



Fort Cumberland

Post 13

Michael Hayes

206 E Harrison Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

Year Book of

Post No. 13

The American Legion

Cumberland, Maryland

For 2022 to 2023

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, D.C., 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

Jeff Hotchkiss

Jeff Hotchkiss, was born 1966 in Cumberland MD. Raised in Mt. Savage MD and Rawlings, MD. After graduating from Fort Hill Hill School, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1984. Deployed three times, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Noble Eagle III and Operation Enduring Freedom. Retired in with 26 years of service. Currently lives in Frostburg, MD with his wife Kimberly Hotchkiss. Has three children and 5 grandchildren.



**Vice Commander
Margaret Steele**



**Finance Officer
George "Mo" Beal**



**Adjutant
Peter Kelly**



**House Manager
Bobby Kelley**



Judge Advocate

Jeff Robbinette



Historian

Michael Hayes



Sgt-at-Arms

James Friend



Past Commander

Bernie Lechman

Chaplain

David Hall

Executive Committee Members



Mike Beeman

Pete Handley



James King

Honor Guard

Front row: Bob Smith,
Bernie Lechman, Tim Nelson,
Peter Kelly, Dave Hall, Margaret
Steele, Frank Piroluzzi, Ron Welsh

Back row: Warren Rice, Bill Smith,
Brian Rhodes, Jim Beckwith,
Pete Handley, Chuck Fisher,
James King.



June
Gold Star Legacy Riders
June 11



Riders and members watching awards and donations.



SAL Commander Brian Neff cooks chicken for the Riders

Flag Day

June 14



Post 13 Honor Guard Shows Pride on Flag Day



Sgt-at-Arms James Friend presents Colors to Commander Bernie Lechman for disposal.



Taps are played as Colors are properly disposed of



Prayer is given by Chaplain Margaret Steele

July
Independence Day Deck Party
July 4



SAL Commander Brian Neff cooks hot dog and hamburgers for the Independence Day Deck Party



Fireworks from Constitution Park can be seen at Post 13

**Installation of Officers
July 18**



Members show to the July Membership Meeting for Installation of Officers



Officers for 22-23 present themselves



Officers are sworn in by District 7 Commander Charee Reckner



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss Directs his first meeting

August
Legion Picnic
August 13



Volunteers help set up for the Annual Picnic



Cake to be served for the Picnic

Volunteers for the

Legion Picnic,

**Front Row: Bernie Lechman,
Scotty Dawson, Margaret
Steele, Edna Neff,
Tara Stafford, Bev Hite,
Pete Kelly, Brian Neff,
Bob Seekamp, Jeff Hotchkiss**

**Back Row: Bobby Kelley,
James King, Rodney Stafford,
Jeff Robinette, Kevin
Johnson, Mike Beeman,
Tom Hite, Tim Lapp,**





Scotty Dawson Cooks sausage and peppers for the picnic



SAL Commander Brian Neff slices beef for the picnic



Adjutant Peter Kelly is ready to receive picnic guests



House Manager Bobby Kelley directs games of the picnic



Post 13 Honor Guard Stands proud for the opening ceremony



Chaplain David Hall gives prayer to the picnic



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss Give thanks to those in attendance

**September
SAL Picnic
September 17**



Lighting the BBQ for the picnic



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss grills for the picnic

Volunteers for SAL Picnic

**Front Row: Tara Stafford,
Hope Wolfe, Margaret Steele,
Andy Morris, Edna Neff,
Brian Neff, Gary Blake**

**Back Row: Tim Lapp,
Scotty Dawson, Rodney Stafford,
Jeff Robinette, Helen Forebeck,
Gary Burnette, Frank Brode,
Unknown, Jeff Hotchkiss,
unknown, Bob Seekamp**





Susie Golden and Rhonda Hensel cut the cake for the picnic



Andy Morris and Bob Seekamp Working the fryers



SAL Commander Brian Neff gives opening greetings.



Vice-Commander Margaret Steele gives prayer



Happy attendees dancing away



Volunteers having fun during the after party

October
Sock Hop Recruiting Event
October 1



Volunteers for the Sock Hop

Jeff Robbinette, Jeff Hotchkiss, Margaret Steele, Marilyn Browning, Peter Kelly, Brian Neff



SAL Commander Brian Neff cooks for the Sock Hop



Jeff Robbinette and Bob Seekamp are ready to sign-up new members



Marilyn Browning sings karaoke



Anrea Diken Margaret Steele, Marilyn Browning, Randy Golden, Edna Neff, Susie Golden dressing up for the Sock Hop



Members dancing the night away

December
SAL Children's Christmas Party
December 17



Families arrive for the Christmas party



Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive to the party



Helper Elf Edna Neff and SAL Commander Brian Neff assist with the presents



Santa gives presents to good boys and girls

Eggnog Party December 23



Mike Miller Serves egg nogg



Jeff Hotchkiss and Bobby Kelley are ready to host games

**March
Holley Crawl
March 11**



Perry Kamp opens the Holley Crawl



Edna Neff assists and the Tiki Bar



Large turnout for the Hooley Crawl



The Vandells Paly for the evening

Special Election

March 12

George Beal

stands down as Finance Officer.



Roy Stafford is elected to fill Finance Officer for the remainder of the year.

James Friend stands down as Sgt-at-Arms. Chase Green is elected to fill Sgt-at-Arms for the remainder of the year.

Legion Birthday dinner
March 25



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss presides over the dinner



Guest Speaker District 7 Commander Vaughn Kermit Beard



Jeff Robbinette and David Hall perform the POW/MIA Ceremony



Chaplain David Hall gives prayer to the meal



Members enjoy a Legion Birthday Dinner



Vice-Commander Margaret Steel presents the Post 13 Centennial Award to Commander Jeff Hotchkiss for Post 13 reaching 100 years

April
Special Election
April 11

Executive Committee Member Pete Handley Was Removed for inefficiency



**James Zarger was elected to fill the position of Executive Committee Member
for the remainder of the year**

May

Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing

May 6



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss assists Veteran with weighing fish



SAL Commander Brian Neff filets fish for Veterans



Veterans enjoy a clear day for fishing



Jeff Hotchkiss and Peter Kelly measure fish for Veterans



Bob Seekamp cooks lunch for Veterans



Veterans have a big haul

**Mother's Day Breakfast
May 14**



Vice-Commander Margaret Steele Assists with setting up for Mother's Day



James King cooks scrambled eggs



Bernie Lechman, Margaret Steele, Bev Hite, Susie Golden volunteer to serve breakfast



Mothers enjoying a wonderful breakfast

**Woodstock Recruiting Event
May 20**



Members show for Woodstock



Jeff Hotchkiss and Brian Neff cook for Woodstock



Night Travelers play for Woodstock



Randy Golden, Susie Golden, Edna Neff and Margaret Steele dress up for Wood Stock

Post elections
May 17

Results of the Elections for 2022 - 2023

Commander

Jeff Hotchkiss

Judge Advocate

Jeff Robbinette

Vice Commander

Margaret Steele

Historian

Michael Hayes

Adjutant

Peter Kelly

Chaplain

David Hall

Finance Officer

Roy Stafford

Executive Committee Members

Mike Miller

Brian Rice

Sgt-at-Arms

Chase Green

James Zarger

Memorial Day May 30



Commander Jeff Hotchkiss directs Memorial Day Services



Past Commander Bernie Lechman gives invocation



National Anthem sung by Grace Miller



Pledge of Allegiance recited by Christopher Wolfe



Guest Speaker Randy Golden



Special Guest Maryland Senator Mike McKay



Wreaths placed by Sam Walker, Robert Aman, Regina Whitacre, Pamella Ellsworth and Patai Middleton



Ron Welsh gives gun salute



Dove released by Michael Reinhart



After services Post 13 provides lunch for those in attendance

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