



DANIEL SIMPSON

POST630

112N. MAIN ST. ELBURN IL 60119

3RD QUARTER 2019



Teddy Bear Left at The Wall

JUDGE
ADVOCATE

There is about the Wall, a strange stillness, as though the 58,000 souls gathered there are asking for silence. You would think the names would rage against their fate. Perhaps they know a peace that we cannot yet comprehend. Walking slowly along the path in front of the Wall, not looking for any particular name or even looking at the Wall, just taking the whole thing in. The Wall is black, shiny black, and it reflects the faces that stare at the names. I saw my face and walked away.

People leave things there: medals, old jungle boots, books of poetry, notes, a teddy bear – a tattered teddy bear. I didn't look long at the bear 'cuz I saw the boy's Mom cleaning out a closet where things had gone untouched for years. I saw the boy's mother open a box. Perhaps she didn't want to remember what was in the box but she opened the box. She saw the teddy bear and fell upon the box, clutching the bear as tightly as she had clutched her son.

The bear was her baby's companion. The bear kept away monsters of the night. The boy slept with the bear, toddled to breakfast or off to bed or around the house, hugging the bear or holding it by an arm.

Every day the boy told his mother what he and the bear had done- the places they had gone-the good people they had met. And when the mother rocked her baby to sleep, the boy held his bear. His eyes closing slowly, the boy fought sleep, just as he would later fight death.

The bear waited a long time. He had nothing to do in a box. There were no monsters in the box, no frightful things to guard against, no boy to protect.

The mother found the bear and she took the bear to her boy. She didn't take the bear to the cemetery filled with strangers, but to the place where her son is among friends. There, where the bear can rest.

All the monsters are gone now- and the bear can sleep again with his boy.

The boy understands, as do the 58,000 friends. More than anyone else.

More than the boy's mother. 58,000 friends understand.

I saw the teddy bear and walked away quickly. I walked away quickly because my son had a teddy bear.

(Submitted by Paul Gardner: Judge Advocate/Parliamentarian)

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Krebs
 Vice Commander: Dan Kolzow
 Jr. Vice Commander: Chris Mulvihill
 Adjutant: John Reece
 Sergeant at Arms: Lloyd Damask
 Chaplin: Jim Elgar
 Interim Finance: Dan Kolzow
 Judge Advocate/
 Parliamentarian: Paul Gardner
 Post Service Officer: Norm Welker

Contact Us



American Legion Post 630
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Just for Laughs



@AmericanLegionPost630

Opportunities Abound!!

If you have been considering getting more involved in your post, but don't know where to begin or what is available your first step is to contact your Senior Vice Commander!

Give him a call or stop in the newly remodeled office. Even though he is usually at the post most weekdays 8am -12pm, it is best to call first. He can not only fill you in on how your post works but where your special skills could fit in. Are you a skilled tradesman? Computer whiz? Event planner? Historian? Photographer? A People person? Organizing Specialist? How about a fundraiser? Chances are you have a talent we need!

Dan Kolzow SVC



From the Service Officer's Desk



Veterans Breakfast Briefing

Every Third Thursday of the Month at 8:00am Denny's
521 North Randall Road Batavia IL
Come join Kane County-area Veteran Posts and their membership for breakfast and learn about topics of interest in the local Veteran Community.

Thursday July 18th- A representative from the Illinois comptroller's office will present a workshop on how to prevent identity theft.

Thursday August 15th- Dr. Chernara Baker from Affordable Dentures and Implants will provide information about dental concerns for veterans.

VA DAY AT SUN CITY

August 12th 10:00am to Noon
Prairie Lodge
Drendel Ballroom
12880 Del Webb Boulevard
Huntley, Illinois 60142

- * VA Health Care Enrollment, Claims Assistance
- * VA Benefits Screening
- * State Veteran Benefits Assistance
- * DD-214 / Records Request
- * Certification Stamp for "Veteran" Designation for Illinois Driver's License and ID Cards

Legislative News

Call to Action: A bill expanding membership eligibility for The American Legion was introduced March 8th in the house of representatives. The let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act- also known as the Legion Act (H R 1641) is a bipartisan effort introduced by congressmen Lou Correa D-Cal, and Ben Cline, R-Va. With Rep Gil Cisneros, D-Calif an original co-sponsor.

The Legion Act was a focus of American Legion National commander Brett Reistad's Feb 27th testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs. He called on congress to take action amending the charter, thereby giving tens of thousands of veterans access to American Legion benefits and programs they are not currently eligible for.

"Our charter and membership eligibility have mirrored the eras officially recognized by the U.S. government to include the wars and conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam and the Global War on Terror," Reistad testified. "However, these recognized periods fail to take into account the hostilities that occur between official war eras, in which nearly 1,600 U.S. military personnel were killed or wounded in places like Cuba, Iran and El Salvador.

Because The American Legion's membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. The act expands membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war since World War II.

Now is the time to contact your elected officials and ask them to co-sponsor and to support this effort to expand the eligibility dates for The American Legion.

What's Happening Down at the Post?

Office Remodel: The remodel is finally complete! Thanks to a grant from Home Depot and help from Johnston Drywall and hours of volunteer work, it is looking good! Complete with new flooring, ceiling, AC/Heat unit, LED lighting and donated cabinets it is once again a place we can be proud to invite prospective members into or hold a small private meeting in. All that remains is some internal organization and selective wall hangings. Also, new to the office is a mail box! The post will now receive mail directly to the post offices. There is no longer a P.O. Box for the post. You can find our address on page two of this newsletter.



Flag Day 2019: This past June 14th, Flag Day, Post 630 held a flag disposal ceremony in the parking lot followed by refreshments in the Legion hall. 290 flags were contributed over the year by the community and properly disposed of! Many thanks to the members of Boy Scout troop 7 in Elburn for their assistance and participation in this ceremony. Harley Veldhuizen and Frank Chybik look on as Jr. Vice Mulvihill assists in the ceremony. Ashes were later collected and buried at Veterans Memorial Park.

Upcoming Events: July 13th will be our second annual BBQ for the troops in conjunction with Bob Jass Chevrolet. This free lunch for the community will collect donations to benefit the USO of Illinois. We hope to best our efforts of last year by raising over \$2000. September 14th will be our second annual feEL-da-BURN 0.1 Beer run! Proceeds from this event will go to the newly formed post charity. We again hope to better last year's results by raising over \$4000 for the cause.

What New Charity? The post has created a new entity, "American Legion Post 630 Charities". The purpose of the new entity is to have a 501c3 status which makes it more recognizable and appealing to donors of our events. The post itself currently has a 501c19 status. The charity can direct funds to local causes as well as Legion programs. It will eventually be linked in with our Facebook and WEB pages to accept donations. The executive committee is the initial board of directors and will work on smoothing out any wrinkles in the new entity. If you would like to be involved in this new venture, please attend the meetings so you can be an active participant. The charity meetings will be posted/announced and open to the membership and their input.

Membership & Dues: Oh geez is it that time again? Almost. In July, you will start receiving your renewal notices. Please! Please! Please! Turn in your paid renewals right away! The sooner they get sent in the sooner the officers can get back to their duties. It's no fun to get calls and letters from your post begging for your dues. It's even less fun making all those calls and letters. Overall membership is down across the nation and that could result in higher dues. We as officers and members need to constantly work on recruiting new members and we can't do that if we are chasing down dues.

Did You Know? Your post loans out, to anyone that needs it, hospital equipment? Crutches, wheelchairs, scooters, hospital bed (twin), walkers to name a few items. We also accept the same in donations. This service is run quietly by Harley Veldhuizen and has been for many a year. The expression and thanks from people when they receive needed equipment at no cost or catch is priceless! Keep up the good work Harley!!

POST HISTORY

The following is a summary of newspaper articles found in the Elburn Herald archives:

With the signing of the Armistice on Nov 11th 1918, WWI comes to an end. The idea of an organization to care for the wounded veterans of the great war was conceived. After two conventions held on two continents and with the support of the U.S. Congress the American Legion was formed on March 15 1919. Over the next year, a massive organizing effort was under way to sign up all eligible men (Those who wore their countries uniform during time of conflict, whether they were overseas or state side). into the newly formed American Legion. As the country learned more about the goals and mission of the American Legion so did the public support. Every local service organization, churches and willing body participated in the forming of a local charter for their hometown heroes.

It was over a year before all the details of creating local charters across the country was worked out. On May 2 1920 organizing for the state of Illinois charters officially began. A state of Illinois American Legion representative held a public meeting at the Mystic Hall in Elburn on April 30th 1920 for the purpose of organizing a local chapter. On Monday May 3rd 1920, The Elburn American Legion held its first official meeting!

May 6 1920

AMERICAN LEGION POST IS FORMED IN ELBURN

Charter Has 25 Members, More Joining —Meeting Nights Second and Fourth Mondays

At the Mystic Hall Friday evening, there were present twenty-five young men who had either seen service in the army or navy in the late war. The purpose of their meeting was to organize an American Legion Post in Elburn—to be known as Daniel Simpson Post—in memory of Daniel Simpson, the one young man from Elburn to lose his life in service overseas.

C A Burgess of Geneva, was present, and assisted in, organizing the local post. The officers elected are as follows: Post Commander - Jay Reeves, Vice Commander - Matt Hannon, Finance Officer - Lee Morris, Sergeant at Arms - Knut Johnson, Adjutant - Einer Johnson, Historian - Ray Reed, Delegates to County convention - Will Morrill and Frank Hannon. The charter will remain open until June 1st, to allow all service men from the townships of Campton, Virgil, Kaneville, and Blackberry to become charter members of the post. Among those who have already joined are; Clyde Sharp, Adolph Deiterich, Jay Reeves, Lee Reeves, Leroy Corrigan, Einer Johnson, Knute Johnson, Nels Frederickson, Frank Hannon, Swen Magnuson, Arthur Johnson, Lee Morris, William Morrill, Matt Hannon, Charles Flint, John Alexanderson, Hjulmer Holmberg, Fred Swanson, Ray Reed, Walter Deekert, Cecil Gum, Knute Le'burg, Dave Steve. Meetings are to be held the Second and fourth Monday nights of each month in Mystic hall. The first regular meeting was held-Monday-night, (May 3 1920)— A smoker is being planned after the next regular meeting. (Elburn Herald)

Over the next few years the Elburn Herald printed many stories of the American Legion and the local posts working to fulfill and perfect its primary mission of caring for veterans, promoting patriotism and youth services. The American Legion at county level took the lead on state and national legislation issues while the local posts focused on fundraising for the county and cultivating local Americanism and area youth. Patriotic picnics featuring boxing and basketball events as well as bands and political speakers became semi-annual events. Usually held on the 4th of July and again in October. Each subsequent event only besting the one prior. Celebrating the hometown heroes and bringing the community together.

Oct 14 1920

Indian Summer Festival October 22

Elburn American Legion Boys Will Give Big Event in Johnson Garage

One of the biggest social events to be held in Elburn this season will be that of the Simpson Post American Legion. It will take place in the new spacious garage of J.R. Johnson Co. Friday evening, October 22. It will be an Indian Summer festival, picturing the Green Mill Gardens, log cabins and other unique and interesting scenes. The Legion boys have engaged the Husk O'Hare orchestra, the best musical organization of its kind in Chicago, to furnish music while the dancers glide over the 10,000 square feet of floor space. The committee in charge are promising this will be an unusual attraction and it is planning to care for the largest attendance ever "under cover" in Elburn. If you wish to see an interesting night and hear good music reserve this date for the Indian Summer festival October 22. (Elburn Herald)

Dec 30 1920

The Simpson Post of American Legion held election last Monday night. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year. Post Commander- M L Hannon. Vice Com - Adolph Dietrich. Finance Officer - C.L. Morris. Sergeant-at-Arms - Chris Flint. The installation and banquet will be held Monday evening January 10. All comrades are requested to be present at this meeting. Notice to members of Daniel Simpson Post American Legion. The membership dues for the year 1921 are due January 1, 1921. All embers please settle with the finance officer immediately. W J Reeves Post Commander (Elburn Herald)

April 28 1921

Baseball In Elburn This Year

This Town Had Hustling Team Ten Years Ago, and Will Again This Season

Ten years ago the town of Elburn was noted, in Northern Illinois, as home of an unbeatable baseball team. That team beat the best Aurora or Elgin could offer. And do you remember those series with Maple Park and Hinckley? Oh Boy! In those days, Elburn was a real live town. And on a certain picnic day over a thousand-people gathered in Whitney's grove to watch Elburn and Hinckley play ball. In the evening our own band gave a concert on Main Street. Most of those thousand-people stayed to that concert and afterwards went to the grand ball and banquet, where they celebrated Elburn's victory over Hinckley. Oh! those were the happy days. NOW- The American Legion will put a fully equipped and newly outfitted baseball team on the field. At a meeting on Tuesday night, it was agreed that The Legion would finance and the business men manage this team. It is to be managed by a board consisting of C.C. Heusinger, E.L. Sharp and H.L. Miles. The first game to be played one week from Sunday, continuing to play every Sunday either here or away as the schedule provides. We have the baseball team and the spirit. This was demonstrated a few weeks ago, by a gorgeous banquet and dance given by the people of Elburn, to their basketball teams. "Nuf Sed" for the spirit. Can we get the same support for baseball? Let's get going, and make those old happy days of ten years ago, come again this summer. Let's get out and play, root or boost for Elburn to be again—the biggest little town in the country. PLAY BALL! Can you play ball? If you can't we will teach you. Come out and win a place on Elburn's new team. Bring along the old mitt and come down to Whitney's grove next Sunday at 2pm where we can see you in action. C.C. Heusinger, E.L. Sharp, H.L. Miles, Managing Board (Elburn Herald)

The Elburn Herald was obviously the main source of information at the time and was used by the post to not only advertise events, but to also communicate with the members about meeting dates, locations, notices as well as current officers. January 1922 marks the first recorded regular meeting minutes we have. In the next newsletter, we will be focusing on meeting minutes.

Post Calendar

(Holiday / Notable Day / Post 630 Event / Other)

JULY

- 3rd) Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 4th) Independence Day/No Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 8th) Post Meeting
- 11th) Queen of Hearts Drawing, Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 13th) BBQ for The Troops (Bob Jass)
- 18th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 25th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 27th) End of Korean War

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AUGUST

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- 1st) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 2nd) Operation Desert Shield
- 7th) Purple Heart Day/ Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 8th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 12th) Post Meeting
- 14th) V-J Day
- 15th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 22nd) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 29th) Queen of Hearts Drawing

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd) Labor Day
- 4th) Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 5th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 9th) Post Meeting
- 11th) Patriot Day
- 12th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 14th) feEL da BURN 0.1k Beer Run
- 19th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 21st) POW-MIA Recognition Day
- 26th) Queen of Hearts Drawing

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29	30					

American Legion
112 N. Main Street
Elburn IL. 60119

The following Businesses have recently donated time and material to better the post
Support Those That Support the Legion!

**GARY JOHNSTON
PLASTERING & DRYWALL INC.
630-466-7045
JOHNSTONDRYWALL.COM**



- New Construction
- Remodels Using BuildClean Air Purification System
- Decorative Ceilings
- Drywall Repairs
- Drop Ceilings

