

American Legion LeBron Post 58

OBSERVER



123 N. 1ST Street Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

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lebronpost58@lebronpost58.org

JANUARY 2015

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"



Commander's Message



The aftermath of two American wars in the second half of the 19th Century had seen the formation of several ex-soldiers' organizations. Following the American Civil War of 1861-65 former Union soldiers had established an organization called the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), while their Southern brethren had joined together as the United Confederate Veterans (UCV) in the aftermath of hostilities. Both of these organizations had emerged as powerful political entities, with the GAR serving as a mainstay of the Republican Party, which controlled the Presidency from the Civil War through the Theodore Roosevelt administration for all but the two terms of office of Grover Cleveland. In Southern politics the UCV maintained an even more dominant position as a bulwark of the conservative Democratic Party which ruled there. Similarly, the conclusion of the short-lived Spanish-American conflict of 1898 had ushered in another ex-soldiers' organization, the American Veterans of Foreign Service, today known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). With the termination of hostilities in World War I in November 1918, certain American officers who had been participants in the conflict began to think about the creation of a similar organization for the nearly two million men who had shipped out for European duty.

The need for an organization for former members of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was pressing and immediate. With the war at an end, hundreds of thousands of impatient draftees found themselves trapped in France and pining for home, certain only that untold weeks or months lay ahead of them before their return would be logistically possible. Morale plummeted. Cautionary voices were raised about an apparent correlation between disaffected and discharged troops and the Bolshevik uprisings taking place in Russia, Finland, Germany, and Hungary.

This situation was a particular matter of concern to Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., eldest son of the 26th President. One day in January 1919, Roosevelt had a discussion at General Headquarters with a mobilized National Guard officer named George A. White, a former newspaper editor with the Portland Oregonian. After long discussion, Roosevelt suggested the establishment at once of a new servicemen's organization including all members of the AEF, as well as those soldiers who remained stateside as members of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps during the war without having been shipped abroad.

2014 Post Officers

Commander

Jerry A. Webster

1st Vice Commander

Myrl Waggoner

2nd Vice Commander

Leroy Barnes

3rd Vice Commander

Gregory Rupert

SGT at Arms

Willie Hartman

Finance Officer

Marsha Hudson

Adjutant

Ryan Alley

Chaplain

Kenneth Yohey

Executive Committee

Jerry Webster

Myrl Waggoner

Leroy Barnes

Gregory Rupert

Marsha Hudson

Ryan Alley

Albert Hawkes

Larry Woods

Steve Gentling



Posts

The Post is the basic unit of the Legion and usually represents a small geographic area such as a single town or part of a county. There are roughly 14,900 posts in the United States. The Post is used for formal business such as meetings and a coordination point for community service projects. Often the Post will host community events such as bingo, Hunter breakfasts, holiday celebrations, and available to the community, churches in time of need. It is also not uncommon for the Post to contain a bar open during limited hours. A Post member is distinguished by a navy blue garrison cap with gold piping.

Districts

Each Department is divided into Divisions and/or Districts. Each District oversees several Posts, generally about 20, to help each smaller group have a larger voice. Divisions are even larger groups of about four or more Districts. The main purpose of these "larger" groups (Districts—Divisions) is to allow one or two delegates to represent an area at conferences, conventions, and other gatherings, where large numbers of Legionnaires may not be able to attend. A District Commander is distinguished by a navy blue garrison cap with a white crown and gold piping.

Departments

The Posts are grouped together into a state level organization known as a Department for the purposes of coordination and administration. There is a total of 55 Departments; one for each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines. Canada was merged into Department of New York several years ago. The three Departments located overseas are intended to allow active duty military stationed and veterans living overseas to be actively involved with the American Legion similar to as if they were back in the States. The Department of France consists of 29 Posts located in 10 European countries, the Department of Mexico consists of 22 Posts located in Central America, and the Department of Philippines covers Asia and the Pacific Islands. A Department Officer or Department Executive Committee Representative is distinguished by a white garrison cap with gold piping.

National headquarters

The main American Legion Headquarters is located on the Indiana World War Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis. It is the primary office for the National Commander and also houses the historical archives, library, Membership, Internal Affairs, Public Relations, and the Magazine editorial offices. The Legion also owns a building in Washington D.C. that contains many of the operation offices such as Economics, Legislative, Veterans Affairs, Foreign Relations, National Security, and Media Relations, and etc. A National Officer or National Executive Committee Representative is distinguished by a red garrison cap with gold piping.

Eligibility for American Legion membership is limited to those honorably discharged veterans and current personnel of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force who served at least one day of active duty during any of the following periods:

World War I, World War II, U.S. Merchant Marine, Korean War, Vietnam War, 1982 Lebanon War, Operation Urgent Fury, Operation Just Cause, Gulf War/ War On Terror Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Several Presidents of the United States have been members of the American Legion: Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. Vice Presidents Spiro T. Agnew and Albert Gore were also members.



Jerry A. Webster

jerry.webster@lebronpost58.org

1st Vice Commander's Message

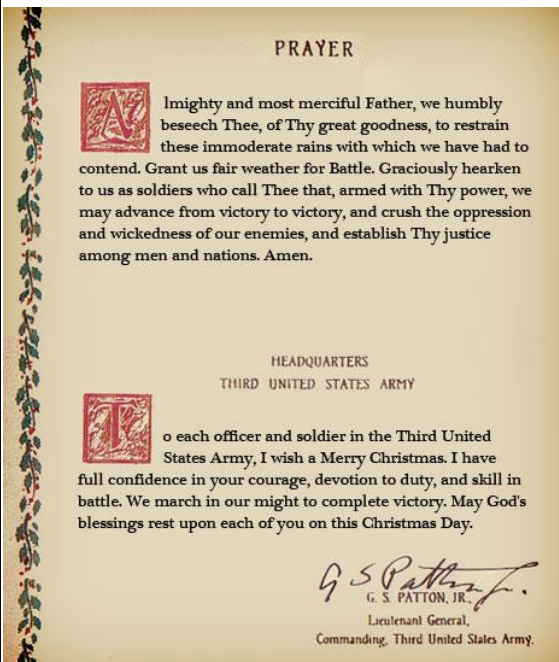


We had a great 2014! Many improvements have been made to our legion building and Honor Park. Boys State and Girls State were also very successful. We are starting out 2015 with our new commander, Jerry Webster.

This month I am writing about the true story of Patton's prayer. Many conflicting and some untrue stories have been printed about General George S. Patton and the Third Army Prayer. Some have had the tinge of blasphemy and disrespect for the Deity. Even in "War As I Knew It" by General Patton, the footnote on the Prayer by Colonel Paul D. Harkins, Patton's Deputy Chief of Staff, while containing the elements of a funny story about the General and his Chaplain, is not the true account of the prayer Incident or its sequence.

As the Chief Chaplain of the Third Army throughout the five campaigns on the Staff of General Patton, I should have some knowledge of the event because at the direction of General Patton I composed the now world famous Prayer, and wrote Training Letter No. 5, which constitutes an integral, but untold part, of the prayer story. These Incidents, narrated in sequence, should serve to enhance the memory of the man himself, and cause him to be enshrined by generations to come as one of the greatest of our soldiers. He had all the traits of military leadership, fortified by genuine trust in God, intense love of country, and high faith in the American soldier.

He had no use for half-measures. He wrote this line a few days before his death: "Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition." He was true to the principles of his religion, Episcopalian, and was regular in Church attendance and practices, unless duty made his presence Impossible. The incident of the now famous Patton Prayer commenced with a telephone call to the Third Army Chaplain on the morning of December 8, 1944, when the Third Army Headquarters were located in the Caserne Molitor in Nancy, France: "This is General Patton; do you have a good prayer for weather? We must do something about those rains if we are to win the war." My reply was that I know where to look for such a prayer, that I would locate, and report within the hour. As I hung up the telephone receiver, about eleven in the morning, I looked out on the steadily falling rain, "immoderate" I would call it -- the same rain that had plagued Patton's Army throughout the Moselle and Saar Campaigns from September until now, December 8. The few prayer books at hand contained no formal prayer on weather that might prove acceptable to the Army Commander. Keeping his immediate objective in mind, I typed an original and an



improved copy on a 5" x 3" filing card:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations.

I pondered the question, What use would General Patton make of the prayer? Surely not for private devotion. If he intended it for circulation to chaplains or others, with Christmas not far removed, it might be proper to type the Army Commander's Christmas Greetings on the reverse side. This would please the recipient, and anything that pleased the men I knew would please him: To each officer and soldier in the Third United States Army, I Wish a Merry Christmas. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We march in our might to complete victory. May God's blessings rest upon each of you on this Christmas Day. G.S. Patton, Jr, Lieutenant General, Commanding, Third United States Army.

Myrl Waggoner
lyrl.waggoner@lebronpost58.org

2nd Vice Commander's Message



Well the holiday season is over and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The new year brings a promising outlook for the legion. The state legion is starting with a new slate of officers and a new approach to the new year, as is the LeBron Post 58. We start with several new officers who are eager to start a new year. There are a few projects that are ongoing to improve the legion building. Come by and see what has been done and what is planned for the future, The planning for the 89er's Celebration is well under way and Honor Park is looking good. The Thursday morning coffee and business meeting is growing and more members are coming to the monthly meetings. If you are able to attend one of these meetings, we would like to see you. The new year for the legion post is looking good, come and be a part of it. Happy New Year!

Leroy L. Barnes
leroy.barnes@lebronpost58.org

Adjutant's Message



Happy December Legionnaires, For those of you I haven't met yet, my name is Ryan Alley and I am the new Adjutant for LeBron Post 58. I am excited to serve the Legion in this capacity, and I hope you are all excited for the upcoming year. In 2015 we want to dedicate ourselves to not only increasing our membership, but to getting our current membership more active. I want to see you out at meetings, at our Thursday morning coffee meetings, and at events out in the community. The most important thing you can do to serve the Legion is to be present. "The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed." - Martina Navratilova Semper Fi



The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.



The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.



The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.



The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades. The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.



The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.



The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

Ryan Alley

ryan.alley@lebronpost58.org

City of Guthrie Councilman - **John Wood, PHD**

Ward 1 – Please call him if you have any

City related needs. Cell: 372-6178

Fax: 282-0192

P.O. Box 908 Guthrie, OK 73044

(USMC) 1989-1997

**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT
WE CAN START SENDING THE
NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY TO SAVE
MONEY! SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:
LEBRONPOST58@LEBRONPOST58.ORG**



Service Officer's Message

VETERANS – you should take advantage of the VA benefits that you worked so hard to earn!

Post 58 Service Officer Linda Turner is available to help navigate through the paperwork requirements of the VA claim process. You can come and see the Service Officer every Monday from 9:30 – 2:30. It is a first come first serve basis. I encourage each one of you to get what you deserve.

Auxiliary President's Message



There will be a meeting of the Legion Auxiliary on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at noon. We will be discussing the upcoming garage sale, renting spaces out of the Legion for a craft fair, bingo set-up and other fund-raising activities for the Legion. For all those who sent in membership checks, I have them but so far have gotten NOTHING from state in regards to your membership cards or a roster. I am working to get these to you as soon as I can. Promise. Your checks will be cashed before years end. Polly Hawkes, President, Auxiliary

Thanks!! Polly Hawkes, President



If you know anyone that is a son or grandson of the American Legion encourage them to join the Sons of The American Legion. Post 58 is going to start building this group to reach out even more.

FARM TIP OF THE MONTH:

When you are outdoors in the cold, your body loses a lot of water when you are simply breathing. So stay hydrated with lots of water even in the cold winter months

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Jed Waggoner
Vice President



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Larry Fordyce, Owner/Operator

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Cell: (405) 919-4572

TAPS

If you know of a Legionnaire that has transferred to the Post Everlasting please notify the Legion office at 282-2589.

BEST HEALTH TIP IN THE WORLD:

Honey is a natural moisturizer so you can add a little to your lotion, shampoo, or soap.

DOC MYRL



GUTHRIE LIBRARY NEWS



****Save the Date: Don't miss the Friends of the Library annual book sale on 6-7 February****

****The Library will be closed Monday, 19 January in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr Day****

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm - Crochet Group: Come to learn the basics or to swap tips with other experienced crocheters- this class is for everyone and all ages! Taught by Joan Kendall. Materials are provided.

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am - Children's Story Time: A fun and educational experience for children. Enjoy stories and nursery rhymes, songs, puppets and much more! Join us for the special holiday party on the 17th- Santa will be there!

Thursdays, 8 & 22 Dec from 3:30 - 5:30 pm - Lego Club: Love LEGOs? We do, too! Get creative and come build with us! Bricks provided, imagination required.

Friday, 2 Jan from 4 - 6 pm - Family Movie: Come in from the cold to enjoy a fun family movie, complete with snacks and hot chocolate!

Saturday, 3 Jan from 11 am - 1 pm - Anime Club: Teens, are you a huge anime and manga fan? Come to the library to meet other people who love it, too! Watch episodes and discover new series, discuss canon and fanfic, and share your own art works. Snacks will be provided. *Anime may contain material that is considered unsuitable for ages 13 and younger.

Monday, 5 Jan from 10 am - 5 pm - Teen Dystopian Movie Day: Come spend the day with your friends watching dystopian movies. We'll review classic dystopian film as well as some newer works.

Saturday 10 Jan from 11:30 am - 1 pm - Caregiver Support Group: This support group offers a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a network and mutual support system. Talk through challenges, exchange practical information, share feelings, needs and concerns, and learn about resources available in the community.

Tuesday, 13 Jan from 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Tax Talk: Tax season is upon us once again! Join us for this informative talk from an H&R Block tax professional. He will cover what you need to know about how the ACA will affect your tax filing and answer other questions you have related to taxes.

Friday, 16 Jan from 4 - 5 pm - Winter Crafts: Kids, join us for some *cool* winter crafts!

Monday, 26 Jan from 6 pm - 8 pm - Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma! This book discussion group, made possible by a generous grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Kirkpatrick Foundation, and Inasmuch Foundation, is meeting for the new Mysterious Fears and Ghastly Longings series, featuring Gothic fiction. Pick up a copy of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Lewis Stevenson and The Dark Half by Steven King at the library and join us for an enlightening presentation by a knowledgeable and engaging local scholar, refreshments, and group discussion.

Check our website at www.guthrielibrary.com or call 282-0050 for more information!



MPW FARMS
 *Angus, *Maine
 Bulls & Heifers
Myrl & Patty Waggoner

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----- PLACE ON FRIDGE -----

!!REMINDER!!!!REMINDER!!

MEETING REMINDER!!! COME TO THE LEGION FOR YOUR MEETING ON JANUARY 15TH 1830 HRS.

AUXILIARY MEETING – JANUARY 20th AT NOON.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

I HAVE ENCLOSED A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE SO IF YOU FIND SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO JOIN GIVE THEM AN APPLICATION. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A STONG LEGION.

The American Legion Membership Application			
(Name)		(Phone)	
(Mailing Address)		(Date)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
(Membership ID #... former member)		(Dues)	
Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984 <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1981 – May 7, 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955 <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946 <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918 <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 8/15/45 (only eligibility)			
			
I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.			
30-009 Signature of applicant		Name of recruiter	

Receipt of Dues (Please Print)	
From	Post #
\$	for 20
Recruiter's Name	Recruiter's Signature
Recruiter's Phone #	



The American Legion had the honor of being invited to Fairview Baptist Church December 18th for their annual "Hometown Hero's" Celebration. The Police, Sheriff's Department, Fire, EMS and Veterans was invited to have lunch on them. Thank you Fairview Baptist Church we had an awesome time!!

Our American Legion Department received our charter back Sunday December 28th in Del City!



Executive Committee Meeting January 8th during 9:30am coffee meet in Auxiliary's C. E. Herrick Conference Room.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps First Sergeant, and Mayor of Guthrie Mark Spradlin has written a children's book. You can purchase your copy at:
<https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=978-1-62510-609-4>

