



**“For God and Country”**

**FEBRUARY 2024 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meetings For February 2024**

<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>02/13/24</b>
<b>Auxiliary Unit 3</b>	<b>Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>02/13/24</b>
<b>SAL Squadron 3</b>	<b>Post 3 Office, 123 S 84<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>02/08/24</b>
<b>ALR Chapter 3</b>	<b>Denton Legion Club</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>02/15/24</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>02/20/24</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>02/20/24</b>
<b>8 &amp; 40 Salon 92</b>	<b>VFW 3606, 3340 West A St</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>02/15/24</b>
<b>Buddy Check</b>	<b>Rock-n-Joe, 5025 Lindburg St</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>02/22/24</b>
<b>CoffeeHaus</b>	<b>Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>02/16/24</b>

## **Commander's Call**



Last month, I had the pleasure of telling you about our wonderful Post 3 Honor Guard.

This month, I thought I'd answer a few questions about military funerals.

The rendering of military funeral honors is one very special and moving way that we demonstrate the nation's gratitude to those who have faithfully defended and served our country, whether it had been during peace or war. It is the final tribute provided to the veteran by his comrades, his brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

By law, and when requested, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran consisting of at least two members of the armed forces will be dispatched to the funeral. At least one member of the detail will be a representative of the veteran's service branch.

The honor guard detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the playing of Taps and the folding and presenting of the burial American Flag to the next of kin, or another designated individual. Taps will be played by a live bugler when available, or by a ceremonial electronic bugle.

A veteran's service organization, VSO, (such as The American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.) may augment the military detail by providing additional elements, such as a rifle volley or pallbearers. Families of eligible veterans may request military funeral honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate military service to arrange for the funeral honors detail.

The military service will request that the family provide a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), or other supporting discharge information, in order to verify eligibility. Please note that a deceased veteran does not need to be a member of Post 3 or any other VSO to receive a military funeral.

It is important if you desire a military funeral, you or your family will need to locate your DD214, or other documents verifying your eligibility. It is also important that the person planning your funeral know the location of those documents. If you can't locate the appropriate documents, you may request a copy by contacting the Military National Personnel Record Center, ([www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html)), or your local VA office for assistance.

**(Commander's Call – Continued)**

**You can also contact your County Veterans Service Officer if you have previously filed a copy of your discharge with the county. They may have your discharge on file depending on when and where you entered or separated from service.**

**You can use the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs online DD-214 request form to see if they can locate a copy to provide to you by visiting this link:**

**<https://nebraska.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7ed59c632774bcfb0ff3e470a&id=e261f348e9&e=c29001735a>**

**Who is eligible for military funeral honors? Military members on active duty and military retirees, veterans who were separated under conditions other than dishonorable, and members and former members of the selected reserve.**

**If you have any more questions, you may contact Gerry Wolf by email [Gerrywolf@aol.com](mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com), or phone 402-417-8230, or call the Post 3 office, 402-466-3958. We will be glad to help.**

**Again, thank you for your service to our country. You have earned the respect and honor from your nation.**

**February for Post 3 means that in addition to our regular meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the meeting will also serve as our District 15 Convention. Several Department officers and candidates for office are expected to attend. We will be electing a new District 15 Commander and Vice Commander. Please try to make it priority to attend. Not all Legionnaires attend state conventions, and even fewer attend national conventions. The district meeting is typically the largest American Legion meeting the average member ever attends. That meeting will begin 30 minutes early at 6:30 PM. I 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, wherever they may be dispersed, in your thoughts and prayers as well.**

**For God and Country,**

**Bruce Gubser  
Post 3 Commander**

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



We currently stand at 1006 paid Post 3 members. That's just under 91% of our goal of 1107: During January we had 16 by mail, 14 online, and 1 transfer. Let's keep those renewals coming in during February.

If you have not received your 2024 membership card and have sent a payment, please let us know. Mail does get lost or damaged, going both ways. We try to get cards out within a day or two of receipt of payment.

Nebraska Life members account for 53 members, PUFL (Paid up for Life) members account for 121. PUFL members if you have not received your 2024 cards let me know. They are mailed out by the National HQ's during July 2023.

Thanks to those who have made use of the MyLegion web site to renew their membership. It is quick and easy. You can even print your own 2024 membership card. We check daily for those members who have renewed online the day before and get their 2024 membership cards in the mail the next day.

When you get your 2024 card, please check the years of service to be sure it is correct. Had many that were incorrect for 2023. If they are incorrect, please let the office know so we can get it corrected for you. This includes misspelled names, change of address, etc.

One possible reason your number of years might be off is that you happened to renew for 2023 after national had printed the 2024 membership card. Another reason might be that you might have forgotten to renew for 2023. I try to catch those who did not renew last year, to drop them a note letting them know they have lost their continuous years by not renewing.

**(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)**

**For those who might be interested, you can set up an auto renewal by using the MyLegion web site. Just a thought to those who want an easy way to remember to pay their yearly dues. One drawback is you need to have someone stop the payments when the members die.**

**The American Legion national leadership is currently working on instating a \$5.00 a year dues increase. We will keep you informed as to when it could take effect after National releases more details to the Department and the Posts.**

**We have lots of members who do not have a phone number or an email address on file. For many we also are missing branch of service, or war era. National has been printing the data that is in the Legion data base on the back of the renewal slips. Please check and correct when mailing in your renewals. Thanks**

**Memorial Services: The Honor Guard has been busy this year with memorial services and flag details. This would be a great time to review your memorial plans with the family. Locate your DD214 or other discharge papers. You have earned the right to burial in a VA cemetery or request a VA headstone for a private cemetery. You can do all this now by going to the VA web site and filling out the forms. If you need assistance, see your local service officer, or give me a call.**

**Again, Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3. Also remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service.**

**Ed Schnabel**

**Adjutant**

## **Lincoln CBOC/VA News**



**The Lincoln Clinic, is still recovering from a water pipe break. Some of the clinics have changed locations due to the water damage. When you sign in, you might be told to go to a different location for their waiting area.**

**Again, I cannot say it enough. Does your family know where you DD214 or other discharge papers are? I receive requests for help in finding them after the Veteran has died. There are three places to start if you need a replacement.**

**You can request a copy on the Department of Veterans Affairs web site. If you filed your discharge with Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, you may obtain a copy there. If you filed your discharge with the county clerk, you may get a copy there. Any of the three can provide you a copy, but it will not happen overnight. Do it now. Tell your family where to find it. It does little if they do not know where to find it. A good place is to give a copy to your funeral home and your church.**

**There are several places that can provide you with the latest and up to date information on VA benefits. The Department of Veterans Affairs website would be a good place to start. By setting up an account on this website you can gain access to almost all the VA benefits you have earned. VA loans, GI Bill, VA Disability, VA medical care, Death benefit, etc.**

**If you have not already done so, you should establish a MyHealthVet account. This account allows you to track the medical care you receive from VA Hospitals and Clinics, view your VA medical records, order refills of VA meds, track travel claims and any co-pay payments.**

**After you set up the basic account you will need to stop by a HealthVet learning center, found in many VA hospitals and clinics, to upgrade your account to a Premier account. This is the key to being able to view your medical records online from home. This step is to verify that it is you and not someone trying to gain access to your medical records. You will need to provide a photo ID to confirm your identity. Only takes a few minutes to complete. Remember to bring your sign-in signature and password.**

**Flu shots are currently being given at most VA clinics or hospitals. Covid shots are currently being given by appointment only. You need to call the clinic to schedule an appointment.**

**Express Care is 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.**

**On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, extending VA health eligibility to many veterans and expanding benefits to eligible veterans. The PACT Act expanded benefits for exposures to toxic substances. This PACT Act now PRESUMES that exposure to toxics substances caused many health problems to those who served in these theaters.**

**If you have filed a claim for Agent Orange or other toxics and it was denied, you need to file a claim update and get a new review. One of the major benefits for Vietnam veterans is that it now covers services for those who serviced in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.**

**(Lincoln CBOC/VA News – Continued)**

**This allows you to file new claims for many of your health problems without needing to prove your service there caused them. This is a major change; the VA now PRESUMES that service there is a direct cause for many health problems.**

**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.**

**Want to serve your fellow Veterans? 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's 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 when they are too young to be 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.**

**Another way to serve your fellow Veterans! Donate to a local VSO (Veteran Service Organization). From cash for purchasing food for a special meal, or car repairs, etc. Most local VSO would welcome a donation so they could give more to those who have given so much.**

**If you are thinking of filing a VA claim for a VA disability, be sure to use a Service Officer from a VSO or state / county service office. These people are there to serve you with filing a claim. They have been trained and will assist with your claim at no cost. Be careful of the attorneys running ads on TV or in magazines claiming to help you with a claim for your military service. There is a big catch -Their Fee. Before you sign up for their services, be sure to understand that they get a percentage of what your award is. Some of the fees amount to 50% or more of what the VA awards you.**

**The State Veterans Affairs Office is a great place to start a claim. From time to time, they run veterans claims outreach at your local VA clinics. If you can attend one of these you can talk with a service officer, who while you are talking, can file your claim. You just have to have your military service records showing date and place of service for the claim you are filing.**

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

**God Bless,**

**Ed Schnabel  
American Legion Representative to the Lincoln CBOC**

## **ALR Riders Chapter 3 Director's Remarks**



**Greetings American Legion Family,**

**As the new year starts, we have a few things on our agenda:**

**The new ALR officers are: Director, Neil Larson, Assistant director, John Humphrey, Secretary, Mike Streeter, Treasurer, Lori Gubser, Ride Captain, Bruce Gubser, Sergeant at Arms, Theo Silcock.**

**We are attending the annual gun show held at the Sandhills Global Event Center on January 26-28. We will sell tickets to our rifle raffle. The drawing will be held on September 22, during our Poker Run. Details to follow as we finalize the details.**

**We plan to sponsor a high school girl from Lincoln to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State event this summer.**

**We plan to attend the ABATE bike show held on February 16-18. We will be selling our raffle tickets at that event as well.**

**Attached is a flyer detailing the rifle for the raffle drawing.**

**Neil Larson**

**ALR chapter 3 (Lincoln) Director**



# Lincoln Chapter 3 Riders' Henry Golden Boy .22 LR Rifle



Lincoln Chapter 3  
American Legion Riders  
RAFFLE



**HENRY GOLDEN BOY RIFLE, .22LR**



**TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20**

Drawing held 9-22-2024 YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

**YOU MUST BE OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE A TICKET**

PRIZE WILL BE TRANSFERED TO THE WINNER THROUGH NEBRASKA GUN OF LINCOLN,  
NEBRASKA, A FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARM DEALER

ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FIREARM PURCHASE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY

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## The Chaplain's Remarks



**CHOICE—A DEADLY PROPOSITION...**In the Beginning, there was God, the *Ei Ohime* (i.e., Father, Son, Holy Spirit) of Genesis 1. Besides the "...let there be light..." thing, the firmament, the animals, then human kind, what was more significant for the Creation? How about...decision-making?

He (God) made (i.e., our flesh), formed (i.e., our soul/personality/ego/behavior), and our spirit (i.e., His breath of life) so that the combination of these inferences would help insure humanity's forward expression for a great life. Ssssoooo...what happened?!?!

Yes, we know what sin is: disobeying God. But HOW did we sin when we were given the "right" to think, trusting God's Will on any given subject? In other words, we make the best decisions--like obedience, giving us fellowship with God—by following HIS suggestions. That includes...say...common sense, like checking with your parents before you do something questionable.

God, as witnessed by Jesus' life on earth, is our ETERNAL dad, with our earthly parents, or...maybe stand-ins...until we rightfully join the Trinity in Heaven. Yes, God's Kingdom is among us as we strive to be His *Ekklesia* (i.e., those called out by God to join His family) while still in our corruptible flesh (Acts 11:26; 1 Corinthians 15:9; 1 Peter 2:9).

God gave us the right to make wrong decisions. Yes, He allowed us to choose WRONG because, like our human parents, part of learning involves mistakes, not necessarily a commitment to evil, or direct result of our wrong-doing. This situation also includes persons obeying God, thus evidencing virtue.

To get a good handle on this decision-making thing, peruse the key source for all of mankind's proper lifestyle...the Father and His Holy Word.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3

## Post 3 Honor Guard



January has been another very slow month for the Honor Guard. That is good for our veterans since we had fewer funerals than normal, and the weather has not been good for some 70 & 80 year-old veterans to stand out in the cold. In January, the Post 3 Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 5 funerals and made appearances at 1 civic function. That civic function was the posting of the Colors at a local conference.

The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans and for appearances at local civic functions are greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

## Post 3 TAPS – December 2023



<b>LEGIONNAIRE</b>	<b>WAR ERA</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
Paul E. Kasl	Korea	Navy	34
Edward F. Siudzinski	Vietnam	Air Force	39
Marion G. Packett	WW II	Unknown	49

## **Post 3 Honor Guard Appreciation Dinner**



On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Post 3 Honor Guard and their wives assembled at the Elks Lodge #80 for an appreciation dinner for their hard work during the past year. We had originally planned to have the dinner before Christmas but could not locate a suitable location to hold the event. We then decided to have the dinner on January 12<sup>th</sup>. You may remember the snowstorm and bitterly cold temperatures we had on that Friday. So, we rescheduled it again for the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The dinner was a catered event with a program following. Following the dinner, Gerry Wolf made some remarks about the year and thanked those assembled for the 106 funerals and 53 civic appearances that the Honor Guard helped with in the past year. Post 3 Commander, Bruce Gubser, made a few remarks and Honor Guard member, Dale Nurnberg, presented a program of jokes and some of his "Magic Tricks". The evening ended with Mary Graft and Nancy Wolf drawing names for several gift cards and each lady was given a door prize.

In an average year, the Honor Guard will perform 125-150 military funerals and attend 25-50 civic functions. The uniforms are furnished except for the Legion cap which the member is required to purchase. We cover the most basic manual of arms. We use the M1 Garand rifles for the 3 shot volley and Springfield '03 rifles for Flag guard rifles. The average funeral takes 2 hours of the member's time, and we render "Honors" in all kinds of weather. However, the member is not required to do every funeral – Only those for which he/she is available.

The Honor Guard is also available to participate in other patriotic civic functions. Patriotic functions could be a Flag raising, a school visit, talks to students or other organizations, or possibly a visit to a retirement home to honor veterans living there. Anytime we put on the American Legion uniform and Legion cap.

If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, contact me, Gerry Wolf, @ 402-417-8230 or [Gerrywolf@aol.com](mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com).

We would love to hear from you.



**IMPORTANT  
MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL  
INFORMATION**

**2024 2025 2026 2027**



**As this article is being written at the conclusion of the Mid-Year Conference, I'm glad to report that Nebraska exceeded the 80% of goal needed on the January 18th Mid-Winter Target Date. In fact, we exceeded the 85% mark (February 14<sup>th</sup> target date) when we gathered in Kearney for our Mid Year Conference. The temps may be cold, but let's stay hot on membership.**

**You really need to read the rest of this article. There are a few things you need to know. MOST ALL OF YOU CAN SAVE SOME REAL MONEY!!**

**As I reported in the last issue, the national convention increased national dues by \$5.00 effective with the first dues notices that go out this summer for 2025 dues. And a resolution will be presented at our department convention in June proposing to increase our department dues by \$5.00, effective at the same time as the national increase. The national increase is a certainty; the department dues increase is very likely.**

**On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the national organization implemented what I call "Phase I" of a 3-year renewal option for members who were renewing online for 2024. The option is only available for those who renew online. Post adjutants and department headquarters staff are not involved in this new option.**

## **(Renewal – Continued)**

**When choosing this option, the renewals for 2024, 2025, and 2026 are all done at the 2024 dues rate. As a result, what is most likely going to be at least a \$10.00 dues increase per year can get pushed down the road for 2 years. You can most likely save at least \$20.00 (more if your local post increases its dues for 2025 and/or 2026).**

**For those of you who had already renewed by December 4<sup>th</sup>, there is also some good news for you. According to the latest information I just received from the Internal Affairs Division while I was at the Mid Year Conference, “Phase 2” of the new option went live on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. When it did, those of you who have already paid your 2024 dues are now able to renew online for an additional 3 years at the 2024 rate --- thus receiving the same benefit made available to those 2023 members who renewed initially for 3 years online.**

**Renewing online is quick and easy. Go to [www.Legion.org](http://www.Legion.org) and click on the “RENEW” button. Just enter your name and ID number, and a variety of options will be presented to you --- including a quote for a PUFL membership. (If your birthday isn’t in the database, you will be prompted to provide it. While a PUFL membership is admittedly expensive and perhaps not for everyone, this may be a good time --- before dues go up --- to consider that option, too.)**

**For those of you who aren’t connected online, there is a work-around. Pay your dues to someone who has a computer and give them your American Legion ID number. They can then access the site, enter YOUR name and ID number, and pay for you with their credit card.**

**Have a nice February.**

**Steve Bartos  
Department Membership Chairman.**

## **Report to the Department DEC from Mid-Winter Conference**

1. **MULTI-YEAR MEMBERSHIP:** Started on 12/4/2023, members will be able to renew their membership for three years at a time. This option can be accessed on the national website at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew).
2. NEF In 2022 - 3 hurricanes and other natural disasters in 8 departments the NEF provided 98 individual grants \$209,234.75 (average \$2,135.05) and 6 Post grants \$52,575 (average \$8,745.00). So far in 2023 the NEF has provided 103 member grants in 8 departments for \$349,640.45 The trust has \$5,828,420 as of March 2023.
3. It was announced at the Fall meeting that the Legacy Scholarship fund is now fully funded for generations to come (IRS rules). The American Legion Riders can be proud as they completed the mission, they were tasked with in 2006. However, their mission is not over. The ALR has been asked to take on a new mission by focusing their efforts on the Veteran & Children Foundation (VCF) also called the Foundation of Hope. This is a larger fund that supports the children of veterans through the Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) and the training of our service officers with up-to-date job training on the latest programs and benefits entitled to our veterans. VCF also supports the “Be the One” initiative, which is an American Legion program that allows anybody to “Be the One” to recognize the signs of suicide and act to save a veteran’s life by taking the stigma out of asking for help and accepting during a mental health crisis.
4. **Training Initiatives**
  - a. **Training Tuesday.** The Internal Affairs & Membership division has developed a series of training topics that are currently hosted on the webpage at: [www.legion.org/training/training-Tuesday](http://www.legion.org/training/training-Tuesday). Training is held the last Tuesday of each month since October 2020. Each session is recorded and made available along with downloadable PowerPoints, video recordings, and Q&As via the Training landing page.
  - b. **National American Legion College (NALC)** This course is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership. The successful graduate will possess the education and skills necessary to provide program and command leadership. If you have a Legionnaire that you think will benefit from this program have them apply and send their application into department.
  - c. **Training in a Box:** There are 21 folders full of training materials available for download.

**(Mid-Winter Department DEC Report – Continued)**

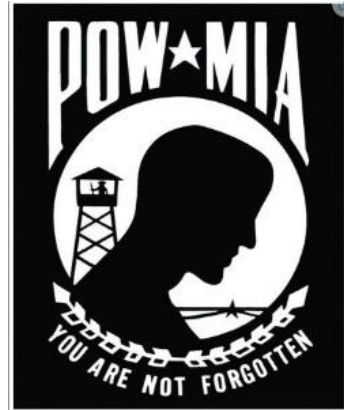
- d. **Basic Training:** Online basic training is offered to all American Legion Family members for free. New members are invited to take basic training during their first year. I recommend for everyone even if you have taken it before.
5. **Operation Comfort Warriors.** OCF offers activities and delivers items to wounded, injured and ill servicemembers, veterans and their families to support, empower and provide transition assistance. 2023 OCW granted \$364,607.58 (Average individual grant \$5,609.35).
6. **Resolution #17 Risk Management for Youth Programs**
  - a. Strongly encourages departments to establish procedures and policies for sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background screening similar to the national organization for legal adults who are selected to support and participate in youth programs conducted within their departments.
  - b. That should include TAL baseball program staff (coaches, managers & volunteers over 18), TAL Boys State, TAL Junior Shooting staff, TAL Oratorical contest, and TAL sponsored Boy Scouts. Basically, every TAL Youth programs staff.
7. **The National SAL Reserve Fund for use in event of emergencies and has a ceiling of \$750,000. This fund is presently over the variance established therefore it has donated \$250,000 to TAL Veterans & Children Foundation. Thank you to the Sons of the American Legion**
8. **VA & R, Unaccredited claims companies filing Veterans claims. Resolution #38, 2021 & Resolution #10, 2023 created some confusion. The NEC held a virtual meeting on December 12, 2023 and passed Resolution #1, 2023 titled “Oppose Claims Filling by Unaccredited Parties”. TAL also supports the GUARD VA Benefits Act (H.R. 1139) which puts back into Title 38 the penalties for charging a fee or compensation. Currently there are no penalties. Also, TAL opposes the PLUS Act which would force the VA to recognize applicants for accreditation after only 90 days even if they fail to meet VA standards.**
9. **We need to make our voice known to Congress. (Comments 1 ½ million nationally & 23,000 Nebraska) If you go to LEGION.ORG and search “Grassroots Action Center” you can send an email to your Senator or Congressman with a variety of selected concerns. EX: Support our Gold Star Spouses, Pay the Coast Guard and Tell Congress to Fight Back Against Predatory Claims Sharks or 5 others. The emails are composed all you have to do is hit send and you can do it every day.**

**Fred Craigie**

**National Executive Committeeman**



## WWII Tank Commander to be interred at National Cemetery in San Diego



**Army 2nd Lt. Gene F. Walker, an M4 Sherman Tank commander, was killed in action in November 1944 at age 27 near Hückeln, Germany. (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency)**

**The remains of U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Gene F. Walker, an M4 Sherman Tank commander killed during World War II, will be interred Jan. 26 at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.**

**Walker, a native of Richmond, Ind., was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 32nd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division. This unit fought in Battle of the Hürtgen Forest, one of the bloodiest engagements of World War II. Between September 1944 and February 1945, the battle grew to involve approximately 200,000 troops, with tens of thousands of casualties on both sides.**

**Walker was killed in action in November 1944 at age 27 when his tank was hit by an 88mm anti-tank round near Hückeln, Germany. Surviving crew members bailed out of the tank but were unable to remove Walker due to heavy fighting. A presumptive finding of death was issued in April 1945.**

**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency determined that one set of unidentified remains recovered in December 1944 from one of the burned-out tanks possibly belonged to Walker. The remains, which had been buried in Henri-Chapelle U.S. Military Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium, were disinterred in August 2021 for laboratory analysis.**

**Walker was accounted for by the DPAA July 21, 2023, after his remains were identified using circumstantial evidence as well as anthropological and mitochondrial DNA analysis.**

**Walker's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands, along with others still missing from World War II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.**

## **Army Specialist Awarded The Medal Of Honor**



**For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Harvey distinguished himself as a fire team leader with Company B, during combat operations.**

**Ordered to secure a downed helicopter, his platoon established a defensive perimeter around the aircraft, but shortly thereafter a large enemy force attacked the position from three sides. Sp4c. Harvey and two members of his squad were in a position directly in the path of the enemy onslaught, and their location received the brunt of the fire from an enemy machine gun.**

**In short order, both of his companions were wounded, but Sp4c. Harvey covered this loss by increasing his deliberate rifle fire at the foe. The enemy machine gun seemed to concentrate on him, and the bullets struck the ground all around his position. One round hit and armed a grenade attached to his belt.**

**Quickly, he tried to remove the grenade but was unsuccessful. Realizing the danger to his comrades if he remained and despite the hail of enemy fire, he jumped to his feet, shouted a challenge at the enemy, and raced toward the deadly machine gun. He nearly reached the enemy position when the grenade on his belt exploded, mortally wounding Sp4c. Harvey, and stunning the enemy machine-gun crew. His final act caused a pause in the enemy fire, and the wounded men were moved from the danger area.**

**Sp4c. Harvey's dedication to duty, high sense of responsibility, and heroic actions inspired the others in his platoon to decisively beat back the enemy attack. His acts are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.**

# ***Veterans Legislative Day***

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- ⇒ Legislative Day is Friday, February 2, 2024, in Warner Chamber at the State Capitol.
- ⇒ Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the event will begin at 8:30 a.m.
- ⇒ Anticipated guest speakers include Governor Jim Pillen, Director John Hilgert, and Nebraska State Senators.
- ⇒ The purpose is to discuss Nebraska Legislation pertaining to veterans and their families.
- ⇒ Sponsored by the Nebraska Veterans Council, which is made up of The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, County Veteran Service Officers Association, and the Marine Corps League.
- ⇒ Please contact your Veteran Service Organization for more information.

**The 108th Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature has been convened. There are several bills that can have a positive impact on Nebraska's disabled veterans. We are asking that you please look at the following bills which have been backed by the DAV and that have adopted resolutions of support for them.**

**LB-126 which would provide a partial homestead exemption based on a veterans disability rating.**

**LB-695 which would exempt the first \$25,000 of valuation on real property.**

**LB-853 which would grant a homestead exemption for disabled veterans based on their disability rating ie: 10% disability would grant a 10% tax exemption on a homestead you have lived in for one year up to 90% tax exemption for a 90% a veteran with a 90% disability rating.**

**LB-966 which would define the use of a new DAV license plate as well as what qualifies for a Handicap parking permit.**

**LB-10 which would grant a vehicle tax exemption for one vehicle for a disabled veteran.**

**We are asking that after careful consideration each member reach out to their elected State Senator and ask them to not only support these veteran friendly bills but also sign on as a co-sponsor of the bills. We in the Department can only do so much in the way of lobbying our senators. The most effective tool is a simple call or an e-mail from you to your elected senator. It lets them know that you are watching how they respond to veterans' legislation and your support of them in the future will take into account their actions on these issues. If you need help find the bills or your senators e-mail, phone number or the actual bill itself it can easily be found on the following link:**

**[https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_list.php](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php)**



# DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



[DontFeedTheSharks.org](http://DontFeedTheSharks.org)

## What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

## Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

## Who are the Claim Sharks?

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ▶ Trajector Medical  | ▶ Patriot Angels        |
| ▶ Vet Benefits Guide | ▶ Veteran Care Services |
| ▶ Veterans Guardian  | ▶ VetComm               |
| ▶ VA Claims Insider  | ▶ VA Claims Academy     |
| ▶ Telemedica         | ▶ Vet Assist            |

## Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

## Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp Lejeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees





# Lincoln VAG eAlert

A Message from Your Veterans Advisory Group!

## VAG Lincoln Coffeehaus!



JOIN US ON  
FRIDAY!

A CoffeeHaus Event has been scheduled for the third Friday each month from 10:00 AM to Noon, at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park

In addition, Quilts of Valor Ladies will be awarding quilts to Veterans touched by war, and the presentation begins at Noon.

CoffeeHaus is a monthly gathering to honor our Veterans, with **FREE** Coffee, Beverages, Snacks, Fellowship, and Entertainment.

Join us - reach out and bring a guest too!

### OUR SPONSOR

The Sponsor for CoffeeHaus is the Elks Lodge #80.



### MORE INFORMATION!

For a Calendar of Upcoming VAG Events, visit our Website, at [www.VAGLincoln.org](http://www.VAGLincoln.org)!

LINCOLN

# Buddy Check

"TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

At 'Rock-n-Joe' Coffee Bar

5025 Lindberg Street

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

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

# Sons Of The American Legion Application



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

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

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

**Sons of The American Legion Membership Application**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

00-001 (2014)

**RECEIPT**


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

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

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

By \_\_\_\_\_

**For God and Country**





# 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.**

