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



The Liberty Legionnaire 4th Quarter 2018 Volume 2, Issue 4

We served our
Country
Still serving our
Community

# Christmas Dinner

Post 95 is having their Christmas dinner for members and their family on December 18, 2018. 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.

## **Important Dates**

December 15 – Wreaths Across America
December 18 – Post Christmas Dinner
December 31 – New Year's Eve
January 1 – New Year's Day
January 7, 1789 – 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Election
January 13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Mtg. @ Bethany - 2:00

PM January 15 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00 PM

January 21 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 23 – 40&8 Mtg. 6:30 PM

January 24 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM

February 2, 1901 – Nurse Corps Est.

February 4, 1941 – USO Formed

February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday

February 14 – Valentine's Day

February 16 – State Oratorical Contest

February 18 – President's Day

February 19 - Legion Mtg. – 7:00 PM

February 20 – Washington's Birthday

February 23, 1945 – US Marines Raise flag

on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima

February 27 – 40&8 Mtg. 6:30 PM

February 28 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM March 8, 1965 – 1<sup>st</sup> combat troops land in

Vietnam

March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

-2:00 AM

March  $10 - 3^{rd}$  Dist. Mtg. @ Post 61-2:00

PM

March 19 – Legion Mtg. – 7:00PM

March 20 – First Day of Spring

March 27 - 40&8 Mtg. 6:30 PM

March 28 – Bingo @ Cedars – 6:30 PM

March 29, 1973 – Last US troops leave Vietnam

**Birthdays** 

January 11, 19?? Judi Samborski

January 26, 1928 Gene Welch

January 30, 1947 Jim Elliott

January 31, 1933 Paul Ellison

#### **Anniversaries**

January 22, 1983 Frank & Debra Henderson

## Pun

Irony. The opposite of wrinkly.



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## Thank You

Flag folding & presentation of colors Thank you so much for all you did for us with the flag folding and the presenting of the colors. You all are great people. I want to thank you all for your service.

Karen Larson Admin. Assistant Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association

#### Thank You

Manhiem Kansas City
With sincere thanks and appreciation.
Thank you for making this day special! (
presentation of colors, fired rifles and played
taps in honor of Veterans Day)

#### Thank You

Richard and Phyllis Travers In memory of Ted Nelson. A check for \$150 was enclosed.

#### Thank You

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comprehensive social services.

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# Chaplin's Corner

G. Ray Nichols, Chaplin

Christmas season is here again. A happy time for little kids looking for Santa to bring gifts, and for some not so happy times.

From the Upper Room a very applicable quote for all of us. "God is able to help us with our problems but not always by removing them. Instead, sometimes God teaches us and strengthens us to overcome our problems. God always stands by our side, showing us that we can be more than conquerors." So let's have this season of joy remembering the reason for the season is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God bless all of you and have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

## **Wreaths Across America**

Again this year Post 95 is working with Wreaths Across America to place wreaths on veteran's graves in the Fairview/New Hope Cemetery. We have donated \$500 to this project.

We need volunteers on 12/15 to help place the wreaths. Volunteers need to be at the Memorial at the entrance for the ceremony at 11:00 AM.

There will be TV cameras there and Post 95 will provide the rifle team.

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## The Plaza Lights of Kansas City

By Judi Samborski

Every year an annual event in Kansas City is the lighting of the Christmas Lights on the Country Club Plaza. It signals the beginning of the Christmas season.

The tradition started in 1925 when someone strung a single 16-string of colored lights over the doorway of the Suydam building.

The first Plaza Lighting Ceremony began in 1930.

The Plaza lights are turned on at 5 pm and turned off at 3 am every night from Thanksgiving night until mid-January.

The Plaza lights don't stay up all year. Beginning in mid-January all of the lights are taken down, cataloged, and carefully stored until after Labor Day. Then workers begin to hang them on each of the assigned buildings. While they are down all of the lights are inspected for defects and bulb replacement.

Tower lights are always the same color. For instance, the Time Tower at Broadway and Ward Parkway, are always red.

The Big Switch does actually turn on all of the lights during the ceremony.

The only time the Plaza lights weren't turned on was in 1973. President Nixon called on all Americans to curtail the use of Christmas lights to reduce the dependence of foreign oil imports.

2018 marks the 89<sup>th</sup> year of the Plaza Lights. It now is 15 blocks of multi-colored lights.

If stretched out, the Plaza Lights would be 80 miles long. Today there are 280,000 LED lights that adorn the Plaza buildings.

So from our family to yours Merry Christmas and God Bless.

## **Membership Incentive**

National Commander Reistad New incentive that starts now and ends with the 100% National Target Date on May 8, 2019. Your post will receive five dollars for every expired 2014, 2015 or 2016 member that renews at your post for 2019. After this incentive ends on May 8th, a check will be disbursed to your department and they will send it to each post individually. As you can see, this is a great opportunity to earn some money for your programs while growing membership in your post and department. It is truly a win-win situation for your post and The American Legion.

To receive credit for renewing a 2014, 2015 or 2016 Legionnaire, they must renew in your post and you have to use their current membership ID number.

## Pun

Tried to grab the fog, I missed.

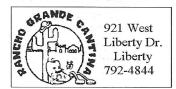
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#### MEDAL OF HONOR

President Donald J. Trump Awards the Medal of Honor

On Wednesday, October 17, 2018, President Donald J. Trump awarded the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Major John L. Canley, United States Marine Corps (Retired), for conspicuous gallantry.

Sergeant Major John L. Canley received the Medal of Honor for his actions from January 31 to February 6, 1968, while assigned to Company A, First Battalion, First Marines in the Republic of Vietnam. While serving as Company Gunnery Sergeant, he fought off multiple enemy attacks as his company moved along a highway toward Hue City to relieve friendly forces who were surrounded. On several occasions, despite his own wounds, he rushed across fire-swept terrain to carry wounded Marines to safety. When his commanding officer was severely wounded, he took command and led his company into Hue City. While in command of the company for three days, he led attacks against multiple enemy-fortified positions while exposing himself to enemy fire to carry wounded Marines to safety. On February 6, at a hospital compound, he twice scaled a wall in full view of the enemy to aid wounded Marines and carry them to safety. Then-Gunnery Sergeant Canley's

heroic actions saved the lives of his teammates.

#### PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Sergeant Major (Retired) John L. Canley enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1970, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Nation's second-highest medal of valor, for his actions during the Battle of Hue City in February 1968. Sergeant Major Canley retired from the United States Marine Corps October 23, 1981. His personal awards include a Bronze Star with combat "V", Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V", and the Combat Action Ribbon. Additional awards and decorations include four Presidential Unit Citations, seven Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, two Marine Corps Expeditionary Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, nine Vietnam Service Medals, two Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses, the Korean Defense Service Medal, three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, the United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device, the Rifle Expert Badge (11th Award), and the Pistol Expert Badge (16th Award).

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to

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members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their own lives above and beyond the call of duty while:

Engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

Engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or Serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

There must be no margin of doubt or possibility of error in awarding this honor. To justify this decoration, the deed performed must have been one of personal bravery and self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades, and must have involved risk of life.

# Commander's Corner

Jim Elliott, Commander

Another year is coming to a close and as we look forward to a new year we pause to review our past years activities.

Our Honor Guard/Color Guard has been busy providing services for our fellow veterans; some of which were members of Post 95. Your continued participation is much appreciated by these families we serve.

More and more we are asked by

community businesses to provide services; the Regional Conference for Hospice Care and Manheim Auto Auction come to mind. We've had tremendous participation in our flag etiquette instruction provided to 4th grade classes of our school districts. With students in mind we need to be encouraging more high school students to take advantage of Boys/Girls State and Cadet Patrol. The American Legion provides funding for these programs. The same is true for our oratorical contest and there is scholarship money available to winners of this speech contest. We need to make it better known in our community that these opportunities are available.

Our last fund raiser, the annual Chili dinner, was a success. These funds, a total of \$915.16, were dedicated to support our youth programs. We owe a big "THANK YOU" to those providing door prizes and raffle prizes for this event. We also are grateful to our members who got out there to sell tickets, those who helped with food preparation, set up, take down, and clean up after the event.

The push continues for an increase in membership. At our last meeting it was noted that only 160 members were paid up for 2019. In order to meet our goal we need 98 more members. I urge you to renew your membership and to sign up one new member

(See Next Page)

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# (Continued from previous page)

for the year. The National Commander has a new program for the upcoming year. For those who sign up 3 new members a 100th Anniversary pin will be provided for your cover. If we are to keep our American Legion a strong organization and to keep a strong voice heard in the halls of Congress we need to sign up every eligible veteran for membership.

Those members of Post 95 who have dues paid up by 30 Jan 2019 your name will be entered in a drawing for a signed copy of Matt Hall's Centennial Lithograph print entitled "Legacy and Vision".

So as this year closes we reflect on our many blessings and look forward to spending time with our family and friends. We look forward to the New Year and what it will hold.

Our last event for the year will be our family Christmas dinner which will be 18 Dec 2018 at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite side dish; meats and drinks will be provided.

If you ordered a 100th Anniversary T-Shirt but have not paid, that money is due on 18 December 2018. If you still

you can do that. The cost is \$20. See you all at the dinner; bring your

want to order that will be the last time

See you all at the dinner; bring your spouse, significant other, and your family!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Health Tip

Health Tip: DO NOT wash your hair while showering!!! It is so good to finally get a health warning that is useful. It involves the use of your hair shampoo while showering and what occurs when it runs down your body.

I don't know why I didn't figure this out sooner. When I wash my hair while showering; the shampoo runs down my entire body. Printed very clearly on the shampoo label is a warning that reads: "For extra body and volume." Well, no wonder I've been gaining weight.

I've gotten rid of that shampoo and now use Dawn dish washing soap. It's label reads: "Dissolves fat that is otherwise hard to remove." Problem solved!!

# <u>Joke</u>

A blonde was sitting in class when the professor asked her if she knew what the Rowe vs. Wade decision was.

She sat there for quite a while pondering this very profound question and finally sighed and said, "I think that is the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."

#### **Great Guns**

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#### Last Pearl Harbor Veteran

Ray Chavez, 106, died in his sleep early on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 in a hospice in Poway, a community north of San Diego, his daughter Kathleen Chavez told the San Diego Union Tribune. He was the oldest living Pearl Harbor Veteran.

Chavez frequently attended commemorative events around the United States, including a visit to the White House on Memorial Day weekend, the newspaper reported.

"We are saddened to hear the oldest living Pearl Harbor veteran, Ray Chavez, has passed away at the age of 106. We were honored to host him at the White House earlier this year. Thank you for your service to our great Nation, Ray!" the White House said on Twitter.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor took place at 7:55 a.m. Honolulu time on Dec. 7, 1941, famously dubbed "a date which will live in infamy" by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The attack killed 2,390 Americans and the United States declared war on Japan the next day.

Fewer than 200 survivors of the attacks there and on other military bases in Hawaii were alive in 2016.

Chavez was a member of the crew of the USS Condor, a minesweeper, at Pearl Harbor on the morning of the attacks. He went to bed at his home in nearby Ewa Beach after the Condor swept the east entrance to the harbor earlier that morning, the San Diego Union Tribune reported.

"My wife ran in and said, 'We're being attacked,' and I said, 'Who's going to attack us? Nobody.' She said that the whole harbor was on fire and when I got outside I saw that everything was black from all the burning oil," he once said, according to the newspaper.

Chavez was on continuous duty in and around Pearl Harbor over the next nine days. He then served four years in the U.S. Navy, helping deliver tanks and Marines to shore in eight Pacific battles, the newspaper reported.

He later attended Pearl Harbor events more than a dozen times, his daughter told the newspaper.

"We went last year and if he was still alive, we were going back again next month," Kathleen Chavez said.

"I think he enjoyed the experience but he never saw himself as any different from the other men he served with. He'd always say, 'I'm no hero. I just did my job'," she said.

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#### Mary Babniki Brown

Mary Babnik Brown was an American woman who donated her long blond hair to be used as crosshairs in Norden bombsights in WW II.

Brown was a Coloradan; the children of Slovenian immigrants. She left elementary school at the age of 12, to help support her family as a servant for \$5/week. When she was 13, she lied about her age so that she could work at National Broom Factory for 75 cents a day, a job she held for 42 years. Her younger siblings pitched in by picking up chunks of coal that had fallen onto the railroad tracks. Brown's lone prized possession was her knee-length fine blonde hair.

In 1943, Brown saw an advertisement in a newspaper, searching for women with blonde hair of at least 22" length that had never been treated with chemicals or hot irons. The military was offering to purchase such hair, to be used for meteorological instruments in the war effort.

The "meteorological instruments" were actually crosshairs for Norden bombsights. The Army Air Forces (the predecessor to today's US Air Force) had tried various materials for the Norden bombsight, including black widow spider webbing, but

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nothing could withstand the temperature variations like fine blonde human hair that had never been treated with chemicals or heat.

Brown sent off a sample of her 34" blonde hair to the government for analysis. After analyzing her hair, they agreed to purchase it, offering to pay her in war savings stamps. But Brown wouldn't accept payment for her hair. She saw it as her patriotic duty to help the war effort. She later recalled that she cried for months after cutting her hair.

It was decades before Brown learned the true use of her hair, and the effect of her sacrifice. In 1987, on her 80th birthday, she received a personal thank-you letter from President Ronald Reagan.

Brown's hometown of Pueblo, Colorado declared an official Mary Babnik Brown day, and she also received an award from the Colorado Aviation Historical Society.

Said Brown: "Here I am, an old lady of 83, and I'm still flying high".

#### **Puns**

He, who laughs last, didn't get it. What I if told you---you read the first line wrong.

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