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

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THE LIBERTY LEGIONAIRE

Volume 1; Issue 3

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 be provided. A donation of \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 children for all you can eat.

The date is set for Saturday, November 7th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Raffle Items are: \$100 Liberty Hy-Vee gift card, \$100 Price Chopper gift card, \$75 Lowe's gift card and a \$75 Quick Trip gas card. Door Prizes will be provided by our Newsletter Advertisers. Bring the family, enjoy some good food and help support your Post 95charities.

MOTHER NATURE'S HEALTH MARKET

"Serving Liberty's healthy needs" 344 South 291 Phone 415-4638 Open Mon. – Sat. 10-8 Sun. 12-4

Printed by Veterans for Veterans like:

Plan to come for some great food, fellowship, door prizes and raffle items.

Tickets are available from Legion members or at the door.

Dates To Remember

October 20 = Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM

October 22 = Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 - 8:00 PM

October 28 = 40et8 6:00 PM November 16 = Golden Corral's free veteran's meal 5:00 = 9:00 PM

November 17 = Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM

November 24 or 27 (?) - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 - 8:00 PM

November 25 = 40et8 6:00 PM November 26 = Thanksgiving

December 15 = Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM

Disclaimer

All businesses shown in this newsletter donate to and support our Legion Programs. December 19 - 40et8 @ Tommy's 6:00 PM

December (?) - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 - 8:00 PM

January 19 = Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM

January 27 = 40et8 6:00 PM January 28 = Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 = 8:00 PM

Post Meeting Times

Robert H. Baker American Legion Post 95 meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Memorial Hall located at the junction of Highways H and B; just past William Jewell College. Come join us! Help make a difference in our

You can also find many of us at Hy-Vee every Saturday morning starting at 7:00 AM:

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Commander's Corner

Jerry Head, Commander I am Jerry Head, the new Commander of Robert H. Baker American Legion Post 95. A little background for those who don't know me, I served in the US Army from Dec 61to Dec 64, with 12 months in a Helicopter Company in Vietnam in 62 and 63. After my service, I worked as a Heavy Duty Truck Salesman and OTR Truck Driver, retiring April 2001...

To begin my new assignment as Commander of American Legion Post 95, I want to thank Ray Nichols for his service as Commander, a job well done. I also want to thank Ted Nelson for his service as 2nd Vice Commander. I am very proud to be a member of this post and to be associated with everyone in the unit. I appreciate everyone continuing as leaders in their respective areas of service. I am asking for and know that I can count on the support of every veteran. That's what a veteran is all about... I believe that we do provide a good service to the community and to our veterans. We must continue this program

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and endeavor to expand and improve our efforts.

Under the leadership of Mike Edwards the Honor Guard provides a great memorial service. The families are always very grateful and appreciative. After the service you leave and return with a good dose of pride and worth. A very impressive service requires a contingent of twelve members. The request for this service had decreased for some unknown reason, but has started coming a little more frequent lately. I hope this is a good sign. Mike does a great job of mustering a full team, but we could make life a little easier for him, if we could get a few more volunteers. I'm asking that you consider stepping up and join the team. It feels good.

We are always looking for new members, I challenge each and every one of you to seek and ask two veterans to join our post. If one in 5 accepts, imagine the growth. I understand that we have a good membership base, but a relatively small group attends our meetings. If any of those attending know a member not attending, give them a call

and let them know what they are missing. And any member reading this newsletter that has been MIA, come to one of our meetings and see what you are missing. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

I am looking forward to the next year and with the help of the Past Commanders, Officers and each of you, we will succeed. Thank You.

AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST

Ron Pardeck

The High School Oratorical Contest for Clay County will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday. December 7, 2009 at the Liberty high school. The oration must last between five and six minutes and address some aspect of the Constitution of the United States. Post 95 has approved a \$200 scholarship for the Clay county winner. Contestants are eligible for larger scholarships as they progress through higher levels of competition. If you know of high school students interested in competing or would like to help out please contact Ron Pardeck at 816-415-4864.

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BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL

The "Mighty Mo," the World War II battleship best known for hosting the formal surrender of Japan in 1945, is heading to the shipyard for repairs. The USS Missouri, now a decommissioned vessel called the Battleship Missouri Memorial, will leave its historic spot at Battleship Row at Pearl Harbor in October. The move came shortly after the vessel on 2 SEP hosted a ceremony marking the 64th anniversary of Japan's surrender. The 65-year-old ship is in good shape, but it still needs to go to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for repairs because rust is protruding from peeling paint in areas and the teak wood deck is warped and bent in others. The ship's exterior is due to be sanded down and repainted in a \$15 million overhaul paid for by memorial reserve funds and a Department of Defense grant. "Rust never sleeps as they say," said Michael Carr, the memorial's president. "It's a big job. It has to be done."Most of the work will be done after the 887-foot ship is put into a closed dock and the water around it is drained. This will allow workers to paint the entire hull, even parts that are

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normally submerged. Some of the repairs have already begun pier side, however. Tourists visiting the ship now can see scaffolding encircling the ship's mast.

Memorial officials have started warning Hawaii tour operators they'll be shut down for three months starting mid-October.

The historic ship is due to return to Pier Foxtrot 5 in early January and resume welcoming visitors shortly after. More than 400,000 visitors tour the vessel each year.

The Missouri was last in dry dock in 1992, just after it was decommissioned for the second and last time. It's been moored at Pearl Harbor for the past decade after local supporters beat out groups in Bremerton, Wash., San Francisco and Long Beach, Calif. for the right to host the memorial. The "Mighty Mo" was launched in 1944 and fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. It was decommissioned in 1955 but revived in the 1980s, after which it fired the first shots of the Gulf War in 1991. Today, the ship is moored just a few hundred yards away from the USS Arizona, a battleship that sank in the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor with over 1,100 sailors and Marines on board. Visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial a

Farmers Insurance Group Eric E. Grampp, Agent



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white open-air structure straddling the sunken hull of the Arizona — have a view of the Missouri's bow. "The juxtapositioning of us in such proximity with the Arizona is a really startling and dynamic symbol of the beginning and the end of World War II, and all the sacrifices that were made in between," Carr said. Japan surrendered Sept. 2, 1945 during a solemn ceremony in Tokyo Bay that lasted just 20 minutes. Gen. Douglas MacArthur signed for the Allied powers, while Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz, signed for the U.S. Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu, Chief of the Army General Staff, signed for Japan. Copies of the surrender documents are on display today on the deck where they were signed. [Source: NavyTimes AP Audrey McAvo]

Quote

'With hurricanes, tornadoes, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from end to end, and the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, 'Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?' Jay Leno

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Burying A Hero

By Ed Eberle

This story is one that could be told thousands of times by thousands of men or women of our military, but also never witnessed by the majority.

The time and place of this remembrance was mid July 1944, on the island of Saipan. I was a member of a Marine artillery battalion. We had just helped repel the largest bonsai attack of the Pacific War. That was a last futile attempt by the enemy to kill as many as they could before they themselves were killed. A day later the island was declared secure. We then moved a short distance inland. This gave what we called a little down time and a chance for some personal hygiene. I had spotted a farm house a short distance back of us. Thinking they must have some sort of water supply, and we hadn't had water to wash in for better than two weeks. I ask permission to check the house out and hopefully be able to have a bucket or helmet bath.

A comrade and I found a little trail that looked as if it had been used by a couple of vehicles headed in the direction of the house. The stench of dead bodies

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from the bonsai was still in the air. Bulldozers could be heard in the distance digging trenches to bury the enemy dead. Walking the trail only a short distance, the stench became much stronger as we passed a thicket. We paused spreading some of the brush apart, and there lay a dead comrade with gauze in one hand as if he had attempted to stop the bleeding. The body was already deteriorating. We cut away some of the brush, enough for us to crawl in one on each side of him. My comrade put one hand under the neck and the other under his waist. I also, on my knees, put one arm under his shoulder and the other under his buttock. This didn't leave any hands to swat away the flies. With the count of three we began to ease the body out into the open. We could feel the flesh under his uniform slipping from his bones. As we stood up contemplating our next move, I noticed my comrade slinging his hand around to rid skin and flesh that had stuck to it from the neck. His only comment as I remember was "we should have had our gas masks".

We then removed his poncho from his pack, laid it beside the body and gently as we could

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moved the body onto it. Then carried him to a more used trail and reported our find to our battalion so they could inform headquarters for a pickup.

We, with a couple other comrades, made our way to the farm house. Checked it for booby traps and used water from a cistern to finally get that bucket bath. We stripped off two at a time, swatting mosquitoes while pouring water over our heads. We dressed hurriedly because of the mosquitoes. My trousers were so dirty I could have almost jumped into them.

About three hours after getting back to the battalion, the sound of a vehicle could be heard coming up the trail our battalion had made. Anticipating it may be coming to pick up the body we hurried down to meet it. It was a jeep ambulance. We waved them on to the direction of the body. They loaded him also using the poncho and drove off in the general direction of the rapidly growing cemetery. It didn't take a lot of imagination to visualize the rest of his trip. After all, we had seen the routine before. Upon arriving at the cemetery the jeep would back down into a long trench dug out by a bulldozer for

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the purpose of burial. The body would be laid cross wise in the trench and a mass covering of the bodies by the bulldozer, then a little white cross driven into the ground over each of their heads. Our find was just one more comrade that had given his all that we may still live in a country of freedom. Using his dog tags as identification, his family back home would be notified. Of course, never knowing how he died.

God has blessed us, heroes have protected us, let us hope God continues his blessings.

Medal of Honor THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary On September 17, President Barack Obama awarded Staff Sergeant Jared C. Monti, U.S. Army, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. Staff Sergeant Monti will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic actions in combat in Afghanistan. He displayed immeasurable courage and uncommon valor - eventually sacrificing his own life in an effort to save his comrade. Staff Seargent Monti's parents, Paul Monti and Janet Monti will join the President at the White House to commemorate their son's example of selfless service and sacrifice.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Jared C. Monti was born on September 20, 1975. He was a native of Raynham, Massachusetts. He graduated from Bridgewater-Raynham High School. He enlisted in the United States Army in March 1993. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His military decorations include: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, three Good Conduct Medals, three National Defense Service Medals, to name a few. He is survived by his Father, Paul Monti, his Mother, Janet Monti, his Sister Niccole Monti, his Brother, Timothy Monti, and his Niece, Carys Monti.

He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE MEDAL OF HONOR:

The Medal of Honor is awarded to a member of the Armed Forces who distinguishes themselves conspicuously by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while: engaged in an action

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against an enemy of the United States; engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

The meritorious conduct must involve great personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. There must be incontestable proof of the performance of the meritorious conduct, and each recommendation for the award must be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

Birthdays

September 20th, Lester Brown turned 94 years **young**.

November 18th Foster Sires will be 91 years **young** or as he says 90 again. November 28 Ira Hunter will be 86 years **young**. Happy birthday young men and may you have good health and many more!!

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American Legion Day

The American Legion celebrated a milestone 90th anniversary on Wednesday. In recognition, the Senate and House of Representatives passed a resolution designating Sept. 16 as "American Legion Day". The measure was shepherded through the Senate by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), and through the House by Rep. Deborah Halvorson (D-III.). In the Senate, the bill was cosponsored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) and Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.). It drew co sponsorship from 92 representatives.

Presenting the resolution to the Senate, Snowe praised the 90-year-old Legion – which was issued a federal charter by Congress on Sept. 16, 1919 – for its continued aid to wounded warriors and military families, legacy of community volunteerism and significant role in establishing important national legislation.

"As all of us in this chamber know, The American Legion remains today an active and vigorous advocate for service members, veterans and their families here on Capitol Hill," Snowe said. "Among its greatest

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legislative achievements was the enactment of the... GI Bill of Rights. The initial draft of the GI Bill was written by Legionnaires at the Mayflower Hotel here in Washington, D.C. Many consider the GI Bill as one of the greatest pieces of legislation ever enacted."

A similar measure (House Resolution 679) was introduced to the House by Halvorson in late July. The bill passed Wednesday afternoon.

"On September 16, 1919 The American Legion was granted their federal charter by Congress, and 90 years later they have kept their commitment to serve not only as a resource and a voice on behalf of veterans across America, but also as an organization dedicated to the betterment of America through community service," Halvorson said. "Since their founding charter, The American Legion has not waved from the guiding principles and vision that can be found in their Four Pillars of Service."

National Commander Clarence Hill expressed his appreciation to Congress.

"We, as an organization, are honored and humbled that Congress is recognizing the

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dedication that members of The American Legion have demonstrated on behalf of their fellow veterans for nearly a century now," Hill said. Posts are urged to get a proclamation from their town or city mayor, designating locally Sept. 16 as American Legion Day. Legionnaires should look for photo opportunities with the mayor signing the bill. A sample proclamation can be found at the Legion's new Web site: Legion Town, USA. There, posts can also submit success stories about their acts of community volunteerism and service to military men and women.

Quote

"Life's tough ... it's even tougher if you're stupid." - John Wayne

The actions of men are the best interpreters of their thoughts. - John Locke, Philosopher (1632-1704)

Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying 'End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH', the paint wouldn't even have time to dry. - Terry Pratchett, Novelist (b. 1948)

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WE MUST FIRST FEEL COMPASSION

REV Donna L Warren, Post Chaplain

Compassionate people recognize the suffering of others and also understand their pain to some degree, and being led to alleviating that suffering.

When the writer of the Gospel of Matthew, he shares that Jesus had compassion for the crowds, it was because they were not hungry for physical food or the need of medical attention. He felt compassion because they were harassed and helpless, like the sheep without a shepherd. Jesus saw their helplessness. As sheep are there is no one to lead them to the pasture, or the still waters.

By the end of His teaching, just as today, He charges His followers to find a way to reach out to the lost sheep with the Good News of the GOOD SHEPHERD, leading them home to the Shepherd's care.

I experienced much of this when I was reassigned to service in the clergy staff of St Mary's Episcopal Church in Kansas City. They had a Food Service meal for the homeless and very poor

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people in the area. It was my first experience dealing with this sort of service. Many of the folks we worked with were former military men who fought in the Viet Nam conflict, and had severe problems dealing with 'back home', so they found living under bridges and just plain on the streets as their best life.

We held a simple religious service just before we opened the feeding program. They were not required to attend, and after the first such service they all came. We were careful to explain the service and one of us gave a very short sermon, while standing among the people.

Our staff and clergy had real strong feelings of compassion for these lost sheep. As one of the clergy members I made my job to visit with everyone who came to the Pantry. I also became aware that many had no tooth brushes, combs and other items most of us took for granted. I would go around town and purchase such items that they needed and hand them out as I visited with them. I could go on for pages talking about these folks and their lives.

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Do you know of someone in your life that seems to be lost? Do you understand why? How have they been lost, like sheep without a shepherd? Are you willing to be a laborer in the Lord's Harvest? I invite you to pray our Lords call for laborers until you receive an answer. There is someone right now for the compassion you have to give. AMEN

Memorial Bldg. Association

Following are the officers serving on the Memorial Building Association Board: LeRoy Coe -- President -(Legion)

Larry Allen – Vice President (Legion)

Les VanBibber - Secretary (VFW)

Ray Nichols - Treasurer (VFW) Norbert Nelies - (VFW) Jerry Head - (Legion) Lester Brown - (Legion)

Paul Ellison – (At Large) Jerry Pate – (VFW)

Quote

"In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a Congress". John Adams

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Daryl Mace, Proprietor

Typhoon Cobra

Submitted by Betty Shannon On December 18, 1944, Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet sailed directly into typhoon "Cobra".

The disastrous results were; three ships sunk; Destroyers "Hull", "Spence" and "Monaghan"; twenty-eight ships damaged; 146 aircraft destroyed and 756 men lost at sea.

Disobeying orders to abandon search and rescue operations while battling the typhoon, Destroyer Escort 418 Tabberer, commanded by naval reservist Lt. Commander Henry Lee Plage, remained in the area and rescued 55 men.

Upon returning to Pearl Harbor, her mast gone, in need of extensive repairs, the beat up little Tabberer was ask, by signal light, from a nearby Battleship, "What type ship are you?"

Skipper Plage, offended, believing his courageous fighting ship should be recognizable with or without a mast, signaled back to the majestic battleship, "Destroyer Escort, What type are you?"

There was no reply.

<u>Veteran Prescription Scam</u> Oregon Department of Veterans'

Oregon Department of Veteral Affairs (ODVA) Director Jim

Books for Sale

My Three Years In The Marines or Black & Yedley Pig By Ray Merrell \$10.00 each - 781-6879 Liberty Motor Center Complete Auto Repair Kerry Luckow - Owner 816-792-0440 15 Pine St. - Liberty

Willis wants you to be aware of a scam that involves gathering personal information from veterans. A memo he just received from the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding this scam is below. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this information, please forward it to them.

The VA memo reads: I have received many reports that Veterans are being contacted by "Patient Care Group" representing that they are helping administer VA prescriptions and stating that the pharmacy billing procedures have changed and they are therefore requesting Veteran credit card numbers for prescription payments in advance of filling their prescriptions. This is false. VA does not call Veterans asking to disclose personal financial information over the phone. VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines. Kevin Secor Veterans Service Organizations Liaison

Veterans Service Organization Liaison Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Washington, DC

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Liberty Memorial

Judi Samborski

The Liberty Memorial is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm. They are closed Mondays except for Memorial Day and Labor Day. They are also closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. There are wheelchairs available; first-come first-serve basis.

The admission is:
General Admission (ages 12 to 64) - Museum - \$8, Tower - \$4, Combo - \$10
Senior Admission (65 and older) - Museum - \$7, Tower -\$3, Combo -\$8
Youth Admission (ages 6 - 11) - Museum - \$4, Tower - \$3, Combo - \$5
Friends of the World War I
Museum, Active Duty Military, Career Military (20+ years service) and kids under six are FREE.

There are group rates available. We need to call ahead to let them know how many are coming and when. I'm not sure what the group rates are but I will have that information on Tuesday. (Aug. 18).

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