

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



THE LIBERTY LEGIONAIRE

1st Quarter 2009
Volume 1, Issue 1

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

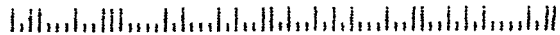
Spaghetti Dinner

Get ready for Post 95's eighth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, bread, salad, desert and drinks. The event will be held on March 21st from 4:30 to 7:00 PM in the Memorial Building at the corner of Hwys H and B, just past William Jewell. Our Newsletter sponsors again have come up with some great door prizes. Raffle items will also be available. Price for all you can eat is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children 13 and under.

Membership

As of 2/17 we have 241 members signed. Our goal for the year is 266. If you know of anyone you can sign up get them signed so we meet our quota!

Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:



Legion Post 95 made the decision to look into mailing our newsletter under the non-profit postage. At that time we were mailing 300 plus newsletters at .42 per letter four times a year. Commander John Kopp made application for a non-profit permit. The application along with a current newsletter was sent to New York, NY.

On June 21, 2007, he received a letter stating, "Your application for non-profit standard mail rate mailing privileges has been approved," effective 6/12/2007. On August 17, 2007, we paid \$350.00 to the U.S. Postal

postage. On June 13, 2008, we received a notice that our non-profit permit would be expiring in August. On June 24, 2008 we paid \$180.00 to renew the permit for one year.

Our next newsletter was mailed on July 25, 2008. Approximately two days later, I got a call from the Liberty Post Office that we were in violation of the non-profit eligibility. I contacted Randy L. Gunn at the Liberty Post Office and met him to discuss the violation. I was told we could not have sponsorships in our newsletter from a financial

Continued next page:

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or insurance company. We have sponsorships from four insurance companies. I told Rand that these four insurance companies were listed in our original newsletter that was sent to New York, NY, and approved in June 2007, so apparently we were not in violation then.

John Kopp contacted Representative Sam Graves' office, and he received a letter on September 10, 2008 that they were checking with the U.S. Postal Service. Sometime in late November or early December, we received information from the Kansas City, Missouri Post Office that you can't have the address on phone numbers of financial on insurance companies in a non-profit newsletter.

I asked Randy Gunn if we could use a "location" for these insurance companies as that is not a mailing address. He could not give me an answer and had to E-Mail the Kansas City Post Office. Finally, after several days, I got an answer. We could only have the insurance companies' names, agents' names and company logos. I explained this situation to our four

insurance sponsors, and they understood and renewed sponsorship for 2009.

As always, we ask our members and newsletter readers to patronize our newsletter sponsors whenever possible.

Commander's Corner

Ray Nichols, Commander

Happy New Year everyone and congratulations to all of our Post members on a great 2008. In fact we have been approved by SPC Doby for Kansas Funerals. This event for someone from Kansas to show up and approve our Honor Guard at a funeral speaks well for our entire group.

Ira Hunter a great motivator and innovator of our Honor Guard, is going to retire. Thank you Ira for everything you have done. You are a great motivator and set a great example for all of us.

For the year 2009 let us keep up the good work. So whether you do a little bit or a lot keep going all efforts are needed, and appreciated.

LeRoy Coe

LeRoy was presented with his State of Missouri Vietnam War Medalion, medal and certificate for his service.

Illness

Gary Reno's wife, Anne, was admitted to Liberty Hospital New Years Eve. She was operated on for a blockage in the abdomen. She is at home now recuperating. It was suspected cancerous and had to be removed in any case. Anne had recovered from cancer recently. Please keep Anne and Gary in your prayers.

Kansas City VA Center

At our January 20th meeting the guest speaker was John Brown from the KC VA Center. He explained that they are not a part of the VA hospital but rather handle mental ~~problems~~ for veterans. They have four counselors and one team leader who work with the veterans for long as it takes to correct their problems. They also have contacts in the VA hospital. Contact John at (816) 753-1866 or www.va.gov for information.

If you know anyone needing their help please refer them to the above web site so they can get more information and help..

Quote

When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on - President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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"PRIVILEGE TO PRAY"

REV Donna Warren, Chaplain

A lot of us find praying to be hard work. But as we learn to enlarge our prayer environment, our faith grows larger as well. Remembering that Jesus is our friend in prayer makes praying easier. Acting, seeking, and knocking all increase the size of our prayers and they help to stretch our spiritual stature.

How many of us remember the old hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" includes in the line, "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer". If we have sung that hymn, how many of us would actually use the word "privilege" in connection with prayer? For some of us, more apt words might include "chore" or "burden" or to some it may even be "hard work". The fact is, praying is not something one finds easy to do. It doesn't come automatically or naturally.

Apparently at least one of Jesus' disciples felt praying was hard, for he asked Jesus to teach them to pray. He was no doubt saying that praying didn't come naturally to some of them. In response, Jesus spoke to the disciples, gave them a model prayer and some straight forward instructions

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about how to pray. The model prayer was the one we call "The Lord's Prayer". The instruction was this, "Ask and it will be given unto you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you".

Jesus gave such a complete answer, I believe, because prayer is so important to our growth as Christians. The bigger our prayer life, the more room we have to grow in our faith.

"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer".

Coming Events

- March 17th Legion mtg 7:00 PM
March 21st Spaghetti Dinner
4:30 – 7:00 PM
March 24th 40et8 meeting
March 26th Bingo at Cedars
6:30 – 8:00 PM
April 21st Legion mtg. 7:00 PM
April 23rd Bingo at Cedars
6:30 – 8:00 PM
April 28th 40et8 meeting
May 19th Legion mtg. 7:00 PM
May 26th 40et8 meeting
May 28th Bingo at Cedars
6:30 – 8:00 PM

VFW Coming Events

- March 7th Breakfast at Post \$6.00
March 14 Breakfast at Post \$6.00
March 17 Corned Beef and Cabbage 12:00 until gone

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Every Wednesday thru Saturday food served in the Bar (Wednesday is Taco night)

Starting in April there will be a raffle for a Toshiba lap top computer – tickets are \$5.00. Proceeds to buy new TV for bar.

The Dear "John" Letter

The soldier serving overseas and far from home was annoyed and upset when his girl wrote breaking off their engagement and asking for her photograph back.

He went out and collected from his friends all the unwanted photographs of women that he could find, bundled them all together and sent them to her with a note stating the following: *"Regret can not remember which one is you. Please keep your photo and return the others."*

'Neat' Comments About The Military

Any ship can be a mine sweeper. Once.

If the enemy is in range, so are you. Infantry Journal

You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach3. – Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

When one engine fails on a twin engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.

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**VA CLINIC OPENINGS
UPDATE 11**

Veterans will have easier access to health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan to open 31 new outpatient clinics in 16 states. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced VA will establish new clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Vermont. With 153 hospitals and about 745 community-based clinics, VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. VA's medical care budget of more than \$41 billion this year will provide health care to about 5.8 million people during nearly 600,000 hospitalizations and more than 62 million outpatient visits. "Community-based medicine is better medicine," said Dr. Michael Kussman, VA's Under Secretary for Health. "It makes preventative care easier for patients, helps health care professionals have closer relationships with their patients and permits easier follow-ups for

patients with chronic health problems." The community-based outpatient clinics, or CBOCs, will become operational by late 2010, with some opening in 2009. Local VA officials will keep communities and their veterans informed of milestones in the creation of the new CBOCs. VA's Proposed Sites for New Outpatient Clinics in Missouri are: Excelsior Springs (2009), Sikeston (2009) and Sedalia (2010)

Mile Stones

Gen. Ann Dunwoody

Another milestone took place on November 14th when Gen. Ann Dunwoody became the military's first female four-star general. She took over Army Materiel Command – responsible for equipping, outfitting and arming all soldiers – amid its efforts to repair, upgrade or replace huge amounts of weapons, vehicles and gear used in Iraq and Afghanistan. She plans to build on wartime advances in the way the service tracks, stores and manages its equipment.

"Thirty-three years after I took the oath as a second lieutenant, I have to tell you this is not exactly how I envisioned my life unfolding," she told a standing-

room-only auditorium at her promotion ceremony. "Even as a young kid, all I ever wanted to do was teach physical education and raise a family. It was clear to me that my Army experience was just going to be a two-year detour en route to my fitness profession, so when asked 'Ann, did you ever think you were going to be a general officer, to say nothing about a four-star?' I say, 'Not in my wildest dreams.' There is no one more surprised than I – except, of course, my husband. You know what they say, 'Behind every successful woman there is an astonished man.'"

There are 21 female general officers in the Army – all but four at the one-star rank of brigadier. It was not until 1970 that the Army had its first one-star: Anna Mae Hays, chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

Women now make up about 14 percent of the active-duty Army and are allowed to serve in a wide variety of assignments. They are still excluded from units designed primarily to engage in direct combat, such as infantry and tank units, but their opportunities have expanded over the past two decades.

Gen. Dunwoody received her

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Army commission in 1975 and later served in the Persian Gulf War, in Germany, and in Saudi Arabia. She has worked at the Combined Arms Support Command in Fort Lee, Virginia, and served as the 82nd Airborne Division's first female battalion commander. She has numerous decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal and Defense Superior Service Medal.

Barrier Breakers

Here are a few more milestones of note:

Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager

He was the ~~first~~ man to break the sound barrier. Brig. Gen. Yeager gained fame as the embodiment of all that was right in "The Right Stuff."

Navy Rear Adm. Arlene Duerk

As head of the Nurse Corps, Rear Adm. Duerk became the Navy's first female flag officer in 1972.

Air Force Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr.

He was appointed the first black four-star general in the U.S. Armed Forces in 1969.

Air Force Reserve Col. Jacqueline Cochran

Col. Cochran was the first director of the Women's Air

Force Service Pilots, or WASPS, in July 1943. She became the first woman to break the sound barrier while piloting an F-86 Sabre in 1953.

Army Brig. Gen. Benjamin Oliver Davis

Gen. Davis broke the color barrier for Army officers in 1954 as the first African-American soldier to be promoted into the ranks of general officers. He began college at the West Point Military Academy in 1932, having been sponsored by Representative Oscar De Priest of Chicago, the only black member of Congress. Davis' father previously had been denied an appointment to West Point. Benjamin Davis, Jr. believed that his classmates would accept him based on the content of his character, rather than reject him for the color of his skin.

Unfortunately, he was wrong. Davis was shunned all four years. Other cadets refused to speak with him outside the line of duty. He had no roommate in the dormitory and no one else assigned to his tent in the field. He ate his meals in silence, but the shunning only strengthened his resolve. He survived the bigotry and isolation and

graduated 35th out of 276 in the Class of 1936, only the fourth African-American graduate in the military academy's history. After graduation, Davis became one of only two black line officers in the U.S. Army at the time - the other was his father.

Navy Cmdr. Barbara Rainey

Cmdr. Rainey became the first female Navy aviator in 1974 and the first to die, in a 1982 plane crash, while serving as a flight instructor.

Navy Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Carl Brashear

In the 1950s, Carl Brashear became the first African-American to enter the Navy's enlisted diving specialty. He lost a leg in a shipboard accident but fought to continue his career and rose to the rank of master chief petty officer. His life and struggle were the subject of the film "Men of Honor" starring Cuba Gooding, Jr.

And now a black American as President of the United States of American.

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"LEST WE FORGET"

By REV Donna Warren,
Chaplain

This is about the USAT DORCHESTER, an off coastal steamer quickly pressed into military service. It was once a Luxury Costal Liner. The 5,649 ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. It was overcrowded, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers. The ship had long passed being seaworthy to sail the North Atlantic. The DORCHESTER was one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by three Coast Guard Cutters.

The Captain of the DORCHESTER was concerned as one of the Cutters detected a submarine with its sonar. German U-boats prowled these vital seas, and had sunk several ships already.

The DORCHESTER was now only fifteen miles from its destination in Greenland. The Captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on.

On February 3, 1943, at 12:55 AM, a periscope broke the chilly

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Atlantic waters. The U-boat fired a torpedo toward the DORCHESTER'S aging flank. It exploded in the boiler room, instantly destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly; some were trapped below deck, other's jolted from their bunks, groped and stumbled their way to the decks of the sinking vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard.

Security reasons prevented the use of distress flares. Escort vessels, still close enough to assist pushed on into the darkness unaware that the DORCHESTER was sinking. In less than 27 minutes, the DORCHESTER would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy water.

The ship was short of life jackets and boats. Many of the life jackets were stored in lockers in lower decks, impossible to reach. The blast had killed scores of men and many more were seriously wounded.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. One, however saw a flash of the explosion, and responded. It was able to rescue 97 survivors. Another circled the sinking ship

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and rescued 132 men. The third escort continued on, escorting two ships in the convoy.

Of the 902 men aboard the DORCHESTER, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores the Nation was shocked by the magnitude of the tragedy.

Looking at the statistics of the number of lives lost in this tragedy of inadequate life saving equipment and probably lack of training of the crew on rescue methods and drills, many were lost. I couldn't help wonder, did we not learn a lesson when the RMS TITANIC sunk with huge loss of life just thirty one years earlier? "LEST WE FORGET"

Birthdays

Ed Eberle 84, January 20th.
Paul Payne 77, February 17th.
Paul Ellison 76, January 31st.
Bud McGinnis 87, January 16

Anniversary

Ray and Helen Merrell will celebrate their 63rd anniversary on April 21.

Liberty Mayor

LeRoy Coe has filed to run for mayor of Liberty. LeRoy is a member of Post 95.

Quote

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. - Mark Twain

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**CONGRESSIONAL COLA
2009**

Fortunately for members of Congress, their pay isn't tied to their approval ratings. Members of Congress are slated to receive a \$4,700 pay raise beginning in JAN 09, increasing their annual salaries to \$174,000. The increase for 535 House and Senate members would cost taxpayers more than \$2.5 million. That salary alone, which excludes all other outside income and spousal wages, ranks each lawmaker in the top six percent of American households. Congress automatically gets a pay raise each year, and has to introduce legislation to prevent the increase. Although legislation to halt the Congressional raise has been introduced, the most supported bill (H.R. 5087) has just 34 co-sponsors, far short of the 218 necessary for passage. "As lawmakers make a big show of forcing auto executives to accept just \$1 a year in salary, they are quietly raiding the vault for their own personal gain," said Daniel O'Connell, chairman of The Senior Citizens League (TSCL). "This money would be

much better spent helping the millions of seniors who are living below the poverty line and struggling to keep their heat on this winter."

According to a Congressional Record Service dated 26 NOV 08, lawmakers will receive a 2.8% increase in pay next year, from \$169,300 to \$174,000. Meanwhile, a senior receiving average benefits will get a \$63 monthly increase to just \$1,153 per month next year, bringing their annual total to \$13,836. An estimated 12% of all seniors are living at or below the poverty line, and one-third of all beneficiaries depend on Social Security for 90% or more of their income. "It's outrageous that our elected officials continue to reward themselves with larger pay raises while they allow millions of seniors to go without basic necessities," said Shannon Benton, executive director of TSCL. "Given the precarious economic climate, it's particularly troubling that lawmakers are failing to set an example by sacrificing their own unnecessary raises." The Senior Citizens League supports three

bills – H.R. 5087, H.R. 5091, and H.R. 6417 – which would prevent the pay raise from automatically going into effect. TSCL encourages its members to contact their Members of Congress and ask them to support those bills. [Source: TSCL Social Security and Medicare Advisor 29 Dec 08]

And Then The Fight Started

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She ask, 'What's on TV? I said, 'Dust'...And then the fight started.

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive...so, I took her to a gas station....And then the fight started.

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.' I bought her a scale....And then the fight started.

My wife asked me if a certain dress made her butt look big. I told her not as much as the dress she wore yesterday....And then the fight started.

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