

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



**THE LIBERTY  
LEGIONAIRE**

1st Quarter 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 15

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

**Spaghetti Dinner**

March 23, 2013

Get ready for Post 95's tenth annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, bread, salad, desert and drinks. The event will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- \$100 Price Chopper card
- \$100 Hy-Vee card
- \$100 Vintage Vinyl Gift card
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All businesses shown in this newsletter donate to and support our Legion Programs.

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present to win!!

Donation for all you can eat is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 13 and under.

Proceeds go to American Legion Youth Programs.

**Dates To Remember**

March 19 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00PM

March 23 - Spaghetti Dinner - 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

March 27 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM

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

April 16 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00PM

April 24 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM

April 25 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

May 21 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00PM

May 22 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM

May 23 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

June 18 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00PM

June 26 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM

June 27 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Birthdays**

Larry Allen - 4/14

Donna Warren - 4/20

Ray Nichols - 4/29

**Anniversary**

Ray & Helen Merrell - 4/21/1946. Congratulations on 67 years of marriage.

**New Sponsors**

Be sure to check out our new newsletter sponsors. Let them know you saw their ad in our newsletter.

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**Oratorical Contest Winner**

By Ron Pardeck, Oratorical  
Chairman

Agnes "Aggie" Rieger, a senior at Oak Park High School, took First Place in the state finals of the American Legion high school oratorical contest. The contest was held in Jefferson City, Missouri. Rieger presented an oration on the Constitution of the United States, which emphasized the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. She then had five minutes to prepare a second presentation which tested her knowledge of the Constitution.

In April, Rieger will represent Missouri in the National Contest to be held in Indianapolis, Indi-

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ana. As winner of the State contest she was awarded a Gold Medal and a \$2,000 scholarship. State winners who participate in first-round National contests receive a \$1,500 scholarship. Contestants in the National Finals receive scholarships of \$18,000, \$16,000 and \$14,000 for the top three places. Rieger is sponsored by American Legion Post 95, Liberty, Missouri.

**Commander's Corner**

Judi Samborski, Commander  
Welcome to 2013. The start of a new year is a time of new beginnings and new challenges. But Post 95 will face the New Year, as it has in the past, with dedication to our fellow Veterans and our Post.

As I stated last year, I would like to add another fundraiser this year. In addition to the Spaghetti Dinner in the spring and the Chili Dinner in the fall, I think a BBQ fundraiser sometime during the early summer would be a great idea. I know that the annual BBQ is usually just a get together with our families, but with an uncertain financial future, we should add another fundraiser.

In closing I would like to wish

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you and your family a Happy New Year. Keep our troops in your prayers. God Bless America.

**Extension Institute**

A course of study on the history, programs, policies, developments, positions, and future goals of The American Legion. Upon successful completion of the course, graduates receive a certificate and hat pin from National. This course also serves as a handy reference set on the workings of The Legion.

All Legion family members with leadership interests or potential are encouraged to attend.

Zone 2 Accelerated Extension  
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499 S. 7 Highway, Blue Springs,  
Missouri

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Confirm attendance with Com-  
mander Linda Kramps

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Lunch (\$5.00) will be available  
at the Post.

**Quote**

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.  
---Stephen Wright

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#### The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday

In honor of the SEALs completing their fiftieth year of service to our country the following excerpts tell us a little of their history from the official website of U.S. Navy SEALs.

Fifty-one years ago this year, President John F. Kennedy charged the services with developing teams that had unconventional warfare capability. SEAL Teams One and Two were established. These teams were not the first but actually today's Naval Special Warfare operators can trace their origins to the Scouts and Raiders, Naval Combat Demolition Units "NCDUs," Office of Strategic Services Operational Swimmers, Underwater Demolition Teams and Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons of World War II. While none of those early organizations have survived to present, their pioneering efforts in unconventional warfare are mirrored in the missions and professionalism of the present Naval Special Warfare warriors.

Scouts and Raiders teams were formed in the summer of 1942 to work as beach reconnaissance teams for an eventual cross channel invasion of Europe. By

April 1944, 34 NCDUs were deployed to England in preparation for Operation Overlord, the amphibious landing at Normandy.

When the North Korean army invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, there were 11 personnel detached as a UDT group. This force grew to three different teams with a combined strength of 300 men. The UDTs successfully conducted demolition raids on railroad tunnels and bridges along the Korean coast. They also went ahead of landing craft, identifying mudflats and marking low points in the channel. On Oct 13, 1950 William Giannotti conducted the first U.S. combat operation using an "aqualung."

In researching ways to support the work of the UDTs, many new ideas were developed that changed both military and civilians lives. They pioneered flexible swim fins and facemasks, closed-circuit diving equipment, the use of swimmer submersibles, and combat swimming and limpet mine attacks.

Responding to President Kennedy's charge and formed entirely with personnel from Underwater Demolition Teams, the SEALs mission was to

conduct counter guerilla warfare and clandestine operations in maritime and riverine environments.

SEAL involvement in Vietnam began immediately, advising and training the Vietnamese. In 1966 a small SEAL Team One began to conduct "direct action missions." Eventually eight SEAL platoons would be in the country on a continuing basis.

Naval Special Warfare forces have participated in Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada 1983; Operation Earnest Will, Persian Gulf 1987-1990; Operation Just Cause, Panama 1989-1990; and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Middle East/Persian Gulf 1990-1991. NSW has also conducted missions in Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, Liberia and elsewhere.

The Naval Special Warfare personnel continue to serve our country. After the attacks on American soil on September 11, 2001 Naval Special Forces were on the ground in Afghanistan in October. Naval Special Warfare has played a significant role in Operation Iraqi Freedom, employing the largest number of SEALs and SWCC in its history.

#### Challenge

Sign up a new member!!!!

#### Challenge

Sign up a new member!!!!

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**Pentagon Halts Production**

Published March 12, 2013

FoxNews.com

The military has halted production of its new medal for drone- and cyber-warfare, ordering a review in response to complaints about what some have derisively dubbed the "Nintendo" medal.

A Pentagon spokesman confirmed Tuesday that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has asked Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey to lead a review and report back in 30 days in light of the controversy.

At issue is the newly created Distinguished Warfare Medal, which was to be awarded to troops who operate drones and use other technological skills to fight America's wars from afar -- most controversial was the fact that it has been ranked above medals for those who served on the front line in harm's way, such as the Purple Heart given to wounded troops.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who has introduced a bill to lower the medal's ranking, said the award is "widely viewed as an award that undermines all other valor awards and the reverence for service members who face the dangers of direct

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combat."

"It's a fact that those who are off the battlefield do not experience the same risks. Pretending they do devalues the courageous and selfless actions of others, who, during combat, do the unthinkable or show a willingness to sacrifice their own lives," he said in a statement.

If the review agrees with that complaint about the medal, it would likely have to be renamed and new medals manufactured, a government official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record.

There is a practical side to the rankings. There are grades of medals -- commendation, merit, distinguished -- that affect not only the name but promotions for those still serving in uniform. Each grade gives troops a certain number of points needed for promotions.

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the new medal last month, saying it was meant to recognize battlefield contributions in a world of changing warfare.

"I've seen firsthand how modern tools, like remotely piloted platforms and cyber systems, have changed the way wars are

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fought," Panetta said. "And they've given our men and women the ability to engage the enemy and change the course of battle, even from afar."

Over the last decade of war, remotely piloted Predator and Reaper drones have become a critical weapon to gather intelligence and conduct airstrikes against terrorists or insurgents around the world. They have been used extensively on the battlefields in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as in strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and northern Africa.

Over the same time, cyber attacks have become a growing national security threat, with Panetta and others warning that the next Pearl Harbor could well be a computer-based assault.

Officials said in announcing the medal last month that it would be the first combat-related award to be created since the Bronze Star in 1944. And they said that in recognition of the evolving 21st century warfare, the medal would be considered a bit higher in ranking than the Bronze Star, but lower than the Silver Star. The Veterans of Foreign War and other groups say that ranking it ahead of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart is an injustice to

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those who served on the front-lines.

John Bircher, a spokesman for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, has said the veterans groups are not objecting to the medal -- just the ranking. He said some medals ranked ahead of the Purple Heart are achievement medals that can be earned outside of war time. What bothers many veterans is that the new Distinguished Warfare Medal appears to be a war-time medal that trumps acts of valor, which he finds insulting.

The backlash to the Pentagon's announcement included an online petition to the White House signed by thousands of people. The petition called the medal "an injustice to those who served and risked their lives" and asked that it not be allowed to move forward as planned.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

**Truman Pilgrimage**

The annual Truman Pilgrimage of the American Legion and the Auxiliary Organizations under the auspices of the Tirey J. Ford Post 21 will be held May 8<sup>th</sup>, in Independence, MO at the Harry S. Truman Library.

This will be the fortieth year the Missourians and Legionnaires

from surrounding states have gathered at the Truman Library to honor the memory of the first Legionnaire to become President of the United States.

The event will start Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with an open house at Tirey J. Ford Post home, 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence at 6:00 PM. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided by the auxiliary and post.

On Wednesday morning, May 8<sup>th</sup>, those participating are asked to enter by the main entrance of the Truman Library at 9:00 AM. A procession will form and proceed to the courtyard where the President is buried. At that time, a brief memorial service will be conducted and the wreath will be placed at the gravesite.

A luncheon sponsored by Post 21 will be served at Noon, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Tirey J. Ford Post. Advanced tickets for the luncheon are required. Checks for the tickets should arrive no later than April 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be held for your arrival. Checks should be made payable to: American Legion Post 21, Truman Day Luncheon. Please mail your checks to: American Legion Post 21, 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence, MO 64055-5328

Everyone is invited to this historic event.

Dorothy Ballew  
Chairman

The telephone number for the post is (816) 373-0221

**Magic**

Two fellows, one from Italy and one from China, enter a chocolate store. While there, the Asian steals 3 chocolate bars. As they leave the store, the Asian said to the Italian, "Man, I'm the best thief. I stole 3 chocolate bars, and no one saw me. You can't beat that."

The Italian replied: "That's nuttin, wanna see better? Go back in, and I'll show you real stealing."

They return and go to the counter, and the Italian asks the shopkeeper, "Wanna see magic?"

The shopkeeper replies, "Sure." The Italian says, "Gimme a chocolate bar." The shopkeeper gives him one, and he eats it. The Italian asks for a second bar and eats that too. He then asks for a third and polishes that off, too.

Puzzled and bit upset, the shopkeeper asks: "Where's the magic in that?"

The Italian replies: "Check my friend's pocket, and you'll find all three bars of chocolate."

You CANT beat an Italian.....

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**Help Wanted!**

Judi Samborski Commander,  
 Post 95

As you know Post 95 has a great and dedicated Honor and Color Guard led by Mike Edwards. Mike has been doing a fantastic job of organizing people for funerals, flag etiquette, parades (especially the Fourth of July parade), flag disposals and various other related Veteran functions. However, with a number of our members physically unable to participate or have conflicting work schedules (unfortunately I'm one of the latter), it is getting to the point where Mike is having a harder time getting enough people that can participate. Funeral Honors are the most difficult getting the people needed. The people required for a funeral includes 7 for the rifles, 1 bugler, 1 to hold the flag of the veteran's service, 1 to call commands and 1 to present the small case to the next of kin that contains a medallion from the Missouri Funeral Honors and three empty shells representing the 21 gun salute (Paul Ellison does an excellent job). On occasion we have had to fold the flag; that requires 2 people. Mike calls the commands.

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The uniform that we wear consists of black or dark blue slacks, black shoes, white belt, white short sleeved uniform shirt with the appropriate patches, yellow scarf, black or dark blue epaulettes, a yellow cord, white gloves, and Post 95 cover. In the winter we wear the blue jacket. I must say, when we are in uniform we look pretty sharp! I know to get all of the items is a bit expensive but the first time you participate in funeral for a Veteran, well, the feeling is priceless. Don Happy orders the patches, yellow scarf, gloves, yellow cord, cover, and jacket.

If you are interested in participating, please contact either Mike Edwards or Don Happy.

**Saturday Mornings**

By Ed Eberle

From the Halls of Montezuma to this store in Liberty, along with the Army and the Navy, a few of us gather around the breakfast tables of Hy-Vee to share love and concerns of our country.

Join us most every Saturday around 7:00 AM. Oh your spouse and widows are invited too.

**Headline**

Man claims car not too close to track – train proves him wrong!!

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**Salute Our Heroes – KC**

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**“Salute to the Armed Forces”**

**Concert 6 PM**

Saturday May 18, 2013

Washington Square Park

Grand Blvd. & Pershing

(North of Crown Center)

**Parade starts at 11 AM**

Parade route: Grand Blvd. &

Pershing Rd.

North to 20<sup>th</sup> St. West to Main St.

South on Main St. to Pershing

Rd.

The public and all military members and veterans and their families are invited to attend and participate in the parade and celebration. The theme is “Salute Our Heroes”. We want to publically recognize and show appreciation for all members of the armed forces, our veterans and their families. There will be entertainment, in the park throughout the day. So, bring your lawn chairs, blankets, coolers and family and friends for a great day of celebration and appreciation of our armed forces in the park.

For more call David at (816) 436-1555, or see the web page: [www.saluteourheroes-kc.org](http://www.saluteourheroes-kc.org) for updates.

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**Chaplain's Thoughts**

Paul Ellison, Chaplain

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding... ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd

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swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...." He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride ... and he wondered. He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus - He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place.

"The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, so you are like Him - only He knows who will do

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His will. Thank you for hearing His call, Mister."

Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "*Are you Jesus?*"

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know....

*"Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections."*

**Adult Truth**

I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.

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**Mike Monsoor**  
Author Unknown

Mike Monsoor, was awarded "The Congressional Medal Of Honor" last week, for giving his life in Iraq, as he jumped on, and covered with his body, a live hand grenade, saving the lives of a large group of Navy Seals that was passing by!

During Mike Monsoor's funeral, at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, in San Diego, California ..The six pallbearers removed the rosewood casket from the hearse, and lined up on each side of Mike Monsoor's casket, with his family members, friends, fellow sailors, and well-wishers. The column of people continued from the hearse, All the way to the grave site.

What the group didn't know at the time was, every Navy Seal (45 to be exact) that Mike Monsoor saved that day was scattered through-out the column!

As The pallbearers carried the rosewood casket down the column of people to the grave side, the column would collapse which formed a group of people that followed behind.

Every time the rosewood casket passed a Navy Seal, he would remove his Gold Trident Pin

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from his uniform, and slap it down hard, causing the Gold Trident Pin to embed itself into the top of the wooden casket! Then the Navy Seal would step back from the column, and salute!

Now for those, who don't know what a Trident Pin is, here is the definition! After one completes the basic Navy Seals program which lasts for three weeks, and is followed by seal qualification training, which is 15 more weeks of training, necessary to continue improving basic skills and to learn new tactics and techniques, required for an assignment to a Navy Seal Platoon. After successful completion, trainees are given their Naval Enlisted Code, and are awarded the Navy Seal Trident Pin. With this gold pin they are now officially Navy Seals!

It was said, that you could hear each of the 45 slaps from across the cemetery! By the time the rosewood casket reached the grave site, it looked as though it had a gold inlay from the 45 Trident Pins that lined the top!

This was a fitting end to an eternal send-off for a warrior hero!

This should be front-page news!

Instead of the garbage we listen to and see every day.

**Needed by USO Ft. Leonard Wood**

We are always asked, and we are always looking for donors. "What are some items that the Fort Leonard Wood USO needs?" So we thought we would put a list together that everyone could see. This is also a great opportunity for any groups, who sometimes don't have the time to volunteer physically at the USO to maybe think about raising money for any of the items listed below!

Newly released DVD's: Men in Black 3, The Amazing Spider-Man

Fresh Fruit: Bananas, Oranges, Apples

Men's Shaving Cream (travel size)

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Small packets of juice mixes (for water bottles)

Thank you, Dave Shafer  
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**Aunty Acid**

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