

By The Post Lake

www.postbythelake.org



Image cropped to fit page. To see full painting, visit
the Champaign Aviation Museum or Cleveland.com

*Painting by
David Jakupca*

March / April 2025

Commander's Corner



Post By The Lake Newsletter

Albert E Baesel
American Legion Post 91

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Greetings Legionnaires and Legion family members.

Well, it looks like the groundhog, Phil, wasn't kidding when he stated six more weeks of winter.

The year 2025 started right where I left off...working on Post improvements. The wood floor in the hall was refinished in January, and we have also gone to a cloud-base drop box, so we will not risk losing our files. As of now, work has begun on updating and making our website easier to access and user friendly.

Spring is around the corner...we are almost there! Watch our bulletin boards in the canteen for upcoming events. Our Post is always looking for people to volunteer, whether at events, in the kitchen, or our work parties on the 2nd Saturday of each month around 8am.

My challenge to all the Veterans: I would like to see a few more smiling faces on the second Thursday of the month at our meetings at 7pm.

Please be safe, and I'm always looking to hear from our members.

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

Victoria Schaft (440) 610-2682

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

Vietnam Never Ended

- Silver Star Recipient Rick Adler

For those who served, and for their friends and family, Vietnam never ended. We raised our hand and took that oath. We had no idea where we were going, what we were going to do or what was going to happen to us. It didn't matter who we were or how we were going to serve, whether infantry or cook...the things we'd miss: weddings, funerals, the birth of a child, watching our kid hit their first home-run in a baseball game. And what horrific experiences were we in for? In that moment, our lives were changed forever.

I served as a Jungle Warrior with the Delta 4th Battalion 3rd Infantry of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade of the Americal Division of I Corp, and we had a reunion for the first time about eight years ago in Sedona. We were all talking about the guys that never came back to the world, including Sully from the 2nd Platoon who had been taken out on Iron Mountain by a sniper. At this reunion, we learned the day after he got killed, the brigade chaplain had called to inform that Sully's daughter had been born... yesterday. She has to live the happiest day of her life knowing that her dad was killed that same day. The parents of the men who served would also often have their lives changed forever—and sometimes twice. Two men I served with had the same first and last name. When one Tony fell off the rope during a river crossing and was swept away by the current, the other mother received the notification that her son had died in Vietnam. The mistake was later discovered, but imagine what that mother went through, thinking her son was dead and then learning he was not.

Towards the end of my tour, my lieutenant said "I want to put you in for a hard-five," which is an E-5 sergeant in the Army. I said, "Don't put me in for that LT 'cause all I wanna do is get outta here. I've spent my time. I've been wounded three times and spent 60 days in hospitals, including Japan." So, he put me in for a rear job because they would often try to get you out of the bush when you started getting short, which meant you had less than 100 days left. And so I was in the rear that night when the company went to an old NDP (Night Defensive Position), which you should never do, and it was boobytrapped. Nine guys in my platoon were killed. Others lost their arms or legs. One of my very good friends, Mike Borges, was only 19-years-old when he was killed, and one of the others had just been brought in on the resupply chopper and had less than an hour in the bush. That quick, it all changes. And that's when the guilt comes in. Why them? Why not me? I'd trade all my medals for them to come back.

Continued on page 11



American Legion



1st Vice, Ed Leopold

Hello Everyone,

Well, Legion members...we are almost there. We just need a few more people to pay their dues to reach quota. Please, if you haven't done so, consider paying them as soon as possible. Right now, we are still ahead of all Posts in the 13th District, and we'd sure like to stay there. If you need help paying them, do not be afraid to see me, Mel or the Commander.

That is all for now fellow Vets.

Big Ed

*To the Colors!
The Travel! The Excitement!
The Pay!---just kidding*



Your Post 91 Color Guard Needs YOU!

We are always looking for volunteers, Legionnaires and SALs. Represent your Post in local ceremonies and events. Uniforms are provided. Short monthly drills.

For more information contact,

Jon Silvis OR Bob Roginsky
440-823-1066 440-582-5856



Post 91 is pleased to share that we have chartered a new Scouting America girls troop, Troop 228G. They welcome all girls ages 11-17 (5th-12th grades) and currently have five girls from Berea and Olmsted Falls. The girls have named their Troop the "Rockin' Rosies," inspired by Rosie the Riveter. They look forward to helping give back with service to the Post, and they are excited about their first campout in March! We're excited to help these girls along their path to big adventure.

Building Chairman, Gene Joy

Just a reminder: Work parties are the second Saturday of each month. The months of March and April are when spring will be sprung, and more things will need to be attended to. Eggs ala Leopold starts at 8am and work begins thereafter. The length of time depends on tasks.

Gene



American Legion, Cont



2nd Vice, Keith Mattison

As I am sitting here watching it snow, I am thinking about spring and the start of warm summer days, as I am sure most of you are. Last night was our Night at the Races, which was very successful, thanks to all who joined us. It was another fun night. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped put the event together. With out all of you, it would not have been so successful. As you all know, we are in the middle of our fish fry Fridays, which have been very busy. I'm looking forward to warm weather and the start of our Friday night grilling.

Don't forget, if you're looking for a way to honor a family member or someone that you love, a great way to do that is with a memorial brick. Order forms are available, or ask one of the wonderful bartenders.

As I mentioned, the volunteers that helped with the Night at the Races... our Post would not be able to do it all without you. From the fish fry Fridays to all of the events we do, you all are important also. So, thank you and if you have never volunteered, please think about it. We have sign-up sheets every month.

As I close, think spring!!!!

Please remember to thank a Veteran for their service.

God bless the United States of America!!!



Night at the Races, 2025

Keith





American Legion Auxiliary



Auxiliary President, Nina Zdravecky

1st Vice, Linda Joy

Hello happy people!

Hi,

Well, most of winter is over by now, so happy spring to you all! The Auxiliary is going to be doing our annual spaghetti dinner on April 26th, so mark your calendars! We will also be having a meatball and sausage sub sandwich night on May 5th.

"In like a lion...out like a lamb" has always seemed straightforward enough of a proverb; when March starts, it's still winter, and by the end of the month, spring has begun. True, in Cleveland, the weather hasn't reached the lamb stage. It's more like an irritable cat.

Don't forget our annual garage sale! You can start bringing your items in on April 27th through April 30th. Please, if possible, get your items there before noon on the 30th, as we have to have everything sorted and priced on that day. The sale runs from May 1st thru the 3rd.

A heartfelt thank you to all the amazing members who bought raffle tickets in the past months. Your support is invaluable in helping the Auxiliary do what we do to help Veterans and the community.

Thanks and God Bless.

Happy March and April,

Nina

Linda

Membership and Community Service Chairman, Nancy Doutt

Membership Update

It's been an unprecedented year for our Unit, with the loss of three more Auxiliary members in January and February, for a total of 11 members from February 2024 to February 2025. We lost 22-year member Jill Hall in January. Jill provided a lot of support for our Unit behind the scenes, and was involved with assistance to Veterans and children and youth. Silvia Escalante was a member for 21 years, and she passed away in February. Silvia advocated for other Auxiliary members, at times even paying their dues so they could maintain their membership. Bobbie MacPherson also passed in February at the age of 90. Bobbie was a Past President, and our longest-term member with 59 years. She was a fur-ever foster Mom with Berea Animal Rescue and volunteered in their cat house, and bowled and golfed until the age of 86. Rest in peace, good and faithful servants.

The National Auxiliary mailed the 2nd 2025 dues notice in February and we have received additional renewals—thank you! To date, we have processed 379 members, or 93.12% of our goal of 407. For those who haven't yet paid, if you do not pay by the end of March, your name will fall off our roster for the next year, which is printed by the National Auxiliary.

Welcome New Members

- Lorraine Turner Beatty
- Beverly Clark
- Jessica Daniel
- Lisa McCarter
- Gerri Liskay (Transfer)
- Kimberly Peculis
- Katina Swancer
- Mary Ann Walter





American Legion Auxiliary, Cont



Membership and Community Service Chairman, Cont, Nancy Doutt

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship / Annual Garage Sale

Auxiliary applications are available in the canteen for the 2025 scholarship, which is funded by the annual garage sale. This year, the sale will be Thursday, May 1 and 2, from 9am to 5pm, and on Saturday, May 3, from 9am to noon. Drop-offs begin on Sunday, April 27, through Wednesday, April 30, during Post hours. If you'd like to volunteer during drop-off hours, sorting and pricing on Wednesday, or during the sale, contact Nancy Doutt at (440) 552-4713.

VA&R—We've been given the go-ahead to return to playing bingo and ward visits at Wade Park VA Hospital. If you are interested in helping, please contact Nancy at (440) 552-4713.



Auxiliary Volunteers Having Fun in the Kitchen

Americanism & Government Test Winners

The Americanism & Government test was given at Berea-Midpark, Olmsted Falls, and Strongsville High Schools in December, 2024. The following students scored the highest in their grade level and will be invited to an upcoming Auxiliary meeting to receive a \$25 check, an American Legion pin and a certificate of participation. The students with an “*”, also scored the highest at the 13th District level and advanced to compete against the other District winners at the Department (state) level for the possibility of a trip to Washington, D.C., and scholarships.

Berea-Midpark High School

- 10th Grade Boy – Chapman Zirke *
- 10th Grade Girl – Nawal Suleiman *

Olmsted Falls High School

- 12th Grade Boy – Marius Colley
- 11th Grade Boy – Ryan Henderson *
- 11th Grade Girl – Analise Swanson *

Strongsville High School

- 12th Grade Boy – Samuel Chucksu *
- 12th Grade Girl – Claire Elbert *

Thank you to the teachers at the respective high schools for supporting this American Legion program.

Nancy





American Legion Auxiliary, Cont



2nd Vice, Stacey Lehmann

Unit 91 is looking for young women who will have completed their junior year of high school at the end of the 2024-2025 school year to participate in ALA Buckeye Girls State. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Stacey.

We would like to thank the American Legion family for their support of the Wade Park Holiday Party. This event was held in January to provide holiday goodies and happiness to the Veterans who live at the Care Towers at the VA hospital. Thank you to the volunteers who participated and made this day extra special, and a great big thank you to Gary Farkas for coordinating another great event!

April is the Month of the Military Child and was designated in 1986 to honor and support military children. April 15th is "Purple Up Day," so be sure to show your support and wear purple that day. Also, watch for our special raffle during the month of April.

If anyone is interested in participating in Memorial Day festivities, contact James Lockyer or Stacey Lehmann. We are hoping to collaborate with Polaris again for the production of the poppies for our annual poppy garden. More information to follow.



**April 19, 2025
1-11pm**

**Children: Free
Adults: \$5**



Stacey



Wade Park Christmas Party, 2025



Sons of American Legion



SAL Commander, Sean Boddy

2nd Vice, Jeff Haas

While the weather out there is frightful
Inside Post 91, it's so delightful
its a really cool place to go...

When it snows When it snows When it snows

The year 2024 has ended and 2025 has begun, and we're off to a great start! We had our annual Super Bowl Party and it was a great success. It was a great turnout, great food, a bunch of prizes, and quite an interesting game for sure! Also, fish fry season has begun and we've worked two so far. Always fun and good eats. Who doesn't love pierogis?!

Our Baer Hoff Scholarship application is available online or in the canteen for high school seniors and first year college students. The winner will be awarded \$1,000!

March is also nomination month for Sons of the American Legion. In April, we will announce this year's committee members.

Please visit the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 91 Facebook page for updates on future events and activities. As always, please consider joining us for one of our monthly meetings on every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the upstairs hall. If you have any inquiries about our organization and/or membership, questions, comments or concerns, please contact an officer. Feel free to send us a message on Facebook or email Salpost91@gmail.com.

Stay Warm - Stay Safe - Stay Healthy!

Sean

www.postbythelake.org

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

The Sons of American Legion are again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or student currently enrolled in a 2-4-year college, university or trade school. Only students pursuing an undergraduate degree are eligible. Candidates must be children, step children, or grandchildren of Post 91 members of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of American Legion.

If interested, the application is on the Post 91 website (<https://postbythelake.org>). It is in fillable PDF format. It can be found under the "About Us" tab, and click on Scholarships.

Any questions, contact Jeff Haas at 440-227-9723.

Jeff



Our scoreboard has
been sold out and
will be posted in the
canteen





Sons of American Legion, Cont



Membership Chairman, Jim Matej

Thank you for being a part of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron Post 91. We are rounding third and heading home in our 2025 membership year, which ends in May. Currently we have 321 renewed members and just need another 59 to meet our State of Ohio quota of 380 members. Our Squadron 91 officers would like to thank those that have renewed their 2025 membership and welcome the new members who have joined our American Legion Family. If you haven't renewed your membership, your key card was de-activated January 1st, 2025, so you are now unable to access the Post canteen or enter the weekly drawings.

With your support, we continue to be the largest and best Squadron in the 13th District of Ohio. Your \$30 dues not only provides you membership in the Sons of American Legion organization, it also provides your Squadron funds to support multiple organizations in the Berea area. Over this past year, we have helped with funding several youth baseball and football teams, the Auxiliary 91 Christmas Giving Tree, Wreaths Across America, The Bear Hof Scholarship, city of Berea, Berea schools, the Veterans Day dinner, Veterans at Wade Park VA Hospital, and The James C Maise Scholarship golf outing, to name just a few.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please take the time to do so, so that we can continue supporting our Veterans, children's wellness, and the Berea community. There are several ways you can pay your 2025 membership. Drop off or mail your dues to the Sons of American Legion 91 American Legion Pkwy, Berea Ohio 44017. Please include your membership number when paying your dues. You can also create an account and pay your membership dues online at myLegion.org. Your myLegion account also allows you to update your profile information and print your membership card.

If you paid your dues and have not received your 2025 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.

If you would like to get involved, start by attending our monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in the Post Hall. They only last about an hour. Come see what we have planned for our members of the Post 91 family. We can always use your input and help. If you have a question about membership or have moved, drop us a note or send us an email at salpost91@gmail.com. You can learn more about Sons of American Legion programs and the benefits of membership at www.mylegion.org.

Thank you again for becoming a member of the Sons of American Legion, and for showing your support of our Nation's Veterans, past, present and future.

Jim



A.L.R. PRESENTS
Disco Night
 50/50 Raffle,
 Food, music, and fun

Dress for the time.

DISCO
MADNESS

Party starts at 7pm March 2025
 91 American Legion Pkwy

POLAR BEAR RUN
A.L.R. POST 91
 50/50 Raffle
 Bike Blessing

Post
91
 Berea A.L.R.

Received a patch

April 13th
 Registration @ 10am
 KSU @ 12pm
 Rider \$25. Pass. \$15
 Food, music, and more



K9 Veterans Day is observed every year on March 13 to honor the founding of the United States K9 Corps on March 13, 1942. The day was established in 2009 by the late military dog handler Joe White.

Vietnam Never Ended

Once, a friend and fellow service-man asked me to speak to his son, who was considering joining the Marine Recon. I agreed but said “I won’t talk him out of it and I won’t talk him into it. I’ll just tell him how he will be changed for the rest of his life.” During our conversation and the many things we talked about, I told him he would never react to anything the same way again and I asked, “What do you hear right now?” He said it sounded like there was a storm coming: thunder...lightning. I said, “That’s not what I hear. To me, even after all these years, it sounds like an airstrike or someone’s getting peppered by artillery in the area, and my ass is going to have to get on a chopper to go bail somebody out. That’s going to be the difference. You walk by Costco and you hear air guns taking off lug-nuts, and now it sounds like a mini-gun. You won’t like the Fourth of July anymore, not because of what it celebrates, but because of the unexpected explosions that you will hear and the smell of gunpowder that brings you right back there.

“If you have a CIB (Combat Infantry Badge), that usually means you have PTSD. Sure, I got the purple heart and the silver star, but the one that I’m most proud of is that CIB because it means I’ve been there, I’ve done that. You get off that plane on your first day, and it’s 120 degrees outside and 100% humidity, and then you’re walking around with a 90lb rucksack on your back in a triple canopy jungle, and you dig a hole every night to be in just so you don’t get hit. Then, you sit in your hole, sweating, and the mosquitos are eating you alive (and they’re as big as robins), and you can’t swipec at them or make any noise because you’re out there (and they’re out there somewhere, too). Then during monsoon seasons, you’ve got three months of rain like you’ve never seen in your life and you’re just slopping around, your socks are never dry, your hands are always shriveled up, and you would sleep sitting on your helmet so your ass wasn’t in the mud when you woke up. Then, the first thing you did in the morning is light a cigarette and start burning the leaches off of you. But you did it because it was the will to live and to make sure the guy to your right and the guy to your left made it, too. That’s why they say ‘brothers in arms’...there’s no greater love than you have for those you served with and were in battle with.

There were tens of thousands of people who served who perhaps never got the recognition they were due, and they all had the same name. Their name was Doc. They were always taking care of us, whether it was tending to our blisters, jungle rot or any pain or infection we had. They would make sure we received our pills, though a lot of times we wouldn’t take the malaria pills, hoping we’d catch malaria and be able to get out of the bush for a few days to recover. The Docs went above and beyond the impossible when they heard their name called... ‘Corpman, Medic, or Doc... I’m hit.’ They bandaged men while being shot at and saved their lives and, in some cases, just held their comrade’s hands in their final moments. After all these years, everyone that’s ever served with them never called them by the name they were given at birth. It’ll always be Doc. These men will live with things that will haunt them forever. They were some of the bravest men I fought with.

Today, I give speeches for Veterans events and at schools, and once a kid asked as if perplexed, “When you were drafted, you just...went in?” I responded, “Yeah, that’s what we did. Perhaps the problem is if you were drafted today, you would probably protest and not go in. And the reason that’s sad is because it’s people like me, your grandparents, brothers, sisters and others that have gone in...that is why you have the freedoms you do. I enjoy using a toilet and being able to flush it, as opposed to digging a hole and burying it. I enjoy showering with the water as hot as I want and for as long as I want, as opposed to going three weeks without a bath. I enjoy being able to use a water fountain for a cold and fresh drink, as opposed to drinking water that is 80 degrees and can only be bared if there is a pack of Kool-Aid in it. Many of you have no appreciation for anything. But I guarantee one thing. You can say, ‘I hate this or that or it’s better in that country,’ but go and try it one time. We may not be perfect, but there is nowhere better to be than in the United States and still have the right to complain. Please remember the sacrifices they made

Continued on page 12.

Vietnam Never Ended

for you.” I hope my message was received that day because that’s my greatest fear for this country...how hard someone will fight for something they don’t love and respect.

Many have asked, ‘What was the longest battle in Vietnam?’ It is a battle that is still going on today...Agent Orange. It was used to get rid of the foliage and I know it was a tremendous help to those of us who served in triple canopy jungles, but there have been over 300,000 who have died because of Agent Orange. They were killed in Vietnam but they came home to die. I, myself, will die with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, but not because of it. I refuse to let Vietnam kill me. Instead, I dedicate my time to educate the public and youth and to provide comfort to those who served or lost someone who served, and to help Vets learn how to get all the benefits they deserve and are due.

Every speech I give is different, except for one thing... the numbers: Over 58,000 died in Vietnam (including 8 nurses and 16 chaplains), over 300,000 were wounded, 5,283 lost a limb, 1,584 lost multiple limbs, 17,539 who were killed were married, 33,103 were 18-years-old, 12 were only 17, 5 were only 16, and there was 1 who was just 15. On Jan 31, 1968, 246 were killed that one day. In May of 1968, 2,415 were killed (about 80 per day). There were 31 sets of parents who lost two of their sons, 424 who were killed were from Cuyahoga County and 997 were killed on their very first day. Now just imagine your tour is over. You’re getting ready to come home to your family and friends, and in those last 24 hours...you’re killed. On their very last day in Vietnam 1,448 were killed.

Speaking to Gold Star families is the hardest speech you’ll ever give. If you can talk without a lump in your throat and tears forming in your eyes, you shouldn’t be up there speaking because when you speak, it should be from your heart. And thank God for airplanes flying overhead when you can stop and regain your composure. Even when I’m giving a speech to honor those I’ve never met, or for those about whom I don’t know their stories and how they died, I know there is one thing that always makes the ones they left behind feel better. Talk about them to their family and friends because they want to be remembered by way they lived, not by the way they died. As long as we remember and talk about them, they are not dead. They are forever young.

When you hit your knees tonight, say a prayer for all the men and women who are currently serving and those that have raised their right hand to protect our country and their families. All give some and some give all. We wish we had just one more time with those that are forever young, but what they left us with is a lifetime of memories that we have to cherish in place of that one more time. And for those that are still with us, pick up the phone and thank them for their service.

Rick



Bulletin Board

March

- 1: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 6: ALR Meeting, 7pm
- 8: Work Party, 8:30am
- 10: AUX Meeting, 7:30pm
- 12: SAL Meeting, 7:30pm
- 13: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
- 15: ALR Disco Madness, 7pm
American Legion Birthday
- 17: St. Patty's Day
- 24: AUX Board Meeting, 7pm
- 27: E-Board Meeting, 7pm

April

- 3: ALR Meeting, 7pm
- 5: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 9: SAL Meeting, 7pm
- 10: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
- 12: Work Party, 8:30am
- 14: AUX Meeting, 7:30pm
- 19: Children's Easter Brunch, 11-1pm
- 20: Easter, Canteen Closed
- 24: E-Board Meeting, 7pm
- 26: AUX Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7pm
- 28: Auxiliary Board Meeting, 7pm



TAPS

Silvia Escalante

Jill Hall

Walter J Kosiba

Bobbie Macpherson

Russ Sanderson Jr

*NOT A MEMBER?
Ask an Officer or Bartender
how You can Join
Our American Legion Family*



To share your patriotic stories, messages, photos and artwork, contact Victoria at vschaft@outlook.com and type "Post 91" into the subject line.