

The Robert H. Baker
American Legion Post 95
P.O. Box 417
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roberthbakerpost95.com



THE LIBERTY
LEGIONAIRE
3rd Quarter 2007

Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:

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

**Chili Dinner
Fundraiser Planned**

It's time again for the annual
Chili and Hot Dog Dinner.

The menu will include Chili,
Hot Dogs and buns, veggies,
dessert and drinks. The normal
"fixings" and crackers will also
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What Is A Veteran?

Author unknown

A veteran - whether active duty,
retired, or national guard or
reserve - is someone who, at one
point in his or her life, wrote a
blank check made payable to
"The United States of America",
for an amount of "up to and
including my life."

That is honor, and there are way
too many people in this country
who no longer understand it.

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Rex would like to come to our
Legion meetings but at 92 or 93
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am full up bringing 3 people.
Would anyone want to call Rex
& see that he has a ride to the
Legion meetings? Please contact
Ray Nichols if you can help. Ray

Birthday

Lester Brown celebrated his
92nd birthday September 20,
2007. We all wish Lester many
more to come.

Did you know that our post just
had a birthday? It was founded in
1920.

Puns - A lot of money is
tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint
mine.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.

A dentist and a manicurist
fought tooth and nail.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

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The Things We Do

By John F. Kopp

Earlier this year, as we were preparing our table for Liberty's Spring on the Square, some one suggested we make up a list of things that we do throughout the year. So, I began taxing my pea brain thinking of the projects and activities that our post had accomplished and continues through each year.

After completing the list, and looking it over, I understood why I, and so many fellow legionnaires were always so tired. We do a lot of things throughout the year, from the flag etiquette classes to our dinners, to our parades, etc. But, of all the things we do and are asked to do, probably the most honorable and sacred task our post performs is our Honor Guard and the presenting of military honors for the families of deceased veterans.

This honor is never taken lightly by any member of our Honor Guard. They are serious of about what they do. And what they do is done very professionally and solemnly. And, what and how they do it is noticed.

On one rather warm day in July, we were called upon to perform the military rites for a deceased veteran. We were to be assisted by two Navy Personnel. As it turned out, the Navy Personnel happened to be a Seaman and an Ensign. Prior to the ceremony, we worked out all the particulars with the Navy, so there would not be any confusion during the ceremony.

The ceremony went off perfectly. The Navy unfolded and refolded the flag and presented it, along with the medallion, polished shells, and cross. Our rifle team fired in unison, and Donna Warren and I played echo taps.

After the family and well wishers had left, I was talking to the Ensign, thanking her and the seaman for assisting us. I also tried to recruit them into our post, but both live down around Grandview and Butler, Missouri. But, in the course of our conversation, I was explaining just how great Post 95 is. Ensign Dietrich said that if the quality of our honor team is any indication of the rest of our post, then we definitely have a first class post.

She had never heard the "Echo Taps" before and it, and the entire ceremony, deeply touched her heart.

I have heard other posts and veterans groups who do this say it is one of the services they provide. I do not look at it as a "Service" that we provide. For me, and I think I speak for our entire Honor Guard, we do not provide a service. It is our DUTY. It is our HONOR.

So, again, I say, as I will continue to say, Thank You to each and every member of the Robert H. Baker, American Legion Post 95 Honor Guard, for a job well done.

And, I invite any and all who would like to be part of our team to please do so. See any of us, myself, Mike Edwards, Don Happy, Paul Ellison, Donna Warren, Ira Hunter, Ray Nichols, etc. for details.

Next News Letter

Watch for "2nd Marine Raiders Company H" By Ray Merrill and "Navajo Code Talkers".

I want to thank every one who gave me articles to use and encourage any one else to contribute.

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At The Feet Of The Teacher
 By Rev Donna Warren, Chaplain
 Just a few weeks ago I was sitting writing a special letter to one of my High School teachers commemorating her 81st birthday, July 9. She was a teacher of Physical Education in 1951 and 1952 while I was in my last two years of high school. I had planned to take physical education as a major in college. An incident took place in our senior year when graduating seniors were busy celebrating that wonderful event. There was one very serious car wreck in a town not far from my hometown of Lead, SD. A car full of kids had been to a dance and of course partying. It was a town in the country. Unfortunately many of the roads were gravel with a few stretches of asphalt. This particular car was driven by a boy with a girl in the passenger seat, and another couple in the back seat. You will all remember there were no seat belts in cars back then. All went well for them as they headed home from the dance and party, until they came upon a section of road that was gravel and they had been on asphalt, and they were speeding way too fast for the change in the

road surface. The car skidded and hit a concrete bridge head on. The group of four youngsters died in the wreck. The reason I write this is that teacher, mentioned above, took four of the girls she taught, over to the town where the accident had taken place. All the way there she kept talking to us about being extra careful if and when we had a chance to drive a car. Like most kids we sort of passed this off, until the moment we arrived at the junk yard where the wrecked car was located. They allowed us to look at it closely. We were told that the girl in the front seat had been thrown thru the windshield and part of her scalp and brain were still on the hole in the glass. She lived long enough to crawl to a nearby home, dying on the porch. The owner called the emergency crew then followed the girl's trail back to the car. Remember there were no cell phones then. He found the other three kids were also dead. They told us the engine pinned the driver against the back seat. The teacher wanted to show what can happen when we don't drive carefully. I don't think anything that could have happened to us has left more of

an impression. Not one of the group has had a car accident, nor cited for careless driving, and no DUI arrests. We have a great teacher in our Lord who can influence much of our lives today. All we have to do is listen to Him speaking to us in our prayers, just as I and my friends listened to that high school teacher some 55 years ago. May God Bless America.
Think About It
 One nice thing about egotists ... they don't talk about other people.
 My weight is perfect for my height ... which varies.
 I used to be indecisive. Now, I'm not sure.
 The cost of living hasn't affected its popularity.
 How can there be self-help groups?
 Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.
 Is it just me, or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?
 If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?
 Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
 A backward poet writes inverse.

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Remembrance

By Ed Eberle

The year of 1944, the third week of July, on the Island of Saipan, an island twelve miles long and six miles wide. The island was taken over by Japan in 1914 after being seized from Germany.

During the Pacific war the United States invaded the island beginning on June 15th. All organized fighting had ended on the 9th day of July according to the high command. However it was common knowledge that many of the mountain areas contained many deep ravines and caves that were bypassed. It was believed that within these areas, many military and hundreds of civilians, both natives and Japanese were held up. The Japanese had over 29,000 army and navy men in defense of the island to start with. Our losses, Marines, Army and Navy were later reported to be over 14,000, killed, wounded or missing in action.

It was deemed necessary that a coordinated sweep be made of the island. Near the south end, men armed, and some with bull horns, plus a few interpreters lined up and began their sweep to the north. Fresh with the memory

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of comrades killed and mutilated, this was almost like an animal hunt. All were anxious to find the hated enemy and get the first shot.

As the island became wider our artillery battalion was ordered to rush some men to help fill in for the coming night. I was one of approximately forty trucked two miles or so down south. There we were met by a Sergeant who took charge. He ordered us to disembark and line up in two columns, and to follow him up the long hill, after about ½ mile, upon intervals, he designated us to fall out in pairs. Then we were to camouflage as best we could and prepare for the night, and in no way to give up the location of our positions. It was known the enemy was using this trail to sneak down near the beach and steal supplies.

I didn't know my companion. We wiggled into some scrub brush, clearing away just in front of us to have a clear view across the trail and cane field. There were two men about twenty-five yards on each side of us. A misty rain became harder as we huddled under our ponchos, while taking turns on watch.

The morning finally came. While we were breaking out our

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“C” rations, still in the twilight we noticed the two men up the hill out in front of their position. There was another farm trail that joined the one in front of their watch. They had surprised three of the enemy and had bayoneted and bludgeoned all three to death. They (the enemy) had only one rifle between them and were all wearing parts of military clothing. Our comrades were of the opinion they had come to the joining of the trails, and were trying to figure out which way to go when they surprised them.

Soon the word was passed to prepare to move out. We passed about a hundred yards thru the cane field in front of us when word came from below, ‘Two Nips in the ravine in front of us.’ About that time they were seen running up the other side. Several shots were fired from below, one fell and the other seemed to explode as he had pulled the pin from a canister grenade strapped around his waist.

We continued to advance and after another two hundred yards or so word was passed for the artillery men to return to the trail where we had started. After doing so we were told to wait for some prisoners being brought

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down and to escort them farther down to waiting trucks.

They soon arrived. Our sergeant took charge and we began our trip. There were a couple that could speak English and our sergeant used them as interpreters.

After going only a half mile there became a commotion in center of the forty or so prisoners. The sergeant, thru the interpreter, ordered them to stop. Several were waving their hands and the interpreter ran back, "baby, baby, woman having baby". The sergeant ordered all to sit down. Then the women and a couple of others and the guards hurried into some scrub brush and cane near by. In thirty to forty minutes they came out with the women carrying the baby wrapped in pieces of clothing. It was only after we started down the hill again that she handed it to someone else to carry.

It seemed strange, our forward observers had witnessed large numbers near the end, chasing children, and with children in their arms, jumping over cliffs more than a hundred feet high to their deaths.

Others had joined hands and walked out into the ocean. In some of the larger caves, groups

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were found huddled together much like an American football huddle and exploded a grenade in their midst. I understand there was a shortage of grenades.

Back to the prisoners being marched down the hill, it seemed as if the bravery of the women had given new hope to several. Perhaps the dreadful fear of torture had eased just a bit. Their steps seemed a little more brisk, and even a few smiles, a change of attitude, perhaps.

Did the showing of the women's bravery in fringing forth a new life in those conditions, and carrying it part way in her arms affect our dislike of the nation? Not at that time.

Today I wonder if that child could have returned to Japan and be part of a nation that we consider an Allie, a country that in part has become forgiven of many of their wrongs. But I don't think I, or we could ever forgive the Emperor or military we and others fought.

But for their people today I have no animosity toward them.

May God bless us all.

Fallen Soldier Memorial

For those who have seen the Fallen Soldier Memorial but don't understand the representation of its parts, here is

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an explanation of it. The helmet and identification tags represent the fallen soldier. The inverted rifle with the bayonet symbolizes a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to one's comrade. The combat boots represent the final march of the last battle. The beret, when used for soldiers from airborne units, indicates that the soldier has taken part in his final jump. Part of the memorial ceremony is the Last Roll Call. That is the final tribute paid by soldiers to their fallen comrade. According to research done on the Internet, this has its origin in the accountability roll call conducted by the unit First Sergeant following combat. The Last Roll Call is done with the conviction held by soldiers that all unit members will be accounted for and none will ever be forgotten.

Puns

From Dale Moses

A pun is its own re-word.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A "Will" is a dead giveaway.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you ar in Seine

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**Burma or Bust – The story of
the Pack Mules of WWII**

By Diane Sires-

Daughter-in-law of Foster Sires
When first introduced to the Army in 1940, Foster Sires didn't know much about the Organization. "I only knew about the Infantry, Cavalry and Coast Artillery. I was interested in the Coast Artillery because I had never been to the coast." After looking at his background of country living and animal husbandry, in addition to his ability to project his voice loudly and clearly, Foster was assigned to the Remount Division at Ft. Robinson, NE, to work with the pack mules, an important factor in the War effort. Pack mules were utilized in Burma (the Far East) and Italy (Europe) to transport food and equipment up the mountains and through rough terrain to build roads for the advancing Army.

After three months of basic training at Ft. Robinson, Sires was shipped to Westwego, Port of Embargo in LA for maneuvers during the summer of 1941.

The animals were waiting for the Remount Division, having been previously purchased from the public for about \$225 per

head, roughly twice the market value at the time. The mules and horses were typically 3-6 years old, some were "farm broke". Once purchased, their hair was cut and they were each issued a unique identification or "dog tag" number which was branded on their necks. Detailed records were kept on each animal for the duration of the War; much like each soldier had a dog tag number and was always accounted for.

The men of the Remount Division all had a horse to ride in addition to the mules they trained. Mules are by nature pack animals and instinctively follow one another, usually led by a "bell mare".

Each Remount Cadre was attached to a Cavalry Division and would accompany the deployed Cavalry. A Cadre would consist of a couple of blacksmiths, 3-4 veterinarians, a cook, an animal supervisor, a mess sergeant and an officer. As the animal supervisor, Sires' duty was to make sure the animal feed was kept stocked and of good quality. Feed included oats and crushed corn and good prairie or timothy hay. The animals were never grazed, but always feed on

quality feed plus a spoonful of salt each morning. The animals were in training until they were called up for duty.

A bittersweet moment for Sires came late in the War after loading prime mules and horses on a ship bound for Italy. Within 10 days, the War was over. There was no return for the animals once they were shipped out. They would be used by those receiving them for whatever purpose necessary, whether for farming or for food.

Twenty thousand Army horses and mules were left at Ft. Reno, OK after the War was over, where Sires stayed until December 1945 attending to the public sales. Any animal with color – white trim, etc. – was usually sold to Hollywood for film work. Mules were purchased by Southern plantation representatives to be used in the cotton fields.

Thanks to men like Foster Sires, the little known chapter of the pack mules in the saga of WWII history is not forgotten.

Remember – If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you!

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New Guidance On Vets And Service Men/Women OUT Of Uniform

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. "Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball

games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

This Bill was passed July 25, 2007. Let your veteran friends know about the Passage of this Bill.

Attitude

By Charles Swindoll

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

It is more important than the past, than education, than money, ...than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.

The remarkable thing is – we have a choice every day of our lives regarding the attitude we embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that

people will act in certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...

I'm convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you.

We are in charge of our attitudes."

Think About It

I had amnesia once -- or twice. Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic. I am neither for nor against apathy.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses side-saddle.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home, and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

A calendar's days are numbered

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American Legion Auxiliary
 Samantha McCoy
 President Unit 95

The American Legion Auxiliary has officially been chartered!!! I would like to use this space to introduce the new officers and maybe share some hopes for our future.

I am Samantha McCoy, President of our Unit. I am the daughter of the Legion's Commander John Kopp. I was Photographer for the Legion and like to volunteer as much as possible. I am a stay at home mom, which will allow time to hopefully organize or setup anything that needs to be done. About a year ago I was approached about starting the Auxiliary, which I was all for. At the time I did not know what was required to even qualify for the Auxiliary. When I knew I could qualify I jumped in with both feet.

The officers for this year are Sergeant-at-Arms - Juanita Maier, Chaplin - Marjorie Brooks, Historian - Jennifer Ellis, Treasurer - Dorothy Griffino, Secretary - Susan Kopp, Vice President - Susan Zahnd, and President - Samantha McCoy.

We are having a great start; we

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had 11 charter members 2 transfers, and 2 charter junior members. I know this will be a difficult task to boost membership; however I think since the officer posts are filled we will see more people wanting to join. This will be a great time to promote membership. Our meetings will be the same night as the Legion's meeting, the 3rd Tuesday of the month 7:00pm which will allow for carpooling and convince.

As we get bigger and have more members I would like to start committees for fund raising, memberships, and programs. Any one interested in being in these committees please see me, also please let me know if anyone has any ideas about anything. I am all for the theory that two heads are better than one, and so forth. I can't make the decisions on what and if an idea is used but I can bring this up in meetings and we will all vote.

Flag Legislation

On June 29, President Bush signed HR 692 ENR "Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act of 2007."

The legislation amended Title 4, United States Code, Chapter 1,

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Section 7, Subsection 7(m), to authorize the Governor of a State, territory, possession of the United States, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia to order that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, possession, or in the District of Columbia in the event of the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that State, territory, possession, or in the District of Columbia who dies while serving on active duty.

Additionally the legislation specifies that when the Governor of a State, territory, possession, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia, issues a proclamation that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, possession, or in the District of Columbia because of the death of a member of the Armed Forces, the National flag flown at any Federal installation or facility in the area covered by that proclamation shall be flown at half -staff consistent with that proclamation.

Quote

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States.

Ask any Indian. Robert Obren

Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight. Phyllis Diller

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