



# Lincoln Legionnaire



**VOLUME 72 NUMBER 4**  
Periodicals Permit #313700

**Oct/Nov/Dec 2025**

Current Membership	709	As of Nov 2025
2026 Goal	938	75.6%

The voice of American Legion Post 3 and its family of veterans affiliated organizations in Lincoln, Nebraska.

ADJUTANT: Ed Schnabel 402-480-8542 • edschnabelasa@gmail.com  
COMMANDER: Ron Hindmand • rhindmand@gmail.com  
POST 3 OFFICE: 402-466-3958

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

Justice

Freedom

Democracy

Loyalty

*"Pledged to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed, and the orphaned. Devoted to the cause of service to the community, state and nation."*

## COMING EVENTS

### December 2025

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 9 Post 3 / Unit 3 Meetings
- 13 Salon 832 Luncheon
- 16 Voiture 103 Meeting
- 18 Legion Riders Meeting
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas



### January 2026

- 1 New Years Day
- 8 SAL Meeting
- 13 Post 3 Meeting
- 15 Legion Riders Meeting
- 16-18 Mid-Year Conference, Norfolk
- 19 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Meetings

### February 2026

- 10 Post 3 / District 15 / Unit 3 Meetings
- 12 SAL Meeting
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Presidents Day
- 17 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Meetings
- 19 Salon 92 Meeting
- 19 Legion Riders Meeting



## LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER



Fellow Legionnaires,

It has been a busy time!

Your Post Honor Guard was very busy supporting nine functions culminating in the Lincoln Veterans Parade on 16 November. Gerry Wolf, as leader of the Honor Guard, did an outstanding job of coordinating and organizing Veterans Day events at schools, churches, and senior residential homes.

Bruce Gubser, in addition to providing significant support to these events, instituted a new program --- "Flags for Vets" --- at the Havelock Legacy Estates senior living residence. This program was supported by the Unit 3 Ladies Auxiliary, Legion Riders, and the Honor Guard. It is vitally important that we continue to perpetuate traditions celebrating and recognizing the contributions and sacrifices of our veterans. Additionally, it is essential to remember and honor our veterans' families who support and sacrifice so that veterans are able to serve this country.

A big thank you to our Honor Guard, Legion Riders, Unit 3 Auxiliary, and all veterans and their families for your loyalty and selfless service.

Of course, we also celebrated birthdays for the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marines the last three months. Best Birthday Wishes to all of our Post 3 members who are veterans of these services.

We are heading into our annual Christmas season with the traditional celebrations and projects to help our community. At our December 9th monthly Post 3 meeting, we will be teaming with the Unit 3 Auxiliary to collect food items for distribution to veterans and their families at the Veterans Administration Clinic. Please bring canned goods and nonperishable food items to make the Christmas season better for those who need a helping hand.

Again this year, we will be assisting the Salvation Army by Ringing Bells to collect money supporting those less fortunate in our local community. Post 3 and Auxiliary Unit 3 rang bells at the Williamsburg Hy-Vee on December 3rd and 4th. The Legion Riders were scheduled to be ringing bells on December 5th at the "O" Street Hobby Lobby.

Looking into the new year, the Nebraska American Legion Department Mid-Year Conference will be January 16-18 in Norfolk. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites (402-379-3833) will be hosting the Conference this year. A condensed schedule will be published in December in the Nebraska Legionnaire. This is a great opportunity to see your Legion leadership in action and experience the comradeship of fellow veterans.

Best wishes for a happy and fruitful Christmas season!

*For God and Country,*

**Ron Hindmand**  
Post 3 Commander

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Lincoln Unit 3 President Lori Gubser



Dear Members,

Halloween and Thanksgiving are in the rear-view mirror, and Christmas is right around the corner. This is truly one of my favorite times of the year!

In September, we had our scholarship recipients, Kasten Horstman and his parents and Kadence Eklund (by phone) and her father, Terry (who was at the meeting to represent his daughter). Kasten is the grandson of our Treasurer, Shirley Horstman.

We participated in the Lincoln Veterans Parade on November 16th. Our Chaplain, Jeanie Harris, once again drove. We had flags to pass out to the crowd. Thank you to our members for providing the flags. We were so happy to have Girl Scout Troops 28939 and 28965 help pass out the flags.

We provided cookies to the VA Clinic to celebrate our Veterans. Gift cards for groceries for our veterans in need were given out for Thanksgiving, and we will give more out for Christmas. We are also participating in the Gifting Tree at the VA Clinic and will be providing those gifts during December. Thanks to Luana for your work on this!

If you receive the Lincoln Legionnaire before our meeting on December 9th, I hope you will attend the meeting. Remember that we do not have an Auxiliary meeting in January.

That said, the Department Mid-Year Conference is scheduled from January 16-18 at the Norfolk Lodge in Norfolk. If you intend on staying overnight, please make your reservations sooner rather than later. Our February meeting will be on February 10th at 7:00 PM at the Elks Club. I hope to see you there!

Membership is moving along. If you have not done so already, please pay your dues promptly. We are not able to do what we do without your support. We need your help so we can help our veterans.

Also, it is not too early to put a note on your calendar to attend our fundraiser event on April 10th, 2026, featuring Elvis tribute artist Joseph Hall. See the flyer elsewhere in The Lincoln Legionnaire for more details.

And, lastly, please see our flyer in this publication for our partnership with Don & Millie's. The 3rd Sunday of every month, Don & Millie's will donate 20% of the cost of your meal to Unit 3. Just tell them to credit Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 at the cashier (for dine-in) or drive-through. The next date would be December 21st.

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a very healthy and Happy New Year!

*For God and Country,*

**Lori Gubser**

President, Lincoln Unit 3

## DISTRICT 15 ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 2025-2026 combination District 15 and Post 3 Oratorical Contest was held on November 4th at the Good Shepard Presbyterian Church. This year, we had a repeat and only contestant, Tera Thoms. Tera is a homeschooled high school junior. Her prepared oration was "Ratification of the 27th Amendment." She plans to attend the University of Nebraska and major in biochemistry upon high school graduation.

Assisting in the conduct of our contest in a variety of positions were Bruce Gubser, Gerry Wolf, Dr. Rev William Jackson, Wade Graft, John Ottoson, Steve Bartos, Steve Fowles, Pastor Jeff Warrick, Fred Craigie, and Ron Hindmand. As our winner, Tera will compete in the Area C Oratorical Contest on December 7th in Seward. The Department Finals Contest will be held on January 17th as part of the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk.

Post 3 awards \$100 to our winner upon participation in the Area Contest and a \$400 scholarship upon registration for their advanced education.

The Department scholarship awards are presented to the top four Area winners as follows: \$1,500 (1st place) and advances to the national finals held in Hillsdale, Michigan; \$1,000 (2nd place); \$800 (3rd place); and \$500 (4th place). The National scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the Final Round of the National contest as follows: 1st place - \$25,000; 2nd place - \$22,500; 3rd place - \$20,000.

Each Department (State) winner who is certified into and participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Each first-round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the Final Round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school.



Pictured are the District 15 Oratorical Contest winner, Tera Thoms, along with District 15 Commander Ron Hindmand and Tera's mother, Victoria Riis.

## SAINT MARK'S VETERANS GRATITUDE CELEBRATION

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church held a Veterans Gratitude Celebration on November 9th to honor those who have served, are serving, or know someone who has served.

Members of the Post 3 Honor Guard, led by the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Pipe and Drum Corps, presented the American and POW/MIA flags, along with the six service branch flags. Veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families stood during the presentation of service branch flags and songs.

Quilts of Valor were awarded to David Scharf (Navy), Dennis Schmidt (Air Force), Derek Keller (Army), and Jared Costello (Marine).

Retired Army Major General E. Mary Link delivered the keynote address honoring the service, sacrifice, and commitment of service members. The event also included a moment of silence for fallen and deployed troops.

Artist Joe Everson painted the Statue of Liberty while singing patriotic songs. His painting was auctioned off during a reception later that evening.



A Veterans Gratitude Celebration was held at Lincoln's St. Mark's United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 9, 2025. The Post 3 Honor Guard presented the colors. Pictured, L-R, are: Bruce Gubser, Ed Schnabel, Ronnie Hindmand, Gerry Wolf, Wade Graft, Dale Nurnberg, Rich Lemmerman, and Pam Umphenour.

## FUNDRAISER!

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 is partnering with **Don & Millie's** (at both locations — 56th & Nebraska Parkway and 81st and O Street) with an ongoing fundraiser. Every **3rd Sunday, from 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM.**

Just tell the cashier that you are supporting Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 when you dine in or drive through. Don & Millie's will donate 20% of your order to the Auxiliary.

You eat there anyway (*you know you do, admit it*), so why not support a worthy cause while you're at it!

**American Legion Auxiliary Lincoln #3**

**Caring & Sharing**

**EARN 20% DRIVE THRU OR DINE-IN**

**EVERY THIRD SUNDAY**  
**11 am – 9 pm**

Grab your family and friends and join us at Don & Millie's! Twenty percent (20%) of every dollar spent on great food and drink will go right back to our organization...See you there!

Please tell the cashier

56th & Hwy 2 and 81st & "O"



## VETERANS & FAMILY FUNDRAISER

**Featuring Joseph Hall, ELVIS Tribute Artist**

**SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, LINCOLN UNIT #3**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

## PLA-MOR BALLROOM

**6600 WEST 'O' STREET; LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

See ALA website: [nebraskalegionaux.net/calendar](http://nebraskalegionaux.net/calendar) for further details

## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Greetings, Fellow Riders and Legion Family ---

Your American Legion Riders continue their mission of supporting veterans and their families, while being proud representatives of The American Legion. Winter weather will be settling in soon and will bring our riding season to a close for 2025.

Chapter 3 Riders participated in about a dozen different parades and other activities in the past few months. Of note was our annual Poker Run fundraiser, held on August 23rd. We raised about \$1,800 during that event. We also drew the winning raffle ticket for our Henry Golden Boy rifle raffle. The rifle raffle generated just over \$4,000. The proceeds from the poker run and rifle raffle were split between our two charities, Wheels 4 Warriors and the Veterans Mission of Mercy.

Riders, with help from Post 3, hosted a Flags For Vets ceremony for veterans residing at a local senior living facility. We distributed about 40 folded flags and cards of thanks. We hope to have more of these ceremonies in the future at other facilities in Lincoln to honor the veterans living there.

We also participated in the Lincoln Veterans Day Parade on November 16th. The weather was near perfect.

Coming up will be our election of officers at our December meeting, with installation at our January meeting.

Until next time,  
Ride (and Drive) Safe!

*Bruce Gubser*  
ALR Director



Lincoln Chapter 3 of the American Legion Riders participated in the Lincoln Veterans Parade on November 16th.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send articles and pictures for the next issue of the *Lincoln Legionnaire* to Steve Bartos, Editor. 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email them to [LB32906@windstream.net](mailto:LB32906@windstream.net). Electronic submittals are preferred and should include reference to "Lincoln Legionnaire" in the subject line of your email. Materials for the next issue need to be submitted by **February 12, 2025**.

## TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Your Lincoln American Legion Post 3, along with Lincoln Elks Lodge #80, sponsored a new (for us) event on September 27th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The "Touch-A-Truck" event (TAT) was HUGELY successful, even more so than we had hoped for.

The TAT planning began a few months ago after a Post 3 member attended a similar event sponsored by Benson American Legion Post 112. The concept was to gather vehicles, both large and small, and have them available for kids of all ages to look at, climb on and in, ask questions, and just have a great, fun, and exciting time.

Phone calls were made to various government agencies and private companies to see if they'd be interested in displaying a vehicle. Thankfully, most agreed and were excited to share what they do with the public. In the end, we had participation from a number of state, county, and city agencies, along with a number of private companies.

Attending the event, and displaying a total of 16 vehicles were:

- Nebraska State Patrol
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Lancaster County Sheriff
- Lancaster County Engineer
- Lincoln Police Department
- Lincoln Water System
- Lincoln Fire and Rescue
- Southeast Rural Fire and Rescue
- MMT Ambulance
- Glenn's Towing
- Crete Carrier Corporation

The Elks donated 400 hot dog meals. Initially, 200 --- but those were gone within an hour or so of opening, so they ran to the store and got 200 more. And those other 200 were gone by just after noon. WOW!

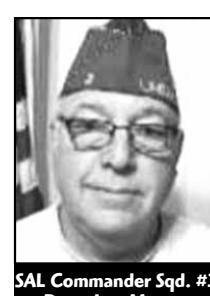
Crowd estimates by various people put the crowd at something over 1,000. The NSP Trooper reported that he brought 450 stickers and those were gone by noon or so. If zero adults got stickers, and each kid who got a sticker had one or two adults with them, the estimate of 1,000 was probably on the low end --- and the actual number was probably more like 1,500 or more.

Many attendees asked if we planned on making this an annual event. Based on the response to the event this year, the answer is probably "yes."

*Bruce Gubser*  
Touch-A-Truck Organizer



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



SAL Commander Sqd. #3  
Brendan Moore

Greetings from the commander and officers of Squadron 3 of the Sons of the American Legion.

I hope this year has gone well with you. I am grateful to be alive thanks to the many advancements in our medical procedures. 100 years ago, I would not be around.

We have again decided to continue with our successful event to help the needy out with their grocery bills for Thanksgiving and Christmas. By the time this is published, the Thanksgiving portion will have passed. If you would like to help out (and it is very rewarding) with the Christmas event on the morning of Friday, December 19, contact me or Fred Craigie for the location and time.

Since we will be busy in December, our next meeting won't be until January. If something comes up before then, it will be discussed at the Christmas event.

*Brendan Moore*  
SAL Squadron 3 Commander

## NOTES FROM THE VA REPRESENTATIVE

Merry Christmas!

Remember --- There might be limited appointments during the Christmas and New Years holidays at the Lincoln Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) or other local clinics.

### Lincoln, Nebraska CBOC

**Time change.** The Lincoln CBOC is now closing at 5:00 PM. Be sure you double-check times for appointments after 5:00 PM.

Flu shots are now being given through walk-ins, or urgent care. When you have an appointment, you will be asked if you wish a flu shot or to update any other vaccines that show up as overdue on your VA health records.

One of the most asked questions I receive is, "Where is the Finance Office?" Sorry to say, but the Lincoln CBOC does not have a finance office on site. If you have a billing question, you will have to call the number that is listed on the copay notice you might have received.

You should find a finance office in most of the VA Hospitals, but they may have limited hours. This is true for the Omaha VA hospital.

Currently, there are no mask requirements at VA clinics and hospitals.

Masks are available for those who wish to wear them at the front doors of the clinics.

Express Care, a walk-in service, is for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call and 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.

The Lincoln Clinic treats about 300 patients a month as walk-ins.

### Christmas Giving to our fellow Veterans

A Christmas tree will be up soon at the Lincoln CBOC. If you wish to donate a gift, please stop by the clinic and pick up a tag from the tree. Return your unwrapped donation to the clinic with the tag from the tree. Thanks

The food drive to collect food items for our homeless veterans in the Lincoln area is still ongoing. Items requested are shelf-ready, power bars, and easy-to-open items (pull tabs), etc. Please do not bring in food items that are past their expiration date --- they must be thrown away. A can opener would be nice.

Other items that our homeless veterans could use are hygiene care items. They should be the small size that would fit easily into a backpack.

As the weather is changing from fall to winter, our homeless veterans could use warm clothing --- hats, gloves, underwear, etc. Volunteer Services has a list of the most requested items. In Lincoln, they can be reached by calling 402-486-7938 or texting Ty.Andrews@va.gov

### Want to Serve your fellow Veterans?

The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You can volunteer to help veterans in a local clinic or hospital or 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 for the younger kids who come with parents, grandparents, etc., when 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.

Hours given by the volunteers are credited with saving the VA Health System at Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island an equivalent of 25 full-time

staff employees. This is based on an hour of service being credited at the rate of \$31.50 per hour.

### Service Animals

The only animals that should be brought into a VA Health System clinic / hospital are trained service dogs, etc. that qualify under DAV requirements. Other pets / comfort dogs, etc., do not qualify and should be left at home.

### VA Claims

With the signing of the PACT Act, more veterans have become eligible for services, not only for those who serviced "boots on the ground," but anyone who has served since the Gulf War. If you have any questions, call your local service officer, VSO, county, or state. It only takes a few minutes to see if you might qualify for an increased rating or a new VA disability rating.

The Veterans Affairs website is a great place to visit. You can find out the latest information affecting veterans. You can track claim status, file for travel pay, view your VA account, payments received, or copay owed. You can make the copay payments online, etc.

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

*Ed Schnabel*

American Legion Representative (Lincoln CBOC)

## LINCOLN VETERANS PARADE

Lincoln held its annual Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 16th. Post 3 members and Chapter 3 American Legion Riders participated in the parade. Others observed along the parade route.

Carrying the colors were Pam Umpenour, Rich Lemmerman, John Ottoson, and Ronnie Hindman. Carrying the banner were Ed Schnabel, Jerry Landkamer (National Vice Commander for the Midwest Region of the American Legion), Gerry Wolf, and Marshall Logan.

National Vice Commander Landkamer is a member of Norfolk Post 16, but is a former member of Lincoln Post 3. We were honored to have him march in the parade with Post 3.



National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer

## NOTES FROM THE POST 3 ADJUTANT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

I'm hoping that you all have a great and safe holiday season. The Lincoln Post 3 business office will be closed from December 19th to January 5th. If you require help from the adjutant, please call or text 402-480-8542

I want to thank all the Post 3 members who came out to take part in the 7th Annual Lincoln Veterans Parade. It was nice to have Jerry Landkamer, the American Legion's National Vice Commander for the Midwest Region, come to Lincoln and march in the parade with us. Vice-Commander Landkamer is a member of Norfolk Post 16 --- but a former member of Post 3.

The Nebraska Department of Veteran Affairs has been trying to present a special medal to all of Nebraska's living WWII veterans. If you know a WWII veteran who has not received this medal, please let us know. This medal has been made specially for Nebraska's WWII veterans. The Post 3 Honor Guard and other post members have been able to attend a few of these presentations.

### RENEWALS

2026 Renewals: On November 18th, Post 3 stood at 698 paid members for 2026. We need about 250 new or renewed members to meet our 2026 goal. Department Life Members currently are down to 44 members, with 15 members who have joined the Post Everlasting during this Legion year.

Online Renewals. 91 have renewed online (one for three years). Those who took advantage and renewed for three years should not have received a renewal notice. Those who are regular PUFL (Paid-Up-For-Life) members, you should have received your 2026 membership card directly from the National Headquarters. If you have not received your 2026 card, please let us know.

To date, we have four "new" members, four "transfers in," and four "transfers out." Current Post 3 membership is made up of 11 WWII, 92 Korea, and 465 Vietnam veterans --- the remainder being those who served since 1975.

For those who did not renew for 2025, you were classified as expired on January 1st. You probably stopped receiving The Legion magazine, and you could be denied entry into a Legion Club. For those who were in the Legion Insurance program, your coverage also ended as of the 31st of December 2024. You must be a member in good standing to be covered. It's not too late to renew for 2025 --- and then for 2026.

American Legion Insurance --- it is easy to do. Just go to their website and enroll. Legion Insurance covers you while you are traveling to a Legion activity.

Military Service We continue trying to update our membership roster as to branch or service and the war era that you served. National has been printing on the back of renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and add or correct as needed so we can correct our database. Thanks to all who have supplied or updated their information; it makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed. (We'd also like to have your date of birth on file.)

### VSO Websites to Visit

Nebraska's Department of Veterans Affairs, VFW, DAV, and AMVETS websites. These websites are a great place to find current and helpful information on what Congress is currently working on and how it could affect you as a veteran. The VA website has many tips on filing claims and links to other VA services to which you are entitled. The VFW, DAV, etc. do an excellent job of keeping track of Congressional activities that can or will affect veterans.

VA News ([veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)). The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and your local County Service Office are here to serve you. They can pull up your records of military service and help track any claims you may have filed. If you have not visited with your service officer, now would be a great time to stop and visit with him/her. The 2025 Nebraska Legislature may have passed legislation that affected you and your benefits.

### Membership

We need to talk with our younger troops who have served since the Gulf War. They will become the backbone of our VSOs in a few years. Without these younger veterans, we will no longer have a strong voice in Congress. Without a strong voice in Congress, we will keep losing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Health Care System.

If you are a member of this group of veterans or know a veteran from these conflicts, please ask them if they are a member of a VSO (veteran service organization) and, if not, ask them to please join. They may not be using VA services now, but may wish to in the future — and then find that VA services have been cut back due to a lack of a strong voice in Congress.

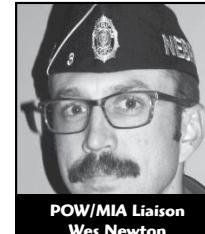
We thank them all for their service and for being members of Post 3 and the American Legion.

*Ed Schnabel*  
Post 3 Adjutant

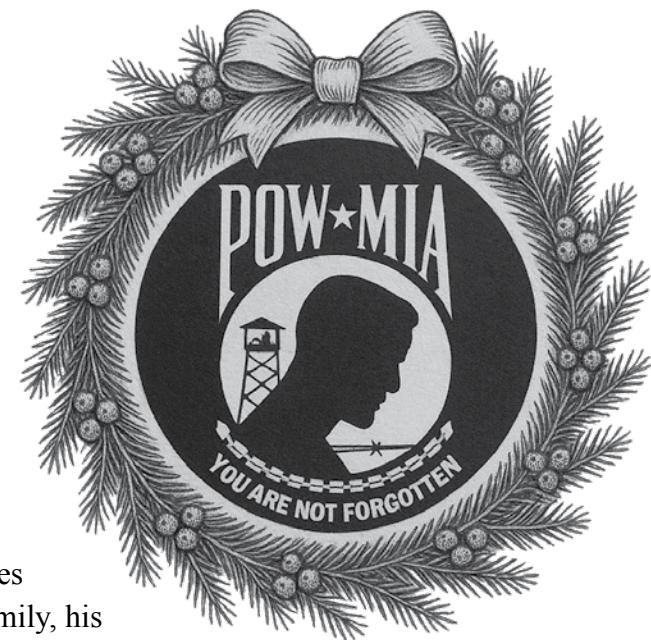
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## PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION

Finding Light in the Dark: A Christmas Reflection  
from a Vietnam POW's Story



In the jungles of Vietnam, Captain Gerald Coffee's life changed forever. A Navy pilot shot down over North Vietnam in 1966, Coffee spent seven years as a prisoner of war, seven Christmases separated from his family, his freedom, and the world he once knew. Yet, when he spoke about life after the war, his story wasn't one of bitterness or despair. It was one of faith, endurance, and the quiet miracles that God planted in even the darkest soil.



In his Hanoi prison cell, Coffee and his fellow POWs developed a secret tap code system, simple knocks on concrete walls that carried words of comfort, laughter, and Scripture. "Those taps," he once said, "were the lifeline of my faith." When the guards stripped away every earthly comfort, faith was all he had left --- and it was enough. In the stillness of that isolation, he began to see God not as a distant deity, but as a presence that could inhabit a bare cell, a hidden knock, or a whispered prayer. That unseen strength became the Christmas star that guided him home.

When he was finally released in 1973, Coffee returned to a country that

had changed. The noise of the world, the rush of life, even the holiday cheer --- all of it felt overwhelming. But he carried with him a truth that never faded: the realization that joy isn't something you wait for --- it's something you notice. It's found in the ordinary: a child's laugh, the scent of pine in December, the voice of a friend on the other end of the line. "After years without freedom," Coffee reflected, "I learned to be grateful for the simplest things; the sunrise, the sound of rain, the touch of another hand."

As veterans, we know that the Christmas season can stir deep emotions. Some of us remember holidays spent far from home. Others carry memories of those who didn't make it back. The lights and carols can feel like a reminder of what's missing instead of what remains. Yet, maybe that's where the miracle begins again, when we choose to look beyond the ache and share light with those still walking through their own winters.

This season, take a moment to call a buddy you served with. Drop by a Legion post, a nursing home, or a neighbor's porch. Share a meal, a laugh, or even a memory. The bonds forged in service don't fade with time; they're sacred reminders that none of us is meant to carry life alone. In extending that small kindness, you may just be tapping on a wall, passing along the same message that sustained men like Captain Coffee: *you are not forgotten*.

Christmas, at its core, is about light breaking through darkness, about a Savior born into a troubled world to remind us that hope is real. Whether you're surrounded by family or sitting quietly with memories of old friends, remember that the same God who guided a downed pilot through a prison camp walks beside you today. And in the humble, everyday wonders around us, His grace still whispers: *You are home*.

**Wesley Newton**  
POW MIA Liaison



LEGIONNAIRE.....	SERVICE ERA.....	DATE
Dennis E. Beeman .....	Vietnam.....	7/25/25
Frank H. Chambers .....	WW II.....	7/19/25
John R. Coupe .....	Korea .....	10/7/25
Larry L. Eaton .....	Korea .....	9/18/25
Wallace L. Gake.....	WW II.....	8/24/25
Keith L. Hatfield .....	Vietnam.....	8/4/25
Dale C. Hogan .....	WW II.....	8/23/25
Vernon H. Hunzeker.....	Vietnam.....	8/29/25
Maurice Lind .....	Korea .....	9/30/25
Myron L. Pudwill.....	Vietnam.....	10/7/25
Bruce W. Rudeen .....	Vietnam.....	8/21/25
Martin C. Schuchman .....	Persian Gulf .....	8/18/25
Richard S. Snyder .....	WW II.....	3/26/25
Robert H. Taylor .....	Korea .....	8/27/25
Eldon W. Wooters .....	Vietnam.....	9/11/25

## POST 3 HONOR GUARD

In November, the Post 3 Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors teams at 6 funerals.

The Honor Guard's civic involvement in November included participation in four events:

- Buried flag ashes from our latest Dignified Flag Retirement at Lincoln Memorial Park.
- Assisted with the District 15 Oratorical Contest.
- With the assistance of Air Force JROTC, folded and placed in flag boxes 50 American flags for a Veterans Day program.
- Served as Flag Bearers at the Veterans Gratitude Celebration at St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

The Honor Guard conducted 9 Veterans Day visits, which involved honoring veterans at retirement homes and visiting schools. We also walked in Lincoln's Veterans Parade.

So far in calendar year 2025, the Honor Guard has assisted the Military Honors Teams at 81 funerals and made appearances at 43 civic functions.

*Gerry Wolf*  
Honor Guard Commander



Pictured, L to R, are Tom Kelly, Debbie Bouffard, and Jaime Tyser. They are members of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra and serve as the buglers who play "Taps" at our funerals.



## RECRUIT A MEMBER FOR POST 3 NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Yes! I want to help my community and my fellow veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion. I certify that I have at least one day of active military duty during one of the periods identified below and was honorably discharged --- or am still serving honorably. Enclosed is my check made out to

**"American Legion Post 3" for \$56. (Effective 7-1-2024 for 2025 membership year)**  
Please fill out the information requested below and submit your application and payment to:

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

### Eligibility Periods (Check One)

April 6, 1917 thru November 11, 2018  
 December 7, 1941 thru the present  
 Merchant Marine: December 7, 1941 thru December 31, 1946

### FOR DEMOGRAPHIC PURPOSES (Please check)

#### DATES OF SERVICE

April 6, 1917 – November 11, 2018  
 December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946  
 June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955  
 February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975  
**CORPS**  
 August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984  
 December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990  
 August 2, 1990 – PRESENT  
**MARINE**  
 Other Conflicts (LEGION ACT)

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09/11/2025

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