



**“For God And Country”**  
**APRIL 2022 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meeting Schedule For April 2022 – May 2022**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Legion Post 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/12/22</b>	<b>05/10/22</b>
<b>Auxiliary Unit 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/12/22</b>	<b>05/10/22</b>
<b>SAL Squadron 3</b>	<b>Post 3 Office, 123 S 84th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/14/22</b>	<b>05/12/22</b>
<b>ALR Chapter 3</b>	<b>Denton Legion Club</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>04/21/22</b>	<b>05/19/22</b>
<b>40 &amp; 8 Voiture 103</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/19/22</b>	<b>05/17/22</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 832</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/19/22</b>	<b>05/17/22</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 92</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th</b>	<b>3:15 PM</b>	<b>04/21/22</b>	<b>05/19/22</b>
<b>Buddy Check</b>	<b>The Foundry, 211 N 14th</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>04/22/22</b>	<b>05/22/22</b>
<b>VA Coffeehaus</b>	<b>Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>04/15/22</b>	<b>05/20/22</b>

# **Commander's Call**



**Fellow Legionnaires,**

**Most of you know that this post could not exist without volunteers to keep it operating. Not only is volunteering a great way to help the post, it also is good for the people that share their time and knowledge with us.**

**One way to volunteer at the post level is by running for office in a Post 3 election. Elections are coming up at our next monthly meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> and we are accepting nominations for several positions. If you are interested in holding an office and donating your time and talents, please contact us so we can provide you any details you may need. You can nominate yourself or others.**

**If you do want to nominate someone else, we suggest you speak with them first to be sure he/she is willing to serve if nominated and elected. It takes many people to effectively run our post. With your vote, you have the chance to ensure we have the best people at the helm.**

**Again, my newsletter wouldn't be a newsletter if I didn't bring up membership. Post 3 must grow. In years past, the post membership has declined by about 8% each year due to deaths, transfers, and non-renewals.**

**As of this writing, Post 3 membership stands at 1154. This is 190 members short of reaching our 2022 goal of 1344 members.**

**If this trend continues, we will have a 14% decline this year. Almost twice higher than the normal decline. We still need almost 200 members to either renew or find new members to replace those that we have lost to Post Everlasting, or both. See "TAPS" – This issue.**

**Everyone is a recruiter and I'm hoping we all can find new members. We have to be aggressive in getting new members. If they have questions have them call me, 402-417-8230.**

**When you are out and about, wear your Legion or military affiliation cap. It will advertise us and get people to talk to you and possibly ask, "How do I join Post 3?" The more we show ourselves, the better.**

**Yes, we are proud of our service and have joined the post for the comradery and knowing what we have done and want to do to help other Veterans. Please advertise all you can and yes, talk it up, as it is a great organization**

**At our next meeting, we will be honoring members who have 50, 60, 70, and 75 years of continuous membership in the American Legion. Come to the meeting to meet and congratulate these "old timers". Also, Angela Hutchings and several of her co-workers will be giving blood pressure checks for members from 5:15 – 6:45.**

**As always, keep our veterans in your thoughts and prayers, particularly those who may be in need. Keep our active-duty service men and women in your thoughts and prayers also, especially those who may be in harm's way.**

**If you have suggestions, questions or problems or just want to say something about our post, please contact me. I would like to hear from you.**

**For God and Country**

**Gerry Wolf  
Post 3 Commander**

# Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



We look forward seeing you at the Post 3 meeting April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will be honoring our 50 plus years of continuous memberships with The American Legion. We will also be acting on a resolution that was brought up at the District 15 Convention and needs to be voted on.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to those who have renewed for 2022. We really need your help; renewals were very slow during March. We need those who have not paid 2022 dues to please do so, as we failed to meet our monthly goal in February.

If you have sent in your 2022 dues payment and have not received your 2022 card, please call, and let us know. This is the only way we know that you have not received your 2022 card. Mail does get damaged or misdirected. If you know you have paid your 2022 dues, just throw the notice away. We do our best to process dues received in the Post 3 office daily and get to Department to meet the cut off dates set by National.

Thanks again for renewing with POST 3 and THE American Legion. It is the eleven dollars Post 3 dues that allows us to serve our fellow veterans at the local level. The remaining Thirty-Five Dollars goes to cover Department and National dues, which support Legion activities on the State and National level.

A benefit of your Legion membership is being able to file a claim through, the American Legion Family Emergency Grants. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) provides grants up to \$3,000 for eligible American Legion and Sons of

The American Legion members, and up to \$10,000 for Legion posts affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires. To be eligible, membership in the Legion or Sons must be active when the disaster strikes and when the application is filed.

An NEF grant may be considered when the applicant:

- Has been displaced from his or her primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.
- Provides copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs (such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.

For more information, please visit [www.legion.org/NEF](http://www.legion.org/NEF)

For those recovering from a natural disaster, the application can be found at <https://www.legion.org/emergency/apply>

Why do I bring this up? In the past month, Nebraska met terms of these grants for the tornadoes that caused damage here in the state this past fall. Now that it has been declared a natural disaster, a Legion member would be able to file a claim. One major point is, that you must have been current on your dues as of the day of the event.

Think of the floods we had two years ago. I know it is not much, but \$3,000.00 dollars would help some.

Again, Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3

Ed Schnabel  
Adjutant

# LINCOLN CBOC/VA NEWS



March 1<sup>st</sup> marked the one-year anniversary of the new Lincoln VA clinic. Hard to believe it has been one year since we moved into the new building. There are still bugs that need to be worked out, but it is nice to have the new clinic.

**Unwanted Drugs disposal:** if you have old meds you would like to get rid of, you can now drop them off in the Pharmacy waiting area. There is a locked BLUE drop box where you can deposit your old, out of date meds. Get them out of your homes and keep them out of our kid's hands.

**VA System ID Cards:** If you do not have a current VA ID card you can request one while you are in the clinic. You will need your DD214 and some form of ID that will allow them to double check your identity. You can use a state issued driver's license and/or state issued ID card. The process is done by video computer link. Ask any VA clerk and they will show you where the room is for this video computer link. You can also get help to enroll in the VA system, etc. by using the link, [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).

**My Healthy Vet:** Did you know you can request refills of your meds, check your upcoming appointments, or send a note to your provider online? The VA has a web site called, My Healthy Vet that allows you to do this. If you are not currently using it, or if you need help in using it, or signing up, stop by their education center on your next visit. In Lincoln, their info center is just to the right of the front entrance. The Lincoln education center is staffed on Tuesday – Friday, 0800-1400 hours.

To get the full use of the web site, you need to have a Premium My HealtheVet Account. To upgrade your account, you need to be authenticated. This only takes a minute, just stop and visit with the staff.

A word on VGA events; Coffeehaus, as there is no space for it in the new clinic, we are now meeting at the Auld Rec center in Antelope Park.

Dates are the third Friday of the month, starting at 10:00 AM and going until noon. Come and join your fellow veterans for some great music, coffee, and a roll. The Auld Rec building is a terrific location, all on one floor, lots of space, and parking at the door, no stairs.

Buddy Check is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Foundry, 14<sup>th</sup> and P, downtown. Come and meet with your fellow veterans for free food and a drink.

If you would like to give calls to veterans, the VA has a new program, Compassionate Contact Care Volunteer Program. This would involve calling or receiving calls to talk with veterans

Remember, the VA will only to 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.

You may not know that the Lincoln CBOC receives \$4,000.00 dollars for each veteran registered as living in our service area. This area takes in most of southeast Nebraska and a few of the counties in northern Kansas. Even if you do not wish to us the VA services, we need you to be registered. These funds are based on those registered not those receiving services.

Thanks for your service.

Ed Schnabel

Lincoln VAG Member (Veteran Advisory Group)

Lincoln VA American Legion Representative for Nebraska

# **Message From The Voiture 103 Chef de Gare**



**A few dates to keep on your calendar**

.....

**Tuesday April 19th is the next 40/8 meeting at the Lincoln Elks Lodge. The covid meter is in the green, so it's time for those of you who have been staying home for safety, to now feel safe to join us. We are looking forward to seeing you again. You were missed.**

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, is the Lincoln Veterans Advisory Group's Annual Show and Shine car and motorcycle show at Star City Shores. Plenty of room and lots of cars and bikes - Don't miss it.**

**Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, will be the May next 40/8 meeting at the Lincoln Elks Lodge. This will be a special meeting. Dinner first and then we will be conducting Voiture 103's first Wreck in many years.**

**I think only about four current members have been Wrecked in a more traditional manner. Most of us have taken our introductory pledge in the entryway at the Elks Lodge.**

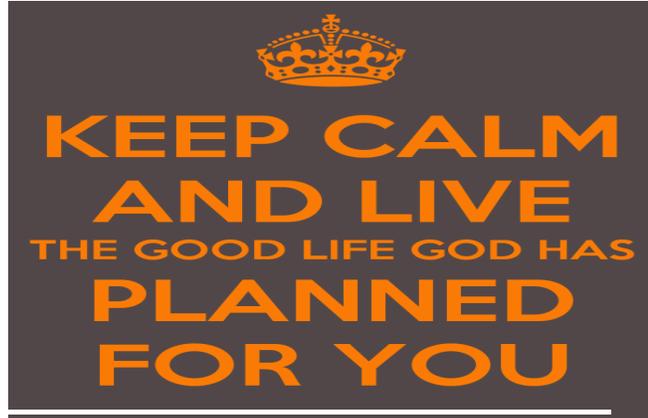
**Voiture 103 has developed a Wreck program that will be entertaining, educational, and fun. You will learn a lot about La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux and your part as a valued member. Dinner and Wreck will take about 1 hour. If you have been thinking about joining Voiture #103, now is the perfect time. Please join us for this special night.**

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, is the next Veterans Freedom Music Festival. This year it will be held at Antelope Park. Lots of activities, 5 Great Bands, and check out the Blackhawk helicopter. All right next to the children's playground and the Veteran's Garden. The Art Show will be inside the Auld Auditorium.**

**Lincoln Voiture 103 continues to work to build our membership by supporting our veterans, Child Welfare, Nurses Training, Americanism, Carville Star, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, and the National Box Car Association. Join us - You'll be glad you did.**

**Respectfully,  
Wade Graft  
Chef de Gare  
Voiture #103  
402-770-9126**

# The Chaplain's Remarks



**It's never as good as it seems, but...the world we have is the best we're going to get. Think about it. This present Earth, with all of its glory bestowed by the maker of us all (Genesis 1), could come to an end for the sake of His Judgment for humankind being out of fellowship with God (Romans 1:30-32) because of our sin (1 John 5:17).**

**And what is meant by Judgment, you May ask, when you thought you were doing just fine by your standards. You've never killed anyone, except...maybe...during some battles in 'Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, or elsewhere the American military sent you. You're a good husband or wife, your children love you, and things are great at work or on your retirement...most of the time, anyway.**

**Judgment, by theological standards, is the follow-through from Eve and Adam's disobedience in Bible's Old Testament Genesis record book composed by Moses. The balance of life—the struggle between evil and virtue—is borne in how we adhere to God's gracious and compassionate care for us. Such care includes the air we breathe, the gravity that keeps our Solar System, and other celestial bodies in their appropriate orbits.**

**Sin—following your fleshly desires rather than God's wisdom—puts us at odds with Him. For every wrong any one of us does, there must be a counterbalancing. Evil can only be overturned by a virtuous act, we now means your eternal separation from Him.**

**Short story version, stay with God to continue to live a joyous life, with Heaven in your future.**

**Hell IS NOT the way to go, but...it's your choice.**

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson**

**Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain**

## Miscellaneous News



In December, Fred Chrastil announced that he was stepping down as the Commander of the Post 3 Honor Guard. At the March meeting, Fred was presented with a plaque honoring his 13 years as a member and 11 years as the Commander of the Honor Guard. Thank you, Fred for your dedication and leadership. Pictured is Post 3 Commander, Gerry Wolf presenting Fred with the award.

---



At the March meeting, Kyle Sitzman, President of the Lincoln Baseball Association, gave the members present a recap of the American Legion Baseball program in Lincoln. Because of the enormous fees that the city of Lincoln and Lincoln Public Schools charged for using their baseball fields, the Legion teams were playing more games in smaller surrounding communities. He also thanked Post 3 for their support of the program. We want to thank Kyle for ensuring the program remains strong in Lincoln.

---



At the March meeting, Ken Colson, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, and Janelle Brock, Suicide Prevention Social Worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs, presented a very informative session on suicide prevention. Every day, 22 veterans are committing suicide. Since January 1, 2022, 1464 veterans have committed suicide. If you are interested in attending a training session, contact me, Gerry Wolf @ 402-417-8230 or [Gerrywolf@aol.com](mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com), and we will schedule a more formal training session from Ken and Janelle.

---



Post 3 recently interviewed candidates for the Junior Law Cadet program. Selected candidates will spend a week at the **Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island** learning about the law enforcement field. Post 3 selected Mason Arndt as their candidate for the program. Mason is a Junior at Lincoln East High School and plans to major in Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Mason is pictured with Post 3 Commander, Gerry Wolf.

## Post 3 Honor Guard



In the month of March, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 9 Legion funerals and was asked to assist at 5 VFW funerals. In calendar year 2022, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honor Teams at 47 combined funerals and appeared at one Civic function. The warmer weather is greatly appreciated and the turnout for the services has been very good. The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans is greatly appreciated.



## Post 3 TAPS - March 2022

<b>LEGIONNAIRE</b>	<b>WAR ERA</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>CONT YRS</b>
Patrick H. Healey	Korea	Army	56
Donald K. Lancaster	Korea	Army	59
Frank E. Landis, Jr.	Vietnam	Air Force	52
Arnold L. Magnuson	WW II	Army	52
Ralph W. Turner	Vietnam	USMC	12
Richard Wible	UNK	Air Force	37



# CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE

*A Premier Nebraska Leadership Experience*

The Nebraska American Legion is pleased to announce that the following young men from Lincoln will join over 200 other high school juniors from across Nebraska participating in the American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State Program, June 5 – 11, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln downtown campus. The annual citizenship program, sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion, is designed to provide youths with a better understanding of how city, county and state government operate.

American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State is set up as a functional "51st state" and each boy learns how government subdivisions operate by actually doing the job. Participants will campaign for offices, hold elections, take part in band and chorus, compete in athletics, and be involved in other varied activities as part of the citizenship training program.

Special lectures and addresses will be delivered by experienced public officials and professional leaders throughout Nebraska. Invitations have been sent to the Governor and Secretary of State offices for special appearances at this year's program. National acclaimed motivational speakers are also scheduled to address the entire group.

The boys selected are:

FIRST	LAST	SCHOOL	DONOR
Leo	Turner	Lincoln Southeast	Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club
Devadarshan	Pushkaran	Lincoln Southeast	Voiture 103
Samuel	Koebnick	Lincoln Southeast	American Legion Riders Chapter 3
Aidan	Cotter	Lincoln Southeast	Lincoln Post 3
Hayden	Byerlay	Lincoln Southeast	Lincoln Post 3
Hayden	Nagel	Lincoln North Star	Lincoln Post 3
Sayid	Alsayid	Lincoln Northeast	Havelock Post / Unit 342
Daniel	Kumm	Lincoln East	Legionnaire Club, Inc.
John	Dynek	Lincoln East	Lincoln Post 3
Steven	Exon III	Lincoln East	Sons of the American Legion
Cooper	Thayer	Lincoln East	Capital City Kiwanis Club
Daniel	You	Lincoln East	Lincoln Post 3
Ian	Burbach	Lincoln High	Southeast Kiwanis Club
Brady	Franzen	Lincoln Lutheran	Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club
Jacob	McClellan	Lincoln Lutheran	Legionnaire Club, Inc.
Alex	Halvorsen	Lincoln Lutheran	Cornhusker Kiwanis Club
Hudson	Davis	Lincoln Lutheran	Bethany Lions Club
Connor	Theisen	Pius X	Legionnaire Club, Inc.
Nick	McGahan	Pius X	Lincoln Optimist Club
Mason	Beck	Pius X	Bishop Kucera #595 K of C
Thomas	Neal	Pius X	St. John Paul the Great #3640 K of C

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

At the District 15 Convention on February 8, 2022, the following resolution was proposed, but never voted upon. At the Post 3 regular monthly meeting on April 12, 2022, the proposal will be introduced again to the members assembled and voted upon. It will then be sent to Department for further action. If you have any comments for discussion, but will not be present, please email your comments to me @ [Gerrywolf@aol.com](mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com).

---

**The American Legion  
Department of Nebraska**

### **DISTRICT RESOLUTION**

Resolution No. (DEPT USE - Leave Blank)      Subject: Change of United States Flag Code; Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 6(d).

Referred to: (DEPT USE - Leave Blank)

(1)  
(2)

---

WHEREAS, Presently on Memorial Day, US Flags are flown at half-staff until noon, then raised to full-staff until sunset; and

WHEREAS, This is not in conformance with all other days which Flags fly at full-staff until sunset; and

WHEREAS, Most businesses and government agencies do not have employees working that day to raise the flag to full-staff at noon; and

WHEREAS, Most Patriots want to comply with the flag code; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, District 15 in regular convention assembled in Lincoln, Nebraska, on February 8, 2022, that the US Flag Code should be changed to have the US Flag flown at half-staff on Memorial Day from sunrise until sunset.**

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 and also on ZOOM  
March 8, 2022**

Post 3 Commander Gerry Wolf opened the March 8, 2022 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 25-30 Legionnaires and guests present. The meeting was also being made available on Zoom.

Recognized as speakers for tonight's meeting were Kyle Sitzman, Kenneth Colson, and Janelle Brock.

The minutes of the March 8<sup>th</sup> Post 3 / District 15 meeting were read and approved.

Adjutant / Finance Office Ed Schnabel gave the finance report for the month ending February 28, 2022 showing a balance on hand of \$47,723.78. The report was accepted and filed for review.

Kelsie Thedford and Bob Linville were introduced, and Bob made a few remarks.

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

Post 3 Legion Riders Director Bruce Gubser reported for the Riders. A poker run is scheduled for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Bruce reported that the Riders have decided to make a donation to the JAVALAN Service Dog Training Program.

Bruce also reported on the post's birthday card program in some of Lincoln's senior living facilities.

Bruce said he had a good supply of cards right now.

It was reported that the Hickman post was going to have a fish fry this coming Friday.

Americanism Chairman William Jackson read a short, energetic piece about American Legion Baseball.

Steve Bartos reported for Boys State, indicating that we had 21 applicants from the Lincoln area this year and that donors had been found for all.

Ed Schnabel reported that we had received 1 application for the Jr. Law Cadet program.

Voiture 103 Chef de Gare Wade Graft reported for the 40/8. He said that an article about the history and purposes of the 40/8 has recently appeared in the Lincoln Legionnaire and the post's monthly email newsletter.

Commander Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad and gave an update on activities in January and February. He thanked those who had endured some tough weather to volunteer.

Commander Wolf reminded everyone that Fred Chrastil had recently resigned from his position as commander of the Memorial Squad. Fred was then presented a plaque recognizing him for his many years of service. Though no longer the commander of the squad, Fred continues to serve.

**(Minutes – Continued)**

**Kyle Sitzman, head of the Lincoln Baseball Association (which coordinates the activities of the American Legion baseball teams in Lincoln), was introduced. Kyle thanked Post 3 for all of its support of American Legion baseball for so many years. He acknowledged that the association still appreciates our support even though we can no longer help as much financially as we had been able to do in the past.**

**Kyle went on to discuss the problems the local teams have had because of the creation of privately funded “travel teams” which attempt to lure players away from American Legion baseball -- at a very great cost to the players and their families. He said that some players who played with those teams have found the grass was not necessarily greener on the other side of the fence.**

**Kyle discussed the problems of dealing with the City of Lincoln when it comes to field rent and insurance. He admitted that the costs of renting the fields from the city of Lincoln have forced the local teams to drastically reduce the number of games played in Lincoln because the gate does not generate enough income to cover the costs.**

**Ken Colson, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist at the Lincoln Vets Center, and Janelle Brock, Clinical Social Worker with the Veterans Administration in Grand Island, were introduced.**

**They gave an interesting presentation on the subject of suicide by veterans. They indicated that if there was interest they could do a more comprehensive training on the subject.**

**As discussed last month, Angela Hutchings confirmed that nurses will be available at the April Post 3 meeting to do blood pressure checks from 5:15 to 6:45.**

**Ed Muggy read a tribute to Ray Mathis regarding his service at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean Conflict and his many years of service to the Memorial Squad. He reported that a plaque is going to be presented to Ray’s widow.**

**Ed Muggy also encouraged everyone to take the American Legion’s online “Basic Training.” The training takes about 2 hours to complete and is required to hold some offices at the state and national level.**

**It was announced that the Coffeehaus and Buddy Check events are scheduled for March. Continuous Years Membership Awards will be presented at the Post 3 meeting in April.**

**Post 3 membership was reported as 1130.**

**The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at about 8:15 PM.**

**Steve Bartos, Recorder**

## USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Stein, W.)



WASHINGTON – The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Seaman 1st Class Walter C. Stein, 20, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 16, 2021.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Stein was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Stein.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uuanu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks.

The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Stein.

Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis. To identify Stein's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and autosomal DNA (auSTR) analysis.

Stein's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Stein was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on March 23, 2022.

# Major Richard Bong And The Medal Of Honor



Richard “Dick” Bong was born in Superior, Wisconsin on Sept 24, 1920. The eldest of nine children, he was raised on a small farm in nearby Poplar and in 1928 fell in love with aviation after a low passing plane buzzed the family home. “I knew then I wanted to be a pilot,” Bong said.

On May 29, 1941, Bong joined the Army Air Corps, enrolling in the Aviation Cadet Program. He was a natural from the start, recalled Capt. Barry Goldwater, who instructed Bong during advanced single-engine pilot training at Luke Field near Phoenix, Arizona. “I taught him fighter gunnery,” Goldwater said. “He was a very bright student. But the most important thing came from a P-38 check pilot who said Bong was the finest natural pilot he ever met. The pilot recalled that he could never prevent Bong from getting on his tail, even though Bong flew an AT-6, a very slow airplane.”

Bong’s natural affinity fueled his confidence, though some of his commanders might have argued he was overconfident, or even cocky. In fact, as a cadet stationed in Northern California, Bong once famously flew a P-38 Lockheed Lightning over Market Street in San Francisco, waving gleefully to curious, confused, and quite likely shocked, shop workers and civilians. That’s to say nothing of allegedly doing loops around, over, and under the Golden Gate Bridge.

For his aerial hijinx, Bong was ordered to see the commander of the Fourth Air Force, Gen. George Kenney. It could have marked an early end to Bong’s career. But instead, Kenney subjected the cadet to some creative punishment that would get the message across without dashing his dreams or costing the war effort a promising pilot. Bong was ordered to visit a woman’s home and fold her laundry. Why? Well, while he was taking his P-38 out on a joy ride — err, training mission — he’d knocked her clothes off the line in the backyard due to his “low-flying antics” and they’d landed in the mud. Even so, Bong’s flying made an impression.

“It was his life, his ambition. I would bet anything that he was an expert in a P-38 and that he wanted to be still better. We needed kids like this lad,” Kenney later wrote of Bong.

**(Bong – Continued)**

**Kenney ordered Bong to Australia, where he was destined for the Pacific Campaign, and for war.**

**His stunts at home may have made Bong stand out, but it was his skill under fire that made him a legend. Just months after joining the Pacific Campaign of World War II, Bong scored his fifth confirmed air-to-air kill, making him a fighter ace in January 1943.**

**By April of 1944, he'd shot down 27 enemy planes, surpassing World War I ace Eddie Rickenbacker, who had 26 kills.**

**And in the fall of 1944, Bong repeatedly took to the skies over the Pacific for combat duty, at his own insistence. He didn't have to be in the air, not every time, but he was. Despite being assigned as a gunnery instructor, for more than a month, Bong flew a series of dangerous sorties over Balikpapan, Borneo, and in the Leyte area of the Philippines.**

**Due to his aggressiveness and daring, Bong shot down eight enemy airplanes during this time, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor on Dec. 12, 1944. It's worth noting that Bong was put up for the award by Gen. Kenney, the same officer who'd ripped into him years ago for his devil-may-care escapades during training, but who, even then, had seen something in the young pilot.**

**Of the award ceremony, Kenney recalled Bong "shaking like a leaf," writing later that "in a sky full of [Japanese] airplanes all shooting in his direction Dick would be as cool as a cucumber, but there in front of everybody, with [Gen. Douglas] MacArthur ready to decorate him, Bong was terrified."**

**By April 1944, Bong had 40 confirmed kills to his name over two years and more than 200 missions, earning him the unofficial title of 'America's Ace of Aces.' Which has a great ring to it, though it's a close second to the one carried by his wife, Marjorie, who Bong jokingly referred to as "the most shot-after girl in the South Pacific." The reason: In a public proclamation of his love for her, Bong had plastered her picture on the nose of his P-38, which he called 'Marge,' making her nearly as famous in the Pacific as he was.**

**Afterward, Bong was rotated off of combat duty in the Pacific and reassigned to Wright-Patterson Air Base in Ohio, where his life was cut tragically short. On Aug. 6, 1945, Bong was killed during a test flight of the Lockheed P-80 jet fighter, the same day the Enola Gay dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan.**

**Though Bong did not live to see the end of that war, his courage, dogged determination, and peerless skill helped ensure its outcome.**

## A WWII Private Was Stripped of His Distinguished Service Cross



"Come with me if you want to live." - Chips the Hero Dog of World War II (U.S. Army)

Military.com | By [Blake Stilwell](#)

During the American Invasion of Sicily in 1943, the 3rd Military Police Platoon, 30th Infantry Regiment landed near Licata. As the sun rose that morning and the soldiers made their way across the island, they were suddenly pinned down by a machine gun nest. One of the privates in the platoon charged the enemy position and cleared it, taking four prisoners.

This private was already a veteran of Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa, and had guarded President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Casablanca Conference earlier that year. For his heroics during the invasion of Sicily, he earned the Silver Star and a [Purple Heart](#).

But there was just one problem for the [Army](#). This particular soldier was a dog, a collie-husky mix named Chips.

Pvt. Chips was one of more than 10,400 dogs that served during World War II. Most of those were trained as sentries, "manning" the defenses of the U.S. coastline, but an estimated 1,000 dogs were volunteered by their civilian owners to deploy overseas as scout dogs for U.S. troops.

Chips enlisted in the Army in 1942 from Pleasantville, New York. The Army sent him to the War Dog Training Center in Front Royal, Virginia, where he was teamed with his handler, Pvt. John R. Rowell.

Like many American soldiers in World War II, Rowell and Chips got their first taste of action during Operation Torch in 1943.

On July 9, 1943, the United States launched Operation Husky, the Allied invasion of Sicily. Rowell and Chips were part of the initial amphibious landing that led them to the enemy pillbox near Licata. When Chips assaulted the position, he was wounded when one of the Italian defenders tried shooting him. The discharge burned his skin, but it was easily treated by medics.

On the night of July 10, Chips was on guard duty as his fellow soldiers slept. During his shift, 10 Italian soldiers tried to infiltrate their encampment. Chips alerted his handler, and the Americans captured all 10 infiltrators. As word of Chips' heroics got around, Chips was awarded his Purple Heart and Silver Star. The platoon's commander, Capt. Edward G. Parr, recommended Chips for the Distinguished Service Cross.

The commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. Lucian Truscott, waived the requirement that a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross be a human and awarded Chips the medal personally.

By July 14, 1944, the news of the heroic dog invading Sicily was published to jubilant crowds in newspapers stateside. The War Department and the national commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart were not as jubilant. The Military Order of the Purple Heart wrote to President Roosevelt that the medal was meant for humans, and the War Department opened an investigation.

After three months, the War Department decided that no more awards would be given to non-humans and Pvt. Chips was stripped of his awards. In the end, his fellow soldiers would give him a theater ribbon with an arrowhead device (for his assault landing) and eight battle stars. Chips survived the war and returned home to his original owners in Pleasantville, New York, in December 1945.

LINCOLN

# Buddy Check

TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE™

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

# FOUNDRY

211 N. 14TH ST.

7PM TO 9PM

## Buddy Check

A social gathering of Veterans dedicated to reducing and eliminating Veteran suicide. We continue our service by gathering with fellow Veterans. We call and reach out to those who served at our side. We stood together then, and we stand together now.

Lincoln Buddy Check is a casual gathering of Veterans at the Foundry Coffee Shop. This joining together of Veterans is hopefully a way to help reduce veteran suicide and help with mental health thru comradeship. The Veterans Advisory Group will supply soft drinks, coffee, and snacks. This endeavor is supported by an Open-Door Grant from Lincoln Community Foundation

# Sons Of The American Legion Application



To be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, you must be a male descendant (son, grandson, stepson, or adopted son) of:

- A member of The American Legion, or
- A veteran who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, or
- A veteran who died after their honorable discharge from such service, and
- Return the application below along with \$35.00 to:

Sons of The American Legion  
ATTN: Brendan Moore  
123 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L  
Lincoln, Ne. 68510

**Sons of The American Legion Membership Application**

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No \_\_\_\_\_, Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as annual membership dues.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2014)

**RECEIPT**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Received of \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of dues for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

**For God and Country**

A small version of the Sons of The American Legion logo is located at the bottom left of the receipt section.

## 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)  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 2022, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

***YES! Please transfer my membership to Lincoln American Legion Post 3***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email address



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

**Email: [Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [lincolnpost3.org](http://lincolnpost3.org)**

**[2021 - 2022 Post 3 Officers](#)**

**Commander – Gerry Wolf – Cell: 402-417-8230**

**First Vice Commander – Bruce Gubser – Cell: 402-470-1700**

**Second Vice Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514**

**Adjutant & Post Service Officer – Ed Schnabel – Cell: 402-480-8542**

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

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