

L.I.N.C.M.O., Inc.
 C/O Ken Cadieux
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Published Monthly

LINCMO Member Organizations

- HONORARY***
 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC*
 UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS*
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.
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 POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETS
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 FORTY & EIGHT - VOITURE #803
 AMERICAN EX- PRISONERS OF WAR
 AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETS
 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSN.
 DAUGHTERS -UNION VETERANS-CIVIL WAR*



DATES TO REMEMBER

2009		
Apr	19	LINCMO, Inc will Meet at 11:30 on The THIRD SUNDAY - due to Palm Sunday & Easter
May	3	LINCMO Meeting on FIRST SUNDAY due to Mothers Day. 11:30 AM
	24	LINCMO Memorial Day Services 2 PM
June	14	LINCMO Meeting 11:30 AM
July		NO MEETING
Aug		NO MEETING
Sept	13	Nomination & Election of Officers
OCT	11	Installation of Officers - AMVETS Post 1 - 5 PM
Nov.	8	LINCMO Veterans Day Services 2 PM

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disability compensation, pensions, medical care, educational benefits, housing benefits, claims and appeals, discharge upgrading, the criminal justice system, employment, reemployment rights, benefits for family members, the special problems of women servicemembers and veterans and domestic relations issues. While it focuses on programs run by the VA it also deals with programs administered by other federal agencies and the states. [Source: www.veteransforamerica.org Feb 08 ++]



*Long Island National Cemetery
 Memorial Organization, Inc*



*The Field of Valor
 Newsletter*

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PRESIDENTS REPORT
Chet Smiley, President

Another month has flown by and we are now getting ready for our Veteran's Day Service at LINCMO.

Any organization who can provide a Color Guard and a few veterans to participate would be greatly appreciated. We attempt to keep our program short and to limit our guest speaker.

New plans are being worked on to enhance the Memorial Garden. Proposed are a flag pole and a plaque designating the Garden and the Donors and the members of LINCMO and the Cemetery Staff. More on this will follow at a later date.

As you can read in the Directors report on page 2, we are moving ahead with getting the cemetery into proper shape and making it the best in the country.

Remember that we are voting on the proposed Constitution & By-laws changes at the next meeting. Be early and be counted.

MOJAVE DESERT VETERAN MEMORIAL

The Supreme Court agreed 23 FEB to step into a long-running legal fight over an 8-foot cross that stands as a war memorial in the vast Mojave National Preserve in California's San Bernardino County. The cross has been declared unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The justices said that in court arguments set for this fall, they will consider throwing out the appeals court ruling that ordered the cross be torn down. The American Civil Liberties Union and a former National Park Service employee have been challenging the cross' continued presence on national parkland for nearly eight years.

A cross has stood on the site since 1934, when a local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars erected it atop an outcropping known as Sunrise Rock. Congress ordered the Interior Department to transfer one acre of land - where the cross stands - to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The 9th Circuit judges refused to allow the transfer saying that "carving out a tiny parcel of property in the midst of this vast preserve — like a donut hole with the cross atop it — will do nothing to minimize the impermissible governmental endorsement" of the religious symbol. They ruled that such a move was unconstitutional and stood by its order to dismantle the monument. The cross is currently encased in a plywood box, now awaiting the Supreme Court's decision. The case is Salazar v. Buono, 08-472. [Source: Star Tribune AP article 23 Feb 09 ++]

DIRECTORS REPORT

We have several projects going on here at LINC at the moment. We are finally getting the roof repaired. Contractors are putting natural slate shingles down and replacing the guttering all the way around. The slate that is being placed is thicker and should last for 100+ years. Once the administration building is complete, the little MADDS building roof will be done as well under this contract.

The new trimming contract has been awarded here at LINC. We also have a mowing, headstone setting and headstone cleaning contract that is in process for LINC. We are currently setting headstones with LINC employees and we have started cleaning headstones in house as I have some concerns about the amount that companies bid as opposed to our Government cost estimates. If the companies bid considerably higher than our Government cost estimates, we will have to rework the contract to get back within available funding. Either way, the stones will be cleaned throughout the cemetery this year.

We are in the process of reducing the number of sunken graves throughout the cemetery. Over the past couple of years, Sections O, P, & 2A were completely renovated. During 2008, Section X was renovated and sodded by a millennium project contract and Section 2X was started. We renovated Section Z in house utilizing a

screed box and hydroseed. The turf is not completely established in Section Z, but we will slit seed and establish better turf as soon as the weather allows. Next year, we have millennium projects scheduled to renovate and sod Sections T & U and currently, it appears that we will also be able to at least one more section (probably Section 2C). We plan to do Sections 2B, 3F and parts of Section R utilizing the screed box method during next year.

Right now, we are fighting the battle with the geese population. I witnessed a very impressive demonstration by a company called Geesebusters. He demonstrated a kite system along with a whistle that sounds very much like an eagle call. Because the eagle is a natural predator to the geese and eagles are territorial, when the geese see what they think is an eagle, they leave the area. The kite was flown for approximately 10 minutes in front of Section 2X on the north end of the cemetery and the geese refused to return to that area for 4 weeks. They are now just starting to return to that area and we are taking steps to purchase the geese abatement system. Hopefully, by the next LINC MO meeting, we will be geese-free.

LINC will have a new Assistant Director arriving on 16 March. Mr. Gil Cody is a retired Army E-9 and a recent graduate of the National Training Center's Director Intern Training Program. Mr. Cody will be introduced to LINC MO at the first meeting following his arrival (April 19th).

Cypress Hills also has a new mowing contract being negotiated for the upcoming year. We are also in the process of getting all of the headstones cleaned under contract and we have a turf renovation project that will take place during 2009. In this turf renovation project, the entire cemetery will be leveled and sod placed. Additionally, the drainage problem in the Union Lot is being addressed. A series of holding tanks are being placed so that the water can be captured and leached out naturally rather than standing on the gravesites at the bottom of the section. Many of the historic stones there will be surveyed, removed, and the low spots filled and graded so that the water can be channeled away from the burial sections.

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NOTICE

THE NEXT MEETING OF LINC MO WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH AT 11:30 AM DUE TO THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

VET RESOURCE: The American Veterans & Servicemembers Survival Guide is available on line at www.veteransforamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/survival-guide.pdf. The new publication, provided by the Veterans for America organization, is a follow-up to the 1985 The Viet Vet Survival Guide. It is a downloadable no cost resource for veterans of all periods. The guide will help a veteran understand what's going on, it is not a substitute for a good lawyer or other advocate. And it isn't the only source of information. The book gives particular emphasis to servicemembers and veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, while providing adequate information for vets of all other eras. It describes in depth:

- The problems of the military community,
- The benefits and services available to present and former servicemembers, and
- Issues that will be decided in the next several years.

It will help readers understand how various agencies work not just in theory but in practice and how they can cut through the bureaucracy and confusion and get the benefits and services to which they are entitled. Topics included in its 599 pages, among others, address frequent call-ups from the Guard and Reserve, getting out of the military, the Department of Veterans Affairs,
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