



The Kingsport Legionnaire
American Legion Hammond Post 3
301 Louis Street, Suite 301
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 246-6991



Newsletter November/December 2018

Commander's Corner:

It is with great sorrow that I begin this newsletter with announcing the loss of two of our most dedicated Legionnaires; Lawrence E. Shoemaker and Walter Edridge Pierce, Jr.

Lawrence Shoemaker was a Legionnaire for 41 years and member of Post 3 for 26 years. He was a member of the Honor Guard. He entered military service in the U.S. Army at the age of 18. While in service in the European theater of war he was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge and was held as a Prisoner of War in Chemnitz, Germany until the end of the war. Lawrence was Co-Commander of the VFW Color Guard, a member of the American Legion Post #24 in Johnson City, a member of VFW Post #3382 in Kingsport, and belonged to the Disabled Veterans Chapter #32. He also belonged to the East Tennessee Chapter of Ex POWs in Johnson City and the National POWs. He was Chaplain of the Purple Heart Chapter #244 of Johnson City.

Walter Pierce, Jr. was a Paid-Up-For Legionnaire of 66 years and served as Post 3's Chaplain for many of those years. He served more than 35 years with multiple tours on active duty in the U.S. Navy and the Naval Reserve. World War II service included the Pacific Theater: Ulithi, Guam, the Philippines and Okinawa. He actively served in the Korean War and the Naval

Reserve during the Vietnam War. He retired from the U. S. Navy in 1982 as a Command Master Chief (E-9). Walter was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War. He has been an active member of Toastmasters; Destroyer Escort Sailors Association; Korean War Veterans and a lifetime member of MENSA.

Veterans Day will have passed by the time you get this newsletter. This Veterans Day has special significance because it is the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, the official end of World War I. We also dedicated the new Sentinel in the Kingsport Veterans Memorial. Even though it is a replica of the modern era soldier, it represents all the service branches and all veterans who have served. I want to thank all of you who served and are serving. Your service and sacrifices were/are crucial to maintaining our freedoms.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support. May God bless you and the country.

Gary R. Stidham
Post President

Adjutant's Corner:

In honor of Veterans Day, I want to say thank you to all the Veterans that have served and are serving to protect our freedoms and way of life. A simple thank

you doesn't do justice to you and your family's sacrifice. That is why The American Legion continues to fight for justly deserved benefits. We are eternally grateful for your sacrifices.

Legionnaire Doug Mancabelli and Baseball Coach Kevin are doing a tremendous job of revitalizing the Post's baseball team. They aggressively pursued dedicated practice fields at Blountville Middle School, got permission to use Kingsport's Brickyard for games and set up double header with the Kingsport Mets in June.

Legionnaire Phil Jones completed Flag Etiquette classes at Holston Elementary, Emmett Elementary, Central Heights Elementary School, Indian Springs, Bluff City Middle School, Miller Perry, Rock Springs, Sullivan Gardens, Blountville Middle School, and Mary Hughes Middle School. ***A total of 600 5th graders*** were shown the Video "For Which it Stands", Legion training video on Flag Etiquette and respect for the American Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, and The National Anthem. The students had hands on experience of folding the American Flag, along with receiving Legion Patriotic book markers and rulers.

Legionnaire Doug Mancabelli organized membership drives at Perkins restaurant and Kingsport's Clinchfield Food City on November 10, 2018.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your continued membership and support to The Legion. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Angelo A. Pellitteri
Post Adjutant

Post Officers:

Post Commander – Gary R. Stidham
Past Post Commander/Honor Guard
Commander – Gerald Cardwell
1st Vice Commander – Doug Mancabelli
2nd Vice Commander – Louis D. Hill
Adjutant – Angelo A. Pellitteri
Chaplain –
Finance Officer – James W. "Bill" Jones
Membership Officer – David Meade
Sergeant-At-Arms – Billy "Buck" Conant

Sick Call:

Bobby Westbrook

To add members to contact:
Ellen Burchfield (423)-246-6691
Angelo A. Pellitteri (423)-276-5358
Email Phil Jones
alpost3sickcall@earthlink.net

TAPS:

William R. Blazer
Ed Galloway
Walter E. Pierce
Garland Ruth
Lawrence Shoemaker

Upcoming Events:

November 19, 2018 – Post Meeting
December 7, 2018 – Post Christmas Party
January 21, 2019 – Post Meeting
February 19, 2019 – Post Meeting
March 18, 2019 – Post Meeting
April 15, 2019 – Post Meeting,
Nominations for post officers
May 20, 2019 – Post Meeting, Post
Elections

Honoring Heroes Dinner

TC-MAC and the Boys and Girls Club of Kingsport held their 5th Annual Honoring Heroes Dinner on November 9, 2018. Post 3's nominee was Bill Jones, our long time Financial Officer. Other Legionnaires representing Post 3 were Gary Stidham, Mike Hannon, Doug Mancabelli, David Meade and Angelo Pellitteri

Christmas Party

The Post Christmas Party is December 7, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. in the Cafeteria in the V.O. Dobbins Building, 301 Louis Street, Kingsport. Several local merchants provide goods and services for door prizes. Please RSVP by November 30, 2019 to:
Ellen Burchfield (423) 246-6691
Angelo Pellitteri (423) 276-5358

Wreaths Across America

Local veteran groups are participating in Wreaths Across America. Several groups sold Christmas Wreaths to be placed on veteran headstones at national cemeteries on December 15, 2019. All are invited to Mountain Home Cemetery at 12 P.M. to help with this service.

Color Guard

We are establishing a Color Guard to ease the burden of our Honor Guard for community events. The Color Guard will perform events such as grand openings, flag ceremonies etc. We will not provide gun salutes. Contact Angelo A. Pellitteri (423) 276-5358 or David Meade (423) 817-5793 if you are interested in being a member.

Email News Letter:

In order to reduce postage cost, we are emailing It will also be posted on MyLegion.org and Facebook.

If you want to continue receiving a paper copy contact:

Ellen Burchfield (423) 246-6691
Angelo Pellitteri (423) 276-5358
David Meade (423) 817-5793

Membership:

Our 2019 membership goal is 650. We currently have 380, which is 270 short. Please renew your membership by December 31, 2018. Dues will be suspended after that date.

Welcome to Post 3:

New member - Michael R. Cole.

Transfers - Roger Hall, Paul Rebrovich, Randall K. Shelton and Ronald Smith.

Inspiration Corner:

Greetings and blessings to you and you're your families. As the Commander stated above, we have lost two great Legionnaires in Lawrence Shoemaker and Walter Pierce, Jr, our Post Chaplain. I have been thinking about this edition of what I could pass on to you, something that you could hold on too. With Veterans Day passing and all the celebrations, I thought of all who have served this great country. On November 11, 100 years ago, the guns fell silent across Europe on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of 1918. Today, November 11th marks not just the anniversary of one war where American troops made the difference, but a day to remember all of the generations of warriors that came before and after. Today's Veterans may not be on active duty, but they are on Active Duty in God's Army! We still serve our fellow man and Veterans through our Church, community, government, and to each other; Veterans

serving Veterans. You will always find a Veteran serving and helping in the community; that's what we do, that's who we are. I am reminded of Joshua, a brilliant military strategist, who knew that the only way God's promise of occupying the land could only come to fruition was if they trusted God. He knew that a divine promise required divine intervention. ***“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the LORD you God is with you where ever you go.”*** As Joshua and his army marched around Jericho, No one could deny that God was with them. What lesson can we derive from their time at Jericho? God granted Joshua and the Israelites success because they faithfully sought His instruction and then obeyed it. And God will do the same for you and me as we seek and obey Him. We must remember that obedience to God is always a prelude to success! And finally, if you think your getting old and God has forgotten you, here is His promise to you:

“You who have been carried by Me from your birth And have been carried in My arms from the womb, Even to your old age I am He, And even to your advanced old age I will carry you! I have made you, and I will carry you; Be assured I will carry you and I will save you”

Finally, Thanksgiving and Christmas are quickly approaching. Spend time with your families, your grand kids, passing on bits and pieces of your life on to them. Help them to realize that God has blessed you with a wonderful family; not just relatives, but your brothers and sisters who you served with in your military career. Show them how to render respect when respect is needed, grace, when grace is needed, forgiveness, when forgiveness is needed,

and most important of all, love for your neighbor and fellow Americans. I can't think of a better way to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas by giving a gift that will make an impact on your kids and grand kids. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Phil Jones, Assistant Chaplain Post 3
(Verses from the AMP Bible, Daily Bread Devotionals) (Veterans Day reference from Vice President Pence comments on Veterans Day)