



“For God And Country”
December 2020 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meeting Schedule For December 2020 – January 2021

| Organization | Location | Time | December | January |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Legion Post 3 | ZOOM Meeting | 7 PM | 12/08/20 | 01/12/21 |
| Auxiliary Unit 3 | Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th | 7 PM | Cancelled | 01/12/21 |
| SAL Squadron 3 | Post 3 Office, 123 South 84th | 7 PM | Cancelled | 01/21/21 |
| ALR Chapter 3 | ZOOM Meeting | 6 PM | 12/17/20 | 01/21/21 |
| 40 & 8 Voiture 103 | Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th | 7 PM | Cancelled | 01/19/21 |
| 8 & 40 Salon 832 | Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th | 7 PM | Cancelled | 01/19/21 |
| Pitch Tournament | Risky's, 4648 Leighton | 7 PM | Cancelled | Cancelled |
| Buddy Check | The Foundry, 211 N 14th | 7 PM | Cancelled | Cancelled |
| VA Coffeehaus | VA Clinic, 600 South 70th | 11 AM | Cancelled | Cancelled |

COMMANDER'S CALL



Legion Family All....

It seems to me that we are having to push our way through a lot of uncertainties these days. Is the meeting still scheduled? Can we celebrate our anniversary at our favorite restaurant? Is our church open? What about Christmas? Football? Basketball? Volleyball? Are we still going to our family's Christmas dinner? It's enough to make your head spin and wish for simpler times. This pandemic has really changed our lives and not for the better.

Remember the Army's motto, adapt and overcome? I believe it's time to do just that. Focus on things that we can count on like: your family, your friends, your church, your American Legion family. The Legion mission never wavers or changes much. We continue to serve veterans and their families and continue to look for more ways to complete our duties. These are all things that are important and worthwhile in our lives. Focus on the things we can do instead of the things we can't or shouldn't do in keeping with current health concerns.

There's a light at the end of the Tunnel and it's called a vaccine. At this time we have at least three companies submitting a COVID-19

vaccine for FDA approval and it looks like that will happen very soon. These vaccines are 90+ percent effective and that's the game changer. It's been said that by May we will be past this nasty COVID-19 nightmare and back to being as normal as we get, and looking to a positive future.

In the meantime, wash your hands, practice social distancing, wear a mask and use common sense to keep you and everyone else as safe as you can. That's about all we can do for others. Keeping a positive mental attitude and focusing on the "cure" coming down the track in May is something we all need to do for ourselves. If you have any suggestions, ideas, concerns, or want to volunteer, please contact me. We will do our best to help you find solutions.

That being said, the regular Post 3 meeting on December 8, will be a ZOOM meeting. Join us by logging on at 7:00 P.M. to:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81524105440?pwd=TWlwd1RRdHRMV3p2cW5TV0htcFdldz09>

As you all know I never miss a chance to remind you to sign up a new member for Post 3. They, you, and the Post will all be glad you took the time to ASK them.

Respectfully,

Wade Graft

Post 3 Commander

ADJUTANT'S REPORT



Welcome to Winter, we have had our first snowfall of the winter. I want to wish all of you a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.**

The Post 3 office will be taking a break for Christmas and New Year's. We will be closed beginning December 21st, first day of winter, through the 3rd of January 2021. If you need anything in way of support from me, please text me at 402-480-8542.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Well, its December, the new Lincoln Community-Based Outpatient Clinic is nearing completion. The contractors are doing finishing work now. The VA still hopes to take possession of the building by the end of December 2020. It will take about 90 days for the clinic staff to outfit the new clinic and move into their new spaces. So, they are still looking for the new CBOC to open about the end of March 2021.

If you happen to be in the area you will notice they are working on landscaping and lighting around the building and driveway / parking lots. The city is working on 70th street, installing right turn lanes and new signals at L street.

I went to the VA clinic to do my volunteering for the week. Things have changed for 2020 due to COVID-19. They are not going to give out the tags for veteran's gifts. Currently, they have 116 requests and more coming in. They are asking for gift cards that will be given to the veterans and let them do the shopping. Most of the requests that have come in from veterans are not for themselves, but for their kids/families. One veteran has asked for tires for his vehicle.

With the VA in almost a lock down mode, word of mouth is about the only way these requests will be getting out this Christmas. Volunteer services is asking Veteran Service Organizations to help in getting these requests out. Cards requested: Kohls, Target, Walmart, HyVee, Russ's, and Gas Gift Cards.

I would say those who wish to give a gift card could put it in an envelope and drop by the Post 3 office, addressed for Veteran's Giving Tree. If you wish a receipt, put your name, and address in with the gift card.

We have passed the thousand mark, nearing the 1100 hundred paid 2021 dues. To reach our 2021 goal we need another 350 renewals or new members.

Sorry to report that our two contestants for the Oratorical contest were a no show. Efforts to contact them to reschedule failed so we will try again next year. Thanks for all those who showed up to support our efforts to host a contest.

Remember to do your Buddy Check. If you happen to meet a fellow Veteran on the street, be sure to stop and say HI. This is how our Buddy Check needs to be working. We need to be checking on each other, not just a call for due's reminders, but to just stop and talk to see how our fellow Veterans are doing.

Thanks, and **Merry Christmas**

Ed Schnabel, Adjutant

If you would like to help one or two of our less fortunate veterans, there will be a change this year. Due to COVID-19 there is no Giving Tree at the VA for this Christmas.

Gift cards need to be returned to Volunteers Service by the middle of December so they can be delivered to the Veteran. You can mail or bring gift cards to the Post 3 Legion office and I will see that they get to the social workers at the VA.

Thanks for any support you can give to fellow veterans who are in need currently. Thanks for your support of the **VA Christmas Giving Tree.**

Remember, the VA will only be there for us if we use its services. If we do not use them, the government sees it as a service not needed here and will cut funding for the Lincoln CBOC. The government funds each CBOC / hospital based on the number of veterans signed up for services in its service area. They, the veterans, do not need to be using the VA for their medical needs, just need to be enrolled in the VA Health Care System.

Funding is based on foreseen needs, not current need, thus we need to talk with our fellow veterans to be sure they are enrolled in the VA system. There are many veterans who could receive medical service but have never signed up for this benefit of our service. Again, it is the old story, use them or lose them.

Thanks for your service.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ed Schnabel, VA Representative

POST 3 ALR DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



Riders and all,

Well, Thanksgiving 2020 is in the history books. In our house, Thanksgiving was a little different this year than any other before. Nevertheless, I am thankful for so much! I'm thankful for the love and support of my wonderful family. I'm thankful for the love and support of my wonderful Legion and Legion Rider family. I'm thankful for my many friends, who have become like family. I'm thankful to live in the United States of America, the greatest nation in the world.

Your American Legion Riders continue to support various activities, such as funerals and bell-ringing, along with

other members of the Legion family. We will be holding virtual meetings until further notice and will keep members updated when we go back to meeting in person. Elections for Rider officers for 2021 are scheduled for December. Our Secretary will be sending out ballots by email, and ballots must be returned to the Secretary by December 12th.

Here's hoping that the rest of 2020 passes by quickly, with minimal further disruption by COVID-19, and that 2021 is a better year for everyone!

**Until next time,
Ride Safe!**

Bruce Gubser

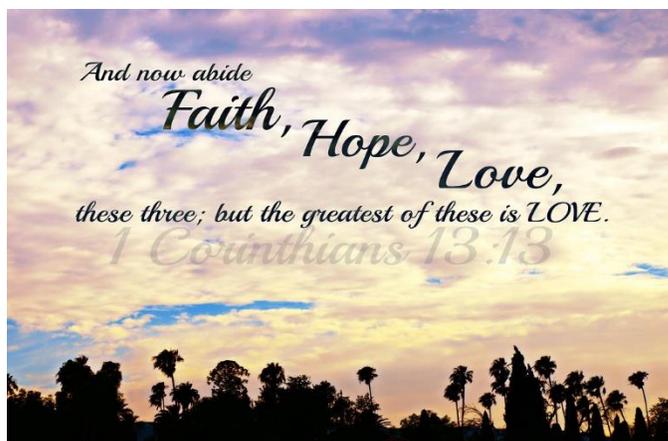
ALP 3 Legion Rider Director



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Darkness. We've all seen it, been afraid or captivated by it, and simply don't know what or how to deal with it.



This free nation of ours is growing dark. There's a sickness of the soul that inhibits the body from experiencing true health while stifling the spirit not to stay in reach of God. But what is this...darkness...?

It's that sense of utter failure that comes when things...just don't seem...right...you know...that something's a little...off...and you don't know what to do about it?!?! Maybe it's time we unveil this...absence of light...and see it for what it truly is (Proverbs 2:13).

I'm talking about our socio-culture. You know: the entirety of our living, working, and playing group of diverse and multilingual personalities all vying for that piece of the pie that persons in charge make it hard to enjoy at its best. It's maddening because it's...right there...just

within reach...if only...you were allowed to do it without rancor or interference (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Simply put: *Nebraska Legionnaires* are facing the greatest challenge of their lives. It comes down to helping this beloved country to maintain it's 'land of the brave, home of free' dictum

That promoted your stints in the military. That darkness is this nation's slow descent into the pit of mediocrity, amorality, and convenience from excusing known bad behavior and prosecuting good behavior. What happened to us? How did we come to err on the dark-side of community concerns versus staying true to our Four Pillars tenants (2 Peter 2:19)? Is there a chance for Nebraskans to "rally 'round the flag boys" once again to get America back on its God-righteous footing (2 Corinthians 7:10)?

All it takes is prayer, Bible study, and a commitment of faith in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6). Are you up to it? Lean on Jesus to feel that America may get its act together. God may be a little disappointed in this nation, but He hasn't given up on us (Psalm 89:8). Have you given up on America?

It's not that bad...really...God has gotten us through many a bad time in the past. He's getting us through this present. And He'll get us through the future as we await His return, the *Parousia* (the Rapture). He's ALWAYS there for us, so have no fear of the darkness creeping up on us (Genesis 19:19).

Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Post 3 Chaplain



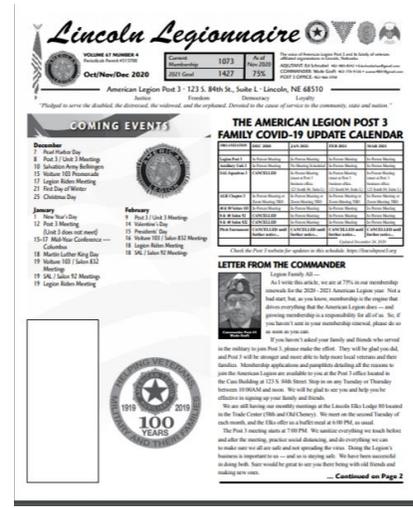
During the month of November, the Honor Guard rendered “Honors” at 10 Legion funerals and was asked to assist with 9 VFW funerals. They also participated in 2 other ceremonies. The Governor’s Proclamation of Wreaths Across America in Nebraska at the State Capitol will be a livestream only event. It is scheduled for 14 December at 11:00 and will be livestreamed on NET.ORG. The Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Soldier’s Circle in Wyuka cemetery, scheduled for December 19th, has been cancelled due to COVID-19. A private group will place the wreaths on the veteran’s graves.

November 2020 TAPS

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | WAR ERA | BRANCH | YEARS |
|-----------|------------|---------|--------|-------|
| CLARENCE | RICHARD | KOREA | N/A | 46 |
| FILBERT | DAVID | VIETNAM | NAVY | 15 |
| GRIFFIN | ERNIE | WWII | NAVY | 61 |
| GROEBNER | RICHARD | KOREA | ARMY | 59 |
| JORDAN | FRANK | KOREA | ARMY | 37 |
| KELLER | RICHARD | KOREA | US AF | 48 |
| MCBRIDE | THOMAS | VIETNAM | N/A | 15 |
| MINNICK | ANTHONY | WWII | USAAC | 48 |
| THOMPSON | JAMES | VIETNAM | ARMY | 16 |
| YOUNG | ROCKFORD | VIETNAM | ARMY | 2 |



Lincoln Legionnaire Mailing List



For quite a few years, Post 3 Legionnaire Wayne Walkenhorst compiled the mailing list utilized to mail Post 3's quarterly newspaper, the *Lincoln Legionnaire*. Sadly, Wayne passed away in August.

For the latest issue (scheduled to be printed and mailed the first week of December), we utilized several American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion databases maintained by the national organizations in hopes of creating the most up-to-date list we can. Unless the names at any address were totally different, we attempted to retain only one name at an address.

If you received more than one issue and only need one at your address, please let us know. Similarly, if you only received one issue and other members in the household really want to

receive their own issue, let us know that, too. We'll be glad to accommodate you.

Comments can be returned to us by email at post3legionlincoln@gmail.com or by calling the Post 3 business office on Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 10:00 and noon at 402-466-3958.

Hopefully, all qualifying addresses were included in the mail list and nobody ended up without an issue at all. If you learn that somebody missed the issue, please have them contact us.

Steve Bartos
Editor, Lincoln Legionnaire

Minutes Of Post 3 Meeting, 11/10/20

Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80
November 10, 2020

Prior to opening the meeting, Commander Graft thanked the Unit 3 Auxiliary for providing cookies in honor of Veterans Day.

Also, Commander Graft thanked Harry Montag and the Elks Lodge 80 for providing sandwiches tonight at no cost to the veterans present.

The colors being in place, Commander Wade Graft opened the November 10, 2020 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 with 16 Legionnaires present.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and accepted without objection.

Ed Schnabel gave the finance report for the month ending October 31, 2020, showing a balance on hand of \$47,037.45. The report was accepted and filed for review.

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

Bruce Gubser reported for the American Legion Riders. He said that the Riders meeting to be held on Thursday would be on Zoom. He also reported that the Riders were prepared to participate in the Lincoln Veterans Parade, but the parade was cancelled at almost the next to last minute.

Reporting for William Jackson, Commander Graft announced that Post 3 was scheduled to ring bells for the Salvation Army between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM on December 10th.

It was reported that the 2 contestants scheduled to compete in the Post 3 / District 15 Oratorical contests did not appear to compete. Commander Graft indicated he would contact them and see if another time can be scheduled to hold the contest.

Ed Schnabel reported that Post 3 membership stood at 1072 --- about 75% of goal.

Fred Craigie reported that the SAL would meet this Friday in the Post 3 business office. He indicated that the SAL membership was at about 75% of goal.

Steve Bartos reported that he had begun working on the next quarterly issue of the Lincoln Legionnaire and that all submittals are welcome ---- and now due.

Commander Graft introduced Wes Newton and announced that Wes has agreed to act as the post's POW / MIA liaison. Wes then gave a brief report which indicated that 4 more remains had been identified during October.

Chef de Gare Jerry Salber and Correspondent Steve Bartos reported for the 40/8. At this point, the promenade is still scheduled for next Tuesday ---- but may change. Jerry indicated that the voiture would welcome new members.

Ed Muggy pitched the Elks Calendar Raffle fundraiser and pointed out the many things that Lodge 80 does for veterans.

Bruce Gubser reported on the fairly new project taken on by Post 3 to send birthday cards to the veterans who reside in some of the senior living centers in town.

Commander Graft announced that the proceeds from the 3-D flag auctioned off last month had been placed into the Bunker Fund. He also gave a brief report on how the money in the Bunker Fund is utilized.

Reporting that there had been some confusion regarding the status of the on-line auction of the National Convention Lamp, Commander Graft indicated that the auction would continue through the December meeting.

There was some discussion regarding the protocols followed by the various United States military branches in regard to providing funeral details. Most require that the deceased's family provide a copy of the veteran's DD214. It was pointed out that everyone should get a copy or two in the hands of family members.

Gerry Wolf offered birthday greetings to the United States Marine Corps. (245)

Dean Dumler read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 7:30 PM.

Steve Bartos
Recorder



VETERANS AND MILITARY PERMITS

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is proud to offer special permits to veterans age 64 and older, deployed military and disabled veterans at reduced or no cost. The following permits are available for veterans and members of the military.

Nebraska Resident Disabled Veteran Vehicle Park Entry Permit

Disabled Veterans who are legal residents of Nebraska and who have been deemed 50 percent or more service related or 100 percent disabled non-service connected and receive a pension from the Veterans Administration, are eligible for one (1) perpetual Disabled Veteran's Lifetime Annual Park Entry Permit at no fee.

Veteran Permit Hunt/Fish/Fur Permit

Veterans age 64 and older who are legal residents of Nebraska are eligible for a Veteran's Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish/Fur Harvest Permit for \$5. This permit includes all state stamps. A copy of a DD214 or a Veteran Indicator on the applicant's Nebraska Driver's License must be presented in person at the time of application. If a copy of a DD214 is not available, an application form and signature from a Veteran's Service officer is required.

Deployed Military Hunt/Fish/Fur Permit

A Nebraska resident who is or has been deployed out of the state with a branch of the United States military within the last 12 months shall, upon returning to the state, be eligible to receive an Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish/Fur Harvest Permit on a one time basis for \$5. This permit includes all state stamps. A copy of deployment paperwork must be presented in person at the time of application.

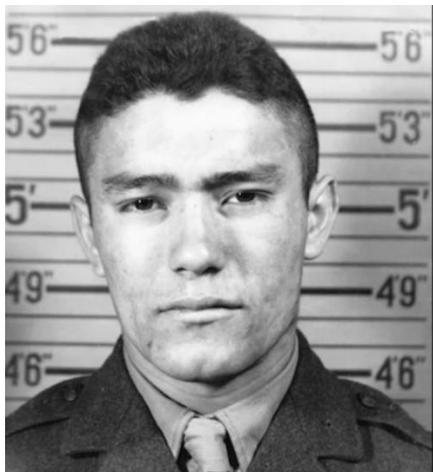
Disabled Veteran Hunt/Fish/Fur Permit

Disabled Veterans who are legal residents of Nebraska and who have been deemed 50 percent or more service related or 100 percent disabled non-service connected and receive a pension from the Veterans Administration, are eligible for a Disabled Veteran's Lifetime Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish/Fur Harvest Permit at no fee. This permit includes all state stamps.

More information and the applications can be accessed at the website shown below. To apply for a Disabled Veteran's Permit via the mail, fill out the application and have it signed by a Veterans Service Officer. Mail the completed application to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln NE 68503-0370.

<http://outdoornebraska.gov/veteransandmilitarypermits>

WWII Marine Returned Home



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Marine Corps Reserve Pvt. Jacob Cruz, 18, of Los Angeles, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 14, 2020.

In November 1943, Cruz was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands, in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Cruz died on the third day of battle, Nov. 22, 1943. He was reported to have been buried in Row D of the East Division Cemetery, later renamed Cemetery 33.

In 1946, the 604th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company centralized all of the American remains found on Tarawa at Lone Palm Cemetery for later repatriation. However, almost half of the known casualties were never found. No recovered remains could be associated with Cruz, and, in October 1949, a Board of Review declared him “non-recoverable.”

In 2009, History Flight, Inc., a nonprofit organization, discovered a burial site on Betio



42Island believed to be Cemetery 33, which has been the site of numerous excavations ever since. In March 2019, excavations west of Cemetery 33 revealed a previously undiscovered burial site that has since been identified as Row D. The remains recovered at this site were transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

To identify Cruz’s remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR), and autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

Cruz’s name is recorded in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific along with the others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Cruz was buried Nov. 13, 2020, in his hometown. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS, WWII MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Mr. Hershel “Woody” Williams was born on October 2, 1923, in Quiet Dell, W.Va., to Lloyd and Lurena Williams. He originally had no desire to join the military, believing that he would be a farmer for the rest of his life. But after being impressed by the sight of two Marines from his town in their dress-blue uniforms — “it’s different than any other uniform,” as he put it in a 2014 Stars and Stripes interview — he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on May 26, 1943, at the age of 21. He never expected to go overseas.

Williams told Stars and Stripes that before the war, he didn’t know where Pearl Harbor was, had “never heard of the Japanese,” and “didn’t even know we had a South Pacific.” “I’m just going to stay right here in the United States,” he recalled thinking at the time. “All of us will be here, and we just dare anybody to come try to take our country. Because they’re not going to get in, you know?”

He was in for a rude awakening. In February 1945, he found himself deployed “to the South Pacific, to some islands I never knew existed.” And so it was, that on February 23, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima, he undertook the action that would earn him the Medal of Honor. As his Medal of Honor citation describes, he was “quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through . . . reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands.”

Williams “daringly went forward alone” to address the “devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding positions.” Over the course of four hours of horrendous fighting, he obtained flamethrowers, prepared demolition charges, and, under the cover of only four riflemen, advanced repeatedly to enemy lines and wiped out “one position after another.” Two Marines sacrificed their lives protecting him as he carried out his mission that day. He did not learn of their deaths until after the campaign was over.

Williams’s citation says that “his unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism . . . were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strongpoints” of the battle, “and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective.”

On October 5, 1945, during a ceremony at the White House, President Harry S. Truman presented Williams his medal. “I’ve said many times, I don’t know if I was more scared then than [when] I was in combat,” Williams told Stars and Stripes of the

medal ceremony. That’s the way I was when I went up to the president.” Upon hanging the medal on his neck, President Truman told Williams: “I would rather have this medal than to be president.”

Williams stayed in the Marines after the war, eventually rising to the rank of chief warrant officer 4 before retiring in 1969. In between, he suffered from what is now called PTSD, but which was then known as “psychoneurosis.” One day in 1962, while at Pea Ridge Methodist Church with his family, he had a Christian awakening that put a stop to his suffering. On that day, Williams told Stars and Stripes, God spoke to him and made him understand: “Hey. You’re here because I let you be here. You’re here because I saved your life.”

From that moment on, he dedicated himself to God. Grateful for having survived the war, he feels that he was left alive to represent and remember all the men who weren’t so lucky. “I finally came to the full realization,” Williams told Fox News, “that [the medal] doesn’t represent me — it represents them.”

TODAY, Williams is active and continuing his work. To date, Williams and the Louisville, Ky. based Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation have been responsible for erecting 72 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the country. He continues to give interviews and make appearances in which he speaks about his life.

In the confusion of our present times, when even a monument to the veterans of World War II is a target of vandalism, we would do well to learn from the remarkable lives of this man. One would be hard-pressed to find a better example of the American determination and heroism we need today. “Semper Fi”, “Woody”!

In this moment of national unrest, we would do well to remember a living monument to America’s struggle during the Second World War. Mr. Hershel “Woody” Williams still makes regular public appearances and bears a singular distinction: He is, as of 2020, the last living World War II veteran who received the Medal of Honor, America’s highest military decoration for their service. Those of you who were present at the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument dedication in Lincoln’s Memorial Garden on September 24th, 2017 may have had the opportunity to meet this American hero. If you were there, I hope you saluted the Medal Of Honor recipient as a matter of respect and courtesy regardless of rank or status.

Imagine You Were Born In 1900.



When you're 14 World War I begins and ends at 18 years old with 22 million dead.

Shortly after, a global pandemic Flu called 'Spanish' ", kills 50 million people.

You come out alive and free. You are 20 years old.

Then, at 29, you survive the global economic crisis that started with the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange, causing Inflation, Unemployment, and Hunger.

At 33, the Nazis come to power.

You turn 39 when World War II starts and ends at 45.

During the Holocaust (Holocaust), 6 million Jews die.

There will be over 60 million WWII deaths in total.

When you're 52, the Korean War begins. Over 5 million people die.

At age 64, the Vietnam War begins and ends at age 75. Over 3 million people die.

A boy born in 1985 thinks his grandparents have no idea how difficult life is, but they have survived several wars and disasters.

A boy born in 1995 and now 25 years old thinks it's the end of the world when his Amazon package takes over three days to arrive or when he doesn't get more than 15 likes for her photo posted on Facebook or Instagram.

In 2020, many of us live comfortably, have access to different sources of home entertainment, and often have more than we need.

But people complain about everything.

However, they have electricity, phone, food, hot water, and a roof over their heads.

None of this existed before.

But mankind survived far more disastrous circumstances and never lost the joy of living.

Maybe it's time to be less self-absorbed, stop complaining, and start being grateful.

Loren Crask

THE SOLDIERS NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

T'was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,
I soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight.

Soon `round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on back.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside.
I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure,
"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!

I wrote this poem for Christmas Eve 1993 while assigned to US Forces Korea - Lt Col Bruce Lovely, USAF (Printed in the Fort Leavenworth Lamp, 1995)

American Legion Post 3 Wishes All Of Our Veterans, And Service Men And Women Who Can't Be With Their Families During The Holidays!

Merry Christmas





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 that you served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and were honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably, you are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$46.00 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

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 and a check for \$46 made out to "American Legion Post 3" to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2021, 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



**American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th St. Suite L
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 466-3958**

Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

<https://lincolnpost3.org>

2020 - 2021 Post 3 Officers

Commander - Wade Graft – Cell: 402-770-9126

First Vice Commander – Gerry Wolf – Cell: 402-417-8230

Second Vice Commander – Bruce Gubser – Cell: 402-470-1700

Adjutant – Ed Schnabel – Cell: 402-480-8542

Chaplain – William Jackson – Cell: 402-613-9774

Post Service Officer – Ed Schnabel – Cell 402-480-8542

**Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Adjutant for approval.
All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.**

