



November 2021 Edited by Amy Ostler



The American Legion Veterans Day 2021 Speech

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See full story on page 4



URGENT RESPONSE NEEDED

regarding Potluck dinner meetings

Our post tradition for many years featured a potluck dinner at our monthly meetings. This was a great time to get together and socialize with our comrades in the Legion.

The Board would like your suggestions as to how we can alter these dinner meetings to attract more attendance from our members.

See page 8 for full letter

Salute to the Armed Services Concert

Thursday, November 11th at 7:00 PM at the St. George Tabernacle

Featuring

The St. George Interfaith Choir

with special guests

Crimson Cliffs High School Concert Choir and the Zion Brass Quintet

See full story on page 7



Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 25th



Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie



Our Ritual Team has been busy since the first of the year and have helped Veterans and their Families (102 currently lost Veterans) with their funerals at the cemeteries and churches.

WE are in need of more willing members to come out to help the Ritual Team with these funerals If interested, call and I will get your information to the Ritual Team Commander, Calvin Jensen.

Again, I thank each and every Legion member who has renewed their 2021 American Legion Membership (make sure that you have received your renewal card and please sign it) If you have not and need help with the renewal dues of \$40.00 please give me a call as there are funds to help with your membership renewal dues. We do not want to lose any member from the American Legion family. IF you have moved, please let us know your new address.

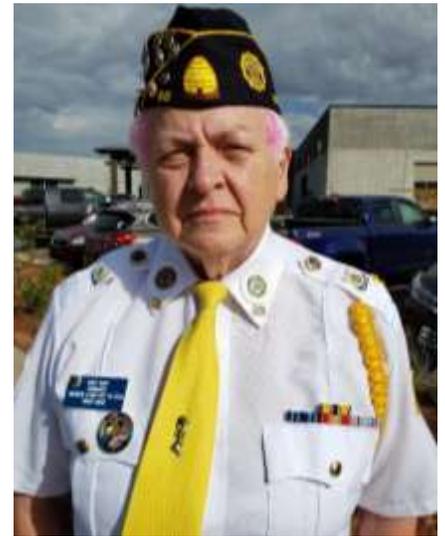
You can go online to legion.org, choose renew and pay with your credit card. Or, mail the renewal dues of \$40.00 with your check to PO Box 910631, St George, Utah 84791.

Remember, that your membership expires on 12-31-2021 BUT can be reinstated if paid after that date.

We are still in need of your comments about the status of future dinner/general meetings – reason is attendance at the meetings - but need your ideas on the number of meetings per membership year.

In the Calendar of Upcoming events that are sent and emailed out the November 11 events are as I know of them. There are many more in Washington County and as soon as I know of them I will get an updated calendar out to you. The same for the program and time for Pearl Harbor on December 7th and the locations for Wreaths Across America on December 18th and help needed for delivery of Christmas bags for our local Veterans.

Any time that you talk to a Veteran, help them to get around to appointments, take them meals, visit them, please record and send me the hours monthly as these times all count towards the BUDDY CHECK report that I need to complete and goes to our year-end report called CPR or Consolidated Post Report. A quick note or email would work great for me.



Area 4 Commander's Column

Marti Bigbie

On a sad note, I need to report the loss of the Commander, James Dewyze of Post 135 who was Commander District 6. David Simmons, current Vice Commander has assumed the responsibility of Commander for District 6.

Another loss was John Clark, Vice Commander, Kanab, Post 69. Cards were sent to both families.

A Veteran's Thoughts

By Ski Ingram

October 2021

Where is the Honor?

September was a very difficult month for me. The month of August was hard enough with the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, then came September and with it 9/11. I was working as a police detective across the street from the World Trade Center West at the time. I have a vivid memory of that day. I only had the strength to watch a couple of the ceremonies honoring those who died on that fateful day. I was very careful to not watch any of President Biden's appearances.

Over the past few months, I have been studying our nation's founding. I want to be prepared to address those who hate this country, those who believe in Critical Race Theory, the 1619 project, BLM and Antifa, climate change and mask mandates. I want to be able to hold my own when discussing the values of capitalism as opposed to socialism and communism. I want to be able to teach my family and my friends why I believe America is still a land of promise and destiny.

I began by completely re-reading the Declaration of Independence, something I hadn't done in many years. It is an extraordinary document. It was unprecedented for its time. I believe that Thomas Jefferson was inspired by God when he penned those famous words. This document was the opening salvo in our war for independence. Independence was a concept that few people at that time in history understood much less experienced. I continue to be impressed and inspired by the 56 patriots who signed their names at the bottom of that document knowing full well that they were going to war against the most powerful government on earth. The last sentence in that inspired document states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred Honor." Think about those words. How many of us would have that type of devotion to anyone or anything? Yes, we all say we'll die for our family, but will you die for someone else's family? I only know of a few who will. They are members of our military, our firefighters and our police officers. They go to work not knowing if they will return to their families at the end of the day. Our founding fathers, knew full well the consequences of their act. After signing the Declaration of Independence many lost their homes, family members and some lost everything they had in the war. However, they never lost their sacred honor.

Politicians today do not exhibit the trait of honor much less sacred honor. How many of our politicians, "our leaders," will sacrifice anything they have for us? How many have told us the truth about Covid, Afghanistan, the border crisis, the so-called insurrection on January 6th, race relations, the rise in crime in America? How many have paid the price for these catastrophes? How many will resign or be fired for their failures? How many Americans look at our current president and say to themselves "there goes Joe Biden, an honorable man? I believe he is in politics not to make America better, but to amass power and wealth. He came to the Senate with nothing and is now a multi-millionaire like so many other politicians in Washington. The past few months of his presidency have been devastating for this country, with all of the problems being of his own making.

Number one on my list of disasters caused by this administration is the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. That foolish act was instrumental in getting 13 of our servicemen and women killed. These deaths should never have happened. Second on my list is the horrific news about the drone strike where three adults and seven innocent children were killed in a bungled attempt by the administration to pay Isis-K back for their attack on our troops. I'll only name a few more as there are too many to list them all. The stopping of the Keystone pipeline with thousands of jobs lost while at the same time the approval of the Russian-Europe pipeline. Biden has since asked OPEC to increase oil production so that America can meet its energy needs. The rising gas prices, rising inflation, the shortage of food and other goods, the continuing crisis at the border, the rising crime rate in every major city, the vaccine mandate and the confusion over how the pandemic is being managed.

Will President Biden, Vice President Harris, General Milly, Secretary of State Blinkin or anyone in the administration be fired or resign over these horrific events? I don't think so because they have no honor. I also blame the members of the media, twitter, and Facebook for propping up this administration and trying to hide its failures from the public. They are all hypocrites, and liars, but that is a topic for another time. Harold Macmillan, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1957–1963), was asked what was the most troubling problem he encountered while in office, He replied, "Events, my dear boy, events." This statement sums up the problems with the Biden administration, it's the events. He has no idea how to solve them. I believe this is part of his plan to fundamentally change America as we are no longer a country that is respected on the world stage and we are beginning to lose our status as the leader of the free world.

The political humorist, Will Rogers, said in 1929, "Ain't it funny how many hundreds of thousands of soldiers we can recruit with nerve (honor). But we just can't find one politician in a million with backbone."

The American Legion Veterans Day 2021 Speech

Military service by its nature is temporary. The legacy of that service, however, can benefit generations for centuries.

Veterans Day can be traced to the armistice which ended World War I. Though the peace of that treaty did not survive the fascist tyrannies of Hitler and Mussolini, the freedom enjoyed by Europeans today is the result of the service and sacrifice made by millions of U.S. veterans.

It is the legacy of those who have worn the uniform of the United States. A legacy of freedom.

It is a legacy that has spread the globe.

First lieutenant Ralph Puckett, Junior, was commanding officer of the 8th Ranger Company, 8213th Army Unit, 8th U.S. Army. Outnumbered and seriously wounded twice by the enemy in Unsan, Korea during a two day battle in 1950, he continued to lead his company of Rangers through machine gun fire in order to capture objectives and direct artillery. When his wounds prevented him from moving, he told his soldiers to leave him behind so they could withdraw. Despite his objections, his soldiers dragged him from the hill to a position of safety.

Lieutenant Puckett would survive the battle and eventually retire from the Army as a colonel in 1971. Even his lengthy military career was temporary when compared to the legacy that still continues in Korea.

"Without the sacrifice of veterans, including Col. Puckett...freedom and democracy we enjoy today couldn't have blossomed in Korea," South Korea President Moon Jae-in said earlier this year during a White House ceremony in which Col. Puckett received his well-deserved Medal of Honor from President Biden.

Another distinguished hero, the late Admiral Jeremiah Denton, spoke of the long but temporary ordeal he experienced as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"If I had known when I was shot down that I would be there more than seven years, I would have died of despondency, of despair. But I didn't. It was one minute at a time, one hour, one week, one year and so on. If you look at it like that, anybody can do anything..." unquote.

That type of toughness, commitment and perseverance is not unusual among veterans. Their exploits are legendary.

After Harriett Tubman led hundreds of slaves to freedom through the underground railroad, she served as a cook, nurse and spy for the Union Army during the Civil War.

Frederick W. Smith served two tours as a Marine in Vietnam before launching the Federal Express network, a company that would grow into an \$84 billion global enterprise.

Baseball great Jackie Robinson, surgeon Michael DeBakey and computer scientist Grace Hopper were other Americans whose contributions to culture and society reach far beyond their military service.

Even so, can any CEO or cultural icon truly claim to have greater responsibility than a platoon commander leading a team in combat?

For these young people, a bad day at work does not mean a blown account or lost business. It can mean watching a best friend die, losing a limb or being immersed in the collateral suffering that is synonymous with war.

Even veterans who have not experienced combat share a bond with those who have. They have all expressed a willingness to die for their country if called upon. They have all subjected themselves to a military justice system which requires strict obedience and professionalism. And they have all pledged loyalty to the U.S. Constitution.

In the book "Walk in My Combat Boots" by James Patterson and Matt Eversmann, the authors interviewed veterans of various eras and published their accounts.

Navy Reservist Ryan Leahy spoke of the rivalry as well as the bond. While on active-duty, he felt a sense of dread in 2007 when he was approached by a Marine Vietnam War veteran in a bar. "He is going to give me crap about being a Navy guy," Leahy recalled in the book.

Leahy, who had not seen combat, was surprised when the Vietnam vet instead thanked him.

When he asked why, the Vietnam vet said "You guys saved my life more times than I can count. I can't tell you the amount of times we would have been dead, but we were able to pick up the phone and you guys came in and got everyone out."

Leahy would later use that moment to mentor others. "Listen, you're not pulling the trigger, you're not doing what you see in the movies, but most people aren't," he would tell his people. "What you're doing by keeping a reactor up, getting that F-18 off the flight deck – you're literally saving people's lives. You're only one or two degrees away from physically saving someone's life, so have a little bit more onus and understanding and pride in what you do."

We, in The American Legion, welcome and encourage conversations such as these among veterans. We call them Buddy Checks. We remind all veterans that their service matters. We remind them that their well-being matters, especially to us. Most importantly, we offer our friendship and assistance.

Through that friendship, The American Legion has made suicide prevention among veterans its top priority.

Buddy Checks are one tool. But we must also do whatever it takes to encourage veterans to seek help from the Department of Veterans Affairs or other trained professionals. We must remove all stigmas associated with asking for help or being diagnosed with PTSD, depression or any condition that could lead one to take his or her own life.

All of us here can help. Memorize the Veterans Crisis Line number and offer it freely to those in need. That's 1-800-273-8255, extension 1. That's 1-800-273-8255, then 1.

Follow up and ensure that veterans that you encounter know that you are an ally and can be counted on for support.

You can also show your support for these great men and women by hiring a veteran in your workplace, patronizing a veteran-owned business or donating to a Veterans program. And you can simply thank them for their service.

For many veterans, our nation was important enough to endure long separations from their families, miss the births of their children, freeze in sub-zero temperatures, bake in wild jungles, lose limbs, and, far too often, lose their lives.

Military spouses have had to endure career interruptions, frequent changes of address, and a disproportionate share of parental responsibilities.

Fewer than 10 percent of Americans can claim the title "veteran." Less than 1/2 of 1 % of our population currently serves. Yet some seem intent on trying to balance the federal budget by diminishing the quality of life programs designed for the families who have already disproportionately made these sacrifices.

Veterans have given us freedom, security and the greatest nation on earth. It is impossible to put a price on that.

We must remember them. We must appreciate them.

God bless you all for being here, God bless our veterans and God bless America.

Employment Opportunity

Rowdy's Range in St George, UT is looking for additional help in our retail store. Gun and Retail experience is desired but not necessary. Clean criminal record is a must. We are looking for candidates available for all shifts, Mon-Sat approximately 10-25 hours per week. The position can potentially grow into full time for the right candidate.

Please contact me if you are interested.

paul@rowdysrange.com

Rowdy's, LLC
610 Industrial Rd
St George, UT 84770
435-275-2550



Salute to the Armed Services

CONCERT

AT THE ST. GEORGE TABERNACLE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 7:00 PM

FEATURING:

The St. George Interfaith Choir
Directed by John Ribera

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Crimson Cliffs High School Concert Choir
Zion Brass Quintet

A Special invitation is extended to ALL U.S. Armed Forces
Servicemen and Servicewomen, active duty or retired.

We thank you for your service!



Hosted by the St. George
Interfaith Council

FREE ADMISSION

Funded in
part by



POST NEWSLETTER INSERT REGARDING POTLUCK DINNER MEETINGS

Our post tradition for many years featured a potluck dinner at our monthly meetings. This was a great time to get together and socialize with our comrades in the Legion. In recent years the attendance has fallen off, most likely due to the increasing demands on our already busy lives.

The Post's Executive Board believes these events are important to the vibrant life of the Post and that they should continue, but possibly in a different format to better fit the tempo of our busy lives.

Accordingly, the Board would like your suggestions as to how we can alter these dinner meetings to attract more attendance from our members. Here, below, are a few of the ideas we kicked around at a recent Board meeting. Read them over and see if you like any of them. Or feel free to submit your own ideas you think will enhance our meetings. We really want to hear from you!

- Reduce the number of dinners to two or three per year.
- Have one big dinner meeting such as a BBQ or Steak Fry in either a day or evening setting.
- Invite important community leaders to present or speak on important issues at the dinner.

What are your ideas?

Please let us know by an email response to Marti Bigbie at martibigbie@gmail.com

If you don't do email, give Marti a quick call at (435) 668-5770 and let us know what your suggestions are to help support Post 90 members.



SOUTHERN UTAH'S CELEBRATION OF VETERANS
DURING NATIONAL VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS WEEK



UNITE *Conference*

TUES. 2, NOV.

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 9^{AM}

Keynote - Building Your A-Team
Colonel Colby Jenkins

Former U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret and
Director of Operations at Pentagon's Defense Innovation Unit

Local Veteran Owned Business Panel

LUNCH & RESOURCE FAIR AT NOON



Build comradery with other veterans in the community. Meet and support local veteran-owned small businesses. Learn of veteran and business resources and opportunities that are available to you.

UNITE *Conference* 9:00 - 2:00 AT DIXIE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
FOR MORE INFO : [BIT.LY/UNITECONFERENCE](https://bit.ly/uniteconference)

National Veterans Small Business Week

Nov 1 - 5, 2021 | sba.gov/nvsbw

