



**“For God And Country”**  
**NOVEMBER 2020 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



**Meeting Schedule for November – December 2020**

Organization	Location	Time	November	December
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7 PM	11/10/20	12/08/20
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7 PM	11/10/20	12/08/20
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 South 84th	7 PM	11/19/20	12/17/20
ALR Chapter 3	ZOOM Meeting	6 PM	11/19/20	12/17/20
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7 PM	11/17/20	12/15/20
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th	7 PM	11/17/20	12/15/20
Pitch Tournament	Risky's, 4648 Leighton	7 PM	NONE	TBD
Buddy Check	The Foundry, 211 N 14th	7 PM	NONE	TBD
VA Coffeehaus	Antelope Park Bandshell	11 AM	NONE	TBD

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,**

*Every year on November 11th, our nation pauses to reflect on the sacrifices made by the men and women who have so valiantly served America; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*This Veterans Day we pray for the safe return of our loved ones who are in harm's way defending our freedom and promoting our values across the globe; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*Over 130,000 Nebraskans are military veterans. These are our family, friends, and neighbors who have answered America's call to serve and sacrifice, forging a proud and unselfish tradition; and*

**WHEREAS,**

*We should also remember and remain committed to serve those veterans who have returned home less than whole and do everything in our power to help them heal their wounds, comfort anxiety, and help them to resume their lives in peace.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

*I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the 11th day of November, 2020 as*

### VETERANS DAY



*in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to solemnly remember the sacrifices of those who have fought so valiantly in our past conflicts on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores. I ask all Nebraskans to support and recognize the sacrifices of those who have gone before them to preserve our heritage of freedom. I urge all citizens to rededicate themselves to the values of our hard-fought freedom and to proudly display the flag of the United States and to participate in ceremonies that affirm our appreciation and support of all who have served and those who are currently serving our beloved country.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.*

Attest:

Secretary of State

Governor

# What Is Veterans Day? Honoring All Who Served

Veterans Day is observed to celebrate the service of our former United States Armed Forces personnel. This includes service members from all branches of the military: the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and the Coast Guard. Since it's a federal holiday in the United States, many schools are closed during Veterans Day and a great deal of U.S. workers are given this time off. There are other holidays that celebrate the military in the U.S., but if someone asks you specifically, "What is Veterans Day?" the important thing to tell them is that it's a day to celebrate living veterans, or former members of the military who were discharged and are alive today. The other thing to know about Veterans Day is that there is no apostrophe in the word "Veterans." This is meant to signify that it's a day for the celebration of all veterans, and not a day that belongs or is owned by veterans. It's a day for the public to show their support and maintain the good faith the U.S. has in our nation's relationship with the military.

## Why Celebrate Veterans Day?

You might be asking, "why is Veterans Day important?" But the better question to ask might be who it's important to. We celebrate Veterans Day to honor the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who put their lives on the line to defend the freedoms that we take for granted.

Formerly Armistice Day, Veterans Day is a time when America comes together to recognize and respect the hard work of our former service members who are no longer in the military. Living veterans, whether they served for four years or forty years, and who were not dishonorably discharged, are the reason for the season. This distinguishes Veterans Day from a separate holiday called Armed Forces Day, which celebrates military personnel who are currently serving. It's also distinct from Memorial Day, another holiday focusing on armed service members. There's also a movement to legitimize Women Veterans Day, celebrated on June 12th, though it isn't yet nationally recognized. We celebrate Veterans

Day to give back to these people in a grand show of public support.

## Veterans Day History

The history of Veterans Day is interesting, as it's a holiday that was created in the U.S. and only celebrated in its exact form here, though other countries have similar holidays that resemble it. Once an international day to note the end of a worldwide conflict, it's now a day where Americans thank the men and women in their lives who served in the nation's military. How we got to this point is a fascinating story. The broader scope is that originally Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, and Armistice Day was celebrated around the world as the end of the First World War. World War I, also called the Great War, was a conflict that pitted the forces of Germany, the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Bulgaria against the allied countries of Great Britain, France, Japan, Russia, Romania, and Italy. The war began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and took place between 1914 and 1918. Armistice Day was created to mark the end of the first truly multinational conflict, "the war to end all wars." The name comes from the armistice the Allies formed with Germany to pause the fighting, which occurred at 11am on November 11th. The eleventh hour of 11/11. The armistice was not to last, though, and the war didn't end in practice until the Treaty of Versailles was signed in June of 1919. Before then multiple armistices began and then lapsed. Through pressure and advocacy by many veterans groups throughout the U.S., Armistice Day was eventually changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

## Veterans Day Meaning

With the change in name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, the meaning was altered as well. Veterans Day in the U.S. no longer focuses solely on the end of the First World War, but on the service of our living veterans who served for any length of time, whether in combat or not.

## (Veterans Day - Continued)

The meaning can be very personal, depending on the individual celebrant.

For veterans themselves, the meaning of the holiday can take a variety of different forms. It can be a day of reflection, where veterans think back on their time in service to their country or a day when they remember those they served with. It can be a day for civilians to show that they care about the time that their friends and relatives put in to pave the way for a successful society for them to live in. Many veterans and veteran organizations use the opportunity to educate younger generations about military service and its importance to the nation.

## What Day is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day is November 11th, every year. However, November 11th is still Armistice Day in a large part of the world. To the international community, it continues to mark the end of World War I. Other nations that once formed the Allies during the war still call the day Armistice day. Some of them have also changed the name, but not to Veterans Day like in the States. Instead, those countries call the holiday Remembrance Day.

Today, the Veterans Day National Ceremony is celebrated at 11 am at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

## Memorial Day vs Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a day to celebrate all living members of the military who have served, while Memorial Day is a time to honor those who have died in service to their country.

Memorial Day takes place every year on the final Monday in May. There are generally parades, speeches, and other celebrations that culminate in a ceremony around a memorial or cemetery for fallen members of the U.S. military. Memorial Day doesn't discriminate in terms of the time period, either. All deceased Americans who paid the ultimate price while serving are honored. Memorial Day is a day of appreciation, but also very much a day of mourning. Whereas Veterans Day is a time when we get to say thank you to the people who served while we still can.

**Kevin Lankes**

**Happy Thanksgiving  
to Soldiers  
everywhere  
who can't be  
with their  
families.**



## SOLDIER'S THANKSGIVING POEM

"Momma Don't Cry"

Momma don't cry, I'll be home soon -  
Sitting at the table, with my fork and my spoon-  
We'll eat thanksgiving dinner, that was prepared with  
your love-  
And we will all give our thanks, to the good lord above-  
For the time I've been here, on this scorched foreign  
ground-  
I must keep my silence, not making a sound-  
For one little peep, whether awake or asleep-  
Could be all that it takes, to make my momma weep-  
Still I'm coming home soon, standing at the front door-  
I'll scream and I'll yell, and be silent no more-  
The screams will be laughter, and I'll yell how I care-  
And be thankful that momma, was always right there-  
While night is falling here, the world has turned black-  
I'm thankful for home, and can't wait to get back-  
Just' sitting at the table, with my fork and my spoon-  
Momma don't cry, I'll be home soon-  
by Mike Hutcheson (Big Joe)

## COMMANDER'S CALL



**Legion Family All,**

**As you know membership is the engine that drives everything that the American Legion does and growing our membership is every Legionnaire's responsibility. If everyone of us made a point of asking our friends and family members who have served in the military since 1941 and were honorably discharged to join Post 3, we wouldn't have a struggle replacing those Legionnaires that pass on to Post Everlasting every year.**

**We must add approximately 130 new members every year to stay even. Your help is urgently needed to recruit new members for Post 3.**

**Congress has changed the eligibility requirements. Now anyone who served in the military since 1941 and was honorably discharged is invited to join the American Legion. The American Legion has always felt that a veteran is a veteran, but Congress makes the rules, and we have to work under their guidelines. With this very welcome change, our prospect numbers eligibility has dramatically improved. Requirement changes also apply to the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.**

**Now is the time to recruit new members for Post 3.**

**Here are some reasons that prospects should become a Legionnaire:**

**Free subscription to the American Legion Magazine.-- Benefits Assistance-- Comfort for the Recovering--Family and Community support--Homeless Veteran Outreach—Honor and Remembrance-- Member Discounts--Advocacy in Washington--Volunteer Opportunities. Post 3 is a very active Post, and we support all these reasons to join the Legion.**

**Please stop by the Post 3 office and pick up pamphlets and literature that will explain in detail the benefits of becoming a Legionnaire and ask questions of our Leadership Team. The office is located at 123 S. 84th St. and is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00AM til 12:00 noon.**

**Questions? Please contact me.**

**Respectively,**

**Wade Graft**

**Post 3 Commander**

**402-770-9126**

**[wamar4801@gmail.com](mailto:wamar4801@gmail.com)**

## Fund Raising

Current Bid - \$15.00



## Place Your Bid

This lamp is made from the Seagram's Collectibles. It is from the 57th National American Legion Convention in 1975 in Minneapolis Minnesota. The base gives the information. The center represents Ft. Snelling. It was never filled with Seagram's. It was made to hold a bottle of Seagram's. Someone made it into a lamp. We are auctioning it off. The money raised will be used for a Post 3 project. If you have any suggestions on a project to support, please include it with your bid.

Send your bid to:

Post 3 American Legion  
Suite L  
123 S. 84th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Or email your bid to [post3legionlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:post3legionlincoln@gmail.com),

The current bid will be posted daily on the Post 3 web site, <https://lincolnpost3.org/>

Good Luck,

Wade Graft

Post 3 Commander

# ADJUTANT'S REPORT



Welcome to Fall, we have had our first snowfall of the season. We have been busy in the office. We have started to receive dues payments from National's second dues mailings.

We have passed the Thousand mark, we have 1033 paid members for 2021, 73% of our 2021 goal. The sad thing is that we still need another 400 renewals and new members to reach our 2021 goal.

If you know a veteran who is not a Legion member, take the time to talk with them about what the

Legion has done for our veterans over the past 100 years.

We will be hosting our 2020 Oratorical contest this Wednesday, November 4th. Stop by and see what our upcoming leaders look like. Contest will be held at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, 8300 East Pointe Road, at 1630.

Again, thanks for your service. If you happen to meet a fellow Veteran on the street, be sure to stop and say HI. This is how our Buddy Check needs to be working. We need to be checking on each other, not just a call for dues reminders, but to just stop and talk to see how our fellow Veterans are doing.

Ed Schnabel

Adjutant



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Well, its November 2020, and we missed the October 2020 date for the new Lincoln Community Based Outpatient Clinic, CBOC, to be open. But on the bright side, the clinic building is up and in the finishing stages. The VA hopes to take possession of the building by the end of December 2020. It will take about 90 days for the clinic staff to outfit the new clinic and move into their new spaces. Look for the new CBOC to be opening about the end of March 2021.

If you would like to help one or two of our less fortunate veterans, there will be a Giving Tree at the VA for this Christmas. It will be set up in the old Canteen area. Stop by and pick up a tag or two. Gifts need to be returned to Volunteers Service, unwrapped, with the tags by the middle of December. They can then be wrapped and delivered to the Veteran.

Remember, the VA will only to be there for us if we use its services. If we do not use them, the

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

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

Thanks for your service.

Ed Schnabel

VA Representative

## POST 3 ALR DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



**Greetings Riders and Friends,**

**Well, "The RONA" continues to dominate all plans... We learned, just a day or so before our October meeting, that a staff member at the Denton Legion Club tested positive, and we were unable to hold an in-person meeting there. We were, however, able to meet via ZOOM and conducted a short business meeting. It really was great to "see" everyone!**

**Just when we thought fall had arrived, with all its glorious color changes and varying weather conditions, we got a slap-in-the-face dose of winter weather just to remind us (I suppose) of Who is in charge. Like the old commercial says, "Don't fool with Mother Nature." I certainly hope there will be some good riding days into November and December. Time to break out the winter riding gear!**

**Riders will, by now, have seen Resolution 19 (which I emailed to everyone in mid-October), recently passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee.**

**Resolution 19 sets out additional guidelines for American Legion Riders chapters. Some, but not all, of the guidelines have caused some angst among ALR members across the country. I'm sure in the coming days, weeks and months, we will hear more from National Headquarters regarding the reasoning behind the new, some of which many consider controversial, guidelines. Just so we are "leaning forward in the foxhole," I have appointed a Bylaws Committee, consisting of our Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms, to examine areas of our bylaws which may potentially change. As more information is shared from National, and other sources, I will keep our Riders informed.**

**November's ALR meeting will likely be via ZOOM again, but right now we just aren't sure. I'll be sure to keep everyone posted on the meeting status.**

**Until next time,**

**Ride Safe!  
Bruce**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN



It happened. God has gotten...let's say...upset...over past and current events in human history.

And what do I mean by upset, you rightfully ask? Ever hear of an act of God, like global warming, and now this killer virus?

No, it's not about to dawn over the world...yet...but it's getting there. Let's go over a few things

based upon Holy Scripture—the Bible—also known as God's Word. Maybe you'll get a handle on things...before it's too late.



*Eschatology*, or the “end times prophecies” of what has, is, and will happen to humanity, and the universe, is based upon God's timetable. The “last days” portion of the end times began with Jesus' ascension off the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9).

It will continue through Jesus' triumphant return to exact Judgement against humankind for their sins. Of course, His faithful—the Church—will face the *Parousia*, or the “Rapture” (1 Thessalonians 4:17), before His Judgement. Believers will face their Judgment, after the *Parousia*, but with rewards for serving God, not eternal damnation. That joyful occasion is called the *Bema* (Greek) for the “White Throne Judgment” (2 Corinthians 5:9).

Think of this pandemic as God's way of “leaning” on His faithful to do the right thing, despite controversy or other worldly goings-on. God gave us the choice of using His gifts of the Spirit

(e.g., word of knowledge, word of wisdom, prophesy, discerning of spirits, etc.) to aid our living in this fleshly world (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) before Jesus' return to Judge the living and the dead.

So, this is what it comes down to: love the Lord like there's no tomorrow for...well...that Judgment thing WILL happen before you know it. Are you ready for His return? Don't let this latest test of faith get you down. Show the Lord—and others—that trusting God is the **ONLY** way to get through this pandemic.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
ALP 3 Chaplain

# MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER



In Honor of our Veterans, the Gamma Delta chapter of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Foundation will be distributing pins to Veterans at the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Post 3 regular meeting. To get one, be at the meeting.

## Department Commanders and Adjutants

Please share the below links within your departments and urge them to take action to ensure Congress supports a critical piece of legislation.

## **CURRENT ACTION ALERT FOR DISSEMINATION TO POSTS AND MEMBERS:**

Going forward, the National Legislative Division will be sharing all Action Alerts with Department Commanders and Adjutants to expand our reach and increase the effectiveness of our digital advocacy efforts. Using Actions Alerts greatly increases our memberships reach and allows The American Legion to continue to lead on legislation at the national level.

What are Action Alerts?

- The National Legislative Division uses VoterVoice, a software program that allows our members to send emails to their Congressional Representative and Senators. It allows us to have members send an approved, unified message to congress in large numbers and verifies the members address so the message gets to the right members of congress.

- Action Alerts will be conducted 3-6 times a year on legislation that is in line with The American Legion's Legislative Agenda as dictated by the Legislative Commission.
- All active Action Alerts can be found here at our [Action Center \(https://www.votervoicenet/AmericanLegion/home\)](https://www.votervoicenet/AmericanLegion/home) or by visiting [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative) and clicking Legislative Action Center.

Our current Action Alert is to build congressional support for S. 4657 & H.R. 2898, which directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week". This bill would expand an American Legion program to the Department of Veterans of Affairs and dramatically increase the number of veterans we can positively effect. The hard work you do at the local level will be elevated to a national program to reach even more veterans! This bill is a timely, effective, and low-cost response to the rising isolation as a result of a global pandemic.

Please see National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford's statement in support of the bill here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yd4BP4MbFII&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yd4BP4MbFII&feature=emb_title)

For questions regarding the legislation, Action Alerts, or any grassroots issue please reach out to the Grassroots Coordinator at [grassroots@legion.org](mailto:grassroots@legion.org).

Sincerely,

Lawrence W. Montreuil, Director

Legislative Division

Office: (202) 735-2207

Eddy Muggy

District 15 Commander



During the month of October, the Honor Guard rendered “Honors” at 5 Legion funerals and was asked to assist at 7 VFW funerals. Please join us in Lincoln on November 8<sup>th</sup> for the annual Veterans Day parade to honor the military service of local heroes. The parade will begin at 2:00 p.m. at 21st and K Street and move west on K Street to the Capitol. There will be a stage in front of the Capitol for speakers before and during the parade.

### October 2020 Taps

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS	REPORTED
CHAFFEE	HAROLD	WWII	NAVY	53	10/08/20
HAMERSKY	MIROSLAV	KOREA	ARMY	47	10/12/20
HOLMAN	JAY	WWII	ARMY	61	10/13/20
MERRITT	LEROY	VIETNAM	NAVY	6	10/26/20
PALENSKY	JOSEPH	KOREA	ARMY	1	10/21/20
POWER	WALTER	KOREA	COAST GUARD	31	10/21/20
TULLIS	BYRON	VIETNAM	AIR FORCE	53	10/12/20
WILLEY	FRANK	VIETNAM	ARMY	53	10/27/20



# Minutes of Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3

Lincoln Elks Lodge #80  
October 13, 2020

The colors being in place, Commander Wade Graft opened the October 13, 2020 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 with 14 Legionnaires present.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and accepted without objection.

Ed Schnabel gave the finance report for the month ending August 31, 2020, reporting a balance on hand of \$35,461.44. The report was accepted and filed for review. Ed also reported on the status of some accounts associated with the post's activities involving American Legion baseball.

Adjutant Schnabel also reported on membership, indicating that about 950 members were paid up for 2021. (66%)

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

Bruce Gubser reported for the American Legion Riders. He said that he had just recently been informed that the Denton American Legion had experienced a COVID-19 issue and was closed temporarily. He said the this week's Riders meeting would be held virtually.

Dr. Jackson indicated he would have an Americanism report next month.

Dr. Jackson indicated that he nothing definite to report on County Government Day.

Gerry Wolf indicated that plans are being made for the Post 3 / District 15 Oratorical Contest to be held at 4:00 PM on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Good Shepard Presbyterian Church. There is currently 1 announced contestant from Pius X High School.

It was reported that Gerry Wolf would looking after ROTC activities for the coming year.

Gerry Wolf reported for the Memorial Committee and gave an update on the number of activities funerals or other activities attended so far this year.

Fred Craigie reported for the Sons of the American Legion. He indicated that the SAL would meet this Thursday at the Post 3 business office. He also report that a dues notice was resulting in some good success. 91 members of 165 renewed so far.

Commander Graft indicated that we currently do not have a POW/MIA chairman. Anyone interested is asked to step forward.

It was reported that Voiture 103 would hold its promenade next Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. No meal will be served.

Ed Muggy made a pitch for the Elks Lodge 80 January calendar fundraiser.

Gerry Wolf reported that the Memorial Squad was going to begin some flag-folding / presentation practice sessions beginning at 10:00 AM next Thursday at the Post 3 business office.

Hearing no final bids from those in attendance, Commander Graft announced that Bruce Gubser had won the 3-dimensional wooden flag constructed and donated by Rick McLaughlin. His bid was \$155.

On display tonight was a lamp which had been constructed from a Seagram's Whiskey bottle commissioned for the 1975 American Legion National Convention. The lamp had been donated to Post 3 by Unit 3. It was agreed to hold another online auction for the lamp as a Post 3 fundraiser. Some starting bids were received from those in attendance, and the lamp will be awarded at the November meeting.

Dr. Jackson read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 7:35 PM.

Steve Bartos  
Recorder

# KOREAN SOLDIER RETURNED HOME



On September 13, 2018, the family of PFC William “Hoover” Jones, a US Army soldier listed as missing in action since 1950, received a call they had waited nearly seven decades for.

In late November 1950, PFC Jones and his unit, 2nd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, were hit by an overwhelming Chinese force near Pakchon, North Korea, and immediately began taking heavy casualties. Outgunned and outmanned, Jones and his buddies were forced to make a fighting withdrawal. During the ensuing hand-to-hand fighting in sub-zero cold, hundreds of Americans died.

What happened to the Nash County, North Carolina native, who had been raised on a family farm and enlisted in the Army “in hopes of a better life,” is uncertain. But in the horror and chaos of the non-stop Chinese assaults, Jones disappeared.

Weeks later, Jones’ mother received a telegram from the US military. Her son was MIA, missing in action.

In a handwritten note addressed to his mother, the exhausted but cheerful soldier “with a wonderful sense of humor” talked about the hardships of the terrible North Korean cold and the long nights. “I hope I’ll be home by Christmas,” he added optimistically. It was the last letter he ever wrote.

For over six decades, the family waited and wondered. Had the 6’4” soldier, described as a devout Christian and his “mother’s favorite” by his three living sisters, died on the battlefield? Or had he somehow survived and perished as a POW?

In a phone call the family had waited nearly seven decades for, Ida was told that her brother's remains had been identified among 55 boxes returned to the United States by North Korea.

In a meeting with the three surviving sisters (Elizabeth, 96, Ida, 93, and Thelma, 89) a US Army Casualty Assistance Officer explained that Jones had died on the battlefield from a head wound, most likely a blow from a rifle butt.

For the family that had waited so long to find out what happened to their loved one in Korea, it was a relief. “It brought closure,” Thelma Jones Hilliard said. “We never gave up hope,” her sister, Elizabeth, added.

#### Postscript:

PFC Jones was buried on August 22, 2019, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery. In the months leading up to his burial, the family was inundated with an outpouring of support from local, state, and national organizations and leaders.

Two months before his interment, North Carolina officials, “in honor of PFC Jones’ life and service,” had the soldier’s remains lie in state at the NC State Capitol rotunda and lowered all US and NC flags to half-staff. Numerous church services, ceremonies, and tributes followed.

“Private Jones joined the military to serve his country,” Marine Corps veteran and North Carolina Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Hall said at a ceremony honoring the fallen warrior. “He wanted to fulfill the promise he saw in America by giving his service for what he thought would be a better future for him, his family, and his community.”

“He enlisted so he could travel and get a free education, which meant a lot to him,” his sister, Ida, recalled. “So he went, and he never came back.”

Ned Forney - Saluting America's Veterans

# **Soldier Awarded Medal Of Honor For Action In Afghanistan**



**His grandfather fought in WWII, his father served in Vietnam, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Afghanistan . . .**

**On October 3, 2009, Clinton "Clint" Romesha, a 27-year-old Staff Sergeant with 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division came under a withering barrage of machine gun, mortar, and RPG fire.**

**Stationed at Combat Outpost Keating, a small base deep in the mountains of Afghanistan, Romesha and his buddies, surrounded by more than 300 Taliban insurgents, immediately began taking casualties.**

**With men getting hit all around him, enemy troops breaking through the compound's walls, and explosions rocking the base, Romesha, a combat veteran who had served two tours in Iraq and a previous tour in Afghanistan, took action. Realizing the small outpost was about to be overrun, the section leader known for his calm, confident manner and sense of humor, rallied his troops and over the next 14 hours, despite being wounded in the neck, shoulder and arms by RPG shrapnel, killed countless enemy attackers.**

**Under intense enemy fire, the staff sergeant whose grandfather had served at Normandy in WWII and had told him "always do your best," single-handedly "took out an enemy machine gun team . . . moved confidently about the battlefield engaging and destroying multiple enemy targets, and under overwhelming enemy fire recovered numerous fallen comrades."**

**"When the fighting ended and the enemy finally retreated, 8 Americans were dead, 27 wounded and more than 150 Taliban fighters killed.**



**For his actions that played a pivotal role in saving the outpost from being overrun, SSgt. Clint Romesha was awarded the Medal of Honor.**

**"I know I did a decent job that day," he later said. "But we also lost eight guys. They never get to come home anymore. They never get to spend time with their families. They never get to have any more birthdays or Christmases or Thanksgivings."**

**Romesha's friend and fellow soldier, Ty Carter, was also awarded the MOH for heroism that day, and nine other Americans received the Silver Star, two of which were upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross.**

**Postscript:**

**In 2020, the film "Outpost," based on the book "The Outpost" by Jake Tapper, was released to wide acclaim. In the movie, which graphically depicts the US Army's heroic stand at Outpost Keating, Clint Romesha's character is played by Clint Eastwood's son, actor Scott Eastwood.**

**When asked about his Medal of Honor, Romesha always focuses on the brave soldiers he served in Afghanistan. "It's not mine," he recently told Minot Daily News. "It represents those eight guys that gave up more than was ever required of them, it represents every American, all of our service men and women — past, present and future." Romesha currently lives with his wife and three children in Minot, North Dakota. He is the author of the autobiographical book "Red Platoon."**

**Ned Forney – Saluting America's Veterans**

## **The Forgotten Heroism of U.S. Army Infantry Soldiers at Chosin**

**Key Point: Not until recent years have Task Force Faith's men been appreciated.**

**The U.S. Marine Corps was not the only group of Americans facing off against the Chinese at the Chosin Reservoir. The U.S. 7th Infantry Division's Task Force MacLean defended the Corps' right flank, but its story has been reduced to a footnote of history.**

**The task force consisted of three battalions of infantry and an assortment of artillery, anti-aircraft guns, and vehicles—in all 3,200 men. But the men of the task force lacked the Marines' advantages. While the Marine ranks were filled with well-trained World War II veterans, the Army soldiers had been pulled from easy occupation duty in Japan. Few had any training before shipping out to Korea. Additionally, MacLean's men were wearing cotton uniforms with little insulation from the 40-degree-below-zero temperatures, whereas the Marines were fully outfitted in winter clothes, especially hooded parkas.**

**Task Force MacLean took up station on November 27, 1950. Soon after, an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon was sent out and never heard from again. That night an entire Chinese division plowed into soldiers who were exhausted and ill-defended by the terrain. The first night's fighting left 100 men dead.**

**The next day the task force consolidated. MacLean ordered Lt. Col. Don Faith to reorganize and reinforce the southern section of the line. On his way there, Faith came under fire from troops across a portion of the frozen reservoir. He and his men returned fire until MacLean, thinking the troops were fellow Americans, went running onto the ice. He didn't get far before Chinese riflemen shot him down. Four times he got up, only to be dropped again by fire. Suddenly the Chinese broke out of their defenses, rushed over to MacLean, and dragged him to their lines, all the while under fire from Faith and his men. At that moment Task Force MacLean became Task Force Faith. The new commander efficiently organized his defenses and continued to resist the Chinese with help from some air drops and continual strafing attacks by Marine fighters. He was waiting for a relief force that was not coming.**

**Farther south and west the Chinese were on the attack, preventing any soldier or Marine from assisting the isolated task force. Faith was surrounded and would have to maneuver away from the reservoir on his own. With no other choice, Faith ordered all his wounded into trucks to begin a perilous journey back to the American lines. He had two options of escape: across the frozen reservoir or through the twisting mountain passes. He chose the latter, deciding that the ice was too thin for trucks, and he did not want to be caught in the open. It was a tragic choice.**

## **(Chosin Reservoir - Continued)**

**The chain of trucks, followed by anti-aircraft guns, began heading south. But it was not long before Chinese ambushes began halting the retreat. The Chinese waited around every turn. Faith's men had to tumble out of the trucks into withering fire to keep the convoy moving. At one spot a support fighter aircraft dropped napalm on both the Americans and Chinese. The burning Americans writhed on the ground while their comrades tried to extinguish the flames. More men were piled into the trucks as discipline broke down and soldiers fled for the frozen reservoir.**

**As night closed in Faith realized his only hope of surviving was a direct attack on the dominating Hill 1221, where entrenched Chinese were raking his men with gunfire. He gathered his men together, even the wounded who could hold a rifle, and ordered them to take the hill. When two Republic of Korea (ROK) soldiers refused to fight, Faith took out his pistol and shot them dead. In a rag-tag charge, the men rushed up the hill and drove the Chinese away. Unfortunately, the men continued over the hill and headed south, leaving the column even more defenseless. Faith pushed on.**

**The next morning the enemy fire was constant. At one turn, Faith crumpled when a grenade exploded near him. His men put him aboard a truck for the rest of the journey, but he would not make it. With every attack, more trucks had to be abandoned. Each roadblock was as disheartening as it was deadly. One roadblock was made of American tanks. Soldiers collapsed along the road, either too seriously wounded or exhausted to move on. Task Force Faith was coming to an end.**

**As the sun began to set on December 1, the Chinese rushed the remnants of the task force, tossing grenades into the trucks, killing and capturing the last of the weary fighters. The only escape was across the ice. Handfuls of frostbitten men dragged themselves across the expanse. Marines spotted them and formed rescue parties to bring them within their lines. Only 385 men survived.**

**Not until recent years have Task Force Faith's men been appreciated. An examination of Chinese records revealed the men were greatly outnumbered, and it was realized that their duel with the Chinese kept considerable pressure off the Marines, enabling them to conduct an orderly retreat. In 1999, Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig awarded the unit a Presidential Unit Citation. In 2000, veterans of the task force were invited by the Marine Corps to attend anniversary ceremonies for the Chosin campaign. Nevertheless, the U.S. Army has yet to recognize Task Force Faith for its hopeless battle with the enemy.**

*This article [first appeared](#) on the Warfare History Network.*

# The Candy Bomber, Gail Halvorsen, turns 100



Gail Halvorsen (photo credit: Neel Keller)

**'Candy bomber' looks back at Berlin Airlift**

**BY NEEL KELLER**

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1920, Gail Halvorsen was the second of Basil and Luella Halvorsen's three children. Growing up on the family's farm in Garland, Halvorsen graduated from Bear River High School in Tremonton. "Working on our small farm," Halvorsen recalled, "I was the only tractor my dad had. This was during the Depression, of course, so we didn't have any discretionary money. We did have a lot of love, though, and plenty to eat. We had no idea we were 'disadvantaged.'"

"In the springtime we had to thin the sugar beets, and that was a hard job. You had to get down on your knees and use a hoe and leave a sugar beet every twelve inches, so they would get big when they grew up. I remember I was down in the dirt and I saw some airplanes fly over in the blue sky and I thought, 'Wow! I'd like to be up there!'"

Explaining that early in 1941 — "before Pearl Harbor" — the government seemed to know there was "trouble on the horizon and we were going to need pilots," Halvorsen said a non-college pilot training program was started. He had always been "good at math and science in high school" and qualified on the written exam for one of 10 flight school scholarships out of a total of

140 students. "I got my private pilot license in September 1941 and now I could fly."

With the start of World War II, Halvorsen did not get his dream assignment flying a fighter plane and had to settle for serving as a transport pilot supplying bases in South America. He thought his active duty was over with V-E Day, but just a few years later, he learned his greatest adventure still lay ahead.

## The Berlin Airlift

After the end of World War II, the allies partitioned and occupied sectors of Germany. The capital city of Berlin, located in the center of the Soviet-controlled eastern half, was also divided into four sectors. By 1948 tensions between the other allies and the Soviet Union flared and the Soviets imposed a blockade, cutting off all rail and road routes through Soviet-controlled territory.

After contemplating several dangerous options for breaking the blockade, the allies decided on another alternative: supply the city by air. And so began the Berlin Airlift. Air crews from the U.S., Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa flew more than 200,000 flights in one year.

Halvorsen recalls one conversation with another pilot, who told him it was strange to be back in Germany helping the people who had not long ago been "the enemy." Asking the pilot how it felt to help feed them, Halvorsen said the man "looked off into the distance for a moment," then told him: "It's a whole lot better to feed them than it is to kill them. I'm glad to be back."

## **(The Candy Bomber – Continued)**

**Halvorsen had his own struggle flying missions to help his former “enemies.” One of his “best school buddies” was shot down and killed by the Germans. Halvorsen felt responsible for his friend’s death — and confesses that, for a time, he was very angry. When he realized that the people he would be helping were “mostly women and children,” Halvorsen decided it “wasn’t their fault.” Soviet Union leader Joseph Stalin, he said, was America’s new enemy. Halvorsen was determined to help defeat him and volunteered for the Berlin Airlift.**

**One day, Halvorsen decided to hitch-hike into Berlin to use his home movie camera and film the planes flying in and out of the air base. It was one of those seemingly insignificant decisions that would have major consequences.**

### **The Candy Bomber**

**Noting a crowd of about 30 German children standing at the fence that ringed the air base, Halvorsen called out to them and reached into his pocket to find some sweets to offer the children. He knew they had not had any in years. He says that what struck him about the children was that they were “grateful, grateful to be alive and grateful to be free. And not one of them asked for candy. They didn’t even signal with their body language that they wanted anything. That’s what made me want to give them something.”**

**Finding that he had only two sticks of gum, Halvorsen handed them over. Then he watched the children break the sticks of gum into quarters to share with others. Those**

**who did not get a piece of gum carefully tore the wrapper into small pieces and each took one, sniffing them to enjoy the aroma and then folding them up to take home to show their families.**

**Halvorsen told the children to return the next day, promising to drop more candy from his plane. The children immediately responded that, with a plane flying overhead every two minutes, they would never be able to recognize his. Then Halvorsen recalled a trick he had devised back in his earliest days as a pilot. He told the children to watch for the plane that wiggled its wings as it flew over. This led to the nickname “Uncle Wiggly Wings.” He later became known by his most famous moniker, the “Candy Bomber.”**

**As word of his daily candy drops spread and the crowds of children grew, Halvorsen was summoned by his commanding officer to explain what was going on. Fearing that he was about to be court-martialed, Halvorsen was commended instead and “Operation Little Vittles” became the air force’s official second mission over Berlin.**

**Hearing of the operation, the American public flooded the air force with donations. School children helped by attaching the candies to parachutes. By the end of the airlift, 25 bomber crews had dropped 23 tons of chocolate, chewing gum and other candies over West Berlin.**

**“I always tell the kids,” Halvorsen reflected, “that the little decisions you make put your footsteps on the path that determines where you end up — for good or ill. And that little decision I made — two sticks of gum — turned into 23 tons.”**

# Become a Member of The American Legion

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

American Legion Post 3  
123 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L  
Lincoln, Ne 68510

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(Name) (Date of Birth)

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

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**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
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<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 2021, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

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**Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Adjutant for approval.  
All requests must be received two weeks before the monthly meeting.**

