

The LIBERTY LEGIONNAIRE

2nd Quarter 2005

**We served our Country...,
Still serving our
Community**



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

**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

Liberty High School Students Attend Boy's and Girl's State

American Legion Boy's and Girl's State were held in Warrensburg during the month of June. The boys attended the week of June 12 thru 18th on the campus of CMSU. The girls attended at the same location from June 19 through 25th. This is a program sponsored by the American Legion with each State having its own. This is a week of study of how the government works throughout the state.

Students may run for elected offices, serve on committees, hold trials, pass laws, as well as having a good time and meeting other students from all over the State. Many officials come and

speak to the students as the week passes. This program is open to students who have finished the junior year in which they attend.

The boys, their parents and the sponsors are as follows:

Ryan Stander, son of Harold and Kathleen Stander, Liberty Lion's Club

Dustin Buell, son of Mark and Sondra Buell, VFW Post 4043

Michael Noland, son of Doug and Carolyn Noland, American Legion Post 95

Kristopher Hill son of Christopher and Angela Hill, American Legion Post 95

Cameron Hill, son of Christopher and Angela Hill, American Legion Post 95

Brett Agee, son of Ralph and Jan Agee, Liberty Sertoma Club
Daniel Retzlaff, son of Bob and Kim Eddy, Sertoma Club

The girls, their parents and their sponsors are:

Katie Harman, daughter of Larry and Debbie Harman, American Legion Post 95

Emily Jahrling, daughter of Joseph and Sally Jahrling, American Legion Post 95

Melanie Buford, daughter of Dean and Terry Buford, American Legion Post 95

Tara Garrison, daughter of Doug and Margery Garrison, Liberty Lion's Club

Melinda Dilley, daughter of Jeff and Kathy Dilley, PEO Chapter LH

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The Church Gossip

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told George and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ...walked home....and left it there ! all night.

You gotta love George !!!

SOCIAL SECURITY TURNS

70

by Lyric Wallwork Winik

Social Security turns 70 this month. While both sides debate how to keep the program healthy, here are a few fascinating facts about it: □ A legal Secretary was the first person to collect monthly benefits. She paid \$24.75 in taxes to the program (1937-39) before retiring and got back more than \$22,000, living until 1975. □ The tax rate for Social Security (including the employer contribution) initially was 2%; it's now 12.4%. In 1937, only the first \$3000 of income was taxed; today, it's \$90,000. □ Last year 48 million Americans got Social Security. Until 2004, even felons on the run were allowed benefits by law. A 2001 audit showed that \$31 million had been paid to the dead, mostly because of poor record keeping.

□ The average monthly retirement benefit is \$955; 40% of Americans over 65 reportedly would be in poverty without Social Security. In general, to qualify, you must spend 10 years in the workforce and earn the minimum each year (now \$3680).

Don't Let Them Steal Your Car

Seems that car thieves have

found yet another way to steal your car or truck without any effort at all. The car thieves peer through the windshield, write down the VIN# from the label on the dash, go to the local car dealership and request a duplicate key based on the VIN#. I didn't believe this email, so I called a friend at Chrysler Dodge and pretended I had lost my keys. They told me just bring in the VIN#, and they would cut me one on the spot, and I could order the keyless device if I wanted. The Car Dealer's Parts Department will make a duplicate key from the VIN#, and collect payment from the thief who will return to your car. He doesn't have to break in, do any damage to the vehicle, or draw attention to himself. All he has to do is walk up to your car, insert the key, and off he goes to a local Chop Shop with your vehicle. You don't believe it? It IS that easy. To avoid this happening to you, simply put something over the VIN Metal Label located on the dash. By law, you can not remove the VIN#, but you can cover it so it can't be viewed by a thief.

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Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grand-parents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and

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losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life peoples actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

If you agree, pass it on.

If you can read this - Thank a teacher!

If you are reading it in English -Thank a soldier!!

Son's Love

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his potato garden but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son Fred, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Fred,

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I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love Dad

A few days later he received a letter from his son....

Dear Dad,

For heaven's sake, don't dig up that garden! That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love Fred

At 4 am the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love Fred

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

By Paul Ellison

Here it is the morning after the National Commander's visit and every thing is calm. I am so proud of all of you as we worked together the last two weeks to make Thursday's meeting run so smoothly. In my wildest dreams would I have thought I would ever be involved in hosting a National Commander and all of the people that traveled with him. I must admit it made me nervous but Post 95 did your self proud. A great honor for the Post.

Think back eight years ago when two or three members showed up for a meeting and talked about turning in the charter. Marvin Mendenhall agreed to take the responsibility of Commandership and started 95 on the road to recovery. Along the way we have been able to recruit and keep a lot of good people, I think we can announce that 95 is **alive and doing well.**

All of the guests expressed nothing but good things about the luncheon and the hospitality extended to them. To Mike Edwards, the commander expressed his gratitude for the beautiful clock that you made, good job.

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Trying to say thank you to individuals is always a chancy thing to do when so many helped. It is so easy to forget some one and leave them out, I certainly do not want to leave any one out because it was a truly group effort.

I want to thank Larry Allen and Cary Huffman for helping scrub and wax the Hall floor, it never looked better. Larry and Cary stayed Saturday to do the scrubbing and waxing, going home about 4 o'clock. Thanks to all VFW members who worked hard also.

Fred Cox for laying the carpeting on Saturday and coming back Monday night to lay carpet on the step to the club room, it looks great.

Paul Payne and Jim Rieck for getting the food together, and the people who served the food.

Robert Emery who stayed and helped clean and put back up the ceiling grills. Where did the yellow go?

All of you who came Saturday and helped **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Thanks to all who kept me on the right track and focused on the task.

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A special thank you goes to my wife Pat for her decorating skills of the hall, many good comments from the guests on how great it looked.

Thanks to Colleen Moses for taking care of making and serving of the punch.

Dale Moses and Robert Emery left the luncheon and went to Cedars Retirement Home and signed up 8 or 9 new members which made our self imposed goal of 150% membership a reality. Great job comrades

Committee Chair Persons are as follows:

- Larry Allen – Newsletter
- Mike Edwards and John Gibbs - Flag Etiquette & America Veterans
- Bobby Beeks and Ray Nichols - Fund Raisers
- Marvin Mendenhall, Sam Leonard, and Paul Riechman - Family Dinners
- Sam Leonard – supplies
- Donna Warren - Girls State
- Robert Emery - Boys State
- Ray Nichols - Oratorical Contest

Elected Officers are as follows:

- Commander - Paul Ellison
- Vice Commander - Ted Nelson
- Adjutant - Robert Emery
- Finance Officer - Ray Nichols

My First Post 95 Meeting

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By Dale Moses

My first Post 95 meeting was back in May of '95. There was four others plus myself there. Since that time, we have grown to about 25 to 28 members at a meeting. Why is that? Because they found out it does not hurt to do a little community service. They found out it is not hard work. They found out it is in fact a lot of fun!! Joking and kidding each other, working next to another Legionnaire that cares about his community and the people who live there; and the self-satisfaction.

Last evening, May 17th, at our annual Post cook-out/meeting. I was honored to receive from you Post 95 members a Paid-Up For Life Membership; or PUFL as we call it. I was, and still am very humbled for this gift. My wife, Colleen, and I will soon be leaving the area for a new career in Georgia. I had a speech semi-prepared in my head, but almost could not speak when it came time.

Some people have given me a lot of credit for the Post's accomplishments. I just spouted my mouth off with some idea; the Post members would say "yea or nay". If yea, they would "get

involved". That is what the American Legion "preaches, GET INVOLVED."

I am really proud to serve with such a fine group of Veterans. We don't always agree on every issue, but we all respect each other's opinions. After all, we all served our Country so all citizens would always have that right. If you have not ever attended a meeting or helped put out flags or went to a classroom full of forth graders and helped present a Flag Etiquette program, why not? As your mother use to say, "try it once, if you don't like it, you don't have to do it again. You will enjoy it, just ask any active Post 95 Legionnaire!

This newsletter is now edited by Larry Allen. Larry was a new member and tried it, he likes it!! Please help Larry out with your stories, comments and such. Everyone has a little story. When the commercial comes on the TV, just pick up your pen and jot down a few lines; in a couple nights, you will have a story and you only missed some dumb commercials.

Again, Thank you Post 95. Thank you for letting me work with you. Thank you for being there with me as we made our

Community a little bit better. And Thank You for the honor of being a Post 95 PUFL. God Bless you, your families, and these United States of America. I'll stay in touch via e-mail from Georgia, Dale "Mose" Moses.

THANK YOU DALE!!!!!!

Thought For The Day

From Sam Leonard

If you consider that there have been an average of 160,000 troops in the Iraq theater of operations during the last 22 months, and a total of 2112 deaths, that gives a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000.

The rate in Washington D.C. is 80.6 per 100,000.

That means that you are about 25% more likely to be shot and killed in our Nation's Capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, than you are in Iraq.

Conclusion: We should immediately pull out of Washington D.C.

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CHERISH OUR CHILDREN

by Rev Donna L. Warren

(This applies to all of us, whether or not we have been parents).

Parents, can you remember when your children were born and after cleaning up the little one, the doctor or nurse wrapped the infant in a blanket and handed it to you? Remember the joy, the awe, the tears as you received this gift of life crying for the first time in this world. Do you recall how fragile that life seemed, how delicate, how precious?

Now move ahead 12 or 14 months. You have cleaned up messes, been thrown up on, lost who knows how many hours of sleep, spent hours at the doctor's office frantic because of a fever that won't respond to normal treatment. On the downside, you would agree with the person who described a baby as a digestive apparatus with a loud noise at one end and no responsibility at the other. But on the positive side, you are humbled by this helpless little creation who needs you in every area.

Somewhere between infancy and the teen years, many of us lose that sense of awe, that sense of preciousness we felt when we first received our child in the delivery room. For many, the

child becomes a burden, a bother, a recipient of our anger and frustration at things the child in no way caused. If a divorce has occurred, the children may have even become pawns between the mother and father, or be treated as a piece of property to be exchanged every weekend.

In an era when 1.1 million teens become pregnant each year, when one out of four children face a risk of being sexually or physically abused by the time they reach 18, when 20% of those hospitalized for depression are under the age of 18, **IT IS TIME THAT WE LEARN ONCE AGAIN HOW TO CHERISH ALL CHILDREN WETHER THEY BELONG TO US OR SOMEONE ELSE.**

And there is no better model than our Lord Jesus Christ who held every child in high esteem.

It isn't that our Lord treats children differently than he treats anyone else, but what is significant is the He treats them as special as everyone else. They are no less important and deserving of His love and attention merely because they are young. He esteems them as He esteems the poor, or the Samaritan woman, or the tax collector, or the common

fisherman. And it is this value He placed upon their worth that we have lost sight of today in many ways. It is easy for the children to become a burden and source of stress rather than a source of blessing. When they are hurting and we tell them to "grow up or stop that crying or we'll give them something to cry about", we are crushing the very spirit that God gave them which makes them special.

One gift that Jesus gave everyone, including the children, was that no one's pain is unimportant. Jesus takes time to stop what He is doing and cares for our pains. Likewise we are to do the same for all others. Even if we have pains of our own.

HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH

From Bill Gates

Love him or hate him, he sure hits the nail on the head with this! To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice.

Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

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Sergeant at Arms - John Gibbs
Commander Paul

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek?

To My Church have you been
true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders
and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry
guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully
rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of
overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for
help,
Though at times I shook with
fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here,
Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too
much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.
There was a silence all around
the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's
streets,
You've done your time in Hell."
-Author Unknown~
It's the Military, not the reporter
who has given us
the freedom of the press.
It's the Military, not the poet,

who has given us
the freedom of speech.
It's the Military, not the
politicians that ensures our right
to Life, Liberty and the
Pursuit of Happiness.
It's the Military who salutes the
flag, who serves beneath
the flag, and whose coffin is
draped by the flag.

Post Meeting times

Robert H. Baker American
Legion Post 95 meets the 3rd
Tuesday of each month at 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**

Food Handler Certificates

It is time to renew the food handler
certificates, they are to be renewed
every three years; of course if you
have one that is less than 3 years old
yours is not due. Check with the
Clay County health office to find out
the times they hold the class. Pass
the word to any one you know who
doesn't have e-mail. Paul

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Chicago Sun-Times

Letters to the Editor

Flag desecration not speech

The June 21 editorial "Free speech encroachment should raise a red flag" did indeed raise a red flag -- not against the flag protection amendment but rather the myths that were presented as facts.

First, desecrating the U.S. flag is not speech. Baseball legend Tommy Lasorda said it best: "Speech is when you talk." It is a physical, hateful act that was outlawed by tradition since the birth of our nation and for more than 100 years of law in 48 states until one misguided decision by the Supreme Court overruled five previous courts in making hateful conduct something to be protected as "speech."

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, dissenting in Texas vs. Johnson in 1989, noted disdain for repugnant conduct by writing, "surely, one of the high purposes of a democratic society is to legislate against conduct that is regarded as evil and profoundly offensive to the majority of people, whether it be murder, embezzlement, pollution or flag burning." It is this point that the majority on that court and a tiny minority in this

country fail to understand or refuse to accept.

As Congress once again prepares to vote on returning the right of the people to protect their flag, I ask them to consider that James Madison, who wrote the First Amendment, condemned flag burning as a crime. Thomas Jefferson agreed with Madison and made clear in his writing that "speech" in the First Amendment meant the spoken word, not expressive conduct. That's why our founding fathers deliberately left out the words "expression" and "expressive conduct" from the Bill of Rights.

On behalf of the 2.7 million military veterans of the American Legion, I urge members of Congress to heed the voices of the people of Illinois and all 50 state legislatures. Pass the flag protection amendment and let the people decide, through ratification, if their flag is worthy of protection.

**Thomas P. Cadmus,
National Commander,
American Legion,
Indianapolis, Ind.**

Report Card Comments

Comment's Made on Student's Report Cards; all teachers were of course reprimanded!

Books by Ray & Helen Merrell

My three years in the Marines
Simple Times, Simple Pleasures
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1. Since my last report, your child has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
2. I would not allow this student to breed.
3. Your child has delusions of adequacy.
4. Your son is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
5. Your son sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
6. This student has a full six pack but lacks the plastic thing to hold it all together.
7. This student has been working with too much glue.
8. When your daughter's IQ reaches 50, she should sell.
9. The gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
10. If this student were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
11. Its impossible to believe that the sperm that created this child beat out 1,000,000 others.
12. The wheel is turning but the hamster is definitely dead.

Have a great day, see you at the next post meeting. Come see what a few old veterans can do to make a difference. It is a great time for fellowship.