



**“For God And Country”**  
**May 2021 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meeting Schedule For May 2021 – June 2021**

Organization	Location	Time	May	June
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7 PM	05/11/21	06/08/21
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	05/11/21	06/08/21
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 South 84th	7 PM	05/20/21	06/17/21
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6 PM	05/20/21	06/17/21
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	05/18/21	06/15/21
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	05/18/21	06/15/21
Buddy Check	The Foundry, 211 N 14 <sup>th</sup>	7 PM	05/22/21	06/22/21
VA Coffeehaus	Auld Pavilion Rec Center	10 AM	05/28/21	TBA

# Commander's Call



## Legion Family All .....

We had a malfunction on our last Post Meeting Zoom broadcast and no one was able to view it online at home. We have figured out what the problem was and fixed it (bad cable). We feel confident that if you want to see and hear what is happening at the next Post 3 meeting and can't physically be there, on your computer, you can open the hyperlink <https://bit.ly/2RC8nGJ> or go to ZOOM.com, Meeting ID: 822 0795 3366. Passcode 2468 and participate.

While I am on the Zoom Meeting topic, I would appreciate hearing if you think Zoom is a good idea or you don't ever plan on using it. We want to reach as many Post 3 members as we can every month. I really think that as the Covid restrictions are dialed down and more and more Legionnaires feel safe in attending Post 3 meetings in person, we will see fewer on Zoom, but we will continue that option if enough of you want it. Let me hear from you on this please. We would really like to see the Zoom attendance grow right along with the in-person numbers. This would be a Stage 4 outcome.

The Nebraska Legion State Convention will be held here in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Thursday June 24th thru Sunday June 27th. It's been a long time since we have hosted here in Lincoln and I hope many of you take advantage of being able to see your American Legion in action. It will be educational and provide a chance to meet and share with the folks that run the Legion in Nebraska.

Post 3 has been selected to Post the Colors to start the Convention, retrieve the Colors to close the Convention and perform the Post Everlasting Ceremony on Friday. We are very proud of our Honor Guard and look forward to being a part of the Convention. Hope you can be there to show your support. We are working very hard to make this a Stage 4 outcome.

1. Post 3 has been asked to support Honor 365, this is a national tour that will be on display at Gateway Mall on May 11th thru May 22nd to remember the 9/11 victims.

2. On May 12th at 10:00AM the Post 3 Honor Guard will be at the Veterans Memorial Gardens to post the Colors for a Veterans Referral support program. Stop down and check it out.

3. On May 22nd the Nebraska effort to salute Nebraska Medal of Honor recipients will be holding a program in South Sioux City at Siouxland Park at 5:30PM.

4. On every Tuesday the Post 3 Leadership Team has a Zoom meeting to discuss how we can make Post 3 more effective in supporting veterans and their families here in Lincoln. We would appreciate your suggestions. Let me hear from you.

5. The Post Leadership Team is available at the Post 3 Business Office every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00AM to 12:00 noon. We would be happy to answer questions, listen to your suggestions, and help you to be more effective in recruiting your friends and family in joining Post 3.

Respectfully,

Wade Graft

Post 3 Commander

402-770-9126

[wamar4801@gmail.com](mailto:wamar4801@gmail.com)

# Adjutant's Report



Welcome,  
Time to pause and remember.

May is the month we pause to remember those who have given their last full measure.

May 5, 1868

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On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois. This observance not only decorated the graves of Union Soldiers but also those graves of Southern Soldiers.

Memorial Day, initially referred to as Decoration Day, was observed by many communities after the Civil War, when the nation suffered more than 620,000 military deaths, roughly 2 percent of the total population at the time.

John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, chose May 30, 1868, as a day to decorate the graves of Union troops across the nation. From this beginning, Memorial Day is now designated as an annual day of remembrance to honor all those who have died in service to the United States during peace and war.

Sorry to say, we still are adding to those who have given their last full measure, with no end in sight.

When the time comes, you can help your loved ones with your request for Military Honors by doing some simple things now.

First, if you desire Military Honors during your memorial service, you need to talk with your family, so they know your wishes.

Second, find your DD214 or discharge papers, again, tell your family their location, this is a key piece in requesting Military Honors that are provided by DOD personal.

Third, talk with your family as to where you would like to be interred. The local family plot or in a VA National Cemetery. You can find answers to many of your questions on the VA's web site. The VA's site will help with requesting a VA grave head stone, how to request burial in a National Cemetery.

Again, thanks to all those who have served.

Legion is still working on renewing those who have yet to pay their 2020-2021 dues. Current paid membership is at 1327 or about 93% of our goal. About 100 paid members short.

Legion National HQ is processing 2021-2022 member cards currently. Notices will be mailed out at the end of June, only a month off. 2021-2022 Legion Year begins August first, 2021. At this time, I do not believe there will be any dues increase for 2021-2022.

Have a great summer and stay safe out there as you enjoy getting out of the house for a change.

Ed Schnabel  
Adjutant

## Lincoln Community-Based Outpatient Clinic / VA News

**Memorial Day - Take time to visit the graves of those who have given their last full measure.**

**Make sure to fly your American Flag on Memorial Day.**

**Thanks to my fellow Veterans, we all served.**

### All Gave Some, Some Gave All



## Post 3 ALR Commander's Remarks



Greetings American Legion Riders & Friends,

Well, the long, hard, winter is in the rear-view mirror. Spring has sprung. I know this, because my bride suffers each spring with pollen allergies... and she's had them bad. The good news is this means that riding season 2021 is now underway! YAY! I ask my fellow Riders to keep their head on a swivel and be safe while riding. I ask my fellow drivers on four (or more) wheels to keep an eye out for motorcycles.

A very good friend (and fellow Legion Rider) of my bride and me, Shannon, lives in Florida and was out cruising with her husband, about 45mph, a couple of weeks ago when a "distracted driver" (in other words, a jerk on his cellphone while driving) turned left right in front of her. She tried to avoid the collision but was unable to do so. Her motorcycle struck the pickup and our friend was thrown over the hood and landed on the pavement on the other side. Florida motorcycle riders are not required to wear a helmet, but she always does. That helmet saved her life. Her injuries consisted of a compound fracture of her lower left leg (which has already required multiple surgeries over the past week), multiple facial fractures (despite wearing a helmet), and a severe facial partial evisceration (look that one up). She remains hospitalized but is on the road to recovery. If you are so inclined, I'm sure Shannon would appreciate your prayers.

The bottom line is this, everyone in or on a motorized vehicle is responsible for the safe operation of that vehicle. Please, please, please, do not drive or ride while distracted or impaired. Motorcyclists, please watch out for cars and each other. All drivers, please watch out for motorcycles and each other.

On a lighter note, please make sure you mark your calendar for our Poker Run on Saturday, May 22nd. This fundraiser for Pets for Vets and Guitars for Vets, starts at Frontier Harley-Davidson, 205 NW 40th Street, with registration from 10am-noon. Our endpoint is the Denton Legion Club. Prizes will be awarded at 5:30pm. Denton will be serving dinner, as well, so come hungry!

We also began a fundraiser, recipient organizations to be determined, we are calling the "Lack of Cents Challenge." During this challenge, your American Legion Riders will be riding miles for funds to benefit our local Veterans and Charities by asking friends, family and associates to "sponsor" them as they ride this riding season. We are taking beginning mileage readings on each Rider's motorcycle (or car, for those who are unable to ride), and the sponsor agrees to donate an amount based on the number of miles ridden from now until October 31, 2021. For example, if a sponsor agreed to one cent per mile, and the rider logs 5000 miles between now and October 31st, the sponsor would donate \$50. If the sponsor agreed to 1/2 cent per mile, the sponsor would donate \$25 for that same 5000 miles. I encourage our riders to find multiple sponsors, at ANY amount per mile (e.g., 1/10 cent, 1/4 cent, 1/2 cent, 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents, 100 cents, and so on). Of course, if the sponsor wanted to donate a flat dollar amount, we would graciously accept that as well.

Lastly, at our April meeting, we amended our bylaws to bring them in line with requirements set by National HQ. The most significant change was a name change for two leadership positions in the Chapter. The leader of our chapter, yours truly, now is known as Director (formerly Commander), and second-in-command is now known as Assistant Director (formerly Vice Commander). Sadly, this means that Assistant Director Ray will no longer be known as the "Commander of Vice." LOL!!! Sorry about that, Ray.

Until next time,  
Ride (and Drive) safe!

Bruce



*Miles to go and no  
"Cents" to get there!*

# **American Legion Riders Lincoln Chapter 3 Lack of "Cents" Challenge**

Riding miles for funds to benefit our local Veterans and Charities



Contact a Rider for more details





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



\$10/HAND OR \$20 FOR 3



Lincoln Chapter 3

# POKER RUN

REGISTRATION: 10AM-NOON  
 FIRST BIKE OUT AT: 10AM  
 FIRST BIKE IN: 5PM  
 PRIZES/AWARDS: 5:30PM

**SATURDAY  
 MAY 22**

-STARTS AT FRONTIER HARLEY-DAVIDSON,  
 205 NW 40TH ST, LINCOLN  
 -WITH STOPS IN CRETE, DWIGHT,  
 BEATRICE & TECUMSEH  
 -ENDS AT DENTON LEGION CLUB,  
 7226 LANCASTER AVE, DENTON



FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
 AT DENTON LEGION CLUB

PROCEEDS SUPPORT PETS FOR VETS  
 & GUITARS FOR VETS



## Message From The Chaplain

### Time To Pray



Rev. Dr. William Jackson

Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain

There's going to be a time when it'll come down to one thing: who are you really????

By that I mean: where do you stand—or fall—when it comes to your walk of faith with Jesus? Oh, I'm sorry, you don't know Him enough to get that cozy with Him, huh? Well, why don't I acquaint you with someone who truly knows who and what you are, God Himself.

If you are a disciple of Christ, a Christian, or respond to any number of epithets related to your belief in the Lord, you'll be just fine, as the Lord revealed in John 16:33. I'm really trying to squeeze a Word (i.e., the Bible) in edgewise to those Lincoln Post 3 Nebraska Legionnaires who find themselves on the back end of a front-end loader, so-to-speak, with no apparent way to get back in the driver's seat. But you say you like being dragged around the world because you've been told...unfortunately...that it's the way to go to be...successful..?!?! Ya got'ta take yo knocks they told ja, huh?

So what's next?

Freedom...peace...certainty...confidence?

If God IS who and what His Word, the Bible, say He is, then you've got all you need to make it in this

mixed up world of ours. But how do you know God is real, and cares about you? Great question. Suppose I pose it to you like this: if God is Omniscient (i.e., All-Knowing), Omnipotent (i.e., All-Powerful), and Omnipresent (i.e., Ever-present), then serve Him without fear or hesitation, as noted in Psalm 29:4, Psalm 144:3, and Genesis 3:8. If He is not as so described, then do not serve Him. But you know as well that failure to love and serve the Lord means you're serving Satan (e.g., Devil, Lucifer, Beelzebub, Prince of the Power of the Air), according to His Word, the Bible. You cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).

Ssssssoooooo....What's it gon'na be? Continue to stumble in the dark while the world trips you at every corner, feeding you lies and false hopes, and no deliverance from your anxieties..except with alcohol, illicit drugs, and sex. You've tried those avenues, but found them wanting, huh? Then return to the Lord Jesus as your ONLY hope of long life, prosperity, and inner joy. Become counted among those who WILL meet the Lord during the *Parousia* (Greek for the Rapture), while others shake their fists at God and face eternal damnation (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

Do the better thing. Walk with the Lord. Yes, He is bringing condemnation upon the world, and particularly to America, for our denying our first love—Jesus—who helped this once great nation rise to prominence and send missionaries with the Gospel around the world (Matthew 28:19). How much longer are you going to allow others to destroy us? Love the Lord so He may show you how to be angry, yet not sin (i.e., combating evil your way). When you walk as a disciple of the Lord, no one can stop you from telling others what they need to hear.

## **Post 3 Honor Guard**



**In the month of April, the Honor Guard rendered “Honors” at 7 Legion funerals and was asked to assist at 2 VFW funerals. In calendar year 2021, the Honor Guard rendered “Honors” at 53 combined funerals. Make sure you fly your American Flag at half-staff from sunrise until noon and then raised to the top of the staff from noon until sunset on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31.**

**Commander Graft and I were present at the Chancellor’s Review to present awards to 24 Cadets and Midshipmen for Military Excellence and Scholarship Excellence on April 29, 2021.**





## April 2021 TAPS



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Francis A. Haskins	WW II	ARMY	21
Donald H. Matthes	Korea	NAVY	35
Burdette E. Sandin	WW II	NAVY	38
Leo E. Zimmer, Jr.	Korea	ARMY	67



## Minutes of the April 2021 Regular Monthly Meeting

Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 and also on ZOOM  
April 13, 2021

Prior to the meeting, Commander Graft recognized the Unit 3 Auxiliary for providing cookies and cupcakes for tonight's meeting. The treats were in honor of the Legion's birthday in March which was delayed because of the District 15 Convention.

Commander Wade Graft opened the April 13, 2021 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 30 Legionnaires and guests present. There was no one signed in on the ZOOM, but there may have been a problem with the link which had been provided.

Steve Bartos read the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting (District 15 Convention).

Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month showing a balance on hand of \$40,860.58. Major expenses for the month were the medals for the UNL ROTC awards and donations to the National Emergency Fund and the National Commander's project. The report was approved and filed for review.

New member Ronnie Hindmand was introduced. He introduced his wife and gave a brief report on his 21 years in the Army as an intelligence officer, beginning with his commissioning through the ROTC program at the University of Nebraska.

A guest, a Navy veteran from the Korean War era, was introduced. He spoke briefly.

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

As related to membership, Dr. Jackson gave a brief report on some of the things he had been working on with YouTube, Facebook, etc.

Gerry Wolf reported on ROTC. He indicated that Post 3 would be recognizing 24 cadets or midshipmen and presenting awards at the Chancellor's Review at UNL.

Fred Chrastil reported for the Memorial Squad. He indicated that they continue to serve at funerals and were preparing for the presentation of colors and a post

everlasting ceremony at the Department Convention in June.

POW / MIA Chair Wes Newton gave a brief report on some recent identifications, primarily from Pearl Harbor, Korea, and the Philippines.

Commander Graft announced that 55 Legionnaires were being presented certificates for having 50, 60, or 75 years of continuous membership. Present and receiving their certificates at tonight's meeting were George Skohorod (50), Jerry Hardnock (50), William Spielman (50), Ed Reinhardt (50), and Jack Campbell (60).

Fred Craigie announced that Squadron 3 of the SAL would meet this Thursday evening at the Post 3 business office.

Steve Bartos reported for Cornhusker Boys State, indicating that 24 boys from the Lincoln area had applied --- and donors were found for all 24. He indicated that plans to hold an in-person session fell through and the decision was made to switch to a virtual session. After polling the boys selected for Boys State to gauge their interest and commitment to attend the virtual session, the decision was made to cancel the program again for this year. Refunds were issued to all donors.

Explaining that Boys State still plans to provide pins, certificates, etc. to all of the boys selected, Bartos made a motion to donate \$200 to help the Boys State Corporation defray some of those additional mailing costs, etc. The motion was approved.

Jerry Salber reported briefly on the 40/8. He invited anyone who is interested to contact him about becoming a member.

Bruce Gubser reported for the Legion Riders. He indicated that the Riders are meeting this Thursday evening in Denton and will be sponsoring a Poker Run in May. He also talked about another fundraiser being planned where the Riders will solicit 1-cent or partial-cent pledges for each mile the Rider rides over a designated period of time.

Chaplain Jackson read TAPS and the meeting was closed at about 7:45 PM.

Steve Bartos, Recorder

Friends of Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway,

Last year Covid 19 caused Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation to postpone it's plans for Ken Hanel and myself to walk across the newly named Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway (U.S.20) in an event called, Walk the Walk.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Ken, I and a small support crew will begin that 432-mile walk. We will walk six-mile segments, each of which will be dedicated to a Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipient. We alternate walking three segments each for a total of 36 miles and then join together in walking a 37<sup>th</sup> mile at the end of each day. Using the attached file and taking into account each segment takes two hours and that we start at 05:00 am, you are able to easily track our progress.

Anyone is invited to join us anywhere along the walk. The only rule is you are responsible for your own logistics. When joining us, the vehicle that dropped you off must leave the area. It is your responsibility when being picked up to safely leave the area. We never stop walking. Our schedule is tight. Safety is paramount. At the end of our walk we join the community listed in the attached file for supper and to celebrate Nebraska's newest treasure and largest veteran memorial.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> a motorcycle convoy will cross the Wyoming/Nebraska border at 08:00 am. Their mission is to cross the length of Nebraska and form a flag line for our entry into Siouxland Freedom Park. Motorcycles from American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard Riders, ABATE, and all other patriotic motorcyclist are invited to join. Motorcycles will be joining them all along the highway that day. We have no idea how many bikes we only know that MANY are planning to take part in this honor ride. Our fellow patriots are excited. The Facebook page is Nebraska American Legion Medal of Honor Ride.

You are invited to join the motorcycles, Walk the Walk with Ken and I, or you may wish to simply attend the Christening of the highway at 5:30 pm in Siouxland Freedom Park. I promise it will be a patriotic day to remember.

When the entourage arrives Medal of Honor Recipient James C. McCloughan of Michigan will sing the National Anthem. Governor Ricketts has been invited to introduce CMoH McCloughan and Charles Hagemeister one of only two living Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients. It has been heard that the Governor may have a special gift for our honored guests. Both Medal of Honor Recipients will be speaking and then will Christen the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway.

Please forward this email at will.

Thank You,

Daryl G. Harrison

Box 266, 355 So. Main

Thurston, NE 68062

[Pheasant55@harrisonwoc.com](mailto:Pheasant55@harrisonwoc.com)

(402)922-1329

## Army Pvt. Reab killed in Germany during World War II coming home



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Army Pvt. Lyle W. Reab, 22, of Phillips, Nebraska, killed during World War II, was accounted for Feb. 24, 2021.

In November 1944, Reab was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action as of Nov. 9, after his unit engaged German forces at Vossenack, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest. His body was not recovered.

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe. Several AGRC investigation teams searched for and recovered remains in the Hürtgen Forest following World War II, but none were identified as Reab. He was declared non-recoverable in December 1950.

While studying unresolved American losses in the Vossenack area, a DPAA historian determined that one set of unidentified remains, designated

X-7388 Neuville, recovered from a foxhole on the southeastern end of town in March 1948 possibly belonged to Reab. The remains, which had been buried as an unknown soldier in Ardennes American Cemetery in 1949, were disinterred in June 2018 and sent to the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for identification.

To identify Reab's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used Y chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Reab's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Margraten, Netherlands, 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.

Reab will be buried June 8, 2021, in Aurora, Nebraska.

## Nation's oldest Medal of Honor recipient, Charles Coolidge, 99, dies

With the death of Coolidge, Hershel "Woody" Williams, 97, who was awarded the nation's highest decoration for his actions on Iwo Jima, is now the Medal's oldest surviving recipient.

"We both have been blessed by God with a long, long life," Williams told *The New York Times*.

Born on August 4, 1921, Coolidge was drafted into the military in 1942 and assigned to Company M of the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Division. Formed in 1917 and composed largely of Texas National Guard troops, the outfit was aptly dubbed the "Texas" division.

Despite their inexperience, "his unit was nevertheless ordered to hold off the German forces threatening to attack the right flank of the division's Third Battalion, 141st Infantry, which was massing with two other battalions outside the tiny town of Belmont-sur-Buttant," according to the *Times*.

On October 24, 1944, the 23-year-old Coolidge and about 30 soldiers under his command found themselves desperately outnumbered, facing down a swarm of German troops supported by tanks.

Amid rain and dense woods, Coolidge attempted "to bluff the Germans by a show of assurance and boldness called upon them to surrender, whereupon the enemy opened fire," his citation reads.

The firefight marked the first time many of his men had ever engaged the enemy.

Over the course of four days of continuous fighting, the Americans repeatedly repulsed the numerically superior enemy. Coolidge recalled in a 2014 interview with the University of Tennessee that on the fifth day, with two German tanks within 25 yards of him, he heard a German tank commander shout in perfect English, "Do you guys wan'na give up?" Standing to face the German, Coolidge calmly replied, "I'm sorry, Mac, you've got'ta come and get me."



Dodging behind trees to avoid enemy fire, Coolidge "Secure[ed] all the hand grenades he could carry, [then] he crawled forward and inflicted heavy casualties on the advancing enemy," according to his citation.

Somehow, the Tennessean emerged unscathed despite the maelstrom of bullets, receiving only a small scratch on the toe of his boot from the battle. The men of the 141st Infantry Regiment were then able to rejoin the Third Battalion, who were positioned a few hundred yards away.

On June 18, 1945, in a rare battlefield ceremony at a bombed out-airfield near Dornstadt, Germany, Coolidge was awarded the Medal of Honor by Lt. Gen. Wade H. Haislip.

After leaving the military in 1945, Coolidge joined his family's business, Chattanooga Printing & Engraving, where he worked until his retirement in 2017 at the age of 95.

Coolidge frequently spoke of his time in the Army, but despite any adulation, the soft-spoken Tennessean was adamant that, when it came to fighting, "There are a lot of people scared to death, especially if you're a replacement, never been in combat.

"There's no glory in the infantry."

# When Cadets At The US Air Force Academy Realized Their Janitor Was Medal Of Honor War Hero

• INSTANT ARTICLES

Sep 28, 2016 [Jeff Edwards, Guest Author](#)

• WORLD WAR II



William J. Crawford, Medal of Honor recipient.

Perhaps it was the way he carried himself in an unassuming and humble manner, but day after day hundreds of Air Force Academy cadets would pass this janitor in the hall oblivious to the greatness that was among them.

In the mid-1970s, William Crawford might spend one day sweeping the halls and another cleaning the bathrooms, but it was a day approximately 30 years prior that would create for him a special place in the history of war. In 1943 in Italy, the only thing Private William Crawford was cleaning out was German machine gun nest and bunkers.

Under heavy fire and at great risk to himself, his gallantry was so audacious that it earned him the Medal of Honor and the respect of any man who witnessed his actions. And yet, for the cadets at the Air Force Academy, it would take a student's study of the Allied campaign in Italy to realize who it was that walked among them.

Once the cadets realized the humble janitor was a recipient of the nation's highest military honor, they would never be able to look at him the same and the secret was out.

## A Humble Spirit

William Crawford was born in 1918 in Pueblo, Colorado. For Crawford, he would always call the state of Colorado home despite serving a long career in the military where he was assigned to various duty stations.

It was after retiring from the Army that he returned to Colorado and took up his job as a janitor at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

The cadets would report that the shy janitor they only knew as Mr. Crawford simply blended into the background as he did his job without much fanfare. However, when one of the cadets began reading a book detailing the Allied advance through Italy he came upon the story of a medal of honor recipient named William Crawford.

Talking to his roommate, Cadet James Moschgat, Class of '77 made the connection and said: said, "Holy cow, you're not going to believe this, but I think our janitor is a Medal of Honor [recipient]." The next day, the cadet took the book to Crawford and simply asked if this was him.

Perhaps weighing whether it was worth it to expose his gallantry, Crawford stared at the book for a while then simply said, "That was a long time ago and one day in my life."

He would then be taken back to that fateful day in Italy and recount the story as only the man who lived it could do. By September 1943, the Allies were pushing through southern Italy slugging it out with a resilient German army.

(Crawford – Continued)

For Crawford and the 36th infantry division, that would place them near Altavilla Silentina with orders to take Hill 424.

#### One Man Assault

On September 13th, Company I was assaulting enemy positions on the hill when the entire company was pinned down by intense machine-guns fire and mortars.

Serving as the squad scout for third platoon, Private Crawford was near the front of this assault and located the first of the gun positions wreaking havoc on the company.

Without orders, he took it upon himself to eliminate the threat single-handedly. Under heavy fire, he crawled forward to within a few yards of the gun and placement and lobbed a grenade directly on top of the three defenders.

Crawling under the storm of bullets, Crawford came upon the first machine gun nest and with perfect accuracy once again landed a grenade right in their lap.

Moving on to the second gun, he was able to take it out of action causing the rest of the defenders to flee as they opted not to stick around for a visit from the man they had just watched single-handedly destroy three entrenched positions.

Thanks to Crawford's gallant actions, Hill 424 was successfully overtaken and the Allied advance continued. Unfortunately for Crawford, his position at the front of the assault would eventually lead to his capture by the Germans during the chaos of the battle.

The rest of the company had believed Crawford was killed in action as reports of his gallantry advanced up the chain of command. And for his actions that day in Italy, William

Crawford was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, but that is not where the story would end.

#### Back to Life

In 1944, the medal was presented to his father who accepted it on behalf of his son he presumed to have died in combat. But later in 1944 when a group of soldiers was rescued from German captivity, it turned out William Crawford was among them, oblivious to the fact that he was now the recipient of the nation's highest military honor.

Crawford would continue to serve in the military after World War II and retired in 1967 at the rank of Master Sergeant. After his distinguished and yet humble career in the military, this unassuming man would take a job as a janitor at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

In 1984 when Pres. Ronald Reagan came to speak at that year's graduation ceremony; they had arranged for their gallant janitor to finally stand face-to-face with the President of the United States and receive his due commendation.

William Crawford died at the age of 81 in the year 2000 at his home in Colorado. And although Crawford was a veteran of the Army, he would become the only non-U.S. Air Force enlisted person buried at the United States Air Force Academy Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

The cadets regarded him as one of their own and gave him all the respect such a man deserved.

*Credit: "A Janitor's 10 Lessons on Leadership" – COL James E. Moschgat (USAF Ret.)*

## Flag Presentation Protocol

Occasionally, the family does not choose to have a military presence at the funeral, but does request presentation of the American flag by the funeral director. This brochure is a quick reference for such occasions.



An American flag drapes the casket of deceased veterans to honor the memory of their service to their country. The ceremonial folding and presentation of that flag is a moving tribute of lasting importance to the veteran's family.

The flag is placed so the union blue field is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased.

Usually after Taps has been played, the flag is carefully folded into the symbolic tri-corner shape.

It is then presented as a keepsake to the next of kin or an appropriate family member using the protocols prescribed in this pamphlet.

The following presentation protocols are used when presenting the American flag to the family member of a veteran to honor his or her service:

- Generally, the flag is presented to the appropriate family member after Taps is played.
- The presenter should stand facing the flag recipient and hold the folded flag waist high with the straight edge facing the recipient.
- The presenter leans toward the flag recipient and solemnly presents the flag to the recipient.

Funeral honors ceremonies conducted by the Department of Defense will use the following standardized language for the presentation of the flag to the designated flag recipient:

**"On behalf of the President of the United States, [the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy or the United States Air Force] and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."**

A funeral director making the presentation may use his or her own words or use the following language:

**"Please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service."**



For a Military Funeral Honors Directory by service, visit <https://www.MilitaryOneSource.mil/mfhdirectory>



# FLAG PRESENTATION PROTOCOL



MILITARY  
ON SOURCE





To properly fold the flag, follow these directions:



**1** Begin with one person at each end of the flag. Hold the flag waist high so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



**2** Fold the lower half of the striped section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



**3** Fold the flag again, lengthwise, now with the blue field on the outside



**4** Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag



**5** Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge to form a second triangle.



**6** Continue the triangular folding until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



**7** When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. If a hem protrudes beyond the blue field, it should be neatly tucked inside the folds of the flag so it does not show

The folded flag is then presented to the next of kin.



## Smoky – The Smallest WWII Hero



Smoky was found in a foxhole in New Guinea in Feb 1944. The American thought she must have been a Japanese soldier's dog, but when he took her to a POW camp, they found out she didn't understand commands in Japanese or English. The soldier sold Smoky to Cpl. William Wynne of Cleveland OH for 2 dollars Australian.

Over the next two years Wynne carried Smoky in his backpack, fought in the jungles of Rock Island and New Guinea, flew 12 air/sea rescue, she survived 150 air raids on New Guinea and made it through a typhoon at Okinawa, made a combat jump in Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, in a parachute made for her. She would warn G.I's of incoming artillery and was dubbed the "angel from a foxhole."

Early in retaking the Philippines, combat engineers were setting up a telegraph line to an airfield. The joints collapsed filling them in with sand. Cpl. Wynne knew that Smoky could climb through the pipe with a new line and that is what she did. Smoky's work saved approximately 250 ground crewmen from

having to move around and keep operational 40 fighters and reconnaissance planes, while a construction detail dug up the taxiway, placing the men and the planes in danger from enemy bombings. What would have been a dangerous three-day digging task to place the wire was instead completed in minutes.

In her down time she performed tricks with the Special Services to improve the moral of the troops and visited hospitals in Australia and Korea. Visiting with the sick and wounded, she became the first recorded "therapy dog".

After the war she became a sensation back in the states, had a live TV show, and often visited Veteran's hospitals. Smoky's work as a therapy dog continued for 12 years. Wynne had Smokey 14 years before she passed away. He buried her in a 30-caliber ammo box in Rocky River Reservation, Ohio.

Smoky, the smallest war hero weighing in at 4 lbs. even and standing 7 inches tall.

## 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 84<sup>th</sup> 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)		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female (Gender)	_____ (Dues)
<input type="checkbox"/> 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. <b>Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below</b>			
<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 84<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

