

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



The Liberty
Legionnaire
1st Quarter 2016
Volume 1, Issue 27

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

Spaghetti Dinner

April 9, 2016

Get ready for Post 95's annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, desert and drinks.

The event will be held on April 9th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at Our Lady Of Mercy Country Home, 2115 Maturana Dr., Liberty MO.

Our Newsletter sponsors again have come up with some great door prizes.

Raffle items include:

\$100 Price Chopper Gift Card

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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 12 and under.

Proceeds go to American Legion Youth Programs.

Birthdays

April 14, 1945 Larry Allen
April 14, 1931 Ted Nelson
April 29, 1944 Ray Nichols

June 13, 1944 Robert Beatty
June 14, 1775 U.S. Army
June 24, 1940 Gentry Thomason
June 25, 1940 Wally Glasco

Anniversaries

April 20, 1946 Ray & Helen Merrell
June 2, 1995 Jake & Judi Samborski

Dates to Remember

March 23 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
March 24 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
March 25 - Good Friday
March 27 - Easter Sunday
April 1 - April Fool's Day
April 9 - Spaghetti Dinner @ Post
4:30 - 7:00 PM
April 10 - District Mtg. @ Smithville 12:00 PM
April 19 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
April 27 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
April 28 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
May 8 - Mother's Day
May 17 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
May 21 - Armed Forces Day
May 25 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
May 26 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
May 30 - Memorial Day
June 11 - Veteran's Benefit Fair @ Our Lady Of
Mercy Country Home
June 14 - Flag Day
June 13 - Father's Day
June 20 - Summer Solstice
June 21 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
June 22 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
June 23 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
June 25 - Sam's Club Veteran Appreciation
Event
July 4 - Independence Day

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Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski - Commander

It's a new year; 2016, and a year of great potential. Post 95 is so close to reaching its membership goal, I can almost see it. Thanks for a great job to all of those members who've work hard to not only get our members to pay their membership dues for this year, but for recruiting new members. It is a team effort. I appreciate all of the hard work.

Coming up is our Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Our Lady of Mercy, Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under; all you can eat, with all of the fixings. We will have door prizes and raffle prizes. Dinner tickets, door prize tickets, and raffle prize tickets can be purchased from members of Post 95 or at the door. There is great food and great conversation. Larry Allen is the organizer again this year. He will need a lot of help from volunteers, so when the clipboard comes around, please sign up for one of the many jobs. This is one of two of our fundraisers.

Well, the famous groundhog in Pennsylvania didn't see his shadow this year because it was cloudy, but the rodent in Kansas City did because of the nice sunny day. That means six more weeks of winter here in the Midwest, or at least Kansas City. But I have good news the official first day of Spring is Sunday, March 20. It is also Palm Sunday. I have noticed that the sun, when it's actually out, is up for a little bit longer each day. Yes, I'm an optimist (most of the time).

Also Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13. And Easter is Sunday, March 27. I'm full

of great news for March, aren't I?

Keep all Veterans in your thoughts and prayers. And pray for our brave men and women who are servicing to keep our great nation safe.

God Bless you all and God Bless America.

Chaplin's Corner

Ray Nichols, Post 95 Chaplin
Strength

This article is titled strength since we have a number of veterans in our community who show us what strength is. Ira Hunter a WW 2 on one leg minus a toe on his good foot at 92 years old still enjoys life and KU basketball. The fine Marine, Ray Merrell also a WW 2 veteran at 93 years still drives his car and attends American Legion and VFW meetings.

There is a parable from the bible; fear not as you walk through the valley of death the Lord our God walks with you. Take this in stride in our daily lives anyone can do anything on a given day; remember the Lord our God walks with us and watches over us.

God bless everyone and God Bless America.

Voting

Ray Nichols

This year there will be a number of elections. As a poll worker there is nothing more frustrating to have very few people show up on an election day to vote. So please get out and vote for the candidate or issue of your choice. Encourage friends, neighbors and relatives to get out and vote as well.

Quote

Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the conquest of it. – Unknown

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Rifle Raffle

**Post 95 is raffling off a Ruger 10/22
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rifle with carrying case and 500 rounds of
ammo.**

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
donations with proceeds going to help Veterans
and youth programs sponsored by American
Legion Post 95.

The raffle and ammo are held at Great Guns at
17800 North Church Road, Liberty Missouri and
winner will pick up there after meeting the
required background check.

If the winner is from outside the area they will
have to get a dealer near you to take delivery of
the rifle and we'll have your prize shipped to
your dealer and you can complete the paperwork
there.

A limited number of tickets are being sold so
hurry and get yours. (See a Legion Post 95
member or contact us at the address on the top
front of this newsletter).

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The National Park Service is considering
limiting the items it collects at the Vietnam
Veterans Memorial. The agency said in a news
release 9 FEB that it will only keep items left at
the memorial that are personal artifacts of
soldiers whose names appear on the memorial;
Vietnam War military service items; and protest,
activism and advocacy materials related to the
war. Objects left at the wall with no direct
connection to a Vietnam veteran or the Vietnam
War will not be kept. The Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Collection includes more than 400,000
objects left at the memorial since its dedication in

1982. The National Park Service is accepting public
comment on the proposed changes.

Comments are accepted at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=70782>.

Hawaii this month became the eighth state to
find photos of all their Vietnam fallen. The
addition of Army Sgt. 1st Class Felicisimo Hugo
of Wahiawa now means all 277 fallen service
members from Hawaii have a photo on the
Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation's
Virtual Wall of Faces. The other states who have
submitted photos for all their Vietnam fallen are
Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North
Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.
More than 45,000 photos have been received, but
another 13,000 still need to be collected to
ensure there's a picture for every name inscribed
on The Wall. Learn more about the initiative and
how you can help at:

[http://www.vvmf.org/news/article=Hawaii-
Becomes-Eighth-State-To-Find-Photos-For-
Their-Fallen](http://www.vvmf.org/news/article=Hawaii-Becomes-Eighth-State-To-Find-Photos-For-Their-Fallen). Every photo collected will be
featured in VVMF's Virtual Wall of Faces
<http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces> and seen in
the future Education Center at The Wall
<http://www.vvmf.org/education-center>

NASA

When NASA started sending astronauts into
space, they quickly discovered that ball-point pens
would not work in zero gravity. To combat this
problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12
billion developing a pen that writes in zero gravity,
upside-down, on almost any surface including glass
and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to
over 300 C, the Russians used a pencil.

Your taxes are due again - enjoy paying them

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POW?MIA Table

Chick-fil-A, the same fast-food outlet has once again proved a positive to the world. This time it did so by unveiling an amazing Veterans Day tribute that left Georgia resident Eric Comfort in complete shock.

According to a Face book post he published on Mon, when he walked into a local Chick-fil-A, Comfort discovered a "Missing Man Table" that contained a single rose, a Bible & a folded American flag, as well as a plaque w/in which was the following explanation: "This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms.

The tablecloth is white — symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted — to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

The chair is empty — they are missing."

After the story went viral, the store manager, Alex Korchan, explained to WSB that his team members had set up the table because they "wanted to honor veterans."

Furthermore, he offered free meals to all veterans and their family members on Veterans Day. Korchan also put up a poster so that

customers could write in the names of loved ones who they have lost.

"We've had a lot of people who have come in and seen it and been touched by it," Korchan continued. "It's been special to see."

Federal Benefits and Local Community Resources for Veterans and Their Families

Sponsored By: Ann Roberts, Service Officer- (Dist. 4, Dept. of Missouri American Legion; Post 1974-Catholic War Veterans, Missouri, & in conjunction with other Veteran Organization in MO, & KS.

2115 Maturana Drive Liberty, MO 64068

Date: Saturday, June 11, 2016

Time: 9 am to 1:30 pm

Flag ceremony & American Legion Band accompaniment-9:30am

Location: 2115 Maturana Dr., Liberty, MO, (Our Lady of Mercy Country Home-Tighe Hall)

Come with your questions about your VA Benefits.

Representatives will be on site to support you with information and application for services through local, State and Federal agencies.

Spouses, families and loved ones of Veterans are encouraged to attend!

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Donations accepted to defray cost to VBF-2016. Send donations to Adjutant John Kopp, Post 61. On memo line: Veterans Benefit Fair-2016, Liberty, MO

Bailed Out And Shot At, This WWII Pilot Made A Historic Kill

One Of Those Stories For The Ages

It goes without saying but we'll do it anyway. World War II was the bloodiest conflict in the world, sending the most amount of soldiers to a fight which ended with the greatest civilian and military casualties ever recorded. That's saying a lot. There are a myriad of books written about this war in general, but since there were so many people involved, there are even more books written about their personal accounts. There are so many takes on this horrendous time in our history, but think about the small incidents too. There were probably hundreds of thousands of acts of heroism that we'll never hear about and maybe even more miracles that went unnoticed.

We're glad to say that we found one of those stories that include both. Owen John Baggett was born in 1920 in Graham, Texas. By 1941 he graduated from college and went on to work on Wall Street, but by the following year, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps (now USAF) when the United States entered the war.

A studious man, he graduated from pilot training in just five months and was sent to Burma, flying a B-24 Liberator. What happened

the following year is one of those stories we just described. On March 31st, 1943, Baggett and his squadron were sent on a mission to destroy a bridge of strategic importance. On their way, the B-24s got intercepted by Japanese Zeros which hit the squadron hard. Baggett's plane was riddled with bullets to such an extent that the crew was forced to bail out.

While parachuting, a Japanese pilot decided that downing the plane wasn't enough. He circled around and started shooting at the bailed out pilots, killing two of the crew. Seeing this, Baggett did the only thing he could. He played dead.

Not convinced Baggett was dead, the Zero pulled up to him at near stall speed, the pilot opening his canopy to check on his horrendous work. Not wasting any time and thinking on his feet (no pun intended), Baggett pulled out his pistol and shot the pilot right in the head. This is considered the best shot by a Caliber .45 M911 pistol of ALL TIME.

The last thing he saw was the Zero spiraling toward earth. When he landed, he and the other bailed out crew members were captured and sent to a POW camp where they remained till the end of the war. They were liberated by OSS agents (World War II version of the modern CIA) and Baggett was recognized as the only person during the war to shoot down a Zero with a pistol

Owen J Baggett became legendary as the only person to have downed a Japanese aircraft with a M1911 pistol hitting the pilot in the head while he was parachuting.

Quote

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. - Will Rogers

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SGT. Hopkins

My name is SGT Hopkins, grandson of Paul and Pat Ellison and a member of Post 95 . I am currently serving in the Army as a combat medic with 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. I recently had the distinct honor of attending Pathfinder school at the Sabalauski Air Assault School. Attending Pathfinder school had been one of my goals since joining the Army over five years ago. After three weeks of intensive testing 32 out of 40 students in my class, including myself, earned the coveted Pathfinder badge this past October.

Army Pathfinders are specialists in navigating their way through foreign terrain and establishing safe landing zones for Airborne and Air Assault Soldiers or Army aircraft. Many times they are asked to parachute into remote areas, navigate their way to unobstructed locations, and then relay those coordinates back to a command center.

The mission of the U.S. Army Pathfinder School is to provide a three week course in which we navigated while dismounted, established and operated a day/night helicopter landing zone, established and operated a day/night CARP, GMRS, and Army VIRS parachute drop zone, conducted sling load operations, provided air traffic control and navigational assistance to airborne operations. The final event was to participate in a 24 hour FTX as a member of a Pathfinder Team.

Overall, this was the most difficult school I have attended while in the Army. All the instructors held the highest standard and made me earn my badge. I had to spend countless hours

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Printers of our Newsletter

studying to ensure I would make it to graduation day. I am proud to be part of the 1 percent in the Army with the Pathfinder badge and am excited to use my newly learned skills.

First in, Last out!

Veterans Town Hall Meeting

Saturday April 16, 2016
 10:00 AM
 VVA 317
 3027 Walnut
 KXMO 64108

Learn about the health problems associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals, its effects on you and your offspring up to six generations and Vietnam Vet Hep-C journey; Hepatitis C Awareness.

Participants:

- Dr. Thomas Hall – Moderator
- Dr. Thom Berger, Director
 Veterans Health Council
- Christine Panek, Med Matr
- Mokie Porter, VVA National Office
- VVA National Agent Orange Committee
- VVA Chapter 317 Service Officers
- Veterans Administration Medical Center
- Focus Group of the VA Medical Center

For more information or questions, contact:
 VVA Chapter 317 at (816) 561-8387 or:
 Tommy Ponds at (816) 914-1862

Presented By:

- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Chapters 243 & 317
- VVA MO State Council

Quote

“To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.” – George Washington (1732-1799)

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A Veteran's Prayer

Author unknown

Dear Lord, I've served my country.
 My love for her is strong.
 I've stood behind "Old Glory"...
 When Others thought her wrong.

I've joined in celebration
 and raised a toast in cheer.
 I've pledged her my allegiance
 and sung her anthem dear.

I've wept for fallen comrades
 who proudly fought and died.
 The freedoms they defend...
 I cherish deep inside.

I'm proud I'm an American.
 For her strength and peace I pray.
 There is no greater country ...
 God Bless the USA!

FYI

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your doctor's office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night.

If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think

of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain.

It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that.

And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. Suggest to any elderly person that he/she carry their car keys with them in case they fall outside and can't be heard.... They can activate the car alarm and then people will know there's a problem.

Thank You

From the 509th Security Forces Squadron,
 Whiteman Air Force Base for donation of turkeys
 for Thanksgiving.

City Of Liberty Fire Fighters for a \$100 donation.
 Liberty Hospital Foundation for a \$100
 contribution that went to their Hospice Fund.

Liberty Community Christmas Tree for a \$100
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Ken Bohr - Agent

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The Alaska State Flag

More than 30 years before Alaska was to become a state, the Alaska Department of the American Legion sponsored a territorial contest for Alaska children in grades seven through twelve. A flag was needed to represent the future state of Alaska and somebody thought it would be a good idea to tap into the creativity of these kids.

Contest rules were circulated throughout the Alaska Territory in January, 1927. The rules stipulated that the first stage of the competition would take place at a local level. Each town would set up a panel of judges that would determine the ten best local designs and forward these to Juneau where the final competition would take place. A total of 142 designs were forwarded to Juneau.

Several interesting concepts were represented, and eventually rejected, in the submissions reviewed by the Juneau Flag Committee. All of these concepts were rejected as too specific to one or another certain aspect of the vast Alaska Territory. A couple of designs centered around Polar Bears. One design displayed a Polar Bear on an iceberg. Another had a Polar Bear balancing at the top of the globe. Others depicted imagery representing the fishing and mining industries of Alaska. About 1/3 of the entries centered on the territorial seal.

The winner of the contest was a seventh grade Aleut student, thirteen year old John Bell (Benny) Benson from Chignik. He was living in an orphanage in Seward, the Jesse Lee Mission Home, at the time of the contest.

He designed the present Alaska State Flag with a blue background to represent the sky and the Forget-me-not flower. On that background were placed eight gold stars to represent the Big Dipper and the North Star. The Big Dipper forms part of the constellation Ursa Major or Great Bear; symbolizing strength. The North Star represents the future state of Alaska, the most

northerly in the Union. Benny's simple, elegant design was adopted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature in May, 1927.

For his efforts, Benny received first prize, a gold watch that was engraved with his flag design. In addition, the Alaska Legislature awarded Benny \$1,000 toward a trip to Washington, D.C. to present the Alaska Flag to President Calvin Coolidge. Unfortunately, the trip to Washington never took place due to prior commitments of the President. Though Benny never made it to Washington, his territorial flag became the Official "State" Flag when Alaska joined the Union in 1959. The Alaska Legislature decided to apply Benny's award of \$1,000 to his education. Benny chose to study diesel mechanics.

In 1967, the state of Alaska adopted "North to the Future" as its Official State Motto linking its geographic position with the bright future prospects of the northernmost state.

In January 17, 2002, at the opening of the Alaska State Museums exhibit commemorating the 75th anniversary of the flag's adoption, Alaska Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmar paid tribute to Benny Benson.

"Benny Benson made a tremendous impact on Alaska history when he submitted his entry that featured the Big Dipper and the North Star. His story is a wonderful example of how one young person can really make a difference. The flag story continues to remind us of the importance of listening to the ideas and opinions of young people."

Benny's contribution has been honored by the city of Anchorage, where you could find yourself walking down Benson Boulevard and Kodiak, where you could find yourself walking down Benny Benson Drive. The Benny Benson Secondary School, in Anchorage, is a S.A.V.E. II school (Specialized Academic and Vocational Education), specializing in a Work-Study Educational Program for High School Students

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