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ALEXANDER BRADLEY BURNS POST 80
4000 SARATOGA AVENUE
DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60515

For God
and Country

LEGION - AIRE

December 2013

May the Peace and Joy of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year.

PHONE: (630) 968-9710 WEB: POST80.ORG TWITTER: AMLEGIONPOST80

COMMANDER.....TODD HANSON
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JR. VICE.....ROBERT GREMBER
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SGT-AT-ARMS.....HOWARD PARKER
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JUDGE ADVOCATE.....DAVID D. WISBROCK
SERVICE OFFICER.....RICH JONES
NEWSLETTER.....JOE PAPPALARDO
630-964-0011

1919....Walter Staats
1920....Robert W. Carpenter
1921....Jay Allison
1922....Dan M. Diener
1923....Norman E. Anderson
1924....Henry Swift
1925....Morris E. Stevenson
1926....William E. Hooper
1927....Harold H. Clarke
1928....George Hannan
1929....A.T. Witt
1930....Arthur Johnson
1931....A.T. Witt
1932....A.J. Walter
1933....J. Richard Hawkins
1934....Melvin G. Binder
1935....L.J. Dixon
1936....William A. Finger
1937....G. Willard McCollum
1938....Leslie L. Meyer
1939....Charles Dyer
1940....Newell Fishel
1941....Rollin Whitaker
1942....Ivan M. Webster
1943....Thomas C. Arndt
1944....Wallace S. Whitlock
1945....Stanley A. Lynch
1946....Louis A. Edwards
1947....Thomas J. Lanagan
1948....Eugene Weaver

Italics denotes deceased

1949....Fred W. Lester
1950...Harvey H. Kenitz
1951....Joseph R. Krepper
1952...Gilbert G. Giesler
1953....Andrew S. Blaida
1954....Herschel Hubbard
1955....A.R. Fister
1956....Dino Convalle
1957....Tony F. Morello
1958....W.H. Schenke
1959....James L. Newall
1960....Edwin D. Wrenn
1961....Bernard J. Blaida
1962....Louis W. Wrenn
1963....James R. Hodous
1964....Jerry Kopecky
1965....Earl W. Will
1966....Leonard J. Voss
1967....Gene Kappelman
1968....Alois E. Sheber
1969....Mason Taylor
1970....William Harkness
1971....Earl W. Will
1972....Steven J. Kadlec
1973....Joseph A. Bartels
1974...Zedo Oliver
1975....Herbert Morrison
1976....Chester Kotowski
1977....Ed Knickerbocker
1978....Elmer J. Mears
1979....Dudley E. Smalley
1980....Jens P. Vimtrup

1981....Elmer W. Anderson
1982....Elmer W. Anderson
1983....Frank J. Bulin
1984....George R. Novak
1985....George R. Novak
1986....Bill Johnson
1987....A.E. Sheber
1988....David D. Wisbrock
1989....David D. Wisbrock
1990....David D. Wisbrock
1991....Gilbert J. Gawin
1992....Gilbert J. Gawin
1993....Ken Gallagher
1994....Richard Bernardini
1995....Emery Wolff
1996....Curt McCullagh
1997....Larry Bryant
1998....Larry Bryant
1999....John Magic
2000....Jack Border
2001....Jack Border
2002....Bob Isenberger
2003....Bob Isenberger
2004....Joe Pappalardo
2005....Richard Rooney
2006.. .Richard Rooney
2007.. .Richard Mueller
2008.. .Richard Mueller
2009....Woody Kawaters
2010....Woody Kawaters
2011....Rich Greenwald
2012....Rich Greenwald

Commander's Column

We have had a busy fall at the Post. Veteran's Day was rainy but we were able to conduct our ceremony in the morning and dedicate the newly planted red maple and marker for our deceased past commander Elmer Mears. Eileen and Ron Mears, their son, were able to attend which made the occasion more special for us. The Boy Scouts from our troop and some Cub Scout guests accomplished our biannual flag retirement ceremony as well. North High School put on its annual Veteran's Day program which consistently gets great reviews from those in attendance.

We took some time a few weeks ago to recognize and thank our bingo workers with a nice dinner and party. The Auxiliary President and I gave out a number of certificates of appreciation, including a pair to our long time bingo callers Dick Bernardini and Jack Border. Dick has been calling bingo for over 30 years while Jack has held the job for a mere 16 years. There are many other jobs associated with putting on our weekly bingo; in the kitchen, on the floor, at the bar and even setting up in the afternoon. It takes a good group of dedicated volunteers week in and week out and the recognition is appropriate. And we do not have a limit on the number of volunteers we can accept on any given Tuesday evening, so if you are interested stop in. The application process is not arduous.

On the evening of the 13th we have another Friday night fun event where everyone is welcome to attend.

Finally, congratulations are due to Zak Bush, a member of Boy Scout Troop 80 and the son of our Scoutmaster. Zak has completed all of the requirements for his Eagle Scout award and will hold his court of honor later this month. This is a nice accomplishment for a young man and reflects well for the troop and our Post as the sponsoring organization.

Have a good Christmas and a happy New Year.

Todd Hanson
Commander

JOIN US FOR CHARITY POKER!

SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 2013
SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 2013
1 pm - 1 am

Are you moving?

We hate to have you miss the next LEGION-AIRE Newsletter!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Change My Address

NAME _____

OLD Address: _____

City/State,/Zip _____

NEW Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Effective Date: _____

New Phone Number: _____

Mail this form to:

Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80
Attn: Adjutant
4000 Saratoga Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Auxiliary News – Dec. 2013

2nd Division Meeting

Unit 80 Officers Kim Cruz, Pat Mustradi, Julie Isenberger, and Joey Klingbiel attended the 2nd Division Meeting at Post #577 in Lena, IL on November 3rd. They describe the trip as a real adventure. Check with them for details. We are honored to have Unit 80 members Pegi Castle as Division President, Therese Schey as Division Secretary and Electa Chonko as Division Sergeant at Arms.

Remembering Our Veterans

Legionnaires and Auxiliary members were invited to attend the Masonic Veterans Memorial Program on November 8th at the Downers Grove Lodge. This ceremony is usually closed to outsiders but was open this year for the first time. The Post 80 Legionnaire Honor Guard participated in the flag presentation part of the ceremony.

Unit 80 Junior member and this year's Miss Poppy, Kim Wales, was asked to read the poem "In Flanders Fields," and did a great job. The poem was written by Lt. Col. John McCrae of the Canadian Expeditionary Force following the World War I Battle of Ypres. This was a beautiful ceremony and great community function that more of us should plan to attend next year.

Wreaths for Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Unit 80 members voted to spend $200 to buy wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program as well as for the wreaths program through the Boy Scouts of America Post 80. There will be a service at 11 am on December 14th at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and then volunteers will lay wreaths on the graves including those of past Post 80 members and their spouses.

OSOTIL

Unit 80 has made a donation of $1000.00 to Operation Support Our Troops, to ensure delivery of Holiday packages to our active military serving in the Middle East.

Helping with Scholarships

The "Folds of Honor Foundation" through Fifth Third Bank will match our donation of $500.00. Scholarships are awarded to the spouses and children of service members who are currently attending or recently accepted into a 4 year or 2 year degree program at an institution of higher

....continued on p. 4

Auxiliary News....cont. from pg 3....

education or vocational program. Also Scholarships may be awarded to the young children (infants to 8th grade) of service members and invested by FHF on their behalf.

Education

On November 18th, Education Chair, Pat Mustradi and President Kim Cruz dropped in to provide “an apple for the teacher” for the faculty members at Downers Grove North & Downers Grove South High Schools.

2013-2014 American Legion Auxiliary Dues

Our thanks to all of the Unit 80 members who have paid their 2013-2014 membership dues. **Senior dues are $18.00 and Junior dues are $4.00.** Membership dues should be mailed to Norma Border, Membership Chair at 4724 Florence Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Upcoming Auxiliary Meetings and Events:

December 9 Unit Meeting and Holiday Party — 6 pm at Post 80 (Note early start)

Please bring a grab bag gift (not to exceed $10 in value) and a dish to share for the pot luck dinner

Respectfully submitted

Kim Cruz, President

REMINDER...for those who signed up...

Post 80 children's christmas Party

December 1, 2013 at 2:00-5:00pm

DD 214 REQUESTS

If you are in need of your **DD 214** go to the following website:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Then go to Start your Military Service Record (DD Form 214) Request and follow the prompts and fill in the required information. It also has you print a signature sheet that you have to mail to them. When they receive the signature paper, they will send you an email confirming that they received it. Then in about 10 days, you'll receive 2 certified copies of your DD 214 and copies of your discharge orders.

It's really easy and it only costs you the price of a postage stamp and an envelope.

Your Service Officer.

New Bronze Plaque for 2014

We are in the process of collecting names for the new Bronze Memorial Plaque that will be placed on the Obelisk in front of the Post in 2014. The plaque is for all Veterans that have served our country. The price is the same as in the past, $35.00 per name. A certificate and a picture of the plaque will be sent to the person ordering the placement of the name. If you know a Veteran, (Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, just a friend or yourself) whose name you would like to see put on the plaque, pick up an application form which is located on the table in the hallway at the Post or call Rich Jones at (630) 964-2434 for more information.

WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS & CRUTCHES

Post 80 lends out wheel chairs, walkers and crutches to anyone that may need them. For more information, call Rich Jones at 630-964-2434.

Anyone who has borrowed a wheelchair, walker, or crutches and no longer needs them, please return them to Post 80 so they may be available for other veterans.

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We give discounts to members, school organizations and charities.

For more information:

Call our Rental Agent at (630)808-4544

or vist our website at www.post80.org

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We support the The American Legion and Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80. Thank you for your service.

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American Legion Riders

American Legion Riders — Chapter 80 — December 2013 Update

Toys for Tots — Santa Needs Your Help!

There is still time to help Santa Claus and the DuPage County Marines to make it a great Christmas. However, a visit to the Toys for Tots sorting facility found that the 10-12 year old categories for boys and girls are the ones in most need of toy donations!!

This year, Post 80 has a Toys for Tots Drop Box in the front lobby. Legion Riders invite Post 80 members to help Toys for Tots with an unwrapped gift appropriate for a 10-12 year old boy or girl. **The Toys for Tots donation box will be at Post 80 until December 9th.**

Rides and Events

12/6 Toys for Tots warehouse — gift sorting — Meet at Post 80 @ 6 pm
12/13 Legion Rider Holiday Party — 6 pm at Post 80
(bring an hors d'oeuvre to share)
12/14 Legion Rider — Regular meeting - 8:30 am at Post 80
12/14 Help with Wreath laying at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery — 11 am

COME JOIN US FOR THE FUN, SERVICE TO VETERANS AND THE RIDES!!

Legion Riders — Chapter 80 usually meets monthly on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the Post 80 Library. T**he next Legion Rider meeting will be on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 8:30 am**

Legion Rider membership requires membership or affiliation with the American Legion and ownership of a 350cc or larger motorcycle. Annual dues are $20.00.

Please check with Steve Collins, Director, (630-674-5077), John Pavich, Treasurer (630 541 5710), or Norma Border, Secretary (630-336-3422) to confirm meeting locations for any given month.

Check the Post 80 Newsletter and website for updates to the Legion Rider meeting and event schedule.

Steven Collins,
Director ALR

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

Christmas Get Together

The bar will be open at 6 pm
December 13th
Come join us, sit by the fireplace,
enjoy the evening with good friends.
We will not be serving pizza,
but bring an appetizer to share!

"Super" Bowl Party

at the

American Legion

Alexander Bradley Burns Post 80
4000 Saratoga Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60516

Sunday, February 2nd
4pm

It's a Potluck affair...
So bring a dish
Admission is
Canned Foods for the
FISH Pantry.

Drinks are membership prices
for everyone!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY FRIEND

-- by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

T'was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not event a tree.
No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon 'round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how may lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice.
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice;"
"I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my God, my Country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the solder rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on, Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas, my friend, and to all a good night."

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY FRIEND"...The REAL Story

James M. Schmidt, was a Lance Corporal stationed in Washington, D.C., when he wrote this poem back in 1986.

The true story is that while a Lance Corporal serving as Battalion Counter Sniper at the Marine Barracks 8th & I, Washington, DC, under Commandant P.X. Kelly and Battalion Commander D.J. Myers [in 1986] he wrote this poem to hang on the door of the Gym in the BEQ. When Colonel Myers came upon it, he read it and immediately had copies sent to each department at the Barracks and promptly dismissed the entire Battalion early for Christmas leave. The poem was placed that day in the Marine Corps Gazette, distributed worldwide and later submitted to Leatherneck Magazine.

Over the years the text of "Merry Christmas, My Friend" has been altered to change Marine-specific wording into Army references (including the title: U.S. Marines do not refer to themselves as "soldiers") and to incorporate line-ending rhyme changes necessitated by those alterations.

(source: www.snopes.com)

YOUR 2014 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE NOW!

Let's keep Post 80 #1
with continued strong membership.

Any questions, call 630-968-9710.
Bill Downing, Adjutant

THOUGHT*OF*THE*MONTH:

Wooden Leg Insurance??

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

A man and his wife moved back home to the mountains of North Carolina, from Illinois. The husband had a wooden leg, and to insure it back in Illinois cost them $2,000.00 per year!!

When they arrived in North Carolina, they went to an insurance agency to see how much it would cost to insure his wooden leg. The ins. agent said: "$39.00!!"

The husband was shocked and asked why it was so cheap here when it cost him $2,000.00 in Illinois?? The insurance agent turned his computer screen to the couple and said, 'well, here it is on the screen, it says: "Any wooden structure, with a sprinkler system above it, is $39.00. (You just have to know how to describe it!!).

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

A couple normal Congress "Descriptions:"

If voting could really change things, Congress would make it illegal!!

A young girl asked her father if all fairy tales began with the words: "Once upon a time." No, he replied . A whole bunch begin with the words "If elected, I promise. . . ."

****

*Merry Christmas, happy New Year to all.....*RWB

PRESIDENT ..... **KIM CRUZ**
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1922..... Matilda Uhlorn
1923..... Myra Hawkins
1924..... Clara Nash Hawkins
1925..... Emily Sanders
1926..... Daisy Swift
1927..... Florence Johnson
1928..... Mary Pfaff
1929..... Esther Binder
1930..... Beulah McCollum
1931..... Viola Vix
1932..... Bernice Goltry
1933..... Mae Jones
1934..... Bernice Hannan
1935..... Marie Finger
1936..... Evelyn Walter
1937..... Josephine Mitchell
1938..... Lorraine Edwards
1939..... Ethel Margison
1940..... Vera Iehl
1941..... Mabel Webster
1942..... Muriel Fischel
1943..... Ruth Karvatt
1944..... Emily Mrkvicka
1945..... Flossie Dreuttel
1946..... Minnie Lester
1947..... Esther Weaver
1948..... Myrtle Kraft
1949..... Vivian Harkness
1950..... Christine McGarvie
1951..... Shirley Wrenn
Italics denotes deceased

1952..... Letitia Mrkvicka
1953..... Corabelle Krepper
1954..... Christine McGarvie
1955..... Elsie Niedner
1956..... Kathleen Hotchkiss
1957..... Marian Lacey
1958..... Evelyn Fredericks
1959..... Shirley Schenke
1960..... Margaret Morello
1961..... Marian Ruzicka
1962..... Margaret Edwards
1963..... Alice Pechinski
1964..... Alice Pechinski
1965..... Anne Creel
1966..... Evelyn Jenkins
1967..... Dorothy Nied
1968..... Eleanor Bartels
1969..... Alice Pechinski
1970..... Helen Beck
1971..... Jeanette Foster
1972..... Dorothy Kadlec
1973..... Margaret Morello
1974..... Ann Hodous
1975..... Ann Hodous
1976..... Eleanor Bartels
1977..... Alice Pechinski
1978..... Mildred Mueller
1979..... Catherine Smalley
1980..... Frances North
1981..... Anne Creel
1982..... Henrietta Gerz-Zurek
1983..... Henrietta Gerz-Zurek

1984..... Anne Creel
1985..... Genevieve Kotowski
1986..... Genevieve Kotowski
1987..... Ethel Clark
1988..... Bonita Wisbrock
1989..... Eleanor Bartels
1990..... Bonita Wisbrock
1991..... Henrietta Gerz-Zurek
1992..... Henrietta Gerz-Zurek
1993..... Henrietta Gerz-Zurek
1994..... Midge Zielinski
1995..... Boneta Wisbrock
1996..... Leora Novak
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2008..... Bonnie Wisbrock
2008..... Bonnie Wisbrock
2009..... Bonnie Wisbrock
2009..... Rosemary Collins
2010..... Rosemary Collins
2011..... Karen Greenwald
2012..... Karen Greenwald
2013..... Rosemary Collins

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HISTORIAN ..... **JACK BORDER**
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS ..... **MIKE KLICK**

Bingo Workers

12/3 Kitchen: Therese S., Joey K., & Sharon T.
Tickets: Leora N., Pam H.

12/10 Kitchen: Karen G., Donna R., & Gloria P.
Tickets: Radika J., Pam Q.

12/17 Kitchen: Kim C., Julie I., & Charlotte U.
Tickets: Lorraine Donovan &Eleanor R.

12/24 NO BINGO
12/31 NO BINGO

December Unit Meeting:
Pot Luck Dinner - bring dish to share.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and God Bless Our Military Men and Women

December 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURDSAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Children's Christmas Party 2-5pm	2	3 Bingo 6:30 pm Doors Open 4:30 pm	4 Business Meeting 7:30 pm	5	6	7 CDC 8:30 am *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*
8	9	10 Bingo 6:30 pm Doors Open 4:30 pm	11 County Meeting Naperville Post 43	12	13 FRIDAY NIGHT FUN! 6:00 pm	14 CDC 8:30 am Legion Riders 10 am Charity Poker
15	16 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	17 Bingo 6:30 pm Doors Open 4:30 pm	18	19	20	21 Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am *Winter Begins*
22 Charity Poker 1pm - 1am	23	24 *Christmas Eve*	25	26	27	28 Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

ELIGIBILITY DATES

WORLD WAR I *APRIL 6, 1917 - NOVEMBER 11, 1918* • **VIETNAM** *FEBRUARY 28, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975* **WORLD WAR II** *DECEMBER 7, 1941 - DECEMBER 31, 1946* • **KOREAN WAR** *JUNE 25, 1950 - JANUARY 31, 1955* • **GRANADA & LEBANON** *AUGUST 24, 1982 - JULY 31, 1984* • **OPER. JUST CAUSE IN PANAMA** *DECEMBER 20, 1989 - JAN. 31, 1990* • **PERSIAN GULF** *AUGUST 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities*