

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



The Liberty
Legionnaire
4th Quarter 2017
Volume 1, Issue 31

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

Christmas Dinner

Post 95 is having their Christmas dinner for members and their family on December 19, 2017. We will eat at 6:30 PM. This is our regular meeting night and there may be a very short meeting after.

It is requested you bring a covered dish; the Post is providing the meat and rolls.

Join us for a fine dinner and some friendly conversations.

Dates To Remember

Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (flags half staff)
Dec. 11 - County Oratorical Contest @ Liberty North HS - 7:00 Pm
Dec. 16 - Wreaths Across America - 12:00 @ Fairview/New Hope cemetery
Dec, 19, - Post Christmas Dinner - 6:30 PM
Dec, 21 - First day of winter
Dec 25 - Christmas Day
Dec. 28 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 PM
Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
Jan. 11 - Dist. Mtg. @ Post 216 Bethany, MO. (32932 W. Hwy 13) Eat @2:00, Mtg. 3:00 PM Bring covered dish
Jan. 16 - Legion Mtg. 7:00 PM
Jan. 22 - Dist. Oratorical Contest

Jan. 24 - 40&8 Mtg. @ 6:30 PM
Jan. 25 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 PM
Feb. 5 - Zone Oratorical Contest
Feb. 12 - Lincoln's birthday
Feb. 17 - State Oratorical Contest
Feb. 19 - President's Day
Feb. 20 - Washington's birthday
Feb. 20 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
Feb. 22 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 PM
Feb. 28 - 40&8 Mtg. @ 6:00 PM
Mar. 11 - Dist. Mtg. @ Post 61 KC, MO. (505 N. Bellaire) Eat @2:00, Mtg. 3:00 PM Bring covered dish
Mar. 11 - Daylight savings begins
Mar. 17 - St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 20 - Legion Mtg. - 7:00 PM
Mar. 22 - Bingo @ Cedars - 6:30 PM
Mar. 28 - 40&8 Mtg. @ 6:00 PM
Mar. 30 - Good Friday

Birthdays

January 11, 19?? Judi Samborski
January 11, 1932 Glenn Edwards
January 26, 1928 Gene Welch
January 30, 1847 Jim Elliott
January 31, 1933 Paul Ellison
December 11, 1922 Ray Merrell

Anniversaries

November 15, 1969 Jim Roberts
November 28, 1959 Gene Welch
January 22, 1983 Frank Henderson



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Laser Weapons System

The U.S. Navy recently tested the world's first-ever active laser weapons system, which is now deployed and ready for war.

The Laser Weapons System, or LaWS, is now deployed aboard the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship, where CNN was able to witness the system destroy a drone in flight and moving targets on the Persian Gulf.

The system has special materials that release photons, and, at the speed of light, it silently hits an object, burning it to a temperature of thousands of degrees. Each strike travels 50,000 times the speed of an incoming ICBM.

In one test, a drone's wing caught fire after being hit by the LaWS, leading it to crash into the sea.

"We don't worry about wind, we don't worry about range, we don't worry about anything else. We're able to engage the targets at the speed of light," Lt. Cale Hughes, a laser weapons system officer, told CNN.

"We're doing that engagement at the speed of light so it really is a point and shoot—we see it, we focus on it, and we can negate that target," he added.

Its cost per use is also quite impressive for such a revolutionary new weapon: approximately \$1 per shot. The \$40 million system requires electrical power and a three-man team.

The LaWS is also extremely accurate. The system can target a single component of an enemy target, such as a boat's engine, and make it catch

fire so that the entire vessel does not have to be destroyed and the Navy can avoid collateral damage.

"I can aim that at any particular spot on a target, and disable and destroy as necessary," said Christopher Wells, captain of the USS Ponce. "It reduces collateral damage—I no longer have to worry about rounds that may go beyond the target and potentially hurt or damage things that I don't want to hurt or damage."

The system, whose strikes are silent and invisible, is currently active at sea, ready on the USS Ponce for an enemy. It is primarily intended to take on drones, aircraft, and small vessels that could be used in an attack from countries such as Iran and North Korea.

One of the weapon's biggest strengths is its versatility.

"It's not a niche weapon system like some other weapons that we have throughout the military where it's only good against air contacts, or it's only good against surface targets, or it's only good against, you know, ground-based targets," Wells said. "In this case this is a very versatile weapon; it can be used against a variety of targets."

A second generation LaWS system is currently in development, CNN reported. The newer system is believed to be intended to take on faster targets such as incoming missiles.

Quote

"The more I know about people, the more I like my dog." – Mark Twain

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Chaplin's Corner

G. Ray Nichols, Chaplin Post 95

Now we have a second mass shooting in a short period of time. How terrible to be at an event enjoying life and a tragedy ends the enjoyment. The primary problem - automatic weapons made for war are now sold to the public, why? The reason may relate back to President Eisenhower's last speech; "Beware the military Industrial Complex". Are we to think money is more important than people's lives? Automatic weapons that fire hundreds of bullets should not be sold to the public. Our Washington Leadership has to wake up and STOP the sale of automatic weapons, and any other weapons of mass destruction. From Joshua in the bible this quote; "I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction". Automatic weapons are devoted to destruction.

God Bless our wonderful Country & God please keep us safe.

Sickness

Sam Leonard fell and broke his hip. He is in the rehab center now, walking with a walker and progressing well.

LeRoy Coe is at home and appreciates visitors for short visits.

Ray Merrell is at home and doesn't get out much but is doing well and enjoys visits. Ray will be 95 years old December 11.

New Member

Matt Nash joined Post 91 Nov. 11, 2017. Matt served in the US Coast Guard in Pennsylvania and New Orleans, Louisiana. Welcome Matt.

10 Things You Didn't Know About Christmas

Submitted by - Judi Samborki

1. From 1659 to 1681 showing your Christmas spirit in Boston was illegal. Cost: 5 shillings.
2. The Bible doesn't give the actual date of Jesus' birth. In the 4th Century, Pope Julius I chose December 25 for the official date.
3. WWI had only been going on for 5 months then on Christmas Eve the troops took a break to sing Christmas carols across the battlefield to one another. On Christmas Day, the Germans wished the Allied troops "Merry Christmas" in English. It wasn't a trick. Soon the troops came out to greet each other; some exchanged cigarettes as gifts. It was later dubbed the Christmas Truce of 1914.
4. In 1819, NY native Washington Irving wrote a series of short stories in which he described, in a dream, St. Nicholas as he flew across the sky in a weightless wagon. The book was called "The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon". It was very popular. Some say it inspired Charles Dickens to write "A Christmas Carol".
5. Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer started out as an advertising gimmick. In 1939 Robert L. May created the merry misfit to entice shoppers into the Montgomery Ward store.
6. In 1965 2 astronauts spotted something in space they couldn't identify. They frantically radioed Mission Control. After a few tense minutes of silence, Cape

(Continued next page)

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Canaverall faintly heard the jingle of sleigh bells then a harmonica playing "Jingle Bells"; it was the 2 astronauts.

7. According to Celtic (Irish) and Teutonic (German) legends mistletoe is magical.

8. Before Christianity, Germans decorated evergreen trees to ward off the grey days of winter. The first Christmas trees were in Strasbourg in the 17th Century.

9. The first living Nativity was in 1224. St. Francis Assisi recreated the birth of Jesus.

10. Christmas varies from culture to culture. The Finns visit saunas on Christmas Eve. The Portuguese hold a feast on Christmas Day for both the living and the dead; extra settings are set at the table for the souls of the deceased. In Greece some believe goblins run wild during the 12 days of Christmas. Australia and New Zealand enjoy Christmas on the beach (it's summer down under). Spain hosts the world's largest lottery.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Post 95 Happenings

Judi Samborski

Hello, All. This year sure has gone by fast. Seems like we jumped from Spring to Summer and now Winter; with a brief pit stop in Fall. The calendar says it's still Fall but we've had some pretty cold days and nights lately. As long as it doesn't snow I'm ok.

October 28th, Post 95 had our annual Chili Dinner. We had a good crowd of people come by, so many we had to set up five more tables with chair to accommodate everyone. There were some really good door prizes and raffle prizes. We also had a raffle for a shotgun. Everyone had

a good time. A very special thanks to Larry Allen who did an excellent job organizing the event. But he didn't do it alone. A lot of Post 95 members stepped up and helped make it work. And other thanks goes to Robert Emery who worked his magic on the computer to design the posters and the tickets for both the Chili Dinner and the shotgun raffle. (He also baked the delicious cakes for the dinner.) Our next fundraiser will this Spring when we have our annual Spaghetti Dinner; date to be announced later. By the way, the chili was delicious.

Hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween.

This time of year is a pretty busy time for our Post with Flag Etiquette classes for 4th grade students at the various elementary schools in Liberty and Kearney. Mike Edwards is in charge of scheduling these classes as well as the presentation. He does an excellent job.

Another event was Veteran's Day in November. This year since the 11th was on a Saturday, the city of Liberty scheduled the Veterans Program on Friday, November 10th at noon. One of the honorees was Jerry Head from American Legion Post 95, who was a Vietnam Veteran. Our Post provided the 21 Gun Salute this year and there was an echo TAPS. Thank you, Jerry, for your service and all that you do for our Post.

Then it was Thanksgiving, the official beginning of the Holiday Season. That is *after* the Plaza Lights have been turned on Thanksgiving evening. Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Post's annual Christmas party will be December 19th at 6:30 pm (that's 1830 for the military). The Post will provide the meat and rolls. Everyone is encouraged to bring a very

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small side dish to share.

We lost some members this year. One was Ira Hunter a World War II veteran. Ira part of D-Day and had earned, among various metals, five Bronze Stars. He will be greatly missed.

Everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

You Shall not be Forgotten

By Louie J. Dalfino

-I was taken away, from my family and home

-Dropped in a jungle, and left there alone

-Here there is only war, in this place called NAM

-They train you to be merciless, and kill for Uncle Sam

-In the daytime I fight, in the nighttime I cry

-I just want to go home, this is no place to die

-Please tell my wife I love her, let her think that I'm alright

-Don't tell her of all the death here and how scared I am at night

-Those who went back home, say it's worse than being here

-They are cursed at and spit upon, forever leaving with tear

-Why are we treated this way, we never wanted to go

-I wish you were one of the chosen, then our pain you would know

-Oh the pain of hearing the screaming, the shooting, and the bombs

-I can still see their faces, my dying "brother in arms"

-The life I once knew is gone, I shall never again be whole

-My innocence is lost forever, please God just take my soul

-God replied: NO MY SON, ALTHOUGH YOU WERE CAST ASIDE, TREATED MALICIOUSLY AND ROTTEN HOLD YOUR HEAD

UP HIGH, THERE ARE STILL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN

-So do your dirty worst, and just try to cast me aside

-You may have taken away my innocence, but not my honor and pride

-Now I realize I stood tall for something, words like sacrifice, duty and honor

-I'm what makes this country great, and proud would be our Forefathers

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"POW-MIA TABLE SETTING"

AKA The Missing Man Table

The **small table** is set for one, representing the frailty of one prisoner, alone against his or her suppressors. **Let us not forget.**

The table is usually set close to, or within sight of, the entrance to the dining room. **Let us not forget.**

The **table is round** showing our everlasting concern for our POW/MIA's. **Let us not forget.**

The **cloth is white** symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. **Let us not forget.**

The **single red rose** signifying the blood they may have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of American. This rose, reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, while awaiting their return. **Let us not forget.**

The **yellow ribbon** stands for the yellow ribbons worn on the lapels of the thousands who demand with unyielding determination a

proper accounting of our comrades who are not among us tonight. **Let us not forget.**

A **slice of lemon** reminding us of the bitter fate of those missing, captured and held as prisoners in foreign lands. **Let us not forget.**

A **pinch of salt** denotes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty. **Let us not forget.**

The **Holy Bible** represents the strength gained through faith in our country, founded as one nation under God, to sustain those lost from our midst. **Let us not forget.**

The **lighted candle** reflects the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation. **Let us not forget.**

The **glass is inverted** symbolizing their inability to share this evening's toast. **Let us not forget.**

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices. May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.

Smile

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing.

If I HAD loose fitting clothing I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

When I was young we used to go 'skinny dipping.' Now I just 'chunky dunk.'

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SPECIALIST 5 JERRY D, HEAD

Jerry Head enlisted in the US Army for three years, in December 1961. He received his basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado and his Advanced Army Administration Course at Ft. Ord, California. Upon completion of his training he was transferred to 'MAAG' (Military Assistance Advisory Group), Saigon, Vietnam. He was assigned as Admin Clerk to the 57th Transportation Co [Lt Hel), Ton Son Nhut, Vietnam.

The 57th was the first Helicopter Company to arrive in Vietnam. Their Mission: Provide assistance and transportation for South Vietnam Troops in and out of battlefields and medical evacuations.

His unit received the Presidential Unit Citation from President John F. Kennedy.

After the loss of seven men on f an. LL, L963 Specialist Head volunteered to be a door gunner on a CH-21 Helicopter and flew several missions before returning home. For

his remaining 19 months of service he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; with one special assignment with 3rd Army Intelligence and Security in June of 1963 when Alabama Governor George Wallace desegregated University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. He was still on active duty at Ft Campbell when President Kennedy was assassinated, November 22, 1963.

Jerry received an Honorable Discharge; with awards and citations; Permanent Rank Specialist 5 (E-5), Army Air Medal, Two Army Commendation Medals w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Vietnam Service Medal.

Jerry continues to serve as a lifetime member in both; the Liberty VFW Post 4043 and Robert H Baker American Legion Post 95, Color Guard and Honor Guard teams for Events and Military Funerals and participates in Flag Etiquette Classes at all Clay County Elementary Schools.

Jerry was honored with a proclamation from the mayor of Liberty during the November 10, 2017 Veterans Appreciation Celebration at the Liberty Community Center.

As I Get Older

I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.

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Historic Dates

Dec. 2, 1941 – Japan order to bomb Pearl Harbor
Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Day (flags half staff)
Dec. 8, 1941 – War declared on Japan
Dec. 13, 1941 – Hungary & Bulgaria declare war on U.S.
Dec. 15, 1791 – Bill of Rights enacted
Dec. 16, 1944 – Battle of the Bulge begins
Dec. 16, 1950 – U.S. Jets enter Korea
Dec. 23, 1941 - U.S. troops surrender Wake Island
Dec. 23, 1968 – Release of USS Pueblo crew
Dec. 24, 1814 – War of 1812 officially ends
Jan. 11, 1942 – USS Carrier Saratoga torpedoed by Japanese
Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King Jr./ Civil Rights Day
Jan. 15, 1973 – U.S. action in Vietnam suspended
Jan. 16, 1991 – Persian Gulf War begins
Jan. 23, 1968 – USS Pueblo seized by N. Korea gunboats
Jan. 27, 1983 – Vietnam peace accord signed in Paris
Feb. 12 – Lincoln's birthday
Feb. 19, 1945 – US Marines land on Iwo Jima
Feb. 23, 1945 US Marines raise flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima
Mar. 1, 1781 – Articles of Confederation adopted by Continental Congress
Mar. 8, 1965 – First combat troops land in Vietnam
Mar. 16, 1802 – US Military Academy at West Point established
Mar. 26, 1945 Iwo Jima secured
Mar. 29, 1973 last US troops leave Vietnam

Commanders Corner

Robert Beatty, Commander
American Flag Trivia

The 50-star American Flag has been in active

use longer than any other American national flag.

Eleven Presidents have served under the 50-star flag.

The 50-star flag was 50 years old on July 4th, 2010. Now it is 57 years old.

The 48-star flag was in service for 47 years and was the longest used national flag, until the 50-star flag remained in use through July 2009.

The same flag that flew over Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 flew again at the White House on August 14, 1945, the day the Japanese signed the terms of surrender.

The 8 stars in a row on the American Flag first appeared on the 29-star flag in 1847.

The 15-star flag had 15 stripes, the only American Flag to not have 13 stripes.

Betsy Ross was the first to sew together an Official American Flag.

Betsy ROSS was only one of many flag makers during the Revolution.

Any of the previous official versions of the American Flag are still valid. They are proper to display.

America began with 13 stars on its flag. The Confederate flag ended with 13 stars on its flag.

Deaths

William "Bill" Joseph Kersten, a member of Post 95 and a resident of Our Lady of Mercy Country home, passed away October 20, 2017. Bill was a past Mayor of Liberty. He was known in Pro Wrestling and was inducted into the Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2009.

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