

# American Legion LeBron Post 58

## OBSERVER

123 N. 1<sup>ST</sup> Street Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Office: 405-282-2589/web: <http://www.lebronpost58.org>

lebronpost58@lebronpost58.org

**DECEMBER 2014**

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS"**



### Commander's Message



Photo # 80-G-19930 Rescuing survivor near USS West Virginia, during Pearl Harbor raid



Just before 8 a.m. on December 7, 1941, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, Hawaii. The barrage lasted just two hours, but it was devastating: The Japanese managed to destroy nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight enormous battleships, and almost 200 airplanes. More than 2,000 Americans soldiers and sailors died in the attack, and another 1,000 were wounded. The day after

the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan; Congress approved his declaration with just one dissenting vote. Three days later, Japanese allies Germany and Italy also declared war on the United States, and again Congress reciprocated. More than two years into the conflict, America had finally joined World War II.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been edging toward war for decades. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan's increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor's territory and take over its import market; to this end, Japan had declared war on China in 1937. American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes. They reasoned that without access to money and goods, and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C., neither side would budge. It seemed that war was inevitable. But no one believed that the Japanese would start that war with an attack on American territory. For one thing, it would be terribly inconvenient: Hawaii and Japan were about 4,000 miles apart. For another, American intelligence officials were confident that any Japanese attack would



### 2014 Post Officers

#### Commander

**Jerry A. Webster**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

**Myrl Waggoner**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

**Leroy Barnes**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander

**Gregory Rupert**

#### SGT at Arms

**Willie Hartman**

#### Finance Officer

**Marsha Hudson**

#### Adjutant

**Albert Hawkes**

#### Chaplain

**Kenneth Yohey**

#### Executive Committee

**Jerry Webster**

**Myrl Waggoner**

**Leroy Barnes**

**Gregory Rupert**

**Marsha Hudson**

**Albert Hawkes**

**Larry Woods**

**Steve Gentling**

**Jack Smith**



take place in one of the (relatively) nearby European colonies in the South Pacific: the Dutch East Indies, for instance, or Singapore or Indochina. Because American military leaders were not expecting an attack so close to home, the naval facilities at Pearl Harbor were relatively undefended. Almost the entire Pacific Fleet was moored around Ford Island in the harbor, and hundreds of airplanes were squeezed onto adjacent airfields. To the Japanese, Pearl Harbor was an irresistible target.

For God and Country

The Japanese plan was simple: Destroy the Pacific Fleet. That way, the Americans would not be able to fight back as Japan's armed forces spread across the South Pacific. On December 7, after months of planning and practice, the Japanese launched their attack.

At about 8 a.m., Japanese planes filled the sky over Pearl Harbor. Bombs and bullets rained onto the vessels moored below. At 8:10, a 1,800-pound bomb smashed through the deck of the battleship USS Arizona and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than 1,000 men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship USS Oklahoma. With 400 sailors aboard, the Oklahoma lost her balance, rolled onto her side and slipped underwater. By the time the attack was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbor—USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS California, USS West Virginia, USS Utah, USS Maryland, USS Pennsylvania, USS Tennessee and USS Nevada—had sustained significant damage. (All but USS Arizona and USS Utah were eventually salvaged and repaired.)

In all, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor crippled or destroyed 18 American ships and nearly 300 airplanes. Dry docks and airfields were likewise destroyed. Most important, almost 2,500 men were killed and another 1,000 were wounded.

But the Japanese had failed to cripple the Pacific Fleet. By the 1940s, battleships were no longer the most



important naval vessel: Aircraft carriers were, and as it happened, all of the Pacific Fleet's carriers were away from the base on December 7. (Some had returned to the mainland and others were delivering planes to troops on Midway and Wake Islands.) Moreover, the Pearl Harbor assault had left the base's most vital onshore facilities—oil storage depots, repair shops, shipyards and submarine docks—intact. As a result, the U.S. Navy was able to rebound relatively quickly from the attack.

Jerry A. Webster  
jerry.webster@lebronpost58.org

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Message



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Myrl Waggoner  
Myrl.waggoner@lebronpost58.org

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander's Message



This is the time of year for holidays, Halloween and Thanksgiving are over and the most important holiday of all is coming. Halloween was a time for children to dress up in make believe costumes and go door to door



asking for treats. Thanksgiving was a time to give thanks for all that we have and to help all those that are less fortunate. I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving with all your families and friends and paused to give thanks for all the freedom that you enjoy.

Thanksgiving was a sad day for the legion family of Guthrie with the passing of Bill Wagoner. Bill was a dedicated member of the legion as well as his church and education of many of the citizens of Guthrie. If you went to school in Guthrie you were touched by Bill in many ways, as student, teacher or employee of the school system. Bill will be greatly missed by the Legion and the city of Guthrie.

Christmas is fast approaching and will be here before you realize it. Take the time to reflect on what Christmas is all about, it's more than the shopping for presents and the Christmas Dinner. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, and is celebrated all over the world, so remember the reason for the season and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leroy L. Barnes

Leroy.barnes@lebronpost58.org

### Adjutant's Message



December is here and another year is about to close. I would just like to take this time to thank all of you, which made this year a success.

As a new year brings us new direction and goals we all look ahead to improving our post. I have agreed to accept the position of Vice Commander of 5A. This means your Post Commander is looking for a new Adjutant.

Now what do you know about your legion emblem??

Every part of the American Legion has a rich meaning, a rich symbolism that a glance does not reveal. The emblem is laid upon the rays of the sun, giver of life, warmth and courage; foe of the cold, of the darkness, of fear, of apprehension. In turn each of the emblems many parts signifies a meaning which no American Legionnaire who wears the emblem should take lightly, and which they should know from the first moment that they put their emblem on. Why does the stars signify constancy of purpose? Because the stars are fixed in the heavens. As the stars do not wander, so should the American Legion not wander from its fixed purposes.

**Question – How many parts are there of our legion emblem???**

**Answer can be found on the LeBron website: <http://www.lebronpost58.org/>**

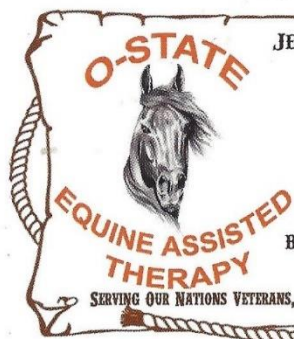
Albert Hawkes

Albert.hawkes@lebronpost58.org

LeBron Post 58 would like to welcome the following Legionnaires to our Post Elden Waner, Kirk Starr, George Randolph, Vernon Dixon, Bronson Randolph, Orvil Turner, and Tammy Detrixhe. Let's make sure we give them a great welcome!!!

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**



**JEFF AND BOBBIE HARTPENCE**  
 FOUNDERS  
 3650 DARLINGS RD  
 GUTHRIE OK 73044  
 405-496-3447  
 405-250-2111  
 JEFF@OSTATEEQUINE.ORG  
 BOBBIE@OSTATEEQUINE.ORG  
 WWW.OSTATEEQUINE.ORG  
 SERVING OUR NATIONS VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES

### 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, December 16<sup>th</sup> at noon and 6 pm. Please remember to come!! It's important to get this up and running!! PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE ASAP!!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**




Thanks!! Polly Hawkes, President




**405-282-2530**  
 324 N 19th St, Guthrie, OK 73044

**Christ's Compassion Clinic**  
**FREE Extractions today only!**  
**December 20th, 2014**  
**6 AM To 6 PM**



Sponsored by Nathan Proud DDS and Staff.  
 This is our way of giving back to the community and wishing everyone pain free holidays.



Taking donations to help those less fortunate as in checks, canned food, coats etc.

## **ADOPT A JOB CORPS STUDENT FOR CHRISTMAS**

A number of Job Corps students do not go home for Christmas! The Guthrie Job Corps takes students from all over the region including Texas and Kansas. Over 60 students will have to stay at the Job Corps facilities over the holidays. How about **ADOPTING** a couple of students for Christmas dinner? What a great project for our post! If interested please contact the post office for more information.

**EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!**  
**NOW AVAILABLE!!!**

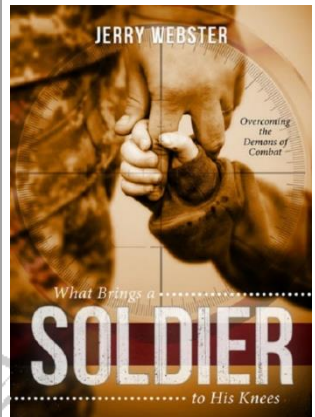
Our commander Jerry Webster's new book is out and ready for purchase. "**What Brings a Soldier to His Knees**" is available online or you can come by the Legion office and buy an autographed copy today. He knows what it's like in the trenches. As a retired member of the United States Army, he has seen the gruesome sights of war and fought the battles on the front lines. He also knows what it's like in the trenches of a soldier's mind. In **What Brings a Soldier to His Knees**, He explores the battlefield that many soldiers, and their loved ones, fight: how to handle deployments, coping with the sights and sounds of combat, and finding the strength to ask for help. In his book, Webster gives encouragement, helpful tips, and straightforward talk to those veterans and families struggling with life after the front lines. Also available in digital download. He is also willing to speak for meetings and gatherings.

**Book: \$11.99**

**E-Book: \$10.99**

Available at:

<https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=978-1-62994-420-3>



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.

**GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH:** Don't worry about raking all leaves...They protect your plants from the cold weather

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NMLS# 761923

[jed.waggoner@fmbankok.com](mailto:jed.waggoner@fmbankok.com)  
[fmbmortgage.com](http://fmbmortgage.com)

**Jed Waggoner**  
Vice President



**4-DICE**

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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:** Take care of your body...It's the only place you have to live and...Regular workouts keep skin younger and could reverse skin aging. Even people who take up exercising late in life.

**DOC MYRL**





## GUTHRIE LIBRARY NEWS



**\*Don't forget the Library will be closed 25 - 27 December for Christmas\***

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, 4 & 18 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.

Monday, 8 Dec @ 6 pm - Teach Something/Learn Something: Snowed-In Fun: You are both the teacher AND the student. Come and learn from others as they learn from you and answer the age-old question, "How did they do that?"

Friday, 12 Dec from 4 - 6 pm - Pictures with Santa! Come to the library to take a free picture with Santa!

Saturday, 13 Dec 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.

Monday, 15 Dec from 6 - 7 pm and Tuesday, 16 Dec from 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Candle Making: In this two-part class, learn how to make candles and put that knowledge to practice. Materials will be provided for you to make your own candle. A candle can also make a great Christmas gift! Generously sponsored by whimsical Candle and Bakery.

Thursday 18 Dec from 6 - 8 pm - How to Make Comic Books with Jeff Provine: Teens, have you ever wondered how comics were made? Come learn all about the process of making comic books from a comic book author!

Friday, 19 Dec from 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Christmas Crafts: Kids, join us for some fun holiday-inspired crafts!

Saturday, 20 Dec 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.

Check our website at [www.guthrielibrary.com](http://www.guthrielibrary.com) or call 282-0050 for more information!



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**MPW FARMS**  
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**Myrl & Patty Waggoner**

Home (405) 282-5625      10400 W. College Ave.  
 Mobile (405) 640-1220      Guthrie, OK 73044

**ROMA'S**  
 ITALIAN RESTAURANT

1202 S. Division  
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 405-260-1552  
 www.Romasitalianrestaurant.com  
 CATERING AVAILABLE

-----CUT HERE TO PLACE ON FRIDGE-----

**!!REMINDER!!!!REMINDER!!**

**MEETING REMINDER!!! COME TO THE LEGION FOR YOUR  
 MEETING ON DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 1830 HRS.**

**AUXILIARY MEETING – AT NOON DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> AND 6 PM.**

## 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)	
<b>Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below</b> <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, 1961 – 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.			
Signature of applicant		Name of recruiter	
30-009			

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

# Transfer to Post Everlasting



## Legionnaire Bion Acton



Bion J Acton, born March 6, 1923, enjoyed a full and happy life of 91 years, when, on October 29, 2014, he passed peacefully to eternal rest.

Born the only child to Fred J. and Vivian Simmons Acton, Bion was raised and spent his entire life in Guthrie, OK. As a student, he played baritone for the Guthrie Blue jays Band, worked in the pro shop at the Guthrie Golf and Country Club (for \$.50 a day!), and played on the high school golf team. His passion for golf lasted a lifetime.

Bion attended Central State University (now UCO) and the University of Oklahoma, where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration. College was interrupted by WWII, during which he served as a Tech Sergeant in the 26th infantry division in an office in France. He liked to tell his children that he didn't carry a gun in the army; he carried a typewriter! Bion returned from his military service in 1946, finished his degree and married Betty Jean Tippit in Muskogee in 1947. They settled in his home town of Guthrie where they raised their 4 children.

Bion has always been very proud of his hometown and participated in every way he could in the community. He was involved with the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. He served as a board member for Guthrie Public Schools, Logan County Historical Society and the Logan Hospital Foundation. He served as a director at First Capital Bank, was a member of Masonic Lodge #35, American Legion LeBron Post 58 and the VFW. He served as a past President and board member of the Guthrie Golf & Country Club and was a member of the First Christian Church of Guthrie. He was a strong supporter and promoter of the Pollard Theater and a quiet donor of trees to Guthrie public parks and cemetery through The Tree Bank in OKC.



# Transfer to Post Everlasting



## Legionnaire Bill G. Wagoner



Bill Wagoner was born on September 29, 1928 in Oklahoma City, OK, to Elbert and Mary (Bivert) Wagoner. He graduated from Luther High School in 1945. He served in the U.S. Army and then attended Central State University in Edmond where he received a B.S. Degree in Business Education and M.S. Degree in Administration.

He also completed 32 hours in Administration at Oklahoma State University. He taught at Enterprise, Kansas in 1953-54 and then at Guthrie High School, 1954-1966 as a Business Education teacher and was the first School Counselor employed by Guthrie High School. He also was an Elementary Principal, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and became Superintendent of Schools from 1968-1986 when he retired. Bill also spent four years from 1987-1991 as Basic Education Manager at Guthrie Jog Corps.

Bill served in many organizations in Guthrie: Lion's Club, Albert Pike Lodge 162, Guthrie Scottish Rite, American Legion, United Way, Guthrie All Sports Association attended the First Christian Church. Bill remained active even in his retirement years and received many awards for his work with youth and others.

He served in the American Legion LeBron Post 58 as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander before stepping down to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and director of Boy/Girls State. He was very active in raising money for Boys/Girls State and assisted transporting all the boys to the camp. He was a major pillar here at the American Legion and will greatly be missed.

