



# **“For God And Country”** **DECEMBER 2022 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



## **Meeting Schedule For December 2022 – January 2023**

Organization	Location	Time	December	January
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	12/13/22	01/10/23
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	12/13/22	None
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	12/08/22	01/12/23
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	12/15/22	01/19/23
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM	12/20/22	01/17/23
8 & 40 Salon 832	Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn	11:00 AM	12/03/22	01/17/23
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	None	None
Buddy Check	The Foundry, 211 N 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	12/22/22	01/22/23
VA Coffeehaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	12/16/22	01/20/23

# **Commander's Call**



Fellow Legionnaires,

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to reflect on 2022 just briefly. As a representative of our post, I am very proud to represent a post and organization whose focus is on Veterans, their families, and our youth.

As we enter this holiday season, we have time to reflect on the many blessings this year has brought us and the opportunity to look forward to the many tasks that lie ahead in 2023. Now is the time to start planning for next year at our post. It will not be long before we begin the process of electing new officers. In years past we have struggled to achieve widespread participation in our elections. This year I want to encourage all of you to consider what you may be able to contribute to Post 3 and step forward to fill some of the available vacancies. If you find that you have a desire to serve your post, please make your interest known to Bruce Gubser, Ron Hindmand or myself.

In 2023, I ask each member to consider getting more involved in our organization. Participate in our monthly meetings, be willing to be nominated and serve as one of our elected post officers, or serve on a committee when asked. Or help at the Post 3 office, volunteer for the Honor Guard, join the 40 & 8, or recruit an Individual who has served and was discharged honorably in the military. The list goes on and on.

If you look at your membership card and it says 2022, you have not paid your 2023 dues.

If you have not paid your 2023 membership dues, I encourage you to do so now. I thank all of you for your loyal support.

Wreaths Across America - Governor's Proclamation program will take place on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 on the second floor of the State Capitol under the Rotunda. The Warner Chambers, where the event is usually held, will not be available at that time.

Wreaths Across America – The wreath-laying program at Wyuka Cemetery will be held on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Activities take place at the New Soldiers Circle inside the north entrance off Vine Street.

Please join us after the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting as we socialize with the Auxiliary. Remember to bring the non-perishable food items that you have collected, and which will be distributed to the needy after the meeting. We also plan to play card bingo, so feel free to bring some snacks to share as we socialize after the meeting. Also remember if you plan to play card bingo, please consider bringing a small gift to be given to the bingo winners.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to wish every member a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a time when families and friends will come together, eat, exchange gifts, enjoy fellowship, make resolutions for the New Year. From my family to yours, we wish all of you a Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring to all, Health, Prosperity, and Peace.

I want to ask everyone to remember our service men and women who are away from their families during this Holiday Season. Pray for them and their families.

For God and Country,

Gerry Wolf  
Post 3 Commander

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



**As we enter this holiday season, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.**

**Take the time to remember your fellow veterans, many who need our support.**

**Winter Office Hours: Office will be closed if Lincoln receives an ice or snow storm, if you need my services, please text me, as I can do all services from the safety of my home.**

**How many of you have taken advantage of the many benefits of being a Veteran? There are many, during a visit to the Homestead National Park near Beatrice, I learned that Veterans of any age can get a pass to enter any of the parks in the National Park Service. Many states also have passes for their state parks. Many stores offer discounts for military and veterans, you have to ask.**

**Thanks again for renewing for 2023 with POST 3 and THE American Legion. The third mailing of dues notices for 2022-2023 were mailed out by the American Legion National Headquarters during the second week of November. Current membership stands at 897, just over 73% of our assigned goal for 2023. If you happen to be one of the few whose dues were received after the October cutoff date, you might receive a dues notice. If you know that you have paid your 2023 dues, just throw the notice away.**

**If you have not paid your 2023 dues, please pay them before the middle of December. Those who have not paid your 2023 dues, please take the time to review the reverse side on the notice. These notices have been changed; they have added the basic information that they have on file for you: branch of service, war era, phone number and email address.**

**If some of your information is not correct, please correct the information and mail the form with your 2023 dues payment to 123 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L, Lincoln, NE, 68510, and I will see that it gets corrected. Thanks for your help.**

**Does your 2023 membership show your correct years of service? The 2023 card that we are mailing out should be correct. If the years are not correct, please let us know and we can get it corrected for you. We have fielded many calls about total years of membership not being correct. You can double check your card from 2022 to see if the 2023 card has added one year. If not, let me know and I will mail out a new card with the correct years and have National update your membership record.**

**[edschnabelasa@gmail.com](mailto:edschnabelasa@gmail.com), 402-480-8542)**

**Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3. We look forward to seeing you at the Post 3 meeting on December 13th.**

**Ed Schnabel  
Adjutant**

## **Lincoln CBOC/VA News**



**VA Clinics and Hospitals are currently giving covid and flu shots.**

**Those wishing to receive a Covid-19 booster shot should call to try and make an appointment. If they are not giving them, they advise calling your local pharmacy to see if they have the type you wish to receive. Be sure to bring your covid shot record with you, as they will add another sticker to the card.**

**Remember, Lincoln CBOC's does walk-in EXPRESS CARE, 3pm to 7pm. This is not for care that should be seen in a hospital emergency room, but for treatment of minor items that do not need to be seen in an emergency room. No appointment needed.**

**This new sign in the system called "VA Mobile Check-in for Appointments" seems to be getting better. The quickest way is by texting, "CHECK IN" to 53079. Also, to use this new system, you need to be sure that the VA system has the number for your smart phone listed as your contact number. When you scan the QR code or text the message, the system will respond with a message and a link for you to respond to with your phone.**

**The LAB still has their Kiosk for the time being for signing in for blood draws. Look for changes, as this Kiosk may also go away. Pharmacy is still using their own system, thus still need your VA ID to visit the pharmacy to check on or pick up your meds.**

**For those travelling to Omaha or a clinic more than 40 miles from home may be eligible for travel pay. Travel pay currently needs to be completed on a paper form. Forms can be found on the tables in the check-in area. Completed forms can be deposited in the drop box in the check-in area. Be sure to complete a travel form if you have a service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater.**

**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 drugs. Get them out of you 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 to have 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. You can also get help enrolling in the VA system, etc. by using the link, [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).**



## **(CBOC/VA News – Continued)**

**My HealtheVet:** Did you know you can request refills of your meds, check your upcoming appointments, send a note to your provider online? The VA has a web site called, My HealtheVet that allows you to do this. If you are not currently using it, or you need help in using it, or signing up for My HealtheVet 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 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.

Coffeehaus is on the third Friday of the month. Had a great turnout for the November Coffeehaus, let's do it again for December. Three Cords and a Cloud of Dust will be playing.

Buddy Check is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Bagel and Joe in The Foundry, 14<sup>th</sup>, and P, downtown. Come and meet your fellow veterans for free food and a drink. You can park in the garage just around the corner for free as we will give you a ticket to use to get out.

Remember, the VA will only be there for us if we use its services. If we do not use them, the government sees it as a service not needed 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. The veterans do not need to be using the VA for their medical needs. They just need to be enrolled in the VA Health Care System.

Funding is based on foreseen needs, not current needs, 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 use 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

## **Post 3 ALR Director's Remarks**



Greetings Riders and all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with the Three F's (Family, Friends, and Food).

Here's a reminder that we will be holding elections at our December meeting on Thursday, December 15th, at the Denton Legion Club.

Also remember that the December meeting is our Christmas party. Please bring an appetizer OR dessert to share. If you intend on participating in the gift exchange (white elephant/Chinese auction), bring a wrapped gift (value \$20 or less). Your name will be placed in the hat.

Some Riders will be participating in a short "parade" on Friday, Dec 2nd, in a couple of West A neighborhoods. Meet up at the VFW on West A at 1730.

Until next time,  
Ride (and Drive) Safe!

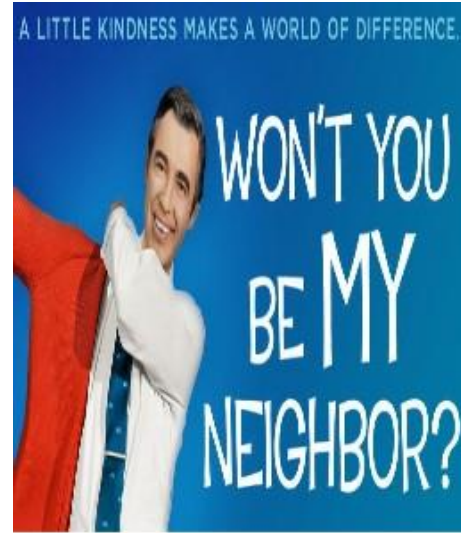
Bruce Gubser  
Director  
Lincoln Chapter 3  
American Legion Riders



**American Legion Riders taking part in the Lincoln Veterans Parade**

**L to R - William Smisek, Mike Streeter, Bruce Gubser, (not in pic) Bob Vrana, Hubert Olson, Ron Bevard**

## The Chaplain's Remarks



**Happenstance says that all things are given, but not all things are available. So, true, that some things are within reach, but they are not always available. It's kind of similar to our Lord's incarnation in Bethlehem Efrata (Luke 2:7) where even for our Saviour there was no room. What affords a given individual the sense of being left out of things is the slow-dawning reality that not only may the world have passed them by, but that they never even knew their place was never assured.**

**How does one, in a world apparently peopled by Satan's helpers, ever follow towards God's greater rewards? Sound very troubling? It is. In fact, every person should always keep in mind that God's people, although desirous to have His followers move toward their own freedom in Him, seem to struggle to follow God's simple ploy: love Him as you love yourself and others (2 Corinthians 8:8), in order to reap just rewards in this world, and the next.**

**The point is: loving God is the same for all of His creation, whether human, animal, or plant. All things are sacred, but during this time of year, that sacredness may be overshadowed by a person's lack of insight into God's plan for them. To know God is to know your fellow human being. Since everyone is your neighbor, you would do well to let the Lord show you the way towards helping yourself through helping others. This Christmas season will be a good example for demonstrating true spirit by being that beacon of God's grace for those in need.**

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain**



## **Post 3 Honor Guard**



In November, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 11 Legion funerals and was asked to help at 2 VFW funerals. Honor Guard personnel also made 7 Veterans Day appearances at a school and assisted living facilities. In calendar year 2022, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honor Teams at 138 combined funerals and appeared at 41 civic functions. Turnout has been excellent.

## **Post 3 TAPS – November 2022**



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Timothy F. Bukoske	Vietnam	Air Force	1
Richard Bradley	Vietnam	Navy	5
Robert H. Pegler	Korea	Army	1
Joseph H. Gillispie	WW II	Navy	77



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

Post 3 Commander Gerry Wolf opened the November 8, 2022 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 19 Legionnaires present. The meeting was also being made available on Zoom.

The minutes of the October 11, 2022, Post 3 meeting were read and approved.

Vice-Commander Ron Hindmand reported on the District 15 Oratorical Contest held November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 3 entrants, but only 1 appeared at the contest. Jack Watermolen, a junior at Lincoln Southwest High School, presented his orations and was advanced to the Area C Oratorical Contest in Seward on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Ron recognized those who helped conduct the contest.

Vice-Commander Hindmand also reported on Salvation Army Bellringers. The Legion Riders have pledged to ring a full day at Hobby Lobby and the Auxiliary intends to fill some time slots. Post 3 has most or all of December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> reserved at the Williamsburg Hy-Vee store.

Finance Officer Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending October 31, 2022 showing a balance on hand of \$45,708.50 The report was accepted and filed for review.

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

Vice Commander Bruce Gubser reported that the Legion Riders added about \$250 to the poker run proceeds and presented a \$2000 check to the Javalin program. Nominations for officers will take place this month.

Bruce also reported that he had distributed 12 birthday cards this month.

Wade Graft read an Americanism report prepared by Dr. Jackson.

Commander Wolf reported for the Honor Guard.

Commander Wolf announced that that Post 3 and Unit 3 will have some joint social activities at the December meetings. Legionnaires can bring a small gift to be used when playing card bingo at the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Auxiliary.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Post 3 would place a half-page ad in the Mid-Year Conference program.

Commander Wolf announced a number of upcoming events, including, but no limited to, Veterans Day, the Veterans Parade, Stars Hockey, Buddy Check, and CoffeeHaus. He indicated that attendance at the CoffeeHaus has dwindled and may be discontinued.

Post 3 membership was reported at 862, almost 71% of our goal.

Wade Graft read TAPS and offered the closing prayer.

The meeting was closed in proper form at 7:35. P.M.

Steve Bartos, Recorder

## **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING**



**It is action time for our Post 3 Salvation Army bell ringing volunteers. Christmas is almost upon us and there is lots of good charity work to be done using funds we will raise. Post 3 currently is scheduled for three days of bell ringing to support good causes in our area that the Salvation Army sponsors.**

**Our Legion Riders are out front covering all day on 1 December at Hobby Lobby, 66th & O Street (11am to 7pm). We have 13 volunteers for two-hour time slots on Wednesday 7 December and Thursday 8 December (11am to 7pm) at the Williamsburg Hy-Vee at 40th and Old Cheney Road. Our Auxiliary Lady volunteers have already rung bells on 30 November at this Hy-Vee. Well done, Ladies!**

**If you would still like to volunteer, please contact our POC below and that can be arranged at a time, date and location that fits your schedule.**

**Post 3 contact is Ron Hindmand:  
Phone (254) 291-1514  
Email [rhindmand@gmail.com](mailto:rhindmand@gmail.com)**

## **District 15/Post 3 Oratorical Contest**



**L to R - Master of Ceremonies, Ron Hindmand and orator, Jack Watermolen at the oratorical contest.**



**L to R - Jack Watermolen receiving congratulations and the winner's medal from NEC Man, Fred Craigie.**

The purpose of the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship program is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Constitution. Contestants must present without notes an 8 to 10 minute oration on some aspect of the Constitution and then give a 3 to 5 minute speech on an assigned topic with only five minute preparation time. Our District 15 Oratorical Contest was held on 2 November. Our winner was Jack Watermolen. Jack is 16 years old and a Junior at Lincoln Southwest High School, where he is the Debate Team Captain. He aspires to study International Relations in college after graduation from high school. The title of his oration was "A More Perfect Union" discussing the constitutional changes originating out of the American Civil War.

As our District 15 contest winner, Jack will compete in the Area C Contest to be held on Sunday 4 December at 2pm in the Seward Civic Center. He will receive a cash award of \$100 upon participation in the area contest. The winners of area contests receive cash awards ranging between \$200 and \$1,000. They then will compete in the Nebraska Department contest to be held on 14 January 2023 in Norfolk as part of the Mid-year Convention. Winners of state competitions will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and compete 21-23 April in Indianapolis, Indiana as part of the National Convention. They receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship for each time/round they compete in the national completion. The first place national winner will receive a scholarship of \$25,000, second place \$22,500 and third place \$20,000.

**Volunteers that assisted in our District 15 Contest were:**

**Bruce Gubser soliciting applicants for the contest and doing initial organization to set up the contest.**

**Ron Hindmand acted as master of ceremonies.**

**Brendan Moore, Rich Lemmerman and Jeff Warrick acted as judges.**

**Fred Craigie was the Time Keeper.**

**Ed Schnabel was the tabulator and coordinated location for the contest along with advising on all contest aspects.**

**John Ottoson acted as contestant monitor.**

**Gerry Wolf led off the contest with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Steve Bartos took photos and performed a PR function.**

**Thank you to all that participated!**

**Ron Hindmand**



## **Veterans Day Program At Lux Middle School**



Post 3 members, Dean Dumler and Jack Sibert, participated in a Veterans Day Program at Lux Middle School. Pictured above left is Art Jones receiving a standing ovation for his service in Korea and above right is Dean Dumler and the students that he spent time with that day. Below is the day as explained by Dean:

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We started the day with a full program to include patriotic songs, both instrumental and vocal with all students and many parents attending. This was the 25th year. The teacher that started it is still there though other teachers are now running it.

I started when my 27-year-old granddaughter was there, so about 13-14 years ago. Originally there were over 30 people presenting but many have aged out. Presenters used to have 5-7 students based on the number available. Last year coming off covid we had maybe five. This year we had 8-9 presenters with classes of 20-25. Presenters range from generals down but personally haven't seen any privates.

Personally, I don't bring notes but have several subjects I discuss around questions the students have. I do encourage them to raise hands as soon as a question comes to mind. Since we had the discussion and pictures of the Chosin reservoir leading off the opening performance and Art Jones was in attendance, I started with about five minutes expanding what was discussed earlier and a more in depth feeling for them as to how cold it really was and the fact I had a cousin in Korea that froze his feet and he was hospitalized for six months recovering.

One of the students brought up the Doolittle raid of Tokyo so again we had an open discussion bringing facts out and drawing a couple other students into the conversation.

I end with telling them the advantages of serving in the military and the benefits associated with it. Part of that discussion is telling of my stepdaughter going into the Air Force and wearing major's bars and was up for Lt. Col. when she got out.

It's always interesting when asking the percentage of military personnel that are combat personnel and the looks and answers when they find out it's 10% with the balance being support personnel. Frequently we have kids that want to hear combat stories firsthand which is very hard to comply with since they can't comprehend what war is.

## **Veterans Day, November 11, 2022**

### **Breakfast at Hy-Vee before a big day**



### **Faith Lutheran School**





**Veterans Day 2022 (Continued)**  
**Carriage Glen Independent Senior Living**



**Pemberly Place Assisted Living**



**Lincoln Stars Hockey Game**





## **Quilts Of Valor**



**At the November 18<sup>th</sup> CoffeeHaus, Post 3 Vice-Commander, Bruce Gubser received a Quilt of Valor for his dedicated Military service. Ty Anders, Adam Dotson and Dave Neuhaus also received their Quilt of Valor.**

**Our Heartfelt Congratulations to these Heroes and thank you for your service!**

**Quilts of Valor presentations are held at the end of each CoffeeHaus. We encourage you to stay and watch, as it is a solemn and touching ceremony.**

**Quilts of Valor Ladies will again be awarding quilts in December to Veterans touched by war.**

**Wrapped in their very own Quilt of Valor, veterans across the nation have been receiving tangible gifts of love and appreciation from quilters since this nationwide grassroots program started in 2003. To date, more than 106,000 patriotic quilts -- representing the prayers, healing thoughts and gratefulness of their makers, have been presented to veterans who have served their nation.**

**The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to "cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." Quilts are awarded at many different levels: they may go to military hospitals where chaplains award them to service members; they may be awarded to entire service units returning from deployments; they may be awarded at veterans homes or they may be awarded individually.**

# **Lincoln Veterans Parade**

## **November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**





## Veterans Parade (Continued)





## **Nebraska Soldier Identified**



CW3 LARRY ALFRED  
ZICH



On October 25, 2022, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Larry A. Zich, missing from the Vietnam War.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zich entered the U.S. Army from Nebraska and served in the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 37th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade.

On April 3, 1972, he was the copilot of a UH-1H Iroquois (tail number 68-16330, call sign "Cavalier 70") with a crew of four that departed Marble Mountain, Da Nang, South Vietnam, on a combat support mission to Quang Tri City, South Vietnam.

During the flight, the pilot told a Hue/Phu Bai Ground Control Approach (GCA) controller that he was lost, and believed they were near Quang Tri. Following the transmission, the GCA controller could not locate the helicopter on the radar and reported the team missing. When the helicopter failed to appear at any of the air bases in South Vietnam, an aerial search was initiated but found no sign of the missing aircraft or crew.

On April 11, 1988, the Defense Intelligence Agency received human remains from a Vietnamese refugee. Reportedly, the remains belonged to individuals who died in an aircraft crash and were buried in Quang Nam Province. These remains were then sent to Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established an association between one set of these remains and CW3 Zich.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zich is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

## **Medal Of Honor Recipient, L/Cpl. Miguel Keith**



**For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Combined Action Platoon 1-3-2.**

**During the early morning L/Cpl. Keith was seriously wounded when his platoon was subjected to a heavy ground attack by a greatly outnumbering enemy force. Despite his painful wounds, he ran across the fire-swept terrain to check the security of vital defensive positions and then, while completely exposed to view, proceeded to deliver a hail of devastating machine-gun fire against the enemy. Determined to stop five of the enemy soldiers approaching the command post, he rushed forward, firing as he advanced. He succeeded in disposing of three of the attackers and in dispersing the remaining two.**

**At this point, a grenade detonated near L/Cpl. Keith, knocking him to the ground and inflicting further severe wounds. Fighting pain and weakness from loss of blood, he again braved the concentrated hostile fire to charge an estimated 25 enemy soldiers who were massing to attack.**

**The vigor of his assault and his well-placed fire eliminated four of the enemy soldiers while the remainder fled for cover. During this valiant effort, he was mortally wounded by an enemy soldier.**

**By his courageous and inspiring performance in the face of almost overwhelming odds, L/Cpl. Keith contributed in large measure to the success of his platoon in routing a numerically superior enemy force, and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the U.S. Naval Service.**

# The Forgotten Story of Christmas 1918

We remember the 1914 Christmas Truce as a moment of humanity amid war. Four years later, a darker tale unfolded.



Rummaging for food in Berlin during World War I. Credit: [Heritage Images/Getty Images](#)

By Mary Elisabeth Cox

It's a famous tale, and largely a true one: On Christmas 1914, five months into the First World War, groups of German and British troops along the Belgian and French border put down their weapons of war and held unofficial cease-fires. Men sang Christmas carols across the trenches on Christmas Eve, and on Christmas Day, some were brave enough to rise out of their trenches and walk into no man's land to meet their enemies in person.

Photographs recall that day, as do concerned letters from higher-ups, instructing their men not to meet with the enemy. But the soldiers disobeyed orders; they shook hands, and shared cigarettes and other treats. (They may have even played soccer, though the evidence for such pop-up pitches is scant.) They also buried their dead together, taking care of the corpses trapped between the two lines that had been too dangerous to move during the fighting. The respite from bloodshed these soldiers chose was fleeting, and within days they had returned to their respective trenches and borders, and to fighting.

We recall that day in books, documentaries and films because, a century later, it still offers hope that even in our darkest hours, our common humanity overcomes our best efforts to destroy it. Hope prevails, goodness triumphs — even if just for a moment.

But there is another, less uplifting Christmas story from the Great War, one that undermines the sort of hopes that the 1914 tale elicits. This one took place four years later, just weeks after the Germans surrendered. By that point some 20 million soldiers and civilians on all sides had died from the fighting and its side effects, including rampant starvation in Germany brought on by the Allied blockade. The cruel but effective logic held that depriving civilians of food would make public support for the war collapse.



## **(1918 – Continued)**

When the German delegates signed the Armistice papers on Nov. 11, 1918, they asked the Allies to lift the blockade, which was maintained primarily by Britain and overseen by a multilateral group called the Inter-Allied Blockade Council. Civilians in Germany were hungry, and the flu had killed many. The Allies agreed to “contemplate the provisioning of Germany,” but would not agree to lift the blockade at that time.

By late December, winter had settled in, Christmas was approaching — and still no foreign food had been allowed into Germany. The final peace had not yet been signed, and some Allied leaders feared that the Germans could start fighting again. And there were plenty of hungry people outside of Germany: Why should enemies be fed before allies and neutrals were taken care of? Especially when so much of their own suffering and hunger was a direct result of German aggression?

While animus was understandably strong against Germany, there were still those who wanted to help them. President Woodrow Wilson sent a letter to the other top Allied leaders on Dec. 15, asking them to relax the blockade, and to allow neutral countries to trade food to enemies.

At the same time, the future president Herbert Hoover, then in charge of American food aid to Europe, devised a scheme to export pork to Scandinavia. As there would be no legal restrictions on re-exporting, it could then be shipped to Germany.

On Christmas Eve, the Allied governments approved Wilson’s request through the blockade council, and on Christmas Day Hoover wrote to Ira Morris, the American ambassador to Sweden, with the news: “It is our first movement towards feeding Germany.”

It seemed, for a moment, that the spirit of 1914 had returned — two sides, still technically at war, overcome by their common humanity.

But in fact, the opposite happened. Within days, the European allies soured on the idea, and canceled the agreement before a single pound of pork could get through. The exact reasons are unknown, but they are not hard to imagine: The allies, especially France and Britain, were simply too embittered by the war to see Germans, even children and other civilians, as anything except the enemy. The same desire to punish Germany infused the Treaty of Versailles, several months later.

In the meantime, untold thousands of Germans died that winter, people who might have been saved had Wilson and Hoover prevailed. The blockade on foodstuffs was not lifted until July 12, 1919, after Germany had signed the Versailles treaty.

The lesson is a simple one. There are no better angels standing by to overcome us, at Christmas or any other time. We choose. There was nothing predetermined about the Christmas 1914 truce — or, for that matter, the 1918 blockade extension.

If the Christmas 1914 story reminds us about the importance of choosing to see past our momentary hatreds, the Christmas 1918 story reminds us how hard that can be, especially when it requires forgiveness — of all the virtues, one of the most beautiful to receive and the most difficult to offer, but perhaps the most important in this world of ours.



## POST ACTION ALERT



**Commanders and Adjutants: Please disseminate this American Legion Action Alert to Post members and affiliates.**

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**Legionnaires:**

From protecting borders and Capitals to delivering pandemic aid and supporting local law enforcement, members of our National Guard and Reserve have been challenged over the past three years like never before. Yet despite being there for us when we needed them the most, they are too often denied access to GI Bill benefits. Before the end of the year, let's have the Senate deliver a victory on their behalf.

### **[Tell Your Senators to Grant GI Bill Eligibility to our National Guard Now](#)**

The National Guard is facing tens of thousands in manpower shortages over the next couple of years amidst increasing calls from governors for help during times of emergencies. Our troops that get stretched to the limit serving our communities deserve the same GI Bill benefits as their Active Duty counterparts, and it is past time for Congress to provide it to them. H.R. 1836, the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act would address this benefits disparity by counting Title 32 orders and active duty training towards GI Bill eligibility.

The House of Representatives has passed this legislation, but *time is running out for the Senate to bring it to a vote*. Please urge your Senators to stand with our National Guard and Reserve servicemembers [by visiting this link](#).

We appreciate your support for our newest generation of veterans.



# Lincoln VAG eAlert

A New Message from Your Veterans Advisory Group!

## IT WAS NOT THE END!!

*A Special Message From Bruce...*



**TOGETHER, I THINK WE SAVED COFFEEHAUS!**

See Details on Our November CoffeeHaus below...

**Bruce Trautwein, Chair  
Veterans Advisory Group**



**THANK  
YOU  
ALL...**

Because we have many caring folks that spread the word about the possible cancelation, we had 106 folks attend CoffeeHaus on Friday, November 18th! We were both astonished and pleased at the response!

As long as we can keep getting the attendance we had on Friday, we can keep going with CoffeeHaus!

Hope to see you at the next CoffeeHaus on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 _____ (First) (Initial) (Last)	Recruited by _____ (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**



## 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**

LEGION ACT

(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 Commander for approval. All requests must be received one week before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**



