



“For God and Country”
JULY 2023 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meeting Schedule For July 2023

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	7:00 PM	07/11/23
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	07/13/23
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	07/20/23
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	6:30 PM	07/18/23
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58th St	6:30 PM	07/18/23
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	None
Buddy Check	Mill, 2021 Transformation Dr	6:00 PM	07/22/23
VA CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	None

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaire:

This is my last article as your Post 3 Commander. The two years you have entrusted me with helping to manage your Post have gone by quickly. Now it is time to step aside and support our new officers.

Bruce Gubser will be your new Commander, Ron Hindmand is the new 1st Vice Commander and Rich Lemmerman is your new 2nd Vice Commander. I urge all of you to provide them with the support and assistance that they will need to continue to move our Post forward.

Thanks for your hard work on membership. Looks like we will end the membership year (08/01/22 – 07/31/23) at just over 90% of our goal of 1217 members, and that's not good. We need to replace the 57 members that renewed and died last year and understandably, could not renew this year as well as the 46 members that had renewed this current year but since passed away.

There is not much we can do about Post Everlasting, but we can do something to replace the 92 members that, for whatever reason, decided not to renew. If you know someone who did not renew this year, help the Post 3 leadership contact them and encourage them to reconsider and welcome them back to our Post.

In addition to helping retain old members, we all need to recruit new members.

The Post 3 Leadership team has done everything they know to add new members. They have added some, but not enough. I am asking you to help us out. If you know someone who has served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is currently serving honorably, ask that individual to join The American Legion.

Have you renewed your membership for 2023? If not, there is still time. Do it now.

Finally, are you going to renew your membership for 2024?

**The Department Membership Committee is offering an incentive to renew early. They are sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing. All regular members (those who pay their dues annually) whose 2024 dues are paid and received in Department Headquarters by September 5, 2023 will be in a drawing for \$1000. 5 names will be drawn for a \$200 prize each this year!
(See the flier in this issue).**

I want to thank each one of you for being a member of Post 3. Just the fact that you send in your dues allows us to support the many causes of the Legion at the local, state, and national level.

I truly appreciate all that you have done, and I know you will continue to support our Post 3 in its efforts to keep our American Legion strong. Without you, we have no American Legion.

As always, keep our veterans in your thoughts and prayers, particularly those who may be in need. Keep our active-duty service men and women in your thoughts and prayers as well.

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 2023, currently we have 1102 renewed members.

2024 Renewals: Renewals for 2024 should be in the mail to be in your mailbox the first week of July. You can begin paying your 2024 dues in July. Legion year 2024 begins the first of August 2023 and runs through 31 July 2024.

Nebraska Department Life members' cards will be mailed out as soon as Department gets them to me. You will not be receiving a renewal notice.

PUFL, (Paid up for Life) members, should be receiving their 2024 cards soon if you have not already received them. You will not be receiving a renewal notice.

When you get your 2024 card, please check the years of service to be sure it is correct. We had many that were not correct for 2023. If they are incorrect, please let the office know so we can get it corrected for you.

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

Remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service and remember to fly your flag on the Fourth of July.

Ed Schnabel

Adjutant

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



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

The VA is offering 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. Express Care service is available to those who might wish to see a 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. The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

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

If you have not filed a claim under the PACT Act, go to the Veterans Affairs web site. There you will find answers to your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now. If you are awarded a new disability or have one upgraded, you will or should receive back pay to September 2022.

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

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

Nebraska Warrior Writers project:

These free workshops provide professional instruction, support, and guidance in writing of all kinds from memoir to fiction. Workshops are held on Saturdays at Pius X High School, 6000 A Street, Lincoln, NE. To sign up, contact Tom Seib or Jen Stastny for current dates and times.

tom.seib555@gmail.com or 402-440-9296
jenstastny2029@gmail.com or 402-960-3955

Remember to Fly your Flag on the Fourth of July.

Ed Schnabel
Legion Representative to Lincoln CBOC

ALR Riders Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



The attached photos are of Ray Paulson and Neil Larson receiving flags that were flown over Iraq in a transport plane while some Air Force units were deployed in April 2023 during Operation Inherent Resolve.

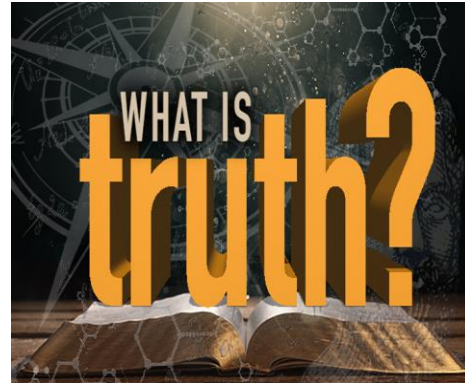
The flags were presented by Eric Mitsch, who was deployed with the Nebraska Air Guard at the time. One flag was presented to the Legion Riders Chapter 3. The other to Ray, who paid Eric's 2023 Legion Riders dues while Eric was deployed.

Several members rode in the Hebron Poker Run on June 11, and in the Palmyra parade on June 10. Several also rode in the Beatrice parade and the Eagle parade on June 24. We had one person join us for the Eagle parade. He was not affiliated with any chapter but saw the announcement on Facebook. He has some family members in the military.

We plan on being in parades in Seward July 4, in Dwight July 22, in Wilber August 5 and Milford August 18.

Neil Larson
Director
ALR Riders, Chapter 3

The Chaplain's Remarks



We are in “the worst of times,” according to the Charles Dickens’ novel, A Tale of Two Cities. Why? It probably has to do with what people call “right and wrong.”

That means that some individuals are not following God’s Will wherein “right” IS right, and “wrong” IS wrong. But how do you gather people together in fellowship with the Lord—doing the “right” thing according to His Word—if they cannot seem to grab a hold of the truth.

According to Holy Scripture, truth is God’s rule as mentioned in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” So, if you want to know what truth is, look unto the Lord. There is no shade of falsehood as He is perfect. Perfection has no room for sin (i.e., disobedience, leading to evil). So, following the Lord and His Word keeps one on the path of righteousness by being holy, or sanctified.

We obey God’s Will to be at His side when He calls us home (i.e., the *Perusia*, or the Rapture (i.e., when Jesus returns for the Day of Judgment

(Acts 17:31). But it’s not about getting to Heaven as much as serving the Lord in THIS life in order to warrant that final reward.

The “Times” are good or bad based upon what side of life you walk on, i.e., whether you live for the Lord or for Satan. It’s up to you. God is waiting for you. He’s never left you. Have you left Him, or forgotten He exists? The choice is up to you.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Lincoln ALP 3 Chaplain

District 15 Commander's Report



The American Legion Department of Nebraska held its 2023 Department Convention at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney on June 23-25, 2023. On Thursday, June 22nd, and on Friday, June 23rd, immediately preceding the Convention, the Department Executive Committee (DEC) also met.

The DEC agenda items included an update on the purchase of the new Department Headquarters building, approval of appointments to various Department Standing Committees, reports from the various Standing Committees, and several other minor items.

Of note, the Department's Rehabilitation & Employment Standing Committee has a vacancy from Area C (the area to which District 15 and Post 3 belong). If any Post 3 Legionnaire has interest in serving on this committee, please reach out to District 15 (and soon to be Post 3) Commander Bruce Gubser.

It was noted that a student in Nebraska was recently awarded a scholarship of about \$2,000 from the American Legion Legacy Fund.

Department Adjutant Dave Salak stated his intent to retire in April 2024 and provided the DEC with a letter stating such. After further discussion with both the outgoing and incoming Department Commanders on Thursday evening, Dave rescinded his letter and stated he would continue to serve as Adjutant until further notice.

The Department Convention itself kicked off on Friday afternoon with a Joint Session including The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

There were several dignitaries present from National Headquarters, including The American Legion National Commander (2022-2023) Jim Troiola, American Legion Auxiliary National Vice President (Northwest Division) Marlene Boyer, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Chris Carlton, Leading Candidate for The American Legion National Commander (2023-2024) Dan Seehafer (from Wisconsin). Also attending was The American Legion Kansas Department Commander Randy Frank. Governor Jim Pillen also addressed the Convention on Friday afternoon.

(Department Convention - Continued)

The main events on Saturday consisted of various committee reports and presentations to the Department's Eagle Scout of the Year (Jack Schlickbernd), Oratorical winner (Mary Worthing), Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (Audrey Arbuckle, who also was named National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year); Firefighter of the Year (Jeremy Genier), Middle School Teacher of the Year (Sharon Tolliver), and High School Teacher of the Year (Paul Martin).

Also on Saturday, we heard from candidates for Area Vice Commanders, Senior Vice Commander, and Department Commander. At the time of Convention, Area C (our Area) had no named candidate for Vice Commander. During the Area caucus, Post 3 Legionnaire Brendan Moore, was nominated (and accepted the nomination) for Area C Vice Commander.

On Sunday, our own Post 3-member (and National Executive Committeeman) Fred Craigie was named as the winner of the "Insulters Award." You'll have to ask Fred about it. LOL.

Also on Sunday, elections were held for the Department officers. Elected were: John Henry Percy, Department Commander; Boyd Yocum, Senior Vice Commander; Bud Neel, Area A Vice Commander; Don Patras, Area B Vice Commander; Brendan Moore, Area C Vice Commander, and; Judy Walters, Area D Vice Commander.

Immediately following the closure of the Convention, the DEC met with our newly installed Department Commander. At that meeting, Commander Percy stated his membership goal was to be 100% by December 31, and he encouraged all District Commanders, and all Legionnaires, to do their best to make that goal a reality. Commander Percy stated his projects for the 2023-24 year were Operation Comfort Warrior and Gifts for Yanks and encouraged all Legionnaires to support those worthy causes.

In closing, I strongly encourage all Legionnaires to attend the Department Convention, and/or the Mid-Winter Convention. It will give you some insight into the workings of The American Legion at the state level. And, it is a fun time to meet with other Legionnaires from around the state and nation.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bruce Gubser
District 15 Commander**

Post 3 Honor Guard



In June, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 7 funerals and was present at 4 civic functions.

The Honor Guard was present when Larry Zich, the Vietnam MIA that was shot down in April 1972 and identified in October 2022 and was buried on June 5th. We also presented and retired the Colors at the Veterans Freedom Music Festival earlier this month.

In calendar year 2023, the Honor Guard was asked to assist the Military Honors Teams at 53 funerals and was present at 28 civic events. The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

Post 3 TAPS – June 2023



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Donald Harvey	Vietnam	Army	55
Edward D. Sewell	Vietnam	Navy	14
Donald W. Stewart	Korea	Army	65

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

Commander Gerry Wolf opened the June 13, 2023 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 20 Legionnaires present.

Introduced were Wendy Gumb, a member recently transferred into Post 3, and Kenneth Bro, a Post 500 member contemplating a transfer.

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

The minutes of the May Post 3 meeting were read and approved.

Steve Bartos reported that he had no details --- but had received a report that the recently concluded session of Boys State had “gone well.”

Ed Schnabel gave a financial report for the month ending May 31, 2023, showing a balance on hand of \$40,021.41. Upon proper motion, the report was accepted and filed for review.

Vice Commander Bruce Gubser reported for the Legion Riders. Bruce indicated that the Riders have already participated in several parades and/or poker runs.

He also indicated that Post 3 is continuing with its birthday card program for veterans in a number of the Lincoln senior living facilities.

District 15 Commander Gubser reported on the upcoming Department Convention to be held in Kearney. He mentioned two resolutions that will be discussed ---- one to revise the publication schedule of the Nebraska Legionnaire from 8 issues per year to 6; and the other to propose that the national organization provide \$4500 annually to support the Department’s involvement in the College World Series. The sense of those present was to support both resolutions.

Fred Craigie announced that the Department of Nebraska would be serving as a host for the University of Virginia baseball team at the World Series.

William Jackson gave an Americanism report.

Squadron 3 Commander Brendan Moore reported briefly for the Sons of the American Legion.

Commander Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad and indicated John Otteson and Steve DeBoer were joining the team.

Regarding delegate cards to the department convention. It was announced that several known attendees have already received them. Upon motion by Bartos, it was agreed to assign the remainder of the delegate and/or alternate cards in the order that additional Post 3 members appear and register in Kearney.

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

In the matter of electing officers for the coming year, upon a motion by Fred Craigie and a proper second ---- and since there was no competition for any of them, the adjutant was directed to cast a single ballot representing everyone present to elect the following candidates:

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

Steve Bartos offered a few bits of Post 3 history out of the past regarding Post 3 elections and participation at the department convention.

Commander Wolf went over a number of upcoming events. He also mentioned the recent flag exchange sponsored by Scheels. About 300 new flags were given away, and twice that number of unserviceable flags were turned in for proper disposal.

The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 7:55 PM.

Steve Bartos, Recorder

Flag Day Ceremony At The Elks Lodge #80



(L to R) Ed Schnabel, Bradley Soflin, Dale Nurnberg, Gerry Wolf, Carter Venema, Dave Timmerman

Recently, four members of the Post 3 Honor Guard and several Boy Scouts from local Lincoln Troops assisted the Elks Lodge #80 with their annual Flag Day ceremony.

A brief history of the American Flag from 1776 to the present day was shared with the audience and patriotic songs were played as the different flags were posted.

I would like to thank the Elks for planning the ceremony and Bradley Soflin from Troop 159 and Carter Venema from Troop 59 for their assistance.

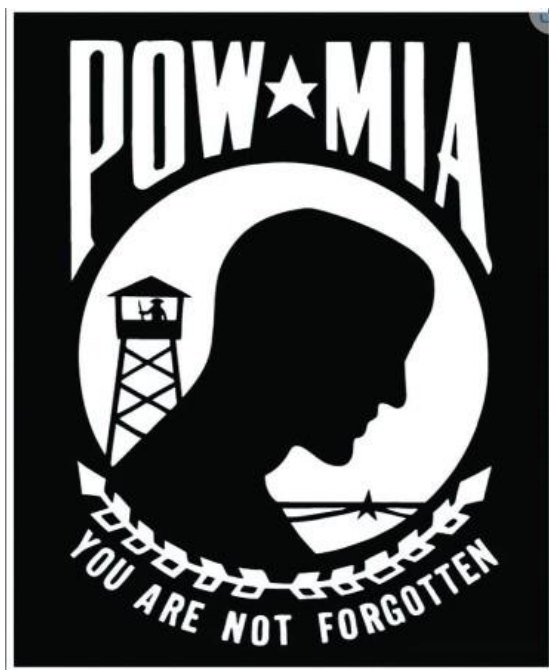
I would also like to thank Ed Schnabel, Dale Nurnberg, and Dave Timmerman for their help.

Flag Day Ceremony At St. Marks United Methodist Church



On Flag Day, June 14th, Bruce Gubser, Post 3 Commander-elect, presented a short program on the United States Flag to a group at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Lincoln. Bruce briefly discussed the history of the flag, the meaning of the 13 folds, and concluded his presentation by reciting a poem entitled, "A Toast To The Flag," written by John Jay Daly in 1917.

Nebraska MIA identified And Laid To Rest



Chief Warrant Officer 3, Larry Alfred Zich, age 24, of Lincoln, passed away on Monday, April 3, 1972. Larry was born April 3, 1948, in Sturgis, South Dakota to Walter and Beryl Zich. Larry graduated from Lincoln High School and enjoyed anything that had to do with speed.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Larry Zich served in the Army as a Huey helicopter pilot. He attended basic training in Fort Lewis, Washington and attended flight school in Fort Walters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama.

During his time in the Army, he was called to serve in Vietnam and was shot down on April 3, 1972 in South Vietnam along with three other crewmen, Allen Christensen, Doug O'Neil, and Edward Williams, who are still missing in action. His remains were recovered in 1988 but were recently identified on October 27, 2022, due to the advancement in DNA technology.

A celebration of life for Larry was held at 10:00 am Monday, June 5, 2023, at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home. Veterans came together to honor Larry with a celebration of life.

The Army provided full military honors. complete with a helicopter flyover. The American legion, Veterans Of Foreign Wars, and other veteran organizations were in attendance. Patriot Guard Riders provided a flag line.

We were honored to be there.

(Zich – Continued)



Veterans Freedom Music Festival

On Saturday, June 10th, the Veterans Advisory Group sponsored the 13th Annual Veterans Freedom Music Festival at the Antelope Park Bandshell. 6 local bands provided music from 11:00 to 5:00.

The opening ceremony started with the presentation of the Colors by members of the American Legion Post 3 Honor Guard. “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” were sung by Marie Barrett. The Closing ceremony consisted of the retiring and folding of the Colors by members of the Post 3 Honor Guard.

The bands that participated were: Bill Chrastil (Elvis), Mojo Filter, Dirty Boots, Bolzen Beer Band, Cole Younger And The Renegades, and 3 Chords And A Cloud Of Dust.

The various Veterans Service Organizations set up “Meet and Greet” information tables. “Remembering our Fallen” exhibit as well as a Veteran art exhibit were displayed in the Auld Pavilion. Burgers and Brats were provided by the Knights Of Columbus for a free will offering and the University of Nebraska Dairy Store provided Ice Cream.

Post 3 Adjutant, Ed Schnabel, was also presented with the Harris award, “Friends Of Veterans”, named after Mayor Bill Harris for Ed’s dedicated work with Veterans.



Post 3 Color Guard ready to raise “Old Glory”



Ed Schnabel receiving the Harris Award

(Veterans Freedom Music Festival – Continued)



Post 3 "Meet and Greet" information table



Bill Chrastil (Elvis) leads off the VFMF



"3 Chords And A Cloud Of Dust" at the VFMF



Spectators enjoying one of the bands at the VFMF



Burgers and brats, anyone?



Finish the day with ice cream?

\$ 1000



NEBRASKA LEGIONNAIRES

BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR 2024!

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

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

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

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

HELP US BUILD MEMBERSHIP MOMENTUM!!

BE IN THE DRAWING!!



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

\$10/HAND OR \$20 FOR 3



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

Lincoln Chapter 3

POKER RUN

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

**SATURDAY
SEPT 9**

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

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



PROCEEDS SUPPORT JAVELAN
& PATRIOTIC PRODUCTIONS



WAR ON TERRORISM SOLDIER RECEIVES MEDAL OF HONOR



Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT.

Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages. Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was partially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire. He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building.

Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter. He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages. Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism. After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages.

Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which was now structurally unsound due to the fire. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building. His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action.

Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army.

Andrew Jackson Higgins, World War II boatbuilder



Andrew Jackson Higgins was born and raised 1,000 miles from the ocean, yet forever changed war fought from sea.

He designed and manufactured the iconic [World War II](#) amphibious landing craft that delivered Allied troops onto hostile beachheads from North Africa to Normandy to Iwo Jima and countless battle zones in between.

Higgins "is the man who won the war for us," Dwight D. Eisenhower said in a 1964 interview with historian Stephen Ambrose. It's astonishing praise from the highest authority. Ike, before becoming president, was the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force [in Europe](#)

He planned and executed the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944 — the largest, most ambitious, most successful amphibious attack in the history of warfare.

His company produced the famous amphibious landing craft, dubbed Higgins Boats, that allowed Allied troops to insert with force into hostile territory around the globe during World War II. The Allies landed 160,000 men on the [shores of France](#) in the first 24 hours alone – many of them, if not most of them, sent into the breach from one of Higgins' innovative steel-and-wood landing craft.

Higgins was a pugnacious Irish-American boatbuilder. Born in Nebraska, he rose to fame as a titan of wartime industry in New Orleans. "With his wavy brown hair, square jaw and broad shoulders, Higgins looked like he could take care of himself in a fight," Paul Martin wrote in 2012 book, "Secret Heroes: Everyday Americans Who Shaped Our World."

Commonly called Higgins Boats, his landing craft were officially known in military parlance as LCVPs (land craft, vehicle, personnel).

They were built to quickly unload men and equipment in shallow surf hazarded by underwater obstacles, then quickly reverse and return to the mother ship for more. He developed a larger version of the Higgins Boat called LCMs (landing craft, mechanized), sturdy enough to deliver troops with a battle tank from ship to shore.

(Higgins – Continued)

The Army soldiers who fought their way up the spine of Italy to take it back from the fascists, the Rangers who scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on D-Day and [the Marines](#) who famously raised the flag over Iwo Jima all arrived into battle aboard Higgins Boats. Gen. Douglas MacArthur famously splashed out of a Higgins Boat onto the Philippines in 1944.

The grim but effectively utility of the Higgins Boat was popularized among a new generation of Americans in the horrific opening scene of the 1998 Tom Hanks [war epic](#), "Saving Private Ryan."

"If it wasn't for Andrew Higgins, the world could have gone a whole different way," said Fred Hoppe, a Nebraska artist who shares the same hometown as the boatbuilder. "It could have been tyranny for the world instead of victory for us." Hoppe is celebrated for his sculptures that pay homage to American war heroes around the world, including two dedicated to Higgins: one in Nebraska and one at Utah Beach in Normandy.

Andrew Jackson Higgins was born on August 28, 1886, in [Columbus, Nebraska](#) to John G. and Annie (O'Connor) Higgins. His dad, originally [from Chicago](#), was a prominent judge, lawyer and newspaper publisher, connected at the highest levels of American politics.

"Higgins was a close friend of Grover Cleveland and an enthusiastic Democrat," Jerry Strahan wrote in his 1998 biography of the boatmaker, "Andrew Jackson Higgins and the Boats that Won World War II." Strahan added, "So enthusiastic that he named his new son after the party's twice successful presidential candidate Andrew Jackson." John Higgins died after falling down a flight of stairs when Andrew was just 7 years old.

Annie Higgins moved the fatherless family to Omaha to begin life anew on the banks of the Missouri River.

It's apparently a quirk of history that the man who built the boats that achieved their greatest fame for attacking Omaha Beach in France on D-Day in 1944 spent his youth in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Missouri River proved the gateway to the deepest interior of the continent during the Lewis & Clark Expeditions. It was here along the shallow "Big Muddy" that Higgins drew the inspiration that would one day deliver American might across the deepest oceans. Higgins joined the state militia where, among other things, he got his first taste of amphibious warfare.

"The troops had to cross the Platte River by pontoon," writes Strahan. "The experience, coupled with a strong desire to read instilled in him by his mother, led Higgins to become a student of military history." But "money was scarce and times were hard," reports the website of the Andrew Jackson Higgins National Memorial in Nebraska. Higgins sought opportunity elsewhere.

He moved to Mobile, Alabama, in 1906 and found employment in the lumber industry. He opened his own business, Higgins Lumber and Export Co., in New Orleans in 1922.

He eventually hauled exotic woods from around the world on his own fleet of sailing ships, "said to have been the largest under American registry at that time," according to the Naval History and Heritage Command. Higgins Lumber was forced out of business at the dawn of the Great Depression.

(Higgins – Continued)

Nevertheless, the indefatigable Higgins, who laughed at adversity and whose vocabulary did not include the word “impossible” kept his boatbuilding firm (established in 1930 as Higgins Industries)," reports the Naval History and Heritage Command.

Higgins found success selling an innovative type of shallow-water craft called the Eureka Boat to oilmen and trappers who worked the bayous and the delta [around New Orleans](#).

The Eureka Boat featured a shallow draft, recessed propeller, ideal for negotiating water filled with unseen obstacles below the surface, and the remarkable ability to run up on land and reverse back into water. The military history enthusiast had unknowingly reinvented amphibious warfare. He solved a problem plaguing American military planners in the 1930s as they prepared for [the global war](#) ahead.

Amphibious assault is "the most ancient form of naval warfare," famed historian Samuel Eliot Morison wrote in his 1962 epic of the U.S. Navy in World War II, "The Two-Ocean War." The ancient Greeks, Phoenicians and Norsemen all "distinguished themselves" in the ability launch attack from sea to land, he added.

This age-old art of war, however, "became discredited in World War I and for years thereafter was neglected by all naval powers except Japan," Morison wrote. Faith in air power, and the famously deadly British military blunder at Gallipoli in 1915, appeared to make amphibious warfare obsolete. "Land-based aircraft and modern coast defense guns would slaughter any landing force before it reached the beach," Morison wrote of the wisdom of the day.

Amphibious invasions of the past reached the beach on standard shallow water boats, either rowed or motorized, that had barely evolved from the days that the Ancient Greeks attacked across the Mediterranean or that Washington crossed the Delaware in 1776.

American military planners of the 1930s bucked the conventional wisdom of the era. The United States, they correctly assumed, would be forced to insert its forces violently onto hostile beaches across both the Atlantic and the Pacific in the coming two-ocean war. They needed a new, better and more powerful way to deliver men and equipment from ship to shore. They turned to Higgins and his Eureka boats. The sturdy but nimble vessels could move in shallow water, they had propellers protected from underwater obstacles and, after powering the bow up on land, they could quickly back up and return to water.

"When tested in 1938 by the Navy and Marine Corps, Higgins' Eureka boat surpassed the performance of [a] Navy-design boat and was tested by the services during fleet landing exercises in February 1939," reports the Naval History and Heritage Command.

"Satisfactory in most respects, the boat's major drawback appeared to be that equipment had to be unloaded, and men disembarked, over the sides, thus exposing them to enemy fire in a combat situation." Japan at the same time had developed a boat with a drop-down ramp at the bow. Military planners showed a picture to Higgins. He described it to his chief engineer over the phone and ordered him to work on it immediately.

Higgins Industries successfully demonstrated with new boat with the drop-down bow less than a month later. The LCVP, the Higgins Boat, was born. It could carry up to 36 troops with combat gear, a jeep with 12 men, or more than four tons of cargo, deliver all of it right to the beach, back up and return to the mother ship for more men or equipment.

(Higgins – Continued)

They were operated by a four-man crew, reached speeds of 12 knots, were armed with two 30-caliber machine guns and could float in just 3 feet of water. The U.S. and its Allies ordered them by the thousands.

"In 1938, [Higgins] operated a single boatyard employing less than 75 workers," reports the National World War II Museum of New Orleans. "By late 1943, seven plants employed more than 25,000 workers. They responded by shattering production records, turning out more than 20,000 boats — 12,500 of them LCVPs — by the end of the war."

There is a powerful monument today that stands at the head of the pristine rows of white gravestones at Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. It depicts a graceful man in bronze, like an ancient god, who appears to be swimming skyward, as if to heaven.

It's called the "Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves," dedicated to the sacrifices of the 9,386 American soldiers buried in sprawling ocean-bluff cemetery beyond the monument.

"A lot more men would have died if not for the Higgins Boats," said Hoppe, the Nebraska artist, who created two statues dedicated to Higgins. One stands proudly in their hometown of Columbus, Nebraska. The other stands at Utah Beach in France, where Higgins Boats, and the men on them, led the liberation of Europe.

Andrew Jackson Higgins himself died on August 1, 1952, in New Orleans. He was 65 years old.

"If Higgins had not designed and built those LCVPs, we never could have landed over an open beach," Eisenhower said in 1964, expanding on his claim that Higgins won World War II. "The whole strategy of the war would have been different." Higgins helped win the war if only by sheer productivity.

The U.S. Navy was served by 14,072 vessels at one point in 1943, according to the Andrew Jackson Higgins National Memorial in Nebraska. An incredible 93% of them – 12,964 - were built by Higgins Industries.

The United States rose to dominance in World War II by its unmatched ability to project force across vast distances. Among those was the nation's ability to deliver men and equipment to any beach on any ocean in the world. Yet this unprecedented ability to deliver power across the oceans was born in the most heartland of American waterways.

"If it had not been for the Missouri River at Omaha there would have been no Higgins Industries of New Orleans turning out ships, planes, engines, guns and what have you for the Army and Navy," Higgins reportedly told the Omaha Chamber of Commerce during a speaking engagement in 1943. "Looking at the Missouri shallows, its snags and driftwood ... led me to think up the first shallow-draft boat. Everything else came from that."

By [Kerry J. Byrne](#)



**March 17th we
were all Irish.**

**May 5th we were all
Mexican.**

**How about this July
4th we all act like**

Americans.



Holidays

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 2023, 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

[2022 - 2023 Post 3 Officers](#)

Commander – Gerry Wolf – Cell: 402-417-8230

First Vice Commander – Bruce Gubser – Cell: 402-470-1700

Second Vice Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514

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

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

Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Commander for approval. All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.

