

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Legion commander feels snubbed by R&L

### To the Editor:

As commander of the American Legion Post 65 on 70 east, I would like to know why it is that the newspaper will not recognize us, when recognition is due. We brought the helicopter in for the community to enjoy. The paper gave the credit to the V.F.W. This post has done a lot for this community. Look at the monument at Mitchell Community College. When asked to move it, Post 65 was not contacted. Look at the flagpole at the old courthouse. At the flag pole it said that Post 65 donated it to the city. We are a family-oriented post. There is no booze allowed or smoking.

Our post has a wonderful auxiliary. When needed, they are there with no questions asked. Yes, the post was down, but one man held it together and refused to give up. That man was Robert Evans with 58 years of dedication to the American Legion, and a dedicated man at that. We went in Bob's house to meet, then Don Webber came in and said that he was our commander, then we really took hold, as we went from 29 to over 200 then we dropped back where we are today at over 150 members.

We met at the library for our meetings until we started to renovate our home, which was a total disaster. Allen Knight came out of the electric room and said we can do it if we stick together and we started in on the building. Also we had Dennis Lemenski from the probation squad with his busy schedule. He had time to help as he wanted to see it go.

When Allen Knight passed away, G.L. Wilson came to the rescue to help out with the renovation. As Allen was a sea-bee and had electric school in service in the Korean War area, these and a few other dedicated members came a long way. I know that our members who are no longer with us are looking down on us to see what we have accomplished.

This hurts the membership when we don't get the recogni-

## Letters policy

Letters to the editor should focus on a single idea of public interest and should be no longer than 300 words. Letters will be edited for brevity, grammar and taste. Letters must be signed and must include full name, address and daytime telephone number. Typed letters are appreciated. One author per letter please. Send letters to Editor, Record & Landmark, P.O. Box 1071, Statesville, NC 28625 or [mfuhrman@statesville.com](mailto:mfuhrman@statesville.com).

tion that we deserve as a unit. My wife, Barbara Clem, took the auxiliary over. It came together and started to grow. Now we have the son of the legion. We also have the JRS with the Ladies Auxiliary. As you can see, this post is alive again, doing a lot for the community. We also have the honor guard going with eight members at this time. The most are dedicated men as they don't ask questions, just say when and were. They perform with no question asked at our fallen comrade's funeral so if you see a member in gray pants with a gold stripe and American Legion emblem, you know that he is from Post 65, and ready to perform for his fallen comrade.

So you can see why the post is alive and wanting all the members we can get. So we would like to have recognition when due. All veterans need to belong to a veterans organization as we need to come together as veterans should. As the past dedication to the greatest generation, the World War II veterans, I wanted to put this together as the Veterans Council with all chapters coming together as one instead of one getting all the recognition that they deserve. I brought this up to the council to put a program together. Ross Moore, my service officer, took up this and worked hard along with my wife and I to put this on for all of us to enjoy. So when we say the council we mean all units, not just one unit.

I have a lot more on my mind, but I know you won't publish this.

**Commander Leon J. Clem, Jr.**  
**Statesville**