

L.I.N.C.M.O.

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Published Monthly

LINC MO Member Organizations

- 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.
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
- RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS ASSN.
- MASONIC WAR VETERANS
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- POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETS
- DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
- CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS
- U.S. SUBMARINE VETS OF WW II
- U.S. FLEET RESERVE
- GOLD STAR MOTHERS
- WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.
- AMVETS 88
- VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
- VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR
- KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSN.
- U.S. SUBMARINE VETERANS INC.
- MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
- FORTY & EIGHT - VOITURE #803
- AMERICAN EX- PRISONERS OF WAR
- AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETS
- 1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSN.

DATES TO REMEMBER

2007		
Feb	11	LINC MO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Mar	11	LINC MO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Apr	15	LINC MO Meeting 11:30 Hours
May	6	LINC MO Meeting 11:30 Hours
	27	Memorial Day Services 2PM
June	10	LINC MO Meeting 11:30 Hours
Sept	9	Nomination & Election of Officers for 2007 - 2008
Oct	14	Installation of Officers
Nov	4	Veterans Day Services 2 PM

FTC Funeral Rules

The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to thousands of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. [Source: Consumer Health Digest 12 Dec 06]

MOBILIZED RESERVE The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard announced the current number of reservists on active duty as of 27 DEC 06 in support of the partial mobilization. The net collective result is 7,158 fewer reservists mobilized than last reported for 29 NOV 06. Total number currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 73,159; Navy Reserve 4,921; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve 5,307; Marine Corps Reserve 5,555; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 364. This brings the total National Guard and Reserve personnel, who have been mobilized, to 89,306, including both units and individual augmentees. At any given time, services may mobilize some units and individuals while demobilizing others, making it possible for these figures to either increase or decrease. A cumulative roster of all National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are currently mobilized, can be found at:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Dec2006/d20061227ngr.pdf>



*Long Island National Cemetery
Memorial Organization*

*The Field of Valor
Newsletter*



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Tony Arico

With the Holidays behind us we can now get back to the business that was before us for this year.

1. The new proposed memorial garden.
2. The additional new columbariums.
3. Obtaining National Shrine Status.

These are just three of the items that we are still working on from last year. We hope to complete them in the coming months.

For those who were unable to attend our meetings last year we want you to know that you were missed. When the planing and implementation of a great idea takes place and everyone has input we act as a team. So... We need attendance from your member organization to fulfill our obligation to our honored dead and to assure your members that we are all working on their behalf.

VET BONUS MASSACHUSETTS:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is offering cash bonuses to its service members. They are offering \$500 for active duty members and \$1,000 for veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan. There's no catch. It's called the Welcome Home Bonus and it honors Massachusetts's men and women who have deployed overseas to combat areas. It does take some legwork. Your town of legal residence has to verify your address and put a seal on the document before you can mail it into the Treasurers Office. This can be done via mail or if your relatives still live in the state they can do it at your town hall and mail it back to you. You don't have to be a current resident of Massachusetts to apply. You only have to have been a resident of MA anytime 6 months prior to 11 SEP 01 or later and served on active duty.

**"God Bless Our Troops"
Keep them safe !**

Are they really going to change all of the head stones in Arlington National Cemetery?

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it isn't. "The headstone is not a PR purpose. It is to let the country know and the people that visit the cemetery know who served this country and made the country free for us," VA official Steve Muro said.

Since 1997, the government has been paying for virtually everything inscribed on the gravestones. Before that, families had to pay the gravestone makers separately for any inscription beyond the basics.

It wasn't until the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 that the department instructed national cemetery directors and funeral homes across the country to advise families of fallen soldiers and Marines that they could have operation names like "Enduring Freedom" or "Iraqi Freedom" included on the headstones.

VA officials say neither the Pentagon nor White House exerted any pressure to get families to include the operation names. They say families always had the option of including information like battle or operation names, but didn't always know it.



Arlington National Cemetery?

Q. I heard that during the Civil War, Lincoln wanted a place to bury the Northern dead and it was decided to use General Lee's old home, which is in fact Arlington. That it would be ironic that "Yankees" were buried in a Confederate General's back yard.

How true is this?

It is true. The cemetery was established on the grounds of Arlington House. This house belonged to the family of general Lee's wife Mary. Arlington House is situated directly across the Potomac River from Washington D.C., next to the present day location of the Pentagon. During the Civil War, this location was chosen to ensure that general Lee could never again return to his home. Nowadays, the house is a national memorial dedicated to the general.

3 MOH Recipients Currently Live In New York

663 Medals of Honor are Accredited to New York

- **8 of the Medals of Honor Awarded for heroic, non-combat action were for heroic life-saving acts within the State of New York.**
- **19 American soldiers have received TWO awards of the Medal of Honor in the history of the award. SEVEN of these DOUBLE-PUNCH heroes were from New York.**

"For Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity in Action At the Risk of Life Above and Beyond the Call of Duty"

FTC FUNERAL RULE:

The Federal Trade Commission has announced the results of enforcement sweeps of more than 100 funeral homes in seven states to assess their compliance with the FTC's Funeral Rule. During the past year, undercover visits in California, Georgia, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon and Texas found violations at 12 funeral homes. Faced with the prospect of FTC lawsuits that could lead to a court order and civil penalties, facilities in violation elected to participate in the Funeral Rule Offenders Program (FROP) which is a 5-year monitoring program.

The FTC also warned 32 other funeral homes to correct technical violations. In its enforcement sweeps, the FTC has benefited from assistance from AARP and several state Attorneys General. The rule, which was established to counter widespread fraud and deception, took effect in 1984 and was revised in 1994. Its aim is to help people select what they want and to pay for only what they select. Regulation is needed because survivors of the deceased are emotionally vulnerable and typically have little time to do comparison shopping. Under the rule:

** You have the right to choose the funeral goods and services you want (with some exceptions).

** The funeral provider must provide a General Price List (GPL) that states your right to choose what you want in writing.
**If state or local law requires you to buy any particular good or service, the funeral provider must disclose it on the price list with a reference to the specific law.

** The funeral provider cannot charge a fee or refuse to handle a casket or urn purchased elsewhere.

** Funeral providers who offer cremation must make alternative containers available.

** You can't be charged for embalming that your family didn't authorize, unless it's required by state law.

Since the FROP was established in 1996, the FTC has investigated than 1,850 funeral homes in 33 states and referred about 240 to the FROP. Their new brochure, "Paying Final Respects: Your Rights When Buying Funeral Goods & Services," includes information about the Funeral Rule, consumers' rights, cost considerations, resources to help consumers plan funerals for themselves and others, and suggestions for resolving any problems they may have with funeral services they obtain. The brochure is available at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro26.htm>.

The FTC also has produced a more comprehensive pamphlet, "Funerals: A Consumer Guide," which is available at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/services/funeral.pdf>. The FTC works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint in English or Spanish (bilingual counselors are available to take complaints), or to get free information on any of 150 consumer topics, 1(877) 382-4357, or use the complaint form at www.ftc.gov.

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