



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hasso Briese Post 0473

January 2014

FROM THE COMMANDER

Chet Seviola

This first paragraph is repeated from the last year. It still applies. "Happy New Year! I am looking forward to a great year for our Legion Post. Your participation in all of the annual events continues to be an example to the other legions in the area. Several people reported to me that they observed other legions do ceremonies and they were far below the sharp military bearing you all demonstrate. I never cease to be impressed at your quick gathering, coordination and execution for every event. Be proud of yourselves. I sure am."

Jeff Gondeck has left his post as Commander of Sons of the American Legion. We are grateful to Jeff and grateful for his activities. He doubled the finances and raised the membership. When you see him say thanks for a job well done.

The Christmas party was a success despite the cold and snowy December evening. Some of you wimps missed a fine meal and great company. Because of you slackers who failed to come we all got extra prime rib. Thank you. The ladies did a great job on plants and decorations. Our plants are still blooming and brightening a chilly winter.

Our next membership meeting is January 13 at 7:00 at the club. We look forward to you joining us.

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENTS

Don Miklos

Comrades, Greetings from your Chaplain:

We just celebrated the birth of our Lord, which we Christians call "Christmas", not a "Holiday", as many do, and we are looking forward to a new and better year. I have always liked the story of the shepherds and how they were the first to be notified by God of his son's birth. Not kings, not scribes, not judges, not generals, but lowly, working, uneducated shepherds.

Of that night the prophet Isaiah says (9:1-6), “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.” Certainly the shepherds had enough to be gloomy about, cold, hard, dangerous work, with no frills and little compensation.

So, who or what is a shepherd that God should choose them to be the first to hear the good news? The dictionary describes them as, “a person who tends sheep, the leader of a group, a minister, a person who helps, who protects, guards, or leads. Kind of like a squad leader, right? Most of us are already familiar with that job! Well, we are in good company, for God chose his shepherds well. Like David, Joshua, John the Baptist and yes, Moses, (with a very large flock), all shepherds whom God called.

But, we are all Shepherds in the eyes of God, and he has given all of us graces to fulfill this job. Whether we accept the responsibility or not is our choice. There are hundred of ways to “shepherd”. Mentoring young boys and girls, helping the poor, food shelves, volunteering with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the VA Hospital, or just setting a good example in public just to name a few. I’m sure you know many, many more ways also.

On that beautiful night, when the shepherds knelt in fear before the brilliant light of the star, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, Luke’s Gospel (2:14), he said, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy, for today is born to you, Christ the Lord.”

His words still hold true today. Do not be afraid to the shepherds. Proclaim his word, the good news, by word and actions. Remember, the task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

May you have a better year than the past one and may you be a part of the change and may you be of good health. That is my Christmas Wish for you.

Your Chaplain, Don Miklos

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 is \$175.00. The prize will hit a maximum of \$500.00. Eventually, someone will take home the cash. Don't miss the Saturday evening meat raffles, proceeds benefit area groups, come on over and try your luck.

WARRIORS COLUMN

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

On 22 December I had the opportunity to be part of the welcoming home ceremony of Sergeant Chris James held at the high school in Cambridge, MN. Many of you probably saw glimpses of it on the news. I was disappointed that I was the only formal American Legion or VFW represented. Being there to welcome home a returning veteran is a big deal. Gone, hopefully, are the days that most of us endured coming home to either unwelcome people or no welcome at all. The reasons differ, and the circumstances different. I was glad to have been a part of the welcome group in Cambridge. The crowd was enthusiastic and loud, cheering the troops as they entered the gym area. It made me feel good to see the troops welcomed in this manner.



Welcome back!!

Just received this letter from Sergeant Travis Peterson stationed in Afghanistan.

Hey everyone: All is well on FOB (Forward operating base) Frontenac in Afghanistan. Things have gotten quite busy since we've been here. I'm sorry for not writing sooner, it's amazing how easy sitting down and writing a letter is but how often I have left that task undone. Winter is upon us here. Not quite the Minnesota winter that we're used to, yet cold (for here at least). It gets down around 40's at night, and maybe mid 60s-mid 70s during the days.

I've been getting packages with newsletters and magazines in them. Thank you so much! I also received the package from the Rice School. I will be sending them an email or letter back soon. It's so nice to get things from home, whether it be letters of packages the thought that someone cares enough to send them means the world to the troops.

Apparently right after Christmas my company will be moving FOB's because of the downgrade of smaller bases here. Moving to a place called Pasab. We've heard the base is not what we're used to here. Sounds like back to tents.

A few days ago, General Dempsey (Army Chief of Staff) gave our FOB a visit. That was interesting. Also here, a couple of guys from Duck Dynasty, a football player, baseball player and a few singers stopped by. Really raises morale and adds a little fun into the mix.

Happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

HONOR GUARD COLUMN

Jim Hovda

No scheduled events. This is a good time to inspect uniforms for any unscheduled events.

WELCOME HOME PARTY

Will be held **on Saturday, 04 Jan, 3 – 6:00 P.M. at the post** for Sergeant Chris James. Jim his wife Cassie and their two children live right here in Rice. Both are members. He deserves our attendance and a chance to thank him for his service in Afghanistan. This is good chance to meet one of our YOUNGER veterans.

COMING SOON?

Our post NL hopes to be able to place an article identifying veterans organizations that are deserving of your \$\$\$\$. Many of you, I'm sure, have heard stories of only a small fraction of your donation going to the troops they purport to aid. Unfortunately, there is a lot of truth in this. Some veterans' charity groups do a really good job of keeping administrative costs to a minimum. Others do not.

Chet Seviola, Commander

THANK YOU LADIES AUXILIARY

Thank you for the donating \$1,000.00 to the art project at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. The donation is in the memory of Virginia Paradies, our former Gold Star Mother. This speaks volumes about the many things that our auxiliary accomplishes in support of veterans, a "tip of our hats" to each of you.

Chet Seviola,
Commander

THE FISHING STRINGER

No article submitted.

FROM THE CLUB

Cheryl Bovy

Happy New Year to all from all of us at the club. Hope all of you snowbirds are enjoying the weather. I think I want to be a snowbird--soon.

I would like to extend a welcome to all to come to the legion on Sat. Jan. 4th for a welcome home party for Chris James who is coming home from deployment. Thank you Chris for all you do.

As of January first all prices at the club will be going up by \$.25. All prices have increased twice this year. We need to pass this cost onto our customers. Sorry how do they say it? That's the way the ball bounces. We will still have happy hours and Tues. and Thurs. our little tickets. So I hope this won't discourage you.

Thanks to Jim Hovda for shoveling one day this month. I very much appreciate it. I would also like to thank Rice Women of Today and KC,s for doing meat raffles at the club. We appreciate you.

If you would like to have a party at the club just give us a call at 393-4545.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Janice Martin

Hello Ladies;

I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We need a little warm weather and hopefully we will see some soon!

We held our Christmas Children's Fun at the Watab Township hall this year and I was surprised how many kids came out even with the cold weather. The facility was warm and cozy and we had it trimmed out nicely for the visit with Santa. Thank you to all who helped...Pat Fuchs, Nancy Anderson, Teresa Anderson, Maryanne Keeney, Isabelle Martin, Debbie Wolf, Theresa Duea, Cheryl Walberg, Samantha, and the Maciej twins- Matthew and Nathan who earned some hours for confirmation. Thanks to Maryanne's nephew who took on Santa duties, and anyone who I may have missed.



What a treat frost and decorate your own cookie and then the best part eat it.

Our club Christmas party was awesome once again. Maryanne did a great job picking out poinsettias and Cheryl and company did a great job decorating and covering the tables. Pat Fuchs wrapped the silver ware and made sure we had things ready for dinner, and Nancy Anderson got the centerpieces ready for door prizes. The food was delicious and the company was delightful!

My husband Kevin and I participated in the laying of the Wreaths for the Fallen at Camp Ripley on December 14th. I told Kevin that he should feel fortunate that his birthday is shared with such an event! It was a crispy morning

but it was beautiful with all the snow and all the green wreaths with their red bows. The speaker had a lot of meaningful things to say about the program and all the fallen heroes. I have enclosed a picture.



Our first meeting of the New Year will be January 13th at the club at 7:00 pm. We will be gearing up for our Valentines for Vets, which is slated for January 18th at the Watab Township Hall starting at 9:00 am. We run this all day until about 3:30 pm. It is a come and work as long as you can, come and go sort of thing. So if you like to craft and only have a 1/2 hour or hour or longer please come and help out. We need to produce close to 500 + items for the veterans at the VA in St. Cloud. Your help, no matter how small or large, is greatly appreciated!

Our first dinner will be January 14th from 5-7 pm. I believe our menu for 2014 will follow the same as 2013 so if this is so our January menu will be: Pork Roast, baby red potatoes, veggies, salads, desserts, milk and coffee. Our servers will be; Judy Fernholz, Peg Seviola, and Linda Marshall. If there is a problem with this list of servers please contact me.

JANUARY 2014 LEGION CALENDAR

- 01 Club closed. New year's day. HAPPY NEW YEAR. (Fly flag)
- 04 3:00 P.M. Welcome Home from Afghanistan,Chris James – post.**
- 04 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.**
- 08 Bingo at the post 7:00 P.M.**
- 11 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.**
- 13 Legion & Auxiliary meetings. (See below)**
- 14 Auyxiliary dinner. 5 – 7:00 P.M. Post.**
- 15 Bingo at the post 7:00 P.M.**
- 17 Operation Desert Storm begins. (1991)
- 18 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.**
- 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. (Fly Flag)
- 21 Birth of the modern National Guard. (1903)
- 22 Bingo at the post 7:00 P.M.**
- 25 Meat raffle 7:30 P.M. & Keys for cash 8:00 P.M.**
- 28 Vietnam cease-fire Campaign ends. (1973)
- 29 Bingo at the post 7:00 P.M.**
- 30 Tet Offensive begins in South Vietnam. (1968)
- 31 Operation Just Cause ends. (1990)

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

For the Vietnam era veterans the 16th of January 1964 MACV (Military Advisory Command Vietnam) and SOG (Studies and Observation Group) were established. SOG, composed mostly of army special forces soldiers, were a major thorn is the NVA locating supply routes, command headquarters and troop buildups.

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 -

MEMBERSHIP

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CHAPLAINS

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GUARD

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