



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 667 HISTORY

The American Legion originated at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force in Paris, France on 15-17, 1919. A subsequent organizational caucus was held on May 8-10, 1919, in St. Louis. The U.S. Congress chartered the American Legion on September 16, 1919, and the first American Legion Convention was held on November 10 - 12, 1919, in Minneapolis. The delegates selected Indianapolis, Indiana as their National Headquarters.

The motto of The American Legion is *STILL SERVING AMERICA*. Veterans continue their service to our Nation long after leaving one of the branches of the military by being active in the communities they live and work. Veterans serve and help other veterans, their widows and widowers and their children. The American Legion is the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans. The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of the V.A., the Department of Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, and originators of the GI, Bill of rights. The Legion is constantly working to protect and preserve the rights and benefits of veterans who served their country.

Chicago Firemen's Post 667 of the American Legion has a long history and association with the CFD which began in 1929. Post 667 membership at one point reached 550 members. Today there are 166 members, fifty-eight of that number served their country during World War II. Membership in Post 667 represents Veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

The Chicago Firemen's Post 667 applied for a charter membership to the American Legion on October 22, 1929. Post 667 became an official chartered member on November 1, 1929. John O'Neil was the first commander in 1930. Post 667 conducted all official Color and Honor Guard for the CFD, posting the colors at and CFD functions. They rendered a final salute to our fallen comrades with a "21 Gun Salute, Taps, and folding of presenting of the American and Chicago flags at funeral services. They were honor guards and escorts for VIPs and dignitaries visiting Chicago. They led the CFD band, marching in parades and ceremonies. They had the honor of marching in the Inauguration Day Parade for President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and the 71st Rose Bowl Parade. Firemen's Post 667 continued their duties to the city and the CFD till 1981. Old age, health, retirements and deaths limited the activities of the Post.

In 1981 an official CFD Honor Guard was created which is made up of some of the members of the Post. The post till this day assist both the CFD Honor Guard and Associated Firefighters of Illinois Honor Guard in a host of events.

Chicago Firemen's Post 667 continues to support and sponsor American Legion programs by donating money, clothing, and assist the Veterans hospitals in the Chicago area, and Manteno VA home. Post 667 raises money for these VA facilities thru the street sale of Poppies on "Poppy Day" and the generous donations of the Fire Companies of the CFD. Post 667 since 1932, has sponsored and funded the annual Chicago Fire Department Memorial Day Service and funded the Scholarship Program for CFD and Post 667 member's children to help with their monetary needs in furthering their education.

On June 11, 2019 "The LEGION Act" was signed into law which expands the eligibility requirements to join the American Legion. The act expands membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans who have served in unrecognized times of war since World War II. Membership is open to all Veterans with a Honorable Discharge, no matter what conflict or era they served

For addition information about the Post please contact Post Commander George Radka 773-631-6295 or Post Adjutant James Mindak 773-631-2756.