

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



The Liberty
Legionnaire
2nd Quarter 2017
Volume 1, Issue 31

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

Dates to Remember

July 27 - Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
Aug. 15 – Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
Aug. 23 – 40&8 - 6:00 PM
Aug. 24 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
Sept. 4 – Labor Day
Sept. 11 – Patriot Day (9/11)
Sept. 19 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
Sept. 27 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
Sept. 28 - Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
Oct. 9 – Columbus Day
Oct. 17 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
Oct. 25 - 40&8 - 6:00 PM
Oct. 26 - Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM
Oct. 28 – Shotgun Raffle Drawing

Birthdays

July 7, 1937 LeRoy Coe
July 21, 1943 Ray Creswell
August 23, 1931 Vern Maddox
September 3, 1941 Jerry Pate
September 6, 196? Stephanie Ebner

Anniversaries

July 10, 1965 John & Joan Gibbs
July 11, 1957 Ted & Ruth Nelson
August 11, 1967 Larry & Mitsuko Allen

Sickness

Ira Hunter is back home and undergoing treatment for lung cancer. Keep him in your prayers. Ira is 93 years old and is one of our long time members as well as a VFW member.

Deaths

Ed Schmidt, a member of the Cameron Post, passed away July 16 in the Cameron Veterans Home. He was active in the Oratorical Contest as well as the 40&8.

Veteran Appreciation at Sam's Club




Ray said it brought back old memories of when he was in Viet Nam.

Post 95 presented the colors to open the morning that also featured a free breakfast and talks by veterans groups. This has become an annual event at Sam's Club to show support for veterans.

Night Witches

Night witches – Female Russian bombers who bombed Germany during WWII. They had old, noisy planes and the engines used to conk out halfway through their missions, so they had to climb out on the wings mid-flight to restart the props. To stop Germans from hearing them and starting up the anti-aircraft guns, they'd climb to a certain height, coast down to German positions, drop their bombs, restart their engines in midair and get the hell out of Dodge. Their leader flew 200+ missions and was never captured.

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Commander's Corner

Judi Samborski, Commander

Hello, All! Summer is here; well almost here. The official first day of summer is June 21st. However, it already feels like it outside.

Today was the elections for the 3rd District. Here are the results: R.E. Holtz, Commander; Calvin Bumgarner, 1st Vice Commander; Douglas Millison, 2nd Vice Commander; Adjutant Robert Emery; Finance Officer, Judi Samborski; Chaplain, John Kopp; Sergeant-At-Arms, Jake Samborski; and Service Officer, Ann Roberts. Congratulations to the 3rd District Officers.

On June 20 we will our Post elections. So this will be my last Commander's Corner. It has been a memorable five years as your Post Commander. When I was first elected Commander, I was a bit apprehensive as how to be your Commander. I remember that first meeting after being sworn in. I followed Jerry Head as Commander. I remember seeing him as he sat down after I officially became Commander. Jerry had the biggest grin on his face. I think it's still there. I've been truly blessed to have a number of former Commanders, Post officer, and members I could turn to for advice. Don Happy and Ray Nichols once gave me some great advice. The Post pretty much runs itself. Just let them do their thing and everything will be fine. And they were right. It's still true.

As I look back on the last five years, I recall all of the good times and the not so good times. The new members and the ones that have transferred to Post Everlasting. Every now and again I find myself looking around for one of our members who have

died, and it saddens me that I'll never see them again. But we've also had some great new members who have stepped up and became an intricate part of our Post. Our Post is a great one and we do good work in and for the community.

As I pass on the gavel to our next Commander, I'd like to impart a bit of advice: The Post pretty much runs itself. Just let them do their thing and everything will be fine. It was great advice then and it's still good advice now. And don't be afraid to ask for help or advice.

The following persons are up for election. Robert Beatty, Commander; Jim Elliot, 1st Vice Commander, Jim Roberts, 2nd Vice Commander, and Don Happy, Finance Officer. The following positions are picked by the new Commander; Adjutant (that is Robert Emery), Chaplain, and Sergeant-At-Arms. There are other positions that are either elected or assigned. If you are interested in any positions, just let the nominating committee know either before or at our June meeting.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone in our Post for your help, advice, and support. Keep up the great work you've done over the years. And a very special thanks to my husband Jake for his love and support.

Keep our country's men and women in uniform, veterans, and our post members and their loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Also those who are suffering in your prayers.

God Bless America.

Ponder This

There are times when my greatest accomplishment is just keeping my mouth shut.

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From Sam Lenord

General Petraeus About Our Military Today –

Thanks to my fellow veterans: I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class. She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer. I was going to get that opportunity. That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following: "David, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead." I could easily write a theme defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that USMA is an elite institution, that it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get admitted to college, that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't. What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending West Point is going to be bad for his future, then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing.

In World War II, 11.2% of the nation served in four (4) years. During the Vietnam era, 4.3% served in twelve (12) years. Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror. These are unbelievable statistics. Over time, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse. Our troops were sent to war in Iraq by a Congress consisting of 10% veterans with only one person having a child in the military. Taxes did not increase to pay for the war. War bonds were not sold. Gas was not regulated. In

fact, the average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing, unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts. The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans and their families. The volunteers. The people who swore an oath to defend this nation. You stand there, deployment after deployment and fight on. You've lost relationships, spent years of your lives in extreme conditions, years apart from kids you'll never get back, and beaten your body in a way that even professional athletes don't understand. Then you come home to a nation that doesn't understand. They don't understand suffering. They don't understand sacrifice. They don't understand why we fight for them.

They don't understand that bad people exist. They look at you like you're a machine - like something is wrong with you. You are the misguided one -- not them. When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they gathered from books, because of your bias. You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that. Your congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more. But the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up.

You know that the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them. Hell, you know that in some circles, you will be thought as less than normal for having worn the uniform. But you do it anyway. You do what the greatest men and women of this country have done since 1775. YOU SERVED. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group. "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." --Winston Churchill. Thank you to the 11.2% and 4.3% who have served and thanks to the 0.45% who continue to serve our Nation.

General David Petraeus, West Point Class 1974

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New Medal of Honor Recipient

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- The White House announced today that on July 31, President Donald Trump will present the Medal of Honor to Spc. 5 James C. McCloughan for his actions on 13-15 May 1969 in Vietnam.

McCloughan's valorous actions occurred during 48 hours of intense fighting against enemy forces on Nui Yon Hill near Tam Kỳ, South Vietnam, May 13 to 15, 1969. The combat medic was serving with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division.

A private first class at the time, McCloughan voluntarily risked his life to rescue wounded and disoriented personnel. Despite being personally wounded by shrapnel and small-arms fire, McCloughan refused medical evacuation. Instead, he opted to stay with his unit, where he continued to brave enemy fire so that he could rescue, treat and defend his wounded comrades.

While moving the wounded onto medical evacuation helicopters, his platoon leader ordered him to join them. But he said he disobeyed the order, telling the lieutenant, "You're going to need me."

The next day, elements of his battalion were getting probed by the North Vietnamese army. His own platoon had stood down and was recovering in the

relatively quiet sector of Landing Zone Center, also in the vicinity of Tam Kỳ. McCloughan joined another platoon for a scouting mission. The platoon was ambushed and the other platoon medic was killed, leaving McCloughan as the sole medical specialist in the company.

Through intense battle, McCloughan was wounded a second time by small arms fire and shrapnel from a rocket propelled grenade while rendering aid to two Soldiers in an open rice paddy. In the final phases of the attack, two companies from the NVA and an element of 700 soldiers from a Viet Cong regiment descended upon Company C's position on three sides. McCloughan, again with complete disregard for this life, went into the crossfire numerous times throughout the battle to extract wounded Soldiers, while also fighting the enemy.

In the early morning of May 15, McCloughan knocked out an RPG position with a grenade. He continued to fight, treat casualties and eliminate enemy soldiers until he collapsed from dehydration and exhaustion.

During the battle, 17 men were lost to enemy fire and many more were wounded, he said. Over the 48-hour battle McCloughan risked his life on nine separate occasions and is credited with saving the lives of 10 members of his company.

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McCloughan admitted that during the intense battle, it was surreal to be shooting at the enemy one moment and treating wounded North Vietnamese soldiers, as well as American Soldiers, the next.

McCloughan said that he never had his sights set on being in the military, much less becoming a hero. But when his country called him to serve, he said he willingly answered that call and later did what he had to do to save lives on the field of battle.

McCloughan graduated in June 1968 from Olivet College in Michigan, with a degree in sociology and a teaching certificate. He received an offer to teach and coach football at South Haven High School in South Haven, Michigan -- the town where he was born. It was his dream job, he said.

A short time later, he received a draft notice. He entered the Army, Aug. 29, 1968. His teaching and coaching plans were put on hold while he served his two-year enlistment.

In 1970, he returned home and was re-accepted at South Haven High School, where for 40 years he taught psychology, sociology and geography. He also coached football, wrestling, and baseball.

McCloughan was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Michigan High School Football Association Coaches Hall of Fame, the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches

Association

Now 71 and retired, McCloughan said that during his time teaching and coaching, he never talked about his Vietnam experiences. He said many of those experiences were very painful and he has only recently opened up about them.

Aqua-Thermal

I called an old school friend and asked what he was doing.

He replied that he is working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed.

Upon further questioning, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water, under his wife's supervision.

Killing Flies

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she ask.

"Hunting flies," he replied.

"Oh! Killing any?" she ask.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Quote

W.C. Fields said it best. "It was a woman who drove me to drink and I never had a chance to thank her."

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District 3 Officers for 2017 – 2018

Commander R.E. Holtz
1st Vice Commander - Calvin Bumgarner
2nd Vice Commander – Douglas Millison
Adjutant – Robert Emery
Finance – Judi Samborski
Chaplin – John F. Kopp
Service Officer – Ann Roberts
Sergeant at Arms Jake Samborski
3rd District Adjutant Robert Emery read the list of 3rd District Chairmen and asked for volunteers.
R, E. Holtz – Americanism, Baseball, Boys State
Robert Emery – Boy Scouts
Calvin Bumgarner – Cadet Patrol, Membership
Douglas Millison - Membership
Ann Roberts – Children and Youth,
Homeless Veterans, VA&R
Ron McBee – Oratorical
National Security – Jake Samborski

Memorial Day Program Honors Those

Who Have Fallen

By: Megan Sabin

It was a blustery day on Monday, May 29, 2017, but that did not stop people from attending the Annual Memorial Day Program, which was held by the Veterans Memorial in The Ramsen cemeteries. This 10 AM program was sponsored by the

American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

To start the program, Bob Gengler read “Hymn to the Departed Veterans” which is as follows: “You fought in air, on land, and sea. You fought our fight for liberty, In battles lost and battles won. Your courage shinning as the sun. Your inspiration and your pow’r Sustained us through our shining hour. You were our strength through weary days Of conflicts long in every phase. Old friends and new are gathered here to say, “Good Bye” to someone dear. Another comrade passed away. We wish him God Speed on his way. Your tour of duty at an end, As we say, “Thank you,” Comrade, Friend. To other worlds you now may soar, Meet other comrades gone before. Our prayers are with you in our guest. God grand you now eternal rest.

Amen, Amen

New Officers

Commander Robert Beatty
Vice Commander Jim Elliott
Vice Commander Jim Roberts
Finance Officer Donald Happy
Adjutant Robert C Emery
Sgt-at-Arms Jake Samborski
Chaplain G. Ray Nichols

All nominees were elected via voice vote. Post 95 Commander Judi Samborski reported that the new slate of officers would be installed during July Post 95 meeting.

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Chaplains Corner

Robert Beatty, Post Chaplain

My peace is such an all encompassing gift that it is independent of all circumstances. Though you lose everything else if you GAIN my PEACE you are rich indeed. † ✨

Martin Treptow's Pledge

Donald R. McClarey

Martin August Treptow was a barber from Cherokee, Iowa. Enlisting in the National Guard, during World War I his unit was called up and Treptow found himself in the 168th Infantry, part of the 42nd Division, called the Rainbow Division by Major Douglas MacArthur, who would rise during the War to eventually command the division, because it consisted of National Guard units that stretched across the country like a rainbow.

July 30th, 1918 was a hard day for the division. Participating in the Second Battle of the Marne which stopped the last major German offensive of the War and saved Paris from capture, the division was attempting to take Hill 212 on La Croix Rouge Farm and incurring heavy casualties. A message from Treptow's unit needed to be taken to another platoon. Private Treptow did not hesitate, but grabbed the message and ran off with it. As he neared the platoon leader to deliver the message, Treptow was cut down by a burst of German fire. He was twenty-five

years old. Sergeant Joyce Kilmer was killed on the same day, in the same battle, a little bit later. As his personal effects were being gathered up, this was found on the flyleaf of the diary he kept:

America must win this war. I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.

Memorial Day Events

Commander Judi Samborski – U.S. Air Force

I'd like to thank the following Post 95 members who participated in the Veterans Salute at the Liberty nursing homes and for providing the Honor Guard at the Fairview/New Hope Memorial ceremony at noon on Memorial Day: Mike Edwards – U.S. Navy, Ray Nichols – U.S. Marine Corp, Don Happy – U.S. Army, Jake Samborski – U.S. Air Force, Jerry Head – U.S. Army, Larry Allen – U.S. Air Force, Paul Ellison – U.S. Army and Jim Roberts – U.S. Navy (Rifle Team)

A special thanks to Jerry Head for setting up the schedule for the nursing homes.

Thanks again for your valuable time on Monday, May 29, 2017.

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THE PLEDGE OF PRIVATE TREPTOW

By RICHARD HALLORAN, Special to the New York Times

Published: January 21, 1981

Martin A. Treptow, a young and obscure American private killed in France in World War I, was written into American history books by President Reagan today because of a letter Mr. Reagan received from an unidentified admirer.

Toward the end of his Inaugural Address, President Reagan spoke of monuments to heroism and, with a struggle to control his voice, drew attention to "the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with its row upon row of simple white markers."

"Under such a marker lies a young man, Martin Treptow, who left his job in a small-town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division," Mr. Reagan said.

After Pvt. Treptow was killed, a diary was found in which he had inscribed the following pledge: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone." Recalling Message of Letter

White House officials said that Mr. Reagan, wanting a passage for the address to illuminate his point of heroism, recalled the letter he had received earlier with the reference to Pvt. Treptow.

Mr. Reagan's speech writers dug many of the facts about Pvt. Treptow out of the National Archives here and spent a day looking for his grave in Arlington, across the Potomac river.

Officials at the cemetery, however, said that Pvt. Treptow was buried in Bloomington, Wis. Further checking by researchers of The New York Times determined that he was buried in Bloomer, Wis., a small town in the northwestern part of the state. White House officials said Mr. Reagan did not mean to imply that the soldier was buried in Arlington.

While President Reagan may have turned Pvt. Treptow into a national hero, he was not entirely unknown before today. The American Legion posts in Bloomer, Wis., and Cherokee, Iowa, were named for him. Moreover, it appears that the pledge cited by Mr. Reagan may have been used before by President Wilson and by former Senator Guy Gillette, Democrat of Iowa.

Pvt. Treptow was born January 19, 1894, in Chippewa Falls, Wis., near Bloomer, where he grew up. He was working as a barber in Cherokee, Iowa, when the United States entered the war in 1917.

There he enlisted in the Iowa National Guard, which became the 168th Infantry Regiment, 84th Brigade, in the 42d "Rainbow" Division when it was called to Federal service.

Pvt. Treptow was killed while serving as a runner, or courier, for Company M in the battle of the Ourcq River on July 29, 1918.

Youngest

In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy. His real age was not discovered until after he was wounded. (Unbelievable)

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