



THE LEGION POST

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



Volume 18 Issue 2

February 2016

Commander's Report

2015-2016 OFFICERS

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1st Vice Commander

Vik Malling

2nd Vice Commander

Mary Lloyd

3rd Vice Commander

Larry Johnson

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Bob Lloyd

Sgt. at Arms

Dale Seffens

Finance Officer

Jim Oler

Historian

Lenny Swingen

Adjutant

Bob Lloyd

Judge Advocate

Terry McCardle

Chaplain

Rich Fries



Greetings,

Well, we made it half-way through the winter months, WOOPIE! Spring training is right around the corner so that means spring is too. Good luck to Cub fans and Brewer fans, although I am a Braves fan. Now that the Packer season is over, I guess we can settle in on all the honey-do lists that have been hanging on the refrigerator door for too long. Hopefully we can make Momma happy!

We have started building our garage for housing the Honor Guard van and also for extra storage. It seems we keep accumulating stuff so more storage space is needed. Thanks to Dale Seffens and his crew of non-members for all their help. Anybody with time on their hands can come on down and do a little supervising.

Work on the Veteran's Memorial Park construction has been suspended for the winter months. The weather put a damper on the ground work until spring, and then we will put on the big push. If you want your paver to be placed in the first group, we need your order by February to be sure the

engraving is done on time. Thanks to Duane Broughton for leading the group of people working to get the job done which entails many projects, information, and etc.

Things are going okay at the Post in general. We do have our days with some ups and downs. Recruiting new volunteers is difficult at times. Some of our Seniors have retired from so many years of helping out, they need to now rest and step down. We thank them all very much for their hard work and they are actually a part of why we are still in the Stoughton American Legion Post 59.

Commander continued on page 2

Auxiliary

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Lisa Olson

873-8924

1st Vice President

Elvera Phelps

873-5154

Secretary

Cathy Rigdon

873-5818

Treasurer

Linda Schmidt

205-2517

Chaplain

Sharon Silbaugh

873-3927

Sgt. at Arms

Pat Christensen

873-7479

Historian

Sherry Leick

873-6687

Auxiliary News



Hello Auxiliary Members and Friends,

2016 has certainly come in with a blast of winter! But, the Auxiliary is already looking to spring and getting ready to start again! Our Executive Board met recently to coordinate the many dates and projects that we look forward to each year to help veterans and our community.

We are sorry to have lost another Auxiliary member and friend to many of us, Lorraine Thompson. She was a dedicated member for 13 years and also a member of the VFW Auxiliary for more than 50 years. We are going to miss our "cookie lady" and extend our prayers and sympathy to her family.

Our Christmas Basket Raffle was the best

ever! It was a beautiful basket complete with a ham, wine, and many goodies. Thank you to all those who purchased tickets and congratulations to Pam Griggs who was the lucky winner.

We are now at 75% of our membership goal. There are only 15 members now who have not renewed yet. Please remember why you joined and the veteran you will be honoring when you send in your payment. Maybe it was your dad, grandfather, husband, brother, or son who was your veteran hero.

We are happy to welcome two new junior members, Zaria Dean and Sedona Trumm. They are the granddaughters of our member Jona Chat and great-granddaughters of Dolly Bailey.

Looking at our membership roster I noticed that we have eight junior members who will be turning 18 soon. Perhaps some are graduating this year and starting to plan for college. Don't forget to check out the many scholarships that the AL Auxiliary has available for you.

President continued on page 2

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- January 17 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00-11:00 am
- January 24 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm
- January 26 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- January 30 - Universal Sound – 8:00 pm-midnight
- February 6 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 pm -1:00 am
- February 20 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 pm -1:00 am
- February 21 - Legion Breakfast – 7:00-11:00 am
- February 23 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm
- February 26 - Blue Moon Karaoke – 8:00 pm -1:00 am
- February 28 - Country Jam with Mikey Fuss – 2:00-6:00 pm

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

Breakfast: 7:00-11:00 am
\$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children

For upcoming Legion entertainment, call the Post at 205.9090 for a recorded message.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Where there is charity and wisdom there is neither fear nor ignorance. Where there is patience and humility there is neither anger nor worry.

St. Francis of Assisi

If you know of anyone who is hospitalized, or in need, please contact Rich Fries at 608.273.8758.

Hall Rentals

Call Julie Nygaard at 608.333.9577

Commander continued from page 1

At our January Post dinner, we are going to give out Recognition Certificates and pins for members who have 50 to 70 years of membership in the Post. These members are Leonard Swingen - 72 years , Richard Amundson – 72 years, Robert Dvorak – 58 years, Norman Gerber – 55 years, Allan Eggleston – 53 years, Louis Halverson – 52 years, James Johnson – 51 years. So, please come to our dinner in January to help recognize these folks.

Thank you to all volunteers,
Commander Sonny

President continued from page 1

You can get more information on the ALA website www.amlegionauxwi.org. The deadlines to apply are in March. Or, if you will be entering your senior year next fall, please consider applying to go to Badger Girls State. We have had several of our junior members attend Girls State in the past and all have had wonderful experiences. You can contact me or Mary Curran for more information. We are able to send four girls this year. You do not need to be a member to apply.

Have you been keeping track of your hours of volunteering? I will need your information in early March.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 8 at 6:30 PM. We are planning lots of great things for 2016! See you then!

Lisa Olson
Unit 59 President



Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The Museum will be hosting “Mess Night at the Museum: War on the Great Lakes” on January 28. The event will be held at the museum from 6:00-8:00 PM. Each quarter “Mess Night at the Museum” will feature a different speaker, topic, and dining menu. Check it out at their Web site: <http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com>

Sherri Ruth March-Barrett

Sherri Ruth March-Barrett was born on December 2, 1979, in Madison, Wisconsin. She is the daughter of Darrell and Edith March of Stoughton. She is a long-time resident of Stoughton, graduating from Stoughton High School in 1998.



Shortly after completing high school, Sherri left for basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She also spent her Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Missouri, where she learned her military occupational specialty (MOS), heavy equipment operator (88M). She joined the United States Army to “see the world.”

Sherri is a member of the Stoughton VFW because of her service during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, while serving with the 1st Infantry Division, Bravo Company, 701st Main Support Battalion. As an 88M, she was on the road often. The vehicle she drove was a Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) which was able to haul Abram tanks weighing over 60 tons.

While on missions in Iraq, Sherri’s unit was often attacked by small arms fire, Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG). She remembers when her platoon was on mission outside of Samarra, Iraq and saw RPGs being fired into her area, she and her soldier had to abandon their vehicle and run 25 yards to safety. The vehicle was damaged, but thankfully, neither Sherri nor her comrade was injured. While serving in Iraq, Sherri was attached to 1-4 Cavalry out of Schweinfurt Germany. She was awarded the distinguished honor of the Order of the Spurs. Sherri’s highest rank was sergeant (E-5).



Upon honorable discharge in November 2005, Sherri went to live with her then husband and son in Hampton, Virginia. In February 2006, she went back to her roots, arriving in her hometown of Stoughton. She has worked as a housekeeper for Nazareth House and Stoughton Hospital. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for an assisted living facility in Oregon. In 2010, Sherri and a friend of hers opened an adult day care facility for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease in Stoughton. They chose to close the business in December of 2013.

Sherri has two associate degrees from Madison College—one in small business entrepreneurship and the other in supervisory management. She was the President of the Madison College Veterans Club and was a vital member of the inaugural Veterans Resource Team, which helps student veterans navigate the educational benefits bestowed upon them. She was also a strong advocate for a veteran’s only space that is currently being built at Madison College.

Sherri continues to call Stoughton home. She has boyfriend, Chad Goplen, two children, son Cameron (age 14) and daughter Jazzlynn (age 7). She can be found volunteering her time at Kegonsa Elementary School, meeting with members of the community, cheering on the Wisconsin Badgers and Green Bay Packers, or planning fun events for the Stoughton VFW. Sherri enjoys attending local community happenings and trying new activities.



Although, Sherri has only been a member of VFW Post 328 for one year, she has brought new energy to the Post. She is working hard on reaching out to different organizations to see how the VFW can help our veterans and our city. Sherri is proud to have served her country while in uniform, and she will continue to serve her country, by serving her community.

Interviewed by Evelyn Kahl

New Year's Eve party at the Post

I'd like to thank all the volunteers that contributed their services to make this year's New Year's Eve party a big success. Door prizes, a 50/50, a complimentary meal including meatballs, chicken wings, shrimp, cheese, and sausage platters with chips and dip, and of course champagne.

Ray Dzieciol was in charge of food; bartenders Dean Stenjem, Jeff Gassen, Julie Stenjem, and Mike Call all helped pull this off. We had BBQ's and chips ready to purchase starting at 6:00 PM. Everyone received one door prize ticket when they arrived. Door prizes were given out every half-hour beginning at 9:00. A 50/50 was started about 9:30. The food was set out on tables and ready to enjoy at 11:00, party favors and hats about 11:30, and champagne was served at 11:45. These volunteers worked hard to get all this done

within a certain amount of time. Mike Griggs started bartending about 12:30 PM for the early birds. He also donated about 90% of the door prizes. Also thanks to the Northern Lights Band for providing the music.

We had a great and well-behaved crowd. Many compliments, also, thanks to all the members of the Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL that were able to come down and help us celebrate the New Year.

Reminder, if you are wondering what kind of entertainment is coming up, just call 608.205.9090 and the recording will explain what entertainment is scheduled for that weekend. Call anytime day or night. I hope you all have a good new year.

Larry Johnson
3rd Vice Commander

Attention

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ORDER A PAVER TO BE PUT IN THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, PLEASE DO SO BY FEBRUARY 1.

THAT WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR PAVER IS IN PLACE BY THE TIME OF DEDICATION. ALSO, YOU WILL ALSO AVOID A PRICE INCREASE.

Monthly Post Meeting Schedule

Legion – 2nd Monday – 7:00 pm

Auxiliary – 2nd Monday – 6:30 pm

SAL – 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Meetings are held at the Post.

All members are encouraged to attend.



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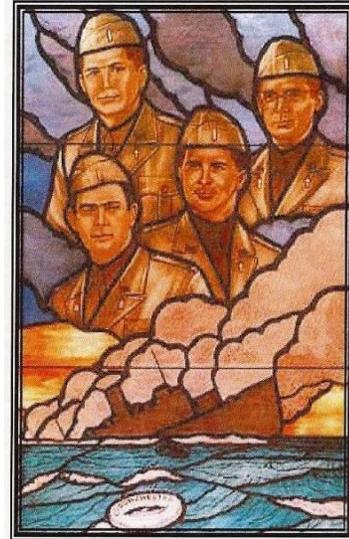
\$.50 off any Ladies drinks



The Four Chaplains



Lt. Goode - Lt. Fox - Lt. Poling - Lt. Washington



Stained glass window in the Pentagon Chapel

It was February 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport *Dorchester* was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the *Dorchester* was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen, and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine *U2* spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship, far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in! Men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers, calming the frightened, tending the wounded, and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains, Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the Arctic.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going," a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked. "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the Rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life jackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later call it "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

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As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. *Dorchester*, only 230 survived. Before boarding the *Dorchester* back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return, that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty...never be a coward...and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously, Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements which required heroism performed under fire. So a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, The Four Chaplains' Medal, was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President on January 18, 1961.



Presented posthumously to the Four Chaplains

It was never given before and will never be given again.

The first Sunday in February is **Four Chaplains Sunday** and service organizations are encouraged to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of USAT *Dorchester* by a U-boat in the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943.

Submitted by Steve Grady & Ole

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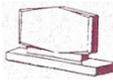
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Chef's Surprise
February 23, 2016

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Editors Cliff Maerz and Tim Carter: C_Maerz@msn.com