



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hasso Briese Post 0473

February 2014

FROM THE COMMANDER

Chet Seviola

From the Commander

Note: Nancy has been having email problems. She has emailed the last issue and some did not receive it. If you need a copy there are printed copies at the club near the door. Tell someone so Nancy gets the word.

One of our hard working members, Jim Hovda, made a suggestion. He took a hard look at organizations that claim to support our retired and active troops. Jim found that the percent of money that the organizations raised for doing work for the troops varied widely. Some organizations gave a lot of what they raised to their work. Some organizations gave a small amount toward their work and a lot of money going to raising funds.

I don't want to give to an ineffective organization. I want most of my money going to support the causes of the organization. There are various places on the Internet that rate organizations. One is at: www.charitynavigator.org. All of you have causes that should be supported. That led us to the realization that we should publish effective causes and occasionally ineffective causes so that most of our money goes where we want.

We will start off with a favorite of Jim Hovda. He supports The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF). The SOWF was founded in 1980 to provide support and assistance to the U. S. military's special operations community, which consist Army Special Forces (Green Berets), the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Navy Small Boat Teams, Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, Air Force rotary and fixed wing squadrons, and Marine Corps special operations personnel. SOWF's mission includes two major aspects in support of special operations personnel: providing a full college education to the surviving children of those who lose their lives while serving in the U.S. military special operations community, and providing immediate financial assistance and support to ensure that severely wounded personnel are able to have their loved ones at their bedside during recovery.



**Valentine's
Day Dinner**
Friday, Feb. 14th
5-7 pm

sponsored by Rice American Legion Auxilliary
Bring a sweetheart and join us for some delicious

PRIME RIB
POTATOES
SALADS
DESSERTS



\$10.00

per person

Rice American Legion
80 N Division ST



(replaces the Auxilliary dinner which is usually the 2nd Tues. of the month)

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

Emil Williams

It was the morning of February 3, 1943, that a converted luxury liner, U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity with 902 servicemen headed for Europe when a German U-2 boat sent torpedoes smashing into its side.

In less than 27 minutes the Dorchester slipped beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

February is the month that we celebrate the heroism and bravery of four courageous chaplains who unselfishly gave their lives to save others. Their names are Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling.

As the ship was sinking they comforted the wounded, prayed with the dying and gave their life jackets to others so that they might live. These brave Chaplains were last seen by those who survived with their arms around each other as the ship went under the cold waters. Of the 902 men aboard, 230 survived the horrific event.

On January 18, 1996, the President of the United States posthumously awarded a "Special Medal for Heroism". A medal of honor never before given and is never to be given again.

This reminds me of another individual whose name was Jesus. He gave His life, over 2,000 years ago on an old rugged cross for our sins so we could go to heaven if we trusted in Him with all our heart.

God bless all of you!

HOLD YOUR EVENT AT THE RICE LEGION you can host a party or other event at our Legion Post **FOR FREE...** No clean up and we can provide a bartender. Catering is an option, or you can host your own food. Catering can be done by Creative Catering.

KEYS FOR CASH FREE MONEY, a take-off from the Alamo. Cheryl and Sandy have a different twist. **EVERY SATURDAY** at 8:00 P.M. the bartender will draw a time, anywhere from 8:00 – 9:00 P.M. whatever time is drawn, that is when the cash drawing will be held. How do you get in on this bonus? Just stop in at the post and enter your name. It's free. No money. You'll be given a number and if it is drawn, you win. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.** As of the writing of this article the cash was \$400.00, which was won by Jerry Nodo. So next week we will be starting over with \$50.00. Don't miss the Saturday evening meat raffles, proceeds benefit area groups, come on over and try your luck.

HONOR GUARD COLUMN

Jim Hovda

On 16 February (SUNDAY) we will conduct our eighth annual training and appreciation dinner. (Hosted) The training will start at 4:45 P.M. at Immaculate Conception Church with the appreciation dinner at the post following the training. (Probably about 5:45 or so.) Written invitations will be mailed out to members. If you know of someone who would, or could be a member, this is a good opportunity to have them see what we do, and how we do it. They are welcome to attend the dinner. Some of our members from the past will also be in attendance. This is a really fun event. Please honor the RSVP (Reply) date so I can tell Mark Larson of the Creamery Café the number of meals to cater.

WARRIORS COLUMN

Jim Hovda, First Sergeant, U.S. Army (Retired)

I received the following letter from Specialist 4 Jacob Davenport, currently stationed Ft Myer, VA. Jacob is a Tomb Guard in Arlington National Cemetery. He has been pictured in this newsletter before. His letter follows:

Mr. Hovda,

How are you? Happy New Year from here in DC! 2013 was a real good year for me. Seems like it flew by. I have some good news since I saw you last! I got promoted to Specialist in November. It brings no more responsibility but a little more pay. So I sure am happy about that! I will be eligible for my next promotion (to Sergeant) sometime in May. But I don't expect to get the promotion until next fall. That's when there will be a slot open. Once that happens, I could start changing the guard at the tomb. Lower enlisted soldiers walk the mat, and NCO's are the guard changers. But they can also walk the mat if they want to.

I had a good Christmas here. It's only my second Christmas away from home. It was better than the last, ill say that. I spent Christmas Day with a friend of mine stationed here that's in the Marine Corps. We are from the same town back home in Tennessee. I hope you and your wife had a good Christmas and new year.

What has the weather been like in Rice? I'm sure it's been colder than here! We've had some lows in the 20's and highs in the 40's. We had one little snow. We got about 4 inches. It doesn't snow much here. Which is the weather I'm use to. We have the same weather back home.

I get to take leave at the end of this month. I'll be going home for 2 weeks. As always, I'm excited about that. We have a very demanding and stressful job, so it's always nice to have a break. I don't think I'll shave or cut my hair the whole time I'm home! I will probably do some hunting while I'm there. That's one of my favorite things to do. The only game that will be in season is rabbit and squirrel. And in Tennessee you can shoot a coyote any time during the year. So hopefully ill get one!

Well until next time my friend stay safe and warm.

- Jacob

S.A.L UPDATE

Jim Hovda

Here is an update on our activities. With the resignation of the commander and finance officer, we are gradually assembling new officers. Commander Chet of the Legion appointed: me as adjutant and Dick Raveling as the finance officer. We have a couple of offices that need to be filled. We have a healthy paid membership of twenty-two. There are a few members we hope will get their dues in. SAL meetings will not be monthly, only as needed. We will check with the legion folks to see if we can have a joint meeting with them and the auxiliary. Be sure to join us at the auxiliary dinner (prime rib) on Friday the 14th. We will be in touch with you via the NL.

Jim Hovda
SAL Adjutant

THE FISHING STRINGER

Darlene Hiscock

Some big fish are coming in now. Speared, Dave Friedrich brought in a picture of a 39-inch Northern Pike from Spider Lake. Only a couple of days later Don Weyer caught a 42 inch Northern Pike from Fish Lake.

I swear, I'm going to find some time to go fishing yet!

As cold as it is, don't forget to wear your "seater heater" and fish safe. God Bless...

Darlene Hiscock
AKA Ms. Tackle Box.

FROM THE CLUB

Cheryl Bovy

January was a busy month. We had Chris James' coming home party. Also KC's had their dinner here and last but not least Hovda's birthday party. All were a success and well attended. Thanks all for picking the legion to have your get togethers.

February brings Valentines day. On Feb. 14th we will have the Auxiliary dinner. That's a Friday so bring your sweetheart out to the legion for a great Prime rib dinner. Served by our Auxiliary with desserts and salads. Made by Mark and the Old Creamery crew.

Our bingo as I write this article is at \$1199 in 54 #s. Come and try and win this nice prize. We play on Wed. nites starting at 7pm.

Key for cash was given out to Jerry Nodo on Sat. the 25th. Congrats Jerry. We will be starting at \$50 again.

Don't forget the meat raffle on Saturdays starting at 7pm.

Thanks all and Happy Valentines Day

AUXILIARY NEWS

Janice Martin

Hello Ladies,

How many days til spring?

We had a light crew of workers for the Valentines For Vets but we all got the job done, photos included. Thank you again to the Watab Township hall for the free usage of their beautiful hall. We were warm and toasty all afternoon while working.



Remember if you want continuous years of membership to renew your membership now it's \$20.00 for a renewal.

Our 2014 dinner list was completed by Pat Fuchs thanks Pat. Our February dinner will be on a special day, Valentines Day, which is Friday, February 14th same time and place. The price will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids. The menu will be Prime Rib with all the other wonderful things to eat.

We will be filling out a brat sale form through Coborns again this year. Hopefully we will be selected.

The Easter Egg hunt is set for Palm Sunday, April 13th starting at 1:00 and held at the Watab Township Hall. If any other organizations would like to participate with us, let us know so we don't double up with a back-to-back activity.



FEBRUARY 2014 LEGION CALENDAR

01 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

02 Army Nurse Corps established. (1901)

02 Four Chaplains Sunday.

05 BINGO at the post. 7:00 P.M.

06 Military Assistance Command, Vietnam established. (1962)

08 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

10 Legion & Auxiliary meetings. (See below)

12 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M.

14 Auxiliary dinner. 5 – 7:00 P.M. Post. Valentine's Day. Prime Rib.

15 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

16 Color Guard training (4:15 P.M.) and appreciation dinner. 6:00 P.M.

17 Presidents Day. (Fly Flag)

19 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M.

22 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.

23 11th Airborne Division elements liberate Los Banos internment camp. (1945)

26 BINGO at the post 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: The legion meetings start with (1) Legion Club Committee 4:30 P.M., Pine Country Bank (2) Legion Board of Directors at 5:00 P.M. P.C. Bank & (3) Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:00 P.M. at the Legion Post. (Joint meetings)

AIRBORNE HERITAGE

Jim Hovda – Former paratrooper

On the 25th of February 1945, elements of the 11th Airborne Division, (130 men) and Phiippino Scouts conducted a surprise raid on the Los Banos Internment Camp located on the SW shore of Laguna Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands. The internment camp was guarded by 250 Japanese soldiers and surrounded by several thousand in the nearby hills.

Held within, were more than 2,000 starving soldiers, women and children. As the battle for Manila raged, it was feared that the prisoners would be either executed or moved beyond the reach of liberating armies.

The successful raid is heralded as one of the most daring and successful military operations in American military history.

If you are interested in reading about this daring raid, go to the web (Los Banos Prison Camp) where several interesting books about the raid have been published.

IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONTACT:

LEADERSHIP

Legion Commander - Chet Seviola 320/584-2046 seviola@clearwire.net
Auxiliary President - Janice Martin 320/393-2410 janice2177@aol.com
S.A.L. -

MEMBERSHIP

Legion - Floyd Hinkemeyer 320/393-2854 fhinkemeyer@jetup.net
Auxiliary - Nancy Anderson 320/393-2108 njanderson07@gmail.com
S.A.L. -

CHAPLAINS

Legion - Don Miklos 320/584-5825
Auxiliary - Jan Hovda 320/393-4339 janhovda@jetup.net
SAL - Emil Williams 320/393-2203 EBWilli@jetup.net

GUARD

Jim Hovda 320/393/4339 jhovda.rice@jetup.net

POST

Manager - Cheryl Bovy 320/393-4545 cbovy@hotmail.com

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Benton County - George Fiedler 320/968-5044 gfiedler@co.benton.mn.us
Morrison County - Paul Froncek 320/632-0290
paulf@co.morrison.mn.us
Stearns County - Terry Ferdinandt 320/656-6176
terry.ferdinandt@co.stearns.mn.us

Rice Legion Website www.post473.com