



“For God and Country”

August 2025 Post 3 Newsletter



August Meeting Schedule

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	None
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	None
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 th St	7:00 PM	None
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	08/21/25
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	6:30 PM	None
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 th St	6:30 PM	None
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	None
Buddy Check	Enclosed Shelter, 1650 Antelope Park	6:00 PM	08/22/25
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	08/15/25

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaires,

There will be no Post 3 or Unit 3 meetings in August. Our next monthly meeting will be on September 9th.

As you will notice this is my first "Commander's Call" input to our Post 3 Newsletter.

Our appointed officers for this coming year are:

Adjutant – Edward Schnabel

Finance Officer – Bruce Gubser

Chaplain – Rev Dr William Jackson

Historian – Fred Craigie

Judge Advocate – Steve Bartos

Sergeant-at-Arms – David Timmerman

Service Officer – Edward Schnabel

All are carrying over from last year with the exception of the Finance Officer position transferring from Ed to Bruce. Ed has been both Adjutant and Finance officer for over 8 years. Thank you, Ed, for doing an outstanding job of serving Post 3 in both of these positions! Thank you, Bruce, for taking on the Finance Officer position!

At the Department Level, Fred Cragie takes over as Sergeant-at-Arms, Steve Bartos continues to be Chairman of the Membership Committee, Bruce Gubser is a member of the Rehabilitation and Employment Committee, and Edward Schnabel is the Lincoln area VA Medical Center Representative.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that Gerry Wolf continues to be Commander of our Honor Guard. We have 16 members of Post 3 giving selflessly of their time on the Honor Guard. They have supported Veterans in over 70 funerals and community events already this year. Additionally, Gerry is the editor of this Newsletter, which in my opinion is the very best one I have seen in this Department.

Post 3 is extremely fortunate to have so many of our members shouldering considerable responsibilities in support of Veterans, their spouses/families and our community in general.

As you will see in this Newsletter later, we are making good initial progress on renewal of membership for this year as we already are almost halfway to our goal. As a reminder, the Department Membership Committee is again offering an incentive to renew early. They are sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing. All regular members (those who pay their dues annually) whose 2025 dues are paid and received in Department Headquarters by early September 2025 will be in a drawing for \$1,000. Five names will be drawn for a \$200 prize each this year! It is so easy to renew. You can do it online at www.Legion.org. Or send your check to our business office at 123 S 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68510. If you would like, stop by the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and renew in person. As Bruce reminded us last month, we all need to find ways to sign up new members.

We will have a speaker at our September 9th meeting who will provide information on the 2025 Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic to be held 26-27 September. Slots are filling up fast for this clinic so if you need dental care, please see the flyer in this Newsletter and sign up.

I have had the advantage of observing and learning from Gerry Wolf and Bruce Gubser our most current former Post 3 Commanders. I will do my best to follow their lead in fulfilling my duties as Post 3 Commander.

For God and Country,

Ron Hindmand
Post 3 Commander

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



2025 Renewals: We are running behind 2024 numbers. The current 2025 membership stands at 937 about 87 % of our 2025 goal. We were hoping to reach 95%. If you know a current or past member who has not yet renewed for 2025, please remind them to renew. Their 2025 membership card

expires as of December 31st, 2025. 2025 renewals can still be paid through December 31st.

Those who have not renewed for 2025, as of January 1st, were classified as expired and you will stop receiving The Legion magazine and could be denied entry into a Legion Club. For those who are in the Legion Insurance program, your coverage also ended as of 31st of December 2024. You must be a member in good standing to be covered.

2026 Renewals: You should have received your 2026 renewal notice by now. Those who took advantage and renewed for three years will not be receiving a renewal slip. The 2026 membership cards for Nebraska Life members and those who took advantage and renewed for three years, have been mailed. If you have not received your 2026 cards by the end of August, please let us know.

Recap of members who renewed for 2026 as of July 29th:

Online – 61

PUFL – 118

Nebr. Life – 46

Multi-Year – 51

Total of above – 276

Total received in the office – 256

Total 2026 membership - 532

Legion Insurance: It is easy to enroll, just go to their website and sign up. Legion Insurance covers you while you are traveling to a Legion Activity.

Military Service: We still are trying to update our membership roster as to branch of service and the war era that you served. National has been printing on the back of renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and update as needed so we can correct our database. Thanks, it makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)

DAV, Chapter 7: Sorry to say we have lost another Veterans Club here in Lincoln, NE. DAV, Chapter 7, has closed its bar on North 70th Street, as of the end of March 2025. The Chapter House is still open on a limited basis, holding its monthly meetings there as well as potluck dinners.

Department of Veterans Affairs, VFW, DAV, AMVETS web sites: These web sites are a great place to find current and helpful information on what Congress is currently working on and how it could affect you as a veteran. The VA website has many tips on filing claims and links to other VA services to which you are entitled. The VFW, DAV, etc. do an excellent job of keeping track of Congressional activities that can or will affect veterans.

The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and your local County Service Office are here to serve you. They can pull up your records of military service and help track your claims you may have filed. If you have not visited with your service officer, now would be a great time to stop and visit with him/her. The 2025 Nebraska Legislature may have passed legislation that may have affected you and your benefits.

Membership: The members of the most current conflicts are now the backbone of not only the American Legion, but also the VFW, DAV, AMV, etc. Without these younger veterans we will no longer have a strong voice in Congress. Without a strong voice in Congress, we will keep losing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Health Care System.

If you are a member of this group of veterans or know a veteran from these conflicts, please ask them if they are a member of a VSO (veteran service org) and if not, ask them to please join. They may not be using VA service now, and may wish to in the future, they then may find that VA services have been cut back due to a lack of a strong voice in Congress.

Again, Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3. Also remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service.

Ed Schnabel
Adjutant

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



Remember that the Clinics will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st.

One of the most asked questions I am asked is, “Where is the Finance Office?” Sorry to say the Lincoln CBOC does not have a finance office on site. If you have a billing question, you will have to call the number that is listed on the Co-pay notice you might have received.

The food drive to collect food items for our homeless veterans in the Lincoln area is still ongoing. Items requested are shelf ready, power bars and easy to open items with pull tabs.

Flu shots and Covid shots are available only for those enrolled in the VA Health system. Those who have an appointment can receive a shot during their visit with their provider. Walk-ins can request a shot by speaking to the staff at check-in and waiting for a nurse to be available to give you the shot.

There are no mask requirements at VA clinics and hospitals. Masks are available for those who wish to wear them at the front doors of the clinics.

Express Care is a walk-in service, for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call and see if they offer Express Care service. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours. The Lincoln Clinic treats 300 a month as walk-ins.

Want to serve your fellow Veterans? The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You would volunteer to help veterans in the clinic, hospital, or a veteran 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 activity bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic or hospital with a parent for their appointments.

Hours given by the volunteers are credited with saving the VA Health at Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island an equivalent of 25 full-time staff employees. This is based on an hour of service being credited at the rate of \$31.50 dollars per hour.

(Lincoln CBOC/VA News – Continued)

Clinics and hospitals can always use books and magazines 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.

Service animals: The only animals that should be brought into a VA Health clinic or hospital are trained service animals that qualify under DAV requirements. Other pets or comfort dogs do not qualify and should be left at home.

With the signing of the PAC act, more veterans have become eligible for services, not only for those who served boots on the ground, but anyone who has served since the Gulf War. If you have any questions, call your local service officer, VSO, county, or state. It only takes a few minutes to see if you might qualify for an increase, or a new VA disability rating.

The Veteran Affairs web site is a great place to visit. You can find out the latest information affecting Veterans. You can track claim status, file for travel pay, view your VA account, payments received, or Co-pay owed. You can also make the Co-pay payments online.

Thanks for your service to your fellow Veterans and thanks for your service to this great country.

Ed Schnabel

American Legion Representative to Lincoln CBOC

ALR Riders, Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



Greetings Riders and Legion Family!

Summer for your American Legion Riders has been busy with events. We have participated in a number of community parades and supported many Patriot Guard missions over the past month. We are looking forward to our annual Poker Run, scheduled for Saturday, August 23. We will start out at Frontier Harley-Davidson (registration from 10am until noon), with stops at Malmo, Dwight, and Dorchester, and ending at Denton Post 355. ALL types of vehicles are welcome, not just motorcycles. Heck, we will even sell you a poker hand and you won't even have to go to all the stops!

Proceeds from this year's event will be given to two deserving charities: The Veterans Mission of Mercy and Wheels 4 Warriors. The Veterans Mission of Mercy is an event sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and the Nebraska Dental Foundation that provides dental services (including dentures) to Nebraska Veterans free of charge. Wheels 4 Warriors is a charity that refurbishes used motorcycles and then gives them to Veterans. I hope to see many of you there!

We still have a few raffle tickets available for the Henry Golden Boy rifle we will be giving away at the Poker Run. Contact any Rider for tickets. \$5 each or five tickets for \$20.

Until next time,

Ride (and Drive) Safe!

Bruce Gubser

Director

Lincoln American Legion Riders Chapter 3



- SILENT AUCTION
- 50/50
- HIGH PRIZES
- RAFFLE
- GIVEAWAYS

\$10/HAND OR \$20 FOR 3



\$300/HIGH \$200 2ND HIGH
\$100 LOW

Lincoln (Nebraska)
Chapter 3

POKER RUN

REGISTRATION: 10AM-NOON
FIRST BIKE OUT AT: 10AM
LAST BIKE IN: 4PM
PRIZES/AWARDS: 4:15PM

**SATURDAY
AUG 23**

-STARTS AT FRONTIER
HARLEY-DAVIDSON,
205 NW 40TH ST, LINCOLN, NEBR
-WITH STOPS IN MALMO, DWIGHT
& DORCHESTER
-ENDS AT DENTON AMERICAN
LEGION



BRING NONPERISHABLE ITEMS FOR
THE FOOD BANK (OR DONATE \$5)
AND GET AN EXTRA CARD!

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO
CHARITABLE CAUSES
THAT SUPPORT
VETERANS



Lincoln Chapter 3
American Legion Riders



RAFFLE

HENRY GOLDEN BOY RIFLE, .22LR



TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

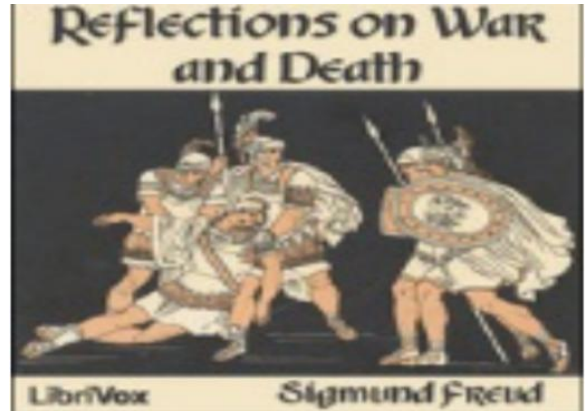
The drawing will be held in August at our poker run.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

YOU MUST BE OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE A TICKET

PRIZE WILL BE TRANSFERED TO THE WINNER THROUGH A FEDERALLY LICENSED
FIREARM DEALER and ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FIREARM PURCHASE LAWS, RULES AND
REGULATIONS APPLY

The Chaplain's Remarks



“WHITES OF THEIR EYES”

It was a moniker that spurred the ragtag group of defenders in New Orleans way back in 1812, some two weeks following the war itself.

When God gives us His marching orders to uphold His Word in the world, who—or what—do you think is behind you pointing your way to victory? That same entity has also cleared your path ahead of you so victory is assured (1 Samuel 17:26).

But, as military veterans, we depended upon known resources as we were all trained to resort to for about any circumstance? How about calling for air cover, rest-n-recuperation, medical care, and, or course, planting a bayonetted rifle-n-helmet in a area of ground where one of our heroes had fallen (Hebrews 11:1)?

In the final analysis, like any Admiral or General would tell you, it's kind of late to comprehend what you DIDN'T do after the stories have been completed. Did the enemy wait for you to get your mission battle-worthy, or did they contend with you with what they had, whether you were ready or not? Being spiritually prepared is the ONLY way to win against Satan's wiles which are squarely behind the evil forces you face (Ephesians 6:13 – 17).

But take heed. You've survived many a Satanic-based enterprise with the scares to prove it: you're alive, you've family and friends, and you may look at your past while you're in the present to glimpse at the future (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3

Post 3 Honor Guard



July was a slow month for funerals for the Honor Guard. In July, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at only 2 funerals. However, it was a busy month for community events.

On July 11th, the Honor Guard and the American Legion Riders, Chapter 3, assisted Scheels Sporting Goods in exchanging a new American flag to any individual who turned in a faded or worn American flag. An estimated 250 American flags were given out and probably 500 old flags were turned in. On July 18th, the Honor Guard conducted a Dignified Flag Retirement of all the flags turned in at the Scheels exchange as well as flags collected from the Lincoln Public School System, the American Legion Department Headquarters and those flags turned into our office since our last dignified flag retirement. An estimated 1,500 flags were retired.

The Honor Guard also provided a Color Guard by presenting the Colors at 4 performances of the Pinewood Bowl's summer musical and another at the SAC Museum for a bench dedication.

The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

In the Calendar year 2025, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 52 funerals and made appearances at 20 civic functions.

Post 3 TAPS – July 2025



ARMY



MARINE CORPS



NAVY



AIR FORCE



SPACE FORCE



COAST GUARD

There were no reported Post 3 deaths in July!

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 - July 8, 2025**

Commander Bruce Gubser opened the July 8, 2025 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:05 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 19 Legionnaires present.

Veterans of the various war eras were asked to stand and be recognized.

The minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting were read and approved.

Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending June 30, 2025, showing a balance of \$40,579.17. It was approved and filed for review.

Adjutant Schnabel reported 2026 memberships are coming in, and the count today stands at 236.

Dr. Jackson gave an Americanism report.

Gerry Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad. The Scheel's flag exchange will be this coming Friday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. A flag retirement ceremony will be scheduled later.

Brendan Moore reported for the Sons of the American Legion. He indicated that Squadron 3 Adjutant Craigie is recovering from shoulder replacement surgery and that the July and August Squadron meetings have been canceled.

Commander Gubser reported for the American Legion Riders. The Nebraska Legacy Run will be held this coming weekend, and 4 or 5 Riders from Lincoln are going to participate.

The Birthday Card Program continues. Commander Gubser also reported that Unit 3 had recently distributed 4th of July cards to one or more senior living centers.

In the way of sick call, Commander Gubser reported that Ron Hindmand is recovering from knee surgery and was glad to have him at tonight's meeting. As previously mentioned, Fred Craigie is at home recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Fred won't be able to drive for several weeks.

Commander Gubser reported on the Touch-A-Truck event scheduled for September.

Commander Gubser reported on several items discussed or acted upon at the recently concluded Department Executive Committee meeting and Department Convention.

1 – Changes and/or accusations against Post 3 and the Department of Nebraska suggesting cancellation of the Post 3 charter and the Department of Nebraska charter made by one of our members and others from 5 other American Legion posts (Lincoln 1919, Hickman, Havelock, Louisville, and Denton) had been sent to the national headquarters. As a result of the charges, the National Judge Advocate and PNC Dave Rehbein came to Lincoln and began an investigation.

(Meeting Minutes – Continued)

At the Spring Meetings of the American Legion, the National Judge Advocate presented the investigating committee's findings to the National Executive Committee with a recommendation that the charges and accusations were without merit and the issue should be closed with no action necessary. The NEC agreed, and the case is closed.

2 – American Legion Baseball. The Department Athletic Committee Chairman reported on recent problems with American Legion Baseball. Because of accusations made by a member of Post 3 and members of Post 1919, the Lincoln American Legion baseball teams decided they would not play under the sponsorship of Post 1919 or Post 3 as long as the individual from Post 3 remained a member. In order to keep the teams playing, the Department Athletic Committee took over sponsorship of the Lincoln teams for this year. The committee also hopes to have in place by the end of the year a policy for playing American Legion baseball that is in line with the recommendations from the national organization.

The Department Executive Committee also authorized the hiring of an attorney to put a stop to the ongoing activity of a number of individuals who continue conduct detrimental to the American Legion.

3 – New Department Adjutant. Assistant Adjutant Eric Martin was officially promoted to Department Adjutant upon the retirement of Dave Salak.

4 – Lincoln Post 1919. At the Department Executive Committee meeting held in January, charges of interfering with the revitalization of another post were filed against Lincoln Post 1919 by District 12 Commander Martin Neal. A committee was appointed to investigate, and they made a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee to suspend or revoke the charter of Post 1919. The Department Executive Committee will be acting on that recommendation in the near future.

5 – Resolutions. Commander Gubser reported that the Department Convention acted on 12 resolutions. Nine were rejected. The three resolutions approved were

#1 – Establish Uniform Quorum for Districts

#2 - Minimum Post Dues

#12 – Honorary Department Commander

6 – Post Cancellations. The Department Executive Committee approved the closure of the posts at Danbury and Scottsbluff.

Wendy Gumb asked to address the members present. She said that she has been doing the things she has been doing because she felt that she and Post 3 had been disrespected because those associated with American Legion Baseball in Lincoln disagreed with some of the proposed changes to the way baseball would be monitored.

Past Post 3 Commander Gerry Wolf was called to the podium, and he installed the following officers for 2025-2026:

(Meeting Minutes – Continued)

Post Commander --- Ron Hindmand

First Vice Commander --- Rich Lemmerman

Second Vice Commander --- John Ottoson

Executive Committee Member (3-year term) --- Wade Graft

Past Commander Gubser announced that Curt Sanford (who was present) would celebrate his 92nd birthday tomorrow.

The Chaplain read the TAPS report for June.

Commander Hindmand closed the meeting in proper form at 7:50 PM.

**Steve Bartos
Recorder**



(L to R) Past Commander, Bruce Gubser, New Commander, Ron Hindmand, 1st Vice Commander, Rich Lemmerman, 2nd Vice Commander, John Ottoson



(L to R) Past Commander, Gerry Wolf congratulating Commander, Bruce Gubser on a successful 2 years leading Post 3 and giving Bruce his lapel and hat pins.



(L to R) Adjutant Ed Schnabel presenting outgoing Commander, Bruce Gubser with his Commander's plaque.



Curt Sanford, who would celebrate his 92nd Birthday on July 9, was recognized at the Post 3 meeting.

Scheels Flag Exchange

On July 11th, Scheels Sporting Goods held their annual Flag Exchange assisted by the Post 3 Honor Guard and the Legion Riders, Chapter 3. Customers were encouraged to turn in their old torn and faded American Flags and were given a new 3'X5' American made Flag. On July 19th, Post 3 disposed of the old Flags in a dignified manner. See the article in this newsletter.

In a 3-hour span, hundreds of torn and faded Flags were turned in and new ones given out. Members from Post 3 and Chapter 3 who came out to help are too numerous to list here, but I would like to thank all who came out to help with the distribution. I

In addition, I would like to thank Scheels for their excellent assistance and willingness to help.



Dignified Flag Retirement

It is fitting and proper that flags which have been used for the decoration of graves or displayed at homes or businesses be collected and inspected. Worn and unserviceable flags will be condemned and properly destroyed.

The approved method of disposing of unserviceable flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning. The purpose of The American Legion in adopting this ceremony was to encourage proper respect for the Flag of The United States and to provide for disposal of unserviceable flags in a dignified manner.

On Saturday, July 19th, after a short Flag Retirement Ceremony, members of Post 3 conducted a Dignified Flag Retirement, at Dave Timmerman's acreage. In less than an hour, an estimated 1,500 flags were retired. Thanks to all who helped, especially Dave who provided the facility, burn barrels, set up, tear down, and clean up.



World War II Soldier Accounted For



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced today that U.S. Army Pvt. Erwin H. Schopp, 30, of Plymouth, Nebraska, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for Jan. 24, 2025.

In late 1941, Schopp was a member of Headquarters Battery, 59th Coastal Artillery Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. Schopp was among those reported captured when U.S. forces on Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese. He was subsequently held at the Cabanatuan POW camp. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war.

According to prison camp and other historical records, Schopp died on Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 822.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and recovered four sets of remains from Common Grave 822. Due to complications in the burial and recovery process, Schopp was unable to be identified following the war. He was declared non recoverable on Dec. 2, 1949, and buried as an Unknown at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM).

In 2018, the remains associated with Common Grave 822 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis. In 2020, remains associated with Common Grave 836 were disinterred for analysis. Physical evidence confirmed overlaps between the two graves in the historical record.

To identify Schopp's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis as well as mitochondrial genome sequencing data.

Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, Schopp's grave was meticulously cared for over the past 70 years by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Pvt. Erwin Schopp was buried in Plymouth, Nebraska, on July 18, 2025.

SFC Payne awarded The Medal Of Honor



Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages. Upon hearing a request for additional assaulters to assist with clearing the other building, Sergeant Payne, on his own initiative, left his secured position, exposing himself to enemy fire as he bounded across the compound to the other building from which entrenched enemy forces were engaging his comrades.

Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was partially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire. He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building. Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter. He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages.

Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism. His courageous actions motivated the coalition assault team members to enter the breach and assist with cutting the locks.

After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages. Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which was now structurally unsound due to the fire. Sergeant Payne then reentered the burning building one last time to ensure everyone had been evacuated. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building.

His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action. Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army.

"The Radio Was Still On"



His name was Matthew Cole Jenkins, but the guys in his platoon called him “Echo” — not because he talked too much, but because he was the youngest radio operator in their entire battalion. Just 18, fresh out of high school in Kentucky, with a voice too soft for war and hands that trembled the first time he loaded his M16.

But when he put on the headset and keyed the mic - His voice became steel.

Matthew arrived in Vietnam in late 1969 and was assigned to a reconnaissance unit near the Cambodian border. His job was to stay calm when hell broke loose — to call in airstrikes, medevacs, backup. He carried the radio on his back like it was part of his spine. Even when they were ambushed. Even when he was wounded.

He had a rule - “No one dies alone — not if I’ve got signal.”

They say during one mission, his entire unit was pinned down in a rice paddy, ankle-deep in mud, gunfire tearing through the tall grass. The lieutenant was gone. The sergeant, hit. Everyone was screaming.

But Matthew?

He was flat on his belly, bleeding from his thigh, whispering coordinates into the radio like he was reading a recipe back home.

“Delta Nine, this is Echo-One. I got wounded. I got smoke. I got seven souls not ready to die.”

The chopper came. Because of him.

But it wasn’t the mission that made Matthew unforgettable.

It was what happened after.

On March 5, 1970, his unit was ambushed again — this time near a collapsed bridge. The last words heard over the radio were his:

“I’ll keep talking until they stop breathing. Do you copy?”

The signal went dead.

They found his body two days later, slumped over the radio, one hand still on the transmitter.

But the battery hadn’t died, the headset was still warm, and the mic was still on.

Years later, at a veterans’ gathering in Ohio, one of the men Matthew saved said:

“When I hear static on a radio, I still pause. Sometimes I think he’s still out there. Still calling. Still keeping us safe.”

On Matthew’s grave, etched in weathered stone, are the words he once whispered: “As long as I’ve got signal, you’re not alone.”

\$ 1000



NEBRASKA LEGIONNAIRES

BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR 2026!

The first NATIONAL renewal notice to Nebraska for the 2026 membership year HAS BEEN mailed from Indianapolis, and the Department Membership Committee is again this year sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing.

ALL regular members (those who pay their dues annually or are multi-year members) whose 2026 dues are paid and received in Department Headquarters by September 2, 2025 will be in a drawing for \$1000.

5 names will be drawn for a \$200 prize each this year!

HELP US BUILD MEMBERSHIP MOMENTUM!!

BE IN THE DRAWING!!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 FAMILY



LINCOLN ELKS NO. 80
5910 South 58th Street, Lincoln

Elks Care - Elks Share

Touch-A-Truck

A FAMILY

EVENT

FREE
ENTRY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES

Join us for a family-friendly
event where children can
explore and climb on a
variety of vehicles.

- Activities like honking horns, setting off sirens, and kicking tires
- Questions and answers with truck operators

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

SEE • TOUCH • EXPLORE • HONK

From 10am until 2pm
5910 S 58th Street

We will observe a "quiet hour" from
10-11am, with no sirens or horns, so that
visitors with sensitivity to loud noise can
enjoy the displays.



The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge

The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge raises funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides direct financial assistance to disabled veterans, their families, and children facing unexpected hardships.

The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness and community service.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Learn More about the [USA 250 Challenge](#) | [The American Legion](#) and Register!

While the Challenge is national in scope, several Nebraska programs have received grants and support from VCF's general fund in recent years such as:

Omaha VA Medical Center Recreation Therapy • Grant Use: Purchase and installation of a professional-grade weight machine • Impact: Enables behavioral health patients (up to 10 veterans daily) to engage in therapeutic exercise, improving mood and supporting recovery • Local Partner: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216, Gretna	Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home – Bellevue • Grant Use: Facility enrichment and activity funding • Impact: Supports life-enrichment programs (arts, music therapy) for long-term care residents • Local Partner: Department of Nebraska VA&R committee	VA Homeless Stand Down Events • Grant Use: Supply distributions (care packages, clothing, hygiene kits) • Impact: Hundreds of at-risk veterans receive necessities during "Stand Down" service days across Nebraska • Local Partner: VA&R Standing Committee, Department of Nebraska
Omaha VA Fisher House • Grant Use: Operational support and guest amenities • Impact: Assists families of hospitalized veterans to stay near their loved ones at little or no cost • Local Partner: Omaha VA&R Office	Papillion Community Living Center • Grant Use: Activity room renovations and equipment • Impact: Enhances rehabilitative therapy offerings and social activities for resident veterans • Local Partner: VA&R Department of Nebraska	



These combined efforts turn national participation in the USA 250 Challenge into tangible, life-changing programs right here in Nebraska.

Friday, August 15th, 10:00-12:00



Lincoln VAG eAlert

A Message from Your Veterans Advisory Group!

VAG Lincoln Coffeehaus!



**JOIN US ON
FRIDAY!**

A CoffeeHaus Event has been scheduled for the third Friday each month from 10:00 AM to Noon, at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park

In addition, Quilts of Valor Ladies will be awarding quilts to Veterans touched by war, and the presentation begins at Noon.

CoffeeHaus is a monthly gathering to honor our Veterans, with **FREE** Coffee, Beverages, Snacks, Fellowship, and Entertainment.

Join us - reach out and bring a guest too!

OUR SPONSOR

The Sponsor for
CoffeeHaus is the Elks
Lodge #80.



MORE INFORMATION!

For a Calendar of Upcoming VAG Events, visit our Website, at www.VAGLincoln.org!

Friday, August 22nd, 6:00-8:00 P.M.



BUDDY CHECK

Working together to end veteran suicide.

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Antelope Park Enclosed Shelter

1650 Memorial Dr., Lincoln, NE 68508

Next to The Veterans Memorial Garden

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

Coffee, refreshments, and snacks are provided.



Search Nebraska Veterans' Affairs Website



2025 Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic

The Veterans Mission of Mercy (VetMOM) Dental Clinic will provide a range of dental services to eligible Nebraska veterans and their spouses. Services include:

- Exams
- Cleanings
- Fillings
- Root canals
- Extractions
- Dentures - **limited quantity available! Must register for a Friday morning slot and will need to return on Saturday to be fitted and receive dentures.**



Date/Time: Friday, September 26, from 8 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, September 27, from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

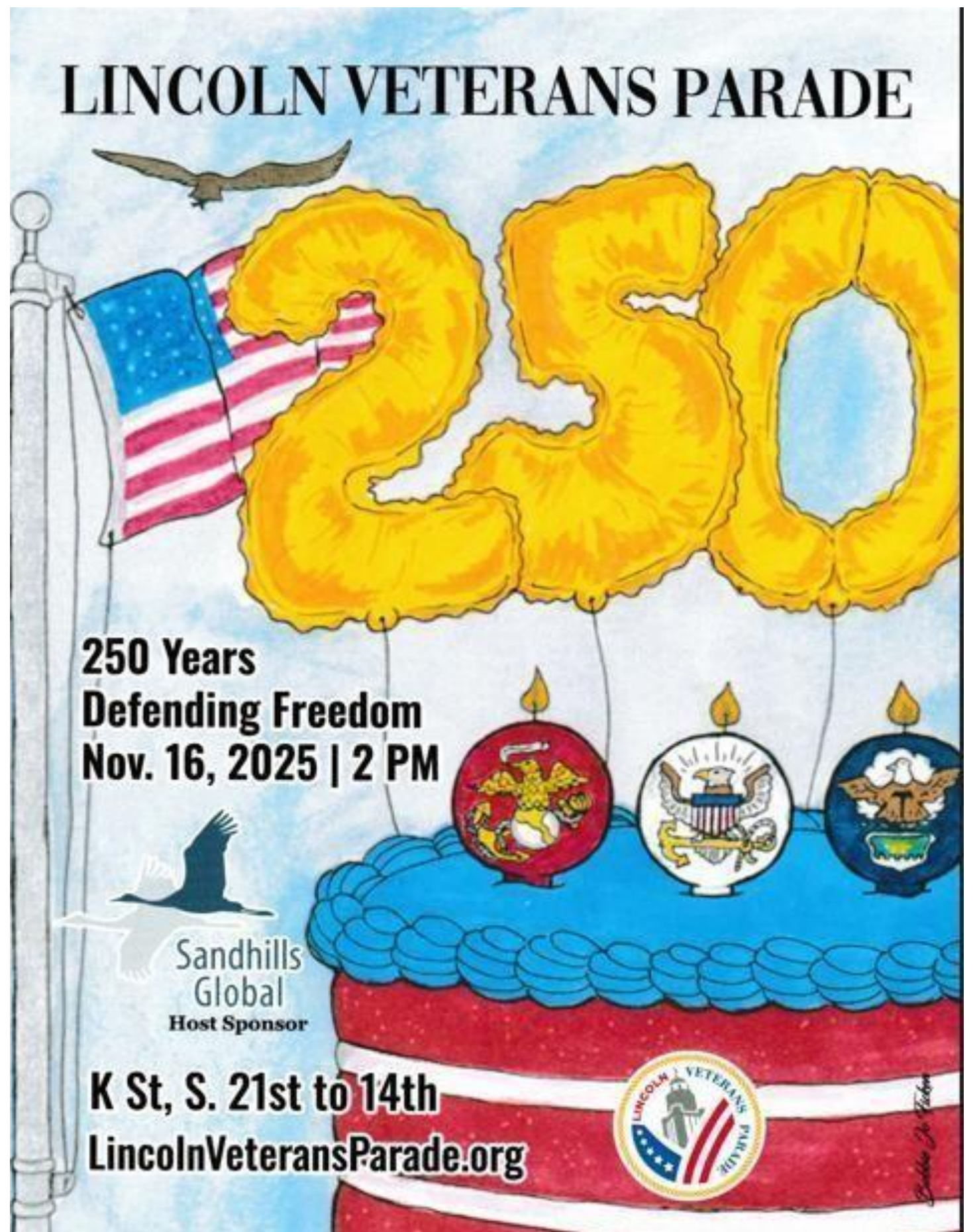
Location: [Army National Guard Titan Readiness Center, 789 County Road J, Yutan](#)

Eligibility: any individual who served in the U.S. Armed Forces or a component of the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of type of service—active, reserve, or guard—and/or spouses or surviving spouses of eligible veterans. If you were ever issued a U.S. military uniform by any component of the U.S. Armed Forces in service to our Nation, you and/or your spouse are eligible.

Register for an Appointment

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/dentalclinic>.

LINCOLN VETERANS PARADE



**250 Years
Defending Freedom
Nov. 16, 2025 | 2 PM**



**Sandhills
Global
Host Sponsor**

**K St, S. 21st to 14th
LincolnVeteransParade.org**



Bobbie Jo Hickman

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 84th 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)				

RECEIPT	Date _____	Received of _____	_____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____
	Squadron _____ Detachment of _____		
	For God and Country		
	\$ _____	Squadron _____	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 you, or do you know someone, who served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably? Then they are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$56.00 to:

American Legion Post 3

123 South 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

The American Legion Membership Application			
(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			
☐ Global War on Terror	☐ U.S. Army		
☐ Gulf War	☐ U.S. Navy		
☐ Panama	☐ U.S. Air Force		
☐ Lebanon/Grenada	☐ U.S. Marines		
☐ Vietnam	☐ U.S. Coast Guard		
☐ Korea	☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only)		
☐ WWII			
☐ 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 application and a check for \$56.00 made out to “American Legion Post 3” to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2025, 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 84th St. Suite L

Lincoln, NE 68510

(402) 466-3958

Email: Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

Web Site: lincolnpost3.org

2025 - 2026 Post 3 Officers

Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514

First Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834

Second Vice Commander – John Ottoson – Cell: 402-314-8707

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, (Gerrywolf@aol.com or 402-417-8230). All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.

