

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



THE LIBERTY LEGIONAIRE

1st Quarter 2011

Volume 1, Issue 8

We served our Country,...

**Still serving our
Community**

Spaghetti Dinner

Get ready for Post 95's ninth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, bread, salad, desert and drinks. The event will be held on March 26th 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 include:

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Dates To Remember

March 15 - Post 95 Meeting
7:00 PM

March 17 - VFW annual St.
Patrick's Dinner 11:00 AM -
7:00 PM

March 23 - 40&8 Meeting 6:30
PM

March 24 - Bingo @ Cedars
6:30 - 8:00 PM

March 26 - Annual Spaghetti
Dinner 4:30 - 7:00 PM

April 19 - Post 95 Meeting 7:00
PM

April 27 - 40&8 Meeting 6:30
PM

April 28 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30
- 8:00 PM

May 17 - Post 95 Meeting 7:00
PM

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Current Resident Or:

May 26 - 40&8 Meeting 6:30 PM
May 26 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30
- 8:00 PM

May 30 - Memorial Day
June 7 - Building Memorial
Association Meeting @ Post 7:00
PM

VFW

Tuesdays - Taco Night
Wednesdays - Tenderloin Night
Thursdays - Steak Night
Fridays - Fish Fry (all day)
Saturdays - Karaoke 8:00 PM

Quote

'People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did.' 'But people will never forget how you made them feel.'

Did You Know

In Kentucky it is a law that every person must bathe at least once a year.

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All businesses shown in this newsletter donate to and support our Legion Programs.

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Trendy-Popular-Copied?

The military rules on haircuts have been changing since the American Revolution. With few, if any, barbering facilities, soldiers in the Continental Army usually had long hair. According to author Randy Steffen in The Horse Soldier: 1776-1943, general orders required male soldiers “to wear their hair short or plaited (braided) up.” But he also had the option of wearing his long hair “powdered and tied.” The rules were relaxed when soldiers were on the march. Those who did powder and tie their hair did so with a mixture of flour and tallow, a hard animal fat, and usually tied it in a pigtail. To keep the hair in place during action, cavalrymen preferred gathering the hair at the back of the neck, tying it in a firm bundle, folding it to the side, and then tying it again in a club shape. Beards were forbidden. Soldiers were required to shave a minimum of three times a week, at least while in garrison.

In 1801, Major General James Wilkinson, commanding general of the Army, abolished the pigtail or “queue.” The order caused

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soldiers to “howl in protest, until their resentment swelled almost to mutiny,” according to a February 1973 article by Dorothy van Woerkom published in “American History Illustrated.” Lt. Col. Thomas Butler Jr., a 30-year veteran, refused to cut his hair and, as a result, was court-martialed in July 1805. A panel of fellow officers found him “guilty of mutinous conduct in appearing publicly in command of troops with his hair queued.” He was suspended from command without pay for 12 months.

By the time of the Civil War, hairstyle standards had changed. Senior officers like General Ulysses S. Grant wore beards and moustaches, so general orders stated that a “beard could be worn at the pleasure of the individual” but was to be “kept short and neatly trimmed.”

Shaving was required by World War I to get a good seal on the protective gas mask and for personal hygiene. Beards were outlawed. The maximum permitted hair length was one inch.

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During World War II, Field Manual 21-100 instructed soldiers “to keep your hair cut short and your fingernails clean.” In the last half of the 20th century, styles reflected civilian trends. In the late 1980s, long hair was popular; soldiers who refused an order to get a haircut received non-judicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In the 1980s, the moustache was popular. Though still permitted, it’s rare. And short hair is again the norm for both men and women.

The requirement for hair grooming standards is necessary to maintain uniformity with a military population. Many hairstyles are acceptable, as long as they are neat and conservative. All must comply with hair and grooming policies while in any military uniform or while in civilian clothes on duty.

Hairstyles that don’t allow soldiers to wear the headgear properly, or that interfere with the proper wear of protective equipment, are prohibited. Dyes, tints, or bleaches? You have to

See Haircuts continued Page 7

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National Vice Commander Visit

Left to right, Frank Prosser – Missouri Adjutant, Ken Goth - Senior Vice Commander – Missouri, John M. Mella – National Vice Commander, Jerry Head – Post 95 Commander, John F. Kopp – Commander West District 3 – Missouri, George Scarborough - Zone 2 Vice Commander – Missouri

Post 95 provided a color guard and posted the colors and was commended for a fine job.

The National Vice-Commander of the American Legion visited Post 95 on 1/30/11. He spoke about membership and the importance of reaching our goal. He commended Post 95 for already meeting our 2/15/11 goal and presented a certificate to Post 95 for their accomplishment.

He was served a meal by the post (prepared by the VFW cook - Brad). This was his last visit of a state wide blitz. He said he was impressed by the turnout,

although post members felt we should have had many more in attendance.

He was given a Legion clock made by Mike Edwards.

For more pictures go to Post 95 web site.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day:

Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) last week sponsored a resolution designating 30 MAR as —Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The proposed resolution S.RES. 55, presently has 5 cosponsors. It states and resolves that the Senate:

(1) Honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

(2) Encourages States and local governments to also establish 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day'; and

(3) Encourages the people of the United States to observe 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' with appropriate ceremonies and activities that:

a) Provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve, but did not receive upon returning home from the war;

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b) Demonstrate the resolve that never again shall the Nation disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

c) Promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of such veterans during their military service as well as to their communities since returning home;

d) Promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans to readjust to civilian life after military service; an

e) Promote opportunities for such veterans to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

COLA 2012

After more than two years the CPI is back above zero early this year. Inflation rose 0.5% in January and now stands at plus 0.3% for the year. Perhaps we may yet see a modest COLA increase in 2012.

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Foster Sires was presented a certificate for sixty years membership in the American Legion. Few achieve this accomplishment. He was also given a 60 year patch for his jacket.

Ray Nichols made the presentation during a visit with Foster at his home. He has been suffering illness for some time and has been unable to get out.

Please keep Foster in your prayers.

WW1 Vet Search Update

[Source: Richmond-Times Dispatch Bill Lohmann article 31 Jan 2011 ++]

Frank Woodruff Buckles doesn't get out as much as he used to, and he doesn't have particularly big plans for his birthday tomorrow. But then, he is turning 110. He's the last known American veteran from World War I, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and one of only three survivors worldwide recognized for direct

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service during the war. The others, as British subjects, served in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. "He's an unbelievable person," said David DeJonge, a Michigan photographer and president of the World War I Memorial Foundation who is making a documentary of Buckles' life and has become his spokesman. Buckles lives on his West Virginia farm, near Charles Town, with his daughter, Susannah Buckles Flanagan, and round-the-clock caregivers. As you might expect, he is at almost 110 not in a condition to do cartwheels or make long speeches, but DeJonge reports that Buckles "continues to have great daily discussions with his daughter and caregivers." He occasionally wrestles with illness but is "a fighter and continues to pull through," DeJonge said. "His daughter reports he's in great spirits and looking forward to his 115th," DeJonge said with a laugh.

One of his favorite people, Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, was leader of the U.S. forces in Europe in World War I. When they met, Buckles was still a kid; he'd grown up on a farm in Missouri and fibbed about his age so he could enlist in the

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Army at 16 and head off to war. Pershing noted Buckles' Missouri dialect and asked where he was born. Buckles told him. Pershing's reply: "Thirty-three miles, as the crow flies, from where I was born." "I had great respect for Pershing," Buckles said. "He was real tough. He didn't have a smile on his face, but that was all right with me." Seeking the quickest route to the western front, Buckles joined the ambulance service and shipped to England in late 1917. He arrived in France a few months before the shooting stopped in November 1918. After the war, he escorted prisoners of war back to Germany. World War II was a more painful experience, though he was no longer in the military. He was working as a civilian in the steamship business in the Philippines when he was captured by the Japanese and held as a prisoner at Los Baños for more than three years.

Through fate and good health, Buckles has become the modern face of The Great War, and he has lent his voice to the call to restore and rededicate the World War I Memorial in Washington. DeJonge met Buckles four years ago as he began work on a documentary about the last U.S.

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survivors of the war. Within a matter of months, Buckles was the last one, and DeJonge began spending considerable time with him, conducting interviews on camera "to get every ounce of memory out of him," DeJonge said. DeJonge has several hundred hours of interviews and other footage he hopes to transform into a documentary, "Pershing's Last Patriot." Actor Richard Thomas, of "The Waltons" and "All Quiet on the Western Front," has agreed to provide the narration, said DeJonge, who is trying to piece together the funding for the documentary, as well as a proposed larger-than-life bronze statue that has been designed by Pennsylvania sculptor Gregory Marra. The planned statue depicts Buckles with Pershing's riderless horse, and, depending on available financing, could be placed near Buckles' home in West Virginia. DeJonge has had the privilege of accompanying Buckles to such places as Pershing's home in Missouri, the Pentagon and the White House for a visit with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office.

Sadly Mr. Buckles passed away February 27, 2011.

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AF Academy

The Air Force Academy is accepting fewer new cadets under a mandate to reduce the size of the student body by about 9% to save money, according to an Air Force times report. Lt. Gen. Michael Gould, the academy superintendent, says the Air Force ordered the school to reduce enrollment to 4,000 by Oct. 1, 2012, from about 4,400 today.

VA Clothing Allowance

The Veterans Affairs Department is amending rules for providing a clothing allowance to disabled veterans whose garments are subject to wear because of prosthetic or orthopedic devices. Before now, veterans have been limited to getting one payment, currently \$716 a year, but rules proposed 2 FEB will allow two payments if a veteran has multiple devices wearing out his clothing. The change results from a federal court ruling involving a Vietnam veteran...who requested two clothing payments because he had lost both legs and an arm during the war.

VA Cemetery

Department of Veterans Affairs announced they are taking action to begin the process of locating a

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National Veteran Cemetery in Western New York. New York State currently has seven national veteran cemeteries, however, the closest to Western New York is located in Bath, NY, approximately 80 miles away.

Baldness

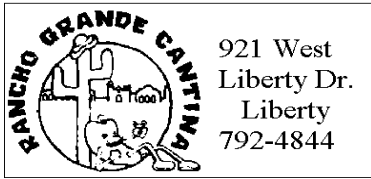
A team of researchers from UCLA and the Veterans Administration that was experimenting with mice to learn more about how stress affects gastrointestinal function injected...bald mice with a chemical compound called astressin-B, which blocks the action of a stress hormone that caused hair loss in the mice. The researchers "expected to monitor how astressin-B affected the mice guts, but when they returned to the mice three months later, they couldn't tell the treated mice from their hairy brethren."

Tri-care fees

The Pentagon's controversial push to ratchet up health care fees for working-age retirees got a surprisingly warm reception from military associations in Washington, setting the stage for the first fee hike since the Tri-care health system began 15 years ago."

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Commander's Corner

Jerry Head - Commander

Just as we are entering into a new year, we can look back at the accomplishments of Post 95 in 2010. I believe that we all can be very proud to be members of Post 95. The past year we have served our community in many ways. Primarily through the youth by sponsoring programs, i.e. High School Oratorical contests, Boy's State, Girl's State, Junior High Citizenship awards and numerous Flag Etiquette classes at the 4th & 5th grades in the area as well as Boy Scout troops.

We visited every elementary school in the Liberty School District greeting the students and reciting the pledge with them.

We assisted in organizing "Liberty's Salute to Freedom" 4th of July Parade honoring First Responders, Policeman, Firemen, and Veterans with special recognition of some WW II Veterans. We also provided the Color Guard for that parade and the Fall Festival parade in Liberty. With the VFW we sponsored a Tribute to the Troops celebration at the Post with the Color Guard. The Colors were presented at the "Cars for

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Heroes" Golf Tournament, the Community Center, Missouri City Veterans, High School, Airport, Various Veteran Celebrations and many Retirement Homes.

Our "Avenue of Flags" is a favorite of many in the community. We get many favorable responses and reports of people driving a distance just to see them on Memorial Day. I recall them being on display four times this past year. Each year we are asked to display them at the WW I Museum in Kansas City.

Our Military Funeral Honors Team has presented honors for our fellow veterans at an average of a little over one a week. This is a very special honor for the team.

The Post sent a few care packages to active duty personnel serving overseas and assisted some fellow veterans in distress.

Post 95 has gained a reputation for making a very professional presence at every event. This is something we can ALL be very proud to have achieved.

I am looking forward to bigger and better opportunities in 2011.

Chaplin's Corner

By Donna Warren, Chaplin

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Have you ever noticed the food left on a McDonald's tray...Big Macs, French fries, half eaten fish sandwiches? We Americans are obsessed with food. Put us at a buffet and they have to put up signs to make sure we don't stock up for the week. Along with our obsession with food is our obsession with losing weight. We eat too much of the wrong thing, then have to spend thousands of dollars on special diets to take off the excess pounds.

Oh, that we were this obsessed with spiritual food! You'd think many of us are on a spiritual diet the way we seem to take in just enough nourishment to survive. But most of us would not say we are spiritually filled. Jesus Christ promises to give us bread and drink, and ties it into our observances of the sacrament of holy communion...the most notable place in our corporate worship life where we focus on the power of Christ to satisfy our hungering and thirsting.

Quote

Unknown

'People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did.' 'But people will never forget how you made them feel.'

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Haircuts continued from page 2 ask?! Colors that detract from a professional military appearance are not allowed: no purple, pink, blue, green, orange, fire-engine red, or fluorescent or neon. Only ones that match natural hair colors are permitted. Even parts are covered in the regs. If soldiers have a hair texture that does not part naturally, they may cut a part into the hair – one straight line not slanted or curved that will fall in the area where the soldier would normally part the hair. Designs cannot be cut into the hair or scalp.

Four current (and au courant) military hairstyles ...

The Induction Cut

It's the shortest one in the military — a clipped cut; no razor is used; and anyone can do it. It's sometimes called the "Mighty Fine."

The Flattop

This is the favored cut among the upper brass of the armed forces. It is so named because the top of the head is very carefully clipped to resemble a flat board. The flatter the top, the more professional it is. Because the natural shape of the head is

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round, great expertise is required to get it right. The sides are trimmed almost, but not totally, to baldness. A variety of the flattop is achieved by making the frontal portion of the hair into a U-shape. That's known as the horseshoe flattop.

The Crew Cut

This one has been popular for years. It's similar to the induction cut, except that a professional barber does it in the military and, instead of clipping the hair, trims it all around with an electric razor and very close to the scalp to get very little hair length.

The High and Tight

Many haircuts can qualify as a high and tight, but the basic principle is the same. The haircut gives an effect that the hair is pulled high and tight above the head. The hair around the sides and back is clipped and trimmed very short (crew cut length) so the scalp is almost visible, while the hair on top of the head is kept longer and appears to be standing erect. Variations may be seen – but use a professional barber for all.

In our November 9th Bugler on "Reasons to Love the Marine

Ark Animal Hospital
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Corps," #1 was about this haircut: "Best haircut – hands down. You can't have a bad hair day with a high and tight. And you spend less on shampoo."

Members

New member – Ron Laughman
Surgery – Ray Adkins had surgery.

Ill – Foster Sires is not able to get out now but enjoys hearing from friends and visits. Please call before visiting him to be sure he is up to the task.

Glen Edwards has moved to an apartment.

Death – Rex Robbins, who was a WW II veteran passed away at the age of 96. He was Post 95's oldest member.

Points To Ponder

If it weren't for electricity we'd all be watching TV by candle-light.

The chances of bread falling buttered side down is directly proportioned to the cost of the carpet.

My psychiatrist told me I'm going crazy. I told him, if you don't mind I'd like a second opinion. He said, "Alright you're ugly too!"

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A Poem Worth Reading

By Unknown

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.
And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.
He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his
passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.
When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.
Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,

Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.
While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.
It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-
out?

With his ever waffling stand?
Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.
He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.
If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simply headline
In the paper that might say:
**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN
MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."**

Skinny Dipping

An elderly man in North
Carolina had owned a large farm
for several years. He had a large
pond in the back.

It was properly shaped for
swimming, so he fixed it up nice
with picnic tables, horseshoe
courts, and some apple, and
peach trees.

One evening the old farmer
decided to go down to the pond,
as he hadn't been there for a
while, and look it over.

He grabbed a five-gallon bucket
to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the pond, he heard
voices shouting and laughing
with glee.

As he came closer, he saw it
was a bunch of young women
skinny-dipping in his pond.

He made the women aware of
his presence and they all went to
the deep end.

One of the women shouted to
him, 'we're not coming out until
you leave!'

The old man frowned, 'I didn't
come down here to watch you
ladies swim naked or make you
get out of the pond naked.'

Holding the bucket up he said,
'I'm here to feed the alligator.'

Some old men can still think
fast.

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