



“For God and Country”
JANUARY 2024 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meetings For January 2024

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	7:00 PM	01/09/24
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	7:00 PM	None
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84th St	7:00 PM	01/11/24
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	01/18/24
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	6:30 PM	01/16/24
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58th St	6:30 PM	01/16/24
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	None
Buddy Check	Mill, 2021 Transformation Dr	6:00 PM	01/22/24
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	01/19/24

Commander's Call



Greetings Legionnaires and the entire Lincoln Legion Family,

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, and a fantastic New Year. I think over the holiday season, Lori and I attended about a dozen events plus a number of family gatherings. While it was great to see, and have fun with, everyone, I think that I'm ready for some downtime in January.

I'd like to take some time this month to recognize a great group of individuals in our Post who provide an outstanding service to our Veteran community.

The Post 3 Honor Guard:

Who are the Post 3 Honor Guard members and what do they do? The Honor Guard is made up of about 20 dedicated, patriotic, American Legion members who range in age from a 94-year-old Korean War Veteran to a 41-year-old veteran who served in the Global War on Terrorism, who provide funeral "honors" and participate in other civic functions. The average age of our Honor Guard is somewhere in the upper-70s, perhaps approaching 80. I'm 68, and one of the "younger" members. While these members do an awesome job, the question remains about how much longer these members will be able to help with "Honors" is uncertain. We need to recruit some new, younger members.

It would be a shame if these "Oldtimers" were not replaced as they step down and the Honor Guard disappear? We need to make sure that never happens. I am using this forum to offer more men and women the opportunity to join our Honor Guard.

In an average year, the Honor Guard will perform at 125 to 150 military funerals and attend 25-50 civic functions. Please note that we are not asking you to do every funeral or function – only those for which you are able or available. The Post provides the uniform (at a cost of around \$800), with the exception of the Legion cap. The Honor Guard will teach you (or refresh your memory) on the most basic manual of arms (Attention, Port Arms, Present Arms, etc). We use the M1 Garand rifles for the 3 shot volley and Springfield '03 rifles for Flag guard rifles. The average funeral will take about 2 hours of your time and we will render "Honors" in all kinds of weather.

(Commander's Call – Continued)

The Honor Guard's primary responsibility is to augment the Military Honors teams in rendering "Honors" to deceased military veterans. Under Federal law, the Department of Defense is responsible for providing military funeral "Honors" to eligible veterans when asked to do so. As a minimum, it requires an Honor Guard detail of at least two uniformed (currently serving) military persons (at least one from the veteran's parent service) and a bugler, if available. They will fold the burial flag, present the flag to the veteran's family, and play "Taps".

The military Honor Guard detail may be augmented with volunteers who are military veterans, including retirees; members of veterans' service organizations (i.e. the American Legion, VFW); or other approved organizations. For us, this augmentation (Post 3 Honor Guard) includes the 3 shot volley and the playing of "Taps" by a live bugler supplied by the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

The Honor Guard is also available to participate in patriotic civic functions, and as previously mentioned we do this about a couple dozen times a year. 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. It is at these civic functions that we have an opportunity to make a positive impression on not only the general public, but to other Veterans who might not already belong to the American Legion.

If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, please contact our Honor Guard Commander, Gerry Wolf (402-417-8230 or Gerrywolf@aol.com). We would love to have you join us!

**For God and Country,
Bruce Gubser
Commander, Post 3**

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



Holiday office hours: The Post 3 business office will be closed beginning on Friday, December 22nd, and be open again on Thursday, January 4th.

Renewals for 2024: Currently, we stand at 88.6% of our goal of 1107, with 981 new or paid renewals. During December, we had 56 by mail, 20 online, and 1 transfer. Let's keep those renewals coming in during January.

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 were mailed out by the National Headquarters during July 2023.)

For those who might be interested, you can get signed up for auto-renewal by using the www.legion.org web site. It's just a thought for those who want an easy way to remember to pay their yearly dues. One drawback, however, is to remember that someone needs to stop the payments if the member dies.

As of early December, The American Legion at the national level implemented a new program where a member who renews online is now able to renew his/her dues for three years at the current rate. Currently, this option is open to only those who have yet to renew for the 2024 American Legion year. And it is only available by renewing online.

This new option allows you to save as much as \$20.00 dollars on your 2025 and 2026 dues. By paying your 2025 and 2026 dues along with your 2024 renewal, you will not be hit with the \$5.00 National dues increase which goes into effect for the 2025 membership year (a certainty) or the \$5.00 Department dues increase which is likely to be proposed at the Department Convention in June.

(Adjutant's Report – Continued)

The national organization informs us that they also hope to implement an online renewal option in the near future to allow those members who have already renewed for 2024 to be able to extend their membership to include the 2025 and 2026 dues at the current rate. We shall keep you posted if and when this actually occurs.

Phone numbers and email addresses: I want to thank those of you who have supplied us with their phone number and/or email address as was requested in the latest issue of the *Lincoln Legionnaire*. It is important and very helpful for us to have that --- and other information.

We have many members for whom we do not have a phone number or an email address on file. Also, many are missing their branch of service or war era. National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and correct if you are mailing in your renewals. Thanks

Memorial Services: The Honor Guard has been busy this fall 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 website and filling out the forms. If you need assistance, see your local service officer, or give me a call.

Remember to thank your fellow veterans for their service and thank you for your service.

And, thanks for being a member of Post 3,

The Officers of Post 3 hope you had a Merry Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year!

**Ed Schnabel,
Adjutant**

Lincoln CBOC/VA News

Happy New Year!

As we start a new year, this would be a great time to review your VA benefits. Are you receiving all that you are eligible for?

There are several places that can provide you with the latest and up to date information. 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 MyHealthVet learning center 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 your local clinic to schedule an appointment.

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

Express Care, a walk-in service, for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Express Care hours run from 3 pm to 7 pm at the Lincoln clinic. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours.

PACT Act, have you checked it out? You need to make the effort; the VA is not going to call you.

On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, extending VA health eligibility to many veterans. And expanding benefits to eligibility 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, etc., 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. 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.



(Adjutant's Report – Continued)

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. This is not required, but it might be something that you may want to think about.

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 home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veteran's home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic / hospital with a parent for their appointments. There is always a need. Younger kids come with parents, grandparents, etc., 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). They also receive many requests for services during the holidays. 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 help 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.

A good place to start is with a trusted veteran who has the same disability you want to file for. Ask how he/she filled their claim. If they used an attorney, ask how much it cost them for their services.

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 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.

Most VSO's host a claim clinic during their yearly State Headquarters' Department meetings.

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,

Even though we are now in the months where traditional motorcycle riding decreases, the weather has remained most conducive to getting "knees in the breeze." Your American Legion Riders continue to support Veterans and their families in a number of ways.

On December 1st, we stood in a flag line and participated in a funeral in Lincoln for an Army National Guard veteran. On December 8th, we stood at our bell-ringing post at Hobby Lobby and rang bells for the Salvation Army. We will be curious to hear the dollar amount of our efforts, but we are proud to announce that all of our bell ringers reported that the patrons of Hobby Lobby appeared to be very generous. On December 16th, we participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Wyuka cemetery by standing a flag line and then assisting with the placement of wreaths on the graves of hero warriors.

December for our Riders chapter means election of officers. So, at our meeting on December 21st, we held officer elections. Your 2024 officers are:

Director: Neil Larson

Assistant Director: John Humphrey

Secretary: Mike Streeter

Treasurer: Lori Gubser

Sgt-at-Arms: Ray Paulson

Ride Captain: Bruce Gubser

And I have appointed Glen Masek as Chaplain.

Also at our December meeting, we discussed, and decided to participate in, the ABATE bike show on February 16-18 at the Sandhills Global Event Center (formerly known as the Lancaster Event Center). And, finally, after the business meeting we held our Christmas party, which included card bingo and a snowball fight. I hope everyone who attended had a great time.

Lastly, as reported last month, we also will have a rifle raffle as part of our poker run in 2024. We have purchased the rifle, a Henry Golden Boy .22LR. Tickets will be available beginning in January. Please see any Legion Rider for tickets. The exact date is not set, but the poker run, and drawing for the rifle, will be held in September. We will also have tickets for sale at our booth in the ABATE bike show.

Neil Larson

ALR Chapter 3 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

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

The Chaplain's Remarks



NEW ERA— “A change is gonna come,” quotes an old song of America’s 1960’s. It alludes to things a bit better; that current circumstances are about to an “about face” fairly soon. The problem is: Where will YOU be when that inevitable circumstance arrives?

Holy Scripture asserts that kind of activity with King Hezekiah (721-691 BC), of Juda (2 Kings chapters 18-20). He had striven to clean his realm of all idolatry practiced under the previous reign of King Ahaz, his father. Later he found himself faced with Assyrian King Sennacherib.

Juda *was* beside itself with fear. Comprehensible. We all know what’s it’s like to be faced with an apparently overwhelming enemy. There were five things that Hezekiah did to gain God’s attention. First, he cleaned up the Temple of all false worship items. Second, The king’s love of God warranted him an additional 15 years to further serve the Lord. Third, continually turned to God for help. Fourth, even he gave into pride. And fifth, he failed to pass on his hard-won relationship with the Lord to doom Juda to more Judgments by God.

Truly loving the Lord involved a lifestyle that calls for prayer, trust, belief, and a holy walk of life with God as your only counsel.

Life IS a battle, but wouldn’t it be more livable with God doing your battles? Keep in mind the phrase that talks about prayer to “...heal your land...” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain

Post 3 Honor Guard



(L to R) - Ed Schnabel, Gerry Wolf, John Ottoson, Wade Graft, Fred Chrastil, Rich Lemmerman at Governor's Proclamation of Wreaths Across America

December has been a very slow month for the Honor Guard. That is good for our veterans since we had fewer funerals than normal. In the past year we have had 75 of our members pass away. Members are hard to replace. In December, the Post 3 Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 5 funerals and made appearances at 2 civic functions: Those civic functions were the Governor's Proclamation of Wreaths Across America at the State Capitol and Wreaths Across America at Wyuka Cemetery.

In calendar year 2023, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honors Teams at 106 funerals and was present at 53 civic functions. 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



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Ronald D. Bevard	Vietnam	Navy	14
William J. Biggs	Korea	USMC	40
Charles E. Doehling	Vietnam	Army	13
Ronald E. Foltz	Korea	Navy	41
John C. Holland	WWII	USAAF	40
Marsha L. Maxwell	Vietnam	Army	33
Melvin E. Michel	Korea	Army	1
Darold D. Moog	Korea	USMC	54
Mark W. Poston	Vietnam	Air Force	11
Dalen C. Wiemer	Vietnam	Army	36

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80
December 12, 2023**

Commander Bruce Gubser opened the December 12, 2023 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 6:30 at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 25-30 Legionnaires present.

Commander Gubser introduced and welcomed back Wes Newton, who had been deployed for a while. Several other new or first-time-attending members were introduced.

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

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

Finance Officer Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2023 reporting a balance of \$43, 227.71. The report was accepted and filed for review.

Dr. Jackson gave an Americanism report.

Reporting for Vice Commander Ron Hindmand, Commander Gubser indicated that the Post 3 Legion Family's participation in Salvation Army Bellringers had been successful, basically covering 4 days at a couple different locations. A tally of the collections will be provided later.

It was announced that the Post 3 / District 15 entrant, Jack Watermolen, finished 3rd at the Area C Oratorical Contest at Seward.

Gerry Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad and announced that there would be Wreaths Across American activities at Wyuka Cemetery this coming Saturday.

Fred Craigie reported for the SAL. He indicated that their Thanksgiving cash give-a-way at a grocery store had been a success. Another is planned for Christmas.

Fred also indicated that the SAL had received a donation back from one of last year's recipients and wanted the SAL to pay it forward.

(December Minutes – Continued)

POW / MIA Liaison Wes Newton read the names of some recently identified veterans.

Steve Bartos reported for the 40/8 and indicated reservations for the Christmas Party needed to be in now.

Commander Gubser indicated that the post needed to fill the position on the Executive Committee vacated when Jack Sibert transferred his membership to another post. Nominated or offering themselves up to fill the remaining 2 and half years of Jack's term were Rick Mc Laughlin and Wendy Gumb. By show of hands, Wendy was elected.

Ed Schnabel reported membership at 956 ---- which is about 86% of our goal.

Bartos added some additional information about the new 3-year renewal option put in place by the national organization on December 4th.

Wendy Gumb reported that her son was stationed in Germany assigned to some cyber-security operations. She wanted to let people know that our forces are doing a better job at their mission than may be reported in the media.

The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at about 7:15.

Following the meeting, the Legion and Auxiliary gathered for refreshments and entertainment.

**Steve Bartos,
Recorder**

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING



Post 3 Bell ringers completed another Christmas season of supporting the Salvation Army of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Our representatives rang bells at the Hy-Vee store at Williamsburg Mall at 40th & Old Cheney on 30 November, 6 December and 7 December and at Hobby Lobby at 66th & O Street on 8 December. Post 3 was supported by the Post 3 Auxiliary ladies and our Legion Riders who rang bells for a total of 24 hours.

We received the following Thank You note from the Salvation Army:

Dear American Legion Post 3 –

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for volunteering to ring this season. We can't reach the goal without community support - and we appreciate your help in making Lincoln a better place for all. Merry Christmas!

With a grateful heart,

Capt. Kelsie Moreno

Early in 2024 we should receive the total funds we collected for good causes in our area. In the next Newsletter we should have that total and we will also recognize all of the volunteers who gave their time and support this year.

Thank you!!!

Ron Hindmand
Bell Ringing Chairman

Area C Oratorical Contest



(L to R) Frank Kovacs, Esten Johnson, Jack Watermolen

Our Area C Oratorical Contest was held on November 1st at the Seward Civic Center, Seward, Nebraska.

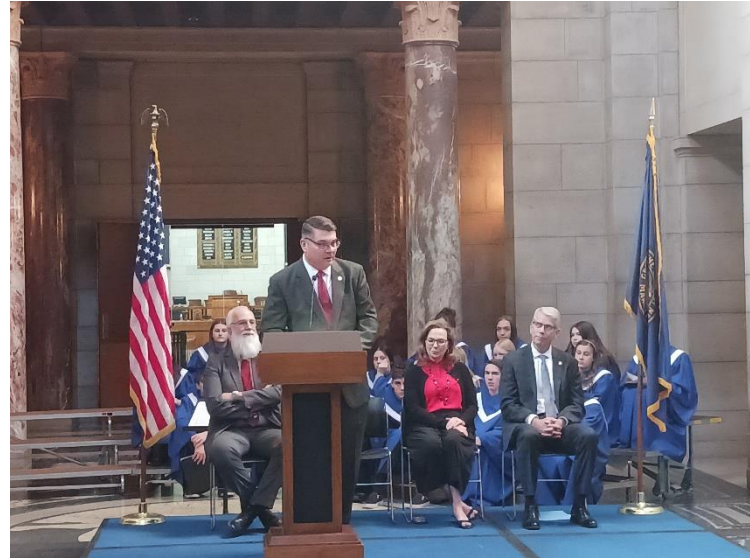
Area C had three contestants: Esten Johnson, a Junior from Seward High School and sponsored by Seward Post 33, Frank Kovacs, a Freshman from Minden High School and sponsored by Minden Post 94, and Jack Watermolen, a Senior from Lincoln Southwest High School and sponsored by Lincoln Post 3.

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 a five minute preparation time.

All three contestants did an exceptional job with their orations. Esten Johnson placed first, Frank Kovacs placed second and Jack Watermolen placed third.

Esten Johnson will compete against the other 3 Area winners in the Nebraska Department contest which will be held January 20, 2024 in Kearney as part of the Mid-year Convention. The winner of the Department contest will compete in the 2024 National Finals on May 17-19 in Hillsdale, Mich., at Hillsdale College. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 18 with the finals scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

Wreaths Across America – The Governor’s Proclamation



The tradition of laying wreaths to honor veterans began in 1992, when Morrill Worchester of Morrill Worchester Wreath Company in Harrington, Main donated 5,000 wreaths to be placed on the headstones of an older, less visited section of Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, there are over 4,000 locations in all 50 States, 24 countries and on the Seven Seas where the Wreaths Across America is observed. Historic Wyuka Cemetery in Lincoln, Nebraska has been a location for the ceremony since 2010.

As part of the program, Wreaths Across America sends a large ceremonial wreath to each State Capitol to honor and remember our veterans.

On December 11, 2023, the Governor’s Proclamation of Wreaths Across America was held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. The Master of Ceremonies was Greg Osborn, a member of the Wreaths Across America Committee. The Honorable Joe Kelly, Nebraska Lt. Governor, read the proclamation and presented the Nebraska wreath to First Lady Suzanne Pillen. The keynote speaker was Nebraska Director of Veteran Affairs, John Hilgert. “The National Anthem”, “God Bless America”, and “Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor” were sung by the Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir.

Several members of the Post 3 Honor Guard were present for the event.

On Saturday, December 16th, over 2,000 evergreen wreaths were placed by family members and friends on veterans’ graves in the three soldiers’ circles in Wyuka cemetery.

Wreaths Across America Pictures, December 16, 2023



40&8 Christmas Party



La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, (The Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses), is an independent, honor society of American veterans and service members --- more commonly known as the “40&8”.

Originally considered the “Honor Society” of American Legionnaires, the 40&8 was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion which only included members of the American Legion, the 40&8 became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960 and has evolved into a veterans' service organization whose membership is by invitation of all honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces --- regardless of membership in the American Legion.

While membership in the 40&8 is still by invitation, you are encouraged to talk to any local voyageur (member of the 40&8) and express your interest in becoming a member. You do need to be a veteran or active-duty serviceperson of good reputation, and you will need a current member to vouch for you and submit a nomination for you.

Our local group, Voiture 103, supports a variety of causes, but our primary project each year is to raise money for two Nurse's Training Scholarship Funds maintained by the Bryan School of Health Sciences and the Southeast Community College Nursing Program. We conduct a raffle each year to raise money for these donations, and the raffle drawing is held at our annual Christmas Party.

Each year at our annual Christmas party we take time to honor an outstanding member of the American Legion and the 40&8. This award is the highest honor that the 40&8 can award to one of its own for his or her outstanding contributions to the betterment of the American Legion and the 40&8. Dr. William Jackson was selected as this year's recipient. He is very deserving for all William has done for veterans, Post 3, and the 40&8.

William served his country during the Grenada conflict. He is a 35-year member of the American Legion and a 11-year member of Voiture 103. His tours took him to Greece and Italy. He has been serving as the Post Chaplain for Post #3 for many years and has been the Post #3 Commander three times. He was also the Department Chaplain for seven years between 2015 and 2022. He was invited to join the 40&8 in 2011. He was Chef de Gare for two years. He has also been the Grand Chef de Train for the Grand Du Nebraska for the past three years and will be the incoming Grand Chef de Gare in June 2024 for the Grand Du Nebraska.

Congratulations William.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

What we know ---- and what we think we know!!

During the last six months, there have been a couple of important changes to things that affect membership --- and how we process it. In the next six months, I think we can expect to deal with a couple more changes.

At the most recent National Convention held in Charlotte in August, the convention adopted a resolution that increased national per capita dues from \$18.50 to \$23.50 per year beginning with the 2025 membership year. We will see that increase reflected in the first renewal notices that normally come out about July 1st of each year. This increase is a certainty.

The Department of Nebraska Finance Committee met recently to evaluate the department's per capita dues. The last department dues increase was for \$5.00 and occurred about six years ago. Calculations showed that the \$5.00 dues increase was pretty close to being what was necessary to keep up with inflation, cost of living, etc. over that period. Accordingly, it appears that a recommendation will be made to the Department Convention to increase department per capita from \$16.50 to \$21.50, also to be effective with the 2025 membership year.

Post 3 per capita dues are currently \$11.00 per year, and there hasn't been any discussion yet regarding an increase in our dues.

A significant membership option affecting the majority of our members was made available by the national organization during the first week of December. For members renewing their dues for 2024 online --- and online only --- a 3-year renewal locking in the 2024 dues rate for 2025 and 2026 became a reality. *To make a long story short, the 3-year renewal will push down the road until at least 2027 any national, department, or local post dues increase that already has been or might be adopted for 2025.* You can save \$10.00 for sure and \$20.00 (likely) or a little more depending on what the department and Post 3 do this spring.

(Membership – Continued)

The 3-year renewal option can be accessed at www.Legion.org. You just need to go to that website and click on the “RENEW” button. It will guide you the rest of the way. **REMEMBER:** The 3-year renewal option is only available via the online renewal --- post adjutants and department headquarters staff are not able to accomplish the 3-year renewal.

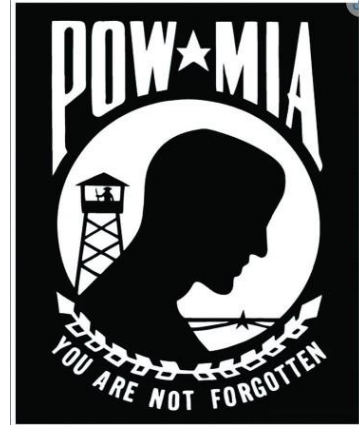
If your date of birth is not on file in the American Legion database, it will probably ask for that first ---- and then offer several renewal options. 1-year renewal, 3-year renewal, Paid-up-for- Life (PUFL) payment plan purchase, and Paid-up-for-Life (PUFL) single payment purchase.

For those of you who renewed your 2024 annual membership prior to the implementation of the 3-year option on December 4th, we think there is good news for you, also. According to the latest information we’ve received from the Internal Affairs Division in Indianapolis, the Information Technology Division is working on software that will allow currently paid 2024 members to extend their memberships for 2025 and 2026 --- also at the 2024 rate structure applied to the 3-year renewals. We shall do our best to share that information with everyone as soon as we learn more details.

The last thing I want to mention is that it is very likely that the first dues notices for the 2025 membership year won’t arrive about July 1st like they usually do. Department of Nebraska Constitution & Bylaws require that Department of Nebraska annual per capita dues can only be changed at a Department Convention. Nebraska can’t formally establish its dues until the Department Convention in June. The national organization has indicated it will wait until the convention has concluded to print the annual dues notices for Nebraska, so there is no way they can be mailed by July 1. Several states are in the same boat we are.

Steve Bartos
Dept. Membership Chairman

Double funeral for WWII Aircrew, missing for 79 years



On Halloween 2023, when many families worldwide are making lasting memories, two families with a unique bond nearly 80 years in the making came together on the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery to lay their loved ones to rest in a double funeral.

“2nd. Lt. Pile and TSgt Triplett flew together, died together, and now their families have chosen to have them buried side-by-side, at Arlington,” said Dr. Nicole Eilers, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency historical analyst for both cases

During World War II, Tech Sgt. James Triplett was serving as a radio operator aboard a B-24H Liberator bomber during a large mission to bomb the industrial city Kassel in northern Hesse, Germany. 2nd Lt. Porter M. Pile, 24, of Harlingen, Texas, served as the navigator on the Sept. 27 mission. While in flight, the aircraft encountered heavy resistance from enemy ground and air forces, resulting in the rapid loss of 25 Liberators, including Triplett’s and Pile’s. Several of the crew aboard were able to bail out, and witnesses who survived did not report seeing him escape the aircraft. Six of the nine crew members were killed while the others were taken captive by German forces. Triplett’s and Pile’s bodies were not recovered following the war.

It was a normal fall day for a Triplett’s family in Oregon in 1944. In a quiet corner of their house, high up on a shelf in the pantry, sits a small and unassuming piece of the family’s history. It will go on to serve as both a reminder of loss and a beacon of hope for future generations. The heirloom remained untouched and unopened for over 30 years: A plain, wooden box.

“The only time I remember him as my uncle was when I was three,” said Tom Triplett, nephew of James. “What is clear is my memories of [my family] their longing to see him again.”

Tom grew up in Portland, Oregon with very little memory of his uncle. He would often hear stories from his father and grandparents but mostly remembers the pain and loss his family endured after his uncle’s death.

“[My grandmother] believed he would walk through the door until the day she died,” said Tom. “The crew members who survived were held as prisoners, which fueled her hope.”

(WWII Aircrew – Continued)

In 1944, before even learning of his disappearance, James' younger brother Bill had put together a box containing small things such as chocolates, cigarettes, and coffee, which he thought were in short supply. He labelled the box, took it to the post office, and sent it to England with hopes that his brother would receive it in time for Christmas.

One day later, the doorbell rang in Bill's house. His wife, Eileen, answered the door to find a man holding that same wooden box.

"It had been sent back labelled 'addressee unknown,'" said Tom. "That was the very first indication that he was missing."

In March 2007, a team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) met a local historian in regard to the Kassel mission. The historian took the team to a wooded area of Richelsdorf to show them what he believed was the crash site of the B-24 Liberator that James was assigned to. Two years later, in 2009, investigators returned again, this time to a more specific location where it was believed that the aircraft had crashed. The team examined the site and a visual reconnaissance of the area revealed parachute fabric, Plexiglas, clothing fabric, and other miscellaneous aircraft wreckage. The team recommended the site for archeological excavation.

Three DPAA recovery teams performed excavation operations at the crash site in 2015 and 2016. During this dig, the recovery team found an aircraft data plate with a number that correlated to the tail number of James' aircraft. The team reached the end of its scheduled excavation period before it could completely process the site. Therefore, material evidence was transferred to the DPAA lab and additional work at the site was recommended.

A second DPAA recovery team continued the excavation in August 2015 and discovered an identification tag for one of the crew members aboard James' aircraft. The team also recovered potential osseous material and other material evidence, which were transferred to the DPAA lab.

Finally, a third DPAA recovery team returned in April 2016 and completed excavation of the site. Evidence from this excavation were transferred to and accessioned into the DPAA lab in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, where it underwent scientific analysis.

"[DPAA] started telling us things in 2015," said Tom. "They told us they thought they found something."

Finally, after 79 years of waiting, both families had their answers. They were notified in 2017 that their loved ones had been identified. Due to the fact that they served on the same crew and were recovered together, the two families decided to hold a double funeral and honor both lives at once.

Tech Sgt. Triplett and 2nd Lt. Pile were given a proper funeral with full military honors and laid to rest alongside each other in Arlington National Cemetery on October 31, 2023.

By SGT Ashleigh Maxwell

First Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam



Capt. Donlon was serving as the commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a reinforced Viet Cong battalion suddenly launched a full-scale, predawn attack on the camp. During the violent battle that ensued, lasting five hours and resulting in heavy casualties on both sides, Capt. Donlon directed the defense operations in the midst of an enemy barrage of mortar shells, falling grenades, and extremely heavy gunfire.

Upon the initial onslaught, he swiftly marshaled his forces and ordered the removal of the needed ammunition from a blazing building. He then dashed through a hail of small arms and exploding hand grenades to abort a breach of the main gate. En route to this position he detected an enemy demolition team of three in the proximity of the main gate and quickly annihilated them.

Although exposed to the intense grenade attack, he then succeeded in reaching a 60-mm mortar position despite sustaining a severe stomach wound as he was within five yards of the gun pit.

When he discovered that most of the men in this gun pit were also wounded, he completely disregarded his own injury, directed their withdrawal to a location 30 meters away, and again risked his life by remaining behind and covering the movement with the utmost effectiveness. Noticing that his team sergeant was unable to evacuate the gun pit he crawled toward him and, while dragging the fallen soldier out of the gun pit, an enemy mortar exploded and inflicted a wound in Capt. Donlon's left shoulder.

(Medal – Continued)

Although suffering from multiple wounds, he carried the abandoned 60-mm mortar weapon to a new location 30 meters away where he found three wounded defenders. After administering first aid and encouragement to these men, he left the weapon with them, headed toward another position, and retrieved a 57-mm recoilless rifle.

Then with great courage and coolness under fire, he returned to the abandoned gun pit, evacuated ammunition for the two weapons, and while crawling and dragging the urgently needed ammunition, received a third wound in his leg by an enemy hand grenade.

Despite his critical physical condition, he again crawled 175 meters to an 81-mm mortar position and directed firing operations which protected the seriously threatened east sector of the camp. He then moved to an eastern 60-mm mortar position and upon determining that the vicious enemy assault had weakened, crawled back to the gun pit with the 60-mm mortar, set it up for defensive operations, and turned it over to two defenders with minor wounds.

Without hesitation, he left this sheltered position, and moved from position to position around the beleaguered perimeter while hurling hand grenades at the enemy and inspiring his men to superhuman effort. As he bravely continued to move around the perimeter, a mortar shell exploded, wounding him in the face and body.

As the long awaited daylight brought defeat to the enemy forces and their retreat back to the jungle leaving behind 54 of their dead, many weapons, and grenades, Capt. Donlon immediately reorganized his defenses and administered first aid to the wounded. His dynamic leadership, fortitude, and valiant efforts inspired not only the American personnel but the friendly Vietnamese defenders as well and resulted in the successful defense of the camp.

Capt. Donlon's extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

HISTORY OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government to members of its armed forces. It is awarded to those who have distinguished themselves through acts of valor in combat.

The medal was first authorized in 1861 for sailors and marines, and the following year for soldiers as well. Since then, more than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of all Department of Defense services and the Coast Guard.

The medal is normally awarded by the President of the United States, who serves as the commander in chief of the armed forces, and is presented “in the name of the United States Congress.” You might hear it referred to as the “Congressional Medal of Honor.”

The standards to award the Medal of Honor have evolved over time, but the Medal has always stood for actions that go above and beyond. The Medal is authorized for any military service member who “distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while service with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.”

All recommendations require thorough reports on the act itself, the battlefield, and its settings, at least two sworn eyewitness statements, and any other compelling evidence that can be gathered. Recommendation packets must be approved all the way up the military command structure, ending with the United States President as the Commander-in-Chief.

The first Medal of Honor presentation took place in 1863. The most recent presentation was September 5, 2023, by President Biden to Captain Larry Taylor. For 160 years the meaning behind the Medal has never tarnished. Etched within are the very values that each recipient displayed in the moments that mattered—bravery, courage, sacrifice, integrity. A deep love of country and a desire to always do what is right.

Nebraska has had 73 Medals of Honor awarded. There are 33 buried in Nebraska.

LINCOLN

Buddy Check

"TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

At 'The Mill' Coffee and Bistro

2021 Transformation Drive

(on the Nebraska Innovation Campus)

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

Buddy Check

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

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

At Ease

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 84th Street, Suite L
 Lincoln, Ne. 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____

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

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

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

Signed _____
(By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____
(Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2014)

RECEIPT

Date _____ Received of _____

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

For God and Country

Squadron _____ Detachment of _____

By _____

Become a Member of The American Legion

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

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

Email: 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 1st of the month.

