

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



The Liberty  
Legionnaire  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2014  
Volume 1, Issue 22

We served our  
Country  
Still serving our  
Community

### ***Post 95 Christmas Dinner***

***Join us for our annual  
Christmas Dinner!***

***When: December 16, 2014***

***Time: 1830 hours (6:30 pm)***

***Where: Our Lady of Mercy Country  
Home  
Tighe Hall***

***Who: All Post 95 members and their  
Spouse/Significant Other***

***The Post will provide the meat and rolls.***

***Members please bring a side dish to share.***

#### **Dates to Remember**

- Dec. 11 – Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 PM
- Dec. 16 – Post 95 Christmas Dinner eat at - 6:00 PM  
(See Above)
- Dec. 18 – County Oratorical Contest - 7:00 PM @  
Liberty High School North
- Dec. 25 – Christmas
- Jan. 1 – New Years Day
- Jan. 11 – District Mtg. - Post 61 - 5125 Bellaire,  
K.C., MO (Claycomo) – 11:00 AM – bring covered  
dish
- Jan. 20 – Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
- Jan. 22 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
- Jan. 28 – 40&8 Mtg. – 6:30 PM
- Feb. 17 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
- Feb. 25 - 40&8 Mtg. – 6:30 PM
- Feb. 26 - Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
- March 17 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
- March 25 - 40&8 Mtg. – 6:30 PM

March 26 - Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM

#### **Boy's and Girl's State**

It is time to begin thinking of Boy's and Girl's State again. Start talking it up with our sponsors and try to get them involved in sponsoring boys and girls.

It cost money and our sponsors have been generous in sponsorship but we are always looking for new sponsors so more applications can be filled.

Missouri Boy's State celebrated its 75 year in 2013. It is a very important program sponsored by the American Legion but cannot exist without sponsors and the boys and girls who attend.

Help get the word out to sponsors and schools.

To sponsor a girl or boy or questions contact Robert Emery at [remery18@comcast.net](mailto:remery18@comcast.net).

#### **A Horse Named Reckless**

Reckless was a pack horse during the Korean War, and she carried recoil-less rifles, ammunition and supplies to Marines. Nothing too unusual about that, lots of animals got pressed into doing pack chores in many wars.

But this horse did something more....

During the battle for a location called Outpost Vegas, this mare made 50 trips up and down the hill, on the way up she carried ammunition, and on the way down she carried wounded soldiers...

What was so amazing? Well she made every one of those trips through enemy fire and without anyone leading her.

#### **Freedom**

President Ronald Reagan

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

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**Commander's Corner**

By Judi Samborski

Greetings! We are coming into my favorite time of year! The Holidays, it began with Thanksgiving. I don't think about Christmas until after the Plaza lights have been turned on Thanksgiving night. Then comes Christmas, the trees, decorations, music, the presents, and, if I'm lucky, snow for Christmas Day. And, of course, all of the food and goodies to eat. It is a time to visit with friends and family that I may not have seen for a while.

This time of year, while you are running from party to party, and from store to store to find that perfect gift, think of those less fortunate than you. If possible, do something for someone who may need a lift in spirit. It doesn't have to be a big gesture. I have found that the most meaningful gift is one that is not grand or expensive. Indeed the simple heartfelt one is often the one most cherished, even if it is just a holiday card, a simple treat, or a homemade gift. Those are the ones I enjoy the most.

Also remember our troops who do the hard job of defending our freedom, and their families who may be without them this season. And a special thought for those who are suffering either physical or mental problems.

A special "Thank You" to all of the members of Post 95 who have spent hours of their valuable time participating our various functions and events.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Chaplin's Corner**

By Ray Nichols

Here we are at the holiday season and our country is still mixed up fighting in the Middle East. This is

tough for young men & women to be in a conflict during the Christmas season. Even more difficult for their families worrying during the holiday season about loved ones overseas and in harm's way. The most troubling aspect is the reason we are going back into Iraq for the third time. Our country has given billions in aid/armaments to the Iraqi Army. Yet this terrorist/thug bunch from Syria of 10,000 or so show up and the Iraqi Army cannot defend itself or the country of Iraq. Now we will go back retrain, spend billions of our dollars, and risk American young people's lives for a country who considers the United States a country of infidels? This is nonsense!

During this holy season which all of us Christians revere as the holiest time of the year. A time to celebrate the birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ we need to pray for a lasting peace. Also pray for our young fighting men & women back in Iraq defending a country that should be able to defend itself.

Merry Christmas and God Bless America.

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**Origin of "Taps"**

In July 1862, during the Civil War, while the Army of the Potomac was in camp, Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield summoned Pvt. Oliver Wilcox Norton, his brigade bugler, to his tent. Butterfield, who disliked the colorless "extinguish lights" call then in use, whistled a new tune and asked the bugler to sound it for him. After repeated trials and changing the time of some notes which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit Gen. Butterfield and used for the first time that night. Pvt. Norton, who on several occasions had sounded numerous new calls composed by his commander, recalled his experience of the origin of "Taps" years later:

One day in July 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp at Harrison's Landing on the James River, Virginia, resting and recruiting from its losses in the seven days of battle before Richmond, Gen. Butterfield summoned the writer to his tent, and whistling some new tune, asked the bugler to sound it for him. This was done, not quite to his satisfaction at first, but after repeated trials, changing the time of some of the notes, which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit the general.

He then ordered that it should be substituted in his brigade for the regulation "Taps" (extinguish lights) which was printed in the Tactics and used by the whole army. This was done for the first time that night. The next day buglers from nearby brigades came over to the camp of Butterfield's brigade to ask the meaning of this new call. They liked it, and copying the music, returned to their camps, but it was not until sometime later, when generals of other commands had heard its

melodious notes, that orders were issued, or permission given, to substitute it throughout the Army of the Potomac for the time-honored call which came down from West Point.

In the western armies the regulation call was in use until the autumn of 1863. At that time the XI and XII Corps were detached from the Army of the Potomac and sent under command of Gen. Hooker to reinforce the Union Army at Chattanooga, Tenn. Through its use in these corps it became known in the western armies and was adopted by them. From that time, it became and remains to this day the official call for "Taps." It is printed in the present Tactics and is used throughout the U.S. Army, the National Guard, and all organizations of veteran soldiers.

Gen. Butterfield, in composing this call and directing that it be used for "Taps" in his brigade, could not have foreseen its popularity and the use for another purpose into which it would grow. Today, whenever a service member is buried with military honors anywhere in the United States, the ceremony is concluded by firing three volleys of musketry over the grave, and sounding with the trumpet or bugle "Put out the lights. Go to sleep"...There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.

**Constitutional Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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**Honor Flight**

By Ted Nelson

I have to give a lot of credit for my going on this flight to Larry Allen. He kept in touch with the right people and made sure our names were on that flight. Larry picked me up at 3:00 AM and we arrived at the airport at 3:45 AM.

We boarded our US Airways plane at 5:15 AM. We were accompanied by channel 4 TV reporter Susan Hiland and a cameraman. We arrived at Reagan National Airport about 9:45 AM. There were hundreds of people at the terminal to greet us. We had enough people so we had to have two buses. We loaded on our bus about 10:30 and our first stop was at the Air Force Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony.

When we got back on our buses there was a box lunch to eat on the way to our next stop.

Our buses were led by four police motor cycles so we didn't have to stop. They stopped all traffic so we could make it to our next stop. Our next stop was at the WW II Memorial where group pictures were taken. Larry was my guardian on the whole trip and pushed my wheel chair everywhere. (This was the fastest and easiest way to get around.) They furnished anyone needing one a wheel chair.

We left the WW II Memorial and went to the

Korean War Memorial where we spent quite a bit of time. The Vietnam Wall and Lincoln Memorial were in that same area but there was not enough time to visit all three. Note Ted is a Korean War Veteran.

Back on the bus snacks and water, which was furnished about anytime anyone wanted them. Then off to the Tomb of the Unknowns to watch the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery. That was something to watch. The honor flight laid a wreath after the changing of the guard. We also saw the grave of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier.

It was starting to get late so it was back on the buses and we headed to the Marine Monument, also called the Iwo Jima Monument. There we took another group picture and spent some time at the memorial.

Back on the buses we drove to the Pentagon but it had gotten dark so we couldn't get off. We were in the parking lot where the plane crashed on 9/11 we were going to see the monument they built there.

At 6:30 we headed back to Reagan National to board our plane to head back to Kansas City International Airport. There were people there to greet us and see us off. There were people dancing and talking to us.

On the plane home they had roll call and each veteran got letters and cards from friends, family and some from students.

When we arrived at our terminal I was surprised to see the crowd there to greet us at 10:15 PM. With all the people wanting to shake hands saying welcome home. I have never felt so proud to be a veteran and I will never forget the trip. I

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will also never be able to thank Larry enough for all he did for me.

Our trip turned out to be on Veterans Day which made it all the more special. Everyone of the memorials we visited were such a thing of beauty looking at all the work they put into them.

I thank everyone responsible for making this trip possible.

**Gift**

We received \$5000 from the estate of Yvonne Stuart. It was shown in the will as:

"The American Legion, Robert H. Baker Post No. 95, Box 417, Liberty, Missouri 64068, in honor and memory of my spouse, James P. Stuart".

James Stuart was a 50+ year member of our post even though he lived in California at the time of his death.

We were one of only three Liberty organizations to receive money from this estate. The other two were schools, Liberty High School and William Jewell College.

**Birthdays**

January 11, ???? Judi Samborski  
January 12, 1925 Ed Eberle  
January 31, 1932 Paul Ellison

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary listed please give information to Larry Allen at [larry3030@embarqmail.com](mailto:larry3030@embarqmail.com).

**The Old Paths**

By Retired Minister living in Tennessee

I liked the old paths when  
Moms were at home.

Dads were at work.

Brothers went into the Army.

And sisters got married BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay;

Hard work did;

And people knew the difference.

Moms could cook;

Dads could work;

Children would behave.

Husbands were loving;

Wives were supportive;

And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry;

And Men wore the pants.

Women looked like ladies;

Men looked like gentlemen;

And children looked decent.

People loved the truth,

And hated a lie.

They came to church to get IN,

Not to get OUT!

Hymns sounded Godly;

Sermons sounded helpful;

Rejoicing sounded normal;

And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked;

Drugs were for illness.

The flag was honored;

America was beautiful;

And God was welcome!

WE read the Bible in public;

Prayed in school;

And preached from house to house.

To be called an American was worth living for;

To be called a traitor was a shame!

I still like the old paths the best!

**Quote**

"When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty." - Thomas Jefferson

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**The Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the socialist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). It was originally published in the *Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. Bellamy had hoped that the pledge would be used by citizens in any country.

In its original form it read:

“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

In 1923 the words, “the Flag of the United States of America” were added.

In 1954, in response to the Communist threat of the times, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words “under God,” creating the 31-word pledge we say today. Bellamy’s daughter objected to this alteration. Today it reads:

**“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”**

Section 4 of the Flag Code states:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flan and render the military salute.”

**Thank You Card**

The post received a nice thank you card from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Hawthorne Elementary School (Kearney). It was signed by the kids and teachers.

The front of the card had the picture of a flag and said:

People like YOU make it easier  
For people like ME  
To believe there’s  
GOODNESS in the world

This was for holding our Flag Etiquette class. If you have not taken part in one of these classes please try to participate and see how the kids respond and the questions they have.

In this class one girl ask “how many 5 star generals have there been”. There are always a lot of good questions ask.

**How Old Are You**

1. You’re asleep, but others worry that you’re dead.
2. Your back goes out more than you do.
3. You buy a compass for the dash of your car/truck.
4. You are proud of your lawn mower.
5. Your ears are hairier than your head.
6. You enjoy hearing about other people’s operations.
7. You answer a question with, “Because I said so.”
8. You talk about “good grass” and you’re referring to someone’s lawn.
9. You can go bowling without drinking.
10. You got Cable for the Weather Channel.
11. You have a party and the neighbors don’t even realize it.
12. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.

**Useless Information**

Q: How did the laser get its name?

A: Laser is an acronym for “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.

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### **Pearl Harbor—What God Did That Day**

I never knew this little bit of history: Four boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941—Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such spirit of despair, dejection and defeat—you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained: Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crew men of

those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk—we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised.

One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas—he was a born optimist.

But any way you look at it—Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job.

We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat. There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST. Why have we forgotten?

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### **Happy 239<sup>th</sup> Birthday USMC**

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a resolution stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps. Serving on land and at sea, these first Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations, including their first amphibious raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain (later Major) Samuel Nicholas.

### **The Marine Corps War Memorial** (also called the *Iwo Jima Memorial*)

Is a United States military monument outside the walls of Arlington National Cemetery and next to the Netherlands Carillon, in Arlington Ridge Park, Arlington, Virginia. The memorial is dedicated to all personnel of the United States Marine Corps who have died in the defense of the United States since 1775.

The memorial features the statues of the six servicemen who raised the second U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II, on February 23, 1945, five Marines and one Navy corpsman: Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Sousley, and Pharmacist Mate Second Class John Bradley (USN).

The design of the massive sculpture by Felix de Weldon was based on the iconic photograph of the raising of the second flag (replaced smaller flag) on Mount Suribachi by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. Upon first seeing the photograph in

1945, de Weldon created his Marquette for the sculpture, a wax model of the image, during a single weekend. It was presented at Congress to encourage funding.

Funding was not possible during the war. In 1947 a federal foundation was established to raise funds for the bronze statue proposed by de Weldon.

The identities of the six statues representing the six flag-raisers depicted on the memorial.

In 1951, work commenced on creating a commissioned, cast bronze memorial based on the photograph, with the figures 32 feet (9.8 m) tall and the flagpole 60 feet (18 m) long. The granite base of the memorial bears two inscriptions:

"In Honor And Memory Of The Men Of The United States Marine Corps Who Have Given Their Lives To Their Country Since 10 November 1775"  
"Uncommon Valor Was A Common Virtue" (a tribute by Admiral Chester Nimitz to the fighting men on Iwo Jima)

The location and date of every major United States Marine Corps engagement up to the present are inscribed around the base of the memorial. The base is made entirely in the deep black diabase of Lönsboda, a small town and a granite quarry in the southernmost province of Sweden.

The official dedication of the memorial by President Dwight D. Eisenhower occurred on November 10, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the Marine Corps. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy issued a proclamation that a Flag of the United States should fly from the memorial 24 hours a day, one of the few official sites where this is required. The Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. uses this memorial as a centerpiece of the weekly Sunset Parade featuring the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon.

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