



“For God and Country”

MARCH 2024 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meetings For March 2024

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	7:00 PM	03/12/2024
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	7:00 PM	03/12/2024
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84th St	7:00 PM	03/14/2024
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	03/21/2024
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th St	6:30 PM	03/19/2024
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58th St	6:30 PM	03/19/2024
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	03/21/2024
Buddy Check	Rock-n-Joe, 5025 Lindburg St	6:00 PM	03/22/2024
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	03/15/2024

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaire,

Let me ask you this... If a family member, friend, or even a stranger, asked you to describe The American Legion... How would you answer them? What's your "elevator speech"?

Now, you may be asking yourself, "What the heck is an elevator speech?" An elevator speech is a brief (think 30 seconds!) way of introducing yourself, getting across a key point or two, and making a connection with someone. It's called an elevator speech because it takes roughly the amount of time you'd spend riding an elevator with someone. For example, if you happened to bump into someone you'd been dying to meet in an elevator, how would you introduce yourself, get your point across, and ask to stay connected—all before that person gets off the elevator?

Here's an example of one (that could be modified to better suit your own experiences) that I use (and modify continually based upon the situation):
Hi, I'm Bruce Gubser, and I'm a member of The American Legion Post 3 here in Lincoln. I'm an Army veteran and I continue to serve my community, state and nation by being a member of The American Legion. Have you ever served in the military? (wait for their answer, and depending on their answer I might respond in a couple of ways) If they have, then I might say something like, "Great! Thank you for your service! What branch? What did you do in (that branch)? What I've found in The American Legion is a way to stay connected with people who have also served, and together we support programs in The American Legion like Boys and Girls State, Junior Law Cadet, American Legion Baseball, the American Legion Oratorical scholarship program, and many other programs that support and enhance the lives of veterans and their families. Have you ever considered joining The American Legion?"

Or, when asked if they ever served in the military, and they say they never served, I might say something like, "Has anyone in your family ever served?" Many times, this answer will be yes... Oh, my dad was in Vietnam, or my grandmother was a nurse in World War 2, or something like that. Then, I might say something about The American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion.

Bottom line, I always keep this statement in mind... "If you don't ask, the answer is always NO."

(Commander's Call – Continued)

Tell them what they are missing and how they will enjoy our Legion and our Legion Family. Not long ago I made a list of what Post 3 worked to support. The list included charitable events, higher education scholarships, civic events, Honor Guard, Boys & Girls State, Junior Law Cadet and other veterans' causes. That list was quite lengthy and when I took time to read and really absorb it, it made me feel great. Share that feeling with the people you meet.

Our American Legion, The American Legion of Post 3, must keep on keeping on. We need to see not only the faces that have made our post great in previous years but also some new members. I am encouraged to see more and more new faces at our meetings. Thank you for showing up!! And thank you for getting involved! Our Legion Post needs you.

Thanks for your hard work on membership. We are at just over 91% of our membership goal. That's not bad considering the high goal that was put into place for us. 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. Remember, our membership year is the calendar year. Your 2023 dues expired on December 31, 2023. While true that the Legion sends out dues notices as early as August (for the upcoming year) and accepts previous year's dues just about any time (even up to a couple of years in the past), your timely payment of dues is what allows our organization at the local, state, and national level, to continue to provide the outstanding programs of The American Legion to our community, state and nation.

We all have time, treasures, and talents we can give to this organization. If you are looking for something new to do, come to a meeting and join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Elks Lodge #80 at 7:00, except August.

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,

**Bruce Gubser
Post 3 Commander**

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



2024 Renewals: As of February 23rd, we had 1017 paid renewals for 2024. That is 91.9% of our goal for 2024. If you haven't paid your 2024 dues, please do so now.

Thanks to those who have let us know they have not received their 2024 membership cards. There's only been a few this year; but, if by chance 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.

Thanks, also, to those who have made use of the MyLegion or www.legion.org websites to renew their membership. It is quick and easy; you can even print your own 2024 membership card.

The American Legion National Convention raised National dues \$5.00 a year beginning in July with the start of the 2025 membership year. The Department of Nebraska most likely will also raise its dues at its 2024 Department Convention this summer. At this time, Post 3 has officially taken action to maintain its post per capita dues at \$11.00 for the upcoming 2025 membership year. Post 3 dues, depending on the action taken at the department convention, are anticipated to be \$56.00 with the mailing from National of the first annual dues notices for 2025.

Do you want to save twenty or thirty dollars?? Yes, the national organization has implemented a new program for those who are just now renewing for 2024 or have already renewed for 2024.

If you are renewing online for 2024, you will have the option to renew for 2024 at a dues of \$46 --- or renew for 3 years (2024, 2025, and 2026) ALL 3 YEARS at a dues of \$46 each. You can save what is likely to be \$20.

If you have already renewed for 2024, you too can go online and renew for 3 years (2025, 2026, and 2027) --- all at the current annual dues of \$46 per year. You can save what is likely to be \$30.

(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)

To take advantage of this great opportunity, you need to renew online. Go to www.legion.org and click on the "RENEW" tab. Once you enter your name and membership number (found on your membership card). It should bring up your current renewal status, paid for 2024, etc. and then let you proceed. We have already had 7 members take advantage of this new renewal option. We would expect to see more. It's really a good deal for the member, but the \$46 rate for the 3-year renewal will go away soon. If you are going to take advantage, it's probably better to do it sooner than later.

We would like to thank those who have answered our request for phone numbers and email information. We have lots of members who do not have a phone number or an email address on file. The same goes for branch of service. National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips the data that is in the Legion data base. Please check and add as needed --- or give us a call or email --- so we can correct our database. Thanks. It makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

Memorial Services: The Honor Guard has been busy this winter 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 to 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.

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

Remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service, too.

Ed Schnabel
Adjutant

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



The Lincoln CBOC (Community Base Outpatient Clinic) is still in recovery mode from a water pipe break. Lincoln's extended period of sub-freezing weather was the apparent culprit, and there was some water damage. It is advisable that you sign in through the MSAs to learn where your appointment will be held.

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 is a walk-in service for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Express Care hours run from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Lincoln clinic. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call to see if they offer Express Care (walk-in) service. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours.

Do you want to serve your fellow Veterans? The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You may be able to volunteer to help veterans in the clinic, hospital, or a veterans' home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veterans' home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activity 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/veterans' home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.

VA Claims: The Nebraska Legislature held a hearing on LB1037. This bill aims to curb some of the practices of law firms that put themselves first and the veterans second.

(Lincoln CBOC/VA News – Continued)

If you are filing a VA claim for a VA disability, be sure to visit with a Service Officer from a VSO or state / county service office. These people are there to help you file a claim. They have been trained and will assist with your claim at no cost.

Many attorneys run ads on TV or in magazines claiming they can help you with a claim for your military service. Yes, they can --- but there is a big catch. They charge a FEE. Before you sign up for their services, be sure you understand just what that FEE will be. What percentage of your award will they claim as the fee?. 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 for which you want to apply. Ask how he/she filed 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 conduct a veterans claims outreach event at your local VA clinic. If you can attend one of these events, you can talk with a service officer, who --- while you are discussing your claim ---, 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 VSOs host a claim clinic during their yearly State Headquarters' Department meetings.

The Nebraska Legislature also held a hearing on LB869. This bill would expand who would be eligible for services from county veterans services committees. The aim is to make those who served during “peace time” (not during a declared war) eligible to receive the same benefits that a wartime veteran can receive.

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 Lincoln CBOC

ALR Riders Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



The Legion Riders chapter attended two events at the Sandhills Global Event Center. The first was at the gun show held January 26-28. The second event was the ABATE bike show February 16-18. We sold raffle tickets at each.

We are raffling a Henry Golden Boy rifle. The drawing will be held September 22 as part of our poker run. We also sold tickets at Hickman's Legion Club as part of its fish fry February 23. The pictures are from the ABATE show.



We are also sponsoring a high school girl to the Legion's Cornhusker Girls State event this summer.

The Legacy Run has also been discussed for us possibly to attend this summer.

One new item this year is to send birthday cards to our members as the birthdays come up. We are also seeing a small but steady influx of new members.



Neil Larson
Director, American Legion Riders

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

Post 3 Honor Guard



In February, the Post 3 Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 10 funerals and made appearances at 2 civic functions. The civic functions that some members of the Honor Guard attended were the Legislative Day at the State Capitol and Governor Jim Pillen's proclamation signing at the Capitol proclaiming 2024 as the year of "Be The One" in Nebraska. More about "Be The One" in an article later in this newsletter.

In the Calendar year 2024, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 14 funerals and made appearances at 3 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 – February 2024



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Thomas A. Rogers	Vietnam	Army	38
William H. Browne, Jr.	Korea	Army	62
Kenneth E. Houchens, Sr.	Korea	Army	49
Richard A. Wiese	Korea	Navy	53
Jerrold W. Copley	Vietnam	Air Force	45

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3 / District 15
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80
February 13, 2024**

Commander Bruce Gubser opened the February 13, 2024 meeting of American Legion Post 3 / District 15 at 6:30 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 35-40 Legionnaires and guests present.

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

Post and department officers present were introduced.

Department Commander John Henry Percy offered remarks and presented several Americanism and Children & Youth Citations to Post 3.

Department Adjutant Dave Salak was introduced, and Steve Bartos pointed out that today was probably Adjutant Salak's first visit to Post 3 as a member of Post 3.

Adjutant Salak reported on Boys State, Junior Law Cadets, and the recently adopted national dues increase and proposed department dues increase to be acted upon at the department convention. Adjutant Salak also reported that the Ramada Inn of Kearney reneged on or otherwise canceled their agreement to host the department convention in June. The convention has been relocated to the Kearney Holiday Inn with room rates increasing from \$85 per night to \$149 per night. He also announced that the national convention would be held in New Orleans and the 2025 Mid-Year Conference would be held in Norfolk.

National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie made remarks regarding national American Legion issues and thanked everyone for their support as he finishes his years of service on the National Executive Committee.

Adam Schmid, representing the Nebraska Sons of the American Legion, offered remarks about his membership in both the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion. He then presented to Squadron 3 Commander Brendan Moore an award to Squadron 3 for its 45 years of service to the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion.

American Legion Riders Chapter 3 Director Neil Larson reported for the Riders. He announced their Poker Run would be held in September and that they are also conducting a raffle. He indicated that they will sponsor a girl to Girls State this year. Neil indicated he would have information in the future about the "Wheels for Warriors" project.

(Post 3 / District 15 Meeting – Continued)

Director Larson also indicated that there was a resolution being circulated to address the position of American Legion Liaison to the Riders, but wanted to gather more information.

Steve Bartos reported on a possible dues increase for Post 3 for 2025. He indicated that the finance officer feels that our current post per capita dues of \$11 annually should be adequate for the upcoming year.

(Post 3/District 15 Meeting – Continued)

Upon motion by Bartos and a proper second, the post agreed to retain its post per capita dues at \$11 for the coming year. Subject to the department convention adopting the currently proposed \$5 dues increase, Post 3 dues will increase from \$46 per year to \$56 per for the 2025 membership year.

Bartos also reported on the recent implementation of the 3-year renewal option being made available from the national headquarters. He explained that it was easy to do online and was available to those who have not yet renewed for 2024 as well as for those already paid for 2024. In either case, Legionnaires will be able to renew for 3 years at the current rate of \$46 per year. He suggested that it was not known exactly when the new higher rates would be plugged into the national database, so those desiring to take advantage of this good deal should do so sooner rather than later.

Several Legionnaires came forward to announce their candidacies for Department-level office.

Boyd Yochum --- candidate for Department Commander

Judy Walters --- candidate for Department Senior Vice Commander

Fred Craigie for Jim Costello --- candidate for Nat. Executive Committeeman

Gary Wooten --- candidate for Alt. Nat. Executive Committeeman

John Henry Percy --- candidate for Alt. Nat. Executive Committeeman

It was announced that Past Department Commander Mike Reimers is also a candidate for Alt. Nat. Executive Committeeman.

Commander Gubser transitioned the meeting to conduct the business of the District 15 Convention and read the convention call.

Upon nomination by Fred Craigie, Steve Bartos was elected as the District 15 delegate to the national convention. There were no alternates selected.

(Post 3 / District 15 Meeting – Continued)

Upon nomination by Wolf, Ron Hindmand was elected to be the new District 15 Commander.

Upon nomination by Wolf, Rich Lemmerman was elected to be the new District 15 Vice-Commander.

Several dates were confirmed or clarified for the Time and Place report. The 2024 Boys State Orientation is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th at the County Extension Office. The 2024 Oratorical Contest will be on November 6th. The 2025 District 15 Convention will be held on Tuesday, February 11th.

It was announced that a selection had not yet been made for the 2024 District Citizenship Award.

Area C Commander Brendan Moore announced that there were still 2 vacancies to be filled from Area C --- one on the Publications and Public Relations Committee and one on the Rehabilitation and Employment Committee.

It was announced that the Auxiliary was going to hold a Medal of Honor Ceremony for a Civil War soldier at Calvary Cemetery on March 22nd.

Ed Schnabel announced that the state legislature was seeking veterans to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the legislative session each day.

Wendy Gumb reported on the “Our Community Salutes” High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to be held on April 24th at the Lincoln Firefighters’ Hall.

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

Steve Bartos, Recorder

“Be the One” Proclamation Signing At The State Capitol



On Monday, February 12, 2024, Governor Jim Pillen signed a proclamation making 2024 the year of “Be the One” in Nebraska. Many American Legion members from across the state of Nebraska were in attendance for the signing.

Today, the No. 1 issue facing the veteran community is suicide, according to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. It is estimated that between 17 and 22 veterans or servicemembers take their lives each day. That’s more than 6,000 annually. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The “Be the One” campaign will:

- Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.
- Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities. Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.
- While this program is designed to help all veterans, we know that everyone responds differently to stresses, have different life experiences and have varying results in types of treatment. However, the following are guidelines intended to provide help before a crisis situation develops.

The American Legion encourages you to “Be the One” to:

- Talk with others about how you are feeling.
- Ask for help when you know you need it.
- Know there are millions of people ready to help you.
- Remember your family and friends care.

American Legion posts will be instrumental in the success of this campaign. They have the power to foster unity and camaraderie and get support quickly to veterans in crisis. In non-emergency situations, posts can also:

- Educate members, other veterans and civilians about the campaign.
- Display resources at your post or in your community.
- Share events or success stories on the legiontown.org platform.

If you are a veteran in crisis, resources are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

Call 988 and press 1

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



PROCLAMATION CEREMONY
LAPEL PIN PRESENTATION
MARCH 28TH, 2024, 10 A.M.
WARNER CHAMBER



NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.



Vietnam War Era Veterans and their families are invited to join
Governor Jim Pillen and
NDVA Director John Hilgert
for a Vietnam War Veterans Day Proclamation Ceremony and Lapel Pin
Presentation.

*Thursday, March 28, 2024
10:00 a.m.*

*Nebraska State Capitol
1445 K Street, Lincoln
Warner Chamber*

Vietnam War Era Veterans who served on active duty in the U. S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, and who have not yet already received one, are eligible to receive a lapel pin.

For questions about the event please call or email
ndva@nebraska.gov ***402-471-2458***

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.



If you have any questions about the event, please email ndva@nebraska.gov
or call 402-471-2458.



OCS of Lincoln

2024 High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony

Welcome to OCS of Lincoln! We are now accepting registrations for our upcoming ceremony.

April 24, 2024, 05:30 pm

Lincoln Fire Fighters Reception Hall

241 Victory Lane, Lincoln, Nebraska 68528

About the Ceremony:

Our Community Salutes of Lincoln, NE will host its Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony to honor its Class of 2024 high school seniors and their families on April 24, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Featured speakers will be announced shortly.

There is no cost to attend this event. Local businesses and individuals are underwriting the entire cost of the ceremony in honor of our Class of 2024 high school enlistees who have made the selfless decision to serve our country.

Suggested dress attire is business or business casual. Everyone must register, two weeks in advance, to attend the event.

Please be sure to register by April 14th :

Register at <https://community.ocsusa.org/lincoln/>

Contact Information:

- **Nora Lee Huscher**
- **402-310-2794**



DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



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



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



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!

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

Remains of soldier killed in war finally home



It has been more than 72 years since Dale Dewayne Thompson of Valentine, Nebraska, went missing in Korea. Finally, in December, his remains were identified. He was flown back to Omaha on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, and made a long and notable journey by car back home.

Dale, 18, and his 17-year-old brother, Gene, both still in high school at the time, enlisted in the Army together. That was on March 21, 1950, according to Dale's obituary. Tensions had been brewing on the Korean Peninsula and war officially broke out on June 25.

Betty Schroeder, 89, of North Platte, said, "One day we were playing ball and I heard them talk about going into the service." Betty was alarmed, but "they said all the young men were going and they thought they should go too." They enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"On their first leave Gene was so tickled and pleased," but "Dale was apprehensive about going" back. "The next leave was about three or four months later and again Gene was so full of it and Dale was apprehensive again," Schroeder said.

Private First-Class Dale Thompson was reported missing on Dec. 2, 1950, during a battle near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, according to the United States Defense POW/ MIA Accounting Agency.

So, Gene came home, alone, and he "was so sad because he realized Dale was not coming home with him," Schroeder said. The boys' mother cried for days. "Days and weeks and months went by, and she was so sure that he (was alive and) would be able to come home. She used to say, "Maybe he's in a concentration camp."

Recently a headstone was discovered, already in place, for Dale, not far from his parents' marker. It reads, "In Memory, Dale D. Thompson, 1932-1950, Missing in Action in Korea." They don't know who bought and placed it. His mother, maybe?

From time to time, as DNA science advanced, Gene would be contacted by the government for updated DNA samples, Williams said. Those contacts kept hope alive that one day Dale's remains would be identified and returned home

That day finally came. Following a 2018 summit between former President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, the remains of 55 people were sent to Hawaii, where Thompson's remains were identified on Nov. 28, 2022. On May 11 the DPAA conducted a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman, Hawaii, for Pfc. Thompson. The remains were flown to Omaha on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Pfc. Dale Dewayne Thompson was honored with a service Friday, June 30, at New Hope Cemetery in Valentine.

North Platte Telegraph, VALENTINE —

Marine Awarded The Medal Of Honor In Korea



Baldomero López (August 23, 1925 – September 15, 1950) was a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War. In Korea, Lt. López served as a platoon commander in A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced). On September 15, 1950, he took part in the amphibious invasion of Inchon. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor for smothering a hand grenade with his own body during the Incheon Landing on September 15, 1950.

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a rifle platoon commander of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces. With his platoon, 1st Lt. Lopez was engaged in the reduction of immediate enemy beach defenses after landing with the assault waves.

Exposing himself to hostile fire, he moved forward alongside a bunker and prepared to throw a hand grenade into the next pillbox whose fire was pinning down that sector of the beach. Taken under fire by an enemy automatic weapon and hit in the right shoulder and chest as he lifted his arm to throw, he fell backward and dropped the deadly missile. After a moment, he turned and dragged his body forward to retrieve the grenade and throw it.

In critical condition from pain and loss of blood, and unable to grasp the hand grenade firmly enough to hurl it, he chose to sacrifice himself rather than endanger the lives of his men and, with a sweeping motion of his wounded right arm, cradled the grenade under him and absorbed the full impact of the explosion. His exceptional courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon 1st Lt. Lopez and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

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.

