



**“For God and Country”**

## **OCTOBER 2024 POST 3 NEWSLETTER**



### **Meetings For October 2024**

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	7:00 PM	10/08/24
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	7:00 PM	10/08/24
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 <sup>th</sup> St	7:00 PM	10/10/24
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	10/17/24
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	6:30 PM	10/15/24
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 <sup>th</sup> St	6:30 PM	10/15/24
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	10/17/24
Buddy Check	Rock-n-Joe, 5025 Lindburg St	6:00 PM	10/22/24
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	10/18/24

## **Commander's Call**



Fellow Legionnaires,

I had an interesting conversation with a neighbor a week or so ago while her kids and my grandson were playing on the playground. She asked me about the uniform that I sometimes wore as I drove by her house. I explained that I was in The American Legion, and that I was part of our honor guard. When she saw me in uniform, I was likely on the way to render honors at a veteran's funeral. She replied that she remembered seeing The American Legion in her little hometown doing the same thing. Her family did not have a military history, but she said that she has always respected the men and women who paid so much for the freedoms that

we enjoy. She thanked me for my service, and for what I was doing for the families of those departed veterans.

I think the lesson that I learned from that conversation was that we may not realize the impact we are making on someone even if we aren't speaking directly to them. Are you representing The American Legion in the way it deserves to be represented? Are you setting a good example? Are you involved in Post 3 activities? Are you inviting your veteran friends or colleagues to join us?

Coming up soon on the calendar is an annual event that we call the oratorical contest. If you know a high schooler who might be interested in giving a speech with the potential for some cash and/or scholarship money, please refer them to their school's guidance counselor or speech teacher for more information. Our contest is only a few short weeks away. Speaking of the contest, we will be searching for some volunteers to help with the contest itself, scoring, escorting the contestants, etc. If you can assist, please reach out to Ronnie Hindmand.

Let's talk about membership. While we are well into the renewal season for the Legion membership year, National has still not yet sent out renewal notices. They will be coming to your mailbox within the next week or so. When you get your notice, please take appropriate action. And remember, the Department will hold a drawing for an early bird renewal prize if you have your membership renewal in by November 11th. Dues are our primary source of income. Now might be a good time to consider a paid up for life membership to avoid any future dues increase. If you are interested in purchasing a paid up for life membership, please contact the Post 3 office and we can help you with that.

The American Legion National Headquarters has asked all Legionnaires to contact Congress to request support for H.R. 7543 – Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act! This legislation aims to rectify GI Bill inequality for National Guard and Reserve servicemembers. The American Legion supports this legislation. Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress. The link to the Action Center is:

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/117941/Respond>

I strongly encourage you to attend our meeting, held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7pm, at the Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58th Street. Please keep all veterans and their families in your prayers. And please pray for all currently serving members of our Armed Forces, and their families, wherever they may be dispersed.

For God and Country,

Bruce Gubser

Post 3 Commander



The American Legion's Be the One initiative encourages American Legion Family members, veterans, servicemembers and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide.

Our goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can Be the One.

**Veterans:**

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

**Non-veterans:**

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

For urgent help: Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and press 1 for mental health assistance. Counselors are available 24/7. They may also text 838255 or visit the VA crisis line website [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net)

# **Notes from the Adjutant's Desk**



## **2025 Renewals**

July started the renewals for Legion Year 2024-2025. Your 2024 membership card is good through 31 December 2024. After that, you are classified as expired and you will stop receiving The Legion magazine, and you could be denied entry into a Legion Club.

2025 Renewal notices for current members who are in good standing will be mailed out in early October from National HQ.

The dues for Legion year 2025 are now \$56.00. Both the National and Nebraska Department increased their dues by \$5.00. Post 3 did not increase it's dues for 2025, remaining at \$11.00.

PUFL 2025 membership cards were mailed out by the Legion National office. If you are a PUFL member and have not received your 2025 card, let us know and I can check your status.

A mass e-mailing was sent to those whose email address we had on file, informing them of the late mailing from National. As of this writing, 160 members have renewed their 2025 dues. Doing renewals online is quick and easy. Log on Legion.org and click the link for renewal. I want to thank those who have taken the opportunity to renew their membership online for 2025. The current 2025 membership stands at 331, about 25% of our 2025 goal.

You can still renew for three years if you wish to do so. The rate of renewals will be at the current rate of \$56.00 dollars. Online renewals, start by logging into Legion.Org and clicking the renewal link. Once there you should be given the opportunity to renew for up to three years.

## **Nebraska Department Life members**

2025 membership cards have been mailed to the address we have on file for you. If you have not received yours, and have moved during the past year, please let us know so we can get them to you.

## **Member Information**

We would like to thank those who have provided the request for mailing address, phone number and email information. We have many members who have moved who we do not have correct information. The US Postal service returns mail that they do not have a forwarding address. We try to track down those members who have moved. Many locations respond with, "no longer living here."

This is also true for those members who have passed on to Post Ever Lasting. If you know of a member that has died, please let us know. This saves National and the post postage on renewals which are returned to the Post.

## **(Adjutant's Notes – Continued)**

The same goes for branch of service, or war era. National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and add as needed so we can correct our database. Thanks, it makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

On a sadder note, while checking post membership cards, I found that 46 members did not renew for 2022 and 32 did not renew for 2023. Of these only 12 were Korean war veterans. Thus, the remaining 66 are veterans from our most current conflicts, Vietnam, thru Middle East/Gulf war.

These members of the most current conflicts are now the backbone of not only the American Legion, but also the VFW, DAV, AMV, etc. 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). If not, ask them to please join. They may not be using VA service now and may wish to in the future. Then they may find that VA services have been cut back due to a lack of a strong voice in Congress.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs, VFW, DAV, AMVETS web sites**

These web sites 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 filling claims and links to other VA services to which you are entitled. VA News <[veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov)>

The VFW, DAV, etc. do an excellent job of keeping track of Congressional activities that can or will affect veterans.

The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and your local County Service Office are there to serve you. They can pull up your records of military service and help track your claims you may have filed.

If you are a Retiree or SBP Annuitant, you might want to read a note sent out by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in their September newsletter.

<https://www.dfas.mil>

Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3. Remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service also.

Ed Schnabel

Adjutant



## **Lincoln CBOC/VA News**

### **Flu shots and Covid shots**

Flu and Covid shots are currently being given in the walk-in clinic. Shots will be given to only those enrolled in the VA Health system.

VA clinics and hospitals no longer require the wearing of masks to enter clinics. As cases of

covid are rising masks will be required if you feel you have or want to be treated for covid. Masks are available for those who still wish to wear them at the front doors of the clinics.

Express Care is a walk-in service for those who wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call and see if they offer Express Care (walk in) service. Lincoln Clinic treats 300 a month as walk-ins.

The Lincoln Clinic will be taking part in a Homeless Coalition even at the Pinnacle Bank Arena on October 16, 2024, here in Lincoln.

### **Want to serve your fellow Veterans?**

The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You volunteer to help veterans in the clinic or hospital, or a veteran home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veteran's home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic or hospital with a parent for their appointments. There is always a need for the younger kids who come with parents or grandparents 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, or veteran's home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.

Hours given by the volunteers are credited with saving the VA Health at Omaha, Lincoln, and GI 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.

(CBOC/VA News – Continued)



## **DAV Van**

The DAV is looking into acquiring a new VA van. The VA will donate \$22,000.00 with the DAV covering the remainder of the cost.

## **Service Animals**

The only animals that should be brought into a VA Health 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 PAC, more veterans have become eligible for services, not only for those who served 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. This only takes a few minutes to see if you might qualify for an increase, or a new VA disability rating.

The Veteran Affairs web site 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.

Thank you 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 American Legion Riders were a bit busy in August and September.

We went to Wilber on August 9th for the Czech Days parade. We paired up with the Legion Riders from Beatrice. On the 17th and the 20th, several of us were involved with funerals.

In September, just a couple of things: On the 23rd, some of us were part of an escort from Lincoln to the Omaha National Cemetery for an Air Force veteran's service. We also had our Poker Run on the 29th. This was originally scheduled for the 22nd, but was postponed to the 29th due to the weather on the 22nd. The money raised is going to the Patriotic Productions and Wheels 4 Warriors. The money from the Poker Run and the rifle raffle will be included in this donation.

An upcoming event is the Veterans Day parade on the 10th of November.



Wilber Czech Days Parade



Legion Riders at a funeral

Neil Larson,  
Director, American Legion Riders, Chapter #3



## **The Chaplain's Remarks**



**THE RIGHT WAY—which is it: God is true, or you and the world are true.**

**To make it plain, in order to qualify for truth, you'd have to display some verifiable evidence of that reality outside of your immediate experience as witnessed through your flesh, or five senses, as the greatest proof of what you actually hold to be sacrosanct.**

**Now is the chance for anyone to identify what is true by virtue of one's statement of reality, bolstered by your knowledge the real world**

**It is self-evident that the reality of your awareness of truth is tinged with the effect of not having ALL knowledge, ALL power, and ALL accessibility to be anywhere, at anytime for any reason.**

**It comes down to this: if there IS no God, then truth fails to exist. If there IS a God, then everything around you—people, animals, plants, our atmosphere, our oceans, and every form of matter and energy--CAN NOT betray the circumstances He put in place.**

**The Lord tells us, in Genesis, and the rest of the *Pentateuch* (i.e., Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) that Moses left us, we should then depend on God for the “whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”**

**The current Judgment deals with correction for sin. BUT *the “White Throne Judgment”* (Revelation 20:11-12) determines a person's future for Heaven or Hell. *The Judgment Seat of Jesus* (i.e., 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) brings many “crowns” for His disciples (i.e., Revelations 22:12).**

**Truth is truth. It all depends on you., Either God is real, with truth, or the world is true, with lies undergirding your reality.**

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson  
Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3**

## **Post 3 Honor Guard**



In September, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 6 funerals and provided a Color Guard to present the Colors at the opening ceremonies of The Capitol City Ford and Mustang Club Car Show, the Nebraska Insurance Leaders Forum and the Breakthrough T1D Walk (Formerly Junior Diabetes Research Foundation) walk.

In the Calendar year 2024, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 67 funerals and made appearances at 32 civic functions.

The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans and for appearances at local civic functions is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

## **Post 3 TAPS – September 2024**



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Steven Grenier	Vietnam	Navy	30
John B. Huss	Vietnam	Army	7
Alan R. Katt	Vietnam	UNK	38

**Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80  
September 10, 2024**

**Commander Bruce Gubser opened the September 10, 2024, meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 30 Legionnaires and guests present.**

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

**Lincoln native and Vietnam veteran Nancy Fassbender was introduced. She made a presentation on several war memorials and then conducted a “pinning” ceremony for about 10-15 Vietnam veterans present.**

**The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.**

**Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending August 31, 2024, showing a balance of \$36,424.37. Upon proper motion, the report was filed for review.**

**Adjutant Schnabel also reported that dues were slow coming in because Nebraska didn't receive the July 1 dues notice. Paid membership, including the PUFL and Department Life members, is about 320. (about 30% of goal)**

**Gerry Wolf reported for the memorial squad and indicated that they had been presenting the colors at a number of civic or school events in addition to doing funerals. He also indicated that the flag retirement ceremony has been tentatively re-scheduled for October 12th.**

**Director Neil Larson reported for the American Legion Riders. They have been attending quite a few events and are having their Poker Run on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Wendy Gumb made a few suggestions for the post.**

**Fred Craigie reported for the SAL. He said they already have 110 paid members for 2025.**

**Steve Bartos read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at about 8:00 PM.**

**Steve Bartos, Recorder**

## **Notes From Auxiliary President, Unit 3**



**Greetings Auxiliary Members and all,**

**Fall has officially arrived. Temperatures are starting to cool off and the daylight is getting shorter and shorter. Fall decorations are starting to appear. It's my favorite time of year.**

**Please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 8th, 7pm, at the Elks Club, 5910 S 58th St. If anyone needs a ride, please let me or one of our members know, and we will make arrangements to have someone pick you up.**

**If you are reading this, and you are, or know of someone, who is eligible to join the Auxiliary, we would love to have them, or you, join our Unit. Please contact me, or any other member, to start that process.**

**For God and Country,**

**Lori Gubser**

**President, Unit 3**

**American Legion Auxiliary**

# **2024-2025 ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The American Legion will be hosting its 87<sup>th</sup> annual Oratorical “A Constitutional Speech Contest”. The Oratorical program was developed primarily to instill a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution in high school students. It also assists students in affording a college education, with the first place National winner receiving \$25,000 and the next two finishers taking home \$22,500 and \$20,000, respectively. First-round participants in the National contest receive a \$2,000 scholarship. Second-round participants who do not advance to the National finals receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.

State contestants will receive 1<sup>st</sup> - \$1,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$1,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$800 and 4<sup>th</sup> \$500. The state winner will receive an additional \$2,000 for participation in the National contest.

Since Post 3 is the only post in District 15, all entrants from Post 3 will advance to the District 15 Competition to be held on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 16:30 (4:30pm) at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church. The District winner will receive a check for \$100 if they compete in the Area C competition.

Please consider volunteering to participate in the District 15 contest. We will require three judges, three tabulators, two timekeepers and an escort or two depending on the number of contestants we have. A sign-up sheet will be at the October Post 3 meeting on Tuesday October 8th.

Further information will be provided, and questions can be addressed by the District 15 Commander or by going to [legion.org/oratorical](https://legion.org/oratorical).

**Ron Hindmand**

**Oratorical Chairman**

**[rhindmand@hotmail.com](mailto:rhindmand@hotmail.com)**

**254-291-1514**



# **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**



**We have registered Post 3 and Legion Rider volunteer dates, times and locations to ring bells for the Salvation Army this year. As in past years, it is important to reach out and help the less fortunate in the Lincoln area.**

**Please think about and plan to volunteer as a bell ringer for a good Christmas cause supporting the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army provides help to folks in the Lincoln area that are in need during the Holiday season.**

**Post 3 is registered to ring bells on Thursday 5 December at the Hy-Vee store at Williamsburg Mall at 40th & Old Cheney for two-hour shifts from 12 noon until 7pm.**

**Our Legion Riders are registered on Friday 6 December for two-hour shifts from 12 noon to 7pm at the Hobby Lobby at 66th & O Street.**

**At the October and November Post 3 monthly meetings we will have a signup sheet for volunteers. Ideally, we want to get two volunteers to team up and sign up for a two-hour time slot. If we have more than eight volunteers for Post 3 on 5 December we can register for slots on 4 December also.**

**If you have questions, please contact Ron Hindmand, ([rhindmand@hotmail.com](mailto:rhindmand@hotmail.com)) and please consider volunteering**

**Ron Hindmand**

**Bell Ringing Chairman**

**254-291-1514**

## **Dignified Flag Retirement, Saturday, October 12th**

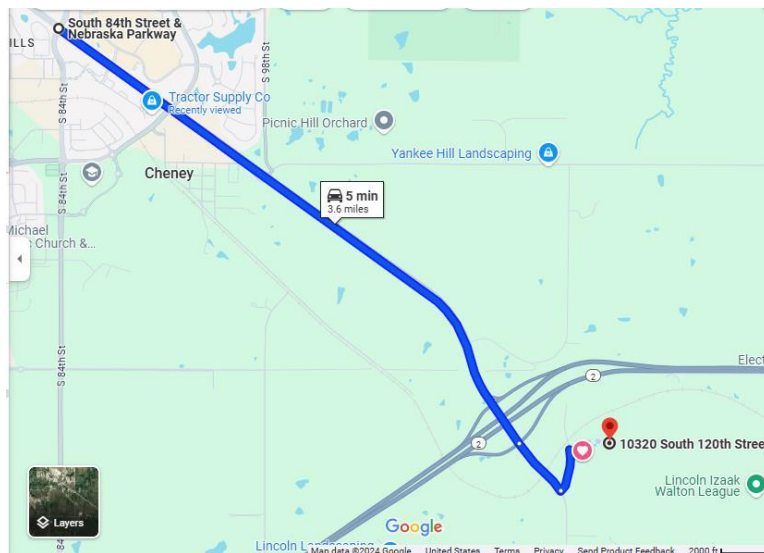
Americanism has been and should continue to be one of the major programs of The American Legion. The observance of proper respect for the Flag of our country and the education of our citizens in the proper courtesies to be paid, the Flag is an essential element of such an Americanism program. The Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags is a ceremony that has been an integral part of American Legion.

It is fitting and proper that Flags which have been used for the decoration of graves or displayed at homes or businesses be collected and inspected. Worn and unserviceable Flags will be condemned and properly destroyed.

The approved method of disposing of unserviceable Flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning. The purpose of The American Legion in adopting this ceremony was to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and to provide for disposal of unserviceable flags in a dignified manner.

On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00, Post 3 will conduct a Dignified Flag Retirement Ceremony at Dave Timmerman's acreage, 10320 S 120th Ct, Bennet, NE. (See map below). If you are available and willing, please join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

### **84<sup>th</sup> & Nebraska Parkway to Timmerman's Acreage**



#### **S 84th St & Nebraska Pkwy**

Lincoln, NE 68526

↑ Head southeast on Nebraska Pkwy toward S 84th St

3.1 mi

↑ Continue straight onto S 120th St

0.3 mi

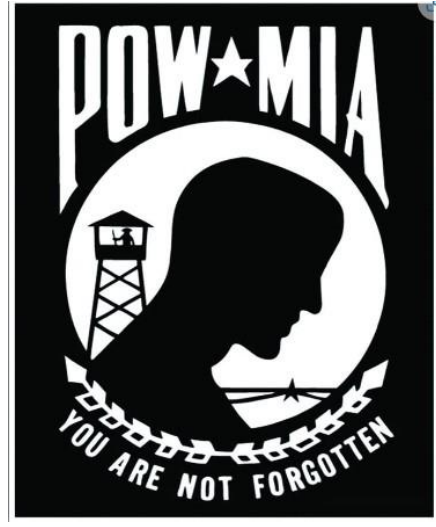
← Turn left onto S 120th St/S 120th Ct

0.2 mi

10320 S 120th St

Bennet, NE 68317

## **Marine Accounted for from Vietnam**



**The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ronald W. Forrester, 25, of Odessa, Texas, killed during Vietnam was accounted for Dec. 4, 2023.**

**In the winter of 1972, Forrester was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. On Dec. 27, Forrester was piloting an A-6A Intruder, along with his co-pilot, during a nighttime combat mission over the northern part of the Democratic Republic of (North) Vietnam. After entering the target area, Forrester's aircraft ceased radio communications and never returned to base. Search and rescue teams could not locate any trace of the aircraft or the crew in the Le Thuy District, Quang Binh Province. In September 1978, the Marine Corps changed Capt. Forrester's initial Missing In Action status to Killed in Action.**

**After decades of investigation into the incident yielding no results, investigators discovered remains and material evidence which is believed to be associated with both missing aviators. This recovered evidence has been associated with Reference Number (REFNO) 1973 incident and corresponding crash site (VN-02653). To date REFNO 1973 is the only A-6 loss within 30 kilometers of the crash site, which the DPAA Indo-Pacific Directorate believes is a direct correlation to the missing Marines.**

**To identify Forrester's remains, scientists from DPAA used circumstantial evidence recovered from the crash site, as well as mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) evidence.**

**Forrester's name is recorded on the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the American Battle Monuments Commission's Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, along with others who are unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.**

**Forrester will be buried on Oct. 7, 2024, in Arlington National Cemetery.**

## **Army Soldier Receives The Medal Of Honor**



**M/Sgt. (then S/Sgt.) Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, who distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions on 2 May 1968 while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam, to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity.**

**This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small-arms and anti-aircraft fire.**

**Sgt. Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sgt. Benevidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing while he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small-arms fire to the crippled team.**

**Prior to reaching the team's position he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head. Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of the extraction aircraft and the loading of the wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members.**

## **(Benavidez – Continued)**

**As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the leader's body, Sgt. Benevidez was severely wounded by small-arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sgt. Benevidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter.**

**Under increasing enemy automatic-weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, reinstilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a buildup of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sgt. Benevidez mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gunships to suppress the enemy's fire and so permitted another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small-arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land.**

**His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door-gunner from firing upon them.**

**With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft.**

**Sgt. Benevidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men.**

**His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.**



# **Family of World War II medic receives medal for heroism**

**Story by REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press**



**WASHINGTON (AP) — Waverly B. Woodson Jr., who was part of the only African American combat unit involved in the D-Day invasion during World War II, spent more than a day treating wounded troops under heavy German fire — all while injured himself. Decades later, his family received the Distinguished Service Cross on September 24, 2024, that was awarded posthumously for his heroism.**

**Woodson, who died in 2005, received the second-highest honor that can be bestowed on a member of the Army in June, just days before the 80th anniversary of Allied troops' landing in Normandy, France.**

**His widow, Joann, his son Steve and other family were presented with the medal during a ceremony in Washington hosted by Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen.**

**The award marked an important milestone in a yearslong campaign by his widow, Van Hollen and Woodson's supporters in the military who have pushed for greater recognition of his efforts that day. Ultimately, they would like to see him honored with the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration that can be awarded by the U.S. government and one long denied to Black troops who served in World War II.**

**If Woodson is awarded the Medal of Honor, it would be the “final step in the decades-long pursuit of justice and the recognition befitting of Woodson’s valor,” Van Hollen said in a statement.**

**Troops from Woodson's former unit, First Army, took the Distinguished Service Cross — which is awarded for extraordinary heroism — to France and in an intimate ceremony laid the medal in the sands of Omaha Beach, where a 21-year-old Woodson came ashore decades earlier.**

**At a time when the U.S. military was still segregated by race, about 2,000 African American troops are believed to have taken part in the invasion that proved to be a turning point in pushing back the Nazis and eventually ending World War II.**

## **(Woodson – Continued)**

**On June 6, 1944, Woodson's unit, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, was responsible for setting up balloons to deter enemy planes. Two shells hit his landing craft, and he was wounded before even getting to the beach. After the vessel lost power, it was pushed toward the shore by the tide, and Woodson likely had to wade ashore under intense enemy fire. He spoke to the AP in 1994 about that day.**

**"The tide brought us in, and that's when the 88s hit us," he said of the German 88mm guns. "They were murder. Of our 26 Navy personnel, there was only one left. They raked the whole top of the ship and killed all the crew. Then they started with the mortar shells."**

**For the next 30 hours, Woodson treated 200 wounded men — all while small arms and artillery fire pummeled the beach. Eventually, he collapsed from his injuries and blood loss, according to accounts of his service. At the time, he was awarded the Bronze Star.**

**In an era of intense racial discrimination, not a single one of the 1.2 million Black Americans who served in the military during World War II was awarded the Medal of Honor. It wasn't until the early 1990s that the Army commissioned a study to analyze whether Black troops had been unjustly overlooked.**

**Ultimately, seven Black World War II troops were awarded the Medal of Honor in 1997. At the time, Woodson was considered for the award, and he was interviewed. But, officials wrote, his decoration case file couldn't be found, and his personnel records were destroyed in a 1973 fire at a military records facility.**

**Woodson's supporters believe not just that he is worthy of the Medal of Honor but that there was a recommendation at the time to award it to him that has been lost.**

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





# 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](http://www.VAGLincoln.org)!



6th Annual

# LINCOLN VETERANS PARADE

Gratitude for their sacrifices

Nov. 10, 2024 | 2 PM

K st, S. 21st to 14th



[LincolnVeteransParade.org](http://LincolnVeteransParade.org)







The Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic will provide a range of dental services—including exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions, dentures\* and more—to eligible Nebraska veterans and their spouses. The two-day clinic will run from 8 am to 5 pm on Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16.

*\*limited number of dentures available*

**Location:** Army National Guard Titan Readiness Center, 789 County Road J, Yutan

**Eligibility:** any individual who served in the U.S. Armed Forces or a component of the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of type of service—active, reserve, or guard—as well as their spouse. If you were ever issued a U.S. military uniform by any component of the U.S. Armed Forces in service to our Nation, you and/or your spouse are eligible.

**Register:** [veterans.nebraska.gov/dentalclinic](http://veterans.nebraska.gov/dentalclinic)



# 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 23 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite L  
Lincoln, Ne. 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application	
Detachment of ____ Squadron No. _____	Birth Date _____ Date _____
Name _____ (First) (Initial) (Last)	Recruited by _____ (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 _____
Squadron _____	Detachment of _____
By _____	

**For God and Country**



## **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 \$56.00 to:

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

<b>The American Legion Membership Application</b>			
<hr/>		<hr/>	
(Name)		(Date of Birth)	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
(Mailing Address)		(Phone Number)	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(E-mail)		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female (Gender)	(Dues)
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			
<b>Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below</b>			
<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			
<hr/>		<hr/>	
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 \$56.00 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 84<sup>th</sup> St. Suite L  
Lincoln, NE 68510  
(402) 466-3958**

**Email: [Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com](mailto:Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com)**

**[Web Site: lincolnpst3.org](http://lincolnpst3.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, ([Gerrywolf@aol.com](mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com), or 402-417-8230). All requests must be received one week before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**