



**“For God and Country”**  
**NOVEMBER 2023 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meetings For November 2023**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Legion Post 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>11/14/23</b>
<b>Auxiliary Unit 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>11/14/23</b>
<b>SAL Squadron 3</b>	<b>Post 3 Office, 123 S 84<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>11/09/23</b>
<b>ALR Chapter 3</b>	<b>Denton Legion Club</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>11/16/23</b>
<b>40 &amp; 8 Voiture 103</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>11/21/23</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 832</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>11/21/23</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 92</b>	<b>VFW 3606, 3340 West A St</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>11/16/23</b>
<b>Buddy Check</b>	<b>Mill, 2021 Transformation Dr</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>11/22/23</b>
<b>CoffeeHaus</b>	<b>Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>11/17/23</b>

## **Commander's Call**



Fellow Legionnaires,

First, I want to thank all members who have already renewed their American Legion membership for 2024. Your continued commitment to supporting veterans is commendable. If you have not yet renewed for 2024, please consider doing so at your earliest opportunity.

November is a month that has some important dates that we should all be aware of:

**Election Day:** Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. As a rule, veterans consistently vote at higher rates than their civilian counterparts. We need to maintain that status for which we not only earned the right to do, but for the service we gave to our Nation to maintain our right to vote! Shortly after The American Legion was formed, it went on record urging all American Legion men and women to become qualified voters. Since then, the organization has passed countless similar resolutions advocating Legionnaires to not only exercise their constitutional responsibility to vote, but to also encourage others to do the same. Elections are important to our republic. As citizens of this great nation, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well. Remember to vote.

**Veterans Day:** Saturday, November 11th is Veterans Day and posts across our great nation will be participating in local observances. Post 3 is no different, We will be participating in, and conducting a number of events in the days leading up to, and even after, Veterans Day. It is important for all of us to take the time to step back and reflect on the positives in our families, communities, and world. Today, Veteran's Day in the U.S provides one of those great reasons to pause, reflect, and recognize. On that day, be sure to thank a fellow veteran for his or her service.

In 1954, when November 11th was officially named Veterans Day, United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower called upon all citizens to join to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom." Today, our troops continue to serve, with dedication and honor, all around the world. We recognize the commitment, and sacrifices of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Space Force Guardians, Coast Guardsmen, and Merchant Mariners – and their families.

**(Commander's Call – Continued)**

**Veterans Parade:** On Sunday, November 12th the Lincoln Veterans Parade Group is holding the 2023 Veterans Parade. It will be held along K Street on Sunday November 12th at 2:00pm. The parade will start at 21st and K Street. Parade participants will walk west on K Street toward a reviewing stand in front of the Capitol where the parade will end. Come and join us!

**Thanksgiving Day:** Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23rd, is traditionally a time when we gather as families to reflect on our blessings and focus on our gratitude for them. Because of that focus on family, Thanksgivings spent separated from loved ones is often tough for military members and their families. As you gather with your family to reflect on your blessings, take a moment to reflect on what this day is truly about. To appreciate and recognize those who serve today and did so in the past. Remember the sacrifices, the service with honor, and the dedication of those who serve. Take the extra time to extend your thanks to those who have served, or are serving, their country. It is because of them, and their families, that we can enjoy the freedoms that we, as Americans, often take for granted.

I strongly encourage you to visit our meeting, held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm, at the Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th Street. We will have a guest speaker, Bob Ruyle, who is a Post 3 member and is on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans (NAAV). Bob will give us a short presentation on the NAAV, which is a nonprofit veteran's service corporation dedicated to assisting an estimated one million U.S. veterans, from all service branches, who were first hand participants in nuclear weapons test detonations, from July 16, 1945 to Nov. 23 1992. The NAAV is an advocate for those veterans who were exposed to ionized radiation particles which has caused severe health anomalies in many of these participants and, in many cases of genetic mutations, to their children.

Please keep all veterans and their families in your prayers. And please pray for all currently serving members of our Armed Forces, and their families, wherever they may be dispersed.

For God and Country,

Bruce Gubser  
Post 3 Commander

## **Notes from the Adjutant's Desk**



**2024 Renewals:** Currently we stand at 834 paid members or 75% of our goal. During October we had 65 by mail, 29 online, 1 new member, and 1 nonpaid transfer. Let's keep those renewals coming in during November.

Nebraska Life members account for 53 members, PUFL (Paid up for Life) members account for 121. PUFL members - If you have not received your 2024 cards let me know. They were mailed out by the National HQ's during July 2023.

Thanks to those 131 who have made use of the MyLegion web site to renew their membership. It is quick and easy; you can even print your own 2024 membership card. We can check daily those who have renewed online and get their 2024 membership cards in the mail the next day.

When you get your 2024 card, please check the years of service to be sure it is correct. We had many that were incorrect for 2023. If they are incorrect, please let the office know so we can get it corrected for you. This includes misspelled names, change of address, etc.

One reason your number of years might be incorrect is that you happened to renew for 2023 after national had printed the 2024 membership cards. Another reason: You might have forgotten to renew for 2023. I try to catch those who did not renew last year and drop them a note letting them know they lost their contentious years by not renewing.

For those who might be interested, you can set up auto renewal by using the MyLegion web site. Just a thought to those who want an easy way to remember to pay their dues. One drawback is that someone needs to remember to stop the payments when the member dies.

The American Legion national leadership is currently working on instating a \$5.00 a year dues increase. We will keep you informed when it takes effect as soon as National releases more details to the Department and the Posts.

We would like to make this request: Many members do not have a phone number or an email address on file. For many, we also are missing branch of service, or war era. National has been printing the data that is in the Legion database on the back of the renewal slips. Please check and correct when mailing in your renewals.

The Honor Guard has been busy this fall with memorial services and flag details. This would be a great time to review your memorial plans with the family. Locate your DD214 or other discharge papers. You have earned the right to be buried in a VA cemetery or request a VA headstone for a private cemetery. You can do all this now by going to the VA web site and filling out the forms. If you need assistance, see your local service officer, or give me a call.

Again, thanks for your service and thanks for being a member of Post 3. Remember to fly your flag on Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Schnabel  
Adjutant

## Lincoln CBOC/VA News



**Remember to thank a Veteran on the 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Most VA clinics and hospitals will be celebrating Veterans Day during the week leading up to Veterans Day.**

**Flu shots are currently given at most VA clinics or hospitals. Covid shots are currently being given by appointment only. You need to call your local clinic to schedule an appointment.**

**VA clinics and hospitals no longer require the wearing of masks to enter clinics. Masks are available for those who still wish to wear them.**

**Express Care is a walk-in service for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Express Care hours run from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Lincoln clinic. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call and see if they offer Express Care (walk in) service. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours.**

**PACT Act, have you checked it out? You need to make the effort; the VA is not going to call you. On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, extending VA health eligibility to many veterans.**

**The PACT Act expanded benefits for exposures to toxic substances. The PACT Act now PRESUMES that exposure to toxics substances caused many health problems to those who served in specified theaters. If you have filed a claim for Agent Orange or other toxins and it was denied, you need to file a claim update and get a new review. One of the major benefits for Vietnam veterans is that it now covers services for those who served in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. This allows you to file new claims for many of your health problems without needing to prove your service there caused them. This is a major change; the VA now PRESUMES that service in specified theaters is a direct cause for many health problems. If you have any, contact your Service Office or a VA service officer to file a new or updated claim.**

**One of the forms that the VA would like to have on file for all veterans who use its hospitals and clinics is an Advance Directive Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will. Form VA 10-0137 can be picked up at your local clinic or hospitals. This form allows you to inform the VA who you might wish to make health care decisions if you become disabled and unable to do so for yourself. Not required, but it might be something that you may want to think about.**

**(VA News – Continued)**

**Nebraska Warrior Writers project is a free workshop that provide professional instruction, support, and guidance in writing of all kinds from memoir to fiction. Workshops are held on Saturdays at Pius X High School, 6000 A Street, Lincoln, NE.**

**To sign up, contact Tom Seib, (tom.seib555@gmail.com or 402-440-9296) or Jen Stastny, (jenstastny2029@gmail.com or 402-960-3955) for current dates and times.**

**Want to serve your fellow Veterans? The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You volunteer to help veterans in the clinic or hospital, or a veteran's home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veteran's home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to use when they come to the clinic/hospital with a parent or grandparent for their appointments and are too young to be left at home alone.**

**Clinics/hospitals can always use books, magazines, etc. for patients. You would need to check with your local hospital, clinic, or veteran's home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.**

**During Christmas they all could use donations for gifts for those veterans who have no family who visit them.**

**Many clinics have an outreach program to reach homeless veterans. They always need extra donations for these veterans. Many of these veterans do not ask for items for themselves, but for their children or families.**

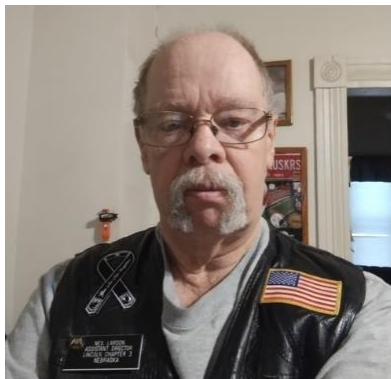
**Another way to serve your fellow Veterans is to donate to a local VSO (Veteran Service Organization). They also receive many requests for services during the holidays from cash for purchasing food, a special meal, or car repairs, etc. Most local VSOs would welcome a donation so they could give more to those who have given so much. The holidays will be here before we know it.**

**Thank you for your service to your fellow Veterans and thanks for your service to this great country.**

**God Bless,**

**Ed Schnabel  
Legion Representative to Lincoln CBOC**

## ALR Riders Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



The American Legion Riders held their poker run on September 9th. They raised \$3000 to donate to Patriotic Productions and the JAVELAN organization. Each organization received \$1500. They also raised \$100 for the food bank.

The Riders will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at the Hobby Lobby on December 1st. They will also be participating in the Veterans Parade on November 12th.

The photos below are of the two organizations that received money from our September 9<sup>th</sup> poker run.



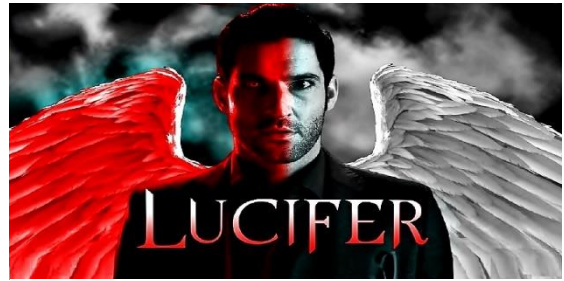
(L to R) Neil Larson, Bill Williams from Patriotic Productions, Bruce Gubser



(L to R) Lori Gubser, Mike Krause and Bob Dean from JAVELAN, Neil Larson

Neil Larson  
ALR director

## The Chaplain's Remarks



**TODAY IS THE DAY—It's happening. That day when the world starts to slowly wind down to a level of failed expectations totally unimaginable before this era of sheer...terror...**

**What is meant by that darkening situation? Let's take a trip to a world you may have not recalled as it's described in the Bible's Old Testament. It deals with the fall of Lucifer, and Archangel, some of you know as Satan, after desiring to overthrow (Ezekiel 28:11-19) the *El Ohim* (Hebrew: "the Trinity"). His whole *raison d'tre* (French: "reason for one's existence") is focused upon destroying humankind.**

**The Bible's New Testament says that Satan is the "prince and power of the air" (Ephesians 2:1-2) for his efforts to whisper falsehoods into the hearts and minds of willful humankind as the devourer of their spirits (1 Peter 5:8).**

**The Adversary—meaning Satan—is an angel of light who delights in leading his believers into rejecting God and embracing the road to Hell (2 Corinthians 11:14).**

**Lucifer is the Anti-Christ (1 John 4:1-3), who demeans and overrules the power and authority of God in favor of himself. If you search America, with it's current values on Black Lives Matter, Wokeism, Diversity-Equity-Inclusion, defunding the police, and Antisemitism, what do you really see-hear-touch-smell-feel?**

**We've not much to say when it comes to being followers of God's Word as members of His Church. How about this: if Jesus were to arrive today, would He be glad to see you, or would He be disappointed in what He gave you to do? Time is of the essence. Hell is NOT necessarily around the corner, but is Heaven? Time is available for YOU to make a difference.**

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain**



## Post 3 Honor Guard



In October, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 9 funerals and made appearances at 2 civic functions. For Veterans Day, we already have been asked to be present at 7 retirement facilities and will participate in the Veterans Parade on November 12th.

In calendar year 2023, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honors Teams at 89 funerals and was present at 42 civic functions. The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans and for appearances at local civic functions is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

## Post 3 TAPS – October 2023



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
James R. Burkhalter	Vietnam	Air Force	7
John E. Cripe	Vietnam	Navy	43
Robert J. Florell	WW II	Army	17
Leland Foote	Korea	Army	39
Robert S. MacLauchlan	WW II	Coast Guard	38
Lawrence Pientka	Korea	Unknown	66
Walter A. Pohlman	Korea	Army	70
Ronald W. Ruff	Vietnam	Army	13
Richard R. Stauffer	WW II	Navy	50

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80  
October 10, 2023**

**Commander Bruce Gubser opened the October 10, 2023 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 50-60 Legionnaires and guests present. Members of Auxiliary Unit 3 were also in attendance.**

**Prior to conducting normal Post 3 business, Commander Gubser introduced Kyle Sitzman from the Lincoln Baseball Association. Accompanying him were Coach Mychal Kulhanek and four players from the Carpet Land baseball team, national runners-up in the recently concluded American Legion Baseball World Series. Mr. Sitzman, Coach Kulhanek, and the four players all gave brief marks and thanked the American Legion for all it does locally and nationally to sponsor American Legion Baseball. They were then excused.**

**Commander Gubser then made moving remarks regarding America's participation in the Vietnam War and commented on how some veterans who served during that conflict were not always treated well. Commander Gubser then asked the Vietnam era veterans present to stand, and he presented them with a special pin.**

**The Auxiliary members returned to their meeting room.**

**In light of the fact that so many new faces were present for the Vietnam pin presentations, Commander Gubser asked all Legionnaires to stand, introduce themselves, and indicate when and in which branch they served.**

**The minutes of the September 12th meeting were read and approved.**

**Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending September 30, 2023, reporting a balance on hand of \$43,989.76.**

**Paid membership for 2024 was reported at 748 --- about 67% of our goal of 1107.**

**Reverend Jackson read an Americanism report.**

**Vice Commander Ron Hindmand gave a report on Salvation Army Bellringers and indicated that Post 3 would primarily ring bells on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Location assignments will be finalized at the November meeting.**

**(October Minutes – Continued)**

**Commander Gubser indicated that planning is underway for the Post 3 / District 15 Oratorical Contest, but to date there have been no entrants. The contest is scheduled for November 1st.**

**Gerry Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad.**

**SAL Squadron 3 Commander Brendan Moore reported that the SAL would be meeting this coming Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Post 3 business office. Plans for the Thanksgiving and Christmas donation projects will be discussed.**

**Area C Commander Brendan Moore reported that the Area C Oratorical Contest would be held in Seward.**

**Hallam Legionnaire Bruce Trautwein, currently serving as Chef de Gare of Lincoln Voiture 103, mentioned that the 40/8 would be meeting next Tuesday.**

**Commander Gubser reported on recent Legion Riders activities and the Post 3 Birthday Card program.**

**Steve Bartos reported on the function of the American Legion Post 3, Legionnaire Club, Inc. and gave a little background. He then moved that Ed Schnabel be recommended to the Legionnaire Club Board to serve another 4-year term as a director. Following a proper second, the motion was approved.**

**It was announced that Jack Sibert had transferred his membership to another post and that an election will take place at the November meeting to fill his spot on the Post 3 Executive Committee.**

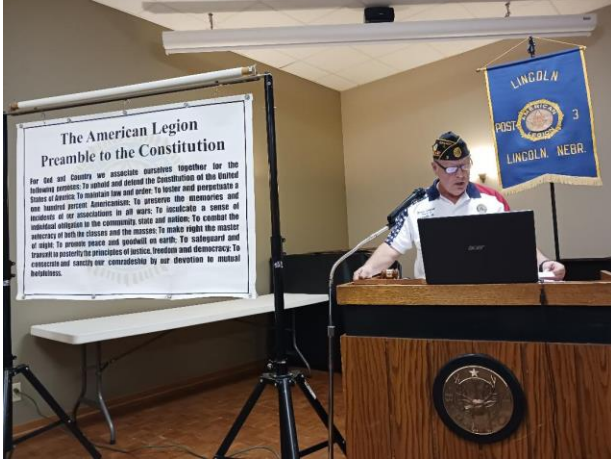
**The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 8:05 PM.**

**Steve Bartos, Recorder**

# Recap of October 10<sup>th</sup> Post 3 Meeting

We had a great turnout at the October 10<sup>th</sup> Post 3 meeting. Veterans, some with their spouses, were in attendance for the two special events held that night.

Bruce Gubser made remarks about the Vietnam War and the Wall. He then handed out lapel pins to all Vietnam Era Veterans in attendance.



Commander Gubser addressing the group

A packed house at the last Post 3 meeting

Kyle Sitzman, Lincoln Baseball Association's representative to Post 3, and 4 members of the runner-up American Legion World Series Baseball Team and their coach were in attendance. They came to thank Post 3 for their support and relayed some of their thoughts about the American Legion World Series recently held in Shelby, North Carolina. They also donated their runner-up trophy to Post 3 to be displayed in the office.

The Lincoln East "Rugs" Baseball Team, sponsored by Post 3 and supported by Carpet Land of Lincoln, fell one run short of becoming Nebraska's first American Legion World Series Champion in 84 years when Creighton Prep won the crown in 1939.

They finished as the NSAA Class A State Champions, Class A State Legion Baseball titleholders and champs of the American Legion Central Regional with a combined 84-16 record.

Congratulations, "Rugs". Truly, a tremendous accomplishment.



(L to R) - Kyle Sitzman, Bruce Gubser,



(L to R) - Bruce Gubser, A.J. Evasco, Mason Gaines, Garrett Springer, Paul Shortridge, Coach Kulhanek.

## **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING**



**Time is now to volunteer for a good Christmas cause to support those folks in need here in the Lincoln area.**

**Post 3 is registered to ring bells in support of our Lincoln Salvation Army at the Hy-Vee store at Williamsburg Mall at 40th & Old Cheney on both Wednesday 6 December and Thursday 7 December from 11am to 7pm on each day.**

**Our Legion Riders have volunteered for and will be ringing on 8 December at Hobby Lobby at 66th & O Street from 1pm to 7pm.**

**Last year we raised a total of \$2,366.25 during four days/30 hours of bell ringing to support good causes managed by the Salvation Army in our area. It is ideal if we can get two volunteers for each 2-hour block of ringing.**

**Please contact Ron Hindmand if you would like to volunteer or sign up on our ringing roster during the monthly Post 3 meeting on 14 November at the Elks Lodge #80.**

**Please consider volunteering again this year.**

**Post 3 contact is Ron Hindmand:**

**Phone (254) 291-1514**

**Email [rhindmand@gmail.com](mailto:rhindmand@gmail.com)**

## **Flagpoles For Department Office**

The Department is still looking for donations from Posts and/or individuals for flagpoles to be placed in front of our newly acquired headquarters building in Lincoln. The idea is straight-forward... one tall flagpole for the US flag (35') and six smaller poles (30') for the six service flags.

In order to do this, we need \$13,100.00 for the flagpoles alone. That does not include the material and labor cost of having the flagpoles erected (although I believe I have one or two volunteers that would help in that endeavor).

To date, the Department HQ's fund has received \$3,250.00 in donations (one individual donated \$3,000 of that).

The American Legion organization is the country's leader in defending our great flag and we exhibit that every time we go back to Washington DC when we have polite conversations with our elected officials about the Flag Amendment (if you didn't know, the proposed amendment is a single sentence; "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.")

Just think about it, if every current member of the Nebraska American Legion donated just one dollar, we would have nearly twice the amount needed. I know we have Posts and Legionnaires out there that would gladly send in a larger donation if they were aware of this cause. And if this takes off and we have more donations than poles you can rest assured that the extra monies will go towards replacing the flags when they become worn and tattered.

R, Dave  
David W. Salak  
Department Adjutant  
Nebraska American Legion  
402-464-6338

## PTSD/SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

# Vet Center Leadership: Denial and Spin

BY THOMAS C. HALL, PH.D., CHAIR

I have written a lot about the life-saving power and importance of Vet Centers. Vet Centers are part of the VA, but were designed to be more accessible than hospital-based behavioral health services. Over the last couple of years, however, it appears that the VA is turning Vet Centers into an extension of the behavioral health model found in VA hospitals.



The committee has brought this message many times to Vet Center leadership to no avail. Each time we have been told that working at the Vet Centers is a tough job and not for everyone, and that they are working on it, and each counselor has no more than 25 clients. But that's not true.

This year I had the opportunity to speak with counselors at several Vet Centers. They told me about 100 clients being assigned to a sin-

gle counselor, and that, in order to meet their quotas, counselors are forced to limit sessions to only 15 minutes. As a result, Vet Centers are bleeding counselors.

The PTSD/SA Committee wants to know what it takes for accountability and meaningful change to happen in this bureaucracy. Denial and spin seem to be the hallmarks of the leadership of the Vet Centers.

There are many good Vet Centers providing innovative and creative healing opportunities with dedicated, caring therapists, providing services to veterans. But the constant shortage of staff, lack of incentives, and burnout give many good counselors only one choice—to leave.

The committee would like to remind everyone that Vet Centers were built on a peer-to-peer model. New education rules are forcing good veteran counselors to provide services at a lower-rank level, despite successfully doing their jobs for years prior to the new require-

ments.

Vet Centers are attractive to veterans in need, precisely because they are not like the behavioral health model offered in VA hospitals. Vet Centers need the flexibility to meet veterans where they are, in a setting that promotes healing and recovery, and that allows veterans to speak with someone focused on helping them come all the way home, not on quotas and centralization.

Let's keep a keen eye on the results of the Vet Center Improvement Act, which requires yearly feedback from Vet Center personnel. The Government Accountability Office will compile the results and share them with the VA Secretary and the public.

Please contact your members of Congress and ask them to fully fund the Vet Centers at the level needed to fully staff the facilities. And ask them to hold VA leaders accountable to provide quality service to veterans and create a culture that focuses on concerns over quotas. ♦

LINCOLN

# Buddy Check

"TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

At 'The Mill' Coffee and Bistro

2021 Transformation Drive

(on the Nebraska Innovation Campus)

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

## Buddy Check

A social gathering of Veterans dedicated to reducing and eliminating Veteran suicide. We continue our service by gathering with fellow Veterans. We call and reach out to those who served at our side. We stood together then, and we stand together now.

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

At Ease

Retired Colonel Larry Nelson is looking for veterans who want to have their stories told. Larry will meet with the veteran and record his/her story for the Library of Congress.

Contact information 308-249-1275 email [wastfeig@yahoo.com](mailto:wastfeig@yahoo.com)



## **U. S. Army Air Force Veteran Identified**



On July 7, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Corporal James A. Hurt, missing from World War II.

Corporal Hurt, who joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in Illinois, was a member of the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group in the Philippines during World War II. He was captured following the American surrender on the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and was interned in the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp in Nueva Ecija Province, where he died of malaria and dysentery on July 19, 1942.

At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Conditions at the camp were poor, with food and water extremely limited, leading to widespread malnutrition and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery. By the time the camp was liberated in early 1945, approximately 2,800 Americans had died at Cabanatuan. CPL Hurt was buried in Common Grave 312 at the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery along with other deceased American POWs.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Those remains that could not be unidentified were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns. In March 2018, the remains associated with Common Grave 312 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of CPL Hurt.

Corporal Hurt is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

## First Navy enlisted man killed in World War I was awarded The Medal Of Honor



When a torpedo came toward Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Osmond Kelly Ingram's ship in World War I, he knew he had to do whatever he could to save lives. Ingram couldn't keep the ship from being hit, but he did succeed in saving others – just not himself. That extraordinary sacrifice earned him the Medal of Honor.

Ingram was born on Aug. 4, 1887, in Oneonta, Alabama, to parents Robert and Naomi Ingram. He had three siblings, and his family owned a lot of land in the area, which Ingram grew up farming.

At some point, the family also lived in Pratt City, outside of Birmingham. That's where Ingram enlisted in November 1903, signing up to be an apprentice seaman. The young man decided to make a career out of it, staying in the service for more than a decade before World War I would put him to the ultimate test.

On Oct. 15, 1917, about six months after the U.S. joined the Great War, Ingram was serving as a gunner's mate on the USS Cassin, a destroyer that was about 20 miles off the southern coast of Ireland. The crew had been searching for a German U-61 submarine.

The book "Blue Jackets of 1918" by Willis J. Abbot said target practice had just ended, and Ingram was cleaning his gun when he saw a torpedo coming directly at them.

## **(Ingram – Continued)**

**Ingram realized that the torpedo was going to strike the boat's rear deck, the aft, in the vicinity of its depth charge storage area, so he bolted in that direction in hopes of releasing the highly explosive charges into the water before the torpedo got there. If the torpedo had struck that area, the whole ship likely would have exploded.**

**Ingram began to hurl the depth charges overboard, but unfortunately, the torpedo struck the ship before he could complete his mission. It did, indeed, set off the depth charges in a blast that killed Ingram and blew him overboard.**

**However, Ingram's sacrifice saved lives. While nine other sailors were injured, no one else was killed. If Ingram hadn't gotten a critical number of depth charges off the ship, the explosion would have likely been much larger and would have led to many more casualties.**

**While the Cassin's stern was heavily damaged and its rudder had been blown off, about an hour after the torpedo hit, the ship still managed to fire at the U-boat when it surfaced, forcing the Germans to abandon their attack. The Cassin was later towed to a naval base at Queenstown, Ireland, where it was repaired and returned to service.**

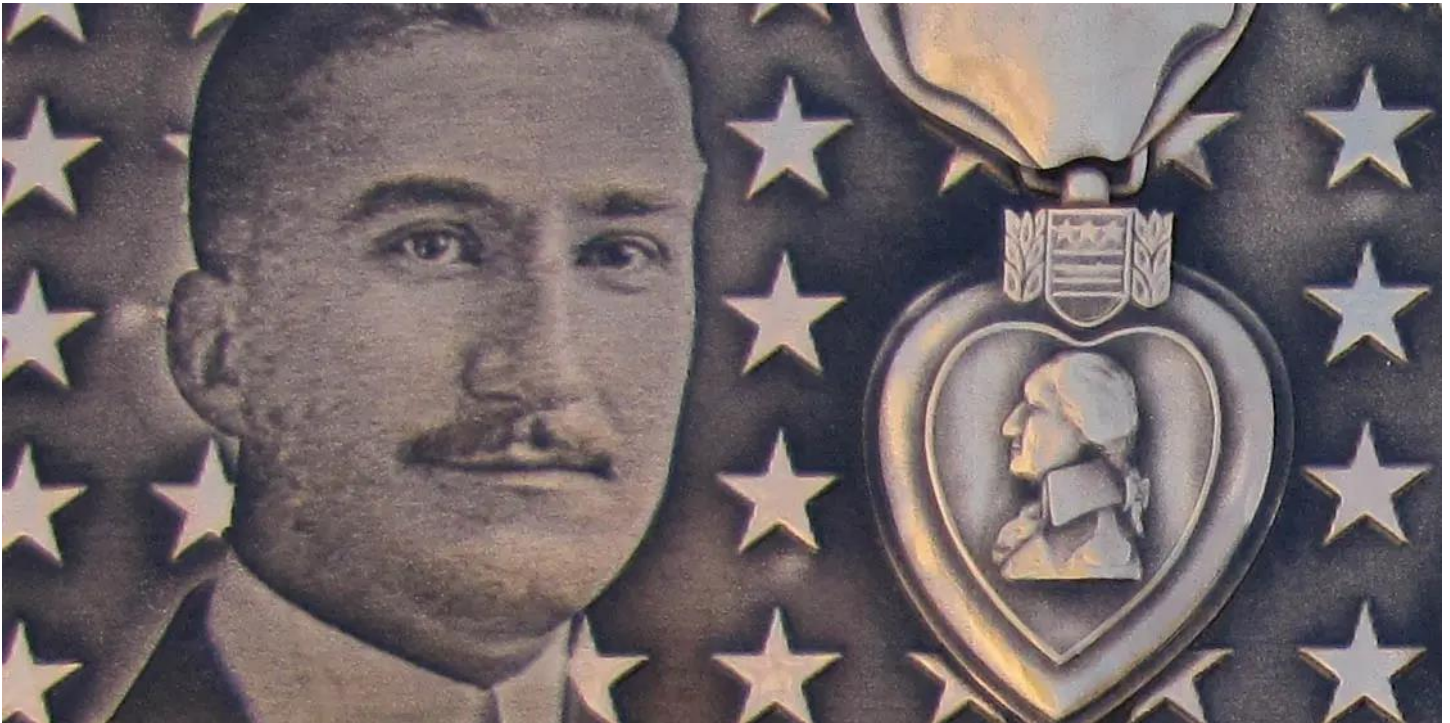
**Ingram was the first Navy enlisted man to be killed in action during World War I. His body was never recovered. To memorialize him, his name is listed on the Brookwood American Cemetery's Wall of the Missing in Brookwood, England.**

**Ingram was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in November of 1920, according to the newspaper Birmingham (Alabama) News. His medal can be found at the Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham.**

**Ingram's sacrifice has been honored in many ways since his death. In the 1920s, Camp Ingram at San Diego's Naval Training Center was named for him. It's now known as Ingram Plaza. The USS Osmond Ingram also became the first Navy ship to be named for an enlisted sailor. It was in service from 1919 to 1946.**

**In 2011, nearly 100 years after his death, Ingram was inducted into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor.**

## **The Last Official Death of WWI Was a Man Who Sought Redemption**



**The six-hour delay between the armistice signing and World War I's official end cost the lives of nearly 3,000 soldiers, including one American in the war's final minute.**

**Shortly after 5 a.m. on November 11, 1918, German, British and French officials gathered inside a railroad dining car in a dark forest north of Paris and signed an armistice to end World War I. Rejecting German calls to immediately halt hostilities, Allied commander Ferdinand Foch dictated that the guns would fall silent at 11 a.m. in part to allow news of the cease-fire to be transmitted to the front lines.**

**"There was also the symbolic reason of ending at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," says Jonathan Casey, director of the archives and Edward Jones Research Center at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. The quest to bring poetic symmetry to the conclusion of a war that was anything but poetic, came at a terrible cost—the lives of nearly 3,000 soldiers, including one American private who sought to restore his reputation in the war's final minute.**

**The freshly signed armistice mandated that Germany evacuate France in two weeks. However, some American commanders refused to call off their attacks to liberate French territory that the Germans already agreed to relinquish.**

**"Commanders were told to keep fighting all the way to 11 a.m. Some did and some didn't based on their personal appraisals of whether it was really worth it," Casey says. "From an American point of view there was a mixed reaction, and the Germans were surprised that the Americans were still fighting so vigorously.**

## **(Redemption – Continued)**

**They thought things would be quiet. The Allies, though, wanted to show the Germans that they were going to press until the final hour, so they knew they were serious about the armistice terms.”**

**Among the American forces told to continue the fight after the armistice signing was the 313th Infantry Regiment of the 79th “Liberty” Division. “There will be absolutely no let-up in the carrying out of the original plans until 11 o’clock,” subordinate brigadier general William Nicholson ordered the regiment known as “Baltimore’s Own” since most of its men came from that city.**

**On the morning of November 11, the men of the 313th found themselves on the far-right flank of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. After experiencing nearly two months of uninterrupted combat, the regiment found no abatement in the hours following the armistice signing, seizing the town of Ville-devant-Chaumont, 10 miles north of Verdun. Enveloped by a thick fog, the Germans might have been obscured from sight but the boys from Baltimore could clearly hear the staccato of enemy machine guns and the howls of shells streaking overhead.**

**Among those dodging the geysers of mud and iron erupting from the shells plugging in the mire outside Ville-devant-Chaumont was 23-year-old private Henry Gunther. Before war ripped him away from his new fiancée and a comfortable job at a Baltimore bank, life had been good for the handsome, mustachioed grandson of German immigrants. Drafted into service, he shipped out to France in July 1918 as his company’s supply sergeant, but when military censors read a letter Gunther had penned to a friend back home complaining about life in the trenches and urging him to avoid serving his country, the Army demoted him to private. Gunther’s grand-niece, Carol Gunther Aikman, says a further blow came when his fiancée decided to break off their engagement following his demotion.**

**The soldiers of “Baltimore’s Own” saw a sudden change in their comrade after he lost his stripes. No longer gregarious, Gunther became sullen and withdrawn. Perhaps to regain his reputation and prove his patriotism at a time when German Americans were viewed with suspicion, he volunteered for dangerous assignments as a runner. “He was injured by shrapnel in his hand and could have been sent back home but he insisted on staying to help his Army brothers,” Aikman says. “I think this alone demonstrates his courage, bravery and dedication to his battalion as well as his love for his country.”**

**At 10:44 a.m. on November 11, a runner made it to the 313th regiment with orders to stop the fighting in 16 minutes. “Hold the lines at the spot, and neither advance nor give way to the rear,” he panted.**

## **(Redemption – Continued)**

**Sixteen minutes. That’s all Gunther might have believed he had left to regain his honor and prove his allegiance to the United States. While two German machine gun squads manning a roadblock counted down the war’s remaining minutes, they saw a shadowy figure materialize out of the fog. As shots rang out, Gunther threw himself on the ground but continued to crawl forward through the mud.**

**The Germans kept watch on the American soldier who suddenly rose to his feet and charged toward the machine-gun nest with his fixed bayonet. Gunther’s comrades yelled at him to stop as did the bewildered Germans in broken English. Didn’t he know the war was minutes from its end? If he heard the pleas, Gunther ignored them.**

**A five-round burst from a German gun struck Gunther in the left temple. He died instantly. His body collapsed in the mud. The time was 10:59 a.m.**

**General John Pershing, chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, officially recorded Gunther as the last American soldier to die in World War I, although the death toll would climb as it took several days for the news to reach remote battlefronts around the globe.**

**According to author Joseph Persico, Gunther was one of at least 2,738 troops and 320 Americans to die on the Western Front in the war’s final day, most of them in the six hours between the armistice signing and enactment. Persico wrote in *Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour* that the death toll surpassed the daily average on the Western Front. “It seems so foolish,” Corporal Harold Pierce wrote of his experience on the war’s final day, “to keep up the killing till the last minute.”**

**Gunther’s was one last confusing death that epitomized a confusing war. “He probably felt shamed by his demotion to private and felt this somehow dishonored his family. He was trying to redeem himself, and when shots rang out, he alone raced forward,” Aikman says. “I believe his final resting place, Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore, Maryland, is perfectly named for what he was trying to accomplish.”**

**If Gunther charged the German machine-gun nest to regain his stripes, it worked. In addition to receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, he was posthumously reinstated to sergeant in 1923.**

**By Christopher Klein – Updated March 28, 2023 / Original: November 9, 2018**



# Veterans Day

Honoring the Men and Women  
Who Served Our Country

November 11th



# Sons Of The American Legion Application



To be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, you must be a male descendant (son, grandson, stepson, or adopted son) of:

- A member of The American Legion, or
- A veteran who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, or
- A veteran who died after their honorable discharge from such service, and
- Return the application below along with \$35.00 to:

Sons of The American Legion  
ATTN: Brendan Moore  
123 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L  
Lincoln, Ne. 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application	
Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____	Birth Date _____ Date _____
Name _____ (First) (Initial) (Last)	Recruited by _____ (Initial) (Last)
Address _____ (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)	
E-mail Address _____	Telephone _____
Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____	
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No _____, Dept. of _____	
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____	
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____	
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.	
Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)	
Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)	00-001 (2014)

<b>RECEIPT</b>	Date _____
	Received of _____
<b>For God and Country</b>	\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____
	Squadron _____ Detachment of _____
	By _____



# Become a Member of The American Legion

Do you want to help your community and fellow Veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion? Would you want to help recruit a new member? If you can certify that you served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably, you are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$46.00 to:

American Legion Post 3  
123 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L  
Lincoln, Ne 68510

**The American Legion Membership Application**

LEGION Act

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Date of Birth)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mailing Address) (Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail)  Male  Female (Gender) (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

**Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	



30-009 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant Date Name of recruiter

To renew or transfer to Post 3, you only need to sign below and mail this and a check for \$46 made out to "American Legion Post 3" to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2024, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

***YES! Please transfer my membership to Lincoln American Legion Post 3***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address



**American Legion Post 3  
123 South 84<sup>th</sup> St. Suite L  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
(402) 466-3958**

**Email: [Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [lincolnpost3.org](http://lincolnpost3.org)**

**2023 - 2024 Post 3 Officers**

**Commander – Bruce Gubser – Cell: 402-470-1700**

**First Vice Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514**

**Second Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834**

**Adjutant & Post Service Officer – Ed Schnabel – Cell: 402-480-8542**

**Chaplain – William Jackson – Cell: 402-613-9774**

**Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Editor for approval. All requests must be received one week before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

