



“For God and Country”

December 2025 Post 3 Newsletter



December Meeting Schedule

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	12/09/25
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	12/09/25
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 th St	7:00 PM	12/11/25
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	12/18/25
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	6:30 PM	12/16/26
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 th St	6:30 PM	12/16/25
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	12/18/25
Buddy Check	Enclosed Shelter, 1650 Antelope Park	6:00 PM	12/22/25
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	12/19/25

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaires,

We are coming to the end of another busy year that you can be proud of. Post 3 has contributed to many worthy causes both with time and funds.

The Touch-a-Truck event was a tremendous success and greatly enjoyed by hundreds of folks, especially the little ones who attended the event.

We conducted another High School Oratorical Contest and have a winner to represent Post 3 and District 15 at the Area C contest to be held later this month (see details later in this Newsletter).

We are ringing bells in December to collect funds for the Salvation Army's support of those in need in our community (see details later in this Newsletter).

Our Honor Guard throughout the year supported veterans' funerals, public events, and national holidays. This month our Honor Guard will be supporting Lighting of the Christmas Tree at the State Capitol and Wreaths Across America at Wyuka Cemetery.

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 Lincoln Veterans Administration Clinic. Please bring canned goods and nonperishable food items to make the Christmas season better for those that need a helping hand.

The entire Post 3 family including the Legion Riders, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary Unit 3 all contributed to so many good causes. Thank you all for your loyal and selfless service to our country and community.

Looking into the new year the Nebraska American Legion Department Mid-Year Convention will be January 16-18 in Norfolk. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites (402-379-3833) will be hosting the Convention this year. A condensed schedule will be published in December in the Nebraska Legionnaire, and we can discuss it at our January monthly meeting. If you have not attended one of the Department Conventions this is a great opportunity to see your Legion Leadership in action and experience the comradeship of fellow veterans.

Best wishes for a safe happy Christmas season and a great New Year!

For God and Country,

Ron Hindmand

Post 3 Commander

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



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.

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.

(Notes From the Adjutant – Continued)

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): 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

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



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.

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 co-pay 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.

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.

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 as 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.

(CBOC/VA News – Continued)

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

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.

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

With the signing of the PACT Act, 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. 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 co-pay payments online.

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

**Ed Schnabel
American Legion Representative (Lincoln CBOC)**

ALR Riders, Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



Greetings Fellow Riders and Legion Family!

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving filled with laughter, love, and lots of tasty food.

Just a few minor happenings for your American Legion Riders in this holiday season.

Looking in the rear-view mirror, we conducted our first Flags For Vets program, alongside Post 3, at the Legacy Terrace facility. We joined about 35 Veterans for breakfast and presented them with their flags after chow.

Coming up is our meeting on December 18th, where we will elect the officers for 2026. Following the short election meeting, at 6:30pm, we will enjoy our holiday meal and have a little fun with a game. If you plan on attending, please remember to bring a gift (\$10-15 or so). If you bring your spouse or significant other, bring a gift for them. This is a bit of a change from our normal meeting where we eat first. In December, it's meeting at 6:30pm and meal with fun after. Installation of 2026 officers will be at the January meeting.

We set the date for our annual Poker Run fundraiser for August 29th. Mark your calendars now. More details to follow.

Also, we will be conducting another rifle raffle fundraiser over the next few months. I hope to have tickets available to distribute at the December meeting. If interested in purchasing tickets, please see one of our Legion Riders.

Here's wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Wonderfully Happy New Year!

Until next time,

Ride (and Drive) Safe!

Bruce Gubser

Rider Director

Lincoln ALR Chapter 3

Post 3 Honor Guard



Lincoln Symphony buglers who play “Taps” at our funerals. Can’t thank them enough!

(L to R) Tom Kelly, Debbie Bouffard, Jaime Tyser

In November, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors teams at 6 funerals. The Honor Guard civic involvement in November included participation in four events:

Flag Ashes from our latest Dignified Flag Retirement were Buried after a ceremony at Lincoln Memorial Park: Assisted with the Oratorical Contest: Some members folded 50 American flags and placed in flag boxes with the help of Lincoln Northeast AFJROTC for a Veterans Day program: We served as Flag Bearers at St. Marks Veterans Gratitude Service.

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 Day Parade.

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

In the Calendar year 2025, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 81 funerals and made appearances at 43 civic functions.

Post 3 TAPS – November 2025



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Danny M. Keller	Vietnam	Army	54
Jerry W. Morris	Vietnam	Army	55
Robert L. Rauch	Other	Navy	2
Verden R. Valasek	Korea	Army	56

The Chaplain's Remarks



NO BUSINESS LIKE COLD—December 2025—Did you ever wonder what God was thinking when He made humanity, with all the hosts of Heaven above Earth, and no way for His greatest to communicate with them?

I'm sure the Lord had His reasons for the same, and bringing it to our attention before we're prepared, remains a high priority consideration. God knows all things, He being Omniscient (Psalms 139:1 – 6).

God is Omnipresent (Jeremiah 23: 24), meaning He is everywhere and everywhen, without the need for transportation or other artifact (i.e., time machine or starship) to get Him there.

And God is Omnipotent (Job 42:2). He knows no equal. But how does that satisfy YOUR place in the scheme of things? Remember when you asked your mom and dad about everything and any thing? Did they deny you? Did they disown you? If you asked them for a fish, did they give you a stone. (Matthew 7: 9 – 11)?

Maybe it's winter's cold and seeming lifelessness that begs our attention to the subtleties of being satisfied with what you have. But...is that enough? Like many people around this planet, some...still hunger...some...still hurt from persecutions of faith and of ethnicity. So...what about you and yours?

Take stock of God's place in your life. Your family could get along without you, but could YOU get along without God?

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

SAL Commander's Comments



Greetings from the commander and officers 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 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 Friday December 19 in the morning, contact me or Fred Craigie for location and time.

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

Brendan Moore
SAL Squadron 3 Commander
prairieroseman@yahoo.com

Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3

Lincoln Elks Lodge #80 – November 11, 2025

Commander Ron Hindmand opened the November 11, 2025, meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 17 Legionnaires present. Commander Ron offered a Happy Birthday to the Marines.

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

The minutes of the October 14, 2025, meeting were read and approved.

Finance Officer Bruce Gubser gave the financial report for the month ending October 31 showing a balance on hand of \$45,241.03. Upon inquiry about whether the use of an endowment might be beneficial, the Finance Officer said he would look into it.

Gerry Wolf reported that membership for 2026 stood at 697 --- a little more than 74% of goal.

Bruce Gubser reported for the Legion Riders. He indicated that they recently had their first Flags for Vets ceremony at the Legacy Estates facility.

Reverend Jackson gave an Americanism report.

Brendan Moore reported that Squadron 3 SAL membership stood at 125 and was almost to goal. Planning has begun for Thanksgiving and Christmas activities.

Commander Hindmand reported that District 15 did get one entrant for the Oratorical Contest. The event was held on November 4, and Tera Thoms advanced to the Area C contest to be held in Seward on December 7th.

The Commander also reported on Bellringers and indicated that sign-up sheets are available tonight. The Post 3 family will cover some locations on December 3-4-5.

Gerry Wolf reported on the numerous activities in which the Honor Guard participated. The past few days have been busy.

Bartos moved (with a second by Jackson) that the post recommend for consideration by the Legionnaire Club Board the name of Fred Craigie for a 4-year term on the Board. Another name was suggested during the discussion, but the original motion was approved by a vote of 14-2.

Commander Hindmand announced that non-perishable items will be collected at the December meeting for distribution as needed by the VA clinic.

Commander Hindmand announced that the Mid-Year Conference will be held in Norfolk in January and that there are a number of Eagle Scout awards available.

The chaplain read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at about 7:30 PM.

Steve Bartos
Recorder

District 15 ORATORICAL CONTEST



The American Legion Oratorical contest has existed for over 80 years. It is an opportunity to earn college scholarship money. Contestants must prepare and present an eight to ten minute oration on some aspect of the US Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations. Then they must prepare and present a three to five minute oration on an assigned topic that is drawn from a preselected five topics related to some aspect of the US Constitution. Great preparation for young High School students preparing them to be good citizens.

The 2025-2026 combination District 15 and Post 3 Oratorical Contest was held on 4 November at the Good Shepard Presbyterian Church. This year we had a repeat and only contestant, Tera Thoms. Tera is a homeschooler, 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 conducting 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 7 December in Seward. The Department Contest will be held on 17 January as part of the Mid-Year Convention.

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

Ron Hindman
Oratorical Chairman

Saint Mark's Veterans Gratitude Service

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church held a Veterans Gratitude Service 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 the 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.



Honor Guard Veterans Day Activities

In the days leading up to and on Veterans Day, the Honor Guard participated in 9 Veterans Day activities in Lincoln. We made a school visit, retirement facilities visits, St. Marks Gratitude Service, participated in the Lincoln Veterans Parade and threw in a breakfast and a few funerals to keep us busy. Very busy week indeed! A few pictures are shown below.

Aviva Woodands



The Legacy



Legacy Terrace



Asher Point



Faith Lutheran School



Pemberly Place



The Residence @ Gramercy



Lincoln Veterans Parade, November 16, 2025



(Lincoln Veterans Parade – Continued)



Christmas Bells are Ringing



Yes, it is already that wonderful time of year that volunteers are ringing bells at many locations around Lincoln collecting money for the Salvation Army as they support people in need.

From home-cooked dinners to a good night's sleep, and Christmas gifts for children donations to the Salvation Army help our less fortunate neighbors. Give with Joy is the motto! You have probably already seen some volunteers out there at local shops ringing bells.

Our Post 3 volunteers will soon be joining them and hoping for good weather while we are out there. As most often this is team event. Post 3 and Auxiliary Unit 3 will be ringing bells at the Williamsburg Hy-Vee on December 3rd and 4th. The Legion Riders will be ringing bells on 5 December 5th at the "O" Street Hobby Lobby.

Merry Christmas!!!

Ron Hindmand

Bell Ringing Chairman

Wreaths Across America

December 13, 2025



Each December at Wyuka Cemetery we honor our deceased soldiers that are buried in the three military circles with a fresh evergreen wreath with a traditional hand tied red bow placed on their headstones.

Wyuka Historic Cemetery will present a wreath to Governor Pillen in honor of Nebraska Veterans as part of the nationwide Wreaths Across America program to place holiday wreaths on veteran's graves. The ceremony will take place in the 2nd floor rotunda of the Capitol at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8, 2025.

The actual wreath laying ceremony is being held at Wyuka Cemetery on Saturday, December 13, 2025, starting at 11 a.m. We invite the public to join us for a short program.

Please use the Vine Street entrance to watch the program and afterwards, help us to lay the wreaths.

Soldier Accounted For From World War II



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced on November 18, 2025, that U.S. Army Cpl. James M. Walker, 46, of Pawnee, Oklahoma, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for March 19, 2024.

In late 1941, Walker was a member of 31st Infantry Regiment when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. Walker was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp #1. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war.

According to prison camp and other historical records, Walker died Jan. 1, 1943, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 822.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains to identify them. One of the sets of remains from Common Grave 822 were identified, while the remaining five were declared unidentifiable. The unidentified remains were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) as Unknowns.

In 2020, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, DPAA exhumed the remains associated with Common Grave 822 and sent them to the DPAA laboratory for analysis. DPAA also uncovered evidence that discrepancies existed between burials from Grave 822 and Grave 836.

To identify Walker's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis and mitochondrial genome sequencing data.

Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, Walker's grave was meticulously cared for over the past 70 years by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Today, Walker is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Walker will be buried in Maramba, Oklahoma in January 2026.

Army Pilot awarded The Medal Of Honor



Major Bruce Crandall distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism as a Flight Commander in the Republic of Vietnam while serving with Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). On 14 November 1965, his flight of sixteen helicopters was lifting troops for a search and destroy mission from Plei Me, Vietnam, to Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley.

On the fourth troop lift, the enemy had Landing Zone X-Ray targeted. As Major Crandall and the first eight helicopters landed to discharge troops on his fifth troop lift, his unarmed helicopter came under such intense enemy fire that the ground commander ordered the second flight of eight aircraft to abort their mission. As Major Crandall flew back to Plei Me, his base of operations, he determined that the ground commander of the besieged infantry battalion desperately needed more ammunition.

While medical evacuation was not his mission, he immediately sought volunteers and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, led the two aircraft to Landing Zone X-Ray. Despite the fact that the landing zone was still under relentless enemy fire, Major Crandall landed and proceeded to supervise the loading of seriously wounded soldiers aboard the aircraft.

Major Crandall's voluntary decision to land under the most extreme fire instilled in the other pilots the will and spirit to continue to land their own aircraft, and in the ground forces the realization that they would be resupplied and that friendly wounded would be promptly evacuated. This greatly enhanced morale and the will to fight at a critical time. After his first medical evacuation, Major Crandall continued to fly into and out of the landing zone throughout the day and into the evening.

That day he completed a total of 22 flights, most under intense enemy fire, retiring from the battlefield only after all possible service had been rendered to the Infantry battalion. His actions provided critical resupply of ammunition and evacuation of the wounded.

Major Crandall's daring acts of bravery and courage in the face of an overwhelming and determined enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

The Medal was presented to Colonel Crandall by President George W. Bush at the White House on February 26, 2007

Friday, December 19th, 10:00-12:00 A.M.



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!

Monday, December 22nd, 6:00-8:00 P.M.



BUDDY CHECK

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.

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 11am-9pm. 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

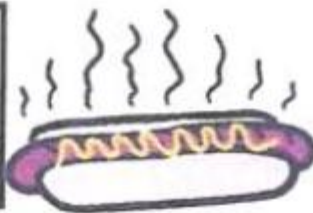
EARN
20%
DRIVE THRU
OR
DINE-IN

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 1ST

See ALA website: nebraskalegionaux.net/calendar for further details

**Merry Christmas
to
Soldiers
everywhere
who can't be
with their
families.**



Truce in the Forest, by Fritz Vincken
Readers Digest, January 1973, pp 111-114

It was Christmas Eve, and the last desperate German offensive of WWII raged around our tiny cabin. Suddenly, there was a knock on the door...

When we heard the knock on our door that Christmas Eve in 1944, neither Mother nor I had the slightest inkling of the quiet miracle that lay in store for us. I was 12 then, and we were living in a small cottage in the Huertgen Forest, near the German-Belgian border. Father had stayed at the cottage on hunting weekends before the war; when Allied bombers partly destroyed our hometown of Aachen, he sent us to live there. He had been ordered into the civil-defense fire guard in the border town of Monschau, four miles away.

"You'll be safe in the woods," he had told me. "Take care of Mother. Now you're the man of the family."

But nine days before Christmas, Field Marshal Von Rundstedt had launched the last, desperate German offensive of the war, and now, as I went to the door, the Battle of the Bulge was raging all around us. We heard the incessant booming of field guns; planes soared continuously overhead; at night searchlights stabbed through the darkness. Thousands of Allied and German soldiers were fighting and dying nearby.

When that first knock came, Mother quickly blew out the candles; then, as I went to answer it, she stepped ahead of me and pushed open the door. Outside, like phantoms against the snow-clad trees, stood two steel-helmeted men. One of them spoke to Mother in a language we did not understand, pointing to a third man lying in the snow. She realized before I did that these were American soldiers. Enemies!

Mother stood silent, motionless, her hand on my shoulder. They were armed and could have forced their entrance, yet they stood there and asked with their eyes. And the wounded man seemed more dead than alive. "Kommt rein," Mother said, finally. "Come in." The soldiers carried their comrade inside and stretched him out on my bed.

None of them understood German. Mother tried French, and one of the soldiers could converse in that language. As Mother went to look after the wounded man, she said to me, "The fingers of those two are numb. Take off their jackets and boots, and bring in a bucket of snow." Soon I was rubbing their blue feet with snow.

We learned that the stocky, dark-haired fellow was Jim; his friend, tall and slender, was Robin. Harry, the wounded one, was now sleeping on my bed, his face as white as the snow outside. They'd lost their battalion and had wandered in the forest for three days, looking for the Americans, hiding from the Germans. They hadn't shaved, but still, without their heavy coats, they looked merely like big boys. And that was the way Mother began to treat them.

Now Mother said to me, "Go get Hermann. And bring six potatoes."

This was a serious departure from our pre-Christmas plans. Hermann was the plump rooster (named after portly Hermann Goering, Hitler's No. 2 man, for whom Mother had little affection) that we had been fattening for weeks in the hope that Father would be home for Christmas. But, some hours before, when it was obvious that Father would not make it, Mother had decided that Hermann should live a few more days, in case Father could get home for New Year's. Now she had changed her mind again; Hermann would serve an immediate, pressing purpose.

(Truce in the Forest – Continued)

While Jim and I helped with the cooking, Robin took care of Harry. He had a bullet through his upper leg and had almost bled to death. Mother tore a bed-sheet into long strips for bandages.

Soon, the tempting smell of roast chicken permeated our room. I was setting the table when once again there came a knock at the door. Expecting to find more lost Americans, I opened the door without hesitation. There stood four soldiers, wearing uniforms quite familiar to me after five years of war. They were Wehrmacht - Germans!

I was paralyzed with fear. Although still a child, I knew the harsh law: sheltering enemy soldiers constituted high treason. We could all be shot! Mother was frightened, too. Her face was white, but she stepped outside and said, quietly, "Froehliche Weihnachten." The soldiers wished her a Merry Christmas, too. "We have lost our regiment and would like to wait for daylight," explained the corporal. "Can we rest here?"

"Of course," Mother replied, with a calmness, born of panic. "You can also have a fine, warm meal and eat till the pot is empty." The Germans smiled as they sniffed the aroma through the half open door. "But," Mother added firmly, "we have three other guests, whom you may not consider friends." Now her voice was suddenly sterner than I'd ever heard it before. "This is Christmas Eve, and there will be no shooting here."

"Who's inside?" the corporal demanded. "Amerikaner?"

Mother looked at each frost-chilled face. "Listen," she said slowly. "You could be my sons, and so could they in there. A boy with a gunshot wound, fighting for his life, and his two friends, lost like you and just as hungry and exhausted as you are. This one night," she turned to the corporal and raised her voice a little, "This Christmas night, let us forget about killing."

The corporal stared at her. There were two or three endless seconds of silence. Then Mother put an end to indecision. "Enough talking!" she ordered, and clapped her hands sharply. "Please put your weapons here on the woodpile, and hurry up before the others eat the dinner!:

Dazedly, the four soldiers placed their arms on the pile of firewood just inside the door: three carbines, a light machine gun and two bazookas. Meanwhile, Mother was speaking French rapidly to Jim. He said something in English, and to my amazement I saw the American boys, too, turn their weapons over to Mother. Now, as the Germans and Americans tensely rubbed elbows in the small room, Mother was really on her mettle. Never losing her smile, she tried to find a seat for everyone. We had only three chairs, but Mother's bed was big, and on it she placed two of the newcomers side by side with Jim and Robin.

Despite the strained atmosphere, Mother went right on preparing dinner. But Hermann wasn't going to grow any bigger, and now there were four more mouths to feed. "Quick" she whispered to me, "get more potatoes and some oats. These boys are hungry, and a starving man is an angry one."

(Truce in the Forest – Continued)

While foraging in the storage room, I heard Harry moan. When I returned, one of the Germans had put on his glasses to inspect the American's wound. "Do you belong to the medical corps?" Mother asked him. "No," he answered. "But I studied medicine at Heidelberg until a few months ago." Thanks to the cold, he told the Americans in what sounded like fairly good English, Harry's wound hadn't become infected. "He is suffering from a severe loss of blood," he explained to Mother. "What he needs is rest and nourishment."

Relaxation was now beginning to replace suspicion. Even to me, all the soldiers looked very young as we sat there together. Heinz and Willi, both from Cologne, were 16. There German corporal, at 23, was the oldest of them all. From his food bag he drew out a bottle of red wine, and Heinz managed to find a loaf of rye bread. Mother cut that in small pieces to be served with the dinner; half the wine, however, she put away, "for the wounded boy."

Then Mother said grace. I noticed that there were tears in her eyes as she said the old, familiar words, "Komm, Herr Jesus. Be our guest." And as I looked around the table, I saw tears, too, in the eyes of the battle-weary soldiers, boys again, some from America, some from Germany, all far from home.

Just before midnight, Mother went to the doorstep and asked us to join her to look up at the Star of Bethlehem. We all stood beside her except Harry, who was sleeping. For all of us during the moment of silence, looking at the brightest star in the heavens, the war was a distant, almost-forgotten thing.

Our private armistice continued next morning. Harry woke in the early hours, and swallowed some broth that Mother fed him. With the dawn, it was apparent that he was becoming stronger. Mother now made him an invigorating drink from our one egg, the rest of the corporal's wine and some sugar. Everyone else had oatmeal. Afterward, two poles and Mother's best tablecloth were fashioned into a stretcher for Harry.

The German corporal then advised the Americans how to find their way back to their lines. Looking over Jim's map, the corporal pointed out a stream. "Continue along this creek," he said, "and you will find the 1st Army rebuilding its Forces on its upper course." The medical student relayed the information in English.

Now Mother gave them all back their weapons. "Be careful, boys," she said, "I want you to get home someday where you belong. God bless you all!" The German and American soldiers shook hands, and we watched them disappear in opposite directions.

When I returned inside, Mother had brought out the old family Bible. I glanced over her shoulder. The book was open to the Christmas story, the Birth in the Manger and how the Wise Men came from afar bearing their gifts.

Her finger was tracing the last line from Matthew 2:21, "...they departed into their own country another way."

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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 _____	
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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)					

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Date _____	Received of _____
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By _____	
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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 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____

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

(E-mail) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) _____ (Dues) _____

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

30-009 _____ Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____



To renew or transfer to Post 3, you only need to sign below and mail this application and a check for \$56.00 made out to "American Legion Post 3" to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2025, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

YES! Please transfer my membership to Lincoln American Legion Post 3

_____ **Signature**

_____ **Membership Number**

_____ **Email address**



**American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th St. Suite L
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 466-3958**

Email: Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

[Web Site: lincolnpost3.org](http://lincolnpost3.org)

2025 - 2026 Post 3 Officers

Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514

First Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834

Second Vice Commander – John Ottoson – Cell: 402-314-8707

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 or 402-417-8230). All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.

