

# "For God and Country" February 2025 Post 3 Newsletter



### **Meetings For February 2025**

Organization	Location	Time	Date	
Dist. 15 Convention	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	6:30 PM	02/11/25	
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	7:00 PM	02/11/25	
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 <sup>th</sup> St	7:00 PM	02/13/25	
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	02/20/25	
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 <sup>th</sup> St	6:30 PM	02/18/25	
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 <sup>th</sup> St	6:30 PM	02/18/25	
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	02/20/25	
Buddy Check	Enclosed Shelter, 1650 Antelope Park	6:00 PM	02/22/25	
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	02/21/25	

#### **Commander's Call**



The rendering of military funeral honors is one very special and moving way that we demonstrate the nation's gratitude to those who have faithfully defended and served our country, whether it had been during peace or war. It is the final tribute provided to the veteran by his comrades, his brothers- and sisters-in-arms.

By law, and when requested, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran consisting of at least two members of the armed forces will be dispatched to the

funeral. At least one member of the detail will be a representative of the veteran's service branch.

The honor guard detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the playing of Taps and the folding and presenting of the burial American Flag to the next of kin, or another designated individual. Taps will be played by a live bugler when available, or by a ceremonial electronic bugle.

A veteran's service organization, VSO, (such as The American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.) may augment the military detail by providing additional elements, such as a rifle volley or pallbearers. Families of eligible veterans may request military funeral honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate military service to arrange for the funeral honors detail.

The military service will request that the family provide a copy of the service member's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), or other supporting discharge information, in order to verify eligibility. Please note that a deceased veteran does not need to be a member of Post 3 or any other VSO to receive a military funeral. It is important if you desire a military funeral, you or your family will need to locate your DD214, or other documents verifying your eligibility.

It is also important that the person planning your funeral know the location of those documents. If you can't locate the appropriate documents, you may request a copy by contacting the Military National Personnel Record Center, (<a href="www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html">www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html</a>), or your local VA office for assistance.

You can also contact your County Veterans Service Officer if you have previously filed a copy of your discharge with the county. They may have your discharge on file depending on when and where you entered or separated from service.

#### (Commander's Call – Continued)

You can use the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs online DD-214 request form to see if they can locate a copy to provide to you by visiting this link:

https://nebraska.us20.listmanage.com/track/click?u=7ed59c632774bcfb0ff3e470a &id=e261f348e9&e=c2 9001735a

Who is eligible for military funeral honors? Military members on active duty and military retirees, veterans who were separated under conditions other than dishonorable, and members and former members of the selected reserve.

If you have any more questions, you may contact Gerry Wolf by email, <a href="mailto:Gerrywolf@aol.com">Gerrywolf@aol.com</a>, or phone 402-417-8230, or call the Post 3 office, 402-466-3958. We will be glad to help.

Again, thank you for your service to our country. You have earned the respect and honor from your nation.

February for Post 3 means that in addition to our regular meeting on February 11th, the meeting will also serve as our District 15 Convention. Several Department officers and candidates for office are expected to attend. Please try to make it a priority to attend. Not all Legionnaires attend state conventions, and even fewer attend national conventions.

The district meeting is typically the largest American Legion meeting the average member ever attends. That meeting will begin 30 minutes early at 6:30 PM. I hope to see you there. As usual, the Elks will have a hamburger dinner available for purchase before the meeting.

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

For God and Country,
Bruce Gubser
Post 3 Commander

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



We are getting ready for District 15 meeting Tuesday 11 February 2025. I did a review of the number of members who have been moved to Post Ever Lasting. From February first, 2024, to 30 January 2025, Post 3 {District 15} lost 64 members.

#### 2025 Renewals:

Having lost these 64 members means that we are already behind when working on our 2025 membership

goal. Just to maintain our current membership we need to sign up 64 new or former members. A member who has not paid their dues for two years counts as a new member.

For those who have yet renewed for 2025, your 2024 membership card expired as of 31 December 2024. As of January first, you were classified as expired, you will stop receiving The Legion magazine, and you could be denied entry into a Legion Club. Those who are in the Legion Insurance program, your coverage also ended as of 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024. You must be a member in good standing to be covered.

I want to thank those members who have renewed. If you happen to receive a notice and you KNOW that you have received your 2025 membership card, please just throw the notice away. No need to let us know. If you have paid and have not received your 2025 membership card, then call or drop us a note. Mail does get damaged or lost, going both ways. I get two or three renewal letters that have been damaged to the point where I cannot tell who it was from, or the check is missing.

We are still receiving a few checks from those who have already paid their 2025 dues. I will try and contact those members and ask if they would like to apply this extra payment to pay their 2026 dues. Otherwise, I will return the checks or destroy them. Thanks for renewing Post 3.

Post 3 membership for 2025 is now \$56.00 dollars, as the National and Nebraska Department both increased their dues by five dollars. Post 3 did not increase its dues for 2025, remaining at \$11.00.

The current 2025 membership stands at 882, about 82% of our 2025 goal of 1066 paid members. Post 3 has 50 Department Life members and 122 PUFL members. 57 members have participated and paid their dues for 3 years.

For those who would like to renew for three years, you can do so by logging into Legion.Org and click the RENEWAL link. Then you will be given the opportunity to renew for three years. The rate for renewing will be at the current rate of \$56.00 dollars. The advantage of renewing for three years is that you will save on any new dues increases for the next three years.

#### **Nebraska Department Life members:**

2025 membership cards have been mailed to the address we had on file. If you have not received yours, or 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 or email information. We have many members who have moved and we do not have a correct mailing address, phone number or an email address. The US Postal service returns mail that they do not have a forwarding address on. We try to track down those members who have moved, but many locations respond with, "no longer living here."

For those members who have passed on to Post Ever Lasting. If you know of a member who has died, please let us know. This saves National and Post 3 postage on items which are returned to the Post. National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and correct as needed so we can update our database. It makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov">veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov</a>. 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.

The 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) and if not, ask them to please join. They may not be using VA services now but may wish to in the future. They may find that VA services have been cut back due to a lack of a strong voice in Congress.

On Friday 31st of January, the Nebraska Veterans Council held its 2025 Veteran's Legislative Day. It was nice to see a great turnout. The Warner Chamber was filled and overflowing. These Veteran's Legislative Days are a great way to learn about legislation that could affect you as a Veteran.

Again, 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** 

#### **ALR Riders, Chapter 3 Director's Remarks**



**Greetings Riders and Legion Family,** 

At our January meeting, Post 3 Past Commander Gerry Wolf installed our Chapter 3 American Legion Rider officers for 2025. Installed were:

Bruce Gubser, Director Erik Miksch, Assistant Director Mike Streeter, Secretary Lori Gubser, Treasurer Ride Captain, John Humphrey Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Beede

I want to thank Gerry for being our installing officer, and I also want to thank all those Riders who stepped up for leadership positions in our organization. Like any organization, it is only as strong and viable as those who are willing to contribute to the success of the organization. I thank each of you for the part you play in making our Chapter a success. I also want to thank the members of our Chapter for placing their trust in me as we embark on our 2025 journey together.

SAVE THE DATE! We selected Saturday, August 23rd, as the date for our poker run fundraising event. The route has not yet been set, but we will be starting and ending at Frontier Harley-Davidson, with three intermediate stops. Anyone on two-, three-, or four-wheels can participate. We have not yet selected the charity that our proceeds will support, but rest assured it will be an organization that provides services to veterans.

We are also in the midst of our rifle raffle fundraiser. This year the rifle is a Henry Golden Boy American Farmer Tribute Edition. This beautiful rifle retails for over \$1,200. Tickets are available from any Legion Rider (or you can reach out to me, and I can get you squared away). Tickets are only \$5 each, or as a special deal you can get 5 tickets for the amazing price of only \$20 American Dollars. Tickets are already going fast. We attended a recent gun show at the Sandhills Global Event Center (formerly Lancaster Event Center) and sold over 400 tickets in three days. There are only 1,000 tickets available. So, if you want one, then you had better act fast!

Your American Legion Riders continue to participate in a number of events honoring our fallen. In December and January, members participated in over ten funerals of veterans. I thank those members who can honor the service of our fellow veterans.

Until next time, Ride (and drive) Safe!

Bruce Gubser Director, Chapter 3 American Legion Riders

#### **The Chaplain's Remarks**





All of us know that when you're a part of the flight, squad, platoon, company, regiment, brigade, wing, numbers air force, specialized unit, fleet, division or what-have-you, one can't help but wonder is this all necessary? Is this an issue from the Lord to help Him stay in touch with you, or is it a challenge to improve your resourcefulness to only succeed, but also bring others along (Proverbs 27:17)?

We know that answer to that without guessing because we've all been there, no matter your military background. But was/is/will be the point of belonging to a particular formation within the service you've chosen—drafted--? Some of you remember well how you had to "mustered" to the desired state of mind necessary to stand between the bullet from and enemy nation and your fellow Americans at home (1 Samuel 13:2 & 24:2).

Could you have accomplished your former military mission without...basic training, dry-fire and wet-fire, lots of exercise...and command directions? Our Lord and Savior Jesus also trains us for spiritual warfare through His Bible and the *Decalogue* (10 Commandments), as well as with Ephesians 6: 10-17. Moses was in that same position when he chose Joshua—another name for the preincarnate Christ—to forge into Canann to take possession of the Israelites' "promise land" (Joshua 24:15).

Do you know, as a vet...and possibly...a disciple of Christ...what your marching orders are now? Take a look at these gifts of the Holy Spirit to help you (1 Corinthians 12" 4-11):

\*Word of Wison \*Word of Knowledge \*Word of Faith \*Healing \*Miracles

\*Word of Prophesy (foretelling & forthtelling)

\*Speaking in Tongues

\*Tongues with Interpretation

Rev. Dr. William Jackson Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3

#### **Post 3 Honor Guard**



January was another slow month for the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Team at five funerals and was represented at 2 civic activities. Those activities included posting the Colors at the Nebraska's NRDs Annual Legislative Conference and we were present at the 2025 Veteran Legislative Day held in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol.

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 – January 2024



Several died some time ago, but they still deserve mention in the Taps report.

LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Larry F. Benac	Vietnam	Navy	29
Raymond W. Bieber	Korea	Air Force	71
James Ihrie	Vietnam	USMC	8
Jess D. Johnson	Korea	Navy	49
Donald H. McCawley	Korea	Army	48
Stephen A. Miller	WW II	Navy	8
Jackie L Schleiger	Korea	Unknown	44
James A. Sterling	Korea	Air Force	36
Stewart R Tryon	Vietnam	Army	42
Gayle R. Wentink	Korea	Navy	46
Clarence J. White	WW II	Army	44
Leroy D. Zavadil	WW II	Unknown	67

#### Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3 Lincoln Elks Lodge #80, January 14, 2025

Commander Bruce Gubser opened the January 14, 2025 meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 25-30 Legionnaires and guests present. Several first-time attendees were recognized and allowed to introduce themselves.

Also introduced as a visitor was Past Department Commander Don Suchy from Valparaiso.

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

The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2024 showing a balance of \$48,352.88. It was approved and filed for review.

Adjutant Schnabel reported 2025 membership as 856, a little over 80% of goal.

Dr. Jackson gave an Americanism report.

Gerry Wolf reported for the Memorial Squad. He said that it had been a slow December for funerals.

Commander Gubser reported that SAL Commander Brendan Moore had been hospitalized with some heart problems.

Fred Craigie reported for the SAL. He said that they had conducted another Christmas Cash give-away and that their membership stood at about 95% of goal.

Fred Craigie announced that Rick McLaughlin had been selected as the 2024 recipient of Voiture 103's Distinguished Service Award. Since Rick was not able to attend the Voiture 103 Christmas Party, Fred called him forward and presented him with his award.

Commander Gubser reported for the Legion Riders. He indicated that they would be having another rifle raffle with the drawing to be in the late summer or fall.

Wendy Gumb presented or represented her concerns about a few things and asked for the surveys she had passed out earlier.

The Chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form shortly after 7:30 PM.

Steve Bartos, Recorder

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





Hello ladies and friends,

We did not have a meeting in January. We did, however, get together for a luncheon at The Eatery on Saturday, January 25th. It was attended by 8 members and we all had a very nice time visiting and eating with each other. In fact, we enjoyed it so much that we've decided February's luncheon will also be at The Eatery! We will gather there on February 22nd at 11:30. If you are able to attend, we would love to have you join us.

Our next meeting will be on February 11th at 7pm at the Elks Club. Remember the Elks serve a hamburger dinner that is very reasonably priced starting at 6pm.

On February 12th at 1:00, we will be meeting at my house to work on our centerpieces for the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue. Many hands make light work, so I hope that you can join us.

As a reminder, if you have not already done so, please pay your 2025 membership dues.

For God and Country,

Lori Gubser President, Unit 3

#### 40&8 Distinguished Service Award for 2024



(L-R), Distinguished Service Awardee, Rick McLaughlin, and Fred Craigie, Chairman of Awards

Each year at our annual Christmas party we take time to honor an outstanding member of the American Legion and the 40&8. This Annual Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor that the 40&8 can award to one of its own for his or her outstanding contributions to the betterment of the American Legion and the 40&8. This year's awardee was not present at the Christmas Party so his name was not revealed until the award could be given at a suitable time and place.

At the January Post 3 meeting, the award was presented to Rick McLaughlin. Rick is a 20-year member of the American Legion and a16-year member of Voiture 103. He was a member of the U.S. Army and served in Viet Nam. He is still fighting the effects of Agent Orange. He was employed by Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph before retiring. He was a volunteer at Sherman Field in the press box and the Saturday maintenance crew for many years. He is also a member of the Honor Squad for which he has refinished the M-1 rifle stocks of both the old set and a new set.

#### Congratulations, Rick!

Our local group, Voiture 103, supports a variety of causes, but our primary project each year is to raise money for two Nurse's Training Scholarship Funds maintained by the Bryan School of Health Sciences and the Southeast Community College Nursing Program

While membership in the 40&8 is still by invitation, you are encouraged to talk to any local voyageur (member of the 40&8) and express your interest in becoming a member. You do need to be a veteran or active-duty serviceperson in good standing, and you will need a current member to vouch for you and submit a nomination for you.

#### **Missing United States Air Force Officer Identified**





On December 20, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Lieutenant Colonel Donald W. Downing, missing from the Vietnam War.

Lieutenant Colonel Downing entered the U.S. Air Force from Wisconsin and served in the 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing. In September 1967, he held the rank of Captain. On September 5, he and another aviator made up the crew of an F-4C Phantom II (tail number 63-7547, call sign "Sharkbait 42") conducting a nighttime armed reconnaissance flight over Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam. As "Sharkbait 42" and another U.S. plane approached a target, the other crew reported seeing a fireball and losing radio contact with Capt Downing.

Search and rescue efforts began at daylight, but electronic and visual searches didn't find anything. On April 28, 1978, the U.S. Air Force declared Capt Downing Killed in Action. He was later posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After decades of investigation into the incident yielding no results, a Joint Field Activity team recovered life support equipment, possible material evidence, aircraft wreckage, unexploded ordnance, and possible osseous material at a site in Quang Binh Province in May and June 2024.

Evidence from the mission was accepted into the DPAA laboratory in June 2024. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available allowed Lt Col Downing to be identified from remains recovered from the crash site.

Lieutenant Colonel Downing is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

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





Private Bruno R. Orig distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with Company G, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division in the vicinity of Chipyong-ni, Korea, on February 15, 1951.

While returning from a wire laying mission, Private Orig observed a number of his comrades who had been wounded in a fierce enemy attack that was still in progress. With complete disregard for his own safety, Private Orig went to the aid of these men and remained in an exposed position in order to administer first aid to them.

With the assistance of several comrades from the company command post, Private Orig began removing the wounded to a place of safety. While returning from one of these trips, Private Orig noticed that all except one man of a machine-gun crew had been wounded. Without hesitation, he volunteered to man the weapon.

Remaining in this position, Private Orig placed such effective fire on the enemy that a withdrawing friendly platoon was able to move back without a single casualty. Private Orig continued to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy until the company positions were overrun. Later that day, when the lost ground was recaptured, Private Orig was found dead beside his weapon and the area in front of his gun was littered with enemy dead.

Private Orig's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

PVT Orig was Posthumously awarded the Medal Of Honor at the White House by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on January 3, 2025.





Working together to end veteran suicide.

# MONTHLY ON THE 22ND 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Antelope Park Enclosed Shelter 1650 Memorial Dr., Lincoln, NE 68508 Next to The Veterans Memorial Garden

## OPEN TO ALL VETERANS



Coffee, refreshments, and snacks are provided





# 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!



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!

### **Sons Of The American Legion Application**



To be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, you must be a male descendant (son, grandson, stepson, or adopted son) of:

- A member of The American Legion, or
- A veteran who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, or
- A veteran who died after their honorable discharge from such service, and
- Return the application below along with \$35.00 to:

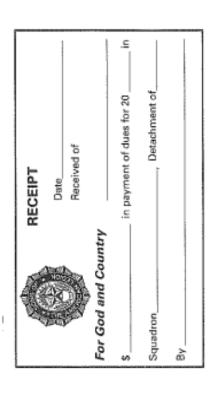
**Sons of The American Legion** 

**ATTN: Brendan Moore** 

123 South 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application				
Detachment of Squadron No	Birth Date		Date	
Name (First) (Initial) (Last)	Recruited by	(Initial)	(Last)	
Address(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)	
E-mail Address	mail Address Telephone			
Veteran through whom eligibility is est	ablished			
(a) Above is a member in good standin	g 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 Par	ent)	
Eligibility certified by	Post Adjutent/		00-001 (2014)	



#### **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 you, or do you know someone, who served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably? Then they 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

	(Name)		(Date of Birth)
	(Mailing Address)		Phone Number)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
		■ Male ■ Female	
(E	-mail)	(Gender)	(Dues)
□ Panama □ Lebanon/Grenada □ Vietnam	☐ U.S. Navy ☐ U.S. Air Force ☐ U.S. Marines ☐ U.S. Coast Guard		
☐ Korea ☐ WWII ☐ Other Conflicts	☐ Merchant Marines (W	WII only)	A COLUMN

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 Amer	ican 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

Web Site: lincolnpost3.org

2023 - 2024 Post 3 Officers

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

First Vice Commander - Ron Hindmand - Cell: 254-291-1514

Second Vice Commander - Rich Lemmerman - Cell: 402-694-9834

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

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

Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Editor for approval, (<u>Gerrywolf@aol.com</u>, or 402-417-8230). All requests must be received one week before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.