

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



The Liberty  
Legionnaire  
2nd Quarter 2016  
Volume 1, Issue 28

We served our  
Country  
Still serving our  
Community

### Dates To Remember

- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 19 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
- July 27 - 40&8 6:00 PM
- July 28 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
- Aug 16 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
- Aug 24 - 40&8 6:00 PM
- Aug 25 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
- Aug 27 - Car & Bike Show @ Post 61 11:00 - 3:00 PM
- Sept 5 - Labor Day
- Sept 11 - Patriot Day
- Sept 20 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
- Sept 22 - Bingo @ Cedars 6:30 PM
- Sept 28 - 40&8 6:00 PM

### Birthdays

- July 7, LeRoy Coe
- July 21, Ray Creswell
- Sept 6, Stephanie Ebner

### JOHN GIBBS

John David Gibbs, 76, Liberty, MO., passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at the North Care Hospice House. John was born August 14, 1939, in Glasgow, MO. He proudly served in the United States Marines and belonged to American Legion Post #95 in Liberty, MO. He was also a member of Voiture Locale 1379 of the 40&8.

### "New Member"

Please welcome Jam pronounced "John" Tietjens to the post. He served in the Marines. Welcome and feel at ease to take part in our activities of your choosing.

### Membership

As of our June meeting we had 254 members paid up and our goal is 277 so we need to recruit new members if we are to meet our goal. We just lost another member since that count, John Gibbs.

### Independence Day

We Americans commemorate July 4<sup>th</sup> as our national birthday, and well we should! Yet we could just as easily celebrate July 3<sup>rd</sup>, for this is the day America had its new birth of freedom.

After two bloody years of civil war, two armies met for three awful days in 1863 in a little known town called Gettysburg. From July 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>, men in blue fought men in gray. When a low stone wall stopped Pickett's charge on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, neither side knew what had been achieved. Abraham Lincoln wished for a new birth of freedom, and to a degree, we've seen one. Yet few knew on that day that seeds were sown for yet another birth of freedom 75 years later.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1938, 1,900 Gettysburg survivors, all old and gray, met one final time. Time really had healed their wounds, resulting in forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. Political divisions were long forgotten as former enemies clasped hands across that same stone wall, not as Northerners or Southerners, but as Americans. Former foes, each "right" in their "cause," had become friends.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Gettysburg experience provide us collectively, and individually, with a timeless lesson: If we will reach across our stone walls that continue to divide us, then we too can experience a new birth of freedom. We hope you and your family have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### Thank You

Thank you rifle team for the gun salute May 26 at Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Your precision and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. The presentation of spent shells are safely resting on the American Flag presented to me.

Respectfully,  
Judith Bird

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**Commander's Corner**

Judi Samborski

Spring has sprung and now the heat of summer has arrived. Well, officially summer arrived June 20<sup>th</sup>. But nonetheless we have the high temperatures as a prelude of what's to come. Somehow that doesn't comfort me.

June 19<sup>th</sup> was Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers out there! Take him out for barbeque instead of getting him another tie. Or grill out his favorite steak. I know he will probably not want to give up his domain of the grill, but give it a try anyway.

Our Spaghetti Dinner on April 9<sup>th</sup> was a great success! A big thank you to Larry Allen for organizing the dinner. He and his minions did a great job cooking, as always. Thank you to everyone who helped out cooking, setting up, serving, taking money for the meal and the other tickets, making sure there was plenty of food to serve, and the cleanup. We ran out of food before 6:30. Everyone had a great time and we had fun giving out the door prizes and raffle prizes. Our Chili Dinner will be Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped put up the flags for the Avenue of Flags over the Memorial Day weekend. A huge Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 376 of Liberty for the help. Couldn't do it without you. Thanks to Robert Beatty, Jake Samborski, and Jerry Head for lending us their trucks for carrying the flags and pulling the trailer. Also Jerry Head for scheduling the Memorial Day nursing homes for our Color Guard program.

Once again this year there will be no 4<sup>th</sup> of July

parade in Liberty. However, we have been asked to provide a Color Guard, Honor Guard, and TAPS at the fireworks that evening. We will be doing that around 8:00 PM. Again Mike Edwards will need plenty of people for the team.

The annual American Legion Convention will be July 7-10. It is Kansas City this year! It will be at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Tiffany Springs; up near KCI. If you've never attended a Convention, now that it is in Kansas City, you might like to attend. Jim Elliott will have a table to sell the caps, pins, parachord bracelets, and lanyards. He will need help manning the table. Robert Emery will have a room at the hotel and he has graciously offered his room to store the caps and pins. We will also be raffling the Ruger 10-22 Takedown rifle as well. The drawing will be a noon on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> District will have a Hospitality Room as well; free food, snacks, and drinks of all kinds.

We have had our Officer Elections. That was during our June meeting, the 21<sup>st</sup>. The officers will be installed during our July meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. They are Commander: Judi Samborski, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Jim Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Jake Samborski, Finance Officer: Don Happy, Adjutant Robert Emery and JAG: Robert Beatty.

Last but not least, Thank You to every member of Post 95 for all of your work for the post. I'm not going to even mention membership. I'm sure you are just as tired of hearing about it as I am talking about it. Just a good job.

Please keep our men and women still serving our country in your prayers. Also those Veterans and members who are struggling.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

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### Chaplin's Corner

G. Ray Nichols, Chaplin

This is a quote from the book Spent Matches  
Page 77.

"The God of the Bible is meant to be related to and obeyed." We can understand things about God, but we are finite beings with limits to our understanding. As a result we fail to heed Paul's warning in Romans 12:2, Do not be conformed to this world. It is not just the acts of disobedience in the world he is addressing but also the systems of thinking that inform the ways of the world". May god bless American and all who defend our wonderful country.

Now on a personal note we have elections coming up in August and in November. GET OUT AND VOTE. I work these elections and it is so frustrating when so few people show up to vote. Personally I feel like if 80% of our citizens eligible to vote actually voted a lot of problems in this country would be solved.

### Poem

By Rich 'Boon' Preston

Gone are the days of rain and heat,  
chills, fatigue and rotting feet  
Days of thunder and swollen streams  
still never finding solace in our dreams  
Upon returning home we stood alone  
in a land where we felt we didn't belong  
And to this day we still feel the pain  
of that illness caused by orange rain  
We walked and crawled on poisoned ground  
absorbing a killer that never uttered a sound  
That demon mocked us and claimed our souls  
'with a devilish grin said  
welcome home'

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, (May 1966)

By Ray Nichols

Fifty years ago today I flew half way around the world coming home after spending nine months at Chu Lai, Vietnam.

At noon Friday the 13, 1966 we were on the tarmac at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan ready to make our final flight home on a Continental airlines jet. An Air Force personnel announced anyone afraid to fly on Friday 13th step out. No one stepped out everyone got on the plane. After we took off the nice little Continental flight attendant made an announcement; someone had made the nice flight attendant mad. The flight attendant said "I have permission to slap the s--- out of all of you; behave yourselves".

We had a box lunch to eat, and a soft drink. The plane landed at an airbase in Alaska around 3:00 in the morning to refuel. Everyone had to get off of the plane to stretch our legs, get a cup of coffee and a donut. Most of us smoked so the military did not want to take a chance of someone lighting up while they were refueling the plane.

At 7:00 A.M. or 5 hours earlier than we left Okinawa on Friday 13, 1966 our plane landed at El Toro Air Base in California. We were finally back in the good old USA.

I arrived at my sister's house in Gladstone Mo. at Midnight on Friday 13th to find no one home. Stan Hopper, a Gladstone Police officer & I took the door off the hinges in the basement so I could get in the house & go to bed.

### Quote

I'm an introvert in an extrovert's profession.  
~ Richard Milhous Nixon

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### An Interesting Piece of Forgotten U.S. History

When Jefferson saw there was no negotiating with Muslims, he formed what is now the Marines (sea going soldiers). These Marines were attached to U. S. Merchant vessels. When the Muslims attacked U.S. merchant vessels, they were repulsed by armed soldiers, but there is more.

The Marines followed the Muslims back to their villages and killed every man, woman, and child in the village. It didn't take long for the Muslims to leave U.S. Merchant vessels alone. English and French merchant vessels started running up our flag when entering the Mediterranean to secure safe travel.

Why the Marine Hymn Contains the Verse "... to the shores of Tripoli." This is very interesting and a must read piece of our history. It points out where we may be heading. Most Americans are unaware of the fact that over two hundred years ago, the United States had declared war on Islam and Thomas Jefferson led the charge!

At the height of the 18th century, Muslim pirates (the "Barbary Pirates") were the terror of the Mediterranean and a large area of the North Atlantic. They attacked every ship in sight and held the crews for exorbitant ransoms. Those taken hostage were subjected to barbaric treatment and wrote heart-breaking letters home, begging their government and family members to pay whatever their Mohammedan captors demanded.

These extortionists of the high seas represented the North African Islamic nations of Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers - collectively referred to as the Barbary Coast - and presented a

dangerous and unprovoked threat to the new American Republic..

Before the Revolutionary War, U.S. merchant ships had been under the protection of Great Britain. When the U.S. declared its independence and entered into war, the ships of the United States were protected by France. However, once the war was won, America had to protect its own fleets.

Thus, the birth of the U.S. Navy. Beginning in 1784, 17 years before he would become president, Thomas Jefferson became America's Minister to France. That same year, the U.S. Congress sought to appease its Muslim adversaries by following in the footsteps of European nations who paid bribes to the Barbary States rather than engaging them in war.

In July of 1785, Algerian pirates captured American ships, and the Dye of Algiers demanded an unheard-of ransom of \$60,000. It was a plain and simple case of extortion, and Thomas Jefferson was vehemently opposed to any further payments. Instead, he proposed to Congress the formation of a coalition of allied nations who together could force the Islamic states into peace. A disinterested Congress decided to pay the ransom.

In 1786, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams met with Tripoli's ambassador to Great Britain to ask by what right his nation attacked American ships and enslaved American citizens, and why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts.

The two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws

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of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran that all nations who would not acknowledge their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

Despite this stunning admission of premeditated violence on non-Muslim nations, as well as the objections of many notable American leaders, including George Washington, who warned that caving in was both wrong and would only further embolden the enemy, for the following fifteen years the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to over 20 percent of the United States government annual revenues in 1800.

Jefferson was disgusted. Shortly after his being sworn in as the third President of the United States in 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli sent him a note demanding the immediate payment of \$225,000 plus \$25,000 a year for every year forthcoming. That changed everything.

Jefferson let the Pasha know, in no uncertain terms, what he could do with his demand. The Pasha responded by cutting down the flagpole at the American consulate and declared war on the United States. Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers immediately followed suit. Jefferson, until now, had been against America raising a naval force for anything beyond coastal defense, but, having watched his nation be cowed by Islamic thuggery for long enough, decided that it was finally time to meet force with force.

He dispatched a squadron of frigates to the Mediterranean and taught the Muslim nations of the Barbary Coast a lesson he hoped they would never forget. Congress authorized Jefferson to empower U.S. ships to seize all vessels and goods of the Pasha of Tripoli and to "cause to be done all other acts of precaution or hostility as the state of war would justify".

When Algiers and Tunis, who were both accustomed to American cowardice and acquiescence, saw the newly independent United States had both the will and the right to strike back, they quickly abandoned their allegiance to Tripoli. The war with Tripoli lasted for four more years and raged up again in 1815. The bravery of the U.S. Marine Corps in these wars led to the line "...to the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Hymn, and they would forever be known as "leathernecks" for the leather collars of their uniforms, designed to prevent their heads from being cut off by the Muslim scimitars when boarding enemy ships.

Islam, and what its Barbary followers justified doing in the name of their prophet and their god, disturbed Jefferson quite deeply. America had a tradition of religious tolerance. In fact Jefferson, himself, had co-authored the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, but fundamentalist Islam was like no other religion the world had ever seen. A religion based on supremacy, whose holy book not only condoned but mandated violence against unbelievers, was unacceptable to him. His greatest fear was that someday this brand of Islam would return and pose an even greater threat to the United States.

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**Vet Gun Control Update 11**

[Source: The Hill | Tim Devaney | March 23, 2016]

257,000 Vets Not Allowed to Own Guns

The Obama administration is facing congressional scrutiny for blocking more than a quarter-million military veterans from owning guns. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reported more than 257,000 former members of the military who cannot manage their finances to the FBI's list of people who are not allowed to own guns, Republicans claim, even though "it has nothing to do with regulating firearms." "The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is effectively a national gun ban list and placement on the list precludes the ownership and possession of firearms," Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R Iowa) wrote in a recent letter to VA Secretary Robert McDonald. The VA is responsible for appointing a fiduciary to help veterans who it determines cannot manage their own finances, but the agency is also taking the additional step of reporting these veterans to the "mental defective" category of the FBI's background check system, even if they do not pose a danger to society, the senators allege. The senators called the practice "highly suspect" and said veterans' ability to manage their own finances is "totally unrelated" to whether they should be prohibited from owning a gun. "Under the current practice, a VA finding that concludes a veteran requires a fiduciary to administer benefit payments effectively voids his Second Amendment rights," the senators wrote. "At no time in the process does the VA determine a veteran to be a danger to himself or others, a key

determinant for whether someone is a 'mental defective,' precluding the right to own firearms," they added. In a separate letter to Senate appropriators, Grassley requested lawmakers block the VA from continuing this practice in the upcoming budget negotiations. Grassley also complained about the practice in another letter sent last year to the Justice Department. Republicans hope the congressional inquiries will pressure the VA to stop the practice. The VA noted in a statement to The Hill that it is legally required to report veterans who are "mentally incompetent" to the FBI, which then decides whether to prohibit these former soldiers from owning guns. "From time to time, media has reported that VA 'confiscates' veterans' firearms," a VA spokesman said in a statement. "This is simply not true. VA has no authority to confiscate or 'seize' anyone's firearms."

**Untitled**

By Mrs. Ed Jones

The Us Flag does not wave because the wind moves past it.

The U.S. Flag waves from the last breathe of each military member who died protecting it. U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen, both men and women

do not fight because they hate what is in front of them.

They fight because they love what is behind them.

**Quote**

A politician is a man who understands government, and it takes a politician to run a government. A statesman is a politician who's been dead for ten or fifteen years. ~ Harry S. Truman

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**USS The Sullivans History:**

USS *The Sullivans* was launched in San Francisco on 4 April 1943. The ship's namesake, the five Sullivan brothers, enlisted in the Navy and served together aboard the light cruiser USS *Juneau*. On 13 November 1942, while fighting off Guadalcanal, the five brothers died along with 700 other sailors when the USS *Juneau* was sunk by a Japanese submarine. President Roosevelt directed that one of the new Fletcher class destroyer, then under construction, be named after the five brothers. She was sponsored by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Sullivan. She is the first Navy destroyer ever named after more than one person.

The ship sported the shamrock of Ireland on her forward stack and sailed into WWII with 23 crewmembers named Sullivan. She fought in the Marshalls, Carolines, Marianas, and the Philippines, rescuing many survivors from downed planes and damaged or sinking ships. She never lost a man in battle.

*The Sullivans* also served in the Korean War, the Cuban Blockade, and assisted in the rescue efforts of the nuclear submarine *Thresher*. In 1977, *The Sullivans* arrived in Buffalo for display and was designated a national historic landmark in 1986. In 1997, *The Sullivans*, DD-537, passed her famous name and heritage on to a new *Arleigh Burke* class Aegis destroyer, USS The Sullivans, DDG-68.

**VA Health Study on Vietnam Veterans****IMPORTANT !!**

From Robert Emery

Between now and the end of 2016, the VA will be conducting a HEALTH STUDY of Vietnam Era

Veterans to include in-country veterans, Blue Water Navy veterans and other Era veterans. It is VERY IMPORTANT that any Blue Water Navy Veteran who receives a questionnaire from this Health Study to RESPOND. Questionnaires are sent to a random selection of each group.

The higher the rate of response, the clearer a picture the VA will get of the percentage and number of Blue Water Navy veterans that are sick from Agent Orange-related diseases! Because our general Blue Water Navy population is low, every response is important to paint this picture for them. PLEASE, if you receive a questionnaire, complete it and return it by the deadline date it states.

Yes, this Health Study is 40 years too late, and it may not ask all the "right" questions. But Blue Water Navy participation in this Study is CRITICAL. So please, sit through the grueling several minutes it will take to fill out the questionnaire and return it.

ALSO, please let me know if you received and returned a Health Study Questionnaire so I can get a general idea of what percentage of our membership received their mailed-out forms! Thank you all for your help with this.

**New Member**

Please welcome Troy Cooper to Post 95.

Troy transferred from WI Post 11. He served in the Army as a Commissioned Armor Officer and flew choppers.

His service was March 2, 1973 to May 1, 1978

You can contact him by his email address:

[Troy.GB@att.net](mailto:Troy.GB@att.net)

**Quote**

A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck. ~James Garfield

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**Half Boy – Half Man**

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155mm howitzer.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop, or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never

to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.

If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands.

He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be respectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except Our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot...

A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

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