



THE LEGION POST

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59 STOUGHTON, WI
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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2013

Commander's Report

2013-2014 OFFICERS

- Commander**
Sonny Swangstu
- 1st Vice Commander**
Vic Malling
- 2nd Vice Commander**
Mary Lloyd
- 3rd Vice Commander**
Larry Johnson
- Service Officer**
Bob Lloyd
- Sgt. at Arms**
Danny Call
- Finance Officer**
Jim Oler
- Historian**
Lenny Swingen
- Adjutant**
DuWayne Stellmacher
- Judge Advocate**
Terry McCardle
- Chaplain**
Rich Fries



Greetings,

Well, football season is just around the corner. Let's hope the Packers get the kinks out before the regular season starts. Don't worry, it's only preseason.

We welcome four new members to our Post officers club: Vik Malling, 1st Vice, Mary Lloyd 2nd Vice, Bob Lloyd, Service Officer, and DuWayne Stellmacher is our new Adjutant. They join holdovers Jim Oler, Finance Officer, Dan Call, Sgt-at- Arms, Larry Johnson, 3rd Vice, Terry McCardle, Judge Advocate, Rich

Fries, Chaplin and Lennie Swingen the Post Historian. We thank them all for stepping-up.

As I announced at the Post dinner in July we received another GREAT grant from the Bryant Foundation, enough to purchase a new cook stove for the Post kitchen, a handicap door for the front of the building with an automatic door opener, and an automatic door opener for the rear door. This should help our disabled members and other visitors to the Post to get in easier. Also, we need to look at putting an extension on the roof overhang so the ice dam problem we have can hopefully be resolved. We also would like to look into possibly purchasing a van for the Honor Guard, if we

can afford the insurance. If we have any money left, we need to spend it on whatever is left on our "wish list". The Foundation wants the money spent and a list of what we purchased.

Thanks again to the Bryant Foundation for their generosity.

Bud Erickson tells me he still has a few bottles of that great Vidalia onion sauce to sell. He will probably have some at the next Post breakfast and Post dinner so help him out with a purchase or two. He will appreciate the sales so he can call it quits for the year. P.S.: Bud is still looking for someone to step up and possibly take over the reins. The onion crew

Commander continued on page 2

Auxiliary

- President**
Marlene Bierman
873-7397
- Vice President**
Linda Swangstu
873-9428
- Secretary**
Vacant
- Treasurer**
Alice Moen
444-7230
- Chaplain**
Sharon Silbaugh
873-3927
- Sgt. at Arms**
Pat Christensen
873-7479
- Historian**
Sherry Leick
873-6687

Auxiliary News



Hello American Legion Family,

Well, summer is winding down. School will be starting soon. Where did the time go? I know I have had a busy summer with family visiting, weddings, and tending to the sick.

Before I forget, I would like to thank the past officers for last year, Lisa Olson, Secretary and Lynn Robertson, Treasurer; she resigned during the year due to family involvement, and Rita Sperry for finishing out the rest of the year as treasurer. Lisa was Secretary and Membership, which was a big job. Now she will concentrate on Membership.

I would like to welcome our new members that have joined us in the last couple of months: Marilyn Teigen, Theresa Howell, and Laura Kamp. Our newest Junior member is Caitlin Rowlands. Thank you for joining the Auxiliary.

Pam Griggs won the picnic basket raffle at the July breakfast. Congratulations Pam! Also, thanks to Doug and Lisa Olson who donated the ribs for the basket.

Mark your calendar: euchre will start up again at the Legion, on Wednesday, September 11 at 1:00 and the second Wednesday of each month thereafter. One doesn't need to be a member to play, so tell your friends.

I would like see more members attend our meeting. It is the second Monday each month at 7:00 pm at the Post.

I am seeking someone to take the Secretary position. Charlotte Heitke decided that she is unable to do it this time. Please think about it. I would like someone to step up to the plate soon.

President Marlene Bierman

CALENDER OF EVENTS

August 17 - Jessie Walker – 8:00 – 11:00 pm

August 18 - Legion Breakfast

7:00 – 11:00 am

August 27 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm

September 7 - Blue Moon Karaoke

8:00 –11:00 pm

September 14 - Old School Rock-n-Roll

8:00 pm – midnight

September 15 - Legion Breakfast

7:00 – 11:00 am

September 24 - Legion Dinner – 6:30 pm

Event Pricing

Post Dinner: 6:30 pm \$11.00

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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



Lloyd Gung Ho for Legion

Mary Lloyd of Stoughton American Legion Post 59 received a prestigious award—The Gung Ho Award (Legionnaire of the Year). This award is presented to one American Legion member in Wisconsin every year. Currently there are more than 73,000 American Legion members in Wisconsin. Mary has devoted much of her time to working with local veterans and troops.

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have a good thing going, so let's help them find a new leader.

Our library is starting to grow. We are still accepting all books on loan or as a gift if you have some to give. We also could use some tapes if someone has any lying around. We are in the process of trying to figure out where to put the shelving. We are going to put glass doors and locks on the cases for security reasons. Again, we thank the Auxiliary lady for her funding generosity to help get this thing going. (No name is her wish.)

I'm sorry that our golf outing didn't work out this time but we can try again. We didn't get much response for the Post picnic either but we plan on another try for that too—sometime before the "snowbirds" decide to fly south. We need to rub a few elbows with our new members, which we are getting more and more of all the time. It's great to see the interest in our Post. I've rambled long enough, so see you at breakfast and dinner!

Commander Sonny

Post 59 at the Dane County Fair



A group of American Legion and Auxiliary members gathered at the Dane County Fairgrounds at 11:00 am, Thursday, July 18 for a flag raising ceremony that symbolized our Americanism for opening of fair ceremonies and activities.

An impressive order of flag raising took place near the Alliant Energy Center. The five service flags raised by members of Post 59 represented the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Also raised were the Wisconsin flag, Purple Heart flag, POW/MIA flag, as well as Old Glory. A total of 20 members participated in the ceremony.

Lastly, as the American flag was briskly raised, the National Anthem was sung with a salute to the flags that represent our great nation and to those who proudly served and those who gave their lives to keep our country free. God bless America!



Jason Johns is presented his Purple Heart plaque by Bud Erickson

Purple Heart Recipient Jason E. Johns

Jason Johns entered the military on August 26, 1994 as a member of the Wisconsin National Guard. During high school in Cuba City, WI, he had volunteered at the local VFW post and in his words, "I learned a real appreciation for our veterans and their sacrifices at a very young age and felt it was my duty to serve my country." In 1995, Johns completed his basic training and advanced individual training as an 88M motor transportation operator. From 1994-1999, he subsequently served with the 229th CSE out of Platteville, WI. He finished his initial service obligation with a military police unit out of Ft. Belvoir, VA, from which he received his first Honorable Discharge on August 26, 2002.

In February 2003, shortly after Johns had returned to Wisconsin, his original unit, the 229th, was activated for service in Iraq. He made immediate contact with his 1st Sergeant who told Johns he needed to fill a team leader slot. Johns did not hesitate and that same evening he re-enlisted. He reported the next morning and one day later was on his way to Iraq.

On October 26, 2003, Sgt. Johns was driving the lead vehicle in his platoon's convoy and had just pulled off Highway 1. They were about to assume the duty of searching civilian vehicles at a roadside checkpoint in the Sunni Triangle just north of Samarra, Iraq. He had just parked and was preparing to dismount when his squad mate's vehicle, that was second in formation, hit an anti-tank mine placed the night before under the cover of darkness. Sgt. Johns was hit by shrapnel and was in the line of the direct impact of the explosion.

The concussion knocked him out and resulted in traumatic brain injury, nerve damage to the ear canal, plus additional head and back injuries. He was taken to a field hospital near Tikrit for treatment. After eight days of recuperation, he returned to his unit where he completed his tour of duty.

Sgt. Johns was near the "Spider Hole" on December 12, 2003 when Saddam Hussein, hiding underground in that Spider Hole, was captured. Johns and his unit were base camped just outside of Tikrit, Saddam's home town. His squad had patrolled this area, a small date farm along the Tigris River just across from Tikrit. Sgt. Johns and members of a special operations task force were searching for Saddam when suddenly the words came down, "We got him!" Saddam Hussein had been captured.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Johns was awarded the Combat Action Badge, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Meritorious Unit Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Sgt. Jason E. Johns received his 2nd Honorable Discharge from the Army on September 4, 2004.

Submitted by Bud Erickson

Hello and greetings from SAL!

New officers have been voted in at our last meeting, July 3, 2013. Our new officers are:

- Commander and Historian: Jeff Gassen
- 1st Vice Commander: Troy Teubert
- Adjutant: Dean Stenjum
- Finance Officer and Chaplain: Jim Oler
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Dan Call and Dan the Man Blomgren

Our membership numbers are doing great. The 2014 membership renewals will be sent out soon.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 pm. Hope to see as many members as possible to discuss new fund-raising projects.

Jeff Gassen
Commander



Victor A. Duesel

Continued from August issue

In his time in Vietnam, Vic experienced mortar and rocket attacks on his camps in Da Nang and Phu Bai. He was promoted to a Sergeant E-5 and rotated out a few months later. He was assigned back to Ft. Knox to finish out his active duty time. After his ETS he returned home and went back to BF Goodrich. He stayed active in the Army Reserve and was called back to active duty three more times—twice, to train Infantry OSUT at Ft. Benning, GA: once as a First Sergeant and once as a Command Sergeant Major; and again to attend the Sergeants Major Academy at Ft Bliss, TX. The Sergeants Major Academy is run by the Army but is open to all service and allies. The requirements to get accepted to the academy were stringent. Only E-8's and E-9's could apply and one had to have a minimum of 18 years of service. Only 10% of the top NCOs' are accepted. The Sergeants Major Academy is the highest school in the non-commissioned officer professional development program. After selected to attend, he was invited by the Command Sergeant Major of OCAR (Office of the Chief Army Reserve) to Washington, DC and Pentagon along with 12 other Reservists who were selected. This was in recognition for being selected for the academy. They toured the Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, Ft. Myer, VA and several monuments including the Vietnam Wall. They ate lunch in the Pentagon and met the Sergeant Major of the Army and several Generals. Vic started the academy resident course in January 1988 in Class 31. When Vic's kids visit him they still talk about how interesting and fun it was living in El Paso and going to Ft. Bliss. They have a lot of great memories.

Shortly after graduating from the academy he was promoted to Command Sergeant Major. His first assignment was Infantry training unit under the 70th Training Division in Flint, MI. Vic spent a total of 32 years 3 months in the Army/Army Reserve, from April 1967 to July 1999. He then retired. All of his service was honorable. Vic said that he had many assignments and experiences over that 32-year period. He is married to Kathy Duesel and they have three adult children and five grandsons, their age range is 4 to 18.

Vic's awards consist of the following:

- Army Commendation Medal w/3 oak leaf clusters
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal w/service star
- Vietnam Service Medal w/five service stars
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/hour glass device
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Cross of Gallantry
- Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/numeral 4
- Army Service Ribbon

Vic is a life member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. He is proud to have served his country for those 32 years and 3 months.

Thanks for sharing your story, Vic.

Submitted by Evelyn Kahl

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THE STRAIT SKINNY

It's that time again for the management and staff of *The Strait Skinny* to regale and inform you, the casual reader, of more "factual" military related stuff. After an exhaustive research session (which involved Google and a couple beers) our staff uncovered the cradle of the modern U.S. Armed Forces.

It all started around the year 1000 CE when Leif Ericson got a bunch of his Scandinavian buddies together for a little boat ride. His crew consisted of a few sailors (obviously) who swabbed the decks and used real colorful language ("precursors" of the modern Navy and Coast Guard). There were also some Army type guys who were pretty good at plundering, axe throwing, etc. and also came in handy when the wind died down and it was time to man the oars. According to legend, the First Mate addressed the guys doing the rowing and announced: "Men, I have some good news. Leif has authorized a double ration of lutefisk and grog for lunch. The bad news is, he wants to go water skiing this afternoon."

A few guys (now known as Marines) went along to climb the riggings and throw stuff at guys on other ships but since the ship only had one short mast, there weren't many riggings to climb, so they were pretty much relegated to standing at attention and saluting. (Let it be known that the formal military salute hadn't been invented yet so they were left to their own devices as to what sort of "salute" they employed.)

A little known fact is that Leif did have his own manner of Air Force, in the form of a couple of "Fighting Falcons". For you Air Force aficionados—not F-16's— but they were still pretty effective in swooping down out of the sky and dropping "bombs" on their unsuspecting victims.

Finally, the lack of women on this excursion to the New World, should be intuitively obvious to the most casual observer in that, why would any woman in her right mind want to go sailing off in a rickety boat to God-knows-where with a bunch of guys whose "most desirable" assets were probably belching and BO? We rest our case.

There you have the straight skinny from the staff of *The Strait Skinny*, so don't you feel much more enlightened? If not so much, we bet you just can't wait for our next installment of useless information.

"Ole"

A Veteran—whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve—is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" to uphold and defend our Constitution, for an amount of "up to and including my life". That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today who no longer understand that. - Anon.



Help Two Veterans Walk from Milwaukee to Los Angeles to Raise Funds for Dryhootch



Tom Voss and Anthony Anderson, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans, will be walking from Milwaukee to Los Angeles in an effort to raise funds for Veteran non-profit Dryhootch. Their goal is to raise \$100,000 with all money donated to Dryhootch. They leave Milwaukee August 30th at 10am from Dryhootch (1030 E. Brady St.).

If you're interested in how to get involved, check out www.veteranstrek.com to see a current needs-list as well as how to donate to the walk. Follow on Facebook and follow on twitter @Veteranstrek All donations are tax deductible and a donation receipt is available upon request. As always, please check out Dryhootch at www.dryhootch.org to learn more about this wonderful Veteran organization.

Contact Anthony at Anthony@dryhootch.org with questions.






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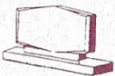
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