

**The Robert H. Baker
American Legion Post 95
P.O. Box 417
Liberty, MO 64069-0417
roberthbakerpost95.com**



**THE LIBERTY
LEGIONAIRE
1st Quarter 2008**

**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

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

Spaghetti Dinner

Get ready for Post 95's eighth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, bread, veggies, desert and drinks. The event will be held on April 12, 2008 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM 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. Raffle items are: \$150 Wal Mart gift card, gas card to name a couple.

Price for all you can eat is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children 13 and under. Bring the family for some good food and family fun.

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Post 95 Membership

We are currently at 253 members paid up for 2008. Our goal for 2008 is 258 we are five short of 100% for 2008

Girl's State

There will be 8 girls going to Girl's State this year as a result of efforts by Donna Warren and Post 95.

Boy's State

Five boys will be going to Boy's State this year due to efforts by Robert Emery and Post 95.

District Meeting

The next district meeting will be in Excelsior Springs on 4/13/08. Lunch will be at 12:00 PM, bring a covered dish. Meeting will begin at 1:00 PM

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VFW Happenings

Taco night - Every Wednesday night from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Tacos \$1.00 each or buffet \$7.00.

Karaoke - Every Saturday night 8:00 PM to Midnight.

Pancake breakfast first Saturday of each month..

March 30 - Motor Cycle show at Kearney VFW. Help support your VFW riders from around the area. Donations are accepted to support the VFW Freedom Riders.

Quote

By Unknown

I would rather live my life as if there is a God, and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't, and die to find out there is.

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JANUARY A DISMAL MONTH

by Rev Donna Warren, Chaplain
 The pine roping has dried out, the candles have burned down, the multicolored decorations have served their purpose. When it all has been put away, everything looks plain and ordinary.

We've celebrated the holiday season from Halloween through New Year's Day, but now, in the bleak month of January, the festivities are over. We postpone or cancel activities because the weather is so brutal; and when we look in our mailboxes, instead of colorful catalogues and beautiful Christmas cards with warm messages, we get a plain black and white notice from the IRS. It seems like all we are left to do in January is mope around with the post-Christmas doldrums.

But we don't have to. After all, the church year doesn't make provisions for being glum. For though Christmas is over, it concludes on a day we call Epiphany.

Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men to visit Jesus, but the day has been

overshadowed by Christmas. Epiphany is observed on January 6 and the time between Christmas Day and Epiphany is called the "12 days of Christmas." "Epiphany" derives from a Greek word meaning "to come forth." By that the church means the revealing of Christ to the Gentile world. And the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as the "king of the Jews," were the Wise Men.

If there is anything that demonstrates to us the magnificence of God's creation, it is looking up into the heavens on a clear night and seeing thousands of twinkling stars. Even more profound is seeing a change in the heavens, the movement of the stars from season to season,

When we see the eclipse of the moon or of the sun, we know that we indeed are small and that God's creation is so much greater than we are in our little neighborhoods.

Listen for the course God wants you to take, and celebrate that course as we begin this New Year.

Cut out & place on the frig!!

Spaghetti Dinner!!

April 12, 2008

4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

Spaghetti, green beans,

Bread, veggies, dessert and drink

all for \$7.00

Children (13 &

under) \$3.50

Door Prizes!!

Raffles!!

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**American Legion Commander
to Berkeley City Council:
'Marines are not the enemy'**

INDIANAPOLIS (January 31, 2008) - "Osama bin Laden couldn't have said it better," American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser said of the Berkeley City Council Resolution, which tells the Marines that they are not welcome there. "Disgraceful, disloyal, ungrateful. These words are too kind in describing the actions of the public officials in Berkeley, who voted for this disgrace. Nonetheless, our Marines continue to bravely serve and in so doing, allow Americans to spout such foolishness. The American Legion not only strongly condemns this action by the City Council but also believes that a sincere apology is in order to all Marines, past and present."

Conatser, the leader of the nation's largest veterans organization, was referring to a measure passed by the Council 8-1 Tuesday, that tells the U.S. Marine Corps that one of its recruiting stations is "not welcome in the city, and if recruiters choose to stay, they do

as uninvited and unwelcome intruders."

The City Council marched in complete lock-step with radical anti-war group Code Pink in attempting to drive out Marine recruiters from its San Francisco suburb. The City Council also voted 8-1 to give Code Pink a free parking space in front of a recruiting station, along with a free sound permit for protesting once a week. Marine recruiters at Berkeley have faced harassment from protestors who regularly block nearby sidewalks, generate excessive noise and disrupt business.

"I have been a recruiter in the National Guard and I know that it's tough duty, with long hours," Conatser said. "What these recruiters do is essential to our national security. Without recruiters we have no military. And I don't think we can count on the flower children from Berkeley to protect this nation when it comes under attack. They have to remember that Marines are not the enemy; the terrorists are."

Conatser pointed out that The American Legion strongly supports the war on terrorism, passing a national resolution of

its own. "Resolution 169 was passed unanimously by The American Legion in 2005 and it has been re-affirmed every year since. It reminds Americans that you can not separate the war from the warrior and that the American people should stand united in support for our troops who are engaged in protecting our values and our way of life."

With a current membership of 2.7-million wartime veterans, The American Legion, www.legion.org, was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and patriotic youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

Bingo

Post 95 does bingo at Cedars Assisted Living the 4th Thursday of every month. The residents look forward to us coming. Refreshments are provided by one of our members and \$1.00 is paid by the post for each bingo and \$5.00 for the final black out.

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My Thoughts

By John F. Kopp, Past
Commander

Since our last newsletter a lot has been going on. We have had two dinners, our Chili dinner and our Christmas dinner. I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard on both, especially the Ladies of our Auxiliary. For our dinner, they donated and cooked our deserts, helped with the setting up, did all the decorations, and were there for the clean up. And for our Christmas Dinner they were there with their decorations again, plus the tree. Thank you, Ladies.

And, thanks to all of you who worked so hard with the setting up, cleaning up, collecting the door and raffle prizes, and our cooks and food servers.

Now, with the New Year upon us, we have so much to look forward to. And, I know that each and every project will be completed successfully, despite any and all snags we may encounter along the way. We have a good post and are finally being recognized for that. And, if we stay united in our efforts and goals, we can accomplish anything.

I have several ideas for the future and will reveal them as

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time allows. Hopefully some of them will be good enough to implement.

Things coming up in the near future: We should not forget about our spaghetti dinner in April, all our Memorial Day activities, and so forth.

But, personally I wish to thank all of you who have support me and our post in our endeavors through out the past year and a half. We have so much to look forward to.

And, lastly, I know it is difficult to forget. But, let's not forget that this is election year. I cannot nor will I endorse any party or candidate, mainly because I have not made up my mind yet myself. But, I urge all of you to look past the negative junk thrown at those running for office. I, personally, am getting tired of hearing why one person is not qualified for office because of his/her age, religion, experience, smile, body odor, etc. Instead of listening to why a person is not qualified, why not try to find the person who is most qualified. And, of all things, VOTE.

Some one once said that bad politicians are elected by good people who failed to vote.

Thank you.

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Commander's Corner

By Ray Nichols

I would like to thank everyone for their vote of confidence and for electing me as the Robert H. Baker Post 95 Commander again. Many things have changed since 2000 when I was the Commander of Post 95. In 2000 we were thrilled when 20 people came to a meeting. Now it is a tremendous thrill when 30 + people attend our American Legion meetings. Keep coming to our meetings and let me know what suggestions you may have that might get us up to 40 attendees. I promise to do my best as commander of this Post. Believe me, I am attempting to fill big footsteps. Paul Ellison served for 5 years and John Kopp came in as a new member to our post. Both Paul and John were excellent American Legion commanders.

Now that our Post has grown and is very active, I will need everyone's help. There are too many things going on for one person to attempt to take care of. Just think of all the Flag Etiquette classes serving hundred's of 4th graders led by Mike Edwards, our honor guard team serving at numerous funerals, Memorial Day services @ 5 nursing homes,

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flags put out in the Cemetery Memorial weekend, and all of the kids our Post has sent to Boys & Girls State. Robert H. Baker Post 95 needs lots of help. Do not be afraid to step up! Every available person will be able to help out somewhere.

Remember our mission: We all served our country as veterans, now we serve our community. Keep up the great work. It is an honor to be Commander of this very active American Legion Post again.

Sons Of The American Legion

By John F. Kopp

My fellow Legionnaires, during the February meeting, by unanimous consent, it was approved for me to investigate starting a squadron of Sons of the American Legion. If we can start up a squadron, we will then have a complete American Legion Family.

The Sons of the American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American

Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion make up what is known as the Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members. This year Sons attained an all time high national membership of over 315,000. The largest Detachment, Pennsylvania, has over 38,000 members. Trophies and awards are given to Detachments and Squadrons for the largest membership and the largest increase in membership.

If you have internet access and wish to learn more about the S.A.L., check out their website <http://www.sal.legion.org/>.

If you think you are eligible or know someone who is eligible and would like to be a charter member, please have them get in contact with me. My email is:

jfkoop@kc.rr.com. Phone number is 407-9740.

Qualifications: Boys State

Only young men exhibiting qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, and citizenship should be considered candidates for Boys State.

Potential leaders come from all facets of a high school's student body. Some may not necessarily be recognized as the best scholars. However, those students who excel in Civics, Government, American History, and Political courses will be better suited for the curriculum offered at Boys State. Boys State is NOT a program for underprivileged youth.

Each candidate must agree to participate for the entire week of the Boys State program. Arriving late, leaving early or leaving and returning will NOT be allowed. There are no exceptions to this policy. Those individuals who cannot commit the entire week need not apply.

Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

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BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

By John F. Kopp

Towards the beginning of the summer of 2007, I received an email from our adjutant asking me if our post wished to take on an unusual task. The task was one that we all wish would never be needed, that of delivering a memory book and a Gold Star Banner to a mother. This was one of those requests that a person really wants to say, "No Thanks". But, I knew that if we accepted, it would be done correctly, in an honorable and dignified manner, befitting the occasion.

The request was made by the president of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Missouri Chapter 1, in the St. Louis area. She, the president, usually delivered all the banners herself, but due to health reasons, she was prevented from traveling. Prior to this request I had never heard of Blue Star Mothers of America. So I began a little investigation into the organization. After finding their web site this is what I found:

"On January 22, 1942 the Flint News Advertiser printed a coupon asking Mothers of serviceman to return the coupon

after filling it out. The following February 1st 300 mothers met in the Durant Hotel, in Flint Michigan. Captain George H. Maines, who had conceived the idea for this group, acted as the chair of this first meeting. It was decided that after receiving 1000 responses from the ad to form a permanent organization.

On February 6th the organization was reported on Congressional record. Chapters then formed in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, Iowa and Washington. In June of 1960 the organization was chartered by congress.

Mothers volunteered throughout the tough times of World War II. They worked in hospitals, train stations, packed care packages for soldiers and were an working part of homeland security during times our time of war. The organization waned in size over the years but has held together by mothers showing pride in both their children and country. In recent times we have began to grow in strength. Being attacked on our own soil has once again started mothers hanging flags in their windows at home proclaiming pride in the fact that

we have children protecting our freedom during at time of war. Our organization not only provides support for active duty service personnel, promotes patriotism, assists Veterans organizations, and are available to assist in homeland volunteer efforts to help our country remain strong."

Since the organization consists of what it says, "Blue Star Mothers", I could not belong, nor could any of my daughters. At least we could not belong as actual members, but the girls joined as 'Associates' and I became a 'Bluc Star Dad.'" My wife and mother-in-law are Blue Star Mothers.

The requirements to become a member of the organization are: A Mother or Stepmother (since the child was of the age of 13) who has a son or daughter who is serving, or has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States. Services included are the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve Units, and the Merchant Marines. But, just about anyone can join as an Associate, which is pretty much

Continued See Blue Star

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Blue Star - Continued

anyone other than the Mother. So, our Chaplain, Donna, and I and my family began talking among ourselves. After a little investigating, we discovered that we could begin our own chapter. So, now, in the works, is the beginning of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Missouri Chapter 2.

This is an organization that has only one purpose, that of supporting our troops. They send care packages regularly, to any person on active duty. When we lose a son or daughter, they provide a memory book, and present the gold star banner to the mother.

If you wish more information feel free to contact our Chaplain, my wife Susan, my daughter Samantha, or myself.

Birthdays

Ray Merrell had a birthday December 11th, he was 85 years 'young'.

Donna Warren - April 19, she will be ??.

Larry Allen - April 14, 63 years

If anyone would like their birthday in the newsletter just let Larry Allen know.

Thoughts

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, "Lillian, you should have remained a virgin." -- Lillian Carter

I had a rose named after me, and I was very flattered. But, I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: "No good in a bed, but fine against a wall." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. -- Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. -- George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. -- Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. -- Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. -- Socrates

I was married by a judge. I

should have asked for a jury -- Groucho Marx

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. -- Alex Levine

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. -- Bob Hope

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. - Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation as you grow older; it will avoid you. -- Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out. -- Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. -- Billy Crystal

Marine Sniper

Katie Couric, while interviewing a Marine sniper, asked: "What do you feel when you shoot a terrorist?" The Marine shrugged and replied: "Recoil." (It's hard to fault a marine who is that articulate.)

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Secret Code and "Painless Parker"

By Sam Chapman

How times have changed. I was supposed to be the communications officer on a small mine sweep in the Aleutians for a very short time. Our code machine was a small mechanical device that was set by inserting a pin into a hole by letters and then turning it to the proper place. The only messages I received pertained to the weather which were useless because it changed every five minutes. (smile)

I have been told that the US issued our top secret code machines to England for use on some of their ships, the two Queens included. They were so secret that they were to be held under lock and key in a room where only approved personnel could be present. Some passengers aboard one of the Queens told me he had seen this top secret piece of equipment sitting unattended in a passageway. Apparently the British were not impressed.

When we were in the Pacific at Enniwetok Atoll on the way to Tinian our devil may care assistant communications officer

left our ship with the lead weighted canvas bag to pick up our new codes at the base when we overnighted there. Unfortunately he stopped by the officer's club on the way and failed to lock the bag with the new codes. I had OOD duty that day and heard a commotion on the deck. When I arrived I saw one of our small boats, an LCVF, hanging by the after davits at about deck height, with the officer and three sailors in the water. The officer had not followed procedure which limited the number in the LCVF to three persons when lowering or raising and had also improperly attached the forward davits hook in the small boat causing it to snap. I also noticed that the weighted canvas bag had sunk, but that a lot of papers were floating near the ship. The officer had two front teeth knocked out for his efforts. The loss of our new codes had to be reported of course, and the entire series had to be cancelled in the Pacific fleet because there was a small island still occupied by Japanese about ten miles away and the concern was that they might retrieve some of them.

We were still hearing from various places up to the time we decommissioned the next spring. No one was ever drawn and quartered over the deal, but the officer should have been. Wonder what all that cost the Navy.

When we were back in SF the officer involved was to leave the ship shortly and could not get the Navy dentists interested in doing a quick replacement of his front teeth so he could go home and get married. He ended up getting the teeth replaced by the famous California chain of dental offices called "Painless Parker". Painless had been kicked out of New York for unethical practice (advertising) and had landed in California. He had his name changed legally to "Painless Parker" so he could advertise. He used to travel around with a band and his dental office set up contained in the back of a closed truck. He pulled teeth while the band played so potential patients could not hear the yells from his patients. I believe that the chain still exists. Hopefully they use novocain now. (smile)

Funerals

Post 95 has performed 20 funerals as of March 18, 2008

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