



# Post 90 Gazette

NOVEMBER 2020

Edited by Amy Ostler and Harvey Hefley



## COVID CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO TOWN

Due to Covid-19 we have not had dinner meetings due to the restrictions on the number of individuals that are allowed in the Legion Hall at any one time.

COVID-19 **will not** prevent us from letting our Veterans know they are loved this holiday season and giving them a gift bag for Christmas. Help make Christmas special for a Veteran this year. **Please see the full story on page 3.**



## The American Legion Activates National Buddy Checks to save Veteran Lives Amid Rising Suicide Rates, Urges Congress to Pass Bill to Help

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## State of Utah Launches #HonorUtahVeterans Campaign Ahead of Veterans Day

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To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, and to accommodate social distancing requirements, Election Day in person voting will be held at the:

**Dixie Convention Center**  
1835 Convention Center Dr.  
St George UT 84790.

**Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm on Election Day.**

Mail in ballots must be postmarked by Nov 2, 2020.

**Ballot Drop off locations:**

- Hurricane City Library
- Santa Clara branch Library
- Washington County Bldg.
- St. George City Library
- Washington City Library



## Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

Due to Covid-19 we have had to cancel most/all of the Post functions except for the Ritual Team/Honor Guard for the funerals for our departed Veterans at cemeteries.

There are several upcoming events. Social Distancing will be expected and Face Masks are a must per the latest directive from the Governor. Remember the BUDDY CHECK where we need to check on the welfare of Veterans to see if they need help or talk. This can be just a telephone call or visit.

1. The Washington County Veterans Day Celebration 2020 will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in Washington City. If you would like to ride on the American Legion float let me know. If you are able to walk and wish to do so please let me know. Masks are a requirement.

2. Sun River Veterans Honor Park - Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 Veterans Day Service - 10th Annual will be held at Sun River Veterans Honor Park at 9:00am. After the ceremony, the unveiling of a new statue will take place. Seating will be limited-please bring your folding chairs.

3. The Saint George Vet Center will be hosting a Benefits Fair on Tuesday, November 17th at 9:00am to 2:00pm at the St George Vet Center, 1664 S Dixie Drive, Suite C-102. The VFW will be assisting in filling out forms and answering any questions regarding benefits.

4. Virtual JUBILEE of TREES, Thursday, November 19-Saturday 21. Virtual Gala Night Friday November 20 7:30pm. A night of engagement, entertainment and bidding excitement where everyone can bid on this year's creative and beautiful Designer Trees. Buy it now items: enchanted forest trees, mini trees, handmade gift baskets, wreaths, quilts. Video visits with Santa Claus from the North Pole - registration opens November 2nd.

5. Remembering and Honoring Pearl Harbor Celebration, December 7th, 10:48am. More details to come. Book signing Saving Dr. Warren ... "A True Patriot" by local author Jeff McKenna will be available for purchase of this book and signed by the Author at 10:00am. Meet at the Memorial area at Tonaquint Cemetery.

6. DAR will be placing Wreaths for Wreaths Across American on December 19th at Tonaquint Cemetery at 10:00 then St George Cemetery at 11:00am and then Shivwits Cemetery at 1:00pm. Volunteers are needed to place the wreaths on Veterans graves.

7. Anthony (Tony) Kuhlmann has set up a program to place wreaths at the other cemeteries in Washington County (Contact Tony Kuhlmann or Cathy Barnes 435-229-6101) to make a donation and to help with the National Wreaths Across America Day on December 19th, 2020 at Cemeteries in Santa Clara, Ivins, Washington, Hurricane, La Verkin, Rockville, Virgin, Toquerville, Enterprise and Springdale.

Thanks to the Legionnaires who renewed their 2021 American Legion Membership either on line to mylegion.org or to our mail box-- PO Box 910931, St George, Utah 84791. If you are planning on renewing your membership please do by 12-31-2020 otherwise your membership expires but can be reinstated. If you need help with the renewal of \$40.00 please give me a call as we do not want to lose you as a member of Post 90. If you are NOT planning on renewing please let me know also so renewal notices can be stopped.

## Commander Department of Utah

Marti Bigbie

Thanks to all Legionnaires who have renewed their 2020 American Legion dues allowing the State of Utah to be in the top 3 of the Western Division and in top 20 for National. We still have a ways to go. There is still time but remember your current membership expires on 12-31-2020 BUT can be reinstated after the new year.

BUDDY CHECKS are still important and you will be hearing more about this the whole month of November. We need to check on our members at the Post/District/Area/Department level to ensure that our members are healthy or if need help provide it. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy. Enjoy the holidays in November.



## The American Legion Activates National Buddy Checks to save Veteran Lives Amid Rising Suicide Rates, Urges Congress to Pass Bill to Help

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**INDIANAPOLIS (October 29, 2020)** — As COVID-19 cases rise and the holidays approach, [The American Legion](#) is activating its **Buddy Check** program to save veteran lives through peer support check-in calls. The nation's largest veterans organization is also urging Congress to pass the Buddy Check Bill which will make wellness checks a national priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs. With military suicides up 20% over this time last year, Legionnaires will make thousands of check-in calls to at-risk veterans across the nation, to offer support and access to health and wellness programs in the week surrounding Veterans Day and into the weeks ahead.

The American Legion warns that veterans can be at particular risk for depression and suicide around the holidays and into the winter months. Many veterans are disproportionately hard-hit by the pandemic due to age, chronic health issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and isolation. [The Buddy Check program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversation, assess risks and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services.](#)

"The American Legion knows from 100 years of experience that it's veteran-to-veteran contact that can make the difference for someone in a crisis situation," says James W. "Bill" Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. "So, we're putting some muscle behind this effort and giving our members the tools they need to reach out to fellow veterans in their hometowns who may be hard hit by the triple whammy of the pandemic, isolation and the holidays."

The American Legion is also urging Congress to unanimously pass the **Buddy Check Bill** introduced with bipartisan support from Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa; Doug Jones, D-Ala.; and Maggie Hassan, D-N.H. The legislation will require VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week," as well as provide educational opportunities, materials and references for veterans to learn how to conduct personal wellness checks. The bill also compels VA to expand resources for the Veterans Crisis Line to handle any potential increased volume during the designated week.

"Veterans are in crisis, and we need Congress' help to take this program to the next level and stem the tide of suicide among our nation's veterans," Oxford said. "We need all hands on deck and all boots on the ground to fight for our nation's veterans, just like they fought for us."

The Buddy Check program encourages Legionnaires to make contact, lend a listening ear, and direct their peers to critical services. For Buddy Check information, visit [legion.org/buddycheck](https://legion.org/buddycheck). For urgent help, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255**.

### About The American Legion

[The American Legion](#) is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

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## State of Utah Launches #HonorUtahVeterans Campaign Ahead of Veterans Day

The Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs (UDVMA), in partnership with the Governor's Office, is launching an outreach campaign to encourage Utahns to celebrate and honor Veterans in their communities ahead of Veterans Day.

[#HonorUtahVeterans](#) encourages Utahns to strengthen bonds with Utah's Veteran community ahead of Veterans Day.

As part of the [#HonorUtahVeterans](#) campaign, Utahns are encouraged to take action in showing their gratitude for those who have served. Since Utahns are unable to come together at traditional Veterans Day celebrations, we encourage individuals to commemorate Veterans Day in the following ways:

- Fly an American flag on Veterans Day. For more information on how to properly display the flag on Veterans Day, visit [www.usa.gov/flag](http://www.usa.gov/flag).
- Reach out and thank Veterans in the community—whether that is by phone, letter, or video call—for their selfless service.
- If Utahns don't know a Veteran, they are invited to participate in UDVMA's [#HappinessForHeroes](#) initiative, and write a letter to residents at Utah's four Veterans Homes or send a message for patients at the George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salt Lake City.
- Share your messages of support and gratitude for veterans on social media by using the hashtag [#HonorUtahVeterans](#).
- Watch the virtual Utah National Guard Veterans Day concert online on Veterans Day at [www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard](http://www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard).

## 1923 Time Capsule Uncovered at California American Legion Post

By James JD Bennett, Post 23 commander  
OCT 22, 2020

What started as an Eagle Scout project at American Legion William Lee Netzer Post 23 in Sanger, Calif., turned into the finding of a historical treasure trove.

Christian Gonzalez, a senior at Sanger High School and a member of Scout Troop 223 (St. Anthony of Padua), contacted me to propose an Eagle Scout project. It was a beautification project that would conform to water conservation measures in California, as well as install a pedestal with a bronze plaque in front of the flag pole.

Christian, son of Post 23 member Lt. Col. Cesar Gonzalez with the 144th Fighter Squadron in Fresno, Calif., was jackhammering concrete around the flag pole when he noticed a metal box. Thinking it might be an electrical box he stopped and began chipping away with a hammer. What he found was



a shocking surprise to him and members of American Legion Post 23 – a time capsule from June 14, 1923 when the post was chartered.

**Inside the time capsule was a:**

- Bible with the name Eugene Bradford inside the front cover; he was listed as the post adjutant on the charter roster. The Bible marker was on John 3:16, one of the most quoted verses in the Bible: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- Charter membership roster. The roster included the name of Frank Netzer, who is believed to be related to William Netzer whom the post is named after.
- Roster of what is believed to be the Auxiliary unit.
- 48-star small American flag.
- Photo of a young soldier kneeling next to a tent, believed to be possibly from World War I.
- Two newspapers, the Sanger Herald dated June 14, 1923, and The Fresno Republican dated June 16, 1923. The Sanger Herald had a front-page story featuring the dedication of American Legion Post 23.

Post 23 will be looking for a way to preserve this piece of history and possibly find family members alive today of the Bible, charter members and the soldier in the photo.

To bring this finding full circle, Post 23 decided to fill the time capsule with a bit of modern treasures. The 2020 time capsule features a:

- Bible donated by Post 23 Chris Conway that he received at basic training prior to leaving for Vietnam, where he too had underlined John 3:16.
- Current Post 23 and Auxiliary unit membership roster.
- Local Mid Valley Times newspaper.
- 2017 issue of The American Legion Magazine. On the cover is then American Legion National Commander Charles Schmidt with President Trump as he signed the VA Appeals Modernization Act on stage during the National Convention in Reno, Nev.
- 100th anniversary American Legion pin.
- 2020 American Legion Post 23 100 percent membership pin.
- Department of California bear logo pin.
- Few challenge coins.

And nothing in 2020 would be complete without a mask, a few sheets of toilet paper, and a bottle of hand sanitizer. We do have a sense of humor, because hey, it describes this year fairly well. All items were wrapped in plastic prior to being placed in the time capsule to help preserve their integrity. The time capsule was resealed and the concrete was poured to encapsulate it. Post 23 would like to extend our thanks to Christian for all of his hard work and congratulate him for the historical treasure find.