

The Robert H. Baker
American Legion Post 95
P.O. Box 417
Liberty, MO 64068-0417
roberthbakerpost95.com



The Liberty
Legionaire
4th Quarter 2013
Volume 1, Issue 18

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

Spaghetti Dinner

March 22, 2014

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 22nd from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at our new home – Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Tighe Hall, 2115 Maturana Dr., Liberty, MO.

Directions

From I 35 (going south) Take exit 14 on left, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Rd. go 1/10 mi. and keep right onto S. Liberty Pky. for 6/10 mi. Turn left onto Plummer Rd. and go 2/10 mi. (Sign on Pky. will show Our Lady Of Mercy Country Home). Turn right onto Our Lady of Mercy Dr. (must turn right) and go 2/10 mi. Take the second left onto Maturana Dr., there will be Legion sign at corner (two houses on left and multi-story building on right). Go 1/10 mi. and last part of building on right is where we are. Enter at door on south end of that part of building. (No steps).

Be sure to watch for deer after leaving I 35!!

Raffle items include:

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- 2 \$25 Price Chopper cards

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and you need not be 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.

We will have plenty of door prizes from our newsletter sponsors as usual. Come join us for some good food, prizes, and fellowship for a good cause.

Dates To Remember

- March 18 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00PM
- March 22 – Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM
- March 26 – 40&8 - 6:00 PM
- March 27 – Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- April 13 – District Mtg. – Eat 12:00 – Mtg. 1:00 PM
- April 15 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00PM
- April 23 – 40&8 - 6:00 PM
- April 24 – Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- May 20 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00PM
- May 22 – Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- May 28 – 40&8 - 6:00 PM

DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars for the next district meetings:

April 13, 2014

Place: Smithville Post 58
2607 E. 92 Highway
Smithville MO 64089
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

June 8, 2014

Place: Robert H. Baker Post 95
Our Lady of Mercy Country Home
2115 Maturana Dr.
Liberty MO 64068
Time: 1200 PM Lunch
1300 PM Meeting

Birthdays

- January 11, ???? Judi Samborski
- January 12, 1925 Ed Eberle
- January 31, 1932 Paul Ellison
- April 14, 1945 Larry Allen
- April 29, 1944 Ray Nichols

Anniversaries

- April 20, 1946-Ray & Helen Merrell

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Chaplain's Thoughts

Paul Ellison, Chaplin

Laymen's Ten Commandments

Someone has written these beautiful words. Try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the Ten Commandments to follow in life all of the time!

1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

2] So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look Ahead and Move on.

3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.

4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!

6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Pray for all of our military personnel where every they

may be serving

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT
 OF MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
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If you know of a veteran presently attending has been accepted by an accredited vocational technical college, college or university in the State of Missouri and who has served a minimum of 90 days and honorably discharged and is a resident of Missouri, he or she eligible to apply for Commander's Scholarship.

The scholarship is for \$1000. If you know of anyone interested contact me for an application or contact the department headquarters.

Healing Miracle For Burns:

A young man sprinkling his lawn and bushes with pesticides wanted to check the contents of the barrel to see how much pesticide remained in it. He raised the cover and lit his lighter; the vapors inflamed and engulfed him. He jumped from his truck, screaming. His neighbor came out of her house with a dozen eggs, yelling: "bring me some eggs!" She broke them, separating the whites from the yolks. The neighbor woman helped her to apply the whites on the young man's face. When the ambulance arrived and when the EMTs saw the young man, they asked who had done this. Everyone pointed to the lady in charge. They congratulated her and said: "You have saved his face."

By the end of the summer, the young man brought the lady a bouquet of roses to thank her. His face was like a baby's skin.

Dear Algebra

Please stop asking us to find your X.

She's never coming back and don't ask Y.

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Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski

Happy New Year! 2014 has arrived. And with it a new year full of promise and possibilities. I hope everyone had a good holiday season.

We have scheduled our Spaghetti and Chili Dinners at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home. The Spaghetti Dinner is going to be March 22 (Saturday) starting at 4:30 pm. Larry Allen will need a lot of help. There is always plenty to do. We will be discussing the details at our meeting on January 21 (Tuesday), starting at 7 PM. One of the issues we need to discuss will be the purchase of a stove, or something to cook on. I am very excited to have the Spaghetti Dinner scheduled. Because of certain circumstances, we were unable to have our Chili Dinner this past fall.

At the last 3rd District Meeting on January 12, 3rd District Commander John Kopp talked about membership. As most of you know Post 95 has the largest Post in the 3rd District. Our goal is 300 members. We currently have about 236 paid members. Several of our members have done a great job recruiting new members. Post 95 is a great post and I'm sure we will meet our goal.

We have lost a number of our members this past year. It is always sad when we lose a member and a friend. But one was more difficult than the others for me. The passing of Rev. Donna Warren. Not only was she a great Chaplain for Post 95 and the 3rd District, she a great person as well. Donna recruited me into Post 95, for which I am very grateful. I will miss her deeply.

Just a quick note. Remember that our meetings are for members only, unless otherwise invited for special functions, wives do not attend. Unfortunately, we do not have a Ladies Auxiliary.

Keep any of our members or family members who are in distress in your thoughts and prayers. Also keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers.

Death



Charles "Chuck" Acock 82 of Liberty, Missouri died at his home December 28, 2013. Chuck is preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Pearl, his brother Richard Acock, his 2 sisters Pauline Shelton and Mary Cooper. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 stepsons and many nieces and nephews. Chuck was born and raised in Lee's Summit, Mo.

As a young man he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. He served in Korea, where he was wounded, and the early part of Viet Nan before he was medically retired.

When he returned home, Chuck went to work in water distribution services. He retired as superintendent of Public Water District #15 of Lone Jack, Missouri. After retirement Chuck moved to Liberty, Mo. He was a Mason, Shriner and member of the American Legion Post 95. He spent his retirement working in his yard. When Fairview Cemetery in Liberty was vandalized in 2009, he devoted his time to helping restore it. For four and a half years he has visited the grounds daily to walk his dog "Hershey" and checked what needed to be done. He became a familiar figure in the community as he made his daily inspections and participated in public events at the cemetery. He was fondly referred to as "Uncle Chuck" by many.

Post 95 provided the Military Honors.

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Death



Donna Lea Warren, 79, Liberty Missouri, passed away December 22, 2013. Memorial services, with Military Honors provided by American Legion Post 95 and the Navy, on December 28, 2013. Interment will be at a later date at Missouri State Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville, Missouri.

Donna was born April 19, 1934 in Lead, South Dakota. After graduating from Lead High School in 1952 and from Black Hills State Teachers College in Spearfish, South Dakota, she enlisted in the US Navy in 1956. She was sworn in as a WAVE officer candidate and eventually was commissioned as an Ensign. She was stationed in Norfolk, VA, Hawaii, and San Francisco. After leaving the Navy in 1969, she was employed and eventually retired from the Social Security Administration in Kansas City. In 1992, Donna was ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. Donna spent much of her life in service to others. As Deacon she was assigned to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Kansas City. She retired from the church in 2000. Perhaps best known for her "Cross Lady Ministries," Donna handcrafted thousands of yarn crosses, with many of them going to military service people overseas. Donna was a 30 year paid up for life (PUFL) member of American Legion Post 95 in Liberty. She was Chaplain for Post 95 and District 3, served on the Post 95 Honor Team as bugler and was the Missouri Girls' State Chairperson.

For seven years she was part of 40et8 Voiture 1379 and WAVES Unit #9. Donna was also a member of The Order of Eastern Star Jewell Chapter #492, Liberty. She was a Charter Member of Kansas City Military Collectors Club, and she reached her dream of driving an 18-wheeler.

"Freedom is Not Free"

This simple inscription is on the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It was first coined by retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, Walter Hitchcock, of New Mexico Military Institute to express gratitude to military service members for their sacrifices and to those who gave their lives in defense of freedom.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as the "Forgotten War" because it never received the full support of the United States and coming so soon after the end of World War II. This war was different from others. Korea had originally been a part of the Japanese empire but after WWII, it fell to the Soviets and the United States to split the enemy's imperial possessions. According to the History Channel, "In August 1945, two young aides at the State Department divided the Korean peninsula in half along the 38th parallel. The Russians occupied the area north of the line and the United States occupied the area to its south." By the end of the decade the communist dictator Kim II Sung was ruling North Korea with solid support from Russia. South Korea was run by Syngman Rhee, who the U.S. supported tepidly. Men are never happy with borders and these imposed boundaries were no exception. Each regime was guilty of infiltrating the others' territory and over 10,000 North and South Koreans were killed before North Korea actually invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950.

People have to look back to remember what was happening during this time. In the early 1950s America and Russia were in the midst of the Cold War and the fear of communism and the spread of Russia's power was the largest foreign policy issue that the U.S. was facing. According to the History Channel the U.S. feared that the invasion by North

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Korea "was the first step in a communist campaign to take over the world. For this reason, nonintervention was not considered an option by many top decision makers." Within days of the invasion the United States sent troops and supplies to Korea. "If we let Korea down," President Harry Truman said, "the Soviet[s] will keep right on going and swallow up one [place] after another." The fight on the Korean peninsula was a symbol of the global struggle between east and west, good and evil. As the North Korean army pushed into Seoul, the South Korean capital, the United States readied its troops for a war against communism itself.

A year after the invasion, the United States had waged a defensive war, then an offensive war and was now stalemated in a war of attrition. When the United States invaded North Korea it had riled the Chinese who then spent thousands of troops into North Korea. President Truman did not want WWII and peace talks began in July 1951. Two years later on July 27, 1953 an armistice was signed and a two-mile demilitarized zone that still exists today was established.

The Korean War was short but very bloody. Nearly 5 million people died and more than half of these were civilians, higher than the civilian casualty rate in Vietnam and WWII. Over 37,000 Americans died in action. President Truman was heavily criticized for his handling of the war. This was the first war where America had not forced the unconditional surrender of its enemies but President Eisenhower felt that the only way to "win" was to use nuclear weapons and attack China, thus creating WWII. This did not seem to be what anyone really wanted, a border skirmish that could balloon into a world war

From a Marine Corps Colonel in Afghanistan

Before the start of the next NFL season, perhaps all team owners should be sent the following:

"So with all the kindness I can muster, I give this one piece of advice to the next pop star who is asked to sing the national anthem at a sporting event: save the vocal gymnastics and the physical gyrations for your concerts. Just sing this song the way you were taught to sing it in kindergarten - straight up, no styling. "Sing it with the constant awareness that there are Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines watching you from bases and outposts all over the world. Don't make them cringe with your self-centered ego gratification. Sing it as if you are standing before a row of 86-year-old WWII vets wearing their Purple Hearts, Silver Stars and flag pins on their cardigans and you want them to be proud of you for honoring them and the country they love - not because you want them to think you are a superstar musician. They could see that from your costume, makeup and your entourage. Sing 'The Star Spangled Banner' with the courtesy and humility that tells the audience that it is about America, not you. And please remember, not everything has to be sung as a Negro spiritual. We're getting a little weary of that. Francis Scott Key does not need any help."
Semper Fi

I Made A Snowball

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first—it wet the bed.

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At A Glance

2013 Post 95 Activities

1. Performed 62 Honor Guard Ceremonies for Veteran funerals. (Mike Edwards Commander)
2. Performed 27 Flag Etiquette classes at 9 schools in Liberty and Kearney. (Led by Mike Edwards)
3. Sponsored the Clay County Oratorical Contest. (Chaired by Ron Pardack) Note: the candidate that participated from Clay County at 2013 contest won the National Contest and took home over \$21,000 in scholarships.
4. Sponsored 2 boys to Missouri Boy's State. (Robert Emery post chairman)
5. Sponsored 4 girls to Missouri Girl's State. (Robert Emery post chairman)
6. Sponsored 1 girl to Missouri State Highway Patrol Cadet Academy.
7. Gave out 4 Citizenship Awards at Liberty Jr. High.
8. For 3 day Memorial Day weekend placed and remove 321 flags each day for the avenue of flags at Fairview/New Hope cemetery.
9. Placed flags along streets in Liberty for 4th of July.
10. Provided Honor Guard for 4th of July Ceremony on Liberty square.
11. Marched and provided Honor Guard for 2 parades.
12. Performed Memorial Day programs at 5 nursing homes.
13. Held bingo each month at Cedars and provided snacks and prize money. (Don Happy, Paul Ellison, Jerry Pate and Larry Allen)
14. Co-Chaired 4th of July Parade planning committee. (Jerry Head)
15. Maintain the flag at Fairview Cemetery. (LeRoy Coe)

16. Provided Color Guard at Wal-Mart 2 years in a row.

17. Held annual fundraiser (spaghetti dinner).
18. Post provided food for member family night.
19. Hosted first annual Veteran Appreciation Celebration.

New Member



Help welcome our new member, Stephanie J. Ebner. She is a veteran of the Army, a 1st LT. who served in Germany from 1985 to 1988.

Stephanie was in the Military Police Corps and served from 1985 to 1991. She also served in the Active National Guard.

Stephanie has been in the American Legion for 16 years and after moving to the Liberty area she looked us up and transferred her membership to our post.

She is retired from the Pennsylvania State Police.

Stephanie enjoys riding motorcycles and is a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club. She rides a Honda Shadow.

Stephanie is ready to join our honors team and wants to become involved in other functions we perform.

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National Guard

The National Guard, which celebrates its birthday every December 13, is the oldest component of the U.S. Armed Forces and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions. Today, tens of thousands of Guard members are serving in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, as the National Guard continues its historic dual mission, providing to the states units trained and equipped to protect life and property, while providing to the nation units trained, equipped and ready to defend the United States and its interests, all over the globe.

Much has changed since 1636, but one thing has not: the National Guard still consists of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen providing protection from natural disaster, training regularly to uphold high standards of readiness, and also deploying to far-away countries to protect the United States' national interests abroad. Although the country's growth and expansion has made it a large military force around the world, the National Guard still remains a community cornerstone – just as it did when it was given birth on December 13, 1636.

The Fall of Fortresses

Sometimes, it's not really just luck.

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks.

"Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without

touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple.

"On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells and only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer.

"Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read:

"This is all we can do for you now....."

"Using slave labor is never a good idea."

In The Elevator

Guys at the barber shop asked me what actress I would like to be stuck in an elevator with.

I told them the one who knows how to fix elevators.

I'm old, tired, and pee a lot.

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A Gift From Foster Sires

Written By: Ed Collins
March 31, 2009

The blue jay is a stately bird
That really knows how to strut his stuff
His image on a jacket can be seen, though not heard.
And his reputation as a winner is quite tough

Foster is an ardent and loyal fan of the Liberty Blue Jays
He tries to be present at all of their sporting events, it seems
No matter what the weather, until the games' end he always stays.
You will find Foster sitting in the bleachers cheering for his teams

On a Monday morning, Foster was wearing a Blue Jay jacket so fair.
One of his cronies told him, "I'd like that jacket very much."
Foster quickly offered the jacket right then and there
His crony friend said he really wasn't a mooch as such.

But early the next morning, when the McDonald bunch was meeting
Foster arrived with a Blue Jay Jacket on the seat of his car.
He gave the keys to his crony friend who had just finished eating.
And told him he had a gift in his car which was parked not far.

So his McDonald's crony, with great pride and appreciation
Accepted the Blue Jay Jacket from his special friend.
As the crony was reaching for his wallet to pay compensation.

Foster said, "don't touch your wallet, unless you want our friendship to end."

2014 Oratorical Contest

The winner of the Clay county contest, held December 9, was Therin Showalter from Kearney, MO. He progressed to the district level in January.

We had 4 contestants this year and the contest was very close. The judges scored them so close that tabulations took longer than expected. We should have another very good contestant who can be a contender through the National level and hopefully win it for the second time in two years.

Contestants were:
Oratorical Contest

Winner
Therin Showalter
Kearney High School
Alternate (Runner Up)
Lauren Mills
Oak Park High School

Other Contestants
Zoe Green
Smithville High School
Kelsey Barnes
Liberty North High School

2014 District Oratorical Contest

Therin Showalter had a fine presentation at the District contest and advanced to the Zone contest in Concordia.

2014 Zone Oratorical Contest

Therin Showalter had a strong showing at the Zone oratorical contest and took runner up. If for some reason the winner is unable to participate at the State Level he will move on to participate.

We had another strong contender and the zone contest was very, very close.

Congratulations Therin.

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