

The Robert H. Baker
American Legion Post 95
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roberthbakerpost95.com



THE LIBERTY LEGIONAIRE

1st Quarter 2012
Volume 11, Issue 1

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 24th 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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This is great chance to eat a great meal and support your local Legion Post and in turn support the many programs we support for veterans and children.

Thanks to LeRoy Coe for obtaining these items from our sponsors and thanks to the sponsors for their support.

Quote

Lt. Gen John Kelly, USMC
Rest assured our America, this experiment in democracy started over two centuries ago, will forever remain the "land of the free and home of the brave" so long as we never run out of tough young Americans who are willing to look beyond their own self-

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interest and comfortable lives, and go into the darkest and most dangerous places on earth to hunt down, and kill, those who would do us harm.

Quote

I never met a veteran who fought for socialism. - Unknown

Dana Perrino (Fox News)

Describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages.

His reply: "No ma'am, we don't go there to talk."

Einstein once said,

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

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Stolen Valor Update 59:

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments 22 FEB in the case of Xavier Alvarez who was charged with a violation of the Stolen Valor Act for his fraudulent public claim of having received the Medal of Honor. Alvarez has never served a day in the military. However, after being elected to a local water board in California, he made the claim that he was a Medal of Honor recipient. While even his own defense attorney noted that Alvarez was an inveterate liar, Alvarez was nonetheless supported by various free-speech advocates who felt that the statute was too broad. Although it is dangerous to read much into the questions posed by the justices during this hearing, most questions fell into two camps:

- 1) What is the nature of the harm, if any, caused by fraudulent claims of military heroism?
 - 2) Would upholding the statute have a chilling effect on other forms of speech, such as claims made in political campaigns.
- Justice Stephen Breyer, in

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particular, seemed unwilling to accept the argument that no harm occurs from these lies. "My theory is that it does hurt the medal, the purpose, the objective, the honor, for people falsely to go around saying that they have this medal when they don't." Justice Antonin Scalia, another First Amendment stalwart, noted that perhaps deference should be made to the Congress. "When Congress passed this legislation, I assume it did so because it thought that the value of the awards that these courageous members of the armed forces were receiving was being demeaned and diminished." On the question of whether upholding the act would chill other protected speech, the public defender for Alvarez, Jonathan Libby, seemed to concede that no such chilling effect would take place. When asked by Justice Elena Kagan what truthful speech would be chilled by upholding the act, Libby said, "It's not that it may necessarily chill any truthful speech. I mean, it's — we certainly concede that one typically knows whether or

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not one has won a medal or not. We certainly — we concede that point." Justice Kagan responded with surprise, noting "That's a big concession, Mr. Libby." It may be months before the high court rules on the case. [Source: American Legion News 23 Feb 2012 ++]

Thankful Veteran

I have spoken several times to Ray Thompson and he thanks me every time for the money Post 95 gave him. He was able to pay some bills with it and relieve some of his worries. He says he wants to repay it when he gets on his feet so we can help others in need.

He told me no one had ever done anything as nice as that for him. He was most impressed because he is a total stranger to the Post.

I explained to him that it is part of our purpose to serve veterans who are in need. Ray said with winter ending and warmer weather here he will not have his heating bill and that will free up some money.

When I ask about a need for food he said they were good for now.

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Freedom

By Ed Eberle

This could easily have had choice of two fitting choices as a header for this article. One being the choice I am using. Freedom that so many take for granted. The other a strange coincidence.

I just spent five weeks in a rehab facility. Many of the patients were anxious for improvement so they could return. Others felt they had very little chance to improve to where they could get home, and just waiting for the easiest way to die. Thankful for the life and the children they were about to leave.

On Veteran's Day they had a ceremony for veterans, introducing us, where we had served, refreshments and a few patriotic songs.

I had in the past written an article for the local newspaper titled 'Burying of a Hero'. The lady in charge was given a copy afterwards and she looked me up. Saying she would have read it as part of the ceremony if she had know about it. She ask if she could make copies and spread them around, giving them away and spreading them out on chairs and tables. I told her "of course and I would be honored to meet other veterans".

That evening I was scheduled for a bath or shower. We had to have someone assist us. The man that helped me was in his forties, dark complexioned and spoke broke English. After he scrubbed me real good and put my change of clothes out he retired down the hall and got together with some of the other employees.

I dressed and wheeled myself down the hall in my assigned wheel chair. As I passé a small gathering he was among them. He spotted me and almost jumped out of his chair waving a paper that turned out to be a copy of the article I had written and the lady had spread out on some of the chairs and tables. As it turned out, in his limited English, he had spotted the word Saipan from the article. Almost out of breath he muttered "Saipan" and to me he was asking "You were on Saipan?" Somewhat surprised I answered "yes, as part of the invasion in 1944." Still excited "I am from Saipan, I was born there, my ancestors still live there." I could hardly believe it, but after several comparisons I could tell he was familiar with the island. We made several other comparisons and during the night I could hardly sleep, thinking about the coincidence.

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I believe it was the next day I finally ask him what his people thought of the Marines that landed there. Hopping up and swinging his arms around, he enthusiastically answered, "Freedom, it meant Freedom for our people." They told me a lot about the war.

There wasn't much to be said after freedom was stressed. When we left the island the natives were still not very well dressed. They were allowed out of the pinned compound, most had planted gardens, some were allowed to go supervised fishing, others were moving back on the farms and working in the cane fields.

Who would have ever guessed that one of their future ancestors, probably a grandchild, would be assisting in my bath.

The last time I saw him, he turned around, pulling a copy out of his pocket, saying he was making copies and sending them back to them. They will be glad to get them.

Sickness

Ed Eberle has been in the hospital. He is home now but Hospice has been called in.

Ray Merrell participated in a study @ KUMC by having an aortic valve replaced without open heart surgery.

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HATS OFF TO WOMEN

How many women have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor? Do you know the name of the only female Four Star General? Who was the first woman in combat? All these questions and many more can be discovered during March as the U.S. celebrates Women's History Month. This is a wonderful time to research and learn about some of the women who have had such a profound effect on our country.

Betsy Ross, Clara Barton, Dr. Mary Walker, Rose Will Monroe, Major General Jeanne Holm and General Ann Dunwoody are a few of the famous women who have contributed to the armed forces of the United States.

Betsy Ross will always be known as the first creator of the Stars and Stripes. Clara Barton started the American Red Cross in 1881 and served as head of that organization for twenty three years. Women have also served in many non-traditional jobs as machinists, physicians and pilots. Everyone knows the name of "Rosie the Riveter" a fictitious name based on a real life person, Rose Will Monroe, who helped build B29 and B24 bombers during World War II. Her

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familiar image on an ad campaign was instrumental in helping the war effort at home.

Dr. Mary Walker is the only woman who has ever been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War. In 1917 her Congressional Medal, along with the medals of 910 others was taken away when Congress revised the Medal of Honor standards to include only "actual combat with an enemy." She refused to give back her Medal of Honor, wearing it every day until her death in 1919. A relative told *The New York Times*: "Dr. Mary lost the medal simply because she was a hundred years ahead of her time and no one could stomach it." An Army board reinstated Walker's medal posthumously in 1977, citing her "distinguished gallantry, self-sacrifice, patriotism, dedication and unflinching loyalty to her country, despite the apparent discrimination because of her sex."

Women who started their military careers with ROTC have Major General Jeanne M Holm to thank. She started ROTC for women in colleges. Holm was the first woman to rise to the rank of General in the Air Force and the

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first two star general in any of the services. She vastly expanded the positions that women could fill and constantly fought to end discrimination in the military.

In 2008 Ann Dunwoody crashed through a barrier never entered by a woman before when she was promoted to four-star general. Dunwoody emphasized when she was promoted that she knows that she won't be the last and that "doors continue to open for men and women in uniform." Dunwoody is Commanding General of the U.S. Army Material Command and has command over 69,000 employees worldwide.

This is just a small sampling of women through time who have contributed to the service of our country. Visit the National Women's History Museum website at nwhm.org for online exhibits including Partners in Winning the War: American Women in WWII, History.com video Women of War and MilitaryWoman.org.

Oratorical Contest

Heather Adams, a senior at Kearney High School, won the local level beating out two other contestants. She gave an excellent oration. She was given a \$200 scholarship to the school

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of her choice. Heather plans to attend BYU next year. She advanced to the 3rd District competition in Cameron where she took 1st place. She was given a Silver Medal for her oration. Each contestant presented a prepared oration about some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a citizen to the United States government. The prepared orations had to be original and be between 4 and 6 minutes in length. In addition, each contestant was required to speak for 3 to 5 minutes on a randomly assigned amendment or article of the United States Constitution.

Each contestant participation in their district contest received a \$5,000 renewable scholarship and work stipend totaling more than \$29,000 from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, provided the student attends there.

Heather advanced to the Zone competition where she gave another excellent oration and was awarded third place.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school

students. This 78 year old program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. It also presents young orators an opportunity to earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high schools students. Over \$130,000 in scholarship awards that can be used at any accredited college or university in the United States can be awarded each year.

The National winner last year was from Missouri. Congratulations to Heather for the fine orations that demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the Constitution. Heather put a lot of hard work into her studies and did a great job of presenting it to the judges and the audiences.

PARAPROSDOKIANS

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
9. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
10. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.
11. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.
12. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
13. I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

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**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO JOHN**

John 1:1-14

By Donna Warren, Chaplin

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born,

not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of Man, but of God.

And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his Glory, the Glory as of a Father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski, Commander,
Post 95

Happy New Year! 2012 is going to be a great year for Post 95. This year I am going to try to change the perception of Veteran's; specifically the American Legion. I have heard that most people don't know what Post 95 actually does. Well, Post 95 performs Military Honors at funerals of Veterans. We also sponsor high school students for Boy's State, Girl's State, and Oratorical Contests for scholarship money towards college. We also do a presentation at Middle Schools about Flag Etiquette of the American Flag and What Is A Veteran: a great job led by Mike Edwards. We put up flags, march in parades, dignified flag disposal, and generally putting a positive face on Post 95. I could go on and on but you get the picture; we're not a bunch old guys sitting around getting drunk.

I want to change that perception. Post 95 does a lot of good work and I want to let it be known to the average person out there. I'm planning an Open House at the Post when the weather gets warmer. Details will be coming later on.

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Dinner on March 24, starting at 4:30 pm. Bring your family and friends for a delicious dinner, organized by Larry Allen.

On March 1, 2012, at 6:30 pm, Kathy Lee who is a Veteran's Representative at the VA Hospital will be answering questions about Veteran's benefits at the Post.

Congratulations to Heather Adams who was the winner of the District Oratorical Contest held Sunday, January 15, in Cameron, MO. Good luck at the zone contest!

Please pray for our brave men and women who serve and protect our Constitution and keep us safe here at home. If you see a Veteran, be sure thank him or her for their service.

God Bless America.

Anniversary

Ray and Helen Merrell will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on April 21st, 2012. **Congratulations!!**

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Funeral Honors Update 07:

The volunteer rifle squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery has provided military honors at almost 60,000 burials. But now it's in danger of losing its guns because the Army wants them back. The Army wants to replace the honor guard's 1903 Springfield bolt-action rifles, a model that predated World War I, with a somewhat more modern weapon, the World War II vintage M-1 Garand semiautomatic. But the volunteers with the Fort Snelling squad hope to stick to their old guns. U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-MN) a retired Marine who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, wrote to Army Secretary John McHugh 16 DEC asking the service to reconsider. On 21 DEC, he said the Army will look into the matter.

Vietnam-era machine gunner John Sobaski told Minnesota Public Radio the Springfield's mechanism is part of the weapon's allure. "I like the action that it makes, the sound that it makes," he said. "It sounds a little more traditional." Bob Nelson, a Vietnam vet who commands the squad, which formed

in 1979, said the Springfield's shots have a distinct ring as well. "They sound the best. M-1's, they have a mellower sound. And we think it's really a nice tribute to our veterans that we are having the honors for that they go out in style and class," Nelson said. The Garand is also heavier, with a tricky reloading mechanism that could spell potential trouble for the volunteers, many of whom are in their 70s, 80s and even 90s.

Howard Tellin, the armorer and bugler for the squad, calls it "The M1 thumb. If you don't watch it, you're going to have the prettiest black-and-blue thumb you've ever seen. It hurts for about a week," Tellin said.

The Army wants the Springfields back under a new policy that also limits the squad to 15 rifles, down from 50 that are now shared among the five details working different days. Combined, the details serve an average of 45 to 50 burials a week.

The reason for the changes remains unclear, at least to the rifle squad members who blame the Pentagon bureaucracy. A Penta-

gon spokesman contacted by the Star Tribune said he did not have a ready answer.

"We can't get a truth-ful statement out of anyone," Nelson said. "I don't know anyone who really knows why they want to take them away." On 21 DEC, Kline announced the Army would launch an inquiry. In addition, an aide said Kline intends to introduce legislation early next year to ensure the squad can keep its Springfields. Kline said the issue is largely about recognizing the squad's sacrifices for their fellow soldiers, sailors and Marines. "As you talk to them you realize they're all guys in their 70s and 80s," he said. "They're out there in the winter when it's below zero. They're out there all the time." [Source: Associated Press article 22 Dec 2011 ++]

New Member

Please welcome our newest member to Post 95: Vern Mattocks. We are glad to have you as a member and hope you find our post to be a good one that you will want to support.

Thanks

Thanks to Ray Creswell for donating 12 pounds of spaghetti.

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4/25 40&8 6:00 PM
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5/15 Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
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Veteran's Homes Funding

JEFFERSON CITY - The gambling industry will fight Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to raise casino entrance fees by \$1 per patron to help finance the state's veteran's homes.

Casino lobbyist Mike Winter told the House Veterans Committee on Tuesday that the proposal amounts to "a bottom-line hit of \$53 million for our companies" each year and could prompt cuts in marketing, capital projects and staffing at the state's 12 casinos.

Legislators said they're open to

compromise but made clear that they're adamant about finding a dedicated source of money to operate the state's seven nursing homes for veterans and possibly, build a new home to accommodate a mounting waiting list.

"Our veterans are out of money in 2013," said Rep. Charlie Davis, R-Webb City. "If something doesn't happen, where are they going to go?"

The Missouri Veterans Commission's \$80 million budget is funded 46 percent from federal money, 26 percent from charges paid by residents of veterans homes, 23 percent by state general revenue and 5 percent from special accounts such as a trust fund that is used for cemetery expenses.

Now, because of the state's budget problems, the trust fund also will be tapped to help pay operating expenses at the veteran's homes, which include one in Bellefontaine Neighbors in St. Louis County.

But that trust fund was designed to cover repair bills when a boiler breaks at a veteran's home, as well as the state's share of construction costs for any new homes. The fund also pays

operating costs at the state's six veteran's cemeteries and grants for local programs that help veterans sign up for federal benefits.

While the trust fund now stands at \$19 million, it will run dry by June 2013 if it is used at the projected rate of spending, Larry Kay, the commission's executive director told the House committee on Tuesday.

Member Death

James G. Beach, 60, of Lathrop passed away February 10, 2012. He was a member of Post 95. Post 95 performed military honors for the funeral and presented the family with the Post Everlasting Certificate.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Post 95 Meetings

Post 95 meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. We meet at the VFW/American Legion Hall at Hwy 33 and B (near William Jewel College). Enter using the door on the right.

Meetings last about one hour. Dress is casual and it is a smoke free and alcohol free meeting.

Arrive early and socialize for a while. In the meetings we discuss programs we support and upcoming events.

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