



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hasso Briese Post 0473

September 2013

FROM THE COMMANDER

Chet Seviola

It was a busy weekend on August 17 and 18. Thank you to Legion members, SAL members, members of the Auxiliary and to the club staff. The ball tournament provided an opportunity to host a great series of softball and to serve the players and friends food and refreshments. The afternoon parade was led by many of you who really looked sharp in your military and Legion uniforms. The various flags at the front looked especially sharp. Kilroy, a jeep and a military motorcycle complete with a mascot dog added a lot to our parade group. Additional marchers from the VFW and a great drummer rounded out an outstanding group. Be sure to read the Color Guard column for more details.

The SAL made tacos in a bag. The tacos were really good and so was the cold beer after the march. The SAL continued on Sunday with a great breakfast. They restarted the the old omlet breakfast at Immaculate Conception Church. Watch this newsletter for the next breakfast. All are welcome at the church hall.

This is a second request to those of you that mow and have mowed in the past. We need to reimburse you for mowing expenses since you started mowing. Please pass along your estimated expenses to me by email or drop them off at the club and ask to have them put in my distribution folder. We will write you a check. Lots of you mowed and only a few have turned in expenses.

Here are two others that deserve a special thank you from the Legion. Gene Maslowski of Bowlus provided the Bobcat and removed the dead trees from the monument. Dave Marshall from Rice replaced the filters in the Purifan at the club. He has been doing this for the Legion at no cost.

To everyone that helped make this August a success I salute you. Thank you all.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS AND SAL SQUADRON 473

Jeff Gondeck

Gentlemen, I would like to start off by saying August was a success! The SAL sold tacos in a bag at our post during Rice Fun Day with a lot of customers thanking us for our dedication to our post and our veterans! I participated in our parade in the color guard and was proud to stay in step with seasoned veterans in this event! I feel very honored to carry our flag and have so many dedicated people show their respect to our country and our flag for so many that have paid the ultimate price for what we cherish! THANK YOU KINDLY !!!!!

On the following Sunday, we had our omelet breakfast at Immaculate Conception church where we served 62 people with rave reviews! This could not happen without the members who dedicated their time to make this a success Justin Gondeck, Josh Gondeck, Jared John, Jeff Kampa (and his better half (Macenzie) Kyle Wright, Robin Gondeck, Bill Rauch, Bob Kerestes ! without their support and dedication this would not have been possible! THANK YOU KINDLY We will be having more breakfasts in the coming months so watch for flyers in the post, listen to the radio and watch your local TV public service stations.

As a reminder memberships need to be paid by September 30 to receive your free drink at the post, Hurry in and say " HI" Watch for events at our post as in bar bingo keys for cash meat raffles or just to pop in and say "HELLO" We welcome you with a smile! Stay tuned " We are just getting started"

Thank you for your dedication !!!!!

Serving you proudly!

Your Commander
Jeff Gondeck

Until next Time

At ease Gentlemen !!!!!

PATRIOT DAY CEREMONY (9-11)

Mark your calendar for **WEDNESDAY, September 11th, 7:00 P.M.** to honor all the people who were killed or injured in the attack on America. The Rice Post of the American Legion will be hosting a ceremony at **The Memorial Monument across from the Creamery Café**. Bring your lawn chair. This will not be a time consuming event, only about thirty minutes. Area clergy and emergency response folks will be there. Take time to remember that terrible day and pray for our nation.

HONOR GUARD COLUMN

Jim Hovda

RICE FUN DAYS was a huge success for us. Your color guard was blessed with lots of participants. I'm reluctant to single out folks. That said, member Jim Larson (former USAF from Ft. Finley ND) made a special trip here with his three-wheeler MC with his Golden Retriever Sgt. Cooper all the way from Prior Lake and our drummer Ryan Martin. He was able to keep the Sauk Rapids VFW and the Bowlus Legion in step. We should all thank all of our volunteers for their efforts. They make a valuable contribution to our post. I would be remiss if I did not extend our appreciation to both the Sauk Rapids VFW and the Bowlus Legion for being at this event.

Our next event will be the 9/11, Patriot Day ceremony honoring all the brave souls that lost their lives or suffered injuries as a result of The Attack Against America. Everyone who can attend should report to The Rice City Hall Parking Lot NLT 6:00 P.M. Remember, 9/11 is on Wednesday.





WARRIORS COLUMN

Jim Hovda, 1SG U.S. Army (Retired)

Staff Sergeant (SSG) James. Yes, SSG Chris could use a card or letter. The address is posted below.

**SSG CHRIS JAMES
ETT 850TH HEC
FOB LIGHTNING
APO AE 09339**

Hello Jim and Legion Members,

How are you doing? Things here are going smoothly. We have not been too busy with the Muslim holiday of Ramadan. Ramadan started July 9th and ends

Aug 8th. It is a time where they fast during the day. They only train in the morning and sleep in the afternoon so they can be awake at night to eat. They also get affined if we drink or eat around them during the day. We have to sneak drinks of water. I am glad that Ramadan is almost over.

The FOB I am residing on is about to grow in population. The 101st Airborne division is moving here since the FOB they are currently occupying is closing down. There will be a whole lot of brass walking around. They are currently building more housing and office space for them. My unit has a Kentucky vertical engineer company attached and they are building the additions. It is a busy place on the FOB right now. They also want to expand the FOB so they can have spots for Blackhawk and Chinook helicopter to be stored. I hope I am long gone when they start that project.

Last week the Afghan's had one of their helicopters crash just after takeoff from our landing zone. It was loaded with a bunch of weapons and ammo. Sounds like it was over loaded and that is what caused it to go down. No one was seriously injured.

This month on the 22nd Cassie and I have our 4-year wedding anniversary. I am trying to find something special to send her. It is a lot harder finding ideas while so far away. There is a small jeweler on the FOB. I am going to see if they have any Afghan style rings. Maybe pick one of those up and send it to her.

That is about all that is going on here. Hopefully things pick up now with Ramadan over.

Sincerely
Christopher James

Our newest legion member is **Sergeant Travis Peterson**. He is with the 849th Mobile Augmentation Company. He is with 95 other soldiers that make up the unit. Their task is to ensure that the roads are safe to travel on. (Sounds like a dangerous job to me...) They just finished six weeks of training in preparation for going to Afghanistan at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Maybe he can hook up with SSG James? Sgt. Travis is also a member of the Sauk Rapids VFW. His note to me follows.

Sergeant Peterson wrote:

A big hello, from Fort Bliss, Texas. I'm about to head over to Afghanistan in a couple days. Just completed a 6-week train up. My mom had informed me that you had contacted her; I had given out my address for down here because of the short amount of time we were to be here. I will send the address out for where we will be in Afghanistan when I get there. It will probably be a couple weeks before we get settled in though. But I'll let ya know as soon as possible. Tell the guys at the VFW I said hello, and sorry I missed the meeting before I left. I had planned on going, but things got very busy before I left. I also still have somebody's shirt from the Sauk Rapids parade. I feel bad about that...

Have a good day~
SGT Peterson

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 prize money is up to \$175.00. The prize will hit a maximum of \$500.00. Eventually, someone will take home the cash. So far no one has claimed the cash and as of 20 July it was up to \$225.00.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Don Miklos

My Legion Brothers and Sister,

It is heartening when I am able to bring you a message, which was actually part of my every day life.

Last week the words of Jesus were brought home to me yet again. His parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke Gospel 10: 29-37 comes to mind.

I had taken my classic 1955 Mercury for a short ride, when hour miles from home, at a Stop sign, the engine quite. Of course, no cell phone, didn't tell anyone where I was going, so here I sit, up the creek, without a paddle. Many cars whizzed by, but no one stopped. Under the hood for the tenth time with no luck, I finally asked the Lord for "a little help here please". Several cars later, I started thinking perhaps the Lord is busy elsewhere because there must be one more person in the world dumb enough to pull a stunt as I had!

There an SUV headed in the opposite direction stops, turns around, comes back and this young man gets out and with a big smile says, "My friend, could you use some help?" Boy, could I ever! He asked me where I lived and finding out it was four miles in the opposite direction, he volunteered to take me home. On that ride he asked me how long I had the Mercy and I said "since 1958," when I came home from the service. Turns out, he took Basic Training where I had although many years later. How about that, a comrade! Arriving home, I tried to pay him with no luck. He said he never left any one on the road who needed help and needed no pay for that. I told him I had done the same my whole life; never leave a person in need, whom I can help. His answer was, he normally didn't take that road, the longer route to St Cloud, but he just decided to that day. Coincidence? Maybe, but I like to think the Lord takes care of dummies, like me.

I realized then that I should have trusted in the work of the Holy Spirit more. But also I have met a true "Good Samaritan". Concluding the parable, Jesus ask, "Tell me, which of those acted like a neighbor toward the man who was in need of help?" His questioner answered, "the one who was kind to him". Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

May the Lord bless you, Bob, my "Good Samaritan", the world is a better place because you are in it. Remembering Bob and all you, my comrades, in my prayers.

I remain, your Chaplain Don Miklos

FROM THE FISHING STRINGER

Darlene Hiscock

Well, Mr. Hovda, I'll bet you thought you'd bring the biggest walleye from Lake of the Woods at 25.5 inches. Not so fast buster! My granddaughter, Hayla netted a 29-inch walleye from a lake near Mankato while on a family vacation. Second place Mr. Hovda, is the same as LAST PLACE.

Fred Segler convinced me that he actually caught a fish longer than six inches when he landed a 32-inch northern pike. Too bad Fred, it was out of the slot and it had to go back in the lake. His brother Ted told me that Fred snagged it? I haven't heard from Jeff Gondeck all summer after hearing that he was a super angler.

Remember to wear your PFD. We want all of you safe back on shore. Keep safe and God Bless.

Darlene Hiscock
AKA - Ms. Tackle Box

SICK CALL

If you know of anyone who is on sick call, give our good chaplain Don a call at 320/584-5825. Emil Williams, the SAL Chaplain will also field a call at 320/393-2203

FROM THE CLUB

Cheryl Bovy

August has been a hot one, but it is fall and our annual Pub Olympics or pub-crawl is going to go on Sept. 21st. It's a great time whether participating or watching. Get a four-person team together stop in at the legion and sign up, \$5 per person with money prizes and gift certificates for placement.

Thanks to all who stopped in for the celebration of Rice days. Great walking tacos were sold by the SAL. And thanks to all who worked our softball tournament and marched in the parade. We appreciate you.

We at the legion would like to say a great big thanks to the color guard for buying chairs and bar stools for the club. We were running a little short of seating and they provided them for us. Thanks Jim and all.

Other happenings at the legion are Saturday nights at 7pm we do a meat

raffle. Organizations that are benefiting are Rice Women of Today, KC's, and SAL. Stop in and support them. Then stay for our Key for cash drawing. Prize for Sat. the 31st is \$375. Its free to everyone, all you need to do is stop in and register before 7pm on Sat. In Oct. we have our annual bouja and customer appreciation day. Tentatively the 12th of Oct. watch for the date in next month's newsletter.

Remember if you need the club for a party of any sort, we are here free of charge on any day.

Thanks

Cheryl Bovy

AUXILIARY NEWS

Janice Martin

Hello members,

At our August meeting we discussed our next fundraiser. We will be parking cars at the craft fair on September 7th and September 8th. Times will be from 8 am. to 5 pm. I will be there both days setting things up at 7 am and taking things down at 5 pm. We have some people signed up already. We are asking at least 2 hours. Times for both days will be 8-10 am, 10-12 pm, 12-2 pm, 2-4 pm. Please consider helping out. We will have a tent for shade/rain and lawn chairs and something to drink and snacks. It would be nice to have at least 2 people there at a time call me 393-2410.

Pat Fuchs is heading up a perennial flower fundraiser. The company is called Flower Power and is located out of Vermont. There are a lot of beautiful selections to choose from. There are order forms at the club also Pat, Nancy and myself have some forms. Orders must be in to Pat by September 25 and the company ships them by September 30th in order to have them in time for fall planting. 50 % of our purchases go directly to the Auxiliary and there is a 100 % money-back guarantee. If your order is \$40 or more you receive 8 miniature yellow daffodils free. Orders will be shipped directly to the customers. If you have any other questions you can contact Pat. Thanks Pat for chairing this event!

We will be ordering wreaths again from Wreaths Across America at our September 9th Auxiliary meeting at the club at 7 pm.

Shortly you will be receiving your 2014 membership renewal forms. We will continue to offer a "free drink" with your renewal membership if redeemed by Dec. 31st.

Our September Auxiliary dinner is scheduled for September 10th, 5-7, our menu is home made pot roast, potatoes, carrots, salads and deserts. Our servers for September are Debbie Wolf, Jennifer Emslander, Lucy Hovland and Theresa Duea.

Have a great September,

Janice

LEGION SEPTEMBER 2013 – CALENDER

- 02 Japan formally surrenders (1945) - - Labor Day. (Fly Flag)
- 04 Operation Bingo 7:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 07 Keys for cash drawing. 8:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 09 Legion Meetings. See below.**
- 10 Auxiliary dinner. 5 – 7:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 11 Operation Bingo. 7:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 11 9-11 Memorial Service. Memorial Monument. 7:00 P.M. (Fly Flag half staff sunrise to sunset.)**
- 14 Keys for cash drawing. 8:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 15 U.S. Forces land at Inchon, Korea. (1950)
- 16 U.S. 8th Army breaks out of the Pusan Perimeter. (1950)
- 17 S.A.L. Membership meeting. 7:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 18 Operation Bingo. 7:00 P.M. At the post. - - - Happy B'day U.S. Air Force. (1947)**
- 20 POW/MIA Recognition Day. (Fly POW/MIA Flag.)
- 21 Keys for cash drawing. 8:00 P.M. At the post. ---First day of fall.**
- 25 Operation bingo. Post 7:00 P.M.**
- 28 Keys for cash drawing. 8:00 P.M. At the post.**
- 29 Gold Star Family Remembrance Sunday
- 30 Berlin Airlift ends. (1949)

NOTE - - The legion meetings start with (1) the club committee at 4:30 PM (2) board of directors at 5:00 PM at the Pine Country Bank and (3) membership meeting at 7:00 P.M. **At the post for both the Legion and Auxiliary.**

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE! EVERYONE IN OUR AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS IMPORTANT TO US. YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS US ACCOMPLISH A LOT OF THINGS FOR OUR VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY.

AIRBORNE HERITAGE

On the 17th elements of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions combat jump into Holland. Operation Market Garden, 14,019 troopers made the jump. Operation Market Garden was a major defeat for the allies. For you dot-com folks, goggle Operation Market Garden. It is a story of extreme courage and bravery in the face of overwhelming odds against the Germans. The movie, A bridge to Far, is a story of that battle.

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. Commander - Jeff Gondeck 320/469-6752 kato6820@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Legion - Floyd Hinkemeyer 320/393-2854 fthinkemeyer@jetup.net
Auxiliary - Nancy Anderson 320/393-2108 njanderson@jetup.net
S.A.L. - Jeff Gondeck 320/469-6752 kato6820@gmail.com

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

Retirement Services Newsletter

Veterans Updates: VA Burial Benefits

Burial is a Veterans Administration (VA) national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and included the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of the national shrine. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag, and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries, of which 72 are open for new-casketed interments and 18 are open to accept only cremated remains. Burial options are limited to those available to a specific cemetery and may include in-ground casket, or interment of cremated remains in a columbarium, in-ground, or scattering garden. Contact the national cemetery directly or visit www.cem.va.gov to determine cemetery availability and any particular options. If you do not have Internet access you can also contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) for assistance. You can locate most CVSOs in your telephone directory under "County Government".

The funeral director or next of kin make interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired.

Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000, do not lose eligibility for burial in a national cemetery if they remarry. Burial of dependent children is limited to remarried children under 21 years of age, and or under 23 years of age if in full-time student. Unmarried adult children, who become physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before age 21, or 23 in a full-time student, are also eligible for burial.

Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, and retired reservists and National Guard Members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their grave at any cemetery national, state veterans, tribal veterans, or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans whose deaths occurred on or after November 1, 1990, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker even if the grave is already marked with a private one, or, VA may furnish a medallion instead of the headstone or marker for veterans' grave in private cemeteries when the grave is already marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker. Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national, state, or tribal veterans' cemetery.

Flat markers are available in bronze, granite or marble. Upright headstones come in granite or marble. In national cemeteries, the style provided will be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains. Medallions are made of bronze and are available in three sizes: 5-inch, 3-inch, and 1 1/2 inch.

Headstones, markers and medallions previously furnished by the government may be replaced at the governments' expense if badly deteriorated, illegible, vandalized or stolen.

Headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the deceased, branch of service, and year of birth and death. They also may be inscribed with other optional information, including an emblem of belief and space permitting, additional text including military rank, war service such as "World War II", complete dates of birth and death; military awards; military organization; civilian or veteran affiliations and personalized words of endearment.

The VA provides "In Memory Of" markers to memorialize those, whose remains have not been recovered or identified, buried at sea, donated to science or cremated and scattered. Eligibility requirements are the same as for regular headstones and markers. There is no fee when the "In Memory Of" marker is placed in a national cemetery. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

Presidential Memorial Certificates are issued upon request to recognize the United States Military Service of honorably discharged deceased veterans and next of kin.