PEACE ON EARTH

Happy Holidays

Thank you, Veterans, for all that you do...
**COMMANDER’S CORNER**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

Can you believe it is that time of the year already—where does the time go? Most of all where did Summer go?

It has been 6 months since you elected me as Commander of your Post, and it has been an honor to serve the Post 91 members. We need your input on how to better our Post, please share your suggestion with me. Post 91 is OUR Post and we welcome suggestions, ideas and help from our members! We are facing a couple major expenses with one of our beer coolers and our heating system that’s getting old.

- The Ladies Auxiliary served a great lunch on Veterans Day and the S.A.L. served a great dinner. Thanks to both groups for an outstanding job!

- I would like to remind all Blue Caps that this is your Post, what my fellow officers and I do depend on you! We need your input, help and ideas. I would appreciate you attending our meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. Help us make Post 91 the best post in Ohio!

- We are falling short of membership for the year. If you have not paid your dues yet, please pay them soon.

In closing, I would like to challenge all Blue Caps members to bring in one new member for our post. Bring down a fellow Veteran and show them our great organization.

As always, thank a Vet,

**Big Ed**

Ed Leopold, Commander
Veterans Christmas Messages

—From: Veteran Affairs, 2014

The second year of our declared independence found General George Washington's Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. In the week before Christmas of 1777, more than 12,000 poorly-clothed, hungry and near-frozen American soldiers were huddled against a brutal winter, enduring the numbing cold as disease ravaged their ranks. As many as 2,000 of them did not survive Valley Forge.

General Washington wrote that, “unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place... this Army must inevitably... starve, dissolve, or disperse, to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can.”

Despite these bleak conditions, the fighting men of the Continental Army lifted their own spirits, located much needed supplies and took to training with determined vigor. They honed their basic fighting skills, learned new tactics, preserved their dwindling strength and disciplined themselves for the difficult campaign that would follow. It was an act of sublime courage and determination. Six months later, the Continental Army marched out of Valley Forge fit and ready, stronger and more cohesive as a fighting force, and went on to seize American independence.

Since that winter, American patriots in an unbroken line have found themselves on duty during the holiday season each year. Our freedom and security as a nation has required it. So as Americans and their families gather to celebrate these holidays, let us remember the men and women, who sacrifice so much for our privileges, comforts and well-being. They are away from their own families, standing watch for us on freedom’s distant frontiers. We salute their valor, past and present, and we pray for them and our Veterans, who have so selflessly given us the gifts we enjoy this holiday season, as we have every season since 1775.

I offer my warmest best wishes for a blessed and joyous holiday to all our serving military, our Veterans, all their families, the survivors of the fallen, and the members of our Veterans Affairs family, who are privileged to serve them. May God bless each and every one of you, and may God continue to bless this wonderful country of ours.

Merry Christmas.

—From: Veteran Affairs, 2015

This holiday season, VA salutes the valor of our nation’s men and women—past and present—who sacrificed so much to preserve our liberty. And we are grateful for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed around the world, advancing the cause of peace and protecting the freedoms we treasure.

Two of those important freedoms are the rights to gather together with family and friends and worship as we see fit during the holidays. Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or any other religious or secular events during this special time of year, our freedom to do so has been safeguarded by those who have worn our country’s uniforms.

This season of peace is also a time of remembrance. On Christmas Eve 1944, Private Burnett Miller was stationed in France. Private Miller wrote to his mother, “It’s the evening before Christmas, but it’s quite hard to realize this. I’ll just sort of skip this year and we’ll all celebrate twice as much next year.”

Less than a week later, he saw combat for the first time southwest of Bastogne.

Private Miller’s simple words and sentiments resonate with the joy we find among family and friends during this special time of year. And they remind us of the experiences of innumerable Veterans who have spent holidays far away, doing their duty, focused on the mission, and celebrating in quiet, humble ways with their comrades.

As we count our many blessings, let us remember Veterans like Private Miller and their families. And we also offer our thoughts and prayers to our wounded warriors, their families and the families of the fallen who never made it home for holiday celebrations. We honor them all.

On behalf of our 22 million Veterans and our 350,000 VA employees who are privileged to serve them, I offer my warmest wishes for a joyous holiday season and peace in the New Year. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Merry Christmas.
Mel Baher,
1st Vice Commander

Post 91 Blue Cap Membership report as of November 11, 2017

• Post Quota is 680
• Current paid is 542 (80%)
• 62 members paid “on-line”
• We have 75 Life Members
• 19 total new members
• 15 transfers into Post 91
• 168 members remain unpaid as of this report

Remember if dues are not paid by December 31, 2017 your canteen door access card will be de-activated and you will not be able to sign-up for the weekly drawing. Also, it may take up to seven (7) days to re-activate your door card after receipt of 2018 membership dues and your card is presented to the canteen staff as proof of payment.

Jeff Myers,
2nd Vice Commander

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Everyone that Volunteered for our last two Post Events. The Clam Bake was a HUGE Success thanks to Mike Zullo and his crew that put out such a wonderful meal. And all our Reverse Raffle Volunteers, which as of this writing, is coming up this weekend. Marianna has a wonderful dinner planned and I hope everyone enjoys themselves. Not only are these great social events, but these are also Post Fund Raisers.

The upcoming events for the December are:

• the Canteen DJ on Dec. 2nd,
• the 13th District Winter Convention at 10am on Dec. 3rd,
• the Children’s Christmas Party on the Dec. 9th (pre-registration required), and
• the Riders Breakfasts on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

The upcoming events for the January are:

• January 5th is the start of the Post Fish Fry’s on Friday nights from 6 to 8pm running thru Good Friday.
• The Riders Breakfasts are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
• The MAIN EVENT for January is our CASINO NIGHT on Jan. 20th. The Casino Night has ALL FOUR of our Post Units working together to sponsor the event. Many Volunteers are needed for Dealers, Game hosts, and Event Committee Members to help make this a success. Please contact me if you are interested. We will be having a Texas Hold’em Tournament which is an additional $25 fee and limited to 32 players. This event is open to the Public and will need everyone’s assistance in advertising the event to friends.

On a final note, Memorial Bricks are available to Honor or Pay respects to friends, family, or businesses for $40. The next order will be placed when we have our minimum order of 20 bricks. It is a wonderful & thoughtful way to Honor someone this Holiday Season.

May You All Have a Most Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Always Remember to Thank a Veteran, Go Buckeyes! Go Cavs!

For God and Country!

Jeff

Albert’s Café Update
• Lunches will be served:
  Tue. thru Fri. 11-2pm &
  Sat. 11:30-2:30pm
• Mon. evening, we will be serving a Special &
  Fried Foods 6-8pm
• Taco Tuesday’s are 6-8pm
• Wed. is Pizza Night 6-8pm
• Thurs. is Wing Night with
  Special Wings the 3rd week of
  the month 7-9pm
• Fish Fries served
  Jan 5 thru Good Friday 6-8pm
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Sharon (Sheri) Krepelka, Ladies Auxiliary President

The holidays sure came up on us very quickly. The Auxiliary has been very busy. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to thank the Auxiliary Color Guard for their participation at Woodvale Cemetery on Veterans Day. Also for participating in the Berea Holiday Parade in December. I hope you took cards from the giving tree for those who would not have a Merry Christmas without your help. We do try to get military families on the tree. Thank you to those who helped with the Children’s Halloween Party and those that will be helping with the Children’s Christmas Party. Good job ladies.

Again, I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless our Post. God Bless our troops, home and abroad. God Bless America!

Marianna Peris, 1st Vice President Ladies Auxiliary

Our Children’s Halloween Party was great, not the weather, but the fun! About 42 children attended and many adults where we had food and games indoors. The weather did not allow us to “Trunk or Treat,” but everyone moved to the pavilion to keep the “Spirit” going. We had the “Land of Oz,” “Harry Potter,” “Scary Witch,” “Rocking Skeleton,” “Grave Yard” (with large candy bars), “Skeleton Dog,” and many “Spooky” friends to hand out candy. Thanks so much to the indoor helpers and the outdoor helpers. Please come back next year.

Our next event was Veteran’s Day. Thank you to all Veteran’s, you are the foundation of what we believe in. We had a great turn out for our Veteran’s Day Lunch. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our lunch successful. Thanks to Dick’s Bakery and Giant Eagle, Berea for the yummy cakes for dessert. The SAL group also provided a wonderful dinner that day. Thanks guys!

In December we will host our annual Children’s Christmas Party. Games and gifts for all with Santa arriving in a special way at 1 PM. The party starts at 12 noon. Don’t forget to sign up in the Canteen.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and a Bright New Year!

Nancy Doutt, Membership Chairman Ladies Auxiliary

Thank you to all of the 220 early birds who paid their dues by November 11. We’ve reached 59% of our goal. For those who haven’t yet paid, you have until December 31, 2017, to remain in good standing. Members not paid by January 1st are considered delinquent and your access to the canteen will be turned off. Thank you.

Nancy Doutt, Community Service Chairman Ladies Auxiliary

Giving Tree—Please take a tag off the giving tree in the canteen to help bring Christmas to some families in need. Gifts are due back to the Canteen by Friday, December 8. The tag will indicate if the gift should be wrapped or unwrapped. If unwrapped, donations of gift boxes or bags, wrapping paper, tissue paper, bows and scotch tape are most welcomed to help the parents wrap their children’s gifts. If you’d like to make a monetary donation, some Auxiliary members will be your personal shopper. Thank you.

Plant a Row—A big thank you to Post member/landscaper/gardener Rich Terwoord, who grew and donated 453 pounds of fresh vegetables that were delivered by Michal Hudak and Larry Hendricks to S.C.A.N. and Church Street Ministries food pantries. Hundreds of people benefitted from Richie’s TLC and blood, sweat and tears. Thank you, Rich, Michal and Larry!
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Charles O’Malley, S.A.L. Commander
Greeting from the Sons of the American Legion! Hope everyone has had their fillings of the Holiday Spirit and are looking forward to welcoming in the New Year. I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped with one or all our Squadron events this past year. Hopefully everyone had fun and enjoyed the events that we hosted, especially the tailgates. It was much fun to watch a good football team, a.k.a. The Ohio State Buckeyes, this year play (finally). A special thanks to our all our Veterans of this great country and those who helped serve food during our Veterans Day Dinner. The dinner was cooked by the Son’s experienced and lovely chefs Andy and Jim, and was served by the greatest servers the Sons have to offer Doug, Duane, Sean, Noah, Randy, Kurt, Chuck, and Frank.

As we bring in a new year, the Sons will be doing a different style of fundraising for our David “Bear” Hof Memorial Scholarship, instead of our Reverse Raffle. We are excited to bring to you a Duck Race which will be held on April 28, 2018. More details will be given soon, so start counting your ducks and mark your calendars now!

And as always, the Sons of the American Legion are always looking for new ways to bring in new and old members along with ideas into our organization. We hold our meetings every second Wednesday of the month! Really hope to see new faces this coming year!

Thank you,

Charlie

Jim Matej, S.A.L. Membership
It is renewal time for membership dues in the Sons of the American Legion. As you know, membership is the life blood of any organization. Your membership dues contribute to the overall programs of the Sons of the American Legion and keep our membership growing.

Thanks to all who have renewed their S.A.L. membership for the 2018. This year’s quota is 389 and as of November 11th we have 277 renewed members or 71% of quota. I hope the remaining members send their dues in by the end of this year. As a reminder if you have NOT paid your 2018 dues by December 31st, your door card will be de-activated and you will no longer have access to the Post Canteen or be eligible for the weekly drawing.

If you paid your dues and have not received your 2018 Membership card it may be that we do not have your correct address on file. We have had several cards that have been returned to the Post for wrong addresses. Drop us a note and we will make sure we track down your card.

We also want to welcome the new members.

Jim
Volunteers Needed—

- Drivers are needed for the Dinner to Your Door program. This program replaced the Meals on Wheels program and is coordinated by Berea Community Outreach. You can commit to as little or as much as you want—anywhere from once a week or more, or as little as once a month. Typical time commitment runs between 30 to 60 minutes between 11–11:30am to 12–1pm. Call Daune Jaynes at (440) 826-4891.

- Church Street Ministries Food Pantry on Bagley Rd. behind Clint Williams, needs volunteers on Monday’s 9:30–12pm, and 12:30–3pm. Also Fridays 9:30–12pm. Please call (216) 408-1094 to volunteer.

Nancy Doutt, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chairman Ladies Auxiliary

Sweats for Vets Collection—Thank you to everyone who donated brand new or gently-used sweat clothes and other clothes for the veterans at Wade Park VA Hospital. With the help of members of Post 91 and Berea Kiwanis, we were able to donate 25 sweat suits, 12 sweat pants, 16 sweat shirts, and 63 other miscellaneous coats, pants, shirts, belts, boots and shoes. The clothing was delivered before Veterans Day and will be distributed to Veterans in Wade Park hospital, the domiciliary, the day hospital and in outreach.

Barb Hendricks, Raffle, Ladies Auxiliary

As the year comes to an end I’d like to wish everyone a Blessed Holiday Season! Your generosity and support has helped so many individuals. As of November, we have donated over $4,800. Thank you!

The following donations have been made for the months of October through November:

- Guitars for Vets.................................................................................................................. $ 247
- Giving Tree – Veteran Day basket & Monday night drawing ........................................ $ 486
- Total .................................................................................................................................. $733

Vicki Chainey, November Pick-3-Lotto, Ladies Auxiliary

I would like to thank everyone that helped to sell the lottery tickets and to all the people that bought them. We sold over 600 tickets this year taking in $3,305.00. We have had some $100 winners and many $50 winners, we hope that you were one of them. I will report the profit in the next newsletter. Thank you all once again for supporting the Ladies Auxiliary on this fund raiser.
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Frank Whalen, A.L.R. Director

What a great year for riding! We had some good weekends and some that were not so good. Moving on into the fall and winter season...

• The A.L.R. BREAKFAST ARE IN FULL SWING! Breakfast is the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 10am to noon. This is the best breakfast in the area! Come down and enjoy breakfast while supporting our fund raiser.

• Don’t forget the JACK FROST FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, December 2. The parade starts at 5:30pm. The Riders (on bikes or walking), will meet at the Post around 4:30pm to line up for the parade.

• The A.L.R. WINTER FORMAL is scheduled for February 17. Mark your calendar for this event. It is always a great time. More info to follow.

And a special thanks to all POST 91 veterans for their service.

GOD BLESS THE USA!

Frank

The American Legion—continued from page 3

Don ‘Flash’ Vaji, Gifts For The Yanks Chairman

Nothing to report.

Flash

Bob Roginsky, Color Guard

I want to thank the Post and all the members for supporting us in our fund raiser. All the Color Guard’s now have new winter coats, long sleeve shirts, and new shoes. When we did the Memorial Service on Veterans day at Woodvale Cemetery the new uniforms came in handy since it was nippy outside! Danny Nafe won the riffle. Ken Gilroy won the basket of cheer. Ken also donated $10.00 to the Color Guard. It was a pleasure working with Sheri and the Women’s Color Guard. It was work but we had fun.

Bob

CHARITY REPORT

Tom Morgan, Finance Officer

Post 91 has made the following charitable contributions for the months of October & November 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charitable Contribution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Miu Eagle Scout project (restore Berea war memorials)</td>
<td>$161</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALS Association for ALS Walk</td>
<td>$450</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Cancer Society</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>Berea City Club Christmas tree sponsor</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 701 Popcorn for the troops</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buglers for Veteran’s Day Service</td>
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<td>Cleveland area Army ROTC</td>
<td>$180</td>
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<td>National WWII Museum</td>
<td>$60</td>
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<td>Southwest General Hospice</td>
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<td>Wounded Warrior Project</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,601</strong></td>
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www.postbythelake.org
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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hall Rentals</td>
<td>DJ 7 - 11 pm First Saturday of the month thru Mar</td>
<td>6 Lunch - Smoked Kielbasa, Potato Pancakes</td>
<td>7 Lunch - Smoked Kielbasa, Potato Pancakes</td>
<td>14 7PM Meeting</td>
<td>9 Children's Christmas Party - 12noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianna Peris 440-223-6444</td>
<td>Weekly Drawing</td>
<td>13 Lunch - Chicken Paprikash 7:30PM Meeting</td>
<td>20 Lunch - Breaded Pork Chops</td>
<td>15 7PM Meeting</td>
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<td>10 A.L.R. Breakfast 10AM-12noon</td>
<td>11 7:30PM Meeting</td>
<td>12 7:30PM Meeting</td>
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<td>17 A.L.R. Meeting Noon</td>
<td>17 A.L.R. Meeting Noon</td>
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<td>24 A.L.R. Breakfast 10-12noon Canteen closes 5pm</td>
<td>25 Canteen Closed</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Lunch - Liver &amp; Onions</td>
<td>28 7PM Executive Board</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Happy New Year</td>
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<td><strong>Hall Rentals</strong></td>
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<td>6 DJ</td>
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<td>Marianna Peris</td>
<td>440-223-6444</td>
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<td>6-8pm</td>
<td>10 Lunch: Meat Loaf</td>
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<td>12 S.A.L.</td>
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<td>7:30PM Meeting</td>
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<td>14 A.L.R Breakfast</td>
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<td>17 Lunch: BBQ Chicken</td>
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<td>19 A.L.R.</td>
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<td>10-12pm</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>24 Lunch: Rigatoni &amp; Meat Sauce</td>
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<td>26 Auxiliary</td>
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<td>21 A.L.R Meeting Noon</td>
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<td>7PM Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>Drawing</td>
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<td>28 A.L.R Breakfast</td>
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**Casino Night** - All Units Sponsor this event
Jan 20 7/10pm Cost $15 per person includes Food, Draft Beer & Wash
Add $25 for Texas Hold'em - limit 32 players
Big Six Wheel, Over/Under Dice, 50/50 Raffle & Side Boards
Tickets in the Canteen & must be purchased before Jan 20 -
Doors open 6pm - Games start 7-10pm

**DJ** 7 - 11 pm
First Saturday of the month thru Mar

**KITCHEN OPEN**
Mon, Tue, Wed Fri 6-8 pm
Thu 7-9pm
LUNCHES
Tue - Fri 11-2pm
Sat 11:30-2:30pm
FROM THE EDITOR

Maureen Bauhof, Editor

Where did the year go? I can't believe the holidays are around the corner. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We've had a very busy year with variety of functions and fundraisers. The outdoor concerts and good food made for an enjoyable evening. The tailgate functions cheered for OSU. A DJ is playing the first Saturday of the month through March. The kitchen is now operational 6 days a week offering lunches Tuesday through Saturday. We have variety of specials Monday through Thursday evenings. Taco night started in September and it has been a huge success. Fish fries will be starting in Jan 5 thru Good Friday. Remember to support our upcoming events by attending or volunteering some of your time to help!

As we celebrate Christmas and enjoy spending time with our family, it is important to remember that we should never take anything for granted. Peace, security, and the ability to gather our friends and family members around us at Christmas should always put us in mind of our veterans who spent their working lives to give us these crucial everyday comforts. These Christmas wishes for veterans are in recognition of their role in enabling us to enjoy a peaceful and joy filled Christmas this year.

This makes me remember my family and past generations that served our country... My 10th great grandfather served alongside George Washington, my 3rd great grandfathers and uncles served in the Civil War, my grandfather & uncles served in WWI and my father, mother & uncles served in WWII. Without people like them and all Veterans we would not have the freedoms we have today. I found this poem that gives Thanks to the past, present and future service men and women.

**OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN ARE A GIFT**

As we celebrate Christmas, and we open our gifts,  
we realize what priceless gifts our service people give to our country –  
The gifts of patriotism, service and deep dedication to our nation.

As we feast on a variety of fine Christmas delicacies,  
We acknowledge that those serving our country personify a variety of fine qualities:  
persistence in subduing evil, and bravery in the face of danger.

Those serving our country are a cut above the rest of us,  
doing jobs, we could not or would not do.  
While we are surrounded by Christmas comforts,  
we remember those serving our country are in places we would not want to be.  
They are bringing the gift of adaptability to any situation, no matter how harsh or difficult.

As we “ooh” and “aah” over the Christmas lights and shiny ornaments  
We recognize that those serving our country give us the most cherished gift of all,  
The shining light of freedom.

At Christmas, let us wrap our hearts and minds around our treasured  
Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy.  
May they understand how much their service means to us.  
Let us send the Christmas gifts of love, respect and admiration to our steadfast, loyal,  
magnificent warriors and their essential civilian support staff.

They are the most precious Christmas gift of all, OUR PROTECTORS!

I'm wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Maureen
Mel Baher, Historian

Y2K (2000) and a whole new century. A lot of people went to sleep December 31, 1999 not really knowing what the new day would bring. Will my computer work? Will my phones work? What will the New Year bring?

For Post 91 under the leadership of Ed Leopold as Post Commander, one of his many challenges was the replacement of the Hall air conditioning system. The old one had finally seen its day. Remember we had just replaced the canteen unit the previous year. Also in 2000 we began a campaign to raise the money for a new roof; the old flat rubber roof was leaking again. Finally in March of 2001, after reviewing drawings, and securing the funds to complete the project, the roof you see today was installed.

In February 2002, after years of lugging beer kegs out of the back storage room and the nightly stocking of warm bottle beer into the canteen coolers, a new walk-in beer cooler was installed in what was the old basement area. A six tap beer system was installed and additional cold bottle beer is now just a few steps away. In June of 2002, work began on the remodeling of our Hall; the block walls were firred out, new electrical work was completed, and walls were drywalled and painted. Also the ceiling tiles and lighting were replaced. In September of 2002, a new vestibule entrance was built and in October of 2002, the old back room storage area was then upgraded to the additional space we all enjoy today.

As 2002 began to wind down (November) the need for additional parking was discussed and a project of tree removal and blacktopping of that area was completed. Oh and that remodeled back storage room was topped off by the beautiful trophy case designed and built by Kirby Gaal in 2003. Take a close look you Air Force guys and tell me what you see! I think you’ll agree a lot has been done to improve your Post for the enjoyment of our members and guests. Next time I’ll pick up as 2005 began.

BULLETIN BOARD

Membership & Info
Please call 440-234-0091 or visit our website: www.postbythelake.org

Hall Rentals
Please contact Marianna Peris, Monday though Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm @440-234-0091 or 440-223-6444.

Marilla Baher, Legion Sunshine Fund
This is a member benefit that allows our members to use the hall for a “Celebration of Life” when a member or a member’s immediate family passes away. They are able to use the hall for 4 hours & the Post 91 provides food at no charge. Contact Marianna Peris 440-223-6444 to make sure the hall is available for the date requested and Marilla Baher 216-229-7744 to organize everything.