

The LIBERTY LEGIONNAIRE

1st Quarter 2005



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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Get ready for the Post 95 fifth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti with meat sauce; green beans; salad; French bread; drink and great desserts.

The event will be held on March 19th from 4:30 to 7:30PM in the Memorial Building at the corners of Hwys. H and B; just past William Jewell. Our Newsletter sponsors again have come up with some great door prizes. And we will have a raffle to benefit our youth fund. Raffle items are:

Emerson VCR/DVD player
A 20" color Television
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**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

The tickets are \$1 each or 8 for \$5 donation. Proceeds from the raffle and the dinner will go toward youth programs. The cost of the all -you-can-eat Dinner will be \$6 for those over 12 years and \$3 for the kids. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Come out and support your Post!! Call Dale or Paul, or see any Post 95 Legionnaire for advance tickets or for Raffle tickets.

Post 95's Avenue of Flags

The Post will display your Avenue of Flags again this year on Memorial Weekend and for the Liberty City Fireworks. This is your Avenue of Flags, the Post is only the custodian of the Flag

display

Once again this year, you have the opportunity to dedicate a Flag, pole, and name tag, in honor of a loved one; living or deceased; Veteran or non-Veteran. The cost remains at \$22.00 and we hope that you will take advantage of this low price – It is cheaper and lasts longer than flowers. We only have about 30 left, but can re-order if the is demand great. Get your request in early so we can have the tag engraved prior to Memorial Weekend. Call Dale at 415-0567 or Paul at 792-5785 for more information.

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My First Invasion

By Ray Merrell

I was not a hero, just a Marine filling one of the fox holes in the Pacific for 33 months. My first invasion with the 2nd Marine Raiders was on November 1, 1943 when we landed on Bougainville Island at 0700. Our Colonel was killed on the beach. We continued on and established a beachhead and later an airstrip.

On the 8th, we were at a roadblock with the front line. It start to rain a down pour and it filled our foxholes. We were in the wet foxholes for 16 hours as the Japs were firing mortars and rifle fire all night long.

I carried a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) on Bougainville during the 93 days we occupied the Island. The Army finally relieved us and we returned to Guadalcanal to train for invasion of Guam on July 21, 1944 and the invasion of Okinawa on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945.

Once Okinawa was secured on July 6th of '45, we then went back to Guam. We went to Japan on August 30th. And finally home on December 13th. This events and more are in my book "My

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Three Years in the Marines”.

Thanks, Ray

Editors Note: I have read Ray's Book and am glad I was in the Navy. Thanks to all who served and especially those of you that served in harm's way. America owes you all.

I'M A REDNECK ARE YOU?

Supplied by Paul Riechman

We have enjoyed the redneck jokes for years. It's time to take a reflective look at the core beliefs of a culture that values home, family, country and God. If I had to stand before a dozen terrorists who threaten my life, I'd choose a half dozen or so rednecks to back me up. Tire irons, squirrel guns and grit -- that's what rednecks are made of. I hope I am one of those. If you feel the same, pass this on to your redneck friends. Ya'll know who ya are...

You might be a redneck if...

It never occurred to you to be offended by the phrase, "One nation, under God. . ."

You've never protested about seeing the 10 Commandments posted in public places.

You still say "Christmas" instead of "Winter Festival."

You bow your head when someone prays.

You stand and place your hand over your heart when they play the National Anthem.

You treat Viet Nam vets with great respect, and always have. You've never burned an American flag.

You know what you believe and you aren't afraid to say so, no matter who is listening.

You respect your elders and expect your kids to do the same. You'd give your last dollar to a friend.

You can't appreciate home till you've left it, money till it's spent, your wife till she's joined a woman's club, nor Old Glory till you see it hanging on a broomstick on the shanty of a consul in a foreign town. O. Henry (William Sydney Porter), Writer

Put it on Paper

By Sam Chapman

Three years ago I wrote about my recollections from the earliest time I could remember up until college. It included vignettes

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thousands of items in my family home in Lead South Dakota. I find items that bring back memories and I also run across many items that I have no idea what they are or what relative they came from. With many of those items it has become important to try and imagine who owned them, how old is it, and etc. I am sure many of you reading this have had much the same experiences with "remembrance".

I am now next to the oldest member of my family still alive. My mother is the elder at 96 years old this month. I am unable to seek her aid at learning what I can about these many older and unfamiliar items of remembrance as Alzheimer's has nearly erased her memory. So I find it is all up to me. There is no family tree or other lists of who is who. I have found three very old Bibles and have found those usual entries of who was born when, married to whom, had children, and finally passed away. Very little else has been found about these people other than the simple entries in the Bibles.

As a little girl, I used to sit next to my Great-Grandmother's rocking chair and listen with

wide eyes as she talked about crossing the states, walking beside a covered wagon to settle in the then wild-west part of South Dakota. Now as I have grown older how I wish I had been able to have her record these stories on a tape. But it is now just stored in my memory where it has laid dormant for many years.

I have found all sorts of jewelry, some men's pocket watches with fobs, women's jewelry of all sorts and am sure many very, very old. The question is, whom did they belong to? All I can do now is make up stories in my own mind of the person who wore them and when, before they were placed in boxes, bags, etc., and passed from one another in the family and finally landed in my care. Some items I have given to museums for many to enjoy as they too look into the past history, others I have shared with friends, the rest are still remembrances for me to ponder their histories.

Please excuse me for this rambling, as it is not like my usual newsletter articles. I just can't get the word "remembrance" off my mind.

A couple of funnies from Ray

A little boy went to town with his grandfather and they lost one another. The little boy was sitting on the curb very sad. Along came a policeman who said what is wrong. The little boy said he had become lost from his grandfather. The policeman said "I will help you; what's your grandfather like." The little boy said "Grandpa likes Jack Daniels whiskey and women with big boobs; what has that got to do with finding him?"

A little 4th grade boy let his dog follow him to school, and even allowed the dog to go inside the school. One of the school administrators saw the dog and immediately put the dog outside and slammed the door shut. Of course the dog was glum after being put outside and sat looking very sad. God came down and patted the dog on the head and said "Don't worry they won't let me in there either."

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**Spaghetti
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March 19th, 2005
4:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Spaghetti, salad,
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all for \$6.00

Door Prizes!!

Raffles!!

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Fun!

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By Paul Ellison

Tommy Lasorda was quoted as saying that there are three types of baseball players-----those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happened

Isn't this true of all walks of life? We see American Legion Posts growing stale and looking at other Posts that are doing things for their community and fellow Legionnaires. We see others watch and say we wish we were doing that. Other Posts do nothing and say we can't do that.

While we see some Posts in our District failing to meet the goals of The American Legion, others are struggling to maintain the status quo.

Posts have become a leader in membership and programs. Programs are initiated by a few and every time some are eager to jump on the bandwagon to help. Some see success in the program and then want to become a part of that program, still others find no value in it at all, this is how we grow.

If this sounds like Post 95, it was supposed to. We see more people attending meetings and wanting to be part of the programs. Why is this? This

Commander believes that the more we are seen in public doing activities the more the community believes we are doing something good. If we keep hidden than the public never knows if we exist, if something good is happening lets brag about it and show it to everyone.

Charles M. Schwab said the best place to succeed is where you are with what you have. If you have a program don't keep it to yourself let us all know about it. Who knows where it will lead us. You can become a leader with your idea. Just think of the things we have accomplished in recent years after Post 95 was about ready to give up its charter.

Thanks for your service to our country, and for your service to our Community. Lets have another great year

Editor's Note: Thank you Paul for your great leadership. You handle the "forest fires" and make our work so much more enjoyable. We are proud to serve with you!!

**Liberty Legionnaire goes to
Washington**

In early November 2004, I applied for a position working for the 55th Presidential

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Inauguration. I was notified December 14th that I had been selected and was to report on December 27th. After checking in with Naval District Washington DC, I reported to the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. As the name implies, I worked with all branches of the military and my official position was working for the Coast Guard. My title was Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge Division Control Team 5, Parade Division, Ceremonies Directorate.

Each participating parade entry had to have a military escort. My job was to supervise the 15 military escorts assigned to the Coast Guard Division. The build-up to the parade consisted of training for the military escorts. Each member had to know all aspects of the parade route and all jobs associated. Of course, there were several impromptu meetings where the Senior Enlisted and the Commanding General gave pep-talks. We had a dress rehearsal on the Sunday before the parade that started at O-dark-thirty. All of the military units were present but not the civilian groups. And it was COLD!

On parade day, we finally met up with our civilian parade entrants. All together there were over 2,200 personnel in Division 5 and over 10,000 people total in the parade. There was a slight delay in the parade and Division 5 was the last Division, so we finished the parade in the dark. A disappointing part of the parade was the emptiness of the bleachers along the parade route. The delay, the cold weather and the incredible security measures kept the number of spectators down and forced them to go home early.

The opportunity to be a part of history was a once in a lifetime experience. It was definitely a highlight of my 17 years in the Navy. The work hours were long and frustrating, but I still found time to visit a lot of historical places during my first trip to our nation's capitol. One specific joy was a visit to the Pentagon. While there I was able to go into several offices. The Chief of Naval Operations, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense were three of the most important. I also was privileged to hold the door open for the Deputy Joint Chief of Staff. Another highlight was actually

meeting Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld in an all hands meeting the day after the parade.

My thanks go to my wife and family for allowing me to take off for six weeks, two days after Christmas. I am also grateful to the Liberty Police Department, my employer, for covering my duties during my absence. - MAC(SW) Lanny E. Stiles II, USNR

Post Meeting times

Robert H. Baker American Legion Post 95 meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month a 7:00 PM. The Memorial Hall is the Home of American Legion Post 95 and VFW Post 4043. It is located at the junctions of Highways H and B; just past William Jewell College.

Come and join us!! And make a difference in your Community

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Sons of the American Legion may be forming a squadron

The Son's of the American Legion or, SAL for short, may be forming Squadron 95. This a patriotic group of "sons" of Legionnaires.

The keyword is "Son". They can be a Son, Step-son; grandson, or adopted son of any current Legionnaire, or if the veteran is deceased, he must have served in the times of eligibility of the American Legion. A SAL member 's father or grandfather does not have to belong to Post 95, if living he can belong to any American Legion Post.

We also have some Legionnaires that are eligible to become SAL members since their Father also served. Dual membership would be encouraged and is a nice way for you and your son(s) and grandson(s) to work together on Community service projects.

Dues would have to be determined by the membership but would most likely be in the \$10/year range. An advisor from the Legion side would be appointed and he would appoint the first SAL Commander and Adjutant until Bylaws could be drafted and an election held for all SAL officer positions.

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We only need 10 to charter the Squadron. And they can be any age. I'm expecting a grandson in April, and I'll make him a member then. We do need some older members to provide the leadership. As for the number of members; it will probably be like the Legion, about 80% will be "card carriers", but every organization has and needs that to survive.

Please pass this on to your Sons and Grandsons. They can call Robert at 836-2000 or Dale at 415-0567 for more information. When we have enough interested, we will set up a informational meeting at the Memorial Hall. Let's pass on our Patriotic values to our Sons.

Spicy Turkey Lasagna

From Helen Nichol's Kitchen
Makes 8 servings
Prep: 15 Minutes. Slow cook for 4 1/2 Hrs.

1 pound of ground turkey
1 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
1 container 15 oz ricotta
2 cups 8 oz shredded Italian-
blend cheese
1 package 10 oz frozen spinach,
thawed and squeezed dry

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12 lasagna noodles (12 oz)
uncooked and broken in half
1 jar 26 oz chunky pasta sauce
with mushrooms and green
pepper
1/2 cup water
Grated Parmesan (optional)
1. In nonstick skillet brown
turkey over medium high,
breaking up clumps, until no
longer pink, 5 to 7 min. Season
with oregano, salt, and pepper
flakes. Remove from the heat
2. In a bowl mix ricotta, cheese
blend, and spinach.
3. In oval 5 1/2 quart cooker
layer half the noodles,
overlapping as necessary. Spoon
on half the meat mixture. Pour
on half the pasta sauce and half
the water. Spread half the cheese
mixture on top. Repeat layering.
4. Cover slow cooker cook on
low heat 4 1/2 hrs.
5. To serve cut into 8 equal
pieces. Sprinkle with Parmesan
cheese if desired.
Nutrient value 542 calories 20 g
fat. (10 Saturated) 29 g protein
39 g carbohydrate 4 g fiber 781
mg. sodium 92 mg cholesterol.

REMEMBRANCE

by Rev, Donna Warren
The last couple of years the
word remembrance has been
floating around in my mind, as I
have been going through the

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about friends of my parents and the time I planned to run away from home. I planned to leave on the train at Kearney. Never mind that I had no money and was about three years old. I enjoyed recalling those early events. I had the 75 pages or so printed and put into a note book for family Christmas presents. The kids were nice about it, but I doubted at the time they did more than skim it.

Last year about this time I decided to write what I could remember about the period from December 7, 1941 to August 1946 when I was separated from the Navy. Fortunately I kept a very cryptic diary which was a great help because it called to mind events that had totally escaped from my memory. I presented copies to my family this Christmas.

I made it very clear that while my Navy experiences included sea duty from the Aleutians to Normandy and then to Tokyo bay just at the end, they did not include any actual encounters with the enemy that I know about. Others certainly contributed so much more than I

did. I did not even feel that I did my Navy job very well. My sacrifice, if it can be called that, was as I mentioned in my recollections, the loss of more than three years of my life. I just thought that my kids might be interested.

Unlike their luke-warm response to my previous chapter of history, however, I was very pleased with their pleased responses. They all seemed to enjoy reading about that period very much, and have told me so several times.

If you have not considered writing about your service time experiences for the benefit of your spouse and children I would urge you to do it. If possible keep it upbeat. My title was "How I Won the War, and other lies I tell at reunions." I think you will enjoy writing about how you "Won The War" too.

Cows, the Constitution, and the Ten Commandments

Cows: Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of

Washington. They also tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal liens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give them all a cow.

Constitution: They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it's worked for over 200 years and we're not using it anymore.

Ten Commandments: The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments in a Courthouse...you cannot post "Thou shall not steal," "Thou shall not commit adultery," and "Thou shall not bear false witness" in a building full of lawyers, judges, and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment!!!

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A Christmas Story?

By Ray “Nick” Nichols

T’was the night before Christmas (December 24, 1965) in Chu Lai Viet Nam. The only thing we could get to drink was local rice made Colt 45; sediments and all floating in the bottle. Corporal Nick had threatened Uncle Ho; who sold us the booze. (All older Viet Nam males with chin whiskers were called Uncle Ho after the Commie “turd” in North Viet Nam.) Corporal Nick had grabbed Uncle Ho by the chin whiskers and asked “any battery acid in this booze?” Uncle Ho promised and swore no battery acid Marine; “I swear no battery acid.” Nick’s response “any battery acid and I will be back and operate on you with a k-bar” (k-bar is a 7 inch knife Marines carried in Viet Nam).

Of the 3 of us went with our case of Colt 45 booze; turning the bottles upside down to see if any battery acid ate the metal cap at all. When we got back to our camp the party started. Then mail call happened shortly. Nick got lucky; Aunt Faye sent crackers, cheese, and little cans of sausage wieners. The feast was about to begin. PFC Foley from long Island New York had a

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long package from which was French bread. But, wait the end came off of the French bread & out came the best bottle of bourbon whiskey any of us had ever tasted Foley got the first drink straight out of the bottle. After all this good bourbon went down smooth as a soft drink after drinking the rot gut Colt 45 rice crap we had been swilling away. The rest of us got one drink each right out of the bottle, and good old Foley even got a second and last drink. Aunt Faye's cheese, crackers, and sausage wieners lasted about 2 minutes as well.

We celebrated well; Corporal Nick still had a hangover on New Years Eve and did not celebrate or drink any more alcoholic beverages for the rest of 1965; the Colt 45 hangover was terrible; but it is a Christmas to remember.

Membership Soars for 2005

Presently, well at press time, Post 95 had the highest percentage of membership increase in the State of Missouri!

We are at 135.5% with the next closest Post at about 115%. This is a major accomplishment. The Post has already received a first Post in the District “over the top” award from 3rd District Commander Gary Reno. And it

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We should be able to get to 150% (less than 20 more members) by May. If you know of any Veteran who is not a member, just ask him to become one. If you know of a Liberty area member who is a Legionnaire somewhere else, ask them to transfer their membership to Post 95. That’s how we got to 135%, we asked. Remember, if you don’t ask the answer is already NO!. So it does not hurt to ask.

Transfer and new member information can be obtained from the Post Adjutant, Robert Emery, (836-2000) or Vice Commander, Dale Moses (415-0567).

We are getting over 25 at the monthly Post meetings, but we need you to come to a meeting just once. If you don’t like it, don’t come again, but try it at least once, just to see what all the commotion is about!!

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 PM. Location is the Memorial Hall – Hwys H and B. – See you there!

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