

The Robert H. Baker
American Legion Post 95
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The Liberty
Legionnaire
1st Quarter 2017
Volume 1, Issue 30

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

Spaghetti Dinner

April 29, 2017

Get ready for Post 95's 13th annual Spaghetti Dinner. The menu includes all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, desert and drinks. The event will be held on April 29th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM @ Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, 2115 Maturana Drive, Tighe Hall, Liberty, MO.

Our Newsletter sponsors again have come up with some great door prizes. Raffle items include:

Military Logo Fire Pit

\$50 Hy-Vee 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 are \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 13 and under.

Proceeds go to American Legion Youth Programs.

Dates To Remember

April 26 – Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 – 8:00 PM
April 29 – Spaghetti Dinner 4:30 – 7:00 PM
May – 6 – Cap sales @ Sam's Club 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM
May 14 – Mother's Day
May 16 – Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
May 24 – 40&8 Mtg. @ Cameron – 6:00 PM
May 25 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 – 7:00 PM
May 27 thru 29 – Memorial Day Avenue of Flags @ Fairview/New Hope Cemetery – 6:00AM & 8:00 PM
May 29 – Rifle salute @ Fairview/ New Hope – 12:00 PM
May 29 – Program at 5 nursing homes starting 9:00 AM
June 11 – District Mtg @ Excelsior Springs – 1:00 PM
June 18 – Father's Day
June 20 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
June 22 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 – 8:00 PM
June 28 - 40&8 Mtg. – 6:00 PM
July 4 - Independence Day
July 18 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
July 26 - 40&8 Mtg. – 6:00 PM
July 27 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Birthdays

April 14, 19?? Ted Nelson
April 29, 1944 Ray Nichols
April 14, 1945 Larry Allen
May 13 Jim Roberts

Anniversaries

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



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Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski, Commander

Spring is here. March 20th was the first day of spring. And Daylight Savings Time started March 12th. Now just because the first day of spring has arrived, doesn't mean that we won't have any more snow or cold weather. Kansas City has had snow as late as May. Doesn't that sound cheery? Now is the time to get your spring emergency supplies ready; just in case.

Sunday, April 9, our Post will be hosting the 3rd District Meeting. The meeting will begin at 1400 with the meal afterwards. The Post will provide the meat, beverages, and rolls and everyone is asked to bring a very small side dish to share. I would really like to see a good showing of Post 95 members at that meeting. After all it's our post.

April 29, Saturday, is our Annual Spaghetti Dinner from 4:30 – to 7 pm, at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home, Tighe Hall. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 13 and under. It is all you can eat spaghetti and the fixings, and desert. This year we're raffling off a nice fire pit. Of course, there are door prizes. We have dinner and raffle tickets ready for purchase.

Please come by and enjoy great food and good company.

I'm not going to say much about membership. Jim Roberts and others have been doing a great job of calling our members and potential members. Thanks to everyone for helping with membership. And welcome to our new members.

Memorial Weekend is May 27 – 29. On Monday, May 29, the Post Color Guard will present a short program for the Veterans at the Liberty nursing homes.

The Missouri Department Conference will be July 13-16, in Jefferson City.

Please keep our members and their families in your thoughts and prayers who are having difficulties. Also for Active Duty men and women who are still in harm's way who are defending this great nation. And our Police Officers, Firefighters, and Emergency personnel.

God Bless America.

Quote

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves"
~ Abraham Lincoln

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Some of the activities/projects Post 95 does during the year are:

Missouri Boy's State sponsorship

Missouri Girl's State sponsorship

Missouri Cadet Patrol Sponsorship

Flag Etiquette classes in all elementary schools in Liberty, Kearney and Smithville.

Parades

Present Colors at events

Military Honors Funerals (approx 60 per year)

Flag disposal at Liberty Fall Festival

Avenue of flags at Fairview New Hope Cemetery (330 flags put out @ dawn and removed @ dusk for 3 day Memorial Day weekend)

Put out flags along route for 4th of JulyProvide Honor Guard, fire rifles and post Colors at 4th of July at city fireworks display

Preset Citizenship Awards to Junior High students in Liberty

Sponsor Legion Oratorical Contest for Clay County and members help with District 3 and Zone contests

Lead Pledge of Allegiance and greet students in Liberty Public Schools during Veterans Day week

Raise Flag on Veterans Day at Liberty High School for broadcast to

all Liberty Schools

Aid Veterans and families in need
Donate money to local charities and programs

Upon request conduct Flag Etiquette to Boy Scout groups and schools outside Liberty/Kearney

Monthly bingo at Cedars and provide prizes and refreshments

Memorial day ceremonies at 5 – 6 nursing homes

Fundraisers

Cap and pin sales in front of Sam's and HyVee (so far profit of \$6,277)

Annual spaghetti dinner

Annual chili dinner

All of these take volunteer participation to keep these going.**New Member**

Welcome to Cody Dowell – Retired US Army. Cody now is preaching at Northland Baptist Church and conducts protestant services at Our Lady of Mercy Country Home.

We are always looking for new members. Currently we have 244 members paid up and our goal is 277. If you know anyone you could talk to and get them to come to a meeting so we can sign them up if they are interested.

Quote

"I invented the Internet." ~ Al Gore

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WWI Declaration

On April 6, 1917, the United States Congress declared war upon the German Empire; on April 2, President Woodrow Wilson had asked a special joint session of Congress for this declaration.

Text of the declaration.

WHEREAS, The Imperial German Government has committed repeated acts of war against the people of the United States of America; therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government, which has thus been thrust upon the United States, is hereby formally declared; and that the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States.

The American entry into World War I came in April 1917, after two and a half years of efforts by President Woodrow Wilson to keep the United States neutral. Apart from an Anglophile element supporting the British, American public opinion went along with neutrality at first. The sentiment for neutrality was strong among Irish Americans, German Americans and Scandinavian Americans, as well as among church leaders and women. On the other hand, even before World War I broke out, American opinion toward Germany was already more

negative than it was toward any other country in Europe. The citizenry increasingly came to see the German Empire as the villain after news of atrocities in Belgium in 1914, and the sinking of the passenger liner RMS *Lusitania* in May 1915. Wilson made all the key decisions and kept the economy on a peacetime basis, while allowing banks to make large-scale loans to Britain and France. To preclude making any military threat, President Wilson made only minimal preparations for war and kept the United States Army on its small peacetime basis, despite increasing demands for preparedness. However, he did enlarge the United States Navy.

In early 1917, Germany decided to resume all-out submarine warfare on every commercial ship headed toward Britain, realizing that this decision would almost certainly mean war with the U.S. Germany also offered to help Mexico regain territories lost in the Mexican–American War in the Zimmermann Telegram. Publication of that offer outraged Americans just as German U-boats (submarines) started sinking American ships in the North Atlantic. Wilson asked Congress for "a war to end all wars" that would "make the world safe for democracy", and Congress voted to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917. On December 7, 1917, the U.S. declared war on Austria-Hungary.

United States insisted on maintaining the traditional rights of neutrals, protested strongly against violations by Britain and especially by Germany. The British seized American ships for supposed violations. The Germans sank them without warning, in violation of international law that said sailors must be allowed an opportunity to reach their lifeboats. After several violations,

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Germany promised never to sink again without warning but in the early 1917 decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare, without any warnings, in the hope that it would starve out the British before the Americans could make an effective military retaliation.

Submarines and blockades.

A critical indirect strategy used by both sides was the blockade. The British Royal Navy successfully stopped the shipment of most war supplies and food to Germany. Neutral American ships that tried to trade with Germany were seized or turned back by the Royal Navy who viewed such trade as in direct conflict with the Allies' war efforts. The strangulation came about very slowly, because Germany and the Central Powers (its allies) controlled extensive farmlands and raw materials. It was eventually successful because Germany and Austria-Hungary had decimated their agricultural production by taking so many farmers into their armies. By 1918, German cities were on the verge of starvation; the front-line soldiers were on short rations and were running out of essential supplies.

Germany also considered a blockade. "England wants to starve us", said Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, the man who built the German fleet and who remained a key advisor to the Kaiser Wilhelm II. "We can play the same game. We can bottle her up and destroy every ship that endeavors to break the blockade". Unable to challenge the more powerful Royal Navy on the surface, Tirpitz wanted to scare off merchant and passenger ships en route to Britain. He reasoned that since the island of Britain depended on imports of food, raw materials, and manufactured goods, scaring off a substantial number of the

ships would effectively undercut its long-term ability to maintain an army on the Western Front. While Germany had only nine long-range U-boats at the start of the war, it had ample shipyard capacity to build the hundreds needed. However, the United States demanded that Germany respect the international agreements upon "freedom of the seas", which protected neutral American ships on the high seas from seizure or sinking by either belligerent. Furthermore, Americans insisted that the drowning of innocent civilians was barbaric and grounds for a declaration of war. The British frequently violated America's neutral rights by seizing ships. Wilson's top advisor, Colonel Edward M. House commented that, "The British have gone as far as they possibly could in violating neutral rights, though they have done it in the most courteous way". When Wilson protested British violations of American neutrality, the British backed down.

German submarines torpedoed ships without warning, causing sailors and passengers to drown. Berlin explained that submarines were so vulnerable that they dared not surface near merchant ships that might be carrying guns and which were too small to rescue submarine crews. Britain armed most of its merchant ships with medium calibre guns that could sink a submarine, making above-water attacks too risky. In February 1915, the United States warned Germany about misuse of submarines. On April 22, the German Imperial Embassy warned US-Citizens from boarding vessels to Great Britain which would have to face German attack. On May 7, Germany torpedoed the British passenger

(See next Page)

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(Continued)

liner *RMS Lusitania*, sinking her. This act of aggression caused the loss of 1,198 civilian lives, including 128 Americans. The sinking of a large, unarmed passenger ship, combined with the previous atrocity stories from Belgium, shocked Americans and turned public opinion hostile to Germany, although not yet to the point of war. Wilson issued a warning to Germany that it would face "strict accountability" if it sank more neutral U.S. passenger ships. Berlin acquiesced, ordering its submarines to avoid passenger ships.

By January 1917, however, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg and General Erich Ludendorff decided that an unrestricted submarine blockade was the only way to break the stalemate on the Western Front. They demanded that Kaiser Wilhelm order unrestricted submarine warfare be resumed. Germany knew this decision meant war with the United States, but they gambled that they could win before America's potential strength could be mobilized. However, they overestimated how many ships they could sink and thus the extent Britain would be weakened. Finally, they did not foresee that convoys could and would be used to defeat their efforts. They believed that the United States was so weak militarily that it could not be a factor on the Western Front for more than a year. The civilian government in Berlin objected, but the Kaiser sided with his military.

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years old.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was

born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

Teacher: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Harold: A teacher.

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Chaplin's Corner

Robert Beatty, Chaplin

The Two Great Commandments Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is the like unto it; Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. Unto these two Commandments hangs all the law and the prophets

What do the 13 Folds of the American Flag Mean?

Reference: CollinsFlags.com

The first fold is a symbol of life

The second fold is for our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing rank, who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold stands for our weaker nature; as American citizens trusting in God, it's to Him we turn to in time of peace as well as war for his divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to America. In the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is where our where our heart lies. It's with our flag that we pledge allegiance

to the flag and the republic it stand for.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces. For it is the armed forces that protect our country and flag against enemies, whether they be domestic or foreign.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it is through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for He has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, which some consider the 13th fold; the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

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When the Music Stopped.

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins
(LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq)

(For those who are unaware: At all military base theaters, the National Anthem is played before the movie begins.)

I recently attended a showing of 'Superman 3' here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium that we use for movies as well as memorial services and other large gatherings.

As is the custom at all military bases, we stood to attention when *The National Anthem* began before the main feature.

All was going well until three-quarters of the way through *The National Anthem*, the music stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-to-22-year-olds back in the States? I imagine that there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments, and everyone would sit down and yell for the movie to begin. Of course, that is, only if they had stood for *The National Anthem* in the first place.

Here in Iraq, 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again, and the soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention.

Again, though, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect 1,000 soldiers standing at attention to do? Frankly, I expected some laughter, and everyone would eventually sit down and wait for the movie to start.

No!! . . . You could have heard a pin drop while every soldier continued to stand at attention.

Suddenly, there was a lone voice from the front of the auditorium, then a dozen voices, and soon the room was filled with the voices of a thousand soldiers, finishing where the recording left off:

"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

Post 95 On Facebook

Post 95 is now on facebook at facebook.com/ALPost95

Please go on and "like" us. It's just getting started but there will be information posted about upcoming events and Post information.

Thanks to Chris Vedder for creating this and future postings.

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