



**“For God and Country”**  
**August 2023 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meeting Schedule For August 2023**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Legion Post 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>Auxiliary Unit 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>SAL Squadron 3</b>	<b>Post 3 Office, 123 S 84<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>08/10/23</b>
<b>ALR Chapter 3</b>	<b>Denton Legion Club</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>08/18/23</b>
<b>40 &amp; 8 Voiture 103</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 832</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 92</b>	<b>VFW 3606, 3340 West A St</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>Buddy Check</b>	<b>Mill, 2021 Transformation Dr</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>08/22/23</b>
<b>VA CoffeeHaus</b>	<b>Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>08/18/23</b>

## **Commander's Call**



**Fellow Legionnaires,**

**I want to thank everyone for trusting me to lead our great American Legion post this year. I appreciate your confidence in me and am really honored to be the Commander of Nebraska's largest American Legion post. I am fortunate to be joined by a slate of good officers. Ron Hindman is the 1st Vice Commander, Rich Lemmerman is your 2nd Vice Commander and Ed Schnabel is our Post 3 Adjutant.**

**While we are the biggest post in the State, we continue to lose so many fellow Legionnaires each month. Last year, we lost over 100 members to Post Everlasting and there is not much we can do about that. Just like about all other organizations today, membership in the American Legion nationally and locally continues to dwindle. Unfortunately, Post 3 membership is following that trend.**

**While we can do nothing to stop the deaths that reduce our numbers, we can and should increase our membership. The success of any program lies in the support of its membership, and the success of the American Legion's many programs is no exception. We need to maintain and expand our current membership so that all of our programs can thrive and survive.**

**There are many members of the National Guard and Reserves that are not current members of our organization. Do you know a Guardsman or Reservist? There are also many veterans out there who do not belong to any Veterans Service Organizations. Do you know one like that? We want them to know that they are welcome to join our post. If you know one of these veterans, please encourage them to join us. We need to recruit these people, now. Simply by mentioning to people some of the good work that the American Legion is involved in may inspire someone to join us and become more active in our work.**

**We all know the importance of membership in maintaining a viable post. We all know that veterans are not going to seek us out, (unless they have a problem). We must find them and invite them to join us. If you have a prospective member, please sign him/her up. A membership application is included at the end of this newsletter.**

## **(Commander's Call – Continued)**

**At our July meeting, I issued a challenge. I asked each one present to invite a veteran who is not an American Legion member to attend a meeting. Dinner for the veteran is on me. I firmly believe that if we can get a veteran to see our good work, we can get them to join us. Help me spread the word.**

**Membership renewal for 2024 has begun. If you are a current member who hasn't yet renewed for 2024, please do so now. Your membership is important to us. We are all in this together.**

**If you have questions, please call the Post 3 Office at (402) 466-3958, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-12:00, or call my cell phone (402) 470-1700. We know what needs to be done: We know how to do it: So, let's do it!**

**I would love to see more people attend our monthly meetings but am unsure how to accomplish this. While we do not have a club building of our own, there is still camaraderie to be had. Attending meetings and getting involved in the many Post 3 activities would fill the bill. The Elks Lodge #80 provides a hamburger buffet and a bar to provide a drink on our meeting nights. To experience the camaraderie, you must be there to provide the conversation.**

**Please remember that the month of August is the only month that Post 3 does not hold a monthly meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 8th. The burger buffet starts at 6:00 with the meeting to follow at 7:00. Hope to see you there.**

**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 as well, especially those who may be in harm's way.**

**For God and Country,**

**Bruce Gubser  
Post 3 Commander**

## **Notes from the Adjutant's Desk**



Thanks to those who have renewed for 2024. Checking National's numbers, they show that 453 have been received to date (31 July 2023). This is a great beginning. Now we need to finish strong.

Department has 56 Nebraska Life members to pay for, which brings us to 509 members for 2024. I have another 64 being processed, bringing our current membership to 573. This is just over 52% of our estimated 2024 goal of 1100.

National shows that we have 1095 paid for 2023 (31 July 2023)

Speaking of renewing, did you know that you can renew online? It is easy if you have a computer, search American Legion, click on the renewal link, enter your data, and credit card number and you are done. You can even print your 2024 membership card and you do not have to wait for us to mail it out to you.

Another way to keep your membership current is to sign up for annual renewal through your bank. This way your dues are automatically paid for you from a checking or savings account.

When you receive your 2024 membership card, please check the number of years to be sure it shows the correct numbers that you have been a member of the American Legion. If you happened to pay your 2023 dues after May first, 2023, your 2024 membership card could show no years or one year. Renewal slips were printed by National based on the data they had as of 25 May 2023.

If by chance your 2024 cards show an incorrect number of years, please drop me a note so I can check your data that National has for you. Could be as simple as the computer not adding a year for 2024 to what was shown for 2023.

Or you might have missed renewing for a year. If that is the case, we can correct that by paying State and National dues for that missing year. I will not charge you for the missing Post 3 dues.

Remember it is your local post dues that keeps your Post financially sound. Out of your \$46.00 dues, Post 3 only keeps \$11.00 dollars, the other \$35.00 dollars are sent on to Department and National to cover those dues.

**(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)**

**With a membership of a thousand and dues of \$11.00 dollars, that leaves the post just \$11,000.00 dollars to cover all our expenses for a Legion year (August 1 to July 31). The only other funds that help Post 3 are from memorials or donations for providing Honor Guard services.**

**Honors provided by Post 3 at a funeral are at no cost to the family. Thanks to the Department of Defense providing the rifles and the blank ammunition at no cost to the post.**

**We need to keep recruiting new members to replace those who have passed on to Post Everlasting. The numbers of those who have served in the military has dropped from one in four during WWII, to just 7% of the US population in 2018. Thus, the number of those eligible to join VSO's (American Legion, VFW, DAV, AMVETS, etc.) is not keeping pace with those who are dying. If this keeps going at this rate, it may someday reach the point where we will not have anyone to provide Honors for those who have served this great country.**

**Today, DOD (Department of Défense) provides Military Honors through the National Guard or Reserves for Flag Folding and presenting the Flag, while a local VSO provides the firing of a 3 shot volley. DOD does provide Military Honors to those killed in action.**

**One last thing, does your family know where there is a copy of your DD214 or State Discharge (National Guard)?**

**Do it now, this is the only piece of paper that DOD and VA require for Military Honors and burial in a VA Cemetery and or VA Headstone. Your local funeral provider should provide you with the paperwork for these requests. If you need assistance drop me a note and I will provide you with online sites that can help with these requests.**

**Thanks for your service and God Bless the USA**

**Ed Schnabel  
Adjutant**

## Lincoln CBOC/VA News



VA clinics and hospitals no longer require the wearing of masks to enter clinics. Masks are available for those who still wish to wear them.

Express Care, a walk-in service, for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Express Care hours run from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Lincoln clinic.

This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours.

PACT Act, have you checked it out? You need to make the effort; the VA is not going to call you. On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, extending VA health eligibility to many veterans.

The PACT Act expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law requires the Department of Veteran Affairs to provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

If you have not filed a claim under the PACT Act, go to the Veterans Affairs web site. There you will find answers to your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411). You can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

If you are awarded a new disability or have one upgraded, you will or could receive back pay to September 2022.

If you had service in Vietnam theater or the Middle East, visit the VA web site and read the list of medical problems that are now presumed to have a link to service in these theaters. If you have any, contact your Service Office or a VA service officer to file a new or updated claim.

One of the forms that the VA would like to have on file for all veterans who use its hospitals and clinics is an Advance Directive Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will. Form VA 10-0137 can be picked up at your local clinic or hospitals. This form allows you to inform the VA who you might wish to make health care decisions if you become disabled and thus unable to do so. Not required, but it might be something that you may want to think about.

**(CBOC/VA News – Continued)**

**The Nebraska Warrior Writers project are free workshops providing professional instruction, support, and guidance in writing of all kinds from memoir to fiction. Workshops are held on Saturdays at Pius X High School, 6000 A Street, Lincoln, NE.**

**To sign up, contact Tom Seib - 555@gmail.com, (402-440-9296) or Jen Stastny - 2029@gmail.com, (402-960-3955) for current dates and times.**

**The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You volunteer to help veterans in the clinic or hospital, or a veteran home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veteran's home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic / hospital with a parent for their appointments. There is always a need. Younger kids come with parents, grandparents, etc., rather than left at home alone.**

**Clinics / hospitals can always use books, magazines, etc. for patients. You would need to check with your local hospital / clinic / veteran's home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.**

**During Christmas they all could use donations for gifts for those veterans who have no family who visit them.**

**Many clinics have an outreach program to reach homeless veterans. They always need extra donations for these veterans. Many of these veterans do not ask for items for themselves, but for their kids and/or families.**

**Another way to serve your fellow Veterans is to donate to a local Veteran Service Organization, (VSO). They receive many requests for services during the holidays. From cash to purchasing food for a special meal, or car repairs, etc. Most local VSOs would welcome a donation so they could give more to those who have given so much. The holidays will be here before we know it.**

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

**God Bless,**

**Ed Schnabel  
Legion Representative to Lincoln CBOC**

# ALR Riders Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



We are well into our riding season. We participated in Seward's July 4th parade. Pictures are included. Other events in July were Hickman's Poker Run on the 16th, Dwight's Parade on the 23rd, and Hickman's Parade on the 29th. Some of us also went to Nebraska City on the 20th for dinner.

In August, we are going to Wilber on the 5th for the Czech Days parade. On the 20th, we are going to York for a dinner run. Remember our Poker Run is on September 9. The proceeds are going to the JAVALAN program and Patriotic Productions.



**Neil Larson  
Director  
ALR Riders, Chapter 3**



## The Chaplain's Remarks



**DAY OF REST**—It came when the *Elohime* (Hebrew)—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—completed their work of giving life to the Earth (Genesis 1:31).

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was there, as the preincarnate Christ, *Jehovah*.

According to Holy Scripture, Jesus' ascended on Mount Olivet, currently the site of the Village of Bethany. We call this time period "the Last Days," referring to the prevalence of evil surging forward even as those who care will continue their hope and trust in Jesus as things wind down to Jesus' Day of Judgment.

Judgment, by God's reckoning, is the time when all human accounting of their behavior, their fleshly habits, and connection spiritually with God will be weighed on His perfect scale. Jesus admonished His followers not to judge others, less a person be judged of God (Matthew 7:1-2).

Holy Scripture verses abound with regards for that Judgment to come, such as: Acts 2:16; 1 Peter 1:20; Hebrews 1:1 – 3; Revelation 11:18;

Romans 14:10 & 2; Corinthians 5:10; and Ecclesiastes 12:14. The "saved" and the "lost" will be Judged that day, which will dynamically mark humankind's final coming of age in God's scheme of things.

The erstwhile point of this treatise is to reacquaint you with the knowledge that God made available to you via his son Jesus, the words of 66 disciples, judges, and prophets. We are saved who take the birth-life-death-resurrection of Jesus (Romans 10:9, 10) as our passport to Heaven, and not a drop-off to Hell.

When will you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe He is God incarnate?

Time is fleeting. Your road to blessings with God, or damnation with Lucifer and his demons, may be a whisper away. We're in Judgment now, as were the people of Jehovah's time (as the preincarnate Christ) in the Bible's Old Testament, to get them back from their sinful ways.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain

## Post 3 Honor Guard



Color Guard at a Legion Baseball Tournament (L to R) Dave Timmerman, Dale Nurnberg, Gerry Wolf, Ron Hindmand, Ed Schnabel

In July, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 8 funerals and presented the Colors at 3 American Legion Baseball tournament games. They also posted the Colors at 4 of the Pinewood Bowl's performances of "Catch Me If You Can".

In calendar year 2023, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honors Teams at 61 funerals and was present at 36 civic events. The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

## Post 3 TAPS – July 2023



<b>LEGIONNAIRE</b>	<b>WAR ERA</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
Sidney E. Anderson	Korea	Air Force	48
Donald E. Hall	Vietnam	Army	21
Marvin L. Knippelmeyer	Vietnam	Army	45
Roger K. LaPage	Vietnam	Army	23
Edward C. Shaw	Korea	Air Force	5

## Sons of the American Legion 2023 Deaths

<b>SAL Member</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
William Bowman	27
Robert L. Harding	15
Merle V. Schaal	37

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80  
July 11, 2023**

**Commander Gerry Wolf opened the July 11, 2023 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 20 Legionnaires present.**

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

**The minutes of the June 13 Post 3 meeting were read and approved as corrected (to show that the May 31 ending balance was \$38,847.58)**

**Ed Schnabel gave a financial report for the month ending June 30, 2023, showing a balance on hand of \$37,847.58. Ed also reported that the post had purchased 3 color guard uniforms. Upon proper motion, the report was accepted and filed for review.**

**Vice Commander Bruce Gubser reported for the Legion Riders and the birthday card program.**

**William Jackson gave an Americanism report.**

**Squadron 3 Commander Brendan Moore reported briefly for the Sons of the American Legion and indicated that they were 1 member short of reaching their 2023 goal.**

**Commander Wolf reported on the Jr. Law Cadet programs for boys and girls.**

**He read a letter of appreciation from Sydney Kuenning, the young lady sponsored by Post 3.**

**2023 membership was reported at 1098 --- just over 90% of our goal.**

**Past Post 3 Commander and current National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie installed the following officers for the 2023-2024 year:**

**Commander --- Bruce Gubser  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander --- Ron Hindmand  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander --- Rich Lemmerman  
Executive Committee (3-year term) --- Jack Sibert**

**Since Dave Timmerman was unable to attend the formal presentation at the department convention, Commander Gubser presented the 2023 District 15 Citizenship Medal to Dave.**

**Commander Gubser spoke briefly on membership and then issued a challenge --- Bring a non-member to a Post 3 meeting!!**

**The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 7:40 PM.**

**Steve Bartos, Recorder**

## Post 3 Meeting, June 11, 2023

At the regular July Post 3 meeting, National Executive Committeeman, Fred Craigie installed the new Post 3 officers for the 2024 year. They were: Commander Bruce Gubser, First Vice-commander, Ron Hindmand, and Second Vice-Commander, Rich Lemmerman.

Commander Gubser also presented Dave Timmerman with the District 15 Citizenship medal. The award was announced at the Department Convention in Kearney, but Dave was not able to attend because of a conflict in his schedule.



National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie installing Bruce Gubser as Post 3 Commander



Post 3 Commander, Bruce Gubser



Outgoing Post 3 Commander, Gerry Wolf, receiving a Commander's plaque from Post 3 Adjutant Ed Schnabel



Commander Bruce Gubser presenting Dave Timmerman with the District 15 Citizenship Award



(L to R) Commander Bruce Gubser, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Ron Hindmand, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Rich Lemmerman

## **Dignified Flag Retirement**

In May, Scheels Sporting Goods Store held their annual Flag Exchange. Customers were encouraged to turn in their old torn and faded American Flags and were given a new 3'X5' American made Flag. Post 3 members and Chapter 3 Riders were asked to help with the handout of Flags.

In a 3-hour span, over 300 Flags were given out and approximately 600 torn and faded Flags were turned in.

We then had to hold a Distinguished Flag Retirement for the 600 Flags from Scheels plus the 100-150 Flags that had been turned in at the Post 3 Office since our last Flag Retirement.

Dave Timmerman had offered to hold the Flag Retirement at his acreage again. When he contacted the Bennet Fire Department for a burn permit, the man he was talking to offered to take our Flags and include them in their Annual Flag retirement on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

On the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Honor Guard members went to Bennet to help with the Flag Retirement. They really didn't need our help since about half of the 1086 Bennet residents were assembled and helped with the ceremony.

It was awesome to see small town America in action.



Bennet Dignified Flag Retirement Ceremony



Attending the Dignified Flag Retirement were: (L to R) Bruce Gubser, Ron Hindmand, Ed Schnabel, Dave Timmerman, Not pictured: Nathan Thedford, Gerry Wolf



Bennet residents lined up to help with the Dignified Flag Retirement

**\$ 1000**



**NEBRASKA LEGIONNAIRES**

**BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR 2024!**

**The first renewal notice for the 2024 membership year should have been mailed from Indianapolis about July 1st.**

**The Department Membership Committee is again this year sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing.**

**All regular members (those who pay their dues annually) whose 2024 dues are paid and received in Department Headquarters by September 5, 2023, will be in a drawing for \$1000.**

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

**HELP US BUILD MEMBERSHIP MOMENTUM!!**

**BE IN THE DRAWING!!**



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

\$10/HAND OR \$20 FOR 3



\$500 HIGH, \$300 2ND HIGH,  
\$100 WORST

Lincoln Chapter 3

# POKER RUN

REGISTRATION: 10AM-NOON  
FIRST BIKE OUT AT: 10AM  
LAST BIKE IN: 3PM  
PRIZES/AWARDS: 3:30PM

SATURDAY  
SEPT 9

-STARTS AT FRONTIER HARLEY-DAVIDSON,  
205 NW 40TH ST, LINCOLN  
-WITH STOPS IN ASHLAND,  
WAHOO, VALPARAISO  
-ENDS AT DENTON LEGION CLUB,  
7226 LANCASTER AVE, DENTON

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



PROCEEDS SUPPORT JAVELAN & PATRIOTIC PRODUCTIONS



LINCOLN

# Buddy Check

"TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

At 'The Mill' Coffee and Bistro

2021 Transformation Drive

(on the Nebraska Innovation Campus)

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

## Buddy Check

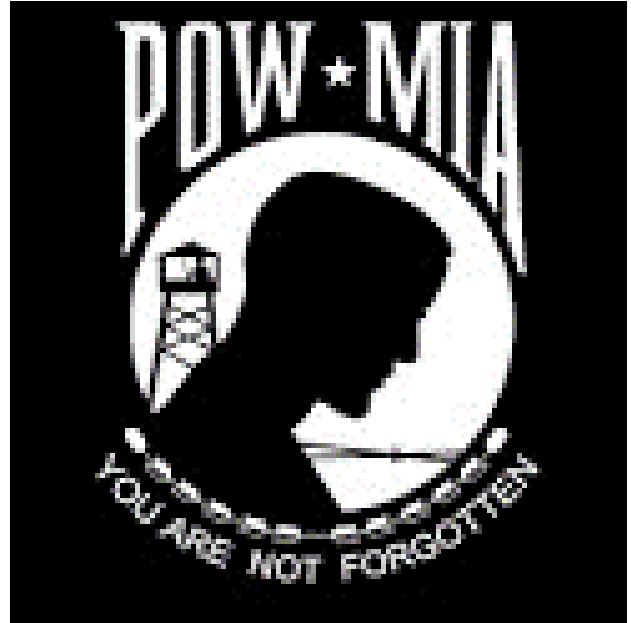
A social gathering of Veterans dedicated to reducing and eliminating Veteran suicide. We continue our service by gathering with fellow Veterans. We call and reach out to those who served at our side. We stood together then, and we stand together now.

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

At Ease



## Identifying 'Hell Ship' Victims



In an airmail letter to his parents from besieged Corregidor Island in the Philippines, Army Capt. Ronald O. Pigg predicted he would have “a bunch of stories to tell” when World War II ended and he finally could return home to Omaha.

“(I) assure you that I expect to stay OK,” Pigg, 31, wrote in the letter, postmarked March 5, 1942 and published five days later in The World-Herald. “Tell everyone hello for me, and see to it that we get the tools, weapons and planes we need, as there is a war on here — I know — first hand.”

But Pigg did not live to tell his family those stories.

The garrison fell two months later and Pigg, a civil engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers, became one of the 11,000 POWs captured by the Japanese military.

Two and a half years after his capture, after untold suffering in a Japanese prison camp, Pigg was huddled with more than 1,200 other POWs in the hot, stinking hold of the Japanese transport “hell ship” Enoura Maru at Takao, on the island of Formosa (now Taiwan), when U.S. aircraft bombed it. An estimated 400 men died.

Pigg and the others had survived a similar attack on another hell ship, the Oryoku Maru, a few weeks earlier in Manila.

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

**It's not certain whether Pigg died in Takao, or a few days later aboard another ship bound for the Japanese mainland. But he didn't get to Japan alive.**

**No one knows what happened to his body.**

**Now the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is trying to find out. This year they have disinterred 71 caskets containing 431 sets of remains linked to the Enoura Maru and the Oryoku Maru from military cemeteries in Hawaii and the Philippines and brought the remains to the DPAA lab at Offutt Air Force Base for identification.**

**All have been buried in graves marked "unknown" since the 1940s.**

**DPAA anthropologists hope to identify many of the 985 missing service members from the ill-fated hell ship journey, including Pigg and 11 others from Nebraska. At least 16 more are from Iowa.**

**"These guys held out for months against pretty tough odds, and they did a lot of heroic acts in the process," said Greg Kupsky, the agency's lead historian for the project, in a statement. "If we can give them their names and identifications back, and send them home to their families, that would be great."**

**One Omahan with a keen interest in the outcome is Ronald L. Pigg, 81, a second cousin of the missing captain who has delved deeply into the background of the relative whose name he shares. Several years ago, he gave the Army a DNA sample he hopes might lead to an identification.**

**"I myself would like to see him recovered," Pigg said. "To me it would make a difference because of the many, many hours I've spent learning about him."**

**The Enoura Maru project is currently slated to last eight years and is the largest one ever undertaken by DPAA. It's even larger than the USS Oklahoma project, which wrapped up at the Offutt lab in 2021 and resulted in the identifications of 361 of 394 missing sailors and Marines from a battleship that was sunk at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.**

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

The first coffins linked to the Enoura Maru were disinterred from Honolulu's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Jan. 9, on the 78th anniversary of the attack, said Carrie LeGarde, the Offutt-based forensic anthropologist who is leading the project.

On July 1, an Air Force jet flew more flag-draped coffins believed to contain 315 sets of remains to Offutt, bringing to 360 the number of remains now at the Offutt lab. The rest are scheduled to arrive later this summer.

LeGarde said about 20,000 bones have now been catalogued, with DNA samples extracted from some for submission to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in Delaware.

"We are in the inventorying stage," she said.

Considering the ordeal of the hell ship victims, it is remarkable there are any remains to identify.

After the fall of Corregidor, the POWs were transferred to several slave-labor camps in the Philippines. They were held for 2½ years in appalling conditions; many died in captivity of disease and starvation.

Later in the war, Japan experienced severe labor shortages and began shipping thousands of Allied prisoners to the homeland. They packed them tightly into the holds of cargo freighters with little food, water, or air, and no sanitation or medical facilities. They didn't much care whether the prisoners survived.

The POWs came to call them "hell ships" because of the inhuman conditions on board.

"No combatants in the war suffered more horribly than the prisoners on these hell ships," said historian Donald L. Miller in his 2001 book, "D-Days in the Pacific."

Slow-moving and unmarked, the hell ships were easy marks for U.S. submarines and carrier aircraft. More than a dozen were attacked and sunk.

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

**On Dec. 13, 1944, 1,621 POWs, mostly officers, were loaded into the cargo hold of a former Japanese passenger liner, the Oryoku Maru. They had minimal space, food, water and air. The temperature quickly rose to well over 100 degrees.**

**“Men began to die of suffocation, and the insane were knifing anyone available to suck the blood of the victim to satisfy their thirst,” said Maj. Arthur Peterson, a POW survivor, in a diary used at war-crimes trial after the war. “By daylight there were several score dead either from suffocation or by murder.”**

**Two days later, aircraft from the carrier USS Hornet attacked the ship as it sailed up the coast to Subic Bay. About 280 POWs were killed, some of them shot in the water by Japanese guards as they tried to escape from the sinking ship.**

**"Some of them were too hurt or sick to be shipped, so they were taken to a cemetery and executed," LeGarde said.**

**Two weeks later, guards packed the survivors onto the Enoura Maru and a second livestock freighter, the Brazil Maru, for the journey to Japan. They arrived at Takao after four days, on New Year's Eve. At least 20 prisoners died en route.**

**On Jan. 6, the POWs from the Brazil Maru were also crammed onto the Enoura Maru, making a dismal situation even worse.**

**“Dysentery is spreading and the flies are out of control entirely. There are literally millions of them,” Peterson wrote in his diary. “The bulkheads appear to be a moving mass of black and green.”**

**On Jan. 9, 1945, aircraft from the Hornet attacked the ship — once again, with no idea that it held prisoners. About 270 were killed in a direct hit.**

**Peterson described the forward hold as “a mass of wreckage and dead.”**

**“The calmness of the men when under air attack is miraculous,” he said. “Most of them . . . would just as soon be blown up by Uncle Sam's planes as starved to death by the Nips.”**

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

**After a few days, some bodies were taken ashore and burned. Others were buried. All of the living — about 900 prisoners — were moved over to the Brazil Maru for the final tortuous journey to Moji, Japan, a port on the northern tip of the island of Kyushu.**

**During the 16-day ordeal, about 40 prisoners died per day — if not from their wounds, then from starvation, dehydration, disease, or exposure.**

**“The hold continuously has a pile of 40 to 50 emaciated bodies which are removed above decks once a day and buried at sea,” Peterson wrote in his diary. “It is impossible to recognize your best friend on the death pile due to emaciation, etc. It makes the identification of the dead extremely difficult.”**

**A roll call upon landing at Moji indicated just 497 of the POWs had survived the voyage. A report for the war-crimes tribunal described the men who disembarked as "walking skeletons."**

**They were scattered to several different prison camps in Japan, most still sick. Another 200 died before Japan surrendered in August 1945.**

**After the war, the American Graves Registration Service’s search for the remains of U.S. war dead brought them to Formosa in 1946. About 400 sets of remains — most, but not all, associated with the Enoura Maru — and were recovered and sent to Hawaii for reburial in communal graves.**

**The search was unable to recover remains from Oryoku Maru from the wreckage along the shoreline at Olongapo, near Subic Bay. But some POWs who died after making it ashore were recovered and buried at Manila’s U.S. military cemetery.**

**Several years ago, DPAA historians and forensic anthropologists started studying the historical files and decided to take on the identification of the Enoura Maru unknowns.**

**The service branches began tracking down relatives of the missing POWS to get DNA samples for comparison. So far, they have obtained samples from about 70% of the families of the missing, LeGarde said, or nearly 700. Defense Department rules call for at least 60% family reference samples before disinterments are allowed.**

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

**As a test, DPAA disinterred one casket in 2017 that records showed contained the remains of a single service member. Forensic anthropologists did identify one person — Marine Corps Capt. Lester A. Schade, 27, of Abbotsford, Wisconsin — from dental records. But the bones in the casket contained DNA from at least four different people.**

**LeGarde said other caskets also have been found to contain the bones from many more people than shown in the records, complicating identification.**

**“They are very commingled, similar to the Oklahoma,” she said.**

**Still, LeGarde said, the agency has made seven tentative identifications so far. Those IDs must be confirmed before families are notified and they are publicly announced.**

**“So far, it's working,” she said. “That’s good news for the project overall.”**

**Ronald Pigg isn’t getting his hopes too high.**

**About 20 years ago, he began researching his namesake cousin whom he had heard very little about while growing up.**

**He learned that the first Ronald Pigg was born in Massena, Iowa, in 1910. His mother, Myrtle, died when he was about 3. His father, Arthur, remarried about three years later, and moved to Omaha.**

**Pigg attended Park School near Hanscom Park and graduated from Technical High School in 1928. He attended the University of Omaha for a year, and in 1935 earned a civil engineering degree from Iowa State.**

**That same year, he married Ruth Stiver. They did not have children.**

**After graduating, Pigg got a job with the Army Corps of Engineers. He was sent to the Philippines in 1939 to help shore up Corregidor's fortifications against a possible Japanese attack.**

## **(Pigg – Continued)**

Though he worked for the Corps as a civilian, he was commissioned as an Army captain on Jan. 6, 1942, in the first desperate weeks of the Japanese invasion.

“I’m sure getting a workout,” he wrote in his one letter home.

The prospects for Pigg and the rest of the POWs grew bleaker as it became clear no rescue was possible.

In July 1945, Pigg’s family was notified that he had been killed seven months earlier in the sinking of the Oryoku Maru, at the beginning of the hell ship ordeal.

During his research, however, the younger Ronald Pigg discovered a reference to his cousin in Peterson’s diary in an entry dated January 28, 1945.

“Underway at 6 a.m. Deaths increasing,” Peterson wrote. “Captains Eichlin and Ronnie Pigg are dead.”

That leads Pigg to believe that his cousin survived until just before the ship docked at Moji.

“I never felt he’d be recovered at all,” Pigg said. “I assumed they just put him overboard.”

Still, identifications of the dead were difficult as the men on the ships suffered and died. Peterson himself said that many mistakes were made.

So, there's at least a sliver of hope that Ronald Pigg could see the World War II hero who shares his name identified and brought home, perhaps to be buried next to his parents in Massena.

“I would be ecstatic about it,” Pigg said. “I hope I live long enough to see the results.”

Steve Liewer – Omaha World-Herald

## Army Officer Awarded The Medal Of Honor



**Major Bruce Crandall distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism as a Flight Commander in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).**

**On 14 November 1965, his flight of sixteen helicopters was lifting troops for a search and destroy mission from Plei Me, Vietnam, to Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley. On the fourth troop lift, the enemy had Landing Zone X-Ray targeted. As Major Crandall and the first eight helicopters landed to discharge troops on his fifth troop lift, his unarmed helicopter came under such intense enemy fire that the ground commander ordered the second flight of eight aircraft to abort their mission.**

**As Major Crandall flew back to Plei Me, his base of operations, he determined that the ground commander of the besieged infantry battalion desperately needed more ammunition. Major Crandall then decided to adjust his base of operations to Artillery Firebase Falcon in order to shorten the flight distance to deliver ammunition and evacuate wounded soldiers.**

**While medical evacuation was not his mission, he immediately sought volunteers and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led the two aircraft to Landing Zone X-Ray. Despite the fact that the landing zone was still under relentless enemy fire, Major Crandall landed and proceeded to supervise the loading of seriously wounded soldiers aboard the aircraft. Major Crandall's voluntary decision to land under the most extreme fire instilled in the other pilots the will and spirit to continue to land their own aircraft, and in the ground forces the realization that they would be resupplied and that friendly wounded would be promptly evacuated. This greatly enhanced morale and the will to fight at a critical time.**

**After his first medical evacuation, Major Crandall continued to fly into and out of the landing zone throughout the day and into the evening. That day he completed a total of 22 flights, most under intense enemy fire, retiring from the battlefield only after all possible service had been rendered to the Infantry battalion.**

**His actions provided critical resupply of ammunition and evacuation of the wounded. Major Crandall's daring acts of bravery and courage in the face of an overwhelming and determined enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.**





**CARNIVAL**  
 OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> 2024  
 SAILING FROM TAMPA, FL

Day	Port of Call	Arrival Time	Depart Time
Sat	Tampa, FL		4:00 PM
Sun	Fun Day at Sea		
Mon	Bimini	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Tue	Nassau	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Wed	Fun Day at Sea		
Thu	Tampa, FL	8:00 AM	



Embark on this historic **fully-chartered** Special Forces reunion/convention cruise and experience an inclusive experience featuring world-class dining, Broadway-style entertainment, exciting kids programs, expansive recreation and spa facilities, plus TWO beautiful ports of call in The Bahamas!

Reserve your cabin today and embark on an adventure that will reignite the fire within and create memories that will last a lifetime. Together, let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future!

Register at: <https://sfali.org/cruise-pre-registration-page/>



Contact email: [Legacy4SFA@gmail.com](mailto:Legacy4SFA@gmail.com) or [www.SFALI.org](http://www.SFALI.org)



**SFA Legacy Initiatives has signed a contract with Carnival Cruise Lines to charter an entire ship for a SF, Family, and friends. The Carnival Paradise will provide an exclusive cruise experience departing from Tampa, FL on October 19, 2024. The current planning/itinerary will include the following events that will also support many SF small businesses during this epic event:**

**October 2024**

**October 17-18 - Pre-cruise gatherings, USSOCOM events?, golf tournament(s), poker run, supporting local SF businesses with Scuba dives, off-shore fishing, boat trips, and more**

- **October 19 - Board the ship, SF Swag, Regimental Colors flying from the mast, sail away party with Nationally known music artist(?)**
- **October 20 - Day at Sea, SF beer and wine tasting from SF owned breweries and wineries**
- **October 21 - Bimini**
- **October 22 - Nassau with a shore party at the SF owned "The Bearded Clam Sports Bar", support other SF businesses with shore excursion**
- **October 23 - Day at Sea, SF bourbon, whiskey, and liquor tasting from SF owned distilleries**
- **October 24 - Return to Tampa with more activities planned like football games, hockey games, etc...**

**We have over 1,000 passengers already registered during the pre-registration phase. Please tell your teammates to sign up before all the rooms are booked. This is a family friendly cruise. We look forward to seeing you.**

## **SFACON 2024**

**The Special Forces Association will be holding its annual Convention (SFACON) during the cruise, with special events planned in the Tampa area for a few days prior to sailing. Visit the SFACON 2024 website for the latest information and to see a list of those who've registered for the cruise.**

### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

**Email Pete Tingstrom at [specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com](mailto:specialforces2024cruise@gmail.com)**

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**For God and Country**

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

By \_\_\_\_\_

# Become a Member of The American Legion

Do you want to help your community and fellow Veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion? Would you want to help recruit a new member? If you can certify 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 2024, 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)**

**2023 - 2024 Post 3 Officers**

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

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

**Second Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834**

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

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

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

