



THE LEGION POST

Quarterly Newsletter

OTIS SAMPSON POST 59
803 North Page Street - STOUGHTON, WI



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POST WEB SITE:
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POST PHONE:
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February/March/April
2021

Commander's Report



Hello Comrades,

Where does the time go? Hope all is well, and no one has or is really sick if they got the Covid. We sure have had some trying times. I pray that this year will be better. Many people have asked when are we going to open? We cannot open according to the state guidelines for Covid. I inquired at the Tavern League what the rules are, and we are not a restaurant so that's that. Hoping when we all get our shots, things will change.

We are thinking about having a raffle to help with the monthly bills, such as utilities, insurances, etc. Any ideas for fundraisers you may have would be helpful.

Be patient and these times shall pass. To be honest with you, my patience is wearing thin! Ha Ha I have no interesting news for you with this newsletter article.

Stay Healthy,
Commander Sonny

Hall Rentals

As of 10/2/2020, All Hall Rentals have been suspended until further notice. Please continue to check our website:

www.post59.us or our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/post59stoughton for more information.

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Visit:

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"Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

George Washington

Contact Information for Post 59

Post 59 Email:
alpost59@gmail.com

Sonny Swangstu – Commander
PH: (608) 575-9444
Email: hemirt2017@gmail.com

Bob Lloyd – Legion Membership
PH: (608) 873-5926
CELL: (608) 219-3086 messages or texts
Email: Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net

Jim Oler – Finance Officer
PH: (608) 347-4407
Email: oller8888@gmail.com

Cathy Rigdon – ALA President
PH: (608) 712-5312
Email: rigdon.thorson@gmail.com

Bob Hocking – SAL Commander
PH: (608) 206-6980
Email: bobghocking@gmail.com

Dean Stenjem – Newsletter Editor
PH: (608) 516-0071
Email: 59legionpost@gmail.com
Email: deanstenjem@charter.net

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

Abraham Lincoln

Significant Dates for this Quarter

February 3rd – [Four Chaplains' Day](#)
February 14th – Valentine's Day
February 15th – [Susan B. Anthony Day](#)
February 15th – [Presidents' Day](#)
February 19th – [Coast Guard Reserve Birthday](#)
March 3rd – [Navy Reserve Birthday](#)
March 13th – [K-9 Veterans Day](#)
March 14th – Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15th – [American Legion Birthday](#)
March 17th – St. Patrick's Day
March 21st – [Rosie the Riveter Day](#)
March 25th – [Medal of Honor Day](#)
March 29th – [Vietnam Veterans Day](#)
April 2nd – Good Friday
April 4th – Easter
April 5th – [Gold Star Spouses Day](#)
April 14th – [Air Force Reserve Birthday](#)
April 9th – [Nat'l Former POW Recognition Day](#)
April 23rd – [Army Reserve Birthday](#)
April 30th – [Nat'l Military Brats Day](#)

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803 NORTH PAGE STREET – STOUGHTON, WI

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

We are sorry, but the bar is closed temporarily due to COVID-19.

STAY SAFE!

Legion Membership News

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Even if you were distanced from family.

Our Post membership is renewed 291 out of 374 for 77.81%.

We are 12 members below this time last year, and we still need to renew 83 more members. I have been averaging maybe one (1) renewal per week.

We need to pick it up a bit and get our renewals paid. Remember, those

Past due notices you keep getting in the mail are not junk mail. That is your dues renewal notice telling you are in past due status. Please pay that next time you get one in the mail.

If you have become unemployed or underemployed because of the pandemic and cannot afford your dues but wish to stay a member please contact me at once.

Remember, you can still pay on-line at <https://www.legion.org/renew> and click on "Click here to renew membership", Enter your Legion ID #, Pay with a master card, visa, or Discover.

That's it. Easy!

Submitted by Bob Lloyd
Membership Chairman Post 59

Lloyd2364@sbcglobal.net

608-873-5926





Sons of the American Legion Report

Squadron 59



Out with the old and in with the new. Unfortunately, it appears that last years most unwanted party crasher, Covid 19 will be with us well into the new year. Can't it take a hint?

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 59 finished the year strong by selling out of our offerings for the annual Amish made candy sale. We are especially happy as we did not know what to expect when we placed our order for the Fall & Holiday sale. Having a great product and a greater group of members and volunteers made for a successful fund raiser.

A new challenge that our squadron has taken on is helping some new neighbors get settled in and ready to make a difference. Hero Center is a home that is opening in the Stoughton area to provide a place for needy veterans to stay. SAL Squadron 59 members and their spouses have made contributions of materials and labor to go along with a financial gift from squadron 59 to help get this project going. If you are interested in how you may be able to lend a hand please contact us at sonsofthelegion59@gmail.com or call Bob at 608-206-6980

Commander Bob Hocking

SAL Squadron 59

Stoughton, Wi.

For More Information on The Hero Center:
<https://gmrcmadison.com/hero-center>



Auxiliary News Unit 59



Greetings ~

Beginning in February our regular auxiliary meetings will be held on Zoom. Meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, beginning at 5:30 pm with an expectation to last no longer than one hour. Meeting reminders will be sent via email and will include minutes, agenda and the Zoom link. If a member does not have access to Zoom, they also have the option to connect to the meeting by phone. At 6:30 pm (or immediately concluding the meeting) a social hour will begin (a virtual happy hour - without the legion bar). Attendees are encouraged to make their favorite beverage to enjoy as we visit with each other and catch up on what is happening. This is our way of keeping in contact while social distancing. Hope to see you then!

We have a new member, Cassie Miller. Welcome Cassie!

Although our poppy proceeds were very limited this year, we were able to make two veteran related donations. We donated to RSVP (Vets Helping Vets) Transportation Program in Stoughton and to the family of Captain Hawk Jones.

Our unit will be sponsoring 3 girls to this year's Badger Girls State. At this point there are three options for attending which are all based on the Covid status in the spring. Attendees may be attending virtually, a highbred version or in person. Options are still being discussed. Thanks to April Vingum for taking on the position as BGS Chairperson.

ALA Scholarships are now open for graduating high school students. In addition to four National Auxiliary scholarships there are also many Wisconsin scholarship opportunities with differing eligibility criteria. All applications need to be completed and submitted to our unit for certification by March 1st. Contact Lisa Olson @ 608-279-4847 or via email at waucoman@hotmail.com or <https://www.amlegionauxwi.org/scholarships>

Please continue to do your part to stay safe!



Cathy Rigdon

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Prayer for our Leaders

Jesus, you were born in a little town. You grew up under the authority of local leaders and officials who managed the majority of your daily life. We lift up our local leaders today. We pray for our mayors, city councils, county commissioners, police chiefs, judges, and all who serve our local communities. We also pray for our government leaders, give them the wisdom to lead and to secure unity for our citizens. Help them to make the right decisions that promote flourishing. May you bring unity and prosperity to this country. Lord may the country turn to You for its hope. Strengthen them with wisdom and grace for the heavy burdens they carry. May they manage their teams and projects with love. Keep their hearts pure and their eyes turned toward your face as they work in the best interests of the people they are called to serve. In this we Pray, Amen.

Ed Nowicki

Post 59 Chaplain



On Feb. 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers was sunk in the cold Atlantic. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers. Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains. "Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness. The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA. A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.



For More Information on the Four
Chaplains Memorial Foundation
Please Visit:

<http://fourchaplains.org/>



Dear Legion Family Member:

Air Force Capt. Durwood Jones of Sun Prairie, WI., was killed when his fighter jet crashed into the Hiawatha National Forest during a night training exercise, according to the National Guard. Jones was flying with the 115th Fighter Wing, out of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's Truax Field, in Madison, Wisc.

Jones' body was located on Thursday, December 10, 2020 more than 24 hours after a massive search effort by military troops and local first responders was launched following the crash. The effort was complicated by the dense forest along Lake Michigan's shores where the jet went down and by communications issues in the remote area, official said.

Jones, whose call sign was "Hawk," joined the Air National Guard in 2011 and had been flying F-16's since 2015, the Guard said. He deployed to Japan in 2015 and South Korea in 2017. In 2019, he served a combat tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the U.S. counterterrorism mission there. Jones' awards included two Air Medals with combat "C" devices awarded for operating under hostile combat conditions.

He is survived by his wife and two children, according to the National Guard.

Wisconsin's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Paul Knapp, and his wife, Renee, said: "Capt. Jones was a great pilot, leader, patriot, and combat veteran, who lost his life training to protect our state and nation."

We want to cherish his memory and honor his sacrifice and the sacrifice of his wife and two small children. We want them to know how much we as a community appreciate their service and sacrifice, but we need your help.

District Commander McCormick has challenged our posts and county councils to donate at least \$100.00 (or whatever they can afford) for the family of Capt. Jones. Please share this letter with friends, family, community organizations and Legionnaires and ask for their support as well.

For those who wish to donate towards this worthy cause, please complete the tear off coupon below and send it with your donation.

Yes, I want to show my support for the Jones' family sacrifice!

Enclosed please find a check made payable to: Third District and send to District Finance Officer Mike Rohan, 631 Lone Oak Ln., Verona, WI 53593

☐ \$25.00 ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ \$250.00 ☐ \$500.00 ☐ _____ OTHER AMOUNT

Name: _____ Post/Unit _____

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HISTORIANS' CORNER

Steve Grady – Post 59 Historian

February

1862 – “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” was first published in “Atlantic Monthly” as an anonymous poem.

1918 – The Army newspaper, “The Stars and Stripes”, begins publication for a second time.

1944 – The 4th Marine Division, as part of the first assault on islands controlled by the Japanese before the start of World War II, captured Namur and eight other islands in the Kwajalein Atoll.

1964 – The United States cuts off military assistance to Britain, France, and Yugoslavia in retaliation for their continuing trade with the communist nation of Cuba.

2002 – Operation Enduring Freedom – Pankisi Gorge (OEF-G) in the Former Soviet Republic of Georgia, begins.

2003 – The USCGC Dallas was ordered to deploy overseas to support Operation Enduring Freedom and to prepare for future contingencies.

March

1871 – Congress passed the Indian Appropriation Act, which revoked the sovereignty of Indian nations and made Native Americans wards of the American government.

1931 – President Herbert Hoover signs a congressional act making “The Star-Spangled Banner” the official national anthem of the United States.

1945 – Adolf Hitler issued his so-called “Nero Decree,” ordering the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands.

1969 – U.S. B-52 bombers are diverted from their targets in South Vietnam to attack suspected communist base camps and supply areas in Cambodia for the first time in the war.

2003 – Iraqi President Saddam Hussein appears on national television and rejects the US ultimatum to leave the country or face war.

April

1865 – At Appomattox Court, Va, General Robert E. Lee issued Gen Order #9, his last orders to the Army of Northern Virginia.

1945 – During World War II, Allied forces, the U.S. 7th army, took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

1951 – At the end of a highly publicized espionage case, death sentences are imposed against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, one week after the couple were found guilty of conspiring to transmit atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

1970 – President Richard Nixon gives his formal authorization to commit U.S. combat troops, in cooperation with South Vietnamese units, against communist troop sanctuaries in Cambodia.

2003 – U.S. Army forces took control of Baghdad from the Marines in a changing of the guard that thinned the military presence in the capital.



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2020-2021

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2020-2021

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**Otis Sampson American
Legion Post 59**



DEADLINES FOR QUARTERLY ARTICLES

October 20th (Nov, Dec, Jan Newsletter)

January 20th (Feb, Mar, Apr Newsletter)

April 20th (May, June, July Newsletter)

July 20th (Aug, Sept, Oct Newsletter)

Editor: Dean Stenjem: 59legionpost@gmail.com

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