

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



**THE LIBERTY
LEGIONAIRE
4th Quarter 2007**

**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

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

Family Dinner Planned

Again this year, Post 95 is holding a family Christmas Dinner. The event will be held on **Tuesday, December 18 at 6:30 P.M.** followed by our regular monthly post meeting. We will have a special guest at this event, Marvin Harper, Department Commander, Missouri. The Post will provide the meat dish, while members are ask 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 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 Great Country Strong.

To get an accurate count on how much meat to order, we would like for you to **R.S.V.P. by December 10, to Commander John at 407-9740 or Larry Allen at 628-1278.** Come on out and spend a little time with your Post 95 Legionnaire Family.

Bring a Christmas tree ornament for donation to a charity and bring a can of food to be donated to In As Much Ministry.

Birthdays

Foster Sires celebrated his 89th birthday Sunday 11/18. Ira Hunter celebrated his 84th

birthday in November also. Happy Birthday young men. We wish you continued good health and many more birthdays.

Spaghetti Dinner

Plan to attend our annual spaghetti dinner which is tentatively scheduled for April 19, 2008. A firm date will come in the next news letter.

Oratorical Contest

It is time again for the American Legion Oratorical Contest. This year it will be held at 1:00 PM January 12, 2008 at the Cameron, Missouri Legion Post. This is just one of the many functions sponsored by your post. This is for high school students who compete for scholarship moncy. In case of snow the alternate date will be January 19, 2008.

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**I REMEMBER PEARL
HARBOR**

by REV Donna Warren, Chaplain

At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor Sunday December 7, 1941, I was seven years and eight months old. We did not learn of the attack until later that day. As was the family routine, my maternal grandparents had walked to our house after Church for the main dinner of the day. To us it was just an ordinary day

As was the normal pattern of the day after the meal we turned on the radio to learn what was going on in the world. Grandpa was an avid reader and "just had to hear the news".

Near the end of the broadcast we learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. I didn't really know at the time where Pearl Harbor was. When I found out, it just seemed so far away it wouldn't have much affect on us in South Dakota.

By Monday the news was pretty grim with the loss of much of the Navy Pacific Fleet, and the number of sailors and ships that were lost. It wasn't too long before the some fifty kids in the two block neighborhood got

together to see what we might be able to do. When we heard of the draft to replace those who died in the attack, some of us went to the local Post Office to sign up. We were told that we were too little, but they gave us a list of things we could do to help the war effort right there at home.

This was taken very seriously by all of us, so we formed a Civil Defense Group for our neighborhood. As time went on and the government was warning the country of a possible attack on the mainland, our group went to be trained to recognize enemy aircraft and our countries planes. We had a phone at a store not far from the area we had established as our base of operation. There was an Army Air Base about forty miles east of our home in Rapid City. We never did see any enemy aircraft to call about. So we eventually turned our efforts into collecting scrap metal, tires, batteries and other things needed. We would haul the collected items to the collection center at the Fire Station, in our wagons then rush back to gather more items needed. In the evenings we walked around the homes to

remind families of the black out rules.

After awhile of uncertainty, I decided we should write the President and ask him to give us a machine gun so we could shoot down any enemy planes before they could reach the Army Air Base. We received a handwritten response from the President to thank us for our eagerness to help the country, but was very sorry that all of his machine guns were in use so he couldn't send us one. Our civil defense efforts went right on being very active until after the atomic bomb put an end to the war with Japan.

Now as I think back at what we all did during World War II, the President was very wise not to let us have a machine gun!!!!

Puns

Police were called to a day-care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

When a clock is hungry it goes back for seconds

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Continued – Code Talkers classified. Estimates have placed the total number of Navajos in the code talker program between 375 and 420.

The Navajo code was formally developed and centered on the Joint Army/Navy Phonetic Alphabet that uses English letters to spell out words. For each English letter in the phonetic alphabet system, code talkers generated several nouns and sometimes verbs in the Navajo language using the principle of letter and word substitution. To save time, some terms, concepts, tactics and instruments of modern warfare were given uniquely formal descriptive nomenclatures in Navajo. For instance, when a code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. (This is shown in the example above for the word "hello.") Then he used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word. Thus, the Navajo words wol-la-chee (ant), he-la-sana (apple) and tse-nill (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-

keh-di-gline (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)." There were about 450 frequently used military terms that didn't exist in the Navajo language. For those, there were conceptual substitutes, as in besh-low (iron fish) meaning "submarine," dah-he-tih-hi (hummingbird) meaning "fighter plane" and ca-lo (shark) meaning "destroyer." To an ordinary Navajo speaker, the entire code talking "conversation" would have been incomprehensible because the nouns and verbs were not used in the contextual sequence of conveying meaning within a Navajo sentence structure. The uninitiated would hear truncated, unrelated, and disjointed strings of individual unrelated nouns and verbs. The code talkers memorized all the variations and practiced their rapid use under stressful conditions. Not surprisingly, there is no indication that any message traffic in the Navajo language was ever deciphered, though surely it was intercepted.

The Navajo language had value because it was unknown except in the United States. Hitler knew about the successful use of code talkers during World War I and sent a team of anthropologists to

learn Native American languages before the outbreak of World War II. Though it was too difficult for Germans to learn all the native languages and dialects, the U.S. Army did not implement a code talker program in the European Theater. A Navajo sergeant was captured in the Philippines in 1942 and was ordered to interpret the radio messages, but they made no sense to him, because he had not participated in the code training. The Imperial Japanese Army and Navy never cracked the spoken code. High-ranking military officers have stated that the U.S. would never have won the Battle of Iwo Jima without the secrecy of the code talkers. Still, code talkers received no recognition until declassification in 1968. Finally, in 1982, President Reagan presented them with a Certificate of Recognition and declared August 14th as National Navajo Code Talkers' Day. Their unique achievements have earned them a proud place in the history of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Quote

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you. Dick Cheney

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2nd Marine Raiders Company

H

By Ray Merrell

October 31st I stood gun watch. I manned an anti-aircraft gun 12 midnight until 4 A.M. on the U.S.S. George Clymer. It was cloudy and raining. We were getting close to Bougainville.

Bougainville, 11-1-43 to 1-12-44

NOVEMBER 1st-We hit the beachhead at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville. We hit the beach at 7 A.M. Col. Joe McCaffery and several others were killed on the beach. We pushed in 300 yards. Rev. William McCorkle was hit on the helmet, but wasn't injured. The bullet went through the helmet and lining and grazed his head just a little. He wanted to keep the helmet, so the Seabees welded the holes shut.

The next day we pushed in 500 more yards.

November 4th a friend (Work) was shot in the leg. It was a worrisome night.

We held the beachhead the next four days, then went to the Piva Trail road block. We went up the trail early in the day.

About 3 P.M. the corporals and lieutenants wanted us to dig new foxholes, but some of the old

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Raiders (Russell, Thor, Spath, Korsmeyer and Tratebas) said, "We better get our ass in gear before the Japs hit". The Jaqps hit us about 4:30 P.M. We had a hot fire fight. I was carrying a BAR (automatic rifle).

One Marine came through our lines. He had been shot in the mouth. His teeth and lips were just hanging. He said to us, "Isn't this a hell of a way to go home?"

It started to rain and rained all night. It filled our old foxholes, and it was like a sea of water. We were in the water-filled foxholes for 16 hours. When the Japs fired their knee mortars, we would duck under the water. Sgt. Ignatius Gorak was killed during the night, and several boys were wounded.

November 8th at daylight Capt. Robert Burnett told Lt. Skip Daly to send out a squad of 10 men to see what was out in front of us. The H Company Squad 2, was Thor Thostenson, R.D. McDowell, Norm Korsmeyer, Rusty Tratebas, Kenneth Frantz, Richie Spath, Ray Strohmeier, Stuart Campbell, Bill Carroll and me.

We got out about 10 to 25 Yards, and the Japs pinned us down with rifle and machine gun fire.

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We came back and told Lt. Daly, and he told Capt. Burnett. The captain instructed Lt. Daly to take his platoon (three squads including ours) and make contact with the Japs. Lt. Daly fired a burst at a Jap with his carbine rifle. Then all hell broke loose. We passed over several dead Japs. We got out about 200 to 300 yards, and the Japs hit us with mortar and machine gun fire.

I didn't see the Jap that was firing at me. I was moving pretty fast. I got in a small ravine, and my GAR ammo belt got caught on a vine. I pulled so hard it pulled one of the ammo pockets loose.

Stuart Campbell out of our squad was killed by mortar. Kenneth Frantz of our squad was bounced off the ground by the same mortar fire.

We were reinforced by F and G Companies, including Red Lindsay and two Lang brothers from Joplin, Mo.

Our H Company pulled back at 4 P.M. to set up a line in the rear. Then we pulled back to a swamp area and rested on logs to keep out of the water. We slept in the swamps. We had been at the roadblock on the Piva Trail for 24 hours.

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The next day, November 9, we started back to the front in mud up to our knees and butt. There were a lot of wounded boys during the night, and they were bringing out the wounded Marines. Bob Seaman from Beardstown, Ill. was one of the wounded. Just before we got to the front, the fighting quieted down. We (H Company) pulled back off the lines to a rest area.

The other three companies, F, G and E, stayed on the front. Many boys were wounded from our battalion (four companies).

Per Rusty's letter dated February 27th, 1985: "The picture of Rainbow's (Stuart Campbell) grave brought back memories. It's a wonder any of us got back from that patrol."

Gung Ho

Navajo Code Talkers

by Unknown

Cha – ah-jah – nash-doie-tso – dibeh-yazzie – a-kha. Hat – Ear – Lion – Lamb – Oil. That's one way to say "HELLO" in Navajo code talk!

The Navajo language is unwritten and completely unintelligible to anyone except another Navajo. Nevertheless, it's credited with saving the lives of many American soldiers. It is also a language for which code

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words in Navajo could be devised for specialized military terms, such as the Navajo word chay-da-gahi, which means "tortoise" and represents "tank." It was Philip Johnston, son of a missionary to the Navajo tribe, who believed that use by the Marine Corps of Navajo as a code language in voice transmission could guarantee communications security. He lived among the Navajos for 24 years and was one of the few non-Navajos fluent in the language. His recommendation was made to Major General Clayton Voges, USMC, Commanding General, Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet.

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transmission could guarantee communications security. He lived among the Navajos for 24 years and was one of the few non-Navajos fluent in the language. His recommendation was made to Major General Clayton Voges, USMC, Commanding General, Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet.

A demonstration was presented to prove this theory. Simulated field combat messages were translated into tribal dialect and transmitted to another Navajo. The second Indian translated the message back into perfect English in the same form that had been originally provided. Additionally, tests in the Pacific under combat conditions proved that classified messages could be translated into Navajo, then transmitted, received, and translated back into English faster than messages that were encoded, transmitted, and decoded employing conventional cryptographic machines and techniques. You might have viewed it the same way: 20 seconds for the Navajos; 30 minutes for the machines!

Recruitment began in May 1942, though the Navajo code talker project was highly

Continued – See Code

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Commander's Corner

John Kopp Commander

One day Miss Chicken and Mister Pig were out for a little stroll down their country road. They were admiring all the beautiful flowers and things along the roadside. After a little while they came upon a family of poor farmers. They noticed that the family had no food in the house.

Both thought it was such a shame, since the farm family was really hard workers and had just fallen upon some tough times. Then in the middle of their conversation, Miss Chicken got a wonderful idea. She turned to Mr. Pig and said, "How about you and I providing a wonder breakfast of bacon and eggs for that poor family?"

Mr. Pig thought for a moment and then said to Mrs. Chicken, "My dear Lady that is very easy for you to do. For you it is a contribution for me, on the other hand, it is definitely a commitment."

Every organization needs people who are committed to the aims and goals of that particular organization. But, it also needs people who can and do contribute. The same is true of

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the American Legion in general and our post in particular. Not every member can be totally committed to the post. In today's world, as we all know, there are so many different things pulling at us. We all have certain family commitments; many are still working full time, trying to put food on the family table. Many have children or grandchildren in school and they require attendance at school functions and sporting events, and the list goes on.

But, I have noticed that so many of our legionnaires are there when needed. It is because of the commitments and contributions by all of you that make our post so wonderful. This is why our Honor Guard is requested so often by so many different organizations to present the colors. This is why our Chili Dinner was such a success, why Veterans Day was so great. That is why we are asked every year by the schools in the area to present our Flag Etiquette class. That is why we were called upon to deliver a gold star banner to the mothers of two fallen soldiers.

And speaking of contributions, during our October meeting, we

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decided to begin a building fund. This is something that really should have started around 1920. Anyway, if you are interested, or maybe you know some one who wished to contribute to the Legion but not to the general fund, here is an opportunity for them, or you, to be specific as to where your money goes.

And also speaking of our Chili Dinner, I wish to thank all of you who worked so hard to make it a success. But, I wish to especially thank Larry Allen and his cooking crew. The chili was delicious. And, a very special thanks must go to our Auxiliary for the fabulous deserts, beautiful decorations, and assistance in setting up and cleaning up. And to every-one else who in any way helped, THANK YOU!!

Quotes

It's a recession when your neighbor loses his job, it's a depression when you lose your own. – Harry S. Truman

I know a guy who gave up smoking, drinking, and rich food. He was healthy right up until the day he killed himself. – Johnny Carson.

Middle age is when your age starts to show around your middle. – Bob Hope

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Student Desks

By Unknown

Back in September of 2005 on the first day of school Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something unforgettable.

With the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. Looking around, confused, they asked, "Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?" She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk." They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said. "Maybe it's our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior." and so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had

taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in the classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them.

It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

Flag Flying**Official Dates to fly half Staff**

Peace Officer's Memorial Day, May 15th

Memorial Day, Last Monday in May (Flag raised to full staff at noon)

Korean War Veterans Day, July 27th

Patriot Day, September 11

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th

How to fly your flag at half Staff

When raising the flag to half staff on a vertical pole, always raise it briskly to the top of the flag pole for a moment before lowering it. When taking it down for the night, raise it to the top of the flag pole again and lower it to the bottom.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

Samantha McCoy, President

It seems appropriate that being November and Thanksgiving (at least while I am writing this) that I thought I would give many, many thanks to EVERYONE for the help in getting the Auxiliary started, joining the Auxiliary, and that wonderful, and I think successful, chili dinner. The Legion was the biggest help in all of this I believe. Without them and the unanimous vote to allow the Auxiliary, I wouldn't even be writing this.

These special men and women didn't hesitate when the vote came up to start-up the Auxiliary, they even voted to give us start-up money. Robert found and donated the Auxiliary bell that we now use. The Reno's donated a flag pole, but not just a regular flag pole, unbelievably this pole was an original from our past charter.

I need to thank our members as well, September's meeting was really a riot, and the laughs at my many mistakes I think were the best part. I must admit we have a very fun group. I am proud to be the President. I just couldn't ask for a better group.

The Auxiliary worked real hard

on the deserts and decoration for the chili dinner, and the Men and Women of the Legion were just fantastic. I just don't think I can ever say thank you enough, however I will say it one more time....THANK YOU!

Three Men

Three men - a Canadian farmer, Osama bin Laden and a Texan are all working together one day.

They come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it. "I will give each on you one wish, which is three wishes in total", says the Genie.

The Canadian says, "I am a farmer and my son will also farm. I want the land to be forever fertile in Canada." POOF! With the blink of the Genie's eye, the land in Canada was forever fertile for farming.

Osama was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq and Iran so that no infidels, Americans or Canadians can come in our precious land." POOF! Again, with the blink of the Genie's eye, there was a huge wall around those countries.

The Texan says, "I am very curious. Please tell me more about this wall." The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 5,000

feet high, 500 feet thick and completely surrounds the country. Nothing can get in or out; it's virtually impenetrable." The Texan sits down, cracks a beer, smiles, and says, "Fill it with water."

Minorities

by Unknown

We need to show more sympathy for these people.

- * They travel miles in the heat.
- * They risk their lives crossing a border.
- * They don't get paid enough wages.
- * They do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do.
- * They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language.
- * They rarely see their families, and they face adversity all day every day.

I'm not talking about illegal emigrants; I'm talking about our troops! Doesn't it seem strange that many Democrats and Republicans are willing to lavish all kinds of social benefits on illegals, but don't support our troops and are now threatening to de-fund them?

Quote

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

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