



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
POST WEB SITE: POST59.US POST PHONE: 608.205.9090



Volume 21

Issue 1



January 2019

Commander's Report

2018-2019 OFFICERS

- Commander**
Sonny Swangstu
- 1st Vice Commander**
Michael Currie
- 3rd Vice Commander**
Larry Johnson
- Service Officer**
Joshua Holt
- Sgt. at Arms**
Dale Seffens
- Finance Officer**
Jim Oler
- Historian**
DuWayne Teigen
- Adjutant**
Vic Duesel
- Judge Advocate**
Rodger Hansen
- Chaplain**
Edward Nowicki



Greetings Legion Family,
With the passing of the Holidays and the New Year of 2019 upon us, I wish all of you a happy, healthy New Year.

Fifty veterans at the local nursing homes were visited during Christmas with treats of a box of candy and a card. Those presenting were Doug Nelson, Mike Currie, Steve Grady, and Sonny Swangstu.

The Legion also gave to Toys For Tots, Shop With a Cop, and Adopt A Family with Christmas gifts, toy collection to Marines of Madison to be distributed in Stoughton and donation to Personal Essentials.

We now have 6 choices of beer on tap instead of 2.

Richard Boyd was presented with a quilt at the December Legion dinner made by the Auxiliary Quilters. One quilt will be given each month to a dedicated vet at the Post.

New Years was celebrated by 75 plus people. A good time was

had by all. Thanks to all who were involved.

Next Legion dinner in January will be Chicken Cordon Bleu and cream corn. February's meal will be meatloaf.

Thank you to all volunteers,

Commander Sonny

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Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion
2nd Monday
7:00 pm

Auxiliary
1st Monday
6:30 pm

Sons of the American Legion
2nd Wednesday
7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.



Hall Rentals

Call

Polly Stout 608.513.5378
(Between 8am - 9pm)

Or email:

buddycatsonny@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 1st – Happy New Year!!*
- Jan 11th – Dean’s Blue Country 6:00-9:00pm*
- Jan 12th – Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Jan 18th – Bruce Edwin Acoustic Variety 6:00-9:00pm*
- Jan 19th - Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Jan 21st – Martin Luther King Day*
- Jan 22nd – Legion Dinner 6:30pm*
- Jan 26th - Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Jan 27th – Frank (Lefty) James and Jackie Marie 6:00-9:00pm*
- Jan 27th – Country Jam Session with Mikey Fuss and the Cherokee Three 2:00-6:00pm. All musicians and singers welcome.*
- Feb 2nd - Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Feb 3rd – Four Chaplins Day*
- Feb 8th – Dean’s Blue Country 6:00-9:00pm*
- Feb 9th – Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Feb 14th – Valentine’s Day*
- Feb 16th – Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*
- Feb 18th – President’s Day*
- Feb 22nd – Frank (Lefty) James and Jackie Marie 6:00-9:00pm*
- Feb 23rd – Meat Raffle 2:00-4:00pm*

For Upcoming Legion Entertainment, call the Post at 608.205.9090 for a recorded message or go to post59.us and

Euchre Card Party

Come join us every 2nd Wednesday of each month (through May 2019) at 1:00 pm to play euchre!
All men & women are welcome to play. You do not need to be a member to play.



AMERICAN LEGION BAR

803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bar Open to Serve You: Wednesday – Sunday
(Monday & Tuesday CLOSED)

- Wednesday: **Open at 3:00pm**
- Thursday: **Open at 3:00pm**
- Friday: **3:00-10:00pm or later**
- Saturday: **Noon-10:00pm or later**
- Sunday: **11:30am-6:00pm or later**

WEDNESDAY IS LADIES NIGHT

\$.50 off any Ladies Drinks

THURSDAY IS THIRSTY THURSDAY

Bud Light or Miller Light Taps
12oz.- \$1.00 / 16oz.- \$1.50

FRIDAY IS OUR FISH FRY

5:00 – 8:00pm
Which includes salad bar

SATURDAY – MEAT RAFFLE

2:00 pm

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

No message this month.

Auxiliary Members: *If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Linda Swangstu at 608.873.9428.*



Sons of the American Legion Report

Happy New Year, I have been asked to reprint in this newsletter a copy of an article that was included in the December 13th, 2018 Badger Legionnaire. SAL Squadron 59 is proud to be an annual contributor to the Josh Dog Program and we have on display in a dining room cabinet at Post 59 a complete Josh Dog kit. If you are interested in reading the book or letter that comes with the GI Josh Dog please contact any of the SAL officers and they will arrange for you to schedule a viewing. However, we will not allow for any portion of the of the kit to be removed from the Page St. premises. Thank you and enjoy the article.

Bob Hocking

Children of Deployed Parents Find Comfort in a GI Josh Dog

While nothing can replace a mother or father in uniform deploying halfway across the world for up to a year, the Sons of The American Legion is hoping a plush toy dog named "GI Josh" can soften the pains of separation.

During a sendoff ceremony for 65 members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Bri-gade Combat Team, Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar - Wisconsin adjutant general - held up a GI Josh and asked the children in attendance if they had received one yet.

"I want you to take lots and lots of pictures of where you're at with this, send those pictures to us, and we'll share them ... with our brave men and women overseas." Gen. Dunbar then asked the children in attendance to hold their dogs up!

But something extraordinary and completely unexpected happened. During the ceremony, which was the last time these families were to be together for a while, no one held their dog up. The children were clutching Josh to their chest with tears streaming down their faces. This was to be their connection to their mother or father who were leaving, with an uncertain future, and no one was going to separate them from Josh.

Past Detachment Commander Dan Daily summed up that day by saying "It was heartwarming and heartbreaking all at once. At the end of the day, we did some good here. We provided something to help these children and their families cope with the rigors of deployment. We want these soldiers and their families to know that America is here for them."

What is GI Josh?

The plush toy dog - wearing a camouflage bandana with the Le-gion emblem - comes with a book and a letter for adults explaining how GI Josh can be therapeutic for parent.

"They are not toys intended to distract," the letter states, "but through a compelling story as shared by Josh, the Golden Retriever, who is going through his own difficult situation, your child can find comfort that they are not going through their difficulty alone."

The book, GI Josh: I'll Be O.K., is one in a series of books that author Randall L. Lange, a veterinarian, wrote about Josh that explore the human-animal bond. Lange encourages parents and adults to adapt the story for each family's situation.

Why Josh?

The dog and the book were the idea of the Sons of The American Legion, who are devoted to serving veterans and their communities. Its development was funded through a grant of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

In the book, the journey of dogs Josh and Smudge make with young Cassie is chronicled. Cassie's daddy is sent abroad during our nation's military operations in the Middle East. Josh and Smudge befriend Cassie, who is lonely and heartbroken over her daddy's departure. Together they find coping tools which difficult time. Even though Cassie is still lonely, the love and comfort Josh and Smudge bring to her family helps them soldier through this difficult time together until her daddy's triumphal return from his deployment.

We witnessed one young boy, who we were told was acting out at home just prior to his dad's departure. He was restless at the deployment ceremony until he got GI Josh. He took him back to his chair, and began focusing on "caring" for Josh. That family later told us they don't know how they would have gotten through the separation without Josh.

Who gets a GI Josh Dog?

We give the kits, free of charge, to children with a parent deploying in the military - branch of service doesn't matter, we just wish to support them while their parent is deployed.

We began this program in 2014, and since then we have distributed over 1,200 dogs across the state at a cost of over \$36,000. It has been so impactful the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs makes it a point to reach out to us and ask us to be present at their deployment ceremonies. While we are honored to is the superhero.

This amazing program is being championed by the Sons of The American Legion. Local Squadrons work with their Legion Family to raise the funds needed. If you hear about a local family experiencing a deployment- some deployments are small groups without sendoff ceremonies - please let us know so we can bring comfort to a child while their parent is serving. You can contact GI Josh via email at josh@wisal.org. He can also help with in-formation if you wish to support this program.

We are Proud Possessors of Priceless Heritage. Please visit us at www.wisal.org.



Auxiliary News



No article this month.

2018-2019

OFFICERS

President

Cathy Rigdon

608.873.5818

608.712.5312

1st Vice President

Amy Hermes

608.516.8720

2nd Vice President

Jona Chat

608.622.4574

Secretary

Polly Stout

608.513.5378

Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

608.205.2517

Chaplain

Linda Swangstu

608.577-7428

Membership

Lisa Olson

608.279.4847

Bonnie Kennedy

608.669.7544

The first Sunday in February is The Four Chaplains Sunday.

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

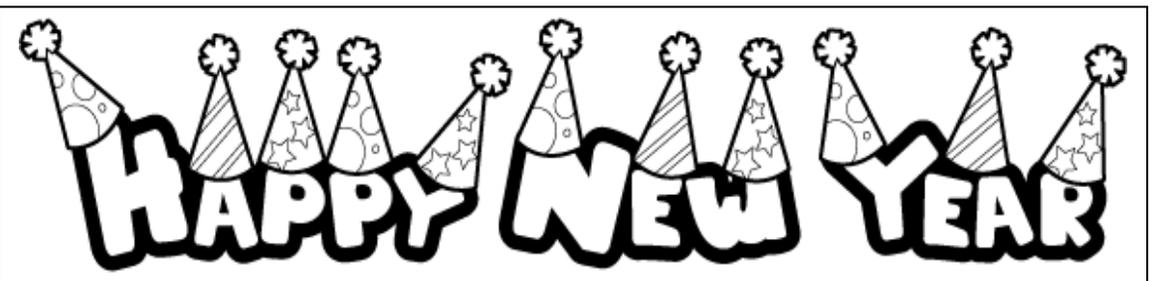
The four chaplains were on the U.S. Army Transport the Dorchester. On Feb. 3, 1943 with about 900 onboard on route to Greenland; At about 12:55A.M. a German submarine torpedoed the Dorchester. The water temperature was 34 degrees and the air temp was 36 degrees.

The Captain of the Dorchester told all hands to sleep in their clothes and to have their life jackets close by. Some did not heed his warning.

The four Chaplains gave their life jackets to those who did not have one. The Chaplains stayed on deck giving encouragement and prayers to those in the water and then they went down with the ship. 203 of 904 aboard the ship were rescued. By the time additional ship arrived hundreds of bodies were seen floating in the water kept up by their life jackets.

The four Chaplains were awarded the Purple Heart the Distinguish Service Cross and the Four Chaplain Medal {giving out only once} posthumously to the next of kin.

Steve Grady



Halloween, Ugly Christmas Sweater Night and New Year's Eve at the Legion

Well we made it through another Halloween with the help of some pretty scary, funny and weird costumes. Thanks to Melissa Newton, Julie Stenjem and Mike Call for bartending and making up some special Halloween drinks. All-Star karaoke with Dean Stenjem and I supplied the music.

The Ugly Christmas sweater night was especially good. We had great turnout of ugly sweaters plus many that just came to watch. The winners were, Chris and Kristin Onsrud for the ugliest sweater and Bill Drenkhahn for the funniest sweater. I'd also like to thank the judges Sparky Huck and Jody Kumlien. Our bartenders that night were Cathy Rigdon and Teresa Vike-Kelly. All-Star karaoke with Dean Stenjem and I supplied the music

New Year's Eve this year started out with rain, sleet and snow. It looked as though maybe no one would show up but by 9:30 the place was pretty well full. I'd like to thank the S.A.L. for supplying the food and treats. Bob Hocking, Amy Hocking, Roger Strandlie and Donna Strandlie for purchasing, preparing and doing great job of setting it out on the tables for the patrons to enjoy. They also did a 50-50 and made sure everyone had party favors. Thanks to the hard-working bartenders Jeff Gassen and Polly Stout. All-Star karaoke provided the music for the night.

I'd like to thank all the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members who come to these events and to have a very good new year in 2019.

Larry Johnson

Third Vice Commander



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Visit post59.us and subscribe or just email 59legionpost@gmail.com and in the subject line put subscribe.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK ALBUMS FOR SALE

The historical Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park albums are now on sale. The beautiful, nearly 200 page album, is a history of the building of the memorial, beginning with the planning stages in July, 2014, and concludes with the dedication on October 14, 2017, and contains many photographs, stories, articles, documents, etc.

Copies are on display at the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Veterans Road and at the American Legion on North Page Street. Copies cost \$50.

To order, call Bud Erickson at 608-873-5305.

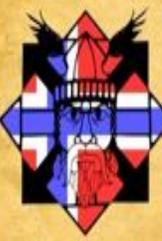
THIS DAY IN U.S. MILITARY HISTORY (JANUARY)

- **Jan 01 1942** – WW2: The War Production Board (WPB) ordered the temporary end of all civilian automobile sales leaving dealers with one half million unsold cars.
 - **Jan 02 1942** – The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) convicts 33 members of a German spy ring headed by Fritz Joubert Duquesne in the largest espionage case in United States history—the Duquesne Spy Ring.
 - **Jan 03 1945** – WW2: Admiral Chester W Nimitz is placed in command of all U.S. Naval forces in preparation for planned assaults against Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Japan.
 - **Jan 04 1944** – WW2: Operation Carpetbagger, involving the dropping of arms and supplies to resistance fighters in Europe, begins.
 - **Jan 05 1942** – WW2: U.S. and Filipino troops complete their withdrawal to a new defensive line along the base of the Bataan peninsula.
 - **Jan 06 1967** – Vietnam: United States Marine Corps and ARVN troops launch 'Operation Deckhouse Five' in the Mekong River delta. Casualties and losses: (KIA) US 7 - Vietcong 21
 - **Jan 07 1944** – WW2: The U.S. Air Force announces the production of the first jet fighter, Bell P- 59 Airacomet.
 - **Jan 08 1967** – Vietnam: Operation Cedar Falls. Over 16,000 U.S. and 14,000 Vietnamese troops start their biggest attack on the Iron Triangle, northwest of Saigon. Casualties and losses: US/ARVN 428 - NVA/VC 1030 (US Claim)
 - **Jan 09 1991** – Representatives from the United States and Iraq meet at the Geneva Peace Conference to try to find a peaceful resolution to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
 - **Jan 10 1920** – WWI: The Treaty of Versailles takes effect, officially ending World War I.
 - **Jan 11 1863** – Civil War: The Battle of Fort Hindman (i.e. Arkansas Post) Arkansas ends with a Union victory and capture of the Arkansas River. Casualties and losses: US 1,061 - CSA ~5,500
 - **Jan 12 1991** – Gulf War: An act of the U.S. Congress authorizes the use of military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.
 - **Jan 13 1968** – Vietnam: U.S. reports shifting most air targets from North Vietnam to Laos.
 - **Jan 14 1943** – WW2: Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill begin the Casablanca Conference to discuss strategy and study the next phase of the war.
 - **Jan 15 1991** – The United Nations deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from occupied Kuwait expires, preparing the way for the start of Operation Desert Storm.
 - **Jan 16 2001** – US President Bill Clinton awards former President Theodore Roosevelt a posthumous Medal of Honor for his service in the Spanish American War.
 - **Jan 17 1945** – The Nazis begin the evacuation of the Auschwitz concentration camp as Soviet forces close in.
 - **Jan 18 1911** – Naval Lieutenant Eugene Ely became the first man ever to land an airplane on the deck of a ship, the converted cruiser USS Pennsylvania, in San Francisco Bay.
 - **Jan 19 1981** – Iran Hostage Crisis: United States and Iranian officials sign an agreement to release 52 American hostages after 14 months of captivity.
 - **Jan 20 1887** – The United States Senate allows the Navy to lease Pearl Harbor as a naval base.
 - **Jan 22 1968** – Vietnam: Operation Igloo White, a US electronic surveillance system to stop communist infiltration into South Vietnam begins installation.
 - **Jan 23 1973** – Vietnam: President Richard Nixon claims that Vietnam peace has been reached in Paris and that the POWs would be home in 60 days.
 - **Jan 24 1972** – Japanese Sgt. Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.
 - **Jan 25 1951** – Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army in Korea launches Operation Thunderbolt, a counter attack to push the Chinese Army north of the Han River.
 - **Jan 26 1945** – WW2: The Battle of the Bulge ends.
 - **Jan 27 1973** – The Paris Peace Accords officially end the Vietnam War. Colonel William Nolde is killed in action becoming the conflict's last recorded American combat casualty.
 - **Jan 28 1915** – An act of the U.S. Congress creates the U.S. Coast Guard as a branch of the United States Armed Forces to fight contraband trade and aid distressed vessels at sea.
 - **Jan 29 1991** – Gulf War: Iraqi forces attack into Saudi Arabian town of Kafji, but are turned back by Coalition forces.
 - **Jan 30 1950** – President Harry S. Truman announces a program to develop the hydrogen bomb.
 - **Jan 31 1944** – WW2: U.S. troops under Vice Adm. Spruance land on Kwajalien atoll in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.
-

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Post Dinner Menu – January 22nd – 6:30 pm

Chicken Cordon Bleu with cream corn

please visit: www.post59.us/legion-post-dinner-information

Or Call 608.205.9090



Otis Sampson American Legion Post 59
DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES THE 1st OF EACH MONTH

Editor: April Vingum: 59legionpost@gmail.com

Visit the Post website at www.post59.us
