VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

AMERICAN LEGION

ALEXANDER BRADLEY BURNS POST 80

4000 SARATOGA AVENUE

DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60515

LEGION - AIRE

December 2020

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WEB: WWW.POST80.ORG ABBPOST80@GMAIL.COM
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Commander's Column

Holy smokes, Thanksgiving is completed and in the rearview mirror and Christmas arrives in a few weeks. The virus has raised its ugly head again and it continues to ripple throughout our country and the world. As I write this column, two great American companies are leading the way with vaccines to subdue the virus. Four more are also proceeding forward as well. The virus will learn what other enemies have learned – "Never underestimate the United States."

It was on 16 December 1777 that General Washington settled his ragged army into Valley Forge for a long cold Winter – one that would shape the future character of our Armed Forces and heart of our country. Many soldiers, their feet wrapped in rags, eating soup made from old worn out leather boots, suffering we can hardly imagine emerged stronger and emboldened to ultimate victory. Freedom and liberty were new and stirred the souls that birthed a new nation that still sets the standard throughout the world.

07 December 1941 still reminds our nation we must be ever vigilant to attack, from out or within. Almost 2,000 Americans died that day at Pearl Harbor and brought out a spirit of surmounting enemies bent on defeating a free people – thank God they were successful. While the country had been slowly preparing for a war, the speed our country reacted to the unprovoked attacks by the Japanese and then the other Axis powers was almost supernatural. Factories switched from consumer goods to war materiel almost overnight. The prowess of skilled labor and determination along with harnessing the sheer will to win of the American people propelled to victory in a long 4 year struggle. The Battle of the Bulge occurred in December 1944 and the determination of the Allies, lead by the American forces to win proved overwhelming for the Germans and their allies.

As we enter the Winter of 2020/21, let us remember we are AmeriCans, not can'ts. We will overcome the virus as quick as possible and emerge stronger as a people. Aim for the stars, not the trenches.

Post 80 members, Auxiliary, Riders, Son's and 40 & 8 will have a far brighter 2021 than we can know. We are working to renew Bingo whenever safe for our members, volunteer staff and clientele. Our facility is clean and safe so long as we respect each other and our property and shall remain so far into the future. We may suffer a few cloudy days here and there but remember the Sun is above those gray skies and it feels great when it emerges.

We held a very productive Flag Retirement on 09 Nov with the assistance of both Pack 80 and Troop 80. We retired hundreds of flags and had a terrific participation of Post 80 members – Thank You one and all.

Bob Hahn did a terrific job coordinating our Veterans Day ceremony on 11 NOV as well as staffing the Flag Retirement. The service was attended by over 30 members and friends – spread out inside and outside. Larry played his trumpet for both the Flag Retirement and our service. It is most appreciated as was the participation of so many members and friends.

We conducted a Post "Revitalization" on Saturday 14 NOV. Four Post 80 members called over 50 local members of The American Legion who were not

Commander's Column continued on page 5...

Commander's Column continued from page 3...

affiliated with a Post and invited them to join us. We may have 6-8 new members very soon. Thank you to Rick McLaren, Harry McCabe and Todd Hanson, Bravo Zulu! We thank the District leadership for their guidance through the process.

The Christmas Party scheduled for 19 DEC has also been postponed – another victim of the virus. It is a struggle for everyone to make sense out of what is going on throughout DuPage County, Illinois, America and the world with the ramifications of threatened shutdowns and restricted freedoms. This nightmare will end sooner than estimated by many and we must remember to be thankful.

Christmas is a time of Peace on Earth and Good will toward all Men. Let us resolve to hold our heads high and pray for the best world we can assist in building, It is too easy to forget our mission as American Legion members: to assist our fellow Veterans, their families and active duty military members – while fostering and perpetuating a strong sense of Americanism and pride in the greatest country God has allowed us to create. It is up to us to push forward and build a stronger, greater America. Elections come and go, America grows because of us, remain builders, let the others follow.

Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous and Healthy 2021!

Semper Fi,Bruce Peiffer

Are you moving?

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Change My Address

NAME_____

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 – DECEMBER 2020

Celebrate Your Pride in Membership to Grow for the Future

WOW! It is December. I hope everyone had a wonderful, safe Thanksgiving.

I hope you has a wonderful Thanksgiving and stay safe and healthy. We had a November General Meeting on 11/9/2020. It still is a little strange with everyone social distancing, but with the Hall set up for court and we had our meeting. We had our various updates:

Treasurer Report from Jean Krupin which was mostly money coming in and going out from our annual Membership renewal drive and a few more names for Our Poppy Honor board. Our board is filled many names honoring those who served. Thanks for everyone who participate.

Membership from Bonnie Wisbrock gave good news on annual Membership Renewal drive we only have 6 more members to reach 100 %. Thanks again to all your renewal!

Constitution and Bylaws from Mary Ann Proney. I have updated the Constitution and Bylaws, but I am experiencing printer issues. I will be emailing the file via email to anyone who has an email and will be mailing out to the rest, once I figure out what is wrong with my printer (computers/printers have a mind of their own). Sorry for the delay.

Chaplain from Kim Cruz. Kim conducted the Draping of our Charter in honor of Louise Lewanski (Bonnie Wisbrock' s Mother) who passed away on March 17, 2020 and for Evelyn Fredericks who passed away the last week of October 2020. Louise was a past Sgt at Arms, participated in many of our Auxiliary activities and was a very active member. Evelyn was one of our past Auxiliary Presidents and participated in many of our Auxiliary activities. They will be missed

Auxiliary News continued on page 6...

Auxiliary News continued from page 5...

If the new restrictions by State Health Department extend to pass December 14, 2021, we will have Our next General Meeting via Conference Call. I will send the Conference Call number and pass code out with the Constitution and Bylaws so everyone has the information if necessary. Once I know for sure I will let everyone know. If you have any questions, please give me a call on 630-969-5122.

I was reading an article in the ALA Today from LaVera Davis regarding the Auxiliary Emergency Fun. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is around to help members get through tough times. With everything that is happening in 2020, COVID 19, fire, acts of nature and personal crisis, we sometimes come up a little short, I thought I would remind Our Auxiliary members that you could be eligible for a grant. If you are a member with current dues paid and the previous two years you are eligible to apply for a grant up to $2,400.00. Your information remains confidential and the grant fund committee at National awards the grant based on criterial set; one being that all other means have been exhausted. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund Brochure can be found on the National website (https://www.alaforweternas.org). The Auxiliary Emergency Fund will also take contributions which then can be used to help Our Auxiliary members.

Also, the Legion Kid Holiday Celebration has been cancelled.

The Board is open to any ideas on what you want your Auxiliary Unit to accomplish next year. We will need to adjust how we work this year due to COVID19, but we want to continue to support Our Community Veterans, Active Military, and their families the best we can. So, if you have any ideas please let us know.

Hope to see everyone soon. Stay Safe and Healthy so we can all get together soon. Happy Holidays

Mary Ann Proney

Unit 80 President

Poppy Day Honor Board
$5.00 per Name

The Poppy Program raises community awareness and respect for our veterans by educating the public about the symbol of the poppy, taken from a line in the poem "In The Flanders Fields" written on the battlefront during World War 1 by Lt Col. John McCrae, M.D.

In honor of the men and women that have served and sacrificed their lives for our freedom, we will display an "HONOR BOARD" displaying the Auxiliary version of Flanders Field on the Auxiliary Bulletin Board at Post 80 to give thanks to them. We look forward to your honored veteran's name.

All Poppy Day Honor Board donations go directly to the Veterans and their families. During the month of July through September, the displayed board will honor your loved ones that served.

Make Checks Payable To :
American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 80
Attn: Jean Krupin, Treasurer
6513 Wells St
Downers Grove IL, 60516
Donation of $5 per Name

Thank You for supporting Poppy Day Honor Board
The Honor Board will be displayed on Unit 80 Auxiliary's Bulletion board in Post entrance hall.

Please fill out the form below and list the full names & branches of service that your loved ones served.

*Name:*_____

Branch of Service: _____

*Name:*_____

Branch of Service: _____

American Legion Riders

American Legion Riders – Chapter 80 –DEC. 2020 Update

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 Director Mike Klick (708.670.1475) or John Pavich (630-712-1834) to confirm meeting locations for any given month.

Upcoming Rides and Events

Check the Post 80 Newsletter and web site at post80.org/legion riders for updates for the Legion Rider meeting and event schedule.

Legion Riders, along with service officer Rich Jones and Emery Wolfe have donated $1100 to Wreaths Across America. The wreaths will be placed on the graves of veterans and family from Post 80 at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery.

Our motto is always, Veterans Helping Veterans!

American Legion
Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
2020 - 2021
Theme

" Celebrate Your Pride in Membership to Grow for the Future "

It is time to Renew your American Legion Auxiliary Unit 80 Membership.

Unit 80 has decided NOT to increase your dues. So your dues is still $24.00.

Please renew your membership and remember to come and Join your fellow Members at any Legion or Auxiliary event or Our General Meeting beginning September 14 at 7:00pm. Look in the Legion – Aire Newsletter for events. Bonnie Wisbrock will be sending renewal letters out shortly

You can pay your dues electronically on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois's Website : http://www.ilala.org. Bonnie Wisbrock/Membership Chairperson

Attention American Legion Post 80 Members

2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL!!!

The first renewal notice for 2020-2021 annual dues will be mailed from the National Headquarters very soon.

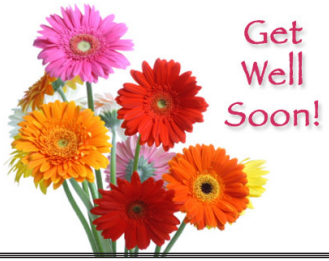
Consider joining the growing number of Post 80 members who pay dues online.

Why? Less paperwork, more efficient, better reporting, and most importantly, faster service for you. Bruce Peiffer, Commander, will send an email message that will contain the link when the notices are mailed.

SICK CALL

The following Veteran is on sick call.
Let's keep him in our prayers.

ERIC BONNECARRE



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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Articles and photos for the newsletter must be submitted ***no later*** than the **17th of the month**. Please contact Newsletter Editor: Jack Border at **708-971-1438** or email: **w.border@comcast.net** if you wish to submit something.

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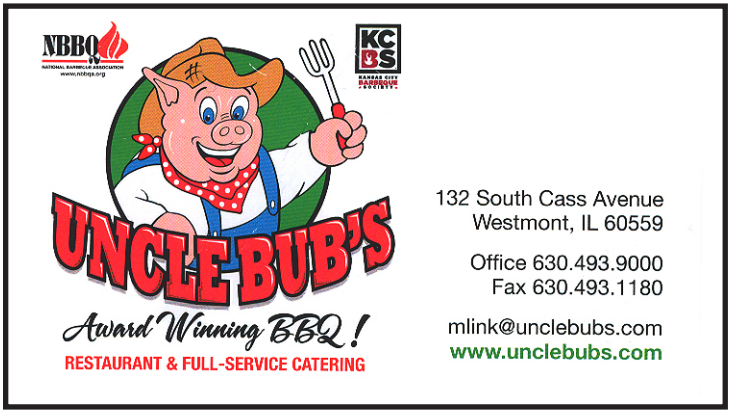

DON'T FORGET
to tell our adverstisers, "I saw your Ad in the Legion-Aire Newsletter," and then thank them for their support of Post 80

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

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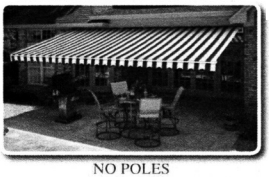

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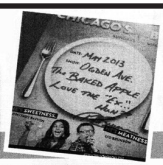

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IMPORTANT - VETERAN INFORMATION

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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

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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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JUST FOLLOW THE STEPS ON THE WEBSITE WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SHOP!

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:

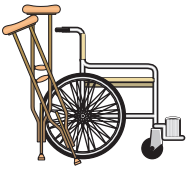
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES:

va.org • legion.org • suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

Local Honey now available!

Many have asked, "When will you have Legion honey to buy?" The answer is that limited quantities are available right now. As previous buyers know:

- ✔ No chemicals are used in the production and harvesting of the honey.
- ✔ Harvesting is a 2-step process over [illegible] weeken[illegible].
- ✔ The first step is removing [illegible] from the hive and extracting the honey from the c[illegible] frame[illegible].
- ✔ In the second step [illegible] honey [illegible] acted [illegible] in the comb is tripled filte[illegible] a[illegible] then [illegible]d in the [illegible].
- ✔ [illegible] distribu[illegible] an Environmental Scholarship a[illegible] [illegible] students from the local area.

SOLD OUT!

Thank you all for your tremendous support!

This y[illegible]e price [illegible]1# jar is $12, which is available from the Court r[illegible]esen[illegible]ves in the Lounge when traffic court is in session, but call beforehand to make arrangements (630/968-9710) if you haven't already reserved your order with Dick Rooney beforehand.

Honey is also available for purchase on Saturday mornings during the Coffee, Donuts & Conversation sessions from about 8:00am to 10:00am.

Exact change is appreciated.

Be sure to wear your mask!

2021 Bronze Memorial Plaque

We are in the process of collecting names to be placed on the new Bronze Plaque that will be placed on the Obelisk that is in the park in front of our Legion Post. The plaque is for all Veterans that served our country and the price is $35.00 per name. We need 36 names to fill the plaque. A certificate and a picture of the plaque will be sent to the person who ordered the placement of the name. At present time over 600 names have been placed on the Obelisk.

If you know anybody who is a Veteran, (Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, just a friend or yourself) who's name you would like to see put on the plaque, pick up anapplication, which are located on the table in the hallway at the Post or call Rich Jones, Service Officer at (630) 964-2434.

HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO SALUTES JOHN GUARNACCIA

John Guarnaccia, a WWII Army Veteran celebrated his 95th birthday and the staff from Honor Flight marked his home noting he had participated in the Honor Flight program. We encourage all Vietnam Veterans to participate as soon as the virus passes and flights resume.

Blast from the Past...December 2015.....

A-THOUGHT-FOR-THE-MONTH-OF-DECEMBER:

Thanksgiving is over. Its cold and snow has fallen. Christmas displays have been in the stores since Halloween. Normally the spirit of Christmas is here by now --- and this atmosphere once reminded me of an old poem:

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
their old familiar carols play;
and loud and deep, the words repeat:
'Peace on earth, good will towards man'.

And then it went on:

"And in despair I bowed my head,
'there is no peace on earth', I said.
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
of Peace on earth good will towards man'.

'there is no peace on earth', I said.
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
of Peace on earth good will towards man'.

That defines our world today. Why can we not all get along with each other? We do have so much more in common, and so little differences. For the survival of the world as we know it, lets adopt the final words of that poem:

"Then chimed the bells more loud & deep,
God is not dead nor does he sleep.
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
Peace on earth good will towards man!!"

Merry Christmas.....RWB

"We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon." Franklin D. Roosevelt

BINGO HAS BEEN CANCELLED until further notice.

PLEASE CHECK www.post80.org/calendar for regular updates

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 *Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday*	2 Business Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4	5 Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
6	7 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7	8	9	10 *Hanukkah* *begins at sunset*	11	12 Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
13 NATIONAL GUARD *National Guard Birthday*	14	15	16	17	18	19 WREATHS across AMERICA Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
20	21 *Winter Begins*	22	23 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm	24 *Christmas Eve*	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Coffee Donuts & Conversation 8:30 am
27	28 *Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant*	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	2020 Very bad. Would not recommend.	2020 Is it over yet?

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.***