



“For God And Country”
February 2022 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meeting Schedule For February 2022 – March 2022

Organization	Location	Time	February	March
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	6:30 PM	02/08/22	03/08/22
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7:00 PM	02/08/22	03/08/22
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84th	7:00 PM	02/10/22	03/10/22
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	02/17/22	03/17/22
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7:00 PM	02/15/22	03/15/22
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7:00 PM	02/15/22	03/15/22
8 & 40 Salon 92	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	3:15 PM	02/17/22	03/17/22
Buddy Check	The Foundry, 211 N 14th	7:00 PM	02/22/22	03/22/22
VA Coffeehaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	02/18/22	03/18/22

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaires,

Last weekend I had the opportunity to attend Saturday's session of the Department's Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. At these conferences there are always many interesting guest speakers in attendance. Department Commander, Dan Benes had invited the Kansas State Commander, Marri Krupco to attend and offer a few words to those assembled. Marri shared a message for the Vietnam and Afghan era veterans in attendance.

Marri had the honor to attend the opening ceremony of the moving Vietnam wall in Kansas this summer and was invited to speak. She had rehearsed her speech and thought she was ready until she saw that wall with all those names on it. She thought about the hundreds of thousands of Americans who were affected by that war. The names were obvious, the Gold Star families were obvious. But the ones that made it home were the ones that a lot of Americans tried to forget.

After American troops fought for more than 14 years, Saigon fell on April 30, 1975. More than 58,000 Americans died in that war and hundreds of thousands more were wounded physically or mentally or both. When Saigon fell, veterans and Gold Star families were wondering, "Was it all for nothing."

It is said that those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. On August 15, 2021, Kabul fell after more than 20 years of fighting in Afghanistan. Now the young Afghan veterans and Gold Star families are asking themselves the same question, "Was it all for nothing." We can understand their frustrations and they have every right to be frustrated about the outcome of these two events.

Her message to those veterans and their families was, "No – it was not for nothing." What those veterans did mattered. Their sacrifices of life and limb mattered. The time away from family and friends was not a waste. Not everything that happened in these countries was bad. They were a positive influence on thousands of civilians. Their presence and expertise allowed the civilians opportunities they would never have experienced.

The Vietnam and Afghan veterans can hold their heads high if they followed their superiors' lawful orders. They did what their country asked of them. Thank you for your service!

On another note: On Tuesday, February 8, 2022, District 15 will be holding their annual District Convention. This meeting will replace the normal Post 3 monthly meeting. It will start at 6:30 at the Elks Lodge #80. At this convention, we will have nominations for District 15 Commander and Vice Commander and delegates to the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will also confirm the place, date, and times for the Oratorical Contest, Junior Law Cadet interviews, Boys State Orientation, and the next District 15 Convention. A number of visiting Legionnaires and candidates for state offices will also be present.

I hope to see you there.

For God and Country,

**Gerry Wolf
Post 3 Commander**

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



A BIG THANK YOU to those who have renewed for 2022. But we need your help. Renewals were very slow during January. We need sixty-seven new or renewals to meet the next National goal, 85%. National shows that as of today, 1096 paid for 2022.

We look forward seeing you at the Post 3 meeting February 8th, 2022. This will be our annual District 15 meeting. Come early, as the meeting will start about 1830 hours. Dinner will be served early, starting about 1745 hours. If you wish to meet your Department and National officers, and those running for election this year, this is the meeting to come to.

As a VSO, Veteran's Service Organization, we are called upon to help with these Military Honors. We receive many questions as to why we fire three shots? Where or how does a family request a burial flag?

For those that have never attended an American military funeral, it can be difficult to understand all the different honors and traditions involved.

Funeral honors and traditions differ for each member of the military depending on whether the deceased was active duty, retired, or a veteran; what rank they were; and what branch of the military they served in.

One thing that is common among many of these funerals, however, is that gun salutes are involved. But many don't understand how they are performed, the difference between the types of salutes, or why the salutes started in the first place.

Three-Volley Salutes:

The gun salute that is performed at most military funerals and some police funerals is called a three-volley salute, which represents duty, honor, and country. The salute is performed by a rifle party from the Honor Guard, usually consisting of three, five, or seven members.

During the salute, the rifle party aims their rifles in a direction over the casket and fires blank cartridges into the air three times in unison. Taps, the bugle call played at military funerals, is typically played directly following the three-volley salute.

This custom originates from the European dynastic wars — battles would cease, and then after the dead and wounded were removed from the battlefield and cared for, three shots were fired into the air to signal that the battle could resume.

(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)

The three-volley salute we see at military funerals is sometimes mistaken for a 21-gun salute, especially if there are seven members present in the rifle party. While seven rifles shooting three times does equate to 21 shots, it is not the same salute.

21-Gun Salutes:

One major difference is that a 21-gun salute is typically performed with cannons rather than rifles, and the cannons are fired 21 times rather than three times.

The other major difference is that 21-gun salutes are reserved only for the President of the United States, former presidents, presidents-elect, chiefs of state, heads of government, and reigning monarchs. They are saluted upon their arrival, and only at funerals in the case of a U.S. presidential death.

The 21-gun salute also is sometimes performed during national holidays such as Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Variants of the 21-gun salute are performed for other members of government or military — for example, a 19-gun salute is performed like a 21-gun salute for the Vice President of the United States, Chief Justice of the United States, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and many others. There also are 17-gun, 15-gun, 13-gun, 11-gun, 7-gun, and 5-gun salutes.

The history behind a 21-gun salute also is a bit different than the history behind the three-volley salute. The salute was first used by ships who were coming to shore and wanted to show that they meant no harm by discharging their cannons seven times.

Eventually, once this practice caught on, cannons on land would return the salute by firing three shots for every shot the ship discharged. This is how the 21-gun salute was born.

Burial Flags: They are provided by the US Government at no cost. The funeral home will (or should) provide the flag as part of their services. The funeral home gets them from the US Postal Service, who gets them from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This is why there is a need for the DD214. It is the proof of military service provided to the member as he/she leaves active duty. If you are not using a funeral home's services, you can request a burial flag at the following link.

<https://www.leafcremationohio.com/content/media/...>

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

**Ed Schnabel
Adjutant**

LINCOLN CBOC/VA NEWS



VA System ID Cards: If by chance 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. 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 this link: www.myhealth.va.gov.

My Healthy Vet: 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 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 for My Healthy Vet 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 Healthy Vet Account. To upgrade your account, you need to be authenticated. This only take a minute, just stop in and visit with the staff.

Unwanted Drug disposal: If you have old meds that you want to dispose 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.

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 22nd of the month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Foundry, 14th and P, downtown. Come and meet with your fellow veterans for free food and a drink.

Lastly, 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. Details are still being worked out. This is another way to volunteer, but without having to come to a clinic or hospital to do so.

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

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

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 Legion Family,

At our January meeting, Post 3 Commander Gerry Wolf installed our Chapter 3 American Legion Rider officers for 2022. Installed were:

**Bruce Gubser, Director
Neil Larson, Assistant Director
Mike Streeter, Secretary
David Dietz, Treasurer
Ride Captain, William Smisek
Sergeant-at-Arms, Robert Underwood**

I want to thank Gerry for being our installing officer, and I also want to thank all those Riders who stepped up for leadership positions in our organization. Like any organization, it is only as strong and viable as those who are willing to contribute to the success of the organization. I thank each of you for the part you play in making our Chapter a success.

We were also honored, at our January meeting, to be recognized by the UNL chapter of Student Veterans of America for our monetary contribution to their primary fundraising effort. The chapter was presented a signed game football.



SAVE THE DATE! We selected Saturday, September 24th, as the date for our poker run fundraising event. The route has been set, beginning at Frontier Harley-Davidson, with stops in Ashland, Ceresco, Branched Oak, and ending at the Denton Legion Club. Anyone on two-, three-, or four-wheels can participate. We have not yet selected the charity that our proceeds will support, but rest assured it will be an organization that provides services to veterans.

Your American Legion Riders continue to participate in a number of events honoring our fallen, most notably at a recent funeral of a veteran who died without family nearby. I thank those who were able to honor the service of our veteran brother.

**Until next time,
Ride (and drive) Safe!**

**Bruce Gubser
Director, Chapter 3
American Legion Riders**



Message From The Voiture 103 Chef de Gare



In my last article (Jan. 2022) I told you how easy it is to join Voiture #103: You simply tell one of our current members of your interest and we will take it from there. I know you will be glad you did.

At our January meeting we enjoyed a delicious homemade (cooked by Steve and Lorene Bartos) dinner and welcomed 4 new Voiture # 103 members. They were welcomed and appreciated by all.

Steve Bartos and I received 100% Membership awards from Voiture Nationale. Thanks to all for making that happen. This meeting started about 7:15PM and adjourned about 8:00 PM after all business pending was completed.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15th. at the Lincoln Elks Lodge. Dinner will be ready at 6:30PM and the 40/8 meeting starts at 7:00PM.

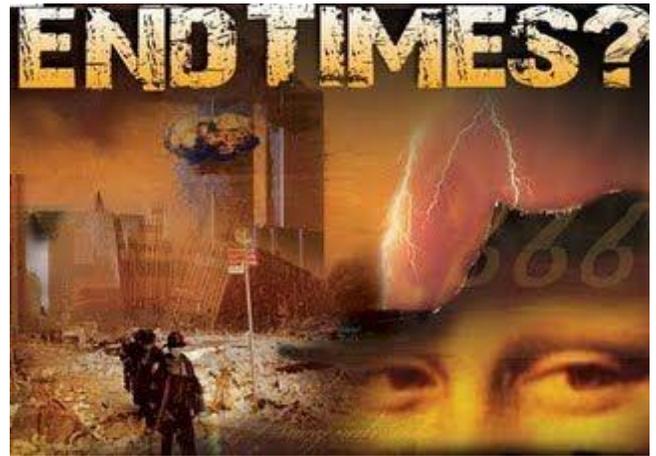
Respectfully,

Wade Graft

**Chef de Gare
Voiture #103
402-770-9126**

The Chaplain's Remarks

New Year



It is just that. A new time. A new day. Even a new period to not only set things straight, but renew rightful efforts to be the person you shoulda-coulda-woulda been...if not for...what....?

Why can't any of us take stock of where we are, in order to know where to go to complete the mission God put us on earth to do? Oh! You didn't know you were on a mission, maybe...something like a Marta Hari, James Bond, or John Wick? Maybe you'd rather be a part of America's Seal Teams, a Ranger, a Green Beret, or other "black ops" operative? But God's mission for you—when ever you decide to accept it—is to love Him so you may love your fellow human beings (Isaiah 6:8).

The *Protoevangelium* (Greek), or first Gospel (Genesis 3:15), issued in the age of *Agiasmos* (Greek), sanctification, allowed us to be holy/set apart from the sinful socio-cultures and socio-economies of this fallen world. You CAN NOT walk/ behave Christ-like/Christian without Jesus in your hearts. In other words, God sets us free to do His will by accepting His incarnation-birth-life-death-resurrection saga so that through us our fellow humans see God in action (Romans 12:1).

So what might be a good effort on your part to be holy (i.e., live apart from the world's sinfulness) this year, knowing that the Lord is NOW dishing out PART of His Judgment to our sinful world, and yes, involving His church, too, to get your attention (Ezra 7:26)? How much more Judgment will it take from our loving Lord, much like our parents did with us, to urge us to be the church God called you to be?

There may not be more time left, for you know that our troubles have been accelerated by little anti-Christ's here and abroad setting the stage for the Satan-filled Anti-Christ to rule out of Europe. Please check into Eschatology studies (i.e., end times prophesies) to further comprehend our current woe, and of what comes next, especially for America.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson

Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3

Post 3 Honor Guard



Funeral of Donald Gross, a Lincoln fire investigator, bomb technician and military helicopter pilot.



Irvin Brown's funeral. It was reported that he had no family. However, 200 people attended his funeral and 100, his burial.

In the month of January, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 17 Legion funerals and was asked to assist at 7 VFW funerals. We also provided a Color Guard for the NARD legislative conference in Lincoln.



Post 3 TAPS - January 2022

LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Kenneth Beason	Korea	USAF	57
Richard J. Carlson	Vietnam	ARMY	42
Gorden D. French	Korea	USAF	33
Donald G. Gross	Persian Gulf	USAF	27
Merwyn A. Nyquist	WW II	UNK	62
Billy L. Pease	WW II	NAVY	48
Jan R. Perrin	Korea	ARMY	48
Jack A. Reighard	Korea	ARMY	14
Leo G. Shields	WW II	ARMY	37
Roger L. Svatos, Sr.	Vietnam	ARMY	43
Marvin G. Wulf	Korea	ARMY	62

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 and also on ZOOM
January 11, 2022**

Commander Gerry Wolf opened the January 11, 2022 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 20 Legionnaires present. The meeting was also being made available on Zoom.

Steve Bartos read the minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting; and they were approved with the correction of the membership number from 1104 to 1004.

Adjutant / Finance Officer Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2021 showing a balance on hand of \$46,684.07. The report was filed for review.

Commander Wolf recognized visiting Legionnaire Ken Fry, who had moved to Lincoln from Rushville. Ken indicated that he had served in the Seabees after being commissioned through the Naval ROTC program at the University of Nebraska. Ken may transfer to Post 3.

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

Robert Selig was introduced. He passed out information and gave a short talk about the Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court Program. Bob indicated they were always looking for veterans to be mentors to the veterans enrolled in the program.

Riders Director Bruce Gubser reported for the American Legion Riders. Bruce indicated that the chapter would meet on the third Thursday and install officers.

Bruce also mentioned the post's birthday card program currently serving about 200 veterans in eight senior living facilities. He said there were cards at the back of the room that needed to be signed.

Dr. Jackson discussed patriotism in his Americanism report.

SAL Squadron 3 Commander Brendan Moore reported that the squadron was at 93% of their membership goal and had donated \$500 to the Friendship Home.

In regard to publicity, Bartos indicated that he and Wade Graft had briefly discussed the idea of distributing the Lincoln Legionnaire to those who might want to receive it that way. Most costs associated with the production of the paper for those who cannot or do not want to receive the paper by email would remain the same, but there could be a small savings in postage. Bartos indicated he would consider putting some kind of survey in the next issue.

Bartos also reported for Boys State. Donors and the school counselors have been contacted with information for the 2022 session.

Commander Wolf read a POW / MIA report provided by Wes Newton and also reported for the Memorial Squad.

Information was presented on the District 15 Convention, which will be held in conjunction with the February 8th Post 3 meeting. The meeting starts 30 minutes earlier than normal (6:30), and the Elks will start serving food at 5:15. A number of visiting Legionnaires and candidates for state offices can be expected.

It was announced that the Coffeehaus and Buddy Check for January have been cancelled. Mention was also made that the American Legion's Mid-Year Conference will take place in Columbus on January 22-23. Committee meetings and the Department Executive Committee meeting will take place on Friday the 21st.

Post 3 membership was reported at 1059.

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

Steve Bartos, Recorder

Veterans Treatment Court Mentors Wanted

Veterans Treatment Courts are an alternate route through the criminal justice system for nonviolent drug-related offenders, which utilizes a specialized team process that functions within the existing court structure. The courts are designed to achieve a reduction in the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend and substance use among individuals with substance use disorders. The court's goal is to protect public safety and increase the participant's likelihood of successful rehabilitation by utilizing validated risk and need assessments, early and individualized behavioral health treatment, frequent and random chemical testing, incentives, sanctions, and other rehabilitative services. For the Veterans Treatment Court graduate, the ceremony marks the completion of an intensive program of comprehensive mental health treatment, intensive community supervision, and full accountability.

A Veteran Mentor from the Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court presented an update at the January meeting. As a part of the update, the Veterans Treatment Court is looking for additional Veteran Mentors to help justice involved Veterans who are participating in the Court. The Court's Veteran Mentor program is an essential component of the Court. Veteran Mentors are assigned to a Veteran participating in the program. The Mentor role is to serve as a "coach", guide, or advisor to the Veterans in the program and encourage them to meet the requirements of the Court. A Mentor's commitment is approximately 2 hours per week.

Participants include Judge Robert Otte, Judge John Colborn, Major General Daryl L. Bohac, Nebraska National Guard, Sandra Miller, Veteran Justice Outreach with Veterans Affairs, and Jim Cada, Vietnam veteran/attorney.

Any Veteran interested in possibly volunteering to serve other Veterans in the role of a VTC Mentor may contact Bob Selig, Veteran Mentor, by email: rfselig@gmail.com or 517-282-3506.

Bob Selig

Robert F. Selig AAE
Veteran Mentor
Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court
7901 Hacienda Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516
517-282-3506
rfselig@gmail.com



2022 DISTRICT 15 CONVENTION CALL

In conformity with the Department Constitution and Bylaws, the annual District Convention for 2022 is hereby called and will be as follows:

**District 15 will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at:
Lincoln Elks Lodge, 5910 South 58th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516**

PURPOSE

This convention is called for the purpose of electing District Commanders and other District officers where there are vacancies, selecting the place of the next District Convention, and for transaction of such other business as may be brought before this meeting.

Article VI, Section 3, of the Department Bylaws stipulates that Department delegates to the National Convention shall be chosen at the District Convention or at a District Caucus to be held at the Department Convention. The election process, as adopted by the Department Executive Committee, is as follows: Any member seeking election as an accredited delegate of his or her District shall file for election as a delegate. The persons receiving the most votes will be elected delegates in descending order as will the designated number of alternates.

REPRESENTATION

Representation in the Conventions shall be held by Posts. Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates plus one delegate for each 100 Members or major portion thereof based on the total previous year's (2021) membership of that Post, and in addition thereto, the Post Commander and Post Adjutant shall be delegates at large. Delegates shall be chosen by the various Posts in the same manner as they were chosen for the State Convention. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

(District 15 Convention Call – Continued)

The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present from the Post. No credential cards for delegates will be furnished from Department Headquarters.

ALTERNATES

Each Post is entitled to send and to seat in the Convention a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which each Post is entitled. Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of regular delegates.

GUESTS

Each delegation may have as guests such members of The American Legion as they see fit to invite. All business sessions of all conventions are open to the public.

REGISTRATION

All delegates will be required to register at a place to be designated.

By authority of:

Attest:

Dave Salak

Department Adjutant

Dan Benes

Department Commander

Enemies become friends, Charlie Brown & Franz Stigler

The 21-year old American B-17 pilot glanced outside his cockpit and froze. He blinked hard and looked again, hoping it was just a mirage. But his co-pilot stared at the same horrible vision. "My God, this is a nightmare," the co-pilot said. "He's going to destroy us," the pilot agreed.

The men were looking at a gray German Messerschmitt fighter hovering just three feet off their wingtip. It was five days before Christmas 1943, and the fighter had closed in on their crippled American B-17 bomber for the kill.

The B-17 pilot, Charles Brown, was a 21-year-old West Virginia farm boy on his first combat mission. His bomber had been shot to pieces by swarming fighters, and his plane was alone, struggling to stay in the skies above Germany. Half his crew was wounded, and the tail gunner was dead, his blood frozen in icicles over the machine guns.

But when Brown and his co-pilot, Spencer "Pinky" Luke, looked at the fighter pilot again, something odd happened. The German didn't pull the trigger. He stared back at the bomber in amazement and respect. Instead of pressing the attack, he nodded at Brown and saluted. What happened next was one of the most remarkable acts of chivalry recorded during World War II.

Charles Brown was on his first combat mission during World War II when he met an enemy unlike any other. Revenge, not honor, is what drove 2nd Lt. Franz Stigler to jump into his fighter that chilly December day in 1943. Stigler wasn't just any fighter pilot. He was an ace. One more kill and he would win The Knight's Cross, German's highest award for valor.

Yet Stigler was driven by something deeper than glory. His older brother, August, was a fellow Luftwaffe pilot who had been killed earlier in the war. American pilots had killed Stigler's comrades and were bombing his country's cities. Stigler was standing near his fighter on a German airbase when he heard a bomber's engine. Looking up, he saw a B-17 flying so low it looked like it was going to land. As the bomber disappeared behind some trees, Stigler tossed his cigarette aside, saluted a ground crewman and took off in pursuit.

As Stigler's fighter rose to meet the bomber, he decided to attack it from behind. He climbed behind the sputtering bomber, squinted into his gun sight and placed his hand on the trigger. He was about to fire when he hesitated. Stigler was baffled. No one in the bomber fired at him.

(Friends – Continued)

He looked closer at the tail gunner. He was still, his white fleece collar soaked with blood. Stigler craned his neck to examine the rest of the bomber. Its skin had been peeled away by shells, its guns knocked out. One propeller wasn't turning. Smoke trailed from another engine. He could see men huddled inside the shattered plane tending the wounds of other crewmen.

Then he nudged his plane alongside the bomber's wings and locked eyes with the pilot whose eyes were wide with shock and horror. Stigler pressed his hand over the rosary he kept in his flight jacket. He eased his index finger off the trigger. He couldn't shoot. It would be murder.

Stigler wasn't just motivated by vengeance that day. He also lived by a code. He could trace his family's ancestry to knights in 16th century Europe . He had once studied to be a priest. A German pilot who spared the enemy, though, risked death in Nazi Germany. If someone reported him, he would be executed.

Yet Stigler could also hear the voice of his commanding officer, who once told him: "You follow the rules of war for you -- not your enemy. You fight by rules to keep your humanity."

Alone with the crippled bomber, Stigler changed his mission. He nodded at the American pilot and began flying in formation so German anti-aircraft gunners on the ground wouldn't shoot down the slow-moving bomber. (The Luftwaffe had B-17s of its own, shot down and rebuilt for secret missions and training.) Stigler escorted the bomber over the North Sea and took one last look at the American pilot. Then he saluted him, peeled his fighter away and returned to Germany.

"Good luck," Stigler said to himself. "You're in God's hands now..." Franz Stigler didn't think the big B-17 could make it back to England and wondered for years what happened to the American pilot and crew he encountered in combat.

As he watched the German fighter peel away that December day, 2nd Lt. Charles Brown wasn't thinking of the philosophical connection between enemies. He was thinking of survival. He flew his crippled plane, filled with wounded, back to his base in England and landed with one of four engines knocked out, one failing and barely any fuel left. After his bomber came to a stop, he leaned back in his chair and put a hand over a pocket Bible he kept in his flight jacket. Then he sat in silence.

Brown flew more missions before the war ended. Life moved on. He got married, had two daughters, supervised foreign aid for the U.S. State Department during the Vietnam War and eventually retired to Florida

(Friends – Continued)

Late in life, though, the encounter with the German pilot began to gnaw at him. He started having nightmares, but in his dream there would be no act of mercy. He would awaken just before his bomber crashed.

Brown took on a new mission. He had to find that German pilot. Who was he? Why did he save my life? He scoured military archives in the U.S. and England. He attended a pilots' reunion and shared his story. He finally placed an ad in a German newsletter for former Luftwaffe pilots, retelling the story and asking if anyone knew the pilot.

On January 18, 1990, Brown received a letter. He opened it and read: "Dear Charles, All these years I wondered what happened to that B-17, did she make it home? Did her crew survive their wounds? To hear of your survival has filled me with indescribable joy..."

It was Stigler.

He had left Germany after the war and moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, in 1953. He became a prosperous businessman. Now retired, Stigler told Brown that he would be in Florida come summer and "it sure would be nice to talk about our encounter." Brown was so excited, though, that he couldn't wait to see Stigler. He called directory assistance for Vancouver and asked whether there was a number for a Franz Stigler. He dialed the number, and Stigler picked up.

"My God, it's you!" Brown shouted as tears ran down his cheeks. Brown had to do more. He wrote a letter to Stigler in which he said: "To say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU on behalf of my surviving crewmembers and their families appears totally inadequate."

One of Brown's friends was there to record the summer reunion. Both men looked like retired businessmen: they were plump, sporting neat ties and formal shirts. They fell into each other's arms and wept and laughed. They talked about their encounter in a light, jovial tone.

The mood then changed. Someone asked Stigler what he thought about Brown. Stigler sighed and his square jaw tightened. He began to fight back tears before he said in heavily accented English: "I love you, Charlie."

Stigler had lost his brother, his friends and his country. He was virtually exiled by his countrymen after the war. There were 28,000 pilots who fought for the German air force. Only 1,200 survived.

(Friends – Continued)

The war cost him everything. Charlie Brown was the only good thing that came out of World War II for Franz. It was the one thing he could be proud of. The meeting helped Brown as well, says his oldest daughter, Dawn Warner.

Brown and Stigler became pals. They would take fishing trips together. They would fly cross-country to each other homes and take road trips together to share their story at schools and veterans' reunions. Their wives, Jackie Brown and Hiya Stigler, became friends.

Brown's daughter says her father would worry about Stigler's health and constantly check in on him.

"It wasn't just for show," she says. "They really did feel for each other. They talked about once a week." As his friendship with Stigler deepened, something else happened to her father, Warner says "The nightmares went away."

Brown had written a letter of thanks to Stigler, but one day, he showed the extent of his gratitude. He organized a reunion of his surviving crew members, along with their extended families. He invited Stigler as a guest of honor.

During the reunion, a video was played showing all the faces of the people that now lived -- children, grandchildren, relatives -- because of Stigler's act of chivalry. Stigler watched the film from his seat of honor.

"Everybody was crying, not just him," Warner says.

Stigler and Brown died within months of each other in 2008. Stigler was 92, and Brown was 87. They had started off as enemies, became friends, and then something more.

After he died, Warner was searching through Brown's library when she came across a book on German fighter jets. Stigler had given the book to Brown. Both were country boys who loved to read about planes.

Warner opened the book and saw an inscription Stigler had written to Brown:

In 1940, I lost my only brother as a night fighter. On the 20th of December, 4 days before Christmas, I had the chance to save a B-17 from her destruction, a plane so badly damaged it was a wonder that she was still flying. The pilot, Charlie Brown, is for me as precious as my brother was.

Thanks Charlie.

Your Brother,

Franz...



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

Become a Member of The American Legion

Do you want to help your community and fellow Veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion? Would you want to help recruit a new member? If you can certify that you served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably, you are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$46.00 to:

American Legion Post 3

123 South 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) (Date of Birth)

(Mailing Address) (Phone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

(E-mail) Male Female (Gender) (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.
Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	



30-009 _____ Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter

To renew or transfer to Post 3, you only need to sign below and mail this and a check for \$46 made out to "American Legion Post 3" to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 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



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

Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

<https://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 1st of the month.

