

**PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE
SPRING BAY AMERICAN LEGION POST #1115**

GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE:

The Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave program was instituted in 1944 to remember our hospitalized War Veterans. The American Legion, Department of Illinois, has maintained this worthy program continuously since its inception by distributing gifts annually, at Christmas to each of our veteran patients at all of the V.A. Hospitals and extended care units throughout Illinois as well as those Veterans who are home bound.

ILLINOIS PREMIER BOYS STATE:

Premier Boys State...a week to shape a lifetime: each year since 1935, The Illinois Department of The American Legion has conducted a week long learning experience into the democratic form of government, called Premier Boys State. Premier Boys State offers the, more than 800, young men who attend a session annually, an opportunity to learn first hand the inner workings of a political party, and to apply this knowledge in actual practice. **We don't guarantee that a young man who attends Premier Boys State will grow up to be successful . . . but we'll give you odds.**

RIVERVIEW GRADE SCHOOL RPTO (Riverview Parent/Teacher Organization):

The Spring Bay Post #1115 assists the RPTO through donations and by supporting their functions and fundraisers by allowing them to utilize our facilities.

RIVERVIEW GRADE SCHOOL LITTLE LEAGUE:

The Spring Bay Post #1115 supports the Riverview Grade Schools Little League efforts by donating money to and by having their annual fundraiser at the Post.

HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK:

The Spring Bay Post #1115 supports the Honor Flight Network through promotion and donations. The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN:

The Spring Bay American Legion Post #1115 supports a segment of the American Legion call the American Legion Riders. Our Post donates to and supports the efforts of the Legion Riders through the Legacy Run. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS:

Our Post supports the America's Gold Star Families program through donations and by personal involvement. One of our members, Dennis Tipsword, serves on the Board of Directors. The America's Gold Star Families is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created to provide honor, hope and healing to those grieving any military loss through active duty service. We include all family members representing all conflicts, all branches of service and all circumstance of death. America's Gold Star Families honors our fallen heroes who served in the United States Armed Forces and cares for their survivors through programs and services at no cost to the survivors. The Spring Bay Post also supports and helps fund the Home Town Hero Banners that are on display along Orange Prairie Road in Peoria.

SPRING BAY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL:

The Spring Bay Post has been hosting a Community Festival for the people living in and around the Spring Bay and Bayview Gardens Communities. We feature food and entertainment and this year, we had a spectacular fireworks display which was very well received by those in the community.

SPRING BAY POST #1115 KID'S HALLOWEEN PARTY:

Another Community event we support each year is the Kid's Halloween Party which is always well attended.

SPRING BAY POST #1115 KID'S EASTER EGG HUNT:

Another Post program for our local community is the Spring Bay Post's Kids' Easter Egg Hunt each year. Nearly 5000 Easter Eggs are spread out by the "Easter Bunny" and due to the participation of children, it only takes minutes for them to be collected by our Kid's. It is and always has been a great program!! An Easter Bunny is always present for pictures which everyone enjoys!!

NO TEARS FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

This is a program that the Spring Bay Post started a number of years ago and truly takes to heart. As there are a number of needy families in our Community, the Spring Bay Legion Post started the No Tears for Christmas Program. Through fundraisers and donations, the Post is able to provide gift certificates for enough food for a Christmas dinner and presents to the children. This program supports approximately 45 families each Christmas Season.

SCHOOL AWARD MEDAL PROGRAM:

The Spring Bay Post participates annually at the 8th Grade Graduation of our local grade school, Riverview Community Grade School by providing a Color Guard to raise and present the National Flag and, we present The American Legion School Award Medal to two students each year. The objectives of the program are to place emphasis on the development of the qualities of COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP and SERVICE.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND:

The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution sums up the theme of the National Endowment Fund, "... devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words on paper; it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their family members. Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion Family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and wildfires.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:

The Spring Bay American Legion Post #1115 puts on a very nice Memorial Day Service at the Spring Bay Cemetery. The Post established an "Avenue of Flags" which line the roads throughout the cemetery and each flag represents a particular Veteran. Our volunteers put the flags up in the morning and take down at the end of the day and they are a sight to behold. This presentation is a major program for our Community. Our Color Guard is present and a 21 Gun Salute along with Taps are presented. The Post supports and sponsors a luncheon for all those present afterward.

FUNERAL SERVICES:

Though many American Legion Posts are no longer capable, the Spring Bay Post continues to support and provide Funeral Services for our fallen comrades. All eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. The funeral honors ceremony includes the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the playing of Taps. Our Post also allows the use of our Legion Hall for luncheon services after the funeral free of charge.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION:

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission when necessary shall initiate action concerning all matters affecting the economic well-being of veterans and/or the reestablishment of all war veterans returning to civilian life after a period of active service in the Armed Forces of The United States; to keep the Department Commander and Executive Committee informed concerning all developments affecting the economic welfare of veterans in all areas under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. The Commission shall study and recommend solutions of problems relating to the employment, unemployment, underemployment, re-employment, and workers compensation of all war veterans who seek, or have, attachment of the labor force, public or private. The commission shall assist veterans in the enforcement of the veteran's preference provision of the law in cases which may be referred to it that show a violation of the spirit or letter of said veteran's preference provisions contained in the Federal Statutes, Federal Civil Service Regulations, Executive Orders, or otherwise in all Federal Governmental employment. The Commission also presents citations to employers who do an outstanding job in hiring the veterans, especially the handicapped Veterans. The American Legion provides Veteran Hiring Fairs that assist Veterans with employment opportunities and many of our members assist with

these Hiring Fairs. The American Legion, Department of Illinois Chairman of this Commission is Dennis Tipsword.