

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS
AMERICAN LEGION

ALEXANDER BRADLEY BURNS POST 80

www.post80.org



For God and Country

LEGION - AIRE

DECEMBER 2023



Commander's Column

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We as Americans have a lot to be thankful for, and this was a good time to think about how blessed we are. Do not forget to remind our children and grandchildren of how lucky they are.

The Post continues to gain new members. They are our lifeblood and we are truly grateful for their presence. If you know of anyone eligible who is not a member, invite them to stop by the Post and see what we are doing.

The Post was featured in the November issue of the Downers Grove magazine. The article was very well done and highlighted our involvement in the community. Thanks to Bob Hahn and Pat Yanahan for putting this together.

As we approach the Christmas season. The Post is sponsoring several events that you don't want to miss. See the calendar in the news letter or check the Post calendar for dates and times.

It has been a good year for the Post, our fund raisers are doing well, we have new members elected to the board, the Saturday morning coffees are well attended, and the outside of the post is continually being improved. I encourage you all to attend Post functions and volunteer when you can. And speaking of volunteering, we are still in need of a Rental Agent. If you can help, let me know.

See you at the Post.

Howie





PHONE: (630) 968-9710

WEB: WWW.POST80.ORG ABBPOST80@GMAIL.COM

TWITTER: AMLEGIONPOST80

- COMMANDER.....HOWARD PARKER
- SR. VICE ED LUDWIG
- JR. VICE.....JASON WALES
- FINANCE OFFICERRICK McLAREN
- SGT-AT-ARMS..... WILLIAM DAWSON
- HISTORIAN..... VACANT
- CHAPLAIN BOB HAHN
- JUDGE ADVOCATE..... TODD HANSON
- ADJUTANTBRUCE PEIFFER
- SERVICE OFFICER.....RICH JONES
- WEBMASTER..... ED/JON LUDWIG



- PRESIDENT.....BONNIE WISBROCK
- VICE PRESIDENT.....JULIE ISENBERGER
- SECRETARYJEAN KRUPIN
- TREASURER..... CHRISTINE GRAVES
- CHAPLAINJOEY KLINGBIEL
- HISTORIAN..... KIM CRUZ
- SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.....JOYCE WILK



IN MEMORIAM

This Legionnaire Has Gone To The
Commander of Us All.

JIM ROSENKRANZ

U.S. Army Veteran
Viet Nam
American Legion member - 17 years

Rest Well, Our Friend.

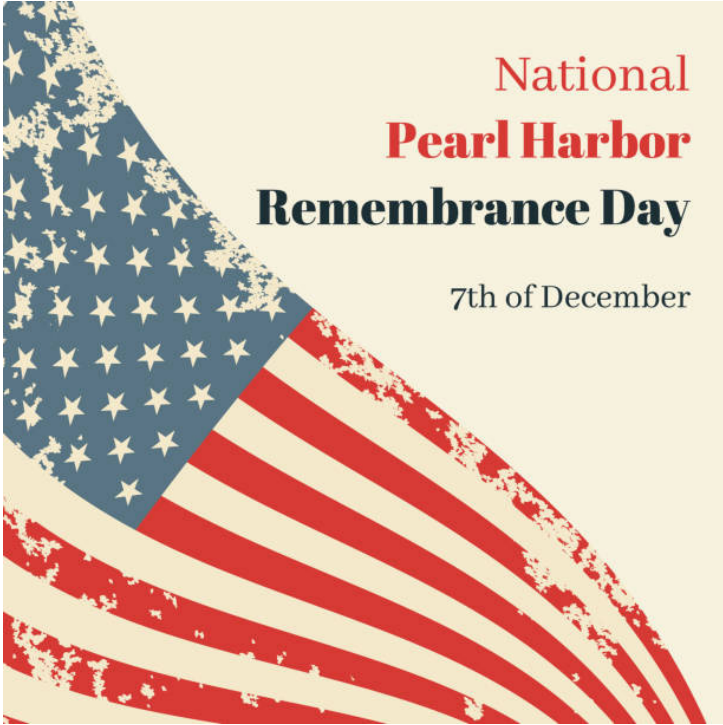
SICK CALL

The following Veterans are on sick call.
Let's keep them in our prayers.



Get
Well
Soon!

- JOE SIMONETTI**
- NICK DARIEN**
- ED LUDWIG**
- MIKE NAWARA**



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

7th of December



Auxiliary News - NOVEMBER 2023

“Serving Veterans, the Real Super Heroes”



Hello Everyone:

I hope that everybody is doing fine.

We had our meeting on November 13th.

President Bonnie and Joyce Wilk, Sgt. at Arms were absent. 11 Members were present, including a new member, Judy Maitland.

Secretary, Jean Krupin reported the last month's minutes were reviewed and approved. She also distributed a budget for 2023-2024 and gave a report on the Finance committee. She mentioned that she and Joey Klingbeil will be off the finance committee this year. President, Bonnie will need to fill their positions.

Treasurer, Christine Graves reported that an electronic bank fee has been charged and it should not be, she will check into it.

Mary Ann Proney and Kim Cruz attended the District meeting on October 15th at Lake in the Hills and gave a report. Their Officers were installed; our President Bonnie will be their Chaplain and she will be installed at a later date. Also, 11th District is collecting pop tabs and Mary Ann has put some containers in the kitchen and hall for collection.

Jean Krupin and Donna Rosenkranz have offered to be the shoppers for the Children's Christmas Party on December 3rd.

The Auxiliary received a generous donation from the Womans Club of Clarendon Hills along with a variety of greeting cards to use. Jean has sent them a thank you note.

We discussed what to do for the Auxiliary Christmas Party and it was decided to go out to dinner this year, on the Auxiliary. We will be going to the Olive Garden on December 11 at 5PM. All members are invited and must RSVP by Friday December 8th to Julie 630/852-1785 or by email j.isenberger@comcast.net Please bring a \$20 gift for a gift exchange.

Also, President Bonnie would like to know names of woman veterans. If anyone knows a woman veteran, please call Bonnie at 630/303-2691. This is for a special project.

As you can tell we had a very productive meeting. Of course, we would love to see more members come to meetings and hear firsthand what your ALA is doing. Our next meeting, is a very brief one, at the Christmas dinner on December 11, 2023.

Reminder, membership dues for 2024 need to be in by December 31, 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Stay safe and be Kind. Blessings!

Julie, Vice President



MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY FRIEND

-- by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

'Twas 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 soldier 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."



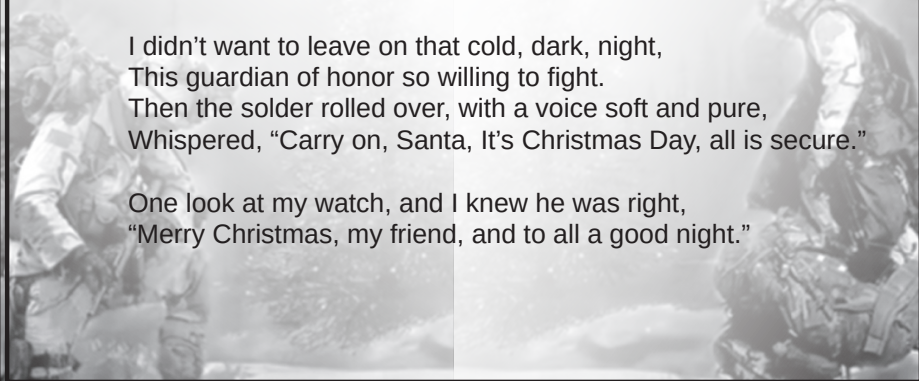
"MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY FRIEND".. ...The REAL Story

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)





Happy BIRTHDAY

**CIVIL AIR PATROL
(Air Force Auxiliary)
December 1**



**NATIONAL GUARD
December 13**

Anniversary of...



**ARMY
CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT
December 28**

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DECEMBER 2023

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DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SHARE?

Articles and photos for the
newsletter must be submitted
no later than the **17th** of the
month.

Please contact Bruce Peiffer:
agnlbp@gmail.com.

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



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Downers Grove, IL. 60515

Visit our website at www.vfw503.org

Monthly Events:

- Canteen open Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays at 3:00 PM
- Members meeting, 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM
- Auxiliary meeting, 2nd Wednesday at 6:30 PM
- Taco Tuesday, 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM
- Hall Rental (Maximum Seating 100 people) see website
- Upcoming events (Calendar) see website

Please stop by to visit, all veterans welcome

WELCOME TO Delicious

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(630) 434-9401

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DECEMBER 2023

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We salute our veterans. Thank you.



Jennifer Wilken, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

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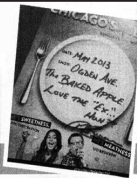
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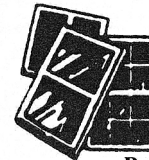


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Don't
Forget!



POST 80

Children's



Christmas



Party

Sunday,
December 3
2023
2-5 pm



Post 80

Christmas Party

Saturday

December 16th, 2023

Doors Open 6:30 pm

*Please bring an
Hors D'oeuvres to share*

Legion Bar Prices

50/50

*Golden
Christmas Music*

Legion Members & Friends are Invited

\$5.00 donation



DECEMBER 2023

Around Town!



American Wind Band

Festive

A HOLIDAY CONCERT

Sunday, December 17, 2-4 PM
First United Methodist Church
1032 Maple Ave, Downers Grove

Wonderful holiday music ideal for the entire family will be performed. Admission is free and donations are gladly accepted at the concert to help with expenses. To make the holiday a little more festive for those less fortunate, please bring a non-perishable food donation.

LAST CHANCE CRAFT & ART FAIR @C.O.D.

Saturday & Sunday Dec. 9-10, 2023

10:00 am - 4:00 PM

College of DuPage

Physical Education Center

425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Admission: \$7.00 day of event,

\$5 Early Bird* (through 12/8/23)

Youth under 16 get in free, accompanied by a paying adult.

There's still time to shop handmade for the holidays! Artisans from across the Midwest are coming to Glen Ellyn, with 200 booths of thoughtful gifts, festive decor, jewelry, clothing, bath and body, kids' items, and much more.

*Early Bird tickets available online: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/craftproductionsinc/1071589>

HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT MARKET

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023

11 AM - 5 PM

MAYSLAKE PEABODY ESTATE

1717 31st Street, Oak Brook

Shop for quality artisan holiday gifts for family and friends. All ages: under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free Admission.



CHRISTMAS AT CANTIGNY

December 1-23 | Tuesdays-Sundays

4:00pm-11:00pm

Cantigny Park

15151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL

Admission \$15 Adult 16+, \$5 Children 4-15

Discounts available for Seniors

Parking \$10

Cantigny's biggest holiday event ever! Visitors will experience specially designed light installations throughout the gardens and grounds. In addition, the newly renovated McCormick House, lavishly decorated for Christmas, will be open to the public for the first time since 2019. A temporary skating rink will stay open all winter. Watch for exciting "pop up" attractions and activities during the festival such as a visit from Santa and choral performances. Seasonal food and beverage options offered daily.

Visit: <https://cantigny.org/christmas-at-cantigny/>



VETERAN INFO PAGE

DO YOU KNOW A VET IN NEED?

VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE

The DuPage Veterans Assistance Commission
421 N. County Farm Road - 2nd Fl - Rear of Cafeteria,
Wheaton, IL 60187

Bill Brophy, Admin. Assistant

Bernadette Wawczak, Case Manager/Service Officer

Phone: **630-407-5655** Fax: 630-407-5656

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and
1-4 p.m. Monday - Friday

email: dupagevac@dupageco.org



Cook County Department of Veterans Affairs
Bureau of Administration Cook County
Government

Audrey Mollo, Administrative Assistant I

Telephone: **312-603-2221** Fax: 312-603-4479

email: Audrey.Mollo@CookCountyIl.gov

Veterans.Affairs@CookCountyIl.gov

Website: www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/veterans-affairs

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(1-877-424-3838)

LEGAL HOTLINE FOR ILLINOIS VETS

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for more info go to iejf.org

For anyone having difficulties with the VA, there is a White House HOTLINE that is staffed 24/7: 855.948.2311

DISCOUNTS

FOR VETERANS and/or ACTIVE MILITARY

VISIT <https://veteran.com/military-discounts/>

to find information on discounts for:

AT&T, Home Depot, Lowes, Yeti products,

Apple, Microsoft, HP, AMC Theaters

and many other retailers.

Veterans and military members can also utilize the

Veteran Tickets Foundation <https://www.vettix.org/>

visitor/home to find free and discounted tickets to events in their area.

• VetTix is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with sports teams and promoters to give tickets to those currently serving and veterans of all branches of the U.S. military.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES:

va.org • legion.org

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

For a list of benefits Exclusively for

ILLINOIS VETERANS, go to

<https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/illinois>

DD 214 REQUESTS

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

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

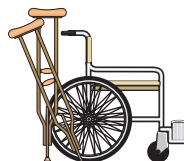
Then go to Start your Military Service Record (DD Form 214) Request and follow the prompts and fill in the required information. It also has you print a signature sheet that you have to mail to them. When they receive the signature paper, they will send you an email confirming that they received it.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

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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.

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



CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Change My Address

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

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

NAME _____

NEW Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Effective Date: _____

New Phone Number: _____



DECEMBER 5, 2023

KITCHEN: KIM CRUZ
 BONNIE WISBROCK
 JUDY MAITLAND

TICKETS: CHRIS GRAVES
 COMPUTER: JOE SIMONETTI

DECEMBER 12, 2023






KITCHEN: JEAN KRUPIN
 DONNA ROSENKRANZ
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TICKETS: BILL COZZI
 COMPUTER: TOM LYNCH

DECEMBER 19, 2023

KITCHEN: TODD HANSON
 KIM CRUZ
 JUDY MAITLAND

TICKETS: BONNIE WISBROCK
 COMPUTER: MARY ANN PRONEY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<h1>December 2023</h1>						1  CIVIL AIR PATROL BIRTHDAY	2 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
3 kids christmas party 2-5 pm	4	5 BINGO 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	6 Business Meeting 7:30 pm	7 PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY HANNUKKAH BEGINS	8	9 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am	
10	11 Auxiliary Christmas Dinner 5:00 pm @Olive Garden	12 BINGO 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	13 NATIONAL GUARD U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY	14	15	16 christmas party 6:30 pm	
17	18	19 BINGO 6:45 pm Doors & Bar Open 4:00 pm	20	21  WINTER BEGINS	22 POST CLOSED UNTIL 12/27	23 Tai Chi 7:30-9:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am	
24  CHRISTMAS EVE	25 	26 NO BINGO tonight	27 Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm	28 ARMY CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT ANNIVERSARY	29	30	
31  NEW YEAR'S EVE	NOTE: This calendar can change without notice SEE www.post80.org/calendar FOR MORE DETAILS		ELIGIBILITY DATES WORLD WAR I - APRIL 6, 1917 - NOVEMBER 11, 1918 WORLD WAR II - DECEMBER 7, 1941 to present for any veteran with an Honorable Discharge.				

