2022

By Michael Hayes

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Introduction



The American Legion is built on a promise from men and women who swore with their lives to defend and protect the United States through military service. The promise begins at enlistment, grows through training and discipline in the U.S. Armed Forces and continues after discharge, as veterans in service to community, state and nation.

Post 13 currently located at 206 E Harrison Street in Cumberland, Maryland has been part of the local community for 103 years. The first proclamation for Post 13 was on June 16th, 1919, where Garland Powell was elected as the first commander. In the beginning members would regularly meet at different locations including the armory until the first regular meeting location was established at 67 Prospect Square in Cumberland in 1929. In March 1926 Post 13 was first chartered as Legion Home Memorial Post, Inc. By 1933 Post 13 had a set up a social quarter on the third floor of 117 Baltimore Street in Cumberland where they would hold regular hold meeting, dances and hang out. By 1937 Post 13 formally acknowledged its first home purchased the first part of where it currently stands today. On October 23rd, 1940, Post 13 purchased the former Lincoln Hotel which was torn down to expand the post. On June 10th, 1973, Post 13 was rechartered as Legion Home of Cumberland, Inc.

Cumberland is a U.S. city in and the county seat of Allegany County, Maryland. Located on the Potomac River, Cumberland is a regional business and commercial center for Western Maryland and the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia.

Historically Cumberland was known as the "Queen City", as it was once the second largest in the state. Because of its strategic location on what became known as the Cumberland Road through the Appalachians, after the American Revolution it served as a historical outfitting and staging point for westward emigrant trail migrations throughout the first half of the 1800s. In this role, it supported the settlement of the Ohio Country and the lands in that latitude of the Louisiana Purchase. It also became an industrial center, served by major roads, railroads, and the

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which connected Cumberland to Washington, D.C. and is now a national historical park. Today, Interstate 68 bisects the town.

Cumberland was named by English colonists after the son of King George II, Prince William, the Duke of Cumberland. It is built on the site of the mid-18th century Fort Cumberland, the starting point for British General Edward Braddock's ill-fated attack on the French stronghold of Fort Duquesne (present-day Pittsburgh) during the French and Indian War, the North American front of the Seven Years' War between the French and the British. This area had been settled for thousands of years by indigenous peoples. The fort was developed along the Great Indian Warpath which tribes used to travel the backcountry.

Cumberland also served as an outpost of Colonel George Washington during the French and Indian War, and his first military headquarters was built here. Washington returned as President of the United States in 1794 to Cumberland to review troops assembled to thwart the Whiskey Rebellion.

During the 19th century, Cumberland was a key road, railroad and canal junction. Cumberland was the terminus, and namesake, of the Cumberland Road (begun in 1811) that extended westward to the Ohio River at Wheeling, West Virginia. This was the first portion of what would be constructed as the National Road, which eventually reached Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. In the 1850s, many black fugitives reached their final stop on the underground railroad beneath the floor of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. A maze of tunnels beneath and an abolitionist pastor above provided refuge before the final five-mile trip to freedom in Pennsylvania.

The surrounding hillsides were mined for coal and iron ore and harvested for timber that helped supply the Industrial Revolution. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal had its western terminus here, it was built to improve the movement of goods between the Midwest and Washington, DC, the eastern terminus. Construction of railroads superseded use of the canal, as trains were faster and could carry more freight. The city developed as a major manufacturing center, with industries in glass, breweries, fabrics, tires, and tinplate.

Preamble to the Constitution

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Officers



Commander

Bernie Lechman

Bernie Lechman was born in Latrobe, Pa. He graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Pharmacy. He served in the Army for two years with most of my time being in the Hospital pharmacy at Fort Leonard, Missouri. He was a pharmacy/pharmacist manager for Walmart for many years. Locally he serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals for the City of Cumberland. He has held many positions on the Executive Committee for our American Legion Post 13. He has enjoyed many years of his membership at our post. He is grateful for being the commander of our post and strives to fulfill his term by giving his best.



Vice Commander
James "Jay" Anderson



George "Mo" Beal



Adjutant
Peter Kelly



House Manager
Mike Miller



Jeff Robbinette



Sgt-at-Arms

Jeff Hotchkiss



Michael Hayes



Past Commander

John McCaffry

Executive Committee



Lisa Anderson



Jack Yarnall



William "Boomer" Mulligan

Judge Advocate

Not filed by election

Honor Guard



Left to right

Back Row: Bernie Lechman, Ron Welsh, Pete Handley, James King, Bill Squire, Bob Smith,
Cliff Rhodes, and Brian Rhodes

Front Row: Frank Pirolozzi, James Beckwith, Pete Kelly

Baseball

Post 13 Junior Baseball Team



Back: Darrian Bauer, Lyle Baker, Brayden Spier, Leuma Pua’auli, Landon McAlpine, Jacob McCray, Ty Wihlem, Rowan Brady

Front: Demeatri Basselli, Alex Kennell, Brennan White, Bryce Snyder, Wes Athey, Allan Stevenson

June Gold Star Legacy Riders

June 12



Jeff Hotchkiss and Byron Seekamp assist in prepping food for the Legacy Riders



Riders socializing before dinner



Legacy Riders Motorcycles



Commander Bernie Lechman shows to greet the Riders



Brian Neff seasons chicken for the Rider's dinner



Brian Neff addresses the Riders before dinner

Flag Day

June 14



James Anderson directs the Flag Day Ceremony



Post Color Guard presents honors for the flags



Pete Kelly presents flags for inspection



Pete Kelly Symbolically burns the flags as Taps is played

Father's Day

June 20



Enjoying Father's Day Breakfast



Bernie Lechman Serves drinks



Pete Kelly scrabbles eggs for Father's Day Breakfast



Members of the Auxiliary volunteering to serv Father's Day Breakfast



**July
Independence Day Deck Party
July 4**



**A happy couple stop by to see what's
Happening**



**Brian Neff and Byron Seekamp cook for
the Deck party**



Member shows pride with the colors



**Members enjoying the party in
anticipation for the fireworks**



Department Convention



James Marchinke, Michael Hayes, James Anderson, Alex Anderson, Pete Kelly



Policemen and Firefighters of the year recognized at Convention



Legion Riders receive awards for their hard work



New Regions and Districts receive their flags for the reorganization



Pete Kelly receive an award on behalf of the post from Ronald Holcome



Mountain District holds their final drawing at the convention



D7 Commander Sherry Recner stands with Pete Kelly and James Anderson with the new District 7 flag



Post 13 Delegates to Department Convention Michael Hayes, Pete Kelly, James Anderson

Convention Post Everlasting



James Anderson presents cover for Post Everlasting



Covers Presented for Post Everlasting



Quire sings for Post Everlasting



Convention Honor Guard for Post Everlasting

**Installation of Officers
July 20**

**Mike Miller stands down as House
Manager**



Jay Anderson stands down as



**Cody Goodwin is elected as
Sgt-at-Arms**

**Vice Commander and is elected as
House Manager**



**Jeff Hotchkiss stands down as
Sgt-at-Arms and is elected as
Vice Commander**



Member Show for the members meeting to see the installation on knew officers



New Officers are sworn in for 2021-2022



Officers for 2021 – 2022

Bernie Lechman, Lisa Anderson, Cody Goodwin, James Anderson, William Mulligan, George Beal, Jeff Hotchkiss, Pete Kelly, Jeff Robbinette, Jack Yarnall, Michael Hayes, John McCaffry

August
Post 13 Hosts the first District 7 Meeting
August 1



Bernie Lechman opens for D7



Pete Kelly gives finance report



D7 Commander Sherry Recner runs the meeting



James Anderson addresses the D7 membership



Large turnout for the First D7 Meeting



After the meeting everyone enjoys a good meal

Legion Picnic

August 28



Games provided for the picnic



Music is DJ'ed for the picnic



Cody Goodwin and Jeff Robbinette serve drinks



Large turnout to enjoy the picnic



John McCaffry helps serv food



A thumbs up to show the food is good

August Members Meeting

August 10



Jeff Robbinette stands down as chaplain and is elected as Judge advocate



Margarete Steele elected as Chaplain

September

Honor Guard Dinner



Honor Guard shows for their annua dinner



James King addresses the Honor Guard



D7 Commander Sherry Recner and Pete Kelly Show up for the dinner



Ron Welsh Gives thanks to the Honor Guard for their service

SAL Picnic September 20



Cooking sausages and onions



Brian Neff gives opening address



Cody Goodwin cooking burgers



Margarete Steele gives prayer



Brian Neff roasting hams





Fresh cooked corn on the cob



**Department Commander William L.
"Will" Trotter Stops by**



Games are played

October
Members Meeting
October 12



William "Boomer" Mulligan stands down as Executive Committee Member
James King is elected as Executive Committee Member

Halloween Party October 23



Cat-girl and Ghoul joins the party



**Red Riding Hood ready to go to
Grandma's house**



Psycho clown serves drinks



Pirate looking for their booty



Costume contest to see who will win

1st Place Edna Neff

2nd Place Brian Neff

**November
SAL Oyster Sale
November 6**



Shucking oysters for the sale



Oysters Rockefeller



Oyster Day



Pete Kelly taking orders

Veterans Day November 11

Post 13



Bernie Lechman opens then ceremony



**Guest speaker D7 Commander Sherry
Recner**



Margarete Steele gives prayer



Laying of the wreaths



Color Guard gives honors



**After the ceremony everyone sits down
for lunch**

Rocky Gap



Mountain Ridge Jazz Orchestra played music for the ceremony



Post 13 Honor Guard represents at the Rocky Gap Ceremony



Local Vietnam Veterans



Civil Air Patrol

December
SAL Children's Christmas Party
December 18



Edna Neff serves food



Santa gives presents to good little boys



Hope Pours Drinks



Santa gives presents to good little girls



Here comes Santa



Mrs. Clause greets the kids

Eggnog Party December 23



**Food and drink served at the annual
Eggnog Party**



**Pete Kelly and Brian Neff Make the
special eggnog**



Members stop by and socialize

**New Year's Party
December 31**



Ring in the new year with karaoke

February Post Everlasting February 8



Bernie Lechman directs the Post Everlasting Ceremony



Margarete Steele gives prayer



James Anderson acts as Sgt-At-Arms for the Ceremony



Pete Kelly reads the names of those who transferred to Post Everlasting



Pete Kelly lays cover



The brazier is lit by James Anderson

March Hooley Bash March 12



Cody Goodwin stands by to check IDs



Menu



Bernie Lechman is ready to help



Charles Jones selling jello shots



Ella and Friends play live for the first half of the Hooley Bash



The loca-motion is underway



Vandells play the second half of the Hooley Bash



Big turnout for the Hooley Bash

Legion Birthday Dinner March 26



Birthday cake



David Hall speaks about the history



Bernie Lechman addresses those who attend



D7 Sherry Recner is Guest Speaker



Margarete Steele give prayer



Brian Neff is recognized for his support

**May
Parents Day Breakfast
May 8**



Byron Seekamp and Brian Neff cook for the Parents Day Breakfast



Enjoying a good conversation



Serving breakfast for Parents Day



Pete Kelly makes coffee

Post elections May19

Results of the Elections for 2022 - 2023

Commander	Judge Advocate
Jeff Hotchkiss	Jeff Robbinette
Vice Commander	Historian
Margarete Steele	Michael Hayes
Adjutant	Chaplain
Peter Kelly	David Hall
Finance Officer	Executive Committee
George Beal	Mike Beaman
	Pete Handley
Sgt-at-Arms	James King
Jimmy Friend	
	Past Commander
	Bernie Lechman

Memorial Day

May 30

Post 13



Sr Vice Commander Ronald Holcome presents Governor Larry Hogan's Proclamation to Bernie Lechman



Margarete Steele gives benediction



Bernie Lechman directs Memorial Day services at Post 13



National Anthem sung and Pledge of Allegiance recited by Brittany McGuire and Hannah Apedo



Cumberland Mayor Raymond Morriss reads Governor Larry Hogan's Proclamation



Guest speaker Sr Vice Commander Ronald Holcome gives Memorial Day Speech



Charles Fisher fires 3 rounds



Placing of the wreaths by Jeff Hotchkiss, Jeff Davis, Patai Middleton, Jack Yarnall and John McCaffry



Pete Kelly acknowledges the Purple Heart



Honor Guard shows respect for the fallen

Rocky Gap



Frostburg Arion Band plays for Memorial Day Services



Civil Air Patrol shows respect for the fallen



Vietnam Veterans give honors for Memorial Day



Rev Patricia Bittner Directs Memorial Day Services at Rocky Gap



Post 13 Honor Guard presents the colors



Bernie Lechman give invocation



Delegate Mike McKay gives Address



Charles Fisher fires 3 shots



**Keynote Speaker Sr Vice Commander
Ronald Holcome give address**



Doves are released

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