



# Lincoln Legionnaire



VOLUME 66 NUMBER 2  
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April/May/June 2019

Current Membership	1438	As of May 2019
2019 Goal	1608	89%

The voice of American Legion Post 3 and its family of veterans affiliated organizations in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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datimmerman41@gmail.com  
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American Legion Post 3 · 123 S. 84th St., Suite L · Lincoln, NE 68510

Justice

Freedom

Democracy

Loyalty

*“Pledged to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed, and the orphaned. Devoted to the cause of service to the community, state and nation.”*

## COMING EVENTS

### JUNE

- 11 Post 3 / Unit 3 Meetings
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Fathers' Day
- 18 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Meetings
- 20 Legion Riders Meeting
- 20 NO PITCH at Risky's this month
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 20-23 Department Convention (Kearney Ramada Inn)



### JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 9 Post 3 Meeting
- 16 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Potluck Picnic
- 18 SAL Meeting
- 18 Legion Riders Meeting
- 18 Pitch at Risky's

### AUGUST

- 10 American Legion Night @ Lincoln Saltdogs
- 15 Legion Riders Meeting
- 15 Pitch at Risky's
- 23-29 National Convention (Indianapolis)



TO: Editor

FROM: Fred C. Craigie  
State Chairman, State Funeral for World War II Veterans



Subject: Death of Oldest Holder of Congressional Medal of Honor, Robert Maxwell

“AND NOW THERE ARE THREE”

The death of the oldest recipient of Congressional Medal of Honor, corporal Robert Maxwell at the age of 99, gives pause to all Americans as we watch the citizen soldiers of World War II “greatest generation” pass before our eyes. 473 men received the award in the Second World War. Now, only three remain. They are Charles Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis Currey of New York, and Woody Williams of West Virginia.

As a 24 year old corporal in France in World War II, Robert Maxwell threw himself on a German grenade to protect the lives of his fellow soldiers. Unable to travel to the White House, he was presented the nation's highest honor at a convalescent hospital in Colorado in May of 1945.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, a powerful and historic grass roots movement is gaining acceptance from sea to shining sea. It is to convince the President of the United States to designate a State Funeral in Washington D.C. for the Final Medal of Honor holder from World War II. And, to provide special recognition at the funeral for all 16 million men and women who wore our nation's uniform from 1941-1945.

The President has the sole authority to designate a state funeral. In 1921 President Harding designated a State Funeral for the Unknown Soldier from World War I, in 1956 President Truman held a State Funeral for General John Pershing. President Kennedy designated a State Funeral for General Douglas MacArthur.

We are leading a nationwide petition drive to convince the President to make this designation. Our nation has had many state funerals for Generals, but never one for an enlisted man. All three of the remaining MOH recipients were enlisted men.

Our organization is State Funeral for World War II Veterans. The idea came from a 10 year old public schoolgirl from Texas, Rabel McNutt. Please contact President Trump directly and encourage him to designate a State Funeral for the final World War II Medal of Honor holder. Or go to our website at [www.worldwar2salute.org](http://www.worldwar2salute.org) to sign the petition online.

Our nation today is in need of a national unifying event. Honoring the World War II Veteran in this way brings us together and binds us close. It will be a great teaching moment for our progeny.

Victor Hugo, the famous French poet, stated it best: “Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come.” Please help us honor Robert Maxwell and his sacrifices in World War II by providing this final salute to the greatest generation.

*Fred C. Craigie, State Chairman,  
State Funeral for World War II Veterans*

About State Funeral for World War II Veterans

State Funeral for World War II Veterans exists to convince the President of the United States to designate a single state funeral for the last Medal of Honor holder from World War II, as a final salute to the 16 million men and women of the Greatest Generation who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945. For more information on how to join us in this mission please visit [www.worldwar2salute.org](http://www.worldwar2salute.org).



## COMMANDER'S CALL

Legionnaires,

Looking back on the past year as your Commander, not everything happened as I had hoped --- but there were some good moments.

The American Legion baseball season is fast approaching (and will probably have started by the time this issue of the Lincoln Legionnaire goes to press). American Legion Post 3 and the Lincoln Baseball Association are partners in this program. Kyle Sitzman was instrumental in resolving several issues. Sharing responsibilities is the key to keeping our program going. Thank you, Kyle, for your leadership. It was appreciated.

At our April meeting, fifty-two members were honored for their continuous years of membership and service to the American Legion and our country. There were thirty-seven 50-year continuous membership honorees and fifteen 60-year honorees. There were no 60-year members in attendance, but eleven 50-year members attended the meeting and were awarded continuous membership certificates.

Two of the 50-year members I know personally. Art Jones is a member of Post 3 and our Honor Guard, a Korean War veteran, and always and forever a proud Marine. Dan Lowenberg is a friend who worked with my wife at the ASCS office. Karen says, "Hi, Dan." To those two members especially, and the rest of the Legionnaires honored for their service to our country and for their long and continuous service to American Legion Post 3, I say thank you.

I was honored to attend the Chancellor's Review and ROTC Award Ceremony at the University of Nebraska. District 15 Commander Gerry Wolf presented awards and pins to ROTC cadets at this ceremony, along with other presenters. I remembered why I did not care for parades and ceremonies --- a lot of standing at parade rest while others received awards and recognition. Maybe I didn't try hard enough.

Also, I was able to attend the Lincoln area American Legion Cornhusker Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State Orientation. It was nice to meet some of our delegates. I hope they enjoy their week at Boys State and Girls State. Gerry Wolf presided over the orientation introductions, and Steve and Lorene Bartos are to be thanked for their efforts in organizing the event and locating contributors for the delegates. Gerry asked the delegates to introduce themselves and to mention their sponsor. A lot of them did not know that the American Legion sponsors the Boys State program and that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Girls State program. While Post 3 and Unit 3 also contribute the registration fees for some of the delegates, a number of other local organizations also pay many of the fees.

The Honor Guard continues to serve our veterans and their families. Our average age is the mid-70's and older. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Honor Guard is asked to please contact Fred Chrastil or Gerry Wolf at the American Legion Post 3 office. It is a major commitment; but, if you have some time to help, I know you will find it worthwhile.

Sincerely,

*Dave Timmerman*

Commander, American Legion Post #3

## POST 3 MEETING

American Legion Post 3 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month ---- except August --- at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80. The Elks Lodge is located in the Trade Center at 5910 South 58th Street.  
**Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.**

Please visit the Post 3 website!  
**www.legionpost3.org**

## SONS of the AMERICAN LEGION ...

Here it is with spring rapidly approaching. Time to get the gardens and yards cleaned up and ready for the new season. Time to think about family and friends and about getting together and getting out and about again.

The squadron has been busy preparing for some of the spring and summer events. We made our selections for a young man to attend Cornhusker Boys State and for a young lady to attend Cornhusker Girls State. Unfortunately, our selection for Boys State had visits scheduled to the military academies at West Point and Annapolis. We wish him good luck. There were no alternates available, so we selected an additional girl to attend Girls State.

The Detachment convention is coming up June 21-23, 2019 in Kearney at the Ramada Inn. New information will be shared and Detachment officers elected for the upcoming year.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Elks Lodge starting at 7:00 pm. Please join us.

For God and Country

*Fred Craigie,*

Squadron #3 Commander



SAL Commander Post #3  
Fred Craigie

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Lincoln Unit 3 News

It is almost the middle of May when I started this article. I think it might warm up.

In May, my husband and I will be attending three programs on Memorial Day --- participating in two and watching the third. Bill and I are up at 7:00 AM and off to Wyuka Cemetery by 9:00 AM. We'll begin the day with a hot cup of coffee and donuts provided by the Wyuka staff.

At 8:30, the Daughters of the Civil War will throw a wreath into the Wyuka pond symbolizing the members of the Navy who were killed at sea during the Civil War.

At 9:00 AM, various organizations will march in a parade --- with bag pipes leading the way --- from the Wyuka business office to statue of the Civil War genera in Soldiers' Circle. A program will take place to honor our veterans. Girl Scouts will lay one red rose at the grave of each civil war veteran in the Civil War circle. Participating organizations will then line up to lay wreaths at the foot of the Civil War general in honor of Veterans and Auxiliary. The program will end with the releasing of red, white, and blue balloons by the Boy Scouts accompanied by a Lee Greenwood rendition of "God Bless the U.S.A."

My husband and I will then travel to the Memorial Day activities at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. This program will be different. The American Legion Riders will make a grand entrance to start of the program.

During the program, a yearly plaque will be given by a Vietnam Veterans organization to an individual who stood out among his peers as doing outstanding work with veterans. A Girls Scout troop will do the folding of the flag ceremony along with a reading of what each fold represents.

In the evening, Bill and I will attend the candlelight services at the Veterans Memorial Gardens in Antelope Park. I participate with a group of individuals who read names --- generally about 500 names being read each year.

June 14 is Flag Day. Remember to fly your flag. Also, about this time of the year, the Memorial Gardens Committee will be dedicating bricks --- if they have any. Watch in the newspaper for the exact time and place if you would like to attend.

Department Convention is coming around the corner.

Be sure you have all your ducks in a row. .

Respectfully Yours,

*Rebecca Bowman,*

President, ALA Lincoln Unit 3



Auxiliary Unit 3 President  
Rebecca Bowman

## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

### Round round get around, I get around, Yeah, Get around round round I get around, I get around....

Thank you, Beach Boys, for those great lyrics to a great summer song. Summer has started and with it a big riding season for the American Legion Riders. Spring got off to a rocky start after several accidents around the state put motorcycle riders on edge about safety. I am hoping you have been watching for our 2 (and 3) wheeled members and friends. Always remember to look twice.

The Lincoln Chapter of the American Legion Riders are continuing to roll on with our usual activities of Parades, Poker Runs, and Flag Lines.

Flag Lines are an unusual honor for us. Or, at least I feel they are. People come to thank us every time we do one, but we don't do it for the thanks or the attention. I hope most or all the members see it as a way to thank a veteran one last time for the service they gave the country --- no matter the amount of time in uniform --- and for their family to know that their loved one's service hasn't been forgotten or diminished in its importance. I am thankful for every one of our members who help stand in that line when we are asked to do it.

In April, we had the special honor of escorting Bruce Moore's remains, along with his family, to his final resting spot in the Omaha National Cemetery. Bruce's story was covered by local television news when his ashes were discovered in an abandoned house. After a little work, his family was located in Lincoln, and his remains returned to them. But, the story didn't end there because those who were involved, including a Lincoln ALR member, continued working to make sure a spot was found for Bruce among his fellow veterans in the Omaha National Cemetery.

The day of his dedication was warm and sunny with a nice breeze. The Post 3 Honor Guard was there to do their duty, and the Lincoln ALR was joined by members of the Benson and Papillion ALR Chapters --- as well as a group of AMVet riders. The family was so grateful for the turnout and the support.

Please know that the Lincoln Chapter of the ALR is here to stand a flag line when we are asked. There may not be many there, depending on the day and time of the services, but if we can make it, we'll be there. If you know of a veteran or the family of a veteran who would like the ALR to have a flag line at their services, please feel free to contact me at (402) 817-8422 or proudnavysister75@gmail.com.



ALR Commander Post #3  
Jody Schmale

Luckily, not all of our activities are sad or somber ones. As I said, the group will be doing a number of parades this summer and a few poker runs. Our Chapter's poker run is being moved to September this year to see if we can thin out the number of other rides we are competing against to get folks to ride. Our Poker Run will be Saturday, September 7th.

We also help support veterans and the community in monetary ways. For example, we alternate supporting one Cornhusker Boys State or one Cornhusker Girls State citizen each year. We help support a cash fund for veterans in emergency need, which the Post oversees for us.

The Chapter is also helping support sunscreen and lip balm kits for our service personnel overseas. A fellow ALR member and Mary Kay rep is collecting funds to purchase these kits. Our Chapter just voted to sponsor 4 kits. The kits will be purchased through Mary Kay and then shipped/distributed by the North Carolina USO to areas needing them. Each kit is \$30. The ALR Mary Kay Rep is then covering the sales tax and shipping for every kit sponsored; and, in addition, is MATCHING EVERY KIT SPONSORED. This means that while the Lincoln ALR Chapter is sponsoring 4 kits, 8 will actually be going. If you would like to help sponsor a kit, contact me through the cell phone number above or at the email above. That number does accept text messages as well.

Nebraska ALR Chapters will also be busy this year hosting not 1 --- but 2 --- Romps within the borders of Nebraska. The annual State Romp will be in July, and the Regional Romp will be held June 6-9. Both events will be held in the panhandle of the state.

As I have more things to get around and around to, just want to close this article out with one last image. Most of you probably don't know that I have finished 5 Half Marathons, four of them being the Lincoln Nebraska National Guard Half Marathon.

This year, I was sent a video clip of the very start of the runners being started. My pace group starts about 30-45 minutes after these runners start. In this clip, I saw National Guard members who carry "ruck sacks" start out. These are full 40lb packs that they carry the entire route, in full ACU (Army Combat Uniform) -- including boots. Then I saw the first group of regular runners move to the Start Line. A National Guard Chaplain said a quick prayer, and the National Anthem was played. Everyone who could see at that Start Line stood still and either saluted or had their hand on their heart. From my point of view (in the back), it was the same thing. Everyone stood still, no one talked, and no one took a knee. It was a beautiful sight on a warm May morning.

Have a Great (Safe) Summer!!!

*Jody Schmale*  
Commander



Along with Department Commander Lyle Bartels, District 15 Commander Gerry Wolf helped hand out awards at the 2019 UNL ROTC Chancellor's Review held in Lincoln on April 19th.



Unit 3 President Rebecca Bowman and Post 3 Commander Dave Timmerman helped celebrate the American Legion's birthday month in March.



Randy Kaliff, President of the Nebraska American Legion Cornhusker Boys State Corporation, provided an overview of Boys State activities and invited questions during the Lincoln Area Boys State Orientation held in Lincoln on May 5th.

# 2019 Boys State and Girls State Delegates

Thirty-six young men and women from the Lincoln area have been chosen to be among the approximately 750 high school juniors attending the American Legion's and American Legion Auxiliary's 2019 sessions of Cornhusker Boys' State and Cornhusker Girls State June 2-8.

American Legion Post 3 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 sponsor the Lincoln students who attend and contribute the enrollment fees for some. A number of other community organizations also contribute enrollment fees.

Schools represented, students, parents, and financial contributors are as follows:

**Lincoln Northeast High School:** **Nicholas Dungan**, son of Tim and Mitzi Dungan, Cornhusker Kiwanis Club; **Faith Pracht**, daughter of Rita Pracht, Havelock ALA Unit 342; and **Elizabeth Spellman**, 40/8 Voiture 103.

**Lincoln East High School:** **Isaac Cary**, son of David and Paulette Cary, Lincoln Southeast Kiwanis Club. **Elizabeth Besh**, daughter of Danial and Lisa Bejjsh, Capital City Kiwanis; **Savana Brakeman**, daughter of Johnathan and Sonya Brakeman, Lincoln Southeast Kiwanis; **Addison Wilbur**, daughter of Carie Wilbur, Lincoln American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3; **Brooke Beran**, daughter of John and Debbie Beran, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 3.

**Lincoln Southeast High School:** **Lily Hefner**, daughter of Leslie Gibbens and Rian Hefner, Lincoln Cornhusker Kiwanis Club. Alternate: **Sophia Merritt**, daughter of Tony Merritt and Lilith Baier.

**Lincoln Lutheran High School:** **Tanner Lebo**, son of Travis and Renae Lebo, Optimist Club of Lincoln; **Kyle Luebbe**, son of Wayne and Lori Luebbe, Lincoln Post 3 American Legion Riders; **James Admiraal**, son of David and Alicia Admiraal, 40&8 Voiture 103; **Alayna Bergt**, daughter of Cory and Lynne Bergt, Lincoln Legionnaire Club Inc; **Hannah Ernst**, daughter of John and Amanda Ernst, Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club; **Kelly Kohlhof**, daughter of Kevin and Sarah Hohlhof, Lincoln Sons of The American Legion Squadron 3; **Gretchen Stennett**, daughter of Greg and Lyn Stennett, Lincoln Star City Lions; and **Paige Trutna** daughter of Derek and Stephanie Trutna, Lincoln Legionnaire Club Inc. Alternates: **Leah Bassett**, daughter of Nathan and Molly Bassett, **Elayne Poppe**, daughter of Bryan Poppe and Elizabeth Baack, and **Leah Rathe**, daughter of Michael and Tracy Rathe.

**Lincoln Pius X High School:** **Sean Freudenberg**, son of John and Connie Freudenberg, Bishop Kucera Assembly #595 Knights of Columbus; **Carlos Gutierrez**, son Juan Carlos and Jennifer Gutierrez, St. John Paul the Great Assembly #3640 Knights of Columbus; **Nick McElroy**, son of Mark and Beth McElroy, American Legion Post 3; **Margaret Barie**, daughter of Robert and Koni Barie, Lincoln American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3; **Maddie Booth**, daughter of Clint and Theresa Boothe, Optimist Club of Lincoln; and **Abbie Russman**, daughter of Corey and Nicole Russman, Lincoln Center Kiwanis. Alternates: **Caitlin Alesch**, daughter of Shane Alesch and Tricia Besett-Alesch.

**Parkview Christian High School:** **Logan Page**, son of Cortney Page and the late Anthony E. Page, American Legion Post 3.

**Lincoln North Star High School:** **Dalton Hellwege**, son of Pat and Jennifer Hellwege, American Legion Post 3; **Sheldon Isom**, son of Loren and Bonnie Isom, Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club; **Macy Howe**, daughter of Brad Howe and Sheri Dempsey, Dempsey Construction; **Layla Omari**, daughter of Somerah Al-Moman and Ayman Omari, Lincoln Bethany Lions Club; **Christina Villa-Huerta**, daughter of Jose' and Sandra Villa; and **Caitlyn Gish**, daughter of Eric and Emily Gish, Lincoln Women's Chamber of Commerce.

**Lincoln Southwest High School:** **Blake Callahan**, son of Amle Callahan, Bethany Lions Club; **Jack Nolley**, son of Mark and Holly Nolley, Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club; and **Kathleen Warwick**, daughter of Brent and Lisa Warwick, 8/40 Les Femmes Fatales Salon 832.

**Lincoln High School:** **Elijah Riley**, son of Anthony Riley and Tanya Barry, Lincoln Capital City Kiwanis Club and **Regan Schneider**, daughter of Jeri Roeder and Rick Schneider, Lincoln American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3.

**Hilton Homeschool Academy:** **Lydia Hilton**, daughter of Jon and Mary Hilton, Lincoln American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3.



**2,414**

Number of veterans memorials and monuments photographed, described and posted on The American Legion Memorials Database through April 1, at [www.legion.org/memorials](http://www.legion.org/memorials).

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send articles and pictures for the next issue of the *Lincoln Legionnaire* to Steve Bartos, Editor. 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email them to [LB32906@windstream.net](mailto:LB32906@windstream.net). Electronic submittals are preferred and should include reference to "*Lincoln Legionnaire*" in the subject line of your email. Materials for the next issue need to be submitted by August 10, 2019.



*James Admiraal*



*Margaret Barie*



*Brooke Beran*



*Alayna Bergt*



*Elizabeth Besh*



*Maddie Booth*



*Savanna Brakeman*



*Blake Callahan*



*Isaac Cary*



*Nicholas Dungan*



*Hannah Ernst*



*Sean Freudenber*



*Caitlyn Gish*



*Carlos Gutierrez*



*Lily Hefner*



*Dalton Hellwedge*



*Lydia Hilton*



*Macy Howe*



*Sheldon Isom*



*Kelly Kohlhof*



*Tanner Lebo*



*Kyle Luebbe*



*Nick McElroy*



*Jack Nolley*



*Layla Omari*



*Logan Page*



*Faith Pracht*



*Elijah Riley*



*Abbie Russman*



*Regan Schneider*



*Elizabeth Spellman*



*Gretchen Stennett*



*Paige Trutna*



*Christina Villa-Huerta*



*Kathleen Warwick*



*Addison Wilbur*

## CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Each Spring, Post 3 attempts to recognize those Legionnaires who have demonstrated proven loyalty to the American Legion. In times of declining membership, these Legionnaires in particular command our highest respect and admiration for maintaining a lengthy continuous membership in the American Legion. 52 Legionnaires were recognized. 11 recipients of 50-Year Continuous Membership recognition received their certificates at the April meeting of Post 3.

We salute you!

### 50-YEAR MEMBERS (37)

K. D. BARNHOUSE	EUGENE JOCHIM
JAMES BEASOM	ARTHUR JONES
ALLEN BEERMANN	LARRY KORBELIK
BRYCE BONNESS	DANIEL LOWENBERG
DEAN BROCKHOFF	CLARK MATTINGLY
BURDETTE BURKHART	DONALD MC GINNIS
C. A. CROMER	ORVILLE MEYER
DELBERT DAGLEY	FREDERICK MILLER
WILLIAM DAVIDSON	ROBERT ORSHEK
EDWARD FLYNN	RONALD OTTO
PHILIP GOULD	MARVIN PESEK
JOHN GREENWALD	DON PETERSON
JERRY HAMMER	GENE POLICKY
ROBERT HANKS	JOHN POLICKY
MICHAEL HARRIS	DENNIS STELZER
ALFRED HILDENBRAND	DONALD TAYLOR
QUENTIN HOSPODKA	PRESSLEY WILLIAMS
ROBERT IRWIN	C. RICHARD YOST
VERN JANSKY	

### 60-YEAR MEMBERS (15)

RICHARD ANGEL  
LEONARD BECKENBACH  
DERALD DERBAL  
DEAN CONNETT  
STEVE GROSSERODE  
JAY HOLMAN  
ROY JENSEN  
EARL LAHM  
KENNETH ORR  
LYLE REIGHARD  
WAYNE ROWE  
ROBERT STEINBERGER  
JOHN STUNKEL  
JOHN THARNISH  
EDWARD WORTMAN



*Commander Dave Timmerman presented a 50-Year Continuous Membership Certificate to Allen Beermann and 10 other Post 3 Legionnaires at the April meeting.*



*Bryce Bonness*



*Burdette Burkhart*



*Michael Harris*



*Quentin Hospodka*



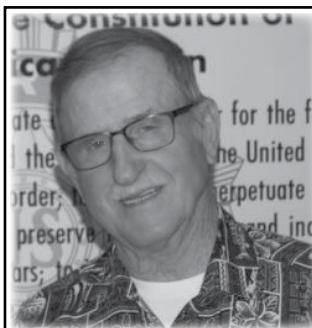
*Vern Jansky*



*Art Jones*



*Clark Mattingly*



*Don McGinnis*



*Marv Pesek*



*Dennis Stelzer*

# \$29,077

Value of youth scholarships awarded by The American Legion National Headquarters in January.

## From the National Commander The LEGION ACT

We need your help contacting members of Congress

The American Legion must continue to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation's capitol. The power of our voice is only as strong as our membership allows us to be. The American Legion's Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our organization.

Today, we need your help in contacting your members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Please reach out to your assigned Senator and Representative and ask them to Co-Sponsor S. 504 and H.R. 1641, respectively. Your member needs to encourage congressional leadership to bring the LEGION ACT (S. 504) and the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (H.R. 1641) to the floor for a vote, and to promise to vote for this legislation, to ensure all veterans are able to be recognized for their contributions and sacrifice in service to this country.

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

Since the end of World War II, the Federal Government has designated specific periods of war, the dates of which are important for qualification for certain benefits or membership in veterans organizations established by Congress. In between those recognized periods of war, during so-called peacetime eras, the US military has been involved in not fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the US Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous US combat casualties. In the spirit of our 100th celebration, we need Congress to take immediate action so we may welcome and recognize through membership all of our fellow veteran brothers and sisters. A select number of members of Congress have come together in bipartisan fashion to introduce S. 504 and H.R. 1641.

Contact your Senator and Representative today to tell them to support S. 504 and H.R. 1641.

"These veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods. Because The American Legion is congressionally chartered, we are unable to welcome many of these veterans as members of the nation's largest veterans organization. It is fitting that during the 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Thom Tillis (NC) are introducing the LEGION Act, bipartisan legislation that will recognize all veterans who served honorably since the start of World War II, while also

fostering growth within the veteran community ... We hope that the American people will encourage all members of Congress to support the LEGION Act. It is an appropriate 'thank you' to those who served."

**Brett P. Reistad,**  
National Commander



### American Legion Post 3

LEGIONNAIRE.....	SERVICE ERA .....	DATE .....
Eugene L. Anthes .....	Korea .....	3/18/2019
Neal Cady, Jr. ....	WW II .....	3/16/2019
George L. Hollers .....	WW II .....	4/15/2019
Gerald F. Huntman .....	WW II .....	4/4/2019
Norman W. Jewell .....	WW II .....	2/18/2019
James M. Kirk .....	Korea .....	4/23/2019
Floyd B. McCarty .....	Korea .....	10/1/2018
Dennis L. Nelson .....	Vietnam .....	4/6/2019
Edward F. Porn .....	WW II .....	3/1/2019
George E. Rothell .....	Korea .....	2/5/2019
Henry Schleicher .....	WW II .....	4/8/2019
James E. Sears .....	Vietnam .....	2/7/2019

## THE MEDAL OF HONOR AND FORT HARTSUFF, NE



As westward expansion accelerated following the Civil War, the U.S. Army turned some of its energies to securing the lives and property of the settlers, wagon trains, and the expanding nation's infrastructure development west of the Missouri River. The Army's security mission was also extended to Indian tribes, as was the case with the 1857 Treaty of Table Creek, in which the Army in central Nebraska was tasked to provide security for Pawnee tribes along the Loup River\*.

Of the area's two dominate tribes, the Pawnee were sedentary; whereas the Lakota (Sioux) were transitory. Until the arrival of wasitchu (white) settlers, the Pawnee tribes were able to defend themselves against Lakota raids. However, exposure to white settlers as a result of their sedentary life style made them vulnerable to diseases carried by the settlers, such as cholera and small pox. The Lakota were less vulnerable because they simply moved from infected areas. Disease ravaged the Pawnee causing them to lose almost 90% of their population.

Ironically, the source of their plight was also the source of their existence. The resulting relationship provided mutual benefits. The Army provided security against raids, and Pawnees provided the Army with scouts. One scout, Co-Tux-A-Kah-Wadde (Traveling Bear)\*\*, a Pawnee from the Columbus area, was the first of 29 American Indians awarded the Medal of Honor by Congress. He was cited for extraordinary heroism in action with the cavalry at the Republican River, Kansas on 8 July 1869. During that skirmish, Co-Tux-A-Kah-Wadde demonstrated extraordinary courage; but, perhaps as a metaphor of the Pawnee relationship with their benefactors, he was wounded accidentally by one of cavalry.

By the early 1870s, Lakota and Cheyenne raids in the Burwell area necessitated that the Army construct more permanent camps. Fort Hartsuff, named for George Lucas Hartsuff, a West Pointer, was one such project. It was somewhat unique in that it was constructed from a mixture of lime, gravel, and cement rather than wood, as was the case with Fort Kearny. Begun in September, it was completed in December 1874.

Fort Hartsuff's most famous military engagement occurred on 28 April 1876, northwest of present day Burwell in the sandhills north of the Calamus River. Known as the Battle of the Blow Out, it was famous not so much because of what happened during the battle but rather what happened after. The scant records of the battle indicate that the fort dispatched infantry soldiers to aid settlers under attack. The fort's archives don't mention the size of the attacking force, their tribal affiliation, or the reason for the attack; but the attackers are believed to have been Lakota and their raid was likely to steal horses and not kill settlers.

Little was recorded of the Army's response except that it was members of Company A, 23rd Infantry under the leadership of 2LT Charles Heyl who responded to the settlers' cry for assistance. The fighting must have been intense because Congress awarded three Medals of Honor to soldiers involved. Corporals Jephtha Lytton and Patrick Leonard (both born in Ireland) and LT Heyl were recognized for their valor. Awards of the MOH for skirmishes were not unheard of, but designating three recipients was unusual. Additionally, it was unusual for infantrymen during the Indian Campaigns to be so honored as infantrymen received only 38 the 421 MOHs awarded during that period.

The impact of the Battle of the Blow Out has been felt for more than 145 years as it is why Fort Hartsuff has been preserved.

\*The Loup River was named by French trappers who named it, in French, for the Pawnee Skidi, meaning 'wolf', tribe.

\*\* Co-Tux-A-Kah-Wadde is listed, incorrectly, as Co-Rux-Re-Chod-Ish (Mad Bear) in the medal citation.

(Sourcing for this article primarily came from information on the Fort Hartsuff web site: [forthartsuff.org](http://forthartsuff.org) Respectfully,

**Jerry Cummings**  
POW / MIA Liaison

**Remembering**  
*"Never shall I forget the times I spent with you."*  
 The greatest tribute to someone we love is found in remembering the moments shared together. As we journey through our days, we honor their life each time we are moved to action for a cause they taught us to care about deeply. Their vision and hope for the universe becomes our own. Each memory gradually becomes a part of us, nourishing and renewing our souls and determining our legacy to future generations. We celebrate a life lived, see the heartbreak of a life lost. And by doing so, we honor our loved one in a way that never could be forgotten. Helping you to Remember Well, Honor a Lifetime. From the staff of Roper & Sons and Metcalf Funeral Services.

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## ROTC Recognition Held in April

Post 3 recognized the ROTC programs at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and the JROTC program at Lincoln Northeast High School at its April meeting. Cadets from the University of Nebraska ROTC program opened ROTC night activities with the POW / MIA Table Ceremony.

Major Rick Helton, Asst. Professor of Military Science, was introduced and reported on the Army ROTC program. Air Force Captain Keyona Dibbern, Recruiting Officer, was introduced; and she shared information regarding Air Force activities.

Air Force Cadet Jarrod Conley addressed the meeting about his years of involvement with the ROTC program at UNL. He quipped that he had more longevity in the Air Force ROTC program at UNL than any other current cadets or cadre.

Representing and reporting on the Junior ROTC program at Lincoln Northeast High School were Lt. Col. Terry Plumb (USAF Ret.) and Cadet J. P. Wilson.

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**Steve Bartos**  
 Managing Editor



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POW / MIA Table Ceremony

Major Rick Helton,  
 Asst. Professor of Military Science

Captain Keyona Dibbern

Cadet Jarrod Conley

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