

The LIBERTY LEGIONNAIRE

4th Quarter 2003

Still serving our
Community



P.O. Box 417
Liberty, MO 64068
roberthbakerpost95.com

Family Dinner Planned

Again this year, Post 95 is holding a family Christmas Dinner. The event will be held on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 P.M.. The Post will provide the meat dish, while members are asked to bring a covered dish. This is a chance for the ladies to show-off their favorite Holiday dish.

Legionnaires are asked to bring pictures of their time in the service and wear your old service cap (we doubt that anything else would still fit). This event is always a lot of fun.

If you know of anyone that is home and still on active duty or reserve status, bring them along. We want to say "Thank You" to them for helping keep our

**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

Great Country Strong.

To get an accurate count on how much meat to order, we need you to **R.S.V.P. by December 14th. to Dale at 415-0567 or to Paul at 792-5785.** Come on out and spend a little time with your Post 95 Legionnaire Family.

Pictures need for Post Website

Have a hard time writing about your time in the service? Remember a picture is worth a 1000 words. The point is I would like to start a pictorial history of Post 95 and its members. So dust off those old photo albums pick-out the ones you like add a note describing each picture and get them to me. I will then scan the image and add to our web site along with

your description. I will make sure that your original photos are returned to and if you would like a digital copy of the picture I can also include that as well.

Remember this is your web site so let the world know who we are. –Robert C. Emery, Post Webmaster

Editor's Note- Robert has done an outstanding job on the website. If you have not yet had a chance to look at it, please do. We have pictures, useful links, and a great calendar with our events and some events of other Posts. It's at WWW. roberthbakerpost95.com ; and don't forget to sign the guest book!! – Thank you, Robert for such a great job.

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ATTENTION ALL KOREA
ERA VETERANS

Anyone in the military any time between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955 and was honorable discharged will qualify for the Korean Conflict Medallion Program of Missouri.

The 92nd General Assembly passed SS SB No. 219, and was signed by Governor Holden on June 26, 2003. The act entitles any honorably discharged Korean Conflict Veteran who resides in the State of Missouri to receive a medallion, medal, and a certificate of Appreciation.

The veteran must be a legal Missouri on August 28, 2003, or was a legal resident of Missouri at the time of his or her death.

The Adjutant General Office shall determine those persons who are eligible for the award. Applications must be filed during the calendar year 2004. The Korean Conflict Medallion, Medal, and Certificate shall be awarded regardless of whether or not the veteran served within the United States or in a foreign country. Any veteran who served during the above dates and has

passed away, his or her spouse, or eldest living survivor may apply for the award on behalf of the deceased veteran. The form for applying is available by writing to the Adjutant General Office in Jefferson City. Your Commander has copies call 792 5785 to obtain one. You will need to send a copy of your DD 214 form to send with your application to prove your eligibility. If you do not have your DD 214 then you will have to furnish another means to prove the dates you served. The same Bill also extended the WW II veterans medallion program for one year. If you have non-member who you know that is eligible pass the word along.

DD214 on-line

It is now possible for veterans and family members of deceased veterans to obtain copies of DD-214's online.

www.

Archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/

Passport??

The old American absent mindedly arrived at French

customs at Paris airport and fumbled for his passport.

"You have been to France before Monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

The ancient Yank admitted that he had been to France before.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready for inspection" snapped the irate official.

The American said that the last time he came to France he did not have to show his passport.

"Impossible, old man. You Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France."

The old American gave the Frenchman a long hard look. "I assure you, young man, that when I came ashore on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day in 1944, there was no damned Frenchman on the beach."

God Bless all who served

Boy's and Girl's State Time

It's time to start thinking about Boy's and Girl's State. These are the premier programs of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Post 95 does

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presented actress Bo Derek the highest award offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for her tireless efforts on behalf of America's veterans.

"Through the years, Ms. Derek has freely given her time, voice and commitment to our nation's heroes," said Principi. "She reminds us all that freedom is not free but paid for by the sacrifices of our armed forces and their families."

For several years, Ms. Derek has served as honorary chair of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, improving public awareness of veteran's issues, encouraging participants and visiting VA medical centers around the country.

Ms. Derek also goes on USO tours to support troops and works with the Special Forces Association, which named her an honorary Green Beret. Ms. Derek's father, Paul Collins, was a radio operator during the Korean War, and both her stepfather and her late husband, John Derek, were also veterans.

"I am so overwhelmed and inspired by the courage all veterans show, especially those whom I have met through VA's special events," said Ms. Derek.

"As an American, I am reassured by VA's commitment to take care of our veterans. It's truly an honor for me to be part of that mission."

What a year!!

It's been a busy year for Post 95. January started out with Boy's and Girl's State applications coming in and trying to find sponsors for them. We visited area businesses seeking donations for the newsletter.

February had us presenting the colors at several basketball games along with some Flag Etiquette classes.

March and April were busy with the Spaghetti dinner and starting practice for the Honor Team.

May, always busy, with the Avenue of Flags, Rest Home services, and presenting Citizenship Awards to the Junior High.

In June we presented the Colors at Kaufman Stadium on Liberty Night. And don't forget the Avenue of Flags, presenting of the Colors, and the Kids Flag parade at the Liberty Fireworks.

July is always enjoyable with the Boy's and Girl's Staters making their reports.

August gives us a "breather" for in September we have Flag Etiquettes at the schools; and the Fall Festival parade and Flag Disposal.

October, more Flag Etiquettes at the local elementary schools. November, what a month!! Chili Dinner, Veteran's Day activities, and America's Veterans Programs.

December, we rest and reflect on what a great year we had, with a Family Dinner on the 16th.

It seems like a lot, but none of it is hard work. The smiles on the kid's faces, the people standing as the Flag goes by, and the simple "thank you's" make it all worth every minute. Not just every minute we worked together as Legionnaires bettering our Community, but every minute of active duty.

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First, His Men Called Him “Pop”; Then “Hero”

By Kent E. Kooi, Kearney, MO
Article from The Kearney
Courier

A week ago, Jim Eldridge, Kearney City Administrator, and I spent a Saturday morning with the family of one of America’s heroes who is buried here in Fairview Cemetery.

S/Sgt. Loma M. Hash won the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army’s second highest award for heroism, during intense fighting near Odheim, Germany, in the waning days of WWII.

Unfortunately, the medal was awarded posthumously to his wife, Mildred Thomas of Kearney, as S/Sgt. Hash was killed in action on April 7, 1945.

Eldridge has called me to see if I knew about Sgt. Hash, and told me he had spoke with Sgt. Hash’s son, Robert, who lives in Kansas City.

Robert Hash and his wife, Marie, graciously welcomed us into their home, and later wer joined by their son, Tony. Together, we looked through their collection of letters, telegrams, and newspaper clippings about Sgt. Hash.

Robert also handed us four original boxes, each holding one

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of the awards earned by his father. Eldridge opened them with obvious reverence, and suddenly there they were: S/Sgt. Hash’s Distinguished Service Cross, his Bronze Star, his Purple Heart, and his Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt. Hash was also entitled to at least two other awards; a European Campaign Service Ribbon with two bronze stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns, and the World War II Victory Service ribbon.

S/Sgt. Hash was a squad leader in Company C, 1st Battalion of the 398th Infantry Regiment, part of the famed 100th Infantry Division. The Division landed in France at Merseille in October 1944. After orientation, they were immediately thrust into combat against hardcore German SS units.

The Division fought its way through the Vosges Mountains, and then went into the German’s captured Maginot Line defenses in Bitche.

On the last day of his life, S/Sgt. Hash, and the rest of the men in his Division, has been in combat for nearly six months. Just after midnight on the morning of 7 April 1945, S/Sgt.

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Hash’s battalion received new orders, and moved out at 5 AM to cross the Neckar and Jagst Rivers.

By noon, S/Sgt. Hash’s platoon and the rest of Company C were in a draw, receiving intense German machinegun fire along with artillery and mortars. The probing and fighting went on, back and forth, for several hours with neither side gaining an advantage.

Late in the afternoon, allied fighters swooped down to strafe German positions on the hills above Willenbach Farms. At 7 PM, several platoons moved out to attack German positions on those surrounding hills.

The exchange of gunfire was extremely intense as the American troops closed in on the German defenses, manned by fanatics who knew they were fighting a last-ditch effort.

The citation for S/Sgt. Hash’s Distinguished Service Cross reads: “ For extraordinary heroism in action on 7 April 1945, in the vicinity of Odheim, Germany. When stubborn enemy resistance halted the attack, Sergeant Hash moved forward alone, alternately running and crawling, and first hurled a grenade into an opposing

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machine gun emplacement and then charged the position, killing three occupants. His action inspired his comrades to follow him and he continued to advance, firing into each entrenchment.”

“When two hostile soldiers surrendered to him, and then attempted to fire upon his comrades, he killed them both. The enemy directed intense fire at him, but Sergeant Hash refused to seek cover and was eventually killed while charging enemy positions.”

“The indomitable courage which he displayed was directly responsible for the accomplishment of his company’s mission.”

The first telegram to Mrs. Hash reported him “missing in action.” Two weeks later, she received the second. “The Secretary of War desires..to express his deep regret...killed in action...”

S/Sgt. Hast was first buried in Germany. He was later brought back home, and the Kearney Courier edition of August 12, 1948, carried the front-page story of his interment with full military honors.

S/Sgt. Hash was 35 years old when his was killed, and had been in the Army for just a little

more than a year. He had been working at Sheffield Steel, and could have taken a deferment. But he wanted to do his part.

His son, Robert, told us he had only just recently found the strength to open up the box with his father’s medals, and letters.

“For years,” Robert told us, “I wouldn’t believe he was gone. I dreamed he would come home, maybe without an arm, or burned, but home. I think about the times we missed hunting or fishing together, missed football or basketball games.”

“But at the time,” he continued, spreading his arms over the array of memories before him, “this here was more important.”

As Eldridge later noted, “Robert is a hero, too.”

“America did not invert human rights. In a very real sense, human rights invented America.”

- Jimmy Carter

Remember...

As we approach this holiday season, a season that is filled with friend and family, let us remember those who are serving our Country. They may be serving here in the States, on a

ship at sea, or in some land we hope we never see.

Send them a card or a small gift. If you don’t know anyone, ask your neighbor, hair dresser, or minister; they will know someone who is serving.

That card or letter will make their day. Just getting a bill in the mail used to make my day. They need our support, and heaven knows we need them.

Post 95 info

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Memorial Bldg (VFW); junctions of H & B Hwys.

P.O. Box 417

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FOOTPRINTS a new version
 provided by Rev. Donna Warren
 Imagine you and the Lord
 Jesus are walking down the road
 together. For most of the way,
 the Lord's footprints go along
 steadily, consistently, rarely
 varying the pace. But your
 footprints are a disorganized
 stream of zigzags, starts, stops,
 reverses, circles, departures and
 returns.

For much of the way, it seems
 to go like this, but gradually your
 footprints come more in line with
 the Lord's, soon paralleling His
 consistently. You and Jesus are
 walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an
 interesting thing happens. Your
 footprints that once etched the
 sand next to Jesus' are now
 walking precisely in His steps.
 Inside His larger footprints are
 your smaller ones, you and Jesus
 are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles,
 but gradually you notice another
 change. The footprints inside the
 large ones seem to be growing
 larger. Eventually they disappear
 altogether. There is only one set
 of footprints they have become
 one.

This goes on for a long time,
 but suddenly the second set of

footprints is back. This time it
 seems even worse, zig-zags all
 over the place. Stops. Stops.
 Starts. Gashes in the sand. A
 variable mess of prints.

You are amazed and shocked.
 Your dream ends. Now you
 pray: "Lord I understand the first
 scene, with zigzags and fits. I
 was a new Christian. I was just
 learning. Now You walked on
 through the storm and helped me
 learn to walk with You," "That's
 correct." "And when the smaller
 footprints were inside of Yours, I
 was actually learning to walk in
 Your steps, following You very
 closely.." "Very Good. You
 have understood everything so
 far." "When the smaller
 footprints grew and filled in
 yours I suppose that I was
 becoming like You in every
 way." "Precisely." "So Lord,
 was there a regression or
 something? The footprint
 separated and this time it was
 worse than at first." There is a
 pause as the Lord answers, with a
 smile in His voice. "You didn't
 know? It was then that we
 danced."

Thank you, Sponsors

Well it's the end of another
 year. This is the forth issue of
 the Liberty Legionnaire for 2003.

This newsletter would not be
 possible if it were not for the
 donations that the sponsors
 provide. They pay for the labels,
 stamps, and part of the print. The
 remainder of the print is picked
 up by are long-time supporters,
 Dan and Dana of Fly-by-Night
 Printing.

When we approach businesses
 donate \$20.00 a year for our
 newsletter, most are willing,
 some need a little "arm-twisting"
 and a lot just say no.

We and they both know that a
 circulation of 200 newsletters
 every quarter is not going to
 make a big difference in their
 volume of business. What it does
 show is that they know they can
 own and operate their business
 because someone in the armed
 services is doing their job, just
 like we did; keep America safe.

The members of Robert H.
 Baker American Legion Post 95
 THANK YOU area businesses
 for your continued support.

**Bo Derek Honored by VA for
 Work with Veterans**
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not have an Auxiliary but is very much involved with both programs.

These programs take High School Juniors and sends them to a "week that changes a lifetime" at the Central Missouri State Campus in Warrensburg. The "Staters" setup a 51st State in which they establish all governing bodies.

The cost of this program is \$300 for Boy's and \$200 for Girl's. Post 95 with the assistance local PEO chapters, Lion's Club, Sertoma, Optimists, VFW Post 4043, Kiwanis, and the Rotary has in the past been able to send many of LHS students to these programs.

Individuals cannot donate; however you may donate to one or more of the above organizations to send a young person to State. Area businesses can donate and if one these Juniors is working part-time for your business, it will be well worth it. If your business can spare part of the funds, we will work hard to find the full amount needed.

If you have any questions on this program, please call the Post 95 Chairperson, Donna Warren.

Remember, this is not a summer camp, it is an investment in America's and our Community's future.

IF ONLY I WOULD HAVE

by Rev Donna Warren

How many of us have made that statement "If only I would have"? If you are like I am, it has been repeated or thought numerous times. Have you ever looked at the stock market reports and muttered, "if only I had bought that stock when it was cheap, now look at the skyrocketed price!" or when some major medical problem has struck, said "if only I would have gone to the doctor sooner!" This year I have had several incidents where 'If Only I Would Have....' has been said or thought numerous times. I have had surgery on my left cataract, then developed serious problems with the retina in both eyes. Most of the summer I have been in treatment for this, and it ain't over yet. Why do I say that famous statement, "if only I would have...?" While I was

diagnosed with diabetes last May, it has been decided by my Medical Team that I have been diabetic for some time. If only I had gone to the doctor on a regular basis the diabetes would have been diagnosed several years earlier and more than likely the eye problems I am now faced with would not have been any worse than that we face as we age (gracefully or not so gracefully).

I have learned that there is nothing I can do about what has already happened, so I am working on what happens today, and hopefully the future will be positively affected. From possible blindness I am now seeking all the help I can to treat my problem and at least retard the advance of the problem. It does us NO good to ignore what is going on and then have to say "I Wish I Would Have Done...."

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Post 95 History

By Donna Warren

Post 95 was chartered in September 1919 by the Missouri Department of the American Legion with seventeen charter members. Dr Barton Maltby became the Post's first Commander

The Post was named for Sgt Robert H. Baker, who was killed in WWI. Robert H. Baker enlisted in Co. H 3rd Missouri National Guard on May 31, 1918. His National Guard Co, served on Mexican border. His National Guard Company entered Federal Service as Co H 140th Infantry, 35th Division in August 1918, and was sent to France. Sgt Baker was wounded September 28, 1918 in the battle of the Meuse River/Argonne Forest conflict. He died of these wounds October 9, 1918, and is buried in No. 3, Commune of Banbrey, Depot, Meuse France.

The Post was instrumental in having the "Doughboy" Statue permanently set on the West side of the Historical Liberty County Court House. It bears the title "Lest We Forget".

America is a willingness of the heart. – F. Scott Fitzgerald

THE STORY OF TAPS

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his

father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge of the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

This music was the haunting melody we now know as "Taps" used at all military funerals. First played for its composer.

"The human mind is our fundamental resource."

-John F. Kennedy

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