



Post 90 Gazette

June 2020

Edited by Amy Ostler and Harvey Hefley

UTAH COVID-19 UPDATE as of 05/01/2020



UTAH COVID-19 UPDATE as of 06/03/2020



Total COVID-19 Cases in Utah

Total People Tested

Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Total COVID-19 Deaths

Upcoming Events

**** POST POTLUCK has been cancelled until further notice ****

Southern Utah VETERAN'S HOME

Not allowing visitors until further notice

Parks in southern Utah are closed

Not allowing visitors until further notice

2020 BOY'S STATE HAS

been Cancelled

Regardless of how you interpret the COVID-19 pandemic, the cases have steadily increased in Utah. Thank you for following the stay home, stay safe, wash hands. If you are in the at-risk age group and cannot get out to say stores for groceries or get to Doctor appointments or Prescriptions to be picked up and/or need help around the house please call so we can arrange someone to help you.

We are putting together under the BUDDY CHECK a team of volunteers to be called Team COVID to help anyone in the above that needs help. **If you would like to volunteer please call Marti at 435-668-5770**

Brush up on Legion knowledge while at home by taking the Basic Training course at legion.org/training.

Elwood Dawson "Woody" Lystrup (1918-1999)



My dad was the father of six, grandfather of twenty and great grandfather of many more. He was my fishing buddy. He taught me how to fish for trout and from him I learned to love fishing. *Full Story on page 4*

A Salute to World War II Veterans

All World War II veterans in all Washington County Posts should be receiving (or already received) and invitation from the Washington County Fair regarding an event to honor the remaining veterans of WWII on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020 at 10 a.m. *Full Story on page 4*

101-year-old World War II veteran stops in St. George on quest to meet every governor in U.S.



ST. GEORGE — As a survivor of the China Burma India Theater, Sidney Walton is a living testimony to the brave men and women who fought against tyranny during World War II.

Walton, 101, is on the final stretch of a two-year nationwide tour to meet every governor across the United States. *See full story by St. George News on page 5*



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

As the 2020 membership year is closing on 6-30-2020 I want to thank everyone that renewed your American Legion members with Lester Keate Post 90, St George. It has been a trying time the last few months. We still need to practice the safe distance for Covid 19 Virus and wearing a mask while out in public.

The new Executive Board Members are ready to answer and help if you have any questions or concerns. Remember no dinner meetings for June, July, August as we are Dark. Hopefully we will be able to meet in September at the Legion Hall for the Dinner meeting.

Have a safe summer, travel carefully. July 1st start the new 2021 membership year you will be receiving your renewal request from National. You can go on line at mylegion.org and pay your renewal dues of \$40.00 or mail to American Legion Post 90 PO Box 910931, St George, Utah 84791

AWARDS won by Post 90 St George are

All Time High Award for 6 years
Legion Family Honor Ribbon

Many members received the National Commanders Pin for 103% (for 3 new members)

Submitting Post 90's information for the Post Excellence Award

CONTINUE to use the BUDDY CHECK to check on your Post members, neighbors always staying safe and healthy, wash hands and travel carefully

District 7 (Southern Utah)

Marti Bigbie

Awards received are

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD -THOMAS MCGINN 7th District Commander
DISTRICT COMMANDER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND DISTRICT HONOR RIBBON –
THOMAS MCGINN DISTICT 7

103% National Commanders Pin was given to several of the Posts along with 100% Membership Certificates for reaching 100% paid membership.

Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

With the help of everyone as we are a TEAM UTAH still maintains 3rd place Nationally. Awards won within the Department of Utah are

Post Honor Ribbon 22 Posts

Post All-Time High Award 15 Posts

All Time High Award 6 years consecutive Post 90 St George

National Achievement Award Steve Anderson 3rd District Commander and



Thomas McGinn 7th District Commander
Department Commander of Year Plaque Martha A Bigbie(UT)
General Henri Gouraud Trophy Plaque Category VI - Utah
100% Department Membership Plaque (Shadowbox) Department of Utah
Culture of Growth Plaque Department of Utah
Race-to-the-Top Competition Category 1 - Steven A Anderson (UT)
District Commander Achievement Award and District Honor Ribbon =
Steven Anderson District 3
Thomas McGinn District 7
David Jelin District 5
Legion Family Honor Ribbon 38 Total Posts
Certificates for Flag Rewards - Post 64 Roosevelt and Post 37 Monroe
National Commander's Pin (3 New members) 200+ for Utah
Submitted names for Recruiter of the Year
Submitted Jimmy Allen Post 111 Eagle Mountain (page 11 in recent magazine)
The American Legion Pioneer Award
Submitted 4 names for the GOLD BRIGADE award

COVID-19 update as of 06/03/2020

Jurisdiction	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Bear River	305	17	2
Central Utah	39	3	0
Davis County	494	47	2
Salt Lake County	5603	484	78
San Juan	309	30	5
Southeast Utah	26	0	0
Southwest Utah	498	46	4
Summit County	418	38	0
Tooele County	136	9	0
TriCounty	20	1	0
Utah County	2028	106	17
Wasatch County	305	14	2
Weber-Morgan	316	34	7
State Total	10497	829	117

A Salute to World War II Veterans

All World War II veterans in all Washington County Posts should be receiving (or already received) and invitation from the Washington County Fair regarding an event to honor the remaining veterans of WWII on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020 at 10 a.m.

This is a private ceremony to show appreciation to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII. In the invitation, there is a postcard to fill out asking if you are willing to attend the event. Or if you are not able, are you wanting to take part in some way? Please fill out and return the self-addressed postcard.

Those with questions may contact Susi Lafaele at 435-922-2766 or email military@washcofair.net. Susi worked at the Chamber of Commerce with Pam Palermo for many years and is an outstanding event organizer. Joining Susi in this effort to honor WWII veterans is David Cordero, a past editor of the Post 90 Gazette.

Veteran Spotlight - Elwood Dawson “Woody” Lystrup (1918-1999)

My dad was the father of six, grandfather of twenty and great grandfather of many more. He was my fishing buddy. He taught me how to fish for trout and from him I learned to love fishing. At the age of 19, my dad enlisted in the United States Navy and was in from February 1937 to March 1941. He served on the USS Colorado BB-45 as a Gunner's Mate.



The Colorado had eight 16” guns four facing forward in two turrets and four facing aft in two turrets. She also had fourteen 5” guns facing port and starboard. Dad called it a “tin-can”, although that term is generally known to be associated with destroyers. It was the biggest floating arsenal in the United States fleet at the time. The USS Colorado was a major US asset before and during World War II.

My dad left the US Navy before WWII began. One of the missions the Colorado was involved with was the rescue attempt of Amelia Earhart in July 1937. Amelia went down in the South Pacific in her Lockheed Electra 10E after her successful trans-Atlantic flight.

The USS Colorado was first on the scene to search for her only a couple days after radio went silent and the ship continued searching for over a month. Amelia was a national hero, one that the entire world knew. My dad told me the entire crew thought sure they could find her and all were anxious to do just that. When the search was called off after no trace could be found, the ship's company was sorrowful. As my dad related this story to me he could not hold back the tears fifty years after the fact.

Following in my dad's footsteps, I served in the US Navy from Dec 1972 to Apr 1975 as a Petty Officer Third Class (E-4) Electrician's Mate. I was stationed aboard the USS Peoria LST-1183 Amphibious Fleet (Gator Navy).

Tom Lystrup



101-year-old World War II veteran stops in St. George on quest to meet every governor in U.S.

Written by [David Louis](#)

June 1, 2020



ST. GEORGE — As a survivor of the China Burma India Theater, Sidney Walton is a living testimony to the brave men and women who fought against tyranny during World War II.

Walton, 101, is on the final stretch of a two-year nationwide tour to meet every governor across the United States.

Since beginning his tour, Walton has met with 28 governors across the country from Rhode Island to Hawaii.

With less than half the states left to visit, including a stopover in St. George where Mayor Jon Pike presented him with a proclamation Monday naming June 1 as Sidney Walton Day, Walton moved on for a scheduled meeting with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert Tuesday morning in Salt Lake City.

On his way to Salt Lake City, Walton plans to stop at Zion National Park, and if time permits, Bryce Canyon National Park as well.



Sidney Walton, a 101-year-old World War II veteran met with St. George residents Monday on his way to meet Gov. Gary Herbert the following day. St. George, Utah, June 1, 2020 | Photo by David Louis, St. George News

“I want to see everything,” he said.

Past highlights of the tour have included a meeting with President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. He also had the honor of being one of four World War II veterans who participated in the 2020 Super Bowl coin toss.

Walton was visibly excited to be in St. George, mugging for television news

cameras and waving to a crowd of admirers who gathered to send him off to Salt Lake City.

When Valerie King, regent of the Color Country Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented Walton with a commemorative pin saying, “You have a lot of ladies who love you,” Walton swiftly replied, “That’s nice,” with an ear-to-ear grin.

His hopscotch cross country journey, dubbed [The No Regrets Tour](#), is to atone for lost opportunities. Walton and his son are raising money to cover costs for the No Regret Tour through the [public’s donations](#).

Walton has long-regretted missing the opportunity to meet Civil War veterans when he was young and now wants to give everyone the chance to meet a surviving World War II veteran.

Walton’s companion along his journey has been his son Paul.

“To make up for that one regret he’s always talked about all of his life ... we decided two years ago when he turned 99 that we would make up for that one regret ... and draw the attention to the dwindling number of World War II veterans still alive,” Paul said. “He’s still got that fighting spirit.”



Sidney Walton, one of the oldest World War II veterans still alive, flanked by his adoring son Paul during a stopover in St. George Monday in the midst of a two-year-long journey to meet every governor in the United States. St. George, Utah, June 1, 2020 | Photo by David Louis, St. George News

Walton is one of a select group of centenarians still putting up the good fight at making his dreams come true.

In 2019, there were about 500,000 WWII

vets still living, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An estimated 340 veterans from the Greatest Generation die every day, according to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans.



“I am really proud of my father,” Paul Walton said. “Growing up, everyone had a father who was a World War II veteran. But low and behold at my age, 64, I would have one of the last World War II veterans still living. You might not call yourself a hero dad,” he told his father, “but I call you a hero and most Americans will call you a hero as well.”

Born on Manhattan’s heavily Jewish Lower East Side, Walton entered the United States Army nine months before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the “date that will live in infamy” that brought the United States into World War II.

Born Feb. 11, 1919, in New York City, Walton joined the Army in March 1941 – nine months before Pearl Harbor – and served for the entire war, returning to NYC in 1946. Photo courtesy Sidney Walton, St. George

News

He served throughout the entire war, rising to the rank of corporal before returning home in 1946.

Walton joined the Army to fight Hitler. He said that he had hated that man so much he would have given anything to defeat his armies in combat. However, that was not his destiny.

Prior to shipping out to Europe to ultimately fight in what would become the Battle of the Bulge, Walton stepped in a fox hole and broke his ankle. The members of his unit left without him, and Walton never heard from them again.

After he recovered, Walton was sent to India.

He served with distinction with the 34th Infantry, 8th Division. Walton served as a medic, one of the most dangerous jobs during the war.

In the American army, a battalion of 400-500 soldiers typically would have about 30 medics; however, while in combat, their lifespan was measured in minutes, making that number much smaller following each engagement.

Ben Major with the World War II U.S. Medical Research Centre said though medical personnel statistics are available for many theaters of war reaching back to the Civil War, there is a void of data for servicemen and women who served in the Pacific (1941-1945).

“I’m afraid that we do not have information available, unlike in the European Theater,” Major said. “Such studies were never undertaken in the Pacific Theater by the Medical Department.”

According to the Research Centre, as a point of reference, medical personnel who served in Europe, including doctors, nurses, medics, corpsmen, orderlies and others, suffered more than 550,000 battlefield casualties during World War II.

By-the-Numbers in Europe

- Killed in action: 98,812
- Wounded: 373,018
- Died of wounds: 15,140
- Prisoners of war: 24,783
- Missing in action: 42,278

Slightly more than 75% of all casualties were assigned to Army infantry units.

Although considered noncombatants, typically not carrying weapons except for pistols in some cases that were used for personal protection, medics were theoretically protected by the Geneva Convention; however, the large red cross on their helmets made a convenient target regardless of their combat status.

Japan did not sign the Geneva Convention and disregarded the protection it afforded. Army medics and Navy corpsmen were deliberately targeted by Japanese troops.

American medical crews quickly learned to smear mud over the red and white symbol on their helmets to prevent themselves from being more of a target than they already were.