



POST 90 GAZETTE

DECEMBER 2019

EDITED BY AMY OSTLER AND HARVEY HEFLEY

UPCOMING EVENTS

HELP DECORATE VETERAN'S HOME

DECEMBER 3, 2019 @ 1 PM

PEARL HARBOR AT TONAQUINT

TONAQUINT CEMETERY
DECEMBER 7, 2019 @
10:48 AM

VETERAN'S DAY CONCERT

ST GEORGE TABERNACLE
DECEMBER 9TH AT 7:00PM

VIETNAM VETERAN'S CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

DECEMBER 9, 2019

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

DECEMBER 14, 2019 @ 10 AM
AT TONAQUINT,
ENTERPRISE, HURRICANE,
SANTA CLARA AND
SPRINGDALE

POST 90 CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 17, 2019 @ 6 PM
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS



POST 90 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join us for the Post 90 annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 17th at 6 PM. The party will be held at the legion hall (245 N 200 W) and space is limited. *Please RSVP no later than December 11th.*

Ham and Turkey will be provided by the American Legion

IDEAS when you RSVP would be appreciated - let me know what you are bringing

A-G: Salads (fruit, jello, cranberry)

H-M: Vegetables (potatoes/gravy, cheesy potatoes, yams, corn, carrots, beans)

N-S: Deserts

T-Z: bread, rolls, butter

All food must be there 5:45 pm. Santa Clause will be attending so come in your favorite holiday attire. There are 90 seats available for the Christmas Party so when you RSVP we need to know number of Adults and Children.

Bring a food item for the donation box for Switch Point. RSVP by December 11th, by phone or email. Marti 435-668-5770 or martibigbie@gmail.com

2020 AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP DUES CAN BE PAID FOR ON LINE BY GOING TO www.mylegion.org AND RENEWING YOUR AMERICAN LEGION DUES OR SEND TO YOUR POST COMMANDER/ADJUTANT. FOR POST 90 SEND TO PO BOX 910931, St George, Utah 84791
*****Remember 2019-2020 memberships dues are due by 12-31-19** to keep your membership from canceling need to send in membership dues by 12-31-19.



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

Hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving with family and friends. Still need RSVP's for Post 90 Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:00 pm. Since the dinner is going to be at the Legion Hall we have only 90 seating. So need to get your name added as soon as possible. Santa will be paying us a visit so bring your children or grandchildren so he won't feel lonely. Turkey and Ham will be furnished by the Legion. Come in Holiday attire.

We still have 2019 memberships unpaid and will expire after 12-31-19. They can be reinstated by would help Post 90 to have them paid prior to end of year.

The Pearl Harbor Commemorate will be held December 7th, 2019 at Tonaquint Cemetery at 10:48 am. If planning on coming we need to be assembled by 10:30 am as the program will begin right at 10:48 am and is about 8 minutes long. Dress warm. That afternoon there is a Special Veteran "Pow-Mia" Tribute at Brio Community Clubhouse, 230 W Brio Clubhouse Drive, Washington City at 3:00 pm American Legion Color/honor Guard will be presenting colors. Speaker is Capt. Ron Lewis Ret. Navy, Special Patriotic performance by Makin Harmony with Light refreshments served.

Thanks to Tiffany Harris and her 60 little elf's they will be delivering the Christmas bags to the Assisted living homes this year. BUT I am in need of help to deliver to the Veterans that live at home. If able and want to help please call me as soon as possible.

Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

District/Post Commander/Adjutants and membership chairman WE still need your help in retaining members as the current membership expires on 12-30-19. This is for 2020 (7-1-19 thru 6-30-20). The membership can be reinstated/continued if paid after the first of the year. By looking at National's figures we will be making the December goal of 75% by December 11th. Thanks to the Posts that have sent in their member's dues or going on line to make the dues payment from the Posts. The number of on-line membership payments is also encouraging.

Adjutant Randy sent out a request that I asked for a report from ALL DEC members and committee members to be to the Department by December 4th. These reports will be included in handouts at the DEC meeting on December 14th at 10:00 am. Finance meeting will be held 9:00 am.

Legion holiday blood drive starts Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving marks the start of the annual American Legion Holiday Donor Blood Drive that lasts through Dec. 31. Legion Family members are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives at posts as part of The American Legion Blood Donor Program – an organizational effort that has existed since 1946 to help a lifesaving cause.

During the 2019 membership year, the Legion's Consolidated Post Report showed that the holiday blood drive brought in over 70,000 pints of blood from more than 50,000 donors nationwide. For information on how to donate blood, visit:

- American Red Cross, www.redcrossblood.org
- American Association of Blood Banks, www.aabb.org
- Council of Community Blood Centers, www.givingblood.org



The Christmas I Remember Best by Kenneth J. Brown USMC (1943-1946)

I watched him turn from the street and climb the path leading to our shelter. He was groping, hesitation. As he came near, he folded his umbrella and stood quietly a long moment. His thin coat soon dampened from the cold rain that was falling from the same sky that had brought death to nearly half his townspeople three short months before. I concluded that it must take some special courage to confront one's conquerors without invitation. It was little wonder that he hesitated. His polite bow to me was no bow of submission. Rather his squared shoulders and lifted head let me feel as if I were looking up at him even though I towered over him a foot or more. I recall being disturbed that I hadn't eat become used to the near sightless eyes of those who had looked heavenward that morning when the bomb dropped. If one looked deeply enough, he could almost see the reflection of a searing, blinding flash in those eyes.

Dignity commands respect in all quarters, and I respectfully asked if I could be of service. His clear English told me that his educational pursuits had taken beyond the home islands. He introduced himself as Professor Iida. The title fitted him well.

"I am a good Christian," he said. "I am told this is the head minister's office. Are you a Christian? It is good to talk with a follower of Christ; there are so few Christian Japanese."

I took him to the inner office of the division chaplain and waited while the two men conversed. Professor Iida stated his request briefly. He was a teacher of music in the Christian girls' college until it was closed by imperial command. Afterward he had been imprisoned because of his professed Christianity. After being released he had returned to Nagasaki and continued his music instruction in his home even though it was forbidden. He had been able to continue a small chorus and would be pleased if it could be arranged that they sing a concert for the American Marines.

"We know something of your American Christmases," he said. "We should like to do something to make your Christmas in Japan more enjoyable."

I felt sure the Chaplain would give a negative reply. Our unit was one of hardened fighters, four years away from home, who had fought the enemy from Saipan to Iwo Jima. Their hatred hardly had time to cool. A troop of girls appeared before them on stage, perhaps daughters or sisters of the ones who killed their buddies, might provoke an incident humiliating to the occupation authorities. Yet there was something about the man that bespoke sincere desire to do good deeds so that his request could hardly be denied.

Permission was granted. The concert would be Christmas Eve.

The rain had stopped and a calm settled over the atomic bowl reminiscent of the calm that night long ago. The concert was well attended; there was nothing else to do. The theater, now turned amphitheater had been cleared of its fallen roof and men were sitting on the jagged walls. The usual momentary hush fell over the audience as the performers filed on stage.

As the music began, the hush swelled to complete silence that strangely lasted the hour.

The first thing we noticed that they were singing in English and we became aware that they didn't understand the words but had memorized them for our benefit. Professor Iida had taught his students well; they sang beautifully. We sat enthralled as if a choir from heaven were singing for us. Of course, it was wonderful to hear those familiar carols again, yet it wasn't so much what they sang as they the way they sang, as if Christ was being born anew that night.

The closing number was a solo, an aria from the Messiah. The girl sang with all the conviction of one who knew that Jesus was indeed the savior of mankind and it brought us to tears.

After that, there was a full minute of silence followed by sustained applause as the small group took bow after bow.

Later that night I helped professor lida take down the trimmings. I could not resist asking some questions that propriety forbade but curiosity demanded. I just had to know.

“How did your group manage to survive the bomb?” I asked.

“This is only half my group,” he said softly, but seemed unoffended recalling his grief that I felt I could ask more.

“And what of the families of these?”

“They nearly all lost one or all members. Some are orphans.”

“What about the soloist? She must have the soul of an angel the way she sang.”

“Her mother, and a brother were taken. Yes, she did sing well: I am so proud of her. She is my daughter you know.”

The next day was Christmas, the one I remembered best. For that day I knew Christianity had not failed in spite of people’s unwillingness to live his teachings. I had seen hatred give way to service, pain to rejoicing, sorrow to forgiveness. This was possible because a babe had been born in a manger, who later taught love of God and fellow men. We had necessarily had caused them the greatest grief, yet we were there Christian brothers, and as such they were willing to forget their grief and unite with us in singing “Peace on Earth, good will to all men.”

The words of miss lida’s song testimony would not be stilled, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.” They seemed to echo and re-echo over the half dead city that day.

That day I also knew there was a greater power on earth than the atomic bomb.

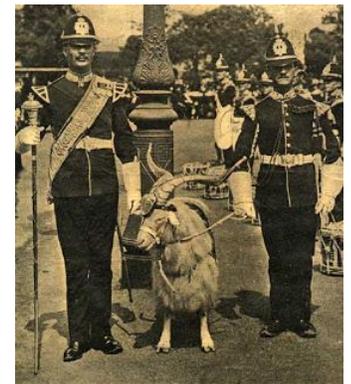
Ken Brown, Rexburg Idaho USMC 1943-1946

Military Mascots – Can You Name Them?

Harvey Hefley

Over the years, our Military Services have started traditions- and that is---military mascots!

The U.S. NAVY started with their MASCOT back in 1893. The first GOAT named “El Cid” mascot appeared on ships in both the British and American ships used onboard for milk and butter and to eat. In early 1900s their GOAT mascot’s name was changed to “BILL”. Today their NAVY mascot is used at athletic games & ceremonies.



The U.S. MARINE CORPS actually received their symbol of a MASCOT in the form of an English Bulldog way back during World War I. German soldiers call the U.S. Marines—DEVIL DOGS- It was then the Marines used a bulldog wearing a helmet for its recruiting posters. In 1957 “CHESTY” the bulldog came to live in the Marine Barracks in Washington D.C. and that tradition is still with us today in various ceremonies.

The U.S. ARMY military academy chose a MULE was called MR. JACKSON as their mascot way back in 1936. Mules were used for many years for hauling gear during WWI and up to WWII. Today the Army Mule was renamed “PALADIN” appearing at athletic games,

parades and other Army ceremonies.





The U.S. COAST GUARD Academy started their MASCOT tradition with a black bear in 1926 called "OBJEE" and lived at the academy until 1984 when the local community objected in having a live bear....so OBJEE was moved to a farm and now ...just a statue of a black bear stands on the academy grounds.

The U.S.AIR FORCE Academy in Colorado Springs designated a falcon for their mascot in their first graduating class. The falcon was named...MACH I ...referring to the speed of sound.

Today the academy a dozen falcons on the grounds, taken care of by the cadets, for their military ceremonies, athletic games, etc.

So now you know.....If you have any special stories or articles, please submit them to Amy Ostler or myself to put in our monthly GAZZETTE—Harvey Hefley



'An act of faith and kindness': How Buddy Checks make a difference

American Legion - 2019



Prior to Veterans Day, American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford called on Legionnaires to follow up on the inaugural Buddy Checks to fellow veterans that debuted last March and received National Executive Committee support the following spring.

During the 2019 Spring Meetings, the NEC passed Resolution 18, which calls for the twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday and Veterans Day.

American Legion posts again stepped up. In Weehawken, N.J., members of Post 18 took to the streets to connect with members of the post who haven't been active in recent years, including one 91-year-old World War II widower.

"That's what (non-commissioned officers) do in the service. You're supposed to check up on your troops," Post 18 Commander Chris Page said. "We're charged ... with the health and welfare of our troops. What we like to do is check up on our members and make sure they're OK. We also check in on their families as well. It goes back to helping out with the community."

And in Fort Gibson, Okla., members of Frank Gladd Post 20 were conducting Buddy Checks and came into contact with an 87-year-old Korean War veteran who hadn't paid his membership dues in two years. Past Post and District Commander Jim Quinn said the veteran told the post he could no longer make it to post meetings and that his membership in the Legion was no longer important to anyone.

"I was dispatched to the veteran's house with his membership card," Quinn said. "When I arrived at the veteran's house, he invited me in and we had about a half-hour conversation about the current weather and our time in service. I asked him about his welfare and if there was anything we at the post could do for him. He replied that he was fine but he had trouble driving."

Quinn left the veteran's membership card with him and "told him if he needed any help with going places to call the post and we would arrange to take him where he needed to go. He told me he was not in that bad of shape but if he needed help he would call."

The post processed the veteran's membership with "Pay It Forward" funds. Two weeks later the veteran called the post and requested Quinn return to his house. "When I arrived he presented me with a check for his 2019 and 2020 dues," Quinn said. "The moral of this story is cast your bread upon the waters, and it will be returned to you tenfold. An act of faith and kindness shown to this veteran convinced him that his post stands for the ideals of The American Legion and not just to collect dues."

The following are a few more examples of what posts did on Veterans Day or have developed as programs to follow the Buddy Check philosophy.

- In St. James, N.C., American Legion Post 543 had a busy Veterans Day weekend that included distributing poppies that Saturday, and taking part in a parade and a Veterans Day picnic. A Buddy Check also was performed on Veterans Day, when the post's honor guard and officers visited the Carillion Assisted Living where – after the colors were presented and the national anthem played – veteran residents were given a challenge coin from the Post 543 Commander George Freeman, and widows of veterans were given U.S. flags representing their loved ones' service. Post 543 Service Officer Steve Muir said the post also has 70 active programs that regularly reach out to veterans in need in the community. "I must say that what Post 543 does in the Brunswick County, North Carolina community goes way beyond Buddy Checks," said Muir.
- In Blue Ash, Ohio, American Legion Post 630 has initiated a "Never Alone" program. Coordinating with the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, the post receives notice whenever a veteran with no known family passes away. The post ensures there are veteran's graveside to give their fellow veteran the proper farewell. The program was the idea of Post 630 member Pat Buschman.

Remains of B-17 pilot killed during World War II coming home 75 years later

AP Newswire

LORAIN, Ohio — The remains of a World War II pilot from Ohio were identified 75 years after his plane was shot down over Germany, the Defense Department said Wednesday. The remains of Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Steve Nagy will be buried in his hometown of Lorain at a date yet to be determined, according to the agency responsible for recovery operations of U.S. personnel.

Nagy was 23 when he was piloting a B-17G Flying Fortress that was carrying nine crew members when it was shot down over Merseburg, Germany, in August 1944.

Four survived and were captured by German soldiers while five, including Nagy, were killed. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said Nagy's remains were recovered from a cemetery in Germany shortly after the war but remained unidentified until the agency was able to take another look this year. Nagy's remains were disinterred in April 2019 and identified through dental and anthropological analysis along with DNA tests, the agency said.

