

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



**THE LIBERTY
LEGIONAIRE**
3rd Quarter 2013
Volume 1, Issue 17

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

Dates To Remember

- Oct. 14** – Columbus Day
Observed
- Oct. 15** – Legion Mtg. – 7:00
PM
- Oct. 23** – 40&8 Mtg. – 6:00
PM
- Oct. 24** – Bingo @ Cedars –
6:30 PM
- Nov. 3** – End Daylight Savings
Time (set clocks back 1 hour)
- Nov. 5** – Election Day
- Nov. 11** – Veterans Day
- Nov. 19** – Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
- Nov. 21** – Bingo @ Cedars –
6:30 PM
- Nov. 27 ?** – 40&8 Mtg. – 6:00
PM
- Nov. 28** – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 7** – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 17** – Legion Mtg. and
Christmas Dinner – Bring a

**Printed by Veterans
for Veterans like:**

covered dish, meat provided by
post.

Dec. 19 – Bingo @ Cedars –
6:30 PM

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day.

Correction

In last quarter's newsletter the
new address for Post 95 was in
error. The correct address is

Our Lady of Mercy Country
Home
Tighe Hall
2115 Maturana Drive
Liberty, MO.

Important: all correspondence
should still be sent to:

Robert H. Baker
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P.O. Box 417
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Our post web site is:
www.roberthbakerpost95.com.

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Current Resident Or:

Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of
the month at 7:00 PM

Chili Dinner

Due to several problems with
having a chili dinner this year we
have had to cancel it. We are
checking on dates for next year
for our spaghetti dinner and chili
dinner. We hope to have cooking
facilities by then.

Member Death

John Hudgins – Passed away
August 16, 2013. John was 79
years old.

Wisdom

We all get heavier as we get
older, because there's a lot more
information in our heads. That's
my story and I'm sticking to it.

More Wisdom

If you are going to try cross-
country skiing, start with a small
country.

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Chaplain's Thoughts

Paul Ellison

Defeated, tied-up, and blind, not a description we'd normally relate to strength. Yet, it is in this exact situation when Samson finally realized his true source of strength and managed to be used by God to set his people free.

Often times, when things seem to be going well, we tend to get complacent and rely on our own strength. However, this is not what God intended for us. He wants us to depend on Him and not ourselves, for it is through Him that we can achieve great things.

God made man, He created us to need Him, and we have little strength apart from Him. Yet, when we recognize our weakness and humbly seek His face, our omnipotent God will then become our strength.

It is then that we no longer have to struggle for strength, for God now fights our battles on our behalf, and if God is for us, who can be against us?

Therefore, let us find the grace and strength to proclaim, "The Lord is the strength of our lives". God longs to show Himself strong on our behalf, and all we have to do is to entrust ourselves to Him and let Him strengthen us when we are feeble.

Keep this in mind as a Post we want to grow, so be strong and not afraid to reach out to other veterans to bring them into the circle of Post 95. Proclaim the good works of our Post and explain the programs we have going and invite them to become a part of them.

Therefore take comfort in the following quote from Psalm 27:1

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my

life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

~ Psalm 27:1 ~

Membership Incentive

Each member of Mo Legionnaires, you should have or very shortly will receive your first dues reminder notice.

In this notice will be a new incentive for membership growth. There is a membership sweepstakes entry and this entry will have a place to enter your name, membership number and a NEW membership application. Copy this entry form as many times as you wish, for every new membership you sign up with this form your name will be placed in a drum for drawing, which will take place at the Spring Conference 2014.

All entries will be eligible for a first prize of **\$1000**, a second prize of **\$500**, and a third prize of **\$250**. Enter as many times as you wish with a new sweepstakes form. Only new memberships on this form will be eligible for the prize money. Turn all entries into **your post membership chair person**, they will in turn send all entries to the **Dept Adjutant in Jefferson City**.

If you know a family member or friend eligible for American Legion membership, sign them up using this form and enter yourself in the drawing. This drawing is open to the entire Legion Family. Aux., Sons, and Riders are eligible. Just sign up a NEW Legionnaire and enter the contest.

A copy of the entry form is attached, please copy as needed. Good Luck with your membership sweepstakes.

For all the PUFL's out there - use this attachment to copy since you will not be receiving a dues notice in the mail.

Please pass the word, Thanks

Good Luck and good hunting for new members!!

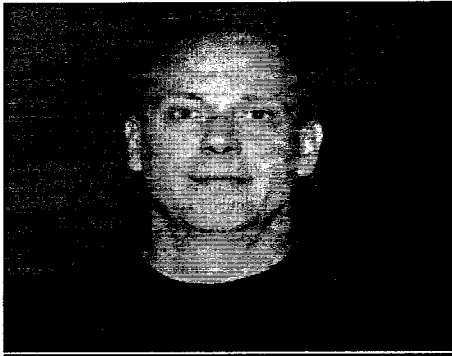
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Meet A New Member

In future newsletters I will try to feature new members so they will be recognized at meetings and other get-togethers.

Chad Pratt, who was recruited into the Legion by Mike Edwards, served in the US Army from 1992 – 1994. Chad's MOS was in Motor Pool Administration. He spent time in Heidelberg, Schwetzingen and Schweinfurt, Germany where he was in charge of the company motor pool.

Chad received a "compassionate reassignment" to the Fort Leavenworth AG's Office and later to the Big Red One Armored Division and received his discharge from there.

He says he hopes to be a part of our fundraisers and projects. He helped at the Veteran's Appreciation Day activities on the day he joined. Thanks Chad, we can always use another active member.

He lives in the Liberty area (technically Kansas City).

Welcome to Post 95, we hope you become involved in our many worthwhile projects.

Happy Birthday U.S. Airforce

September 18, was the 66th birthday of the Air Force. They became a separate branch from the Army.

'The Greatest Generation: Vietnam Veterans'

After serving in Iraq, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia was walking through the Atlanta airport wearing his protective combat uniform when he was approached by two crying men - Vietnam veterans. They said to Bellavia, "Welcome home." And then they said three words that Bellavia "never expected to hear from another veteran. They said, 'I love you.'"

Bellavia is the recipient of the Silver Star for his actions during the Second Battle of Fallujah, as well as the recipient of the Bronze Star, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals and the New York State Conspicuous Cross He is the vice chairman of Veis. foL. Freedom and he published a memoir in 2007, "House to House: An Epic Memoir of War."

Bellavia shared with attendees at the Legion's national convention why he believes Vietnam War veterans are the greatest generation.

"I think the greatest generation is an 18-year-old kid, who can't even spell the country he was drafted to serve in," Bellavia said. "The greatest generation would turn on the radio and be told that they were baby killers by popular culture. They were told by Hollywood that they were ignorant and a fool for doing what their country asked of them."

The greatest generation was a generation that stood shoulder to shoulder and protected Iraq and Afghanistan veterans from the same unwashed ignorant classes that choose to put the soldier behind the foreign policy.

The greatest generation is a generation of veterans who were treated with dishonor and shame and made sure that their sons and daughters would never be treated like they were treated."

To all Vietnam veterans, Bellavia says, "Welcome home. We love you."

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Medal Of Honor

Washington -- The Army and the nation are mourning the passing of World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Nicholas Oresko, who died Oct. 4. He was 96 years old.

Oresko, who was a master sergeant, had been the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient at the time of his passing. He received the nation's highest military decoration Oct. 12, 1945.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III said the nation has lost a hero. "I join the family and friends of former Master Sgt. Nicholas Oresko who grieve at the loss of our nation's oldest recipient of the Medal of Honor," he said.

Chandler praised the bravery of Oresko.

"As his (Medal of Honor) citation states, 'his quick thinking, indomitable courage, and unswerving devotion' on Jan. 23, 1945, saved the lives of many of his fellow Soldiers and allowed his unit to accomplish its mission," said Chandler.

"Thank you, Nicholas, for your lesson in personal courage and selfless service," said Chandler.

Oresko, who had received an outpouring of love and support from the community, was surrounded by veterans and current military members in his final days. Some service members reportedly stood watch at his bedside after Oresko was admitted to a New Jersey hospital where he died due to complications from surgery.

His wife passed away in 1980 and his son died in 2010. He will be buried in New Jersey with full military honors.

Oresko is a hero in his hometown, Bayonne, N.J., where a school is named after him, according to the mayor's office.

"One of the best things I ever had the great

opportunity to do was to name a school after Nicholas Oresko while he was still with us. May his courage continue to inspire all of us," said Bayonne Mayor Mark A. Smith.

Oresko made his hometown proud and represented the patriotism of the community so well, said Smith.

"Nicholas Oresko showed uncommon bravery, carrying out two one-man attacks on German bunkers," he said. "Although he was wounded, he refused to leave the battlefield until his mission was accomplished."

His outstanding heroism and courage helped defeat Nazi Germany, and his actions will stand as a great example for future generations, said Smith.

In the Battle of the Bulge, Oresko "swiftly worked ahead alone" after "deadly automatic fire from the flanks pinned down his unit" near Tettingen, Germany, Jan. 23, 1945, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

Oresko, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 302nd Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division, 3rd Army, moved through the gunfire and then threw a grenade into a German position, rushed the bunker and killed all the hostile occupants who survived the grenade blast, it said.

He then, according to the citation, continued the assault after he was wounded in machinegun fire.

"As withering machinegun and rifle fire swept the area, he struck out alone in advance of his men to a second bunker," the citation states.

"With a grenade, he crippled the dug-in machinegun defending this position and then wiped out the troops manning it with his rifle, completing his second self-imposed, one-man attack."

Oresko, with "quick thinking, indomitable courage, and unswerving devotion to the attack in the face of bitter resistance and while wounded," killed 12

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Germans, prevented a delay in the assault, and made it possible for Company C to obtain its objective with minimum casualties, according to the citation.

Oresko received the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony with 14 other members of the armed forces, according to the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum.

"It is the greatest honor that can come to a man. It is an honor that all of us strive for, but very few of us ever achieve," said President Harry S. Truman in bestowing the award, states the transcript from the presidential library and museum.

Junior Achievement

The youngest combatant in the U.S. armed forces during World War II (and probably the youngest since the Spanish-American War, if not the Civil War) was Calvin Graham (1930-1992) of Forth Worth, Texas. Early in 1942 the twelve-year-old Graham lied about his age and enlisted in the Navy. He served in the battleship *South Dakota* during the Guadalcanal campaign. In one of the battles, he was wounded and his true age discovered. When the ship returned to the United States for repairs, Graham was given a one-way pass to his original recruiting station, which didn't know what to do with him. Meanwhile, since he did not return to his ship, he was classed as a deserter, arrested, and jailed. Released after he finally managed to convince the navy that he was only thirteen, Graham was promptly given a dishonorable discharge and denied disability benefits because he had enlisted under false premises. Graham, who later reenlisted for a time after attaining the proper age was eventually the beneficiary of special legislation to restore pay and benefits lost upon his original discharge. Graham was one of several hundred boys under seventeen who are believed to have enlisted in the U.S. armed

forces using forged birth certificates and similar documents.

By a curious coincidence, Graham's division officer while he was aboard the *South Dakota* was *Sargent Shriver*, who was later President John F. Kennedy's brother-in-law, and one of the ship's steersmen was a future teacher of one of the authors (A. A. Nofi) of this volume (*'Dirty Little Secrets of World War II'*).

Winter Flannels

The first flannel underwear was used in Boston, Mass., by Lord Percy's regiment when they were encamped on the Common in October 1774. There was barely enough flannel cloth in the town to cover that one regiment. Eventually, flannels came to be almost synonymous with long underwear, thanks to the severity of New England winters. Union Suits followed shortly, being the same idea in a united shirt and pants. These days, flannel is mor often seen around town as a plaid or striped shirt, and flannel sheets provide extra warmth when the temperature drops.

A Testimony To True Friendship Is...

A man brings his best buddy home for dinner unannounced at 5:30 after work. His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens in. "My hair & makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pajamas and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight! What the heck did you bring him home for?"

"Because, he's thinking of getting married."

Wisdom

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

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Birthdays



Sept. 20 – Lester Brown, pictured above, celebrated his 98th birthday at Perkins. Lester was given a cake and he blew out the two candles. I wonder if next year there will be just one for the year he has left to be 100 years old and then he can start over with one more candle each year. Many of his friends gathered to wish him happy birthday.

- November 28, 1923 – Ira Hunter
- December 11 1922 – Ray Merrell
- December 11, ??? – Betty Shannon

Girl's State



Rachel Untch and Noelle Prideaux, pictured above, were guest at our September meeting and gave a short talk about their

experience at Girl's State. Judi Samborski, Post 95 Commander, presented certificates to them.

Both thought it was a very good experience and said that they were not sure what to expect at first but after a couple of days they got used to the busy schedule and learned a lot. They both mentioned that they really never saw each other while they were there but made a lot of friends from all over the state and were in touch with them still.

They both thanked the American Legion for their opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile program and they would talk to others at school and encourage them to participate if given the opportunity.

Happy Birthday, Navy

Week of October 07, 2013

On October 13, the U.S. Navy marks its 238th birthday. The Navy traces its roots back to the privateers that were employed to attack British commerce in the early days of the American Revolution. On October 13, 1775 the Continental Congress established a small naval force, hoping that a small navy would be able to offset the uncontested exercise of British sea power. For more on the Navy's history and upcoming birthday, visit the Military.com Navy Birthday page.

Thank You

Thank you so much for sponsoring me for the Missouri State American Legion Cadet Academy. I had so much fun! If I could go back, I would. I really enjoyed going to the EVOC course and driving the police cars. I can't say thank you enough!

Sincerely,
 Makenzie Shannon

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Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski, Commander

Wow! The Open House we hosted at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home on August 31, 2013, was a great success! We had over 160 people who came to partake in the free food, great conversation, and the spectacular entertainment.



The American Appreciation Dance Troupe from Liberty gave great performance. We had familiar faces as well as some new faces. We were able to lure 2 new members for Post 95. A big Thank You for everyone who helped organize, set up, provided food and supplies, cooked, served, and cleaned up. I noticed that Tighe Hall looked as if no one had been there at all after we cleaned up. Hope we can do it again next year; only maybe a bit earlier in the summer, something to think about. If you would like to see photos from the Open House, go our website www.roberthbakerpost95.com. More photos may be added in the future. Stacy Burt from the Liberty Tribune was at the Open House taking photos and doing interviews. We were featured in the Tribune.

Also at the Open House I presented Rev. Donna Warren a certificate honoring her 30 years with Post 95. It was great to see Donna.

September 8, 2013, was the 3rd District meeting in

Hamilton, MO. I was sworn in as the Finance Officer for the 3rd District. I hope I do a good job.

As of this writing, we still haven't made plans for our annual Chili Supper in the fall. The hold up, stove(s) for the kitchen in Tighe Hall. We were used to the commercial grade gas stove at the Memorial Building. However, Our Lady doesn't want commercial grade stoves; gas or electric. So we are trying to find electric stoves that will cook our food but not need any commercial rating. Sounds easy? Not so much. Several of our members are looking into a few leads. We will figure it out. We always do. We also have a scheduling problem for the use of the facilities.

At our August meeting, we did a shortened version of Post Everlasting for our comrades who passed on.

Keep our troops in your prayers.

God Bless America.

Great Lakes Aircraft Carriers

USS Wolverine: Bet you didn't know this.

We had two aircraft carriers operating in Lake Michigan during WW-II. It was an ideal place for new pilots and Carrier crew members to practice operations from a carrier. Both ships were converted from side wheeler cruise ships operating in the Great Lakes at the time. They were converted in less than two months! They didn't have elevators or hanger storage below so pilots started and ended each day at land bases.

Useless Information

Q: Who invented the internet?

A: No, not Al Gore. Tim Berners-Lee created the language (HTML) at Switzerland's CERN labs. This became the prototype of the World Wide Web.

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Your grant payment will be awarded to you by check, and it will be sent to the address listed in your grant application. Your grant check will be issued within the next few weeks and mailed to your organization as quickly as possible.

Thank you for the work your organization does to create opportunities so people can live better.

Sincerely,

The Walmart Foundation

I Watched The Flag Pass By

I watched the flag pass by one day.

It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform;
so young, so tall, so proud.

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With hair cut square and eyes
alert,
he'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil;
how many mothers' tears
How many pilots' planes shot
down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were
soldiers' graves?
NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE!
I heard the sound of Taps one
night,
when everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant 'Amen.'
When a flag had draped a coffin
of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
of the mothers and the wives,
of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea.
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE
Enjoy Your Freedom and
God Bless Our Troops.
Thank You
As written by a fourth grader.
Dear Veterans,
Thank you for your bravery and

keeping our country safe. You must really care about our count(r)y too. You also respect our count(r)y. You are very kind to our country. You ar all very good leaters. You respresent our count(r)y well. I also live with lots of veterans too. My dad, uncle, grandpa, great grandpa and my other great grandpa. Thank you for serving our country. We look up to you!

On September 11, 2001 when the twin towers hit. I watched a vido about the towers and it was pretty sad. I wonder how you felt about it. I can't believe that happened, I would never think that would happen in real life. I hope that will never happen again. What if it dose, what will we do? I bet it was hard for the fire fighters, polic, the military and all veterans. I also think if it was sad and hard for the people who live there. Well that's all I have to say to you. Thank you again for serving our country!
A Student
Ali Colli

Dues

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