

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



## THE LIBERTY LEGIONAIRE

2nd Quarter 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

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

### Dates To Remember

July 16 thru July 19.-2009  
American Legion Department  
Convention in Jefferson City.  
July 21 - Post 95 Meeting @  
7:00 PM  
July 23 - Bingo at Cedars @  
6:30 PM  
July 25 - 40&8 Cameron @  
7:00 PM Installation of Officers  
August 18 - Post 95 Meeting @  
7:00 PM  
August 27 - Bingo at Cedars @  
6:30 PM  
August 29 - 40&8 ChicNic at  
Wallace State Park @ 1:00 PM  
\$10 adults \$6 Children - All you  
can eat BBQ Chicken and Beef  
Brisket with all the fixings.  
Proceeds go towards Nurses  
Training program (enclosed  
shelter) in case of rain.

Printed by Veterans  
for Veterans like:

September 15 - Post 95  
Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
September 23 - 40&8 Meeting  
@7:00 PM  
September 24 - Bingo at Cedars  
@ 6:30 PM  
October 20 - Post 95 Meeting  
@7:00 PM  
October 22 - Bingo at Cedars  
@6:30 PM  
October 28 - 40&8 Meeting @  
7:00 PM

### VFW Coming Events

Every Wednesday thru Saturday  
food is served in the Bar  
(Wednesday is Taco night) Tacos  
may be purchased individually or  
on an all you can eat basis. Come  
out and support your VFW Post  
and eat some great Tacos.  
Every Saturday night - Karaoke.  
Come and share your 'talent'.

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American Legion Post 95

### Opportunities

If you would like to become  
involved in your Post 95, here are  
some great opportunities:

Join our Honors Team and do  
Color Guard for parades and  
funeral honors, which normally  
require ten to 13 people.

Join us when we do flag  
etiquette presentations at schools  
for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and what is a  
veteran presentations to 4<sup>th</sup>  
graders.

Help us lead schools in the  
Pledge Of Allegiance during the  
week of Veteran's Day.

Join us in putting up and  
removing the Avenue of Flags at  
the cemetery during the three day  
Memorial Day weekend.

Accompany us for Bingo at  
Cedars once a month.

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### Commander's Corner

Ray Nichols, Commander

It is now election time for new officers for our Post 95. Even though this article may be a bit late I feel like I need to remind everyone to step up. Many of us have been officers for awhile. Some of the rest of you step up and take a turn. After all some of you have ideas that need to be put in use as a leader of our post. Post 95 has a great group of people and we need to make sure fresh ideas are put in place so that we keep growing, and keep our Post interesting.

Most of you know politics and religion are two of the hottest subjects we can bring up. Since all Veteran's organizations are not political or religious; be careful. Yes, I know some of the time I have violated this rule, but what I do not want to happen is to have a conflict over these two subjects that could cause hard feelings.

May 4, 2009 we had a short work day and inventoried our flags we put out for Memorial Day. When I went thru the call list I got 12 people to agree to help out which was what we

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needed. In fact we had enough people we even got rid of the pile of flags that had been in the back hallway for some time. If you did not get a call for this event I apologize; when I got enough people to help I just quit calling and did not intend to leave anyone out.

Thank you to all who helped out this year. We need your help next year as well; keep showing up and keep up the good work.

### VITAL RELIGION

Rev. Donna Warren, Chaplain  
Vital religion is a concern of both the church and society. The church needs vital religion to fulfill its divine mandate. Society needs it to be a force to hold society together. Jesus came to the Jordan and John the Baptist, thereby identifying Himself with the strong ethical strand of biblical religion. In his own act of baptism, He compassionately identified Himself with the people, bearing the sins of humanity, though sinless Himself. By the act He both committed Himself to a passion for rightness and compassion for the persons. It is this union of passion and compassion which

makes Him both Lord and Savior.

Modern society is going to pieces fundamentally because it is a thing of pieces. For Christian believers that statement both describes our situation and indicates our task. What is lacking today is anything that binds society together. That fact anchors the problem in our religious area. For religion is precisely the binding force in our society.

For it is vital religion, formed out of the strands of biblical tradition, which is needed.

This passage about the baptism of Jesus leads us into depths of Christian faith. It is an amazing sort of faith and nothing is more amazing about it that is blending of passion for righteousness and compassion for people. And this is the blending of passion and compassion which makes Jesus our Lord, directing us in our striving, and our Savior, redeeming our failures. AMEN.

### 60 Year Member

Vice Commander Jerry Head presented "Bud" McGinnis with his sixty year continuous membership certificate.

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### **MEMORIAL DAY**

#### **REMEMBRANCE Update 01:**

Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend Memorial Day observances at more than 100 VA national cemeteries between 23 & 30 MAY 09. These commemorative events held over Memorial Day weekend or on the traditional Memorial Day (May 30) will honor the nearly one million American men and women who have died wearing the uniforms of the U.S. Armed Forces. Special activities include color guards, bands, choirs, moving oratory, historic displays, display of the "Avenue of Flags" or the placement of individual gravesite flags. Most events are sponsored by community, patriotic and civic groups in cooperation with national cemetery staff. For a listing of these ceremonies refer to [www.cem.va.gov/cems/2009MemDay.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/2009MemDay.asp). This listing is in alphabetic order by state. Select the name of the state in which the cemetery is located. Note that there is not a VA national cemetery in every state. For a listing of the locations of national cemeteries refer to [www.cem.va.gov/cems\\_nmc.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems_nmc.asp). If in doubt as to where a loved one or family member is buried

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you might be able to locate him/her on the nationwide grave locator index  
[http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1).

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery and the US Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act, P.L. 90 - 363, in 1971 to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays). However, southern states have an additional separate

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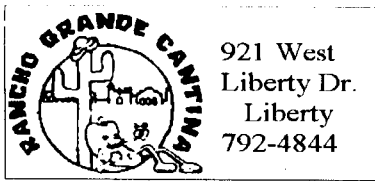
day for honoring the Confederate war dead: 19 January in Texas, 26 April in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; 10 May in South Carolina; and 3 June (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. Since 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 gravesites of soldiers buried in Virginia at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights. To help Americans re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and

**Continued on page 6**

### **J and J Business Service**

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**Honor Flight**

By Ed Eberle

I felt very lucky to have been placed by the Honor Flight Network of Kansas City to see the memorials built in our honor in Washington, DC.

We traveled with professionals from Kendallwood Hills Estates and Hospice. They had a luncheon to explain the trip for us the day before we left, which was May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

We knew it was going to be a long trip when we were ask to be at the airport at 4:30 AM. We went thru the usual boarding, including shoes off and going thru the detectors.

Upon arriving at Regan Airport we were asked to stay on the plane until the rest of the passengers were off, that they had a little welcoming for us.

Apparently our guide that had been flown in to be our group guide for the day, along with the American Legion Auxiliary had passed out dozens of small American flags and announced our arrival over the intercom. We were cheered and greeted by hundreds, if not well over a thousand people. Waving their flags and pushing to get or give handshakes, as we had to single

file down the hall to our bus. We knew we were not heroes, but they made us feel like one. The man in front of me turned and said he felt like he had been in a parade. The Auxiliary handed out several little trinkets including a pocket flag.

Our helpers from Kendallwood were joined by three D.C. helpers plus the guide that was flown in. He was very good and knew what was around every curve or corner. Our helpers were constantly reminding us of free iced cold water, cookies and candy available any time.

Our first stop was the World War II memorial which was a huge sunken circle with a column for every state with their name chiseled in granite. In the center was a pool with several large fountains and circled with small ones.

Senator Bob Dole greeted us there with hand shakes and pictures before we left the memorial.

Next was a slow non-stop tour of Washington with our guide explaining what we were seeing and the workings of our government. We got good views of the Capital, FBI buildings, the White House, Navy museum and

others. While doing this we were munching on a good box lunch.

Next was the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Wall and those that cared to, a short walk to the Lincoln Memorial with an elevator up to his level. All of this took only a little over an hour.

Then on to the Iwo Jima Monument which was very impressive. Our guide had us form a halve circle around him and he explained in detail the need to take the island, the cost of lives and its use after being secured. The Pentagon had sent over a Marine Sergeant also to welcome us. Before they got thru talking to us an estimated three hundred had gathered behind us to listen. They applauded and lined up to greet us with hand shakes and take pictures.

I was honored by a high school group of girls when ask me to join them in a group picture to take back home to their school. Also a family of four requested a picture and the little boy looked up, took my hand, smiled and said thanks. My comrades that is America, the country we served for.

Arlington National Cemetery was the next stop. There the real

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heroes make their last stop and put their hand out to God. The bus circled round the curving roads, announcing several dignitaries and pointing out some of their graves.

We then witnessed the changing of the guard. The guard is changed every half hour. While there we perhaps had a ten minute wait, again people crowded to shake hands, take pictures and give thanks for what we did.

Off in the distance could be heard the crackle of rifle fire, three blasts, followed by the bugle sound of taps for another burial. I believe he said there were an average of more than twenty burials there daily.

We were then treated with dinner at the Old Country Buffet and then off to Reagan Airport, arriving at K.C. a few minutes before 10:00 PM.

The day didn't seem nearly as long as I had imagined, and I would advise anyone who gets a chance to take the trip to do so. We even had four wheel chair cases and all were treated royally.

Thanks to Kendallwood Hills, the Honor Flight Network of Kansas City and the national as well. We all had a good and safe

trip. Note: We had one lady, retired from the Air Force and living in Springfield, as part of our group.

**Remembrance**

By Ed Eberle

With the Memorial Day approaching it is only proper we bow our head in remembrance of our veterans and heroes. In my opinion, one such hero happens to be one of my brother-in-laws. Raleigh Lee Godley. Born on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1930 and joined the Armed Forces while in Lawson, MO.

He was in the U.S. Navy and attained the rank of BM2/ES. He was considered the old man of his crew of five. After serving 16 years, on May 22, 1966 at the age of 36, Raleigh perished while serving our country in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. Raleigh was leading Petty Officer on a navy swift boat patrolling the Song Dinh Ba river. It is a winding river through thick jungle that comes right down to the river's edge. It was controlled by the Viet Cong. Raleigh was at the main controls in the pilot house when suddenly, a round from a 57mm recoilless rifle came from the river bank. It entered the interior of the boat

and exploded in the control console in front of Raleigh in the pilot house.

The boat leaped to full speed racing up the river uncontrolled and beaching its self. Later reconstruction of the ambush indicated that when the recoilless rifle fired, Raleigh had pushed the throttles to full speed just before the round hit. To prevent their capture the crew fought off the Viet Cong, and with the help of darkness used a raft from the boat to float down the river where they were rescued by another swift boat.

The following day a large force returned to recover the boat from where it was beached.

It was determined that Raleigh Godley may have saved the lives of his fellow crewmen by his quick action. His passing was a great shock and a lose to his then young family.

**Quote**

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle." -- Winston Churchill

**Park Lawn Northland Chapel**

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Glenridge Cemetery of Liberty

Contact Don Brassfield for appointment

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### **Our National Bird**

The American Bald Eagle gained immediate, unofficial recognition as our national bird when the Great Seal of the United States was adopted on June 20, 1782. Official designation of the massive bird did not come for six more years. During that time, it was the subject of fierce arguments by leading political leaders of the day.

In 1784, elder statesman Benjamin Franklin registered his disapproval of the eagle as our national bird because of its "bad moral character". But then, Franklin also suggested on the national seal a rattlesnake or an action scene between Moses and Pharaoh. There were other ideas: a two-headed eagle, a rooster, a dove, and a phoenix in flames.

Clear heads prevailed and, in 1789, George Washington became our nation's first president and the American Bald Eagle became our country's official bird because of its long life, because it flies free, and because of its strength and majestic appearance. It was also thought to exist only on this continent. In the National Emblem Act of 1940, the

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American Bald Eagle became a protected species.

### **STUNNING SENIOR MOMENT**

A very self-important college freshman attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation. "You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one," the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. "The young people of today are much more advanced than people your age. We grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon and the Internet. We have cell phones, nuclear energy, electric and hydrogen cars, computers, automated manufacturing, amazing technologies. . . And," pausing to take another drink of beer . . . . The senior took advantage of the break in the student's litany and said, "You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young . . . So we invented them. What are YOU doing for the next generation?" The applause was resounding...

### **POW DESIGNATION Update**

**04:**

### **Town and Country Flowers & Scented Boutique**

16 North Main  
Celebrating 20 years on the square  
781-4979

Reps. Mike Coffman of Colorado and Jim Marshall of Georgia have asked the Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate whether some veterans are falsely claiming to have been prisoners of war. Coffman [R-CO], a Marine veteran of the first Gulf War who also served in Iraq and Marshall (D-GA), who served in Vietnam with the Army sent the request to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki on 18 MAY. According to the lawmakers, the Department of Veterans Affairs is paying disability benefits to 286 members claiming they were held as POW's during the first Gulf War, but the Department of Defense is only aware of 21 POWs. The Associated Press reported in April that the Department of Defense has identified a total of about 580 surviving POWs from the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War in 1991, but the VA is paying disability benefits to about 1,250 purported POWs. [Source: Denver Daily News & Denver CBS-4 19 May 09 ++]

**Continued from page 3**  
respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to "Taps." [Source: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)]

### **Liberty Antique Mall**

Barbara Ninemire – Owner  
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## **TOMB Of The UNKNOWNs**

### **Update 04:**

A block of marble quarried from the same location as the Tomb of the Unknowns sits in a parking lot in the Colorado mountains while the other continues to crack in Arlington National Cemetery. Coloradans who had hoped to provide the replacement marble for one of the country's most powerful monuments say they don't know when or if their gift will be accepted by the government. The Tomb of the Unknowns currently on display is a replacement for the original block that came from the Yule Quarry in Marble, Colorado in the early 1920's. Its marble suffers from significant cracks to its foundation. "It sure would be nice if the tomb block were the way it should be," said John Haines, a retired Glenwood Springs car dealer, who paid tens of thousands of dollars to quarry the new marble block. "If you look at your father's tombstone and it were cracked, would you want it to stay cracked? No, you wouldn't... Would you want someone to bring out caulk to fix it? No, you wouldn't. Haines has

been working with Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO), Rep. John Salazar (D-CO) and Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) to get the federal government to accept his gift. He's lined up other donations to ensure it could be transported to Arlington at no cost to taxpayers as well. The only cost would be to complete the engravings on the block and estimates for its price range from \$200,000-\$2.2 million. Haines said Arlington's superintendent wants the tomb block exchanged, but bureaucracy and politics remains a hindrance. Haines does not have a timeline for his financial offer. He says on this Memorial Day weekend, he will remember the sacrifices America's servicemen have made to ensure he would be able to make an offer like this to his country. "It's frustrating to think you want to give this to somebody, give this to the country and they won't take it," he said. [Source: Colorado 9news.com Adam Schrage article 24 May 09 ++]

### **Bill Kersten**

Ray Nichols, Commander  
Bill Kersten, former  
Commander of Post 95, and

former Mayor of Liberty will receive two honors this year. Mr. Kersten was the Grand Marshall April 11, 2009 for the Easter parade at Zona Rosa. On July 11, 2009 Mr. Kersten will be inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame for his many years associated with wrestling, and also many years of community service. Thank you for all you have done Mr. Kersten and keep up the good work.

### **Events**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Post 95 placed approximately 130 flags along the road and entrance to Fountain Bluff Park in Liberty for the City of Liberty fire works display. The post also presented the colors with honor guards, played taps and fired three volleys. Afterwards small flags provided by Post 95 were handed out to children in the crowd.

### **Quotes – If Your Going to War**

"May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won't." -- General George S. Patton Jr.  
"...an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan." - General George S. Patton

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