



DANIEL SIMPSON POST 630

112 N. Main St, Elburn, IL 60119

Office Phone – 630-365-6530

Post email – elburnpost630@gmail.com

Website – www.elburnpost630.org

December 2024 Newsletter

Post Officers:

Commander: Norm Welker
 Sr. Vice Commander: John Nevenhoven
 Jr. Vice Commander : Joanne “Jo” Gabl
 Adjutant: John Waynick
 Sergeant at Arms: Lloyd Da Mask
 Judge Advocate/
 Parliamentarian: Paul Gardner
 Chaplain: Tim Kolzow
 Finance: Tim Kolzow
 Post Service Officer: Norm Welker
 Historian: Mark Krebs



Post Meetings

The Post meets are on the second Monday of each month. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and comradery. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend.



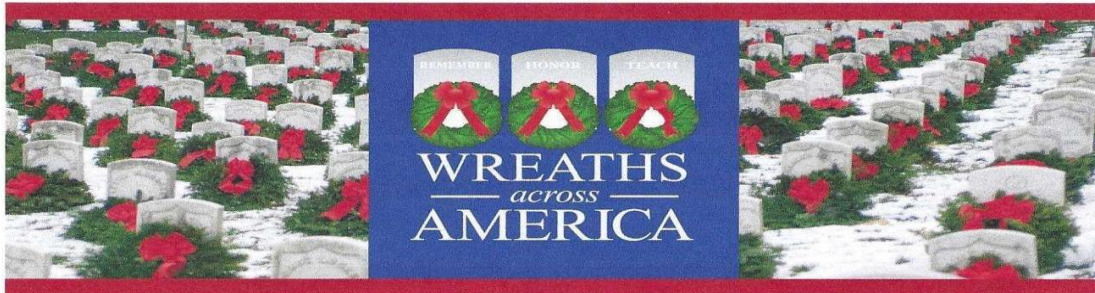
DISABLED PARKING IS IN THE REAR LOT. LIFTS ARE AT BOTH ENTRANCES, WHEELCHAIR LIFT IN THE FRONT, CHAIR LIFT IN THE REAR. CALL US WHEN YOU ARRIVE SO WE CAN HAVE SOMEONE READY TO ASSIST YOU.

December 2024 Post Meeting

The monthly meeting of Elburn Post 630 will be held **December 9th**. On the menu, Chili, cornbread, salad, and assorted condiments. Desserts and or sweets are always welcome.

Got a suggestion for next year? Talk to Tim.

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To **SPONSOR** or **VOLUNTEER** to help place Wreaths at **BLACKBERRY TOWNSHIP** or **ST. GALL CEMETERIES**

In Elburn, IL. Visit Our Web-Page or QR Code Below



December 14, 2024



<https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/170475>

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In Memory of...

*Of those who have gone to Post Everlasting in 2024,
Until we meet again.*



Alvin "Al" Anderson
U.S. Army - Korea
July 13



Howard Hofmeister
U.S. Navy – Korea
June 1



Larry Onckon
USMC - Vietnam
July 6



Richard "Dick" Voltz
U.S. Army - Vietnam
Sept 25



George Morris
U.S. Army - Korea
Feb 27



Delwin "Bucky" Herra
U.S. Army - Vietnam
July 10

Post Calendar

December 2024

(**Holiday**/**Notable**/**Post Event**)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December

1: Air Force Auxiliary Birthday

5: Queen of Hearts

7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – ‘Promise to remember the 7th of December’

9: Post 630 Monthly Meeting and Chili Dinner

12: Queen of Hearts

13: United States Army National Guard Birthday

14: Wreaths Across America – Volunteer Opportunity within our community

15: Bill of Rights Day

19: Queen of Hearts

20: Space Force Birthday

21: National Wreaths Across America Day

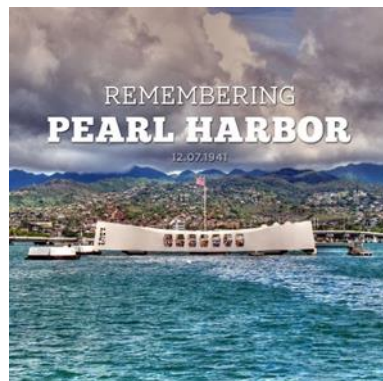
24: Christmas Eve

25: Christmas Day/Hanukkah

26: Queen of Hearts – hmmm? Double check this...

28: Pledge of Allegiance Day

31: New Years Eve – on the brink of 2025!



The Aftermath of Pearl Harbor

Take time to review our American history and know what happened on December 7th, 1941 and why 'we promise to remember'. Pearl Harbor, HI was struck by Japan costing so many military and civilian lives. If we forget history, we tend to repeat it out of ignorance.

Although Pearl Harbor started the Pacific War, the United States Navy was able to recover quickly from the attack as the main supplies were not damaged. Many ships were salvaged and repaired.

The cost of human life was high: The US military lost over 106,000 in the Pacific War; Japan lost 2.1 million. Around 2280 people in service were killed and 1109 servicemen and women were seriously injured. The attack did not even spare civilians as sixty-eight of them died.

Americans of Japanese descent was considered a threat to security. Therefore, in March 1942, the federal War Relocation Authority (WRA) was established "to take all people of Japanese descent into custody, surround them with troops, prevent them from buying land, and return them to their former homes at the end of the war."

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From the Service Officer

The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82) was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on November 12, 2024, with a vote of 327-75.

This bill proposes to eliminate the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive pensions from employment not covered by Social Security, such as certain federal, state, and local government jobs.

Supporters argue that these provisions unfairly penalize public sector retirees, such as teachers and police officers, and push some into financial hardship during retirement.

The act still needs to pass the Senate and be signed by the President to become law. If it advances, it would mark a significant policy change affecting the retirement income of many public employees in states where alternative pension systems are common.

I would strongly beach of you to reach out to your respective Senators in your states and let them know you are seeking their support for the passing of **The Social Security Fairness Act** once it reaches them.



Choose VA

Choose Hines

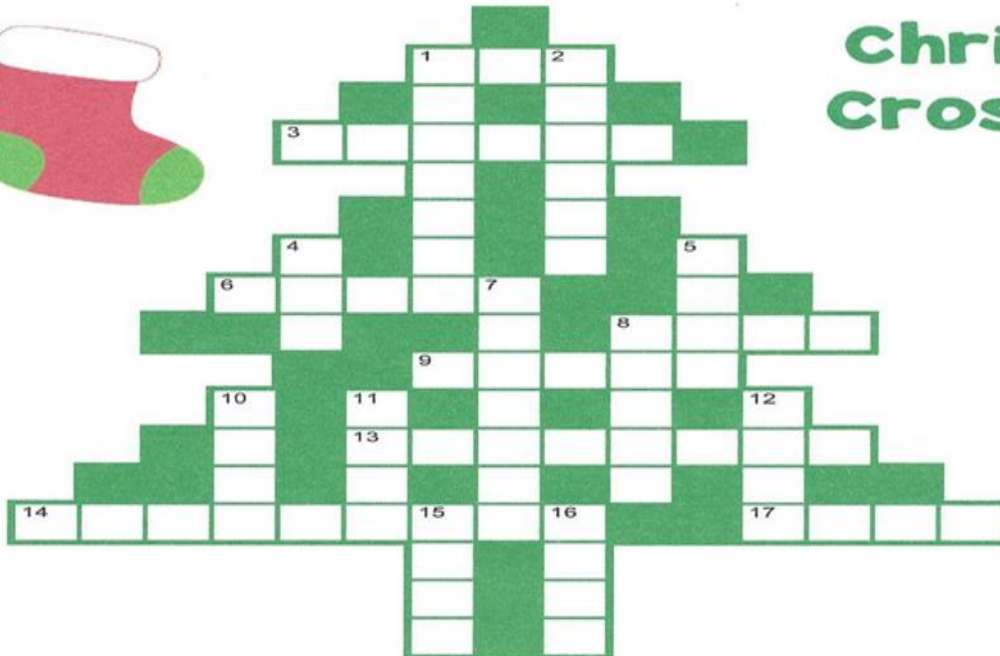


HINES VA (MAIN CAMPUS)
5000 5th AVE.
HINES, IL 60141
(708) 202-8387

SERVICES PROVIDED: PRIMARY CARE, SPECIALTY CARE, SURGERY, MENTAL HEALTH, PSYCHIATRY, AMPUTEE CARE, AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH THERAPY, BLIND REHABILITATION, CARDIAC REHABILITATION, COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY, DENTAL, EYE CLINIC, GERIATRICS, HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS, HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE, HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE, KINESIOTHERAPY, LAB, MOVE PROGRAM, MINORITY VETERANS PROGRAM, NUTRITION, OEF/OIF PROGRAMS, PHARMACY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, PODIATRY, RADIOLOGY, RECREATION THERAPY, SPINAL CORD INJURY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT, BI/POLYTRAUMA TREATMENT, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AND OTHERS.

AURORA (COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC)
161 S LINCOLNWAY
NORTH AURORA, IL 60542
(630) 859-2504

MONDAY & TUESDAY: 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
SERVICES PROVIDED: PRIMARY CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AUDIOLOGY, NUTRITION, PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION (PM&R), LAB, REFERRALS FOR SPECIALTY CARE AT HINES VA MAIN CAMPUS, SHUTTLE SERVICE TO HINES VA MAIN CAMPUS



Christmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle _____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the ____"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider

“NIGHT AT THE THEATER” RAFFLE SERIES

WIN 2 TICKETS TO A PERFORMANCE AT THE PARAMOUNT THEATER IN AURORA, IL

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE \$10.00 EACH.

EACH RAFFLE TICKET IS GOOD FOR ALL DRAWINGS!!!

FOR 2 TICKETS TO SEE



ON FEBRUARY 12TH 2025 @ 7PM

What is more American than apple pie? A small-town waitress with a dream and the ingredients for success! Sugar, butter, flour. These aren't the only ingredients Jenna, a waitress and expert pie maker, uses to make her famous pies. Stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage, Jenna unexpectedly becomes pregnant, and then finds acceptance and love in the most unexpected place.

Hoping to bake her way out of her troubles, she puts her heart and soul into her unique pies, winning over anyone who tastes them. But while battling expectations and self-esteem issues, Jenna's delicious pies reflect her state of mind with names like I Hate My Husband Pie, and Pregnant., Miserable, Self-Pitying Loser Pie. Each of us will find something relatable in Jenna's struggles and triumphs. Each of us will find something relatable in Jenna's struggles and triumphs.

Full of romance and the joy of an uninhibited fling, Waitress challenges the story of a pregnant woman trapped in a small town between the life she's living and the life she wants. Her customers, co-workers, and the town's handsome new doctor may all offer her conflicting recipes for happiness, but only Jenna can do the soul-searching.

DRAWING ON January 23, 2025 during the Queen of Hearts Drawing

The Christmas Truce of

by Paul J. Magnarella

(published December 25 2009)

Though World War I ranks as one of the most horrific in history, it also included a famous and spontaneous peaceful interlude inscribed in chronicles as the unofficial **“Christmas Truce of 1914”**

World War I The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914, plunged much of Europe into war. The Entente Powers of France, Russia and Britain stood against the Central Powers of the Austro-Hungarian, German and Ottoman Empires. In mid-September, the German, British and French commands ordered their armies to entrench along a 475-mile Western Front that extended from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier. Four years of brutal, stalemated trench warfare followed. Most trenches were about seven feet deep and six feet wide, topped by a parapet of sandbags. From there, barbed wire entanglements extended into no man’s land. In many places, the no man’s land separating German and British front-line trenches was only 30 to 70 yards wide.



Soldiers from each side met and talked to each other in “No man’s Land” between the French and German lines. They gave each other gifts, shared food, sang Christmas carols, and even played games of soccer..

The elements were sometimes more debilitating than the enemy. Standing in the mud and water for days often resulted in feet becoming gangrenous. Excessive exposure to wet and cold caused nephritis, which affected the kidneys. The accumulated rubbish, urine and excreta in the trenches negatively impacted on health. Food scraps and decaying corpses attracted huge numbers of disease-carrying rats. The unwashed men attracted lice that covered their bodies with bite marks and caused “trench fever.” Artillery bursts caused some men to experience shell shock.

On Christmas Eve, the weather cleared. Rain gave way to a clear cold that froze the mud and water, making movement easier and boots and clothing drier. Having received gift packages from home, the men of both sides were in a festive mood. That evening, along the front line, German troops sang Christmas carols. Many erected candle-lit Christmas trees on their parapets and called out season greetings to their enemies opposite them. Many Entente troops responded with applause, holiday wishes and songs of their own. Concerned, one British battalion command informed Brigade Headquarters: “Germans have illuminated their trenches, are singing songs, and are wishing us a Happy Xmas. Compliments are being exchanged, but [I] am nevertheless taking all military precautions ...”

Then, an amazing series of events occurred. Along parts of the British, French and Belgian lines, men from both sides went out into no man's land unarmed to meet, shake hands and fraternize. The First Battalion Royal Irish Rifles reported Germans calling out: "If you Englishmen come out and talk to us, we won fire." Scotsmen in Flanders, the 2nd Queen's Battalion near La Chapelle d' Armentieres, and the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers also reported Germans singing "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night") and extending invitations to meet in no man's land.

Christmas Day

On the morning of 25 December, the 2nd Battalion Devons reported seeing the Germans hoist a board with the words, "You no fight, we no fight." Opposite the 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, the process began with a German officer emerging from his trench waving a white flag. The 2nd Battalion Wiltshire's reported men on both sides waving to each other, and then going out into no man's land to meet unarmed. After initial greetings, both sides agreed to bury their dead comrades, who had been laying in no man's land for weeks. Some Germans and British worked together in burial parties; a British soldier described a joint funeral service as "a sight one will never forget!" Members of the British Rifle Brigade gave the Germans wooden crosses to mark their graves.

The opposing sides exchanged food, drink, cigarettes, photographs, addresses and sincere wishes for peace. A British officer found the scene "absolutely astounding!" The troops found each other to be quite likable. Many men felt compelled to write home about their experience. A London Rifles Brigade officer: "They [Germans] were really magnificent in the whole thing.... I now have a very different opinion of the Germans." A Scots Guard: "Some of them are very nice fellows and did not show any hatred, which makes me think they are forced to fight."

Once no man's land had been cleared of corpses, some men found areas suitable for soccer games with improvised balls. In places, British and Germans ate Christmas dinner together, sharing whatever they had. They entertained each other with singing and instrumental music.

How It Ended

Many who participated in an informal truce hoped to continue it until New Year's Day or beyond. But the high commands sternly objected. A German Army order threatened that fraternization with the enemy would be punished as high treason. A British order warned that "Officers and NCOs allowing [fraternization] would be brought before a court martial." In late December, the high commands ordered artillery bombardments along the front. They did the same in following years to ensure that the 1914 Christmas truce would not be repeated. Despite these measures, a few friendly encounters did occur, but on a much smaller scale than in 1914.

Soldiers Express Themselves

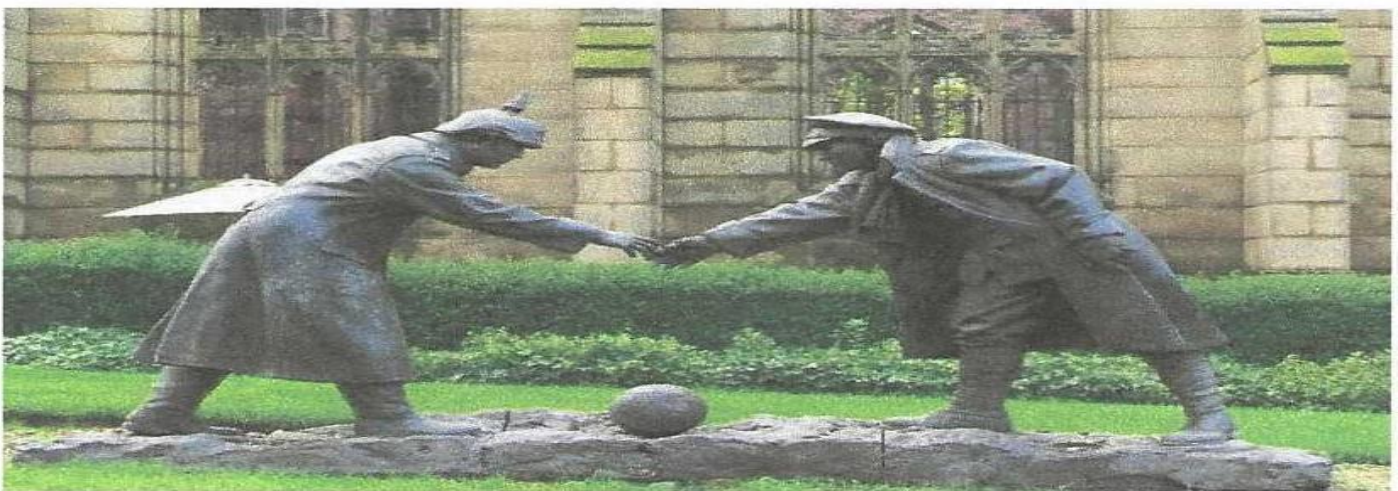
The Christmas truce touched the men deeply as evidenced in their letters and diaries. Various British soldiers wrote the following: “The most wonderful day on record!” “The most extraordinary celebration of Christmas any of us will ever experience!”

“This experience has been the most practical demonstration I have seen of Peace on earth and goodwill towards men.” German troops wrote: “The way we spend Christmas in the trenches sounds almost like a fairy tale.” “It was a Christmas celebration in keeping with the command ‘Peace on earth’ and a memory which will stay with us always.” “Probably the most extraordinary event of the whole year “a soldier’s truce without any higher sanction by officers or generals.”

Speaking in the House of Commons in 1930, Sir H. Kingsley Wood, a former major who had served at the front in 1914 stated: “If we had been left to ourselves there would never have been another shot fired. “It was only the fact that we were being controlled by others that made it necessary for us to start trying to shoot one another again.”

Today, the Christmas truce of 1914 is regarded as evidence of men’s natural desire for peace and friendship, even in the context of a brutal and senseless conflict. However, the 1914 Christmas truce is not unique in history. During the early 19th century, Peninsula War, British and French soldiers at times visited each other, shared rations and played cards.

Periodically, during the 1854-56 Crimean War, French, British and Russian troops gathered around the same fire to smoke and drink together. In the American Civil War (1861-1865), Yankees and Rebels traded coffee and tobacco and peacefully fished from opposite sides of the same rivers. Throughout history, it has been rare for men fighting at close quarters not to extend friendly gestures and establish informal truces with their enemies.



The statue commemorating the truce was named “All together now”. It was decided that the right location should be the Belgian town of Mesen, the closest town to what has become the most well-known site of the Christmas Truce.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from your newsletter staff

Jo, Jim, & Bob

