

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



The Liberty
Legionnaire
3rd Quarter 2018
Volume 2, Issue 3

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

2018 Chili Dinner
Fundraiser Planned

It's time again for the annual Chili and Hot Dog Dinner.

The menu will include Chili, Hot Dogs and buns, dessert and drinks. The normal "fixings" and crackers will also be provided. A donation of \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children for all you can eat.

The date is set for Saturday, October 27th from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. Raffle Items are: \$100 Hy-Vee gift card, \$100 Price Chopper gift card, two \$50 Quick Trip gas card, \$50 Lowe's gift card and a \$25 Chick-fil-A gift card.

Door Prizes will be provided by our Newsletter Advertisers.

Bring the family, enjoy some good food and help support your Post 95 charities.

Plan to come for some great food, fellowship, door prizes and raffle items.

Important Dates

October 14 – 3rd District Mtg. @
Richmond 2:00 PM

October 16 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00 PM

October 24 – United Nations Day

October 25 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM

October 27 – Chili Dinner 4:30-7:00 PM

October 31 - Halloween

November 4 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
– 2:00 AM

November 6 – Election Day

November 8 – Veteran Appreciation @
CARSTAR – 17:00-20:00

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 12 – Veteran's Day Observed

November 20 - Legion Mtg. – 7:00 PM

November 22 – Thanksgiving Day

November 28 – 40/8 – 6:00 PM

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Day

December 18 - Legion Mtg. – 7:00 PM

December 21 – Winter Begins

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 27 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM

December 31 – New Year's Eve

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 21 – Martin Luther King, Jr Day

3rd District Meeting

October 14, 2018 @ 312 S. Clark St,
Richmond, MO. Plan to attend, there will
be a car pool leaving Hy-Vee. We need to
have a good attendance at these meetings.
Bring a covered dish and the meat will be
provided by the host post.

Meeting starts at 1400 hrs (2:00PM) with
lunch to follow.

A good place to get current information.



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Sickness

Ted Nelson is in the rehab center. Ted's wife Ruth passed away recently and he has been in the Liberty Hospital and the rehab center since before she passed away. Keep Ted in your prayers, he is having a rough time and enjoys visitors. Ted is 87 years old and a member of the American Legion and the VFW.

Deaths

Glenn Williams was a member of Post 95 and the VFW.

Birthdays

November 11, 1987 Matt Nash
November 28, 1923 Ira Hunter
December 11, 1922 Ray Merrell
December 31, 1932 Paul Ellison

Anniversaries

August 11, 1967 Larry & Mitsuko Allen
November 15, 1969 Jim & Roberts
November 28, 1959 Gene & Welch

Chaplin's Corner

G. Ray Nichols, Chaplin

PERSPECTIVE:

I have a very dear friend who says when she dies she wants to come back as bird. When asked why the response was, "so I can poop on all of my enemies".

From the Upper Room there is a verse more to Christian thinking. "I believe that prioritizing time with God is what Jesus meant when he said seek first the Kingdom. Each of us can ask is this where God wants me at this moment? Putting our relationship with God first gives us the best possible perspective in our life".

May God bless our country and all of the wonderful men and women who protect us.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Jim Elliott, Commander

The American Legion has a dark colored centennial t shirt with our post name on it for \$20. Anyone interested has until the December meeting to order. A signup sheet will be available, please pay at time of your order.

Veterans Day Breakfast

It will once again be a pleasure for Liberty School District to honor our local veterans with a breakfast on **Friday, November 9.**

I will mail invitations to them as soon as possible. Veterans will need to RSVP.

This year's breakfast will again be at Discovery Middle School, 800 Midjay Drive, Liberty, and will be from **8-9:00 a.m.**

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Commander's Corner**Jim Elliot, Commander**

Dear American Legion Members,

Thanks to each of you for your votes of confidence in electing me to serve Post 95 as your Commander. I'm looking forward to working with our members to strengthen our organization.

One thing we picked up at the State Convention in July was concern about our declining membership. Part of the decline can be attributed to our loss of the aging population. The other side of that problem is that some are not renewing their membership. With that being said we need to be recruiting Veterans from Desert Storm to present day.

If we could recruit just half of those Veterans we would not be looking at increased cost of dues or cutting services to save money. As your new Commander I challenge each Member of our Post to sign up at least one new Member this year between now and 30 June 2019. I have Membership Forms available and suggest you place a couple in your wallet so that as you meet Veterans not belonging to a Post you can be ready to sign them up. Our membership not only helps National programs, but State and Local programs as well.

The next area to be addressed is our fund raising efforts for this Post. We are

currently blessed with a meeting place that doesn't require money for maintenance, taxes, or utilities. Our funds can better serve our Veterans in need, community programs, and events we choose to help sponsor.

There are currently four ways our Post raises funds. First is paying our dues (a portion stays with the Post). Second is that we provide Honor Guard services when called upon to honor our brothers and sisters as they are laid to rest. Thirdly, each Spring and Fall, we have traditionally held a Spaghetti and Chili dinner. Our fourth fund raising project is sales of caps, pins, and para cord items such as bracelets, key chains, and lanyards.

My challenge is for our membership to step up and help. Usually the same few people volunteer to keep fundraisers going. Some fund raisers do better than others. Our cap sales have dropped off so that has been suspended for August, September, and October of this year at SAM's Club. The thought is to do two cap sales events per year. The one proven good fundraising opportunity is the June Veterans Appreciation event at SAM's Club. The next is a two day event at Liberty's Fall Festival which produces lots of foot traffic and interaction with the community, another opportunity to sign up new members. I invite everyone to do what they can to help

continued on next page**FREVERT HARDWARE**

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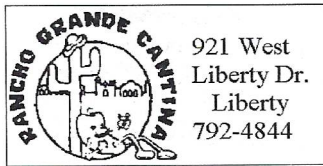
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commander's corner continued

with these events and promote a positive image in our community.

I am looking forward to the Chili Dinner 27 October 2018. Signup sheets will be available to volunteer where you can best serve. The meal tickets and Raffle tickets are available. I challenge each member to sell \$50 worth of tickets or more. We only make money if we sell, sell, sell tickets.

Our next District Meeting is in Richmond MO 14 October 2018. Hope to see some of you there.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance

By Lily Rothman
December 7, 2017

As the United States marks National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Thursday — 76 years after the attack that drove American involvement in World War II — annual observances will once again ensure that Dec. 7, 1941, remains a date that lives in infamy. As veterans, officials and others gather on Oahu to remember Pearl Harbor and its aftermath, the ranks of those who can summon a personal memory of the attack continues, of necessity, to dwindle.

As of the 75th anniversary commemorations last year, one estimate found that there were fewer than one million living American World War II vets total, and, though there is no precise count of living survivors who were specifically present at Pearl Harbor on that day, that number is likely in the range of several thousand; it was estimated in 2011 that 8,000 survivors remained and most of them were already at least octogenarians at that point. In any case, the number who makes it to Hawaii for commemorations is relatively small.

That's just one reason why Lt. Jim Downing will attend the event for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Thursday, and why he feels strongly about attending for as many years as he can. Downing was 28 at the time of the attack — which makes him one of the oldest living Pearl Harbor veterans. At the time, Downing was a member of the Navy for nearly a decade, and was serving on the USS *West Virginia* at Pearl Harbor, though he happened to be off the ship on that fateful morning. By the time he raced back to his ship, it was already on fire.

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“I’m 104 and I have no complaints,” he told TIME, laughing, by phone from Hawaii in the days before Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Downing’s experience of the attack on Pearl Harbor formed the basis of LIFE VR’s immersive virtual-reality experience, *Remembering Pearl Harbor*. “It’s been so long that many of [the survivors] are not able to travel. I think it’ll be not very well attended this year but that makes it all the more important for those of us who do come.”

Downing says that he believes that an event like Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is not only a matter of history. To him, the mission of keeping the memory alive is very much a matter of the present. As he sees it, there is no better way to avoid a future sneak attack of the type inflicted by Japan in 1941 than to always keep in mind the possibility of such an event. Now, nearly eight decades later, though his days of access to military intelligence are over, he does believe that the United States has remained vigilant and strong — thanks in part to the efforts of those who are dedicated to commemorating Pearl Harbor.

“I believe that we have the smartest scientists in the world, the best leaders, and they do everything well,” he says. “I believe that we’re prepared to repel any aggressor.”

But, as enormous as that mission of memory may be, it’s not the only reason why Downing continues to make the lengthy trip from his home in Colorado to Hawaii on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Such events are also a chance to immerse himself in the community of survivors, an experience that becomes more precious with every year. In the wake of the attack, the survivors inevitably asked themselves why they had survived as more than 2,000 others died. That question never fades, he says — and getting to speak with others who know that feeling, who know exactly what he means when he describes what he saw that day, is invaluable no matter how many years have passed.

“There’s camaraderie between us that doesn’t exist with anybody else like this,” he says. “The fact that we fought together and survived together, there’s a bond between us that will never be broken and will never be exhausted.”

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Black Female U2 Pilot

Military.com

By Sarah Blansett

Air Force Colonel Merryl Tengesdal started out in the Navy flying helicopters but ended up becoming the first African-American woman to fly the Air Force's *U-2 Dragon Lady Spy Plane*.

Tengesdal made a rare cross rate move to the Air Force after teaching a joint flight program and in 2004 she qualified to fly one of the most difficult aircraft in the world, the U-2. Tengesdal joins only five women and three African-Americans (male or female) ever to participate in the U-2 program.

The U-2 flies at 70,000 feet and at times while flying, Tengesdal witnessed shooting stars below her. Because of the high altitude, U-2 pilots must wear a full pressure suit similar to those worn by astronauts. The low-altitude handling characteristics of the aircraft and bicycle-type landing gear require precise control inputs during landing; forward visibility is also limited due to the extended aircraft nose and "tail dragger" configuration. A second U-2 pilot normally "chases" each landing in a high-performance vehicle, assisting the

pilot by providing radio inputs for altitude and runway alignment. These characteristics combine to earn the U-2 a widely accepted title as the most difficult aircraft in the world to fly.

Tengesdal has flown missions for Operation Olive Harvest in Afghanistan and Iraq and took part in helping combat piracy in the Horn of Africa. She has more than 3,400 flight hours and more than 330 combat hours.

Profiled in a piece on FOXTROT ALPHA, Tengesdal was asked about the significance of her role as the first African American woman to fly the U-2 and said, "It is very uncommon, even for this day and age, to be a female pilot, much less a female minority... The Air Force has always been on the forefront of breaking aviation and racial barriers. I am extremely proud of being the first black female U-2 pilot in history... My career field is very male-dominated, but I hope I have helped other females with similar aspirations to realize this is an option. I think we are all limitless as to what we can accomplish."

Trivia

John Deere bought Waterloo Boy tractor company and changed its name to John Deere

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My Parachute

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, 'You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!'

'How in the world did you know that?' asked Plumb.

'I packed your parachute,' the man replied.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude.

The man pumped his hand and said, 'I guess it worked!'

Plumb assured him, 'It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.'

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, 'I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.' Plumb thought of the many hours the

sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, 'Who's packing your parachute?' Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.

Aphorism

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble...but shouldn't that be an even number?

I find it ironic that the colors red, white and blue stand for freedom, until they are flashing behind you.

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Air Force Turns 71

The US Air Force was officially founded on 18 September 1947, and in the decades since it has established itself as an air force second-to-none. Yet the Air Force's history and heritage goes back the turn of the twentieth century.

Between 1909 -- when that the US military purchased its first aircraft -- and 1947, the US Air Force did not exist as a separate and independent military service organization. It went through a series of designations: Aeronautical Section, Signal Corps (1909); Aviation Section, Signal Corps (1914); United States Army Air Service (1918); United States Army Air Corps (1926), and United States Army Air Forces (1941).

WWII illustrated the value of airpower, and the need to change the basic organization of the US Military Forces. The result was the creation of a single Department of Defense with a strong Joint Chiefs of Staff with Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs. In 1947 President Truman signed the National Security Act which established this new defense organization, and along with it the creation of the US Air Force as an independent service, equal to the US Army and US Navy. The official

birthday of the US Air Force is 18 September 1947.

Constitution Day

Constitution Day (or **Citizenship Day**) is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the **United States Constitution** and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

When Constitution Day falls on a weekend or on another holiday, schools and other institutions observe the holiday on an adjacent weekday.

The law establishing the present holiday was created in 2004 with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd to the Omnibus spending bill of 2004. Before this law was enacted, the holiday was known as "Citizenship Day". In addition to renaming the holiday "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day," the act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions, and all federal agencies, provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day. In May 2005, the United States Department of Education announced the enactment of this law and that it would apply to any school receiving federal funds of any kind.

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