



# Post 90 Gazette

August 2020

Edited by Amy Ostler and Harvey

## Upcoming Events



August 4 - 8<sup>th</sup>

AMERICAN LEGION booth at the Washington County Fair and is looking for volunteers to come out and help/work on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm-10pm and Thursday, Friday and Saturday August 6,7,8 from 11 AM to 10 PM

## From National Commander speaks against Anarchy That Other Virus

By James W. "Bill" Oxford

There is a virus in America that could cause more long-term destruction than COVID-19. Just as the novel coronavirus can quickly devastate a healthy body this other virus threatens lives, neighborhoods and infrastructures. No person or place is truly safe. It can embed itself inside a peaceful protest and turn it into a nightmare of violent rioting and retribution. It turns Americans against Americans. This virus is called anarchy. *See page 4*

### HEADS UP!!

The remains of soldier Sergeant Bryan "Cooper" Mount will be returning to St. George on either August 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. We ask that as many people as possible line up along main street to pay tribute to our fallen brother and show support to his family. PLEASE listen to the radio, public announcements and news for the actual date and time.

Call Marti Bigbie with any questions 435-668-5770.



## Valor Medals Review Project

The George S. Robb Centre is the home of the Valor Medals Review Project and Task Force (The World War I Valor Medals Review Act, H.R. 2249/S. 1218, included within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the Fiscal Year 2020, S. 1790), a team of researchers and historians performing a systematic investigation into minority (African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Jewish American, Native American) veterans of the First World War (1914-1921) who, in spite of deserving deeds, may have been unjustly denied high-level valor awards owing to their racial or religious backgrounds. *See page 3*

**COVID-19 Cases continue to rise in Southern Utah. Please follow safety protocols to limit exposure to this nasty virus.**

**Since May 1<sup>st</sup>, there have been over 900 new cases reported in Southern Utah and 24 deaths.**

**If you would like to volunteer for Team COVID as part of the Buddy Check program please call Marti at 435-668-5770.**



## Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

We will have a busy first part of month with activities:

**1) The remains of Sergeant Bryan "Cooper" Mount will be returning to St. George, August 5th or 6th** (soldier who was recently killed while serving in Syria). It is the desire of our city leaders to have as many citizens as possible lining the way and waving American flags as the motorcade approaches. The plan is to have Veteran groups and residents' line up along Main Street from Bluff to St George Boulevard waving flags as the a motorcade along with his family and friends from the airport to Bluff Street then down Main Street and end up at Metcalf Mortuary. PLEASE listen to the radio, public announcements and news for the actual time and date.

**2) The first mailing for American Legion dues** had a return date of August 3rd. The Early Bird (50% paid membership for Post 90) is September 10th. We are well on the way to making this first goal for paid memberships.

While talking to friends, family and strangers find out if they served in the Military and ask if they would like to join ONE of the Largest Service Organizations in the world. If you do not have an application with/on you get their name and phone number and I would be happy to call them about applying for membership. The yearly dues for Post 90, St George are \$40.00 (membership year is from 7-1-20 thru 6-30-21).

**3) Washington County Fair Parade - 7:00pm August 4th (Tuesday).** This year the parade will be in Washington City. Parade lineup is from 5:30-6:30pm, Tuesday, August 4th. Line-up will take place at the Washington City Community Center. If you want to be in the parade call Marcia Whitney, 435-668-6626. There is a \$200 cash prize for Commissioners Choice Award and Best Themed Award and \$100 cash prize for People's Choice. Sign up by July 31st. 2020 Theme: Better Together AFTER Parade FREE Dance Party. Inflatables and Lots of prize giveaway

**4) The Washington County Commissioners, Washington County Fair Board and Veterans Coalition of Southern Utah are having a private ceremony honoring the WORLD WAR II Veterans of Washington County on THURSDAY, August 6th at 10:00am MDT in the Harmony Building of Legacy Park, 5500 West 700 South, Hurricane Utah. There are 17 WWII Veterans attending this year.**

**5) While at the Washington County Fair be sure to visit the WALL OF HONOR.** Pictures of Local Veterans will be displayed

**6) AMERICAN LEGION booth at the Washington County Fair and is looking for volunteers to come out and help/work on Wednesday, August 5th 6pm-10pm and Thursday, Friday and Saturday August 6,7,8 from 11 AM to 10 PM.** Asking for volunteers to work at a 2-3 hour shift due to the heat on those days. REQUESTING the volunteers wear an American Legion shirt if you have one or a shirt with the service you served in along with a hat (ball cap) with your service Or a Vietnam Veteran, Korea, WWII ball cap. Please call Marti 435-668-5770 if you are able to work any of those times as we will need to get parking passes to you. In the booth we will have information on American Legion, Constitution books for sale, poppies for the Auxiliary (donation), tickets for purchase for a metal flag and 100th year large American Legion picture. Jeff McKenna who wrote "Saving Dr. Warren" will be available 6 to 7 PM to sign his book after purchase. Humana will also be joining us this year. Water will be available for sale.

## Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

Paid Memberships are being paid by members to their local Posts or going on-line to make the 2021 yearly memberships to help the State of Utah make the 50% paid memberships by September 10th. We are a halfway there. Please forward your renewal dues to your Post and Posts please forward within 24 hours of receiving payments either to the Department Headquarters or Post on-line transmittals.

2020 UTAH finished in the top 3rd or 5th (depending on which report you read) and I would like with your help to continue this trend for the 2021 membership year. This year we want to coin ourselves as "TEAM UTAH".

My Commander's project for the 2021 membership year will be for the **CHILDREN AND YOUTH programs**. Any donations you wish to donate would be appreciated.



Be Safe, Stay Healthy and stay within the social distance as I would like to see each and every one sometime throughout this 2021 membership year (when I can travel that is)

## Valor Medals Review Project and Task Force

Greetings Legion Department or Department Adjutant Commander,

My name is Dr. Timothy Westcott, I am the Director of the George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. I have the honor, as a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 318 here in Parkville, to forward this email honoring our veterans that served during the First World War, especially our brethren that may deserve their proper recognition for valor.

The George S. Robb Centre is the home of the Valor Medals Review Project and Task Force (The World War I Valor Medals Review Act, H.R. 2249/S. 1218, included within the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the Fiscal Year 2020, S. 1790), a team of researchers and historians performing a systematic investigation into minority (African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Jewish American, Native American) veterans of the First World War (1914-1921) who, in spite of deserving deeds, may have been unjustly denied high-level valor awards owing to their racial or religious backgrounds.

The Project and Task Force have received the support of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars through official resolutions (109/110 and 308, respectively), The Doughboy Foundation, Congressional Black Caucus Foundations' Brain Trust, and over two dozen Military Service Organizations (MSO's) and Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's).

I am contacting you in an effort to cordially introduce myself, the Robb Centre, and the Valor Medals Review Project; within the approximately 300 qualifying servicemembers, we have at least one affiliated with each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. We have also begun identifying each servicemember's applicable American Legion post that they may have, at one time, been associated with.

Recently, we produced the below video to better introduce the Valor Medals Review Project for descendants and other interested individuals:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch\\_so-V4RRU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch_so-V4RRU&feature=youtu.be)

American Legion members may also follow our social media outlets on: Facebook: George S Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War; LinkedIn: George S Robb Centre at Park University; YouTube Channel: George S Robb Centre; and Twitter: @CentreRobb. Our website address is <https://gsr.park.edu> and direct Centre email is [gsrcentre@park.edu](mailto:gsrcentre@park.edu).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions—the Robb Centre Team and myself are more than happy to be of assistance. You may contact me directly at [tim.westcott@park.edu](mailto:tim.westcott@park.edu).

There's no expiration for valor,

Timothy C. Westcott, Ph.D.

Director, George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War at Park University

## For All Who Served

We Are Veterans.

We left home as teenagers for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for your country.

Try to remember the good times and forget the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a Veteran. 🇺🇸

Semper Fi

## That Other Virus

By James W. "Bill" Oxford

There is a virus in America that could cause more long-term destruction than COVID-19. Just as the novel coronavirus can quickly devastate a healthy body this other virus threatens lives, neighborhoods and infrastructures. No person or place is truly safe. It can embed itself inside a peaceful protest and turn it into a nightmare of violent rioting and retribution. It turns Americans against Americans. This virus is called anarchy.

Perhaps no one should be more concerned about this virus than those who justly fight for civil rights and equality. Their cause has been hijacked. George Floyd and Breonna Taylor receive only occasional mentions on the evening news while footage of statue-toppling, tear gas and batons dominates. One network's description of a live event will usually have the opposite perspective of another network. Division is a symptom of this virus and its cancer has reached a stage unseen since the Civil War. The patient is quickly approaching stage 4.

At our 1962 National Convention, American Legion delegates defined "Americanism" in such an eloquent manner that we still adhere to it. It stated that the essence of Americanism is class, religious and racial tolerance. Written as if it were a vaccine against our current anarchy virus, it further states "law and order are essential to the preservation of Americanism while lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American."

That's worth repeating. "Lawlessness and violence are distinctly un-American." Peaceful protests against racism are just, admirable and constitutionally protected. It's ok if protests make people feel uncomfortable. A good protest is supposed to do that. But many people feel unsafe. This is what distinguishes protestors from anarchists and rioters.

Whether generated from the extreme left or the extreme right, the cracked skulls and burning buildings don't care. They are damaged, sometimes permanently.

Instead of fighting this virus like good scientists, public officials are failing us. People are being killed while local, state and federal agencies fight over jurisdiction. Add partisan politics to the growing list of symptoms.

Most police officers are brave and honorable. Some are not and those who abuse their positions should be held accountable. In the fog of a riot, it is sometimes difficult for officers to distinguish between a peaceful protestor and a violent anarchist. Again, police officers who commit crimes should be prosecuted. Same with a brick-throwing anarchist.

Federal agents are charged with enforcing federal law and protecting federal property. State and local law enforcement officers have parallel responsibilities in their respective areas. Mayors, governors and the federal government must work as one when it comes to public safety. Agencies at every level must collaborate. People are dying. The enemy is not each other. It's the violent anarchist. Unity is the cure.