

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy
New Year*



December / January 2023

Artwork by
Brian Schaft



Post By The Lake Newsletter

Albert E Baesel
American Legion Post 91

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Commander's Corner

Greetings American Legion Family Members,

WOW! Where did this year go? We are approaching the holiday season and the end of the year. What a great year we had with our events that were planned by our 2nd Vice Commander, our Riders, Aux., SAL and our canteen staff. We cannot thank them enough for the great job and hard work that went into the events, and we are looking forward to a great 2024. The Post events cannot be a success without the support of all our members and guests. Let's thank all our volunteers who stepped up and made the difference.

I would like to thank our table officers, E-board, Veterans and staff who supported me this year. I learned a lot and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2024.

Please watch the bulletin board in the canteen for winter events and any special holiday events. They are just around the corner.

We are currently looking to hire one more cleaning person for the hall. If anyone is interested, please give me a call at 216-470-3858.

Also, our kitchen staff could use a few more volunteers to keep our dinners going.

Our Blue Caps meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. I would like to see our numbers increase at these meetings. Every member has a voice and every Veteran has a vote. Please attend and be heard as your input is valued.

For God and Country

MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR

James Lockyer





Canteen Hours

Monday-Friday 12-12 pm

Saturday 12-1

Sunday 12-8 pm

Kitchen Hours

Lunch

Monday-Friday 12-2 pm

Dinners

Monday 6-8 pm

Tuesday 5-7 pm

Wednesday 5-7

Thursday 6-8 pm

(Third Thursdays 7-9 pm)

Friday 6-8

Hall Rentals

For hall rentals contact

Marilla Baher (216) 299-7744

or

Legion Post 91 (440) 234-0091

Celebration of Life Events

- For members & immediate family members
- 4 hour hall usage
- Post 91 provides food at no cost
- Contact Marilla Baher of the Legion Sunshine Fund
- (216) 299-7744

www.postbythelake.org

2023 Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Inductees



Darrin M. Adams, Army, Shelby County

Michael L. Close, Army, Delaware County

Carolyn L. Destefani, Air Force, Greene County

Terry Johnson, Air Force, Montgomery County

Donald J. Keehan*, Marine Corps, Lorain County

Paul M. Keller, Air Force/Air Force Reserve, Greene County

John C. Looker, Army, Warren County

Lester L. Lyles, Air Force, Montgomery County

Laurel A. Mayer, Air Force, Greene County

Charles E. McGee*, Army Air Corps/Air Force, Cuyahoga County

Timothy E. McMonagle, Army, Cuyahoga County

Michael P. Monahan, Army, Clermont County

Jack L. Patterson, Army, Coshocton County

Heath M. Robinson*, Ohio Army National Guard, Fairfield County

Stephen L. Rosedale, Army, Hamilton County

David L. Scheffler, Army, Fairfield County

Donald P. Scott, Army Reserve, Mahoning County

Purcell Taylor Jr., Marine Corps, Warren County

Bruce K. Thorn, Army, Franklin County

Robert A. Walkup, Navy/Army Reserve, Williams County

Bios for all class members, additional information about the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and past inductees can be found at OhioVets.gov.

By The Lake
Post



My Father's Navy Christmas Story

--Shared and edited by Jon Silvis:

"This is my dad's Christmas story from shortly after WWII and it is a family favorite."

My brother and I were about seven or eight years old when the whole "Santa thing" seemed to be in doubt. Was he real or not? As always, Dad, a US Naval Aviator would set us straight. No BS, just the facts!

"Now children, here is the truth..."

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the fleet, not a sailor was stirring, just Dad and his crew..."

Christmas Eve 1947, Lt. Donald G. Silvis and his VR-8 Crew departed the U.S Naval Air Station (John Rogers Field) Honolulu T.H. (HNL) for the 7 hour flight to Midway Island (MDY) after their normal preflight brief.

—Flight Log Books, Donald G. Silvis



"This was the weekly flight to support the personnel of Midway with their mail and perishable food stores. The flight was uneventful right up to the point 100 miles east of Midway. At this time, voice radio contact was made with the airway communication facility, Midway Island, for weather data, altimeter settings and runway approach information. The facility kept up an unusual constant stream of "chatter" between the flight crew while following us on their radar and passing our progress information on to the personnel gathered around the air operations building. I was a bit surprised and a bit annoyed at all the interest in this seemingly normal flight. Our crew had made this trip many times previously and it was, for us, just another normal, routine flight.

I sighted Midway from approximately 10-12 miles out, and the long north/south duty runway was indicated via air operations. This was great to my way of thinking as I would be able to make a straight-in approach, land short, do a 180-degree turn, and taxi back up the duty runway to the ramp area in front of the air operations building. This would cut down our turnaround time on the ground and allow the crew and I to return to Honolulu in time to spend Christmas Eve with our shipmates and families. (The first for me with my new bride, and her first, far from Ohio and her family.) My planning was about to be thrown overboard...

Continued on page 10



American Legion



1st Vice Commander, Ed Leopold

Hello all Members,

Well, it is December already. Where has time gone? The weather is starting to turn to _____. I want to remind all Blue Caps that dues are due by the end of December or your key card will be turned off December 31st. As of now, we still have 224 members who have not paid. Come on folks. Let's get with the program and pay your Legion dues.

If you have a friend that is a Veteran and not a member of the American Legion, bring him or her down to see our Post and to see if they would like to join.

To all members of Post 91, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Thank You,

Big Ed

I want to welcome our new members to Post 91:

Brooke Kyrouac, USN

William Forester, USN

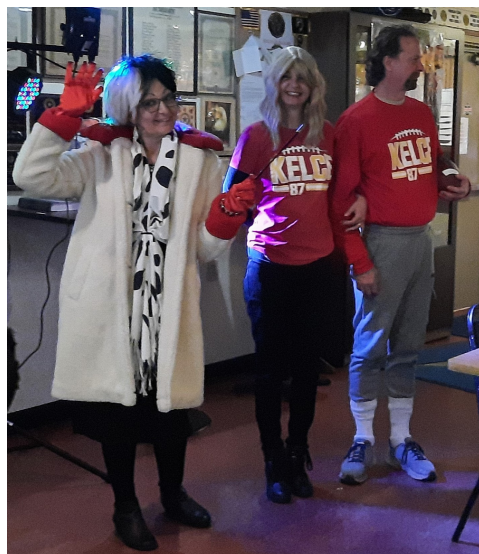
Gary Farnsworth, US Army

And transfers to our Post:

Ron Covrett, (PUFL) USMC

Don Sloane, USN

Welcome to our great Post.



Color Guard, Robert Roginsky

We are still looking for new members. If you see Mike Farrell or Larry Hendricks, ask them about the Color Guard. They may be good for a free beer. Join the Color Guard and make our Post Commander proud.

For more information call

Bob Roginsky
440-582-5856

OR

Jon Silvis
440-823-1066

**Halloween Party
2023**



American Legion, Cont



2nd Vice Commander, Keith Mattison

Well, here we are into the fall weather. The leaves have changed and, for the most part, are off the trees. The time has changed and it is getting darker sooner. The holidays are fast approaching, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very safe and happy holidays.

I want to thank everyone that came out to enjoy our clam bake, which was a great success. Also, I want to thank all of the volunteers that helped make it the success it was.

Mark your calendar for February 17, 2024, for our Night at the Races. Last year was a great time and I am sure that next year will be too!

I would personally like to wish everyone a very safe and prosperous new year.

Remember to thank a Veteran and God Bless America!!!!

Keith



Clam Bake, 2023





American Legion, Cont



Finance Officer, Mel Baher

ALS Association / Northern Ohio	Donation	\$1,000
Military Polce & Fire (MPFO)	Donation	\$500
The Memorial Day Foundation	Donation	\$100
City Mission	Donation	\$270
Berea City Club	Donation	\$100
Kiwanis Club of Berea	Donation	\$100
Cub Scout Pack 107	Donation	\$2,000
The Ohio State Cancer Center	Donation	\$1,000
Berea Firefighters IAFF Local 1836	Donation	\$250
The Education Foundation	Donation	\$250
Southwest General Hospice	Donation	\$200
The Salvation Army	Donation	\$100
		\$5,870

Mel



Building Chairman, Gene Joy

You pay your dues so we can make the Post what you would expect. If you see something that needs our attention, text 513-315-9557 or email genojoy@gmail.com, and we'll address your comment.

Also, please consider joining our work parties on the second Saturday of each month. Breakfast is provided at 8am, and the work is basically light. Every work day we polish and buff the canteen floor so it takes about six guys to move tables, chairs and bar stools. Each month varies depending on the need and sometimes we need people to dust, paint, perform exterior work, etc. Please join us for breakfast and lend a hand.

Thanks!

Gene



Post 91 is the charter organization for Cub Scout Troop 107 and Boy Scout Troop 228.

The Post helped host popcorn fundraisers on the pavilion for Troop 107. (Photo Above)

Scouts from Troop 228 and 107 cheerfully servicing Berea by raking leaves. (On left)



Auxiliary Membership and Community Service Chairman, Nancy Doult

Membership and Dues Increase

As of the writing of this letter, the “early bird” special is over as of November 11. We processed 270 members, which is 69.23% of our goal of 390.

Woowooo!! Thank you everyone! If your 2024 dues are not paid by January 1, 2024, you are considered delinquent and your card key/access to the canteen will be turned off. Just a reminder, junior members do not receive a renewal notice from National. If you sponsored a junior, please pay their \$6.25 dues. Please call me at (440) 552-4713 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Auxiliary Color Guard

The Auxiliary Color Guard needs YOU! We are in need of additional members. We participate in local parades, are occasionally asked to post Colors at ceremonies, and participate in Auxiliary memorial services if a family member requests it. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more information before saying “yes,” please contact Nancy Doult at (440) 552-4713.

Giving Tree

With the decrease of SNAP benefits, our local families need our help more than ever. Hopefully, by now you’ve selected a tag from the Giving Tree. Please have your gift back by December 4, 2023. Instructions are on the tag whether the gift should be wrapped or unwrapped. Thank you for your help.

Welcome New Auxiliary Members!

DeeDee Bell	Ann Koons
Lora Burgess	Joan Labutta
Margaret Giera	Sara Lutsy
Debra A. Jones	Andrea Zolac

Nancy



**“Veterans are the Heart of America Artwork” in honor of Veterans Day
by Preschoolers at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Berea**



Sons of American Legion



SAL Commander, Duane Schaft

The Sons of the American Legion (SALs) are going to begin our winter activities.

This past October we had our annual Cleveland Browns tailgate party. The pavilion was filled with chilly (but excited) fans for this nail biter. The cheering worked! The Cleveland Browns won 39 to 38 against the Indianapolis Colts. Food and beverages were plentiful. Thank you to all who brought a side dish. A special thank you to James Lockyer for getting us wireless TV and to Andy Leopold for the TV mounting.



**SAL Tailgate Party
October, 2023**

The SALs conducted our annual Veterans Day dinner on Saturday, November 11th. The dinner was well attended. Thank you to Andy and Karie Leopold, and the SAL team for making this an honorable and enjoyable tradition. The SAL 13th District Meeting will be January 28, 2024, at Post 196 at 10:30am. Doors open at 10am. Our annual Super Bowl party is Sunday, February 11, 2024, and will be held in the Post 91 hall. This SAL fundraiser benefits our annual Bear Hof Memorial Scholarship. Doors open at 5pm for a 6:30pm kick-off. We appreciate your support of the SALs. More information will follow as we get closer to the event.

We will again be holding our March Madness pool.

Visit our SAL Facebook page, Sons-of-the-American-Legion-Squadron-91-Berea-Oh for any updates on SAL activities. If you have any questions about our organization or membership, please contact an officer or send us an email at salpost91@gmail.com. The SAL team encourages participation in our monthly meetings, which are held every second Wednesday at 7:30pm in the hall.

Duane

www.postbythelake.org



**SAL Veterans Day Dinner, 2023
Volunteers**

By The Lake
Post



American Legion Riders



ALR Director, Ed Leopold

Hello Riders,

Well, I have to say that I think riding season is done. Put those two wheels up for the winter.

There is not much to report at this time. We already have a few things planned for next year. To name one, we are planning our Sock Hop on March 23rd with the live band, Clayton Brothers, who likes playing oldies. Look for the flyers around the Post and tickets will be for sale. Dave, our Road Captain, is getting a few rides together also.

Riders dues are also due, if you have not paid. Don't forget that our meetings have been changed to the first Thursday night of the month at 7pm. Hope to see you all there.

Big Ed

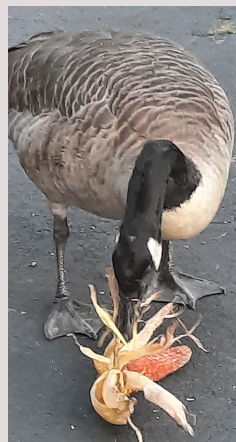


**Bourbon Cigar
Smoke Out
2023**



Theft and Vandalism At Post 91

Despite attempts to keep criminal and dirty behavior from the Post by implementing a state-of-the-art motion sensor ultra-sonic system, Halloween decorations were stolen and vandalized on both patios. Some of the culprits were caught on camera as seen below.





My Father's Navy Christmas Story, Cont

I was on final approach approximately 1/4 mile from the threshold of the runway when the radio crackled, "NAVY, 90394, take a wave off!" Now this was a bit unusual. No other flights had been indicated in the vicinity and the runway appeared to be unobstructed, but I had no other choice than to pull up and circle around for another approach. The radio crackled again. The excuse was given that the "crash and rescue" crew would run the length of the runway to clear it of "Gooney Birds." After all, the island had been declared a bird sanctuary and every effort was made to protect this form of wildlife that inhabits these islands, not to mention any damage it might cause to us or our aircraft.



**Donald G. Silvis in center,
Midway Island with Gooney Bird**

The weather was clear and comfortable, the winds fair and variable, and we foresaw no other problems in our plans for a quick ground time. Once again, we shot the approach to the runway and again the radio crackled, "NAVY, 90394, take a wave off! The duty runway is being changed!" I glanced at the crew, and we all had that same confused look. Winds were light and variable, the runway was long and unobstructed, the approach practical...a straight-in approach. Now after our second attempt, they changed our approach to a shorter runway and with a crosswind thrown in to-boot! We pulled up, and only about 50 feet of altitude separated us from ground level at the end of the runway. We complied with our instructions to abort this approach. I pushed the four throttles forward to the radial engines on our R-5D, and as we passed the air operations building, I glanced out and saw what appeared to be every person inhabiting this island waiting adjacent to the ramp, waving and overly jubilant. All of this just for mail?

I circled once again and made an approach to the new runway, purposely short so I could make a turn and proceed directly to the ramp area. As we touched down, Midway radio came on again, "NAVY, 90394, CONTINUE YOUR ROLL-OUT TO THE END OF THE RUNWAY!" (I really was not pleased by now!) "WHEREUPON YOU WILL EMBARK A PASSENGER!" This made no sense to us...the end of the flight, and NOW we have to pick up a passenger!

Continued on page 11



My Father's Navy Christmas Story, Cont

Just then, the “follow me” jeep approached with the passenger, dressed in his uniform of spotless white gloves, spit-shined black boots, red uniform and flowing white beard. SANTA CLAUS! It was all starting to make sense. The flight mechanic helped our VIP aboard via the aft cargo hatch. I released my seat catch and slid my pilot seat full forward so that St. Nick could stoop behind the seat as I hunched over the controls to continue to the parking area. Santa had his bright red-sleeved hand out the cockpit window, waving to all of the personnel as I taxied up to the ramp and set my brakes.

The pent-up emotion of all the individuals of the island broke out at once upon seeing their Santa Claus, which for a time had been in doubt. The children on the island raised such a noise of excitement that it was beyond description and, in some cases, gave way to tears of joy.

Santa disembarked and was immediately ringed with children of all ages. He called each one of them by their first name and preceded to the base theatre for their Christmas party. All of the children bounced alongside, ahead and behind.

Captain Oexle, the Commanding Officer of the Midway Naval Base, came aboard to greet the crew and I, and to relate to us the build-up for this occasion. You see... Midway Island has its own radio station, low power, local base talent and staff for the benefit of the personnel stationed at this facility. Six weeks prior to Christmas, promptly just after the evening hour, the station would somehow, after a great deal of difficulty and “cellophane static,” manage to contact the North Pole. Santa would come on the air, and together with Mrs. Claus, would read letters from the children of Midway Island. During nearly five of the six-week period, Santa would express his concern to Mrs. Claus about these children of this remote area and above all, no snow! Now, Captain Oexle was a regular U.S. Navy man and was used to having his way and getting things done, and was by no means a man to sit around without taking some sort of action to alleviate what could have been a disastrous situation. For these youngsters, he also wrote a letter to Santa! He requested that Santa be in San Francisco on the 24th of December, at which time he would make arrangements for a US Navy aircraft to fly him out to Midway for a Christmas party. (My crew and I had unknowingly been tapped for this flight.)

Santa was, in reality, one of the island personnel who was roly-poly and needed little, if any, padding and possessed a round cherubic face. He was made up with a beard by one of the women on the island, a beautician, who applied it with a bit of spirit gum so as to look like the real thing and would even produce an “Ouch” from the wearer. He was every inch, and every ounce, the Santa of my own youth. The fact he knew everyone based at Midway and could call each one on a first name basis, added to the realism of a most successful party.

Continued on page 12



My Father's Navy Christmas Story, Cont

The crew and I were invited to the party by Captain Oexle, and it was a most joyous occasion. Santa had a gift for every child (supposedly unloaded from our aircraft while Santa and the children proceeded to the party). My crew and I departed Midway for our return to Honolulu, light hearted and firm believers. It was later than had originally been planned, but nevertheless, we were homeward bound after one of the most delightful flights anywhere. We arrived late Christmas Eve, tired, but in time to spend a first Christmas with my new wife.

So, don't you boys ever tell me there is no Santa Claus! For, my Crew and I, we saw him on Midway Island in 1947 and I envision him every Christmas Eve." ⚓

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

This story was in the notes of the Late, LCDR. Donald G. Silvis, who retired from the Navy in 1964 after 21 years of active service. He and his bride, the former Alice Ruth Crocker, celebrated their 54th Anniversary on June 14th, 2001. LCDR. and Mrs. Silvis are the parents of two boys, Robert W. and Jon B. Silvis



Donald and Alice two days after their wedding, departing to live in Hawaii



We want to publish your patriotic stories and original artwork in the Post by the Lake to share with your Post 91 family members.

We are looking for artwork to feature on our cover pages, and hardcopies can easily be converted into usable digital formats. Stories may be your own or about someone you know, and can be about an experience during active duty, post-war experiences, and even stories from civilian parents, spouses, or children of those who serve or have served. (Names can be changed for privacy purposes.) Please consider contributing your patriotic voice to our newsletter.

Contact Victoria at vschaft@outlook.com and type "Post 91" into the subject line. Submissions will be published based on content and available space. The deadline for the February / March issue is January 15th and is open to ALL who love our country!

Bulletin Board

December

7: ALR Meeting, 7pm
9: Work Party, 8:30am
Children's Christmas Party, 11:45-2:30
11: AUX Meeting, 6:30pm
13: SAL Meeting, 7:30pm
14: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
15: Canteen Christmas Party, 7-9pm
25: Christmas
28: E-Board Meeting, 7pm
31: New Year's Eve

January

4: ALR Meeting, 7pm
6: DJ Jerome, 7pm
8: AUX Meeting, 7:30pm
10: SAL Meeting, 7:30pm
11: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
13: Work Party, 8:30am
22: AUX Meeting, 7pm
25: E-Board Meeting, 7pm



TAPS

SICK CALL

Edward Kaleta

Natalie Woelfle

Save the Date

*Total Solar Eclipse Party
April 8th, 2024*



1-5pm

American Legion Post 91

More details to follow