The American Legion —

TIREY J FORD POST 21 16701 E. 40 HIGHWAY INDEPENDENCE, MO 64055-5328 816-373-0221

FEBRUARY 2016



HOME POST OF PRESIDENT HARRY STRUMAN

CHARTERED MAY 1, 1921

Dorothy Ballew, Director of Business Operations BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS: MON-FRI 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM ADJUTANT OFFICE HOURS: MON - FRI 9:30 AM-3:00 PM Lounge Hours:

Monday - Saturday 2:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Sunday - Closed February 14th until September 2016

POST EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

POST MEETING - FEBRUARY 4TH @ 7:00 PM POST E-BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 18TH @ 7:00 P.M.

AUXILIARY MEETING -FEBRUARY 4THth @ 7:00 PM

SAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 4TH @ 7:00 PM

ALR MEETING - FEBRUARY 11th @ 6:30 PM

STEAK NIGHT - FEBRUARY 5th

BREAKFAST BUFFET -NONE IN FEBRUARY

DANCES - 6 Dances in FEBRUARY- See Page 3

BINGO - Mondays & Tuesdays at 6:30 PM-Doors and Snack Bar open 4:00 PM.

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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA 02.07.2016



THE TIREY J. FORD POST 21 NEWS



FEBRUARY 2016

POST OFFICERS - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Commander Phil Greco 1st Vice Commander Ed Murray 2nd Vice Commander Noel Tyler 3rd Vice Commander **Fd Witthar** Adjutant Tom Tanner Chris Wehr Finance Officer Judge Advocate Wes Blake Historian Open

Service Officer Deborah Eglich
Chaplain Kerry Boardman
Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Sweeney
Past Commander Mark Clark

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Newsletter Editor Ed Murray
Oratorical Ralph Buchanan
Patriotic Council Bill Liddle and
Archie Hughes
R.O.T.C. Mark Clark
Salvation Army Mike Amerine
School Awards OPEN

HOUSE COMMITTEE

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Vice President Dorothy Ballew
Secretary Marsha Mooney
Treasurer Lana Butler
Historian Judy Nash
Chaplain Fran Myers
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Adjutant Jim Williams
Finance Officer Jim Coldwell
Historian Daryl Wimmer
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Sergeant-at-Arms Leroy Brugioni

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OFFICERS

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MINUTES OF POST MONTHLY MEETING

Commander Phil Greco called the regular monthly meeting of the Tirey J Ford Post 21 to order at 7:00PM, 7 Jan 16, at the Post Home. Commander Greco Conducted the opening ritual.

Chaplain Kerry Boardman gave the opening prayer.

1st Vice Ed Murray placed the POW/MIA Flag on the Empty chair.

There were 10 officers and 43 members present.

Finance Officer Chris Wehr read the Finance Report for the month of December. A motion was made by Kerry Boardman to accept the Finance Report as read. The motion was 2nd by Everette Ellis. Motion carried. A copy of the last report is posted on the bulletin board in the Lounge.

The Executive Committee meeting minutes from 17 $\,$ Dec 15 were read.

Officer Reports:

Commander Greco reported on the results of the Salvation Army bell ringing. 28 Nov raised \$811.13. 5 Dec raised \$1547.07 for a total of \$2358.20.

Commander Greco discussed the Christmas families. All were very appreciative of receiving the Christmas gifts.

Commander Greco gave a heartfelt thanks for everybody that helped with the Christmas families.

Committee Reports:

Bingo report was given by Mike Sweeney and \$4000.00 was donated to Post by Bingo.

New members and transfers were read. A motion was made by Mike Alexander, 2nd by Everette Ellis and carried by voice vote to accept the new members.

There were 3 deceased members for the month of January.

The adjutant gave the membership report. There are 1407 members as of 31 Dec 15 for 86% of our yearly goal.

The meeting minutes for Dec were accepted as printed.

Adjutant read correspondence.

New Business: None

For the good of The American Legion: ALR Director Dennis Mooney presented a \$500 check to the Post from the proceeds of the Craft Fair that was held on 28 Nov.

Commander Greco informed the members that Tom Tanner was selected to receive the Veteran Volunteer from the Lt. Governor office in March.

The 1st Vice removed the POW/Mia Flag from the empty chair. The Chaplain gave the closing prayer.

Commander Greco conducted the closing ritual and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 4 February 2016, at 7PM.

-Tom Tanner, Post 21 Adjutant adjutantpost21@gmail.com

***** UPDATE ****
DUES ARE \$45.00
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016

San Diego — A bipartisan House bill would allow the remains of some woman pilots who served during World War II to once again be honored at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Women Airforce Service Pilots Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act will allow the cremated remains of women who served in a small program to be placed in the prestigious cemetery, effectively overturning a standing policy that prohibits this practice.

"When the call came to serve in World War II, the WASP answered that call like millions of other Americans," said Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, one of the bill's 24 cosponsors. "They have inurnment rights in other national cemeteries throughout the country. That right should include Arlington National Cemetery, which has always been considered a special place of honor."

WASPs can be buried at cemeteries run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but Arlington is run by the Army. According to the Associated Press, Army lawyers reviewed regulations in 2014 and determined that these women were technically "active duty designees" and couldn't be inurned at Arlington.

The Women Airforce Service Pilots were a group of women about 1,100 women who flew non-combat missions during World War II. Some of their duties included towing airborne targets for live ammunition training, shuttling aircraft from one place to another and training combat pilots. The program was created in order to allow combat pilots to focus on combat missions rather than support duties.

The program ended after World War II, and the WASPs did not gain official veteran status until 1977. Their remains were previously left at an indoor enclosure at Arlington until 2014 when then-Secretary of the Army John McHugh reclassified the pilots.

"This decision is simply appalling. At a time when we are opening all positions to women, the Army is closing Arlington to the pioneers who paved the way for pilots like me and all women to serve in uniform. It doesn't make sense," said Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., the House member who introduced the legislation, said in a statement.

McSally, a retired Air Force colonel, served 26 years in the military. She was the first woman fighter pilot to fly combat missions as well as the first to command a fighter squadron in United States history.

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT THE COMMANDER HAS NOTHING TO SAY!



"Happy Birthday and Best Wishes"
We have 69 members with February birthdays.
We hope you enjoy your special day!
3 at 92, 3 at 91 and 2 at 90
The two youngest will turn 46 this month.



Do you pick? Do you sing? Maybe you just listen and grin. Jam sessions are starting up again in the lounge on Thursday, February 25th from 6PM - 9PM. Come out and enjoy the fun.

FEBRUARY 2016 DANCE SCHEDULE

5		6	Dixie Cadillacs
12		13	Reddymen
19	Loose Change	20	Sweetwater
26		27	Reddymen

Doors open at 5:30 P.M.
Beverage & Snack Bars Open at 5:30 P.M.
Both Dance Times - 7:00 P.M.-10:30 P.M.
Admission to Friday & Saturday Dances \$7.00



RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER IN '16

AUXILIARY NEWS

Auxiliary Unit 21's January meeting was well attended and we welcomed a new member. At the meeting we voted to donate \$500.00 to the Kansas City VA Medical Center for their coffee and courtesy refreshment fund. This

fund provides coffee and simple refreshments to the patients and their visitors. Unit 21 also voted to donate \$225.00 to the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund, \$200.00 to the Missouri Creative Arts Festival and to purchase a new ice machine for one of the bars in the main hall at Post 21. Additionally, it was voted to spend up to \$500.00 for clothing which will be donated to the Kansas City VA Medical Center's clothes closet. In addition to the above donations, Judy Nash reported that in December we donated \$500.00 out of the Unit's Poppy Fund to the St. Louis USO at Lambert Field.

Thank you to everyone who supports Auxiliary Unit 21's fundraisers. Without your support and our volunteers who work these projects we would not be able to make all of these donations as mentioned above. We are already working on getting "Poppy Days" scheduled. During the February 5th "Steak Night" we will be having a "Chocolate Sale". With Valentine's Day right around the corner, what better time to have a "Chocolate Sale". And we have a lot of wonderful cooks who love to bake, so you will have a multitude of items to select from.

Make plans to attend the Superbowl party in the Lounge on February 7th. The food buffet will consist of several items to include Homemade Chili and Chicken & Noodle Soup, Hotdogs, Bratwurst, Chicken Wings, Nachos & Cheese, plus more all for \$6.50 per person. We will open the food buffet at 4:00 P.M and the Lounge will open at 2:00 P.M. Come early, we always have a wonderful crowd.

Our next regular business meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 P.M.

Thank you for your continued support and for everything that you do for our Veterans, Active Military, our Children and our Community.

Bonnie Sweeney Auxiliary Unit 21 President

Auxiliary New Members, Transfers, Deaths

New: Lana Boggs, Michelle Eads, Cynthia Green, Sharon Stewart

Transfers:

Deaths:

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



healthy by spring.

Greetings to all, due to cold weather things have slowed up and we can catch a breath. We have a lot of our members laid up but, if it is to be, now is the time so we can be

We donated \$500.00 to the Post from our Holiday Arts and Craft Fair, which despite inclement weather was a success. A big thanks and a job well done ladies. There is talk of a Spring show which will be indoor and outdoor with food and drinks. Sounds great, I am looking forward to helping out and others also. Every time we pull together great things happen. This is why this is the best Legion Rider Chapter in the State.

We are now working on 2 Poker Runs, the first one May 14th for Camp Valor and the second one will be during July State Convention for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The State is working on another 3 day Legacy Ride for this June.

St. Michaels has broken ground on Phase 2, so things have already started on the funding for 59 new residents. Great Job, Melanie Cenkus. If you haven't gone to St. Michaels and met some of the men and women there, I urge you to do so the next time we go.

As always, watch your emails, stay warm and be safe.

Dennis Mooney - ALR Director



POST 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
3RD THURSDAY EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM
AUXILIARY UNIT 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING: NONE IN FEBRUARY

\$6.50

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Congrats to the KC Chiefs and the KC Royals making the playoffs in the same year! We certainly live in a great city and it's exciting to see these events!

We have started our new fundraiser – Guess The Lollipops contest. Be sure to look for the big glass jar in the Lounge and purchase your tickets to guess the number of lollipops in the jar! The prize will be ½ of the money raised during the contest. The winner will be announced on February 17. Please see the rules and other information posted in the Lounge and/or on the jar. The more you play, the more you can win!

On February 23, the Post will be having a new furnace installed. Volunteers are needed to help with this, so if you can help, please contact Phil Greco.

John Williams' (previously our SAL chaplain) Memorial Brick at the Missouri Korean War Veteran's Memorial is being installed in June 2016. The Memorial is located at Pershing and Main in Kansas City, if you want to check it out.

I have to share this...I think we set a Post record! The SAL 50/50 Raffle in December, where we gave away the five \$20 Hy-Vee gift cards was a huge success! We gave the winner \$325 and it was exciting to see the money go so high, due to the generosity of our Bingo players! A huge thanks for their contributions to the SAL 50/50 all year long!

It's official – effective in the 2017 year, the SAL is lowering the dues to \$10 for members who are under the age of 21. So, consider signing up your grandchildren and other family members!

Dues are due! Please – if you haven't paid your SAL dues, contact Jim Williams and get it taken care of for 2016. We are planning several fun and interesting things for 2016, so you don't want to miss out! We value your membership and hope you will consider participating in the SAL. We meet at 7 pm the first Thursday of each month.

Jim Williams has been our SAL adjutant for several years and is retiring from that position in June 2016. We are looking for someone to step into that position. This is a very important position in the SAL—and if you are good with numbers and details, please consider this position. We need you!

Have a good February – hopefully winter is almost over!

......Mike Lapanne, SAL Commander

"WE ARE TOO BLESSED TO COMPLAIN"

FOOD SERVICEMENUS FOR FEBRUARY

Monday 5:00 till 7:00 P.M.

2/1	Smothered Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes		
	& Gravy, Green Beans & a Dinner Roll	\$8.00	
2/8	English Style Battered Cod & Clam Strips,		
	Baked Potato, Creamed Peas & Hush Puppies	\$8.00	
2/15	Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn		
	& a Dinner Roll	\$9.00	
2/22	Country Fried Steak or Tenderloin,		
	Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Steamed Veggies & R	oll	
\$8.00			
2/29	Spaghetti with Meat Sauce & Garlic Bread	\$8.00	
	ABOVEMEALSINCLUDESALADBAR		

Tuesday 5:00 till 7:00 P.M.

2/2	Ham & Beans, Fried Potatoes & Cornbread	\$6.50
2/9	Open Face Hot Beef Sandwich/Mashed Potatoes	
	& Gravy	\$6.50
2/16	Baked Pork Chop in Dressing, Baked Sweet Potato,	
	Baked Beans & a Dinner Roll	\$6.50
2/23	Bricket Stock Fries Slow & Carlie Broad	

SNACK BAR MENUALSO AVAILABLE ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS

Wednesday 5:00 till 7:00 P.M.

2/10	Tenderloin, Chicken Fritter or Fish Sandwich	
	with your choice of Fries, Tater Tots or	
	Onion Rings	\$5.75
2/17	Bacon Cheeseburger or Mushroom Swiss	
	Burger with Fries, Tater Tots or Onion Rings	\$5.75

Friday 5:00 till 7:00 P.M.

2/5 **STEAKNIGHT**

8 oz. KC Strip \$11.00 Shrimp \$9.50 Fried Chicken \$9.00

Above meals include Baked Potato or Fries & Salad Bar

2/26 TACO BUFFET - \$6.50 Per Person
Tacos, Taco Salad, Nachos, Refried Beans,
Black Beans & Hot Dogs, Plus all the Toppings

<u>Sunday</u>

2/7 4:00 P.M. SUPERBOWL PARTY & FOOD BUFFET IN THE LOUNGE.

Change in law ends reserve tuition program

By Leo Shane III

Staff writer 9:10 a.m. EST December 30, 2015

Students already enrolled in courses through the Reserve Educational Assistance Program will see no disruption in their tuition payments — but they'll have to turn out the lights after classes end.

That's because REAP officials won't be accepting new enrollments.

The 2016 Defense Authorization Act signed into law in before Thanksgiving ended the program, leaving only a four-year window for current participants to finish their degree programs.

REAP was created to provide education benefits to National Guard and reserve members who spent time on active duty but were not eligible for traditional GI Bill offerings. Nearly 14,000 veterans used REAP funds to attend college classes in fiscal 2014, at a cost of \$56 million.

But the program is considered redundant now in light of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which offers education benefits to most troops who spent any time on active duty after September 2001.

REAP represented a little more than 1 percent of VA education payouts in fiscal 2014.

Individuals who are enrolled and attending classes through the now-defunct program are eligible to continue receiving benefits until Nov. 25, 2019. Officials anticipate that should cover nearly all participants currently working on degrees.

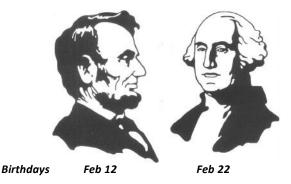
Students who received REAP money in the past but were not in classes last semester will see their benefits cut off. VA officials said most of those individuals will be able to use Post-9/11 GI Bill funds instead, but are reaching out to affected students to gauge the potential impact of the changes.

"VA is actively working to identify affected veterans who have previously applied for VA benefits to notify them of this change and their potential eligibility for other VA educational assistance programs," officials said in a statement.

They added that would-be new enrollees also can contact VA offices to see if they qualify for other education programs.

Additional information on the program change is available on VA's website

Mike Feliciano



FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

Membership for the Post is at 86.74% of the goal as set by National. We still have a long way to go to reach 100% of our goal before the end of the Legion year. If you have not paid your dues yet, they are now delinquent. The new dues rate is \$45.00. There have been some questions as to why the dues are overdue/delinquent in December. The Legion operates on a fiscal year. The start of the Legion year is 1 Aug and ends on 31 Jul the following year.

If you would like to receive your Monthly newsletter via e-mail please let me know and I will include you on the newsletter list. As of 7 Jan 16 we have a total of 501 members on the Post e-mail list. It would be greatly appreciated if you have an e-mail address, please forward it to me so it can be included on the list. The e-mail address for Post is adjutantpost21@gmail.com.

Just a reminder the Spring Conference will be 19-21 Feb 16. The conference will be in Jefferson City.

-Tom Tanner, Post 21 Adjutant adjutantpost21@gmail.com



TAPS

David L Rushton, Eugene A Theiss, Arturo J Valenzuela

With reverence, we commit these, our comrades, to the Post Everlasting

NEW MEMBERS

Richard J. Barber, Robert D. Beard, Roderick E. Card, Roy L. Davis, Jerry D. Doerr, Kenneth W. Dunaway, Louis M. Garcia, Johnathan Hilbish, Donald E. Katowitz, Nancy Schirlls, Steven W. Sheddrick

TRANSFERS

David N. Anderson, Eric E. Bahl, Craig Daniels, James E. Dietrich Jeffery D. Fowler, Larry Hunner, Jerry J. Marquis, John W. Mendenhall, Dale L. Phillips, Larry D. Prosser, Matthew A. Trussell, Herman P. Westphal

AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE?

This information was reprinted from, "THE BOUNCING "B", the newsletter of the USS Brownson Association DD-868 & DD-518. Research authored by John Page. The article addresses the unusual death rate of shipmates who served on a Vietnam cruise. It would be very unlikely for this problem to be unique to just the Brownson.

Mike Viens – I served my active duty on the USS Brownson DD868, reporting aboard in December of 1967, about 7 months after the Brownson returned from her world cruise. The Brownson's history details 20 days on the "firing line" off Vietnam providing gun fire support during March of 1967. The author reports this time was actually spent well inside the Mekong River Delta providing gunfire support for a disabled river boat that was awaiting recovery. The Brownson herself was so close that the ship was almost in the mud. The Brownson expended 3,200 5-inch rounds in completing this assignment. You will be amazed at the long term health issues endured by this crew.

From: John Page, MM 65-67. My recent research of files, containing the names of the shipmates who were on the Vietnam cruise only, a date period of October 4, 1966 to April, 1967 yielded some startling results. The list is only partial, I have only been able to find 123 members out of the 325 that were on the cruise. Of those 50 have died. The average given age of the sailors were about 25 years old during the cruise, while the age at death of the 50 deceased members averaged less than 55 years old. Of the 50 known deaths out of 123 members the death rate is 40.6%. Using the same sampling resources, 628 shipmates that served on the Brownson during the five years prior to the Vietnam cruise, only 96 known deceased with a death rate of 15.2%. The average age at death for this group was 68 for a difference of 13 years. Since the second group was expected to be older it is reasonable to expect their deceased percentage to be slightly higher. Numbers don't lie. The difference in the above figures are far too great to be statistical blip.

If you desire your newsletter via e-mail Contact: adjutantpost21@gmail.com



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VA AL Service Officer @ VA Medical Center, Ron McBee, (816) 922-2883 Phone or Fax (816) 922-3381 Hours of operation 9:00 - 3:00 PM M-F Needless to say there was something wrong on the USS Brownson during her deployment in the Vietnam area, for this disparity to so many members to extremely high death rate. I would like every shipmate or their families to request that the VA investigate into their deaths or medical condition if it appears related to Agent Orange or asbestos. And if so notify the balance of the crew to get help of their medical issues. Please write your Congress or House person and send them a copy of these findings.

Exposure of Agent Orange to the crew of the Brownson could have easily been the result of the water distillation process. The chemical is co-distilled with water and condensed back into the ship's water supply. There was no testing in place for contamination of this type.

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp

Blue Water Veterans must have actually stepped foot on the land of Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between (1/9/62 to 5/7/75) to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides when claiming service-connection for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

See more at: http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp#sthash.2fyMTK9d.dpuf

The USS Brownson DD-868, is listed on the Agent Orange Public Health List of Navy ships and units which suffered exposures to Agent Orange and thus eligible for VA benefits for those crew members who served during a specific time period and who acquired certain identified related illnesses. The eligible crew members are those who operated on the Song Nha Be and Ganh Rai Bay areas of the Mekong Delta in February 1967. Those who served on the River Patrol Boat Floating Base Platform YRBM-16 from July 1968-69 operated exclusively on Vietnam's inland waterways including the Saigon River's Special Rung Sat Zone and the Upper Mekong Delta and Bassac River on the Cambodian Border. Likewise water distilled process in which water from the rivers containing Agent Orange containments and run-off were pumped into large holding tanks and combined or mixed with chemicals (believed to be sulfur) and then injected into the barge's water supply system for cooking, washing, showers and drinking by the crew. The YRBM-16 is one of those units identified as exposure to Agent Orange.

Deborah Eglich Service Officer



WEB SITE TO OBTAIN DD-214

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

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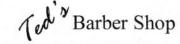
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