

By The *Post Lake*

www.postbythelake.org



September / October 2024

Commander's Corner



Post By The Lake Newsletter

Albert E Baesel
American Legion Post 91

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Greetings American Legion Family Members:

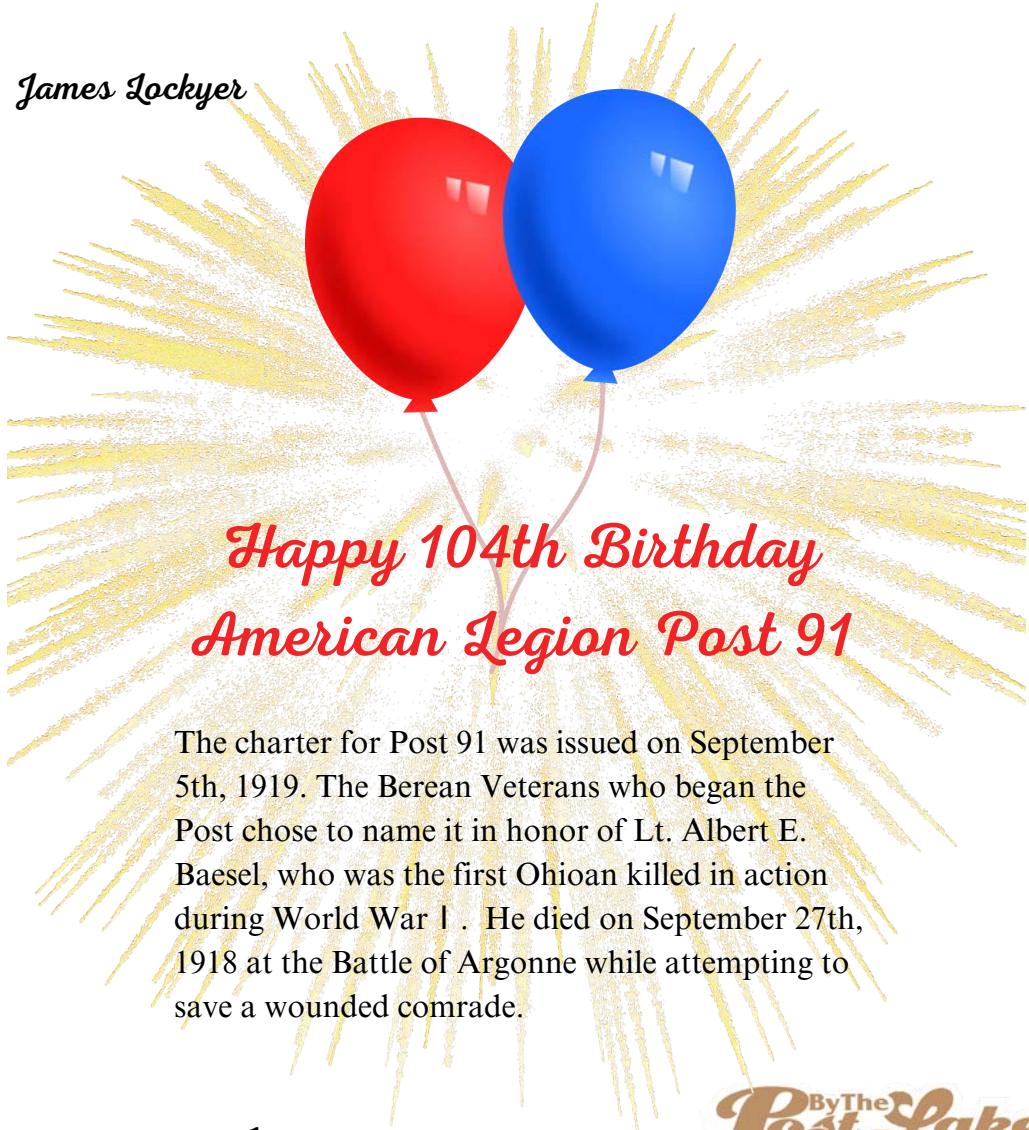
WOW! Where has the summer gone? We are already a few weeks away from fall. We had some great events this summer, thanks to all who planned and volunteered for these events. Follow the Post bulletin boards for our fall events.

Also, our kitchen staff could use a few more volunteers to keep our dinners going. Without the help, dinner might not be available on some nights. Please remember, this is your Post and our volunteers are who make it great, but it's usually the same faces.

Our Blue Caps meetings are the 2nd 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, so please attend and be heard. Your input is valued.

For God and Country,

James Lockyer



Happy 104th Birthday American Legion Post 91

The charter for Post 91 was issued on September 5th, 1919. The Berean Veterans who began the Post chose to name it in honor of Lt. Albert E. Baesel, who was the first Ohioan killed in action during World War I . He died on September 27th, 1918 at the Battle of Argonne while attempting to save a wounded comrade.



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

A Day in Vietnam

-by Robert Sell

I was a member of the TRP A 2/17 CAV 101st ABN DIV (Troop 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division) in A Shau Valley on 10 May, 1967. We were part of a search and destroy mission. The hueys (helicopters) dropped us off near the border of Laos as a blocking force while the main force went up the hill. The battle raged on and on. Soon, the enemy came from all over and we were trying to flee into Laos. Before long, we were running out of bullets and were over-run.

Nine of us were captured and taken by boat up the river nearby. We were too many POWs for them to handle, so we were lined up and an officer shot five of my soldier friends in the head at random. Only four of us were left.

We were forced back onto the boat and hauled up north. After a couple of days in and out of the boat, we were taken to a village where people came and took pictures of us. Then the four of us were separated. They put two of us on a different boat, and Chuck and I never saw them again.

Our boat went back up the river and we weren't even sure where we were. Then we came to another village where we were imprisoned in a compound of bamboo poles and cages. Other Americans were there as well.

Continued on page 12

POW/MIA

Recognition Day Ceremony

Friday, September 20, 2024

at 5:30

**The canteen will be closed
during the ceremony**





American Legion



2nd Vice, Keith Mattison

Hi from Kellys Island. As I am sitting here with family and friends enjoying a much needed and relaxing vacation, I thought, what a better place to write for the newsletter.

As summer is slowly starting to fade and thoughts of fall are fast approaching, we will be getting ready to celebrate Labor Day weekend, the unofficial close of summer. School will be starting, and there will start to be the smells of fall in the air. As we enter into September, we will be doing our steak dinners on Friday nights. Also, tickets are being printed for our clam bake, which is on October 12th. Make sure to get yours, as there will be a limited supply. So, as we get closer to fall, enjoy the rest of your summer and get ready to enjoy the colors.

As always, we encourage volunteers to help out to make your Post better. Remember to thank a Veteran and God bless the United States of America.

Keith



Post 91 Members enjoying Music by the Clayton Brothers on the Pavilion 2024





American Legion, Cont



Finance Officer, Mel Baher

Name	Memo	Amount
Alzheimer's Association	Donation	\$100.00
American Cancer Society - ck#3531 6/17/2024	Donation	\$100.00
American Legion Unit 91 ck#3527 6/12/2024	Flowers @ Northwestern	\$200.00
Berea Arts Fest - ck#3536 6/17//2024	Donation	\$250.00
Berea Pickle Ball Association	Donation	\$250.00
Boy Scout Troop 228 - ck#3522 5/11/2024	Donation for Trailer	\$1,500.00
City of Berea ck#3508 3/29/2024	Flag Bannner program	\$325.00
City of Berea ck#3524 5/11/2024	Live @ the Lake sponsor	\$3,000.00
Coast Guard Association	Donation	\$200.00
Garden Club of Berea-Midaprk Middle School	Donation	\$200.00
JVCOCC - Veteran of the Year - ck#3509 3/29/2024	Full page Ad	\$100.00
Matthew Vizic - ck#3523 5/11/2024	Eagle Scout project	\$200.00
National Multiple Scelerosis Society - Ck#3534 6/17	Donation	\$150.00
National WWII Museum - ck#3532 6/17/2024	Donation	\$250.00
Paralyzed Veterans of America	Donation	\$100.00
Polaris Career Center ck#3525 5/14/2024	Memorial poppies	\$864.00
Special Olympics ck#3521	Donation	\$200.00
Susan G. Komen - ck#3533 6/17/2024	Donation	\$100.00
USSVI 2024 National Convention - ck#3535 6/17/24	Donation	\$500.00
VFW 3345 Auxiliary - ck#3520	Hole sponsor	\$100.00
Wounded Warrior Project		\$150.00
	Total	\$8,839.00



**Color Guard,
Robert Roginsky**

The color guard needs you.
Join now. Call:

Jon Silvis
440-823-1066

OR

Bob Roginsky
440-582-5856

Bob



Mel





James C Masie Memorial Golf Classic, 2024





American Legion Auxiliary



Auxiliary President, Nina Zdravecky

Hello happy people! I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer so far as it is so close to coming to an end already.

I am sure that many of you have heard of the sudden passing of our long-time Auxiliary member, Linda VanDuyn. What many of you may not know is how active she was as a member. Through the years, Linda participated in many of our fundraising activities; playing bingo with Veterans at the VA hospital, selling tickets and so much more. I don't think she ever missed a pumpkin rolling date where her job was to make the filling that involved powdered sugar, so she had to stop when it caused some breathing difficulties. Linda loved to sew and she, alone, would make over 200 ditty bags every year for us to fill with comfort items to pass out to Veterans at the VA hospital.

Through the years, Linda collected a lot of fabric to make those bags that she either bought herself or was donated by other friends and members. Linda had asked her son, Scott, to be sure the fabric was given to our Auxiliary upon her passing. That being said, we are hoping to find some people who like to sew that would be willing to take some of the material and make the ditty bags, so we can continue to carry on our practice of giving to our Veterans. We do not expect anyone to make all 200. Please contact me or Nancy Doult if you are willing to make 20 or so, as many hands make light work! Thank you from the Auxiliary.

Nina



**Unit 91's First
Little Miss Poppy,
2023/2024
(Wearing the Poppy Dress
that Linda VanDuyn
Designed and Sewed)**

**On Left: Berea Blanket-making Event
at the Berea Rec Center**



American Legion Auxiliary, Cont



1st Vice, Linda Joy

Hi,

I guess we made it through the dog days of summer. I'm looking forward to pumpkin roll season.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone that grabbed a tag from the Christmas in July palm tree. Linda Van Duyn was responsible for bringing this disadvantaged family to our attention. The Auxiliary is proud to honor her memory in this manner.

Connie Stevens, a member of our Post, has given us a shelving unit in her store, Second Thyme Around at Grand Pacific Junction, to display and sell our leftover yard sale items to benefit our scholarship fund. Check out her unique shop.

Thanks goes out to everyone that supports our Monday night raffle.

Enjoy the Autumn Leaves!

Linda



Membership Chairman, Nancy Doutt

Membership Update

On July 14, 2024, we lost 27-year-long member, Linda VanDuyn. Nina highlighted some of the many ways Linda supported the Auxiliary over the years, which also included many pajama walks benefiting Berea Animal Rescue. She was our "official seamstress of the American Legion Auxiliary" and has big shoes to fill. The loss of six members since the beginning of the year has had a big impact on our Unit, and leaves holes in many hearts of our American Legion Family.

We finished the 2024 membership year with 414 members. This includes 17 junior members, which are between the ages of birth through 17. The 2025 membership year has begun, and our dues remain at \$40 for senior members ages 18 and over, and \$6 for junior members. "Early birds" get the special sticker or stamp if you pay before November 11.

Nancy

Welcome New Members

- Diane Banaszak
- Denise Campbell
- Cynthia Collins
- Kathleen Gottschalk
- Kimberly Pellegrino



Community Service Chairman, Nancy Doutt

Community Service Christmas in July Giving Tree

A huge thank you to the members and friends of Post 91 for their generosity for the Christmas in July giving tree. It started with the generosity of Linda VanDuyn helping a family in need in the community, and ended up with the palm tree giving tree, which was set up in the canteen by Stacey and Christine. Earlier today, before the typing of this article, we delivered six large bags of gifts and gift cards, and six bags of groceries and nonperishables to the family. Each child received a couple of outfits, a pair of tennis shoes and a pair of multi-purpose shoes/boots, some miscellaneous items and school supplies. The mom received many generous gift cards to help with additional groceries and her transportation issues. You all make my heart full—thank YOU!

District & Department Conventions

Thank you to all of our members who continue to support the Auxiliary programs AND report your good works for our annual reports. Because of you, we received the following awards at this summer’s conventions.

13th District

- Americanism – 1st place in membership, Group IV
- Children & Youth – 1st place in membership, Group IV
- Community Service – 1st place in membership, Group IV
- Junior Activities – 1st place in membership, Group IV
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) – 1st place in membership, Group IV

Department (State) Convention held in Independence, Ohio

- Citation of Merit - for reaching goal and submitting all of the mandatory reports
- Community Service Mary Parker plaque - for our collaboration with the Town & Country Farmers 4-H group, for which we collected plastic caps for their park bench, and they contributed items to us for the Cuyahoga County Homeless Stand Down.
- Certificates of Achievement in the following programs based on our narratives and reports
 - Americanism, Buckeye Girls State, Chaplain, Children & Youth (1st Place, Group IV), Community Service, Education, History, Legislative Membership (Received goal ribbons for Sr. and Jr. membership), VA&R (2nd Place, Group IV)

All of this is because of our members reporting their good works throughout the year. I hope you started recording your activities/hours/dollars spent for our 2025 reporting. Thank you

Nancy



American Legion Auxiliary, Cont



2nd Vice, Stacey Lehmann

Happy Fall Y'all,

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and are now looking forward to FOOTBALL and all the fun shenanigans fall brings.

Over the summer, I attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio Convention. There I had the opportunity to meet our 2024-2025 ALA Junior President, Adryenne Rush, from Unit 553 in Toledo, Ohio. Adryenne is a sophomore in high school and gets her eligibility from her mom, E-5 Army Veteran, Nicole Rush. As her year-long special focus project, Adryenne chose Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness, an issue she is personally affected by daily. In support of Adryenne and her project, I will be participating in LifeAct Move for Mental Health Walk on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. If you would like to participate in the walk or would like to make a donation, please contact me at (440)465-3868 or leave a message for me at the Post.

This October, the Post 91 family will be hosting a family fun day at The Old West Pumpkin Fest held at Rockin-R-Ranch in Columbia Station. This event will replace the Trunk-or-Treat event this year. *Additional information will be available starting in late September. *

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that started when wreath maker, Morrill Worcester, used his surplus of 5,000 wreaths to honor Veterans during the holiday season, having them placed at Arlington National Cemetery. This tribute to our country's Veterans has continued annually ever since, not only at Arlington National Cemetery but at 4,424 locations throughout all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

This year, Post 91 is honored to have been asked to oversee Woodvale Union Cemetery's inaugural year with the program. Members are encouraged to sponsor wreaths with the hope that all 1,200 Veterans laid to rest in Woodvale Union Cemetery will be honored this December. Individual wreaths can be sponsored for \$17 each, but all donations are welcome.

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. A ceremony will be held at Woodvale beginning at noon, followed by the placement of the wreaths. This event is open to all who would like to attend. Please contact Commander James Lockyear or Stacey Lehmann with any questions or if you would like to volunteer for the event.

Sponsor a wreath by December 1, 2024 to be placed on a Veteran's grave this December at Woodvale Union Cemetery. Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0417.



Stacey



Sons of American Legion



SAL Commander, Sean Boddy

Summer is coming to an end and fall is right around the corner.

In July, our own Chance Dewerth, Sergeant at Arms of SAL Squadron 91, competed in the Pan-American Masters Games. Chance took home a bronze medal in the Hammer Throw and a silver medal in the Shot Put. He also competed in the Scottish Games and won 1st Place! Congratulations Chance! We're proud of you!

With fall in the air, the NFL season is upon us! We will be hosting this year's Browns Tailgate Party on September 15th at 1pm against the Jaguars. It should be a great game! As always, there will be several raffles and all you can eat burgers, brats, hotdogs, beer and more! We're often asked if people can bring something to share and, of course, anything that you would like to bring and share is always welcome. We will also be hosting the OSU vs Michigan game in November, so keep a look-out for that flyer in the future as well.

This September 11th, as we remember the tragedy and those that were lost, we also remember the heroes who risked and gave their lives that day. Take a few moments that day to recall how we all came together as one during that time and how great that was. We should always come together to support each other when our country needs us.

“True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality, not only for Americans but for all people on earth.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

“We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions- bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

Please visit the Sons of 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 held 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.

Sean

www.postbythelake.org



SAL SGT at Arms
Wins Competitions in 2024





Sons of American Legion, Cont



SAL American Legion Post 91
Post 91 American Legion Pkwy Berea OH 44107

15 September 2024

BROWNS VS JAGUARS



RAFFLES! ALL YOU CAN EAT BURGERS
BRATS HOTDOGS BEER AND
MORE!



For any questions contact you can reach us on our Facebook page contact any SAL committee member.

Svec Family Rescue Mission

One of our goose friends suffered an injury as a result of his wing being pierced by a large fish hook and becoming entangled in fishing line. A few folks were able to capture him and remove the hook, but were unable to remove all of the fishing line before he broke free and returned to his flock, who surrounded him protectively. For weeks, the poor thing waddled with his wing dragging on the ground, unable to fly or swim.

Then, on June 29th, the Svec family came to the rescue. While Jon and his daughter, Haley, pursued the goose with a blanket, his wife, Jen, attempted to keep the goose's flock at bay with a broom. It took several attempts and some tripping over the blanket before they were finally able to toss the blanket over the goose. They wrapped him up and drove him to the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center.

There, the rehab staff removed the fishing line, administered medications and cared for him at the center for a little over a week. Thanks to the Svec family, this goose is no longer suffering. He recovered from his injury and has been released back to his loving family and flock at Coe Lake.





A Day in Vietnam, Cont

Chuck and I were there many days and nights. It seemed like an eternity, but I think it was about 70 days. We ate rice and sometimes pig meat. Off in the darkness, we could see what looked like lightening, but realized it was bombs exploding in the very near distance. One night, there was an ungodly huge explosion, and then another, and then another.

Due to the bombing, the bamboo fence was destroyed, and we decided to try to escape during all the confusion and chaos. Chuck and I and three other soldiers ran into the jungle, moved down the river and hid in that jungle the best we could. Even though it didn't seem anyone was chasing us, we lost track of time: we were running for our lives.

After a while, we saw some lights in the distance and headed towards them. We came under fire, but when we figured out they were U.S. Marines, we yelled, "We're Americans!" One of our guys got wounded, but now that we were in American hands, they took us to freedom. Chuck looked at me and said, "freedom run." I cried.

They provided us all medical attention and food. All the S-2s wanted to know what we did, what we saw, where we came from, but eventually, we arrived to the Saigon area and boarded a C-141 plane to the Evac hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

SIDE NOTE:

- The lightening we saw that night was US Airforce B-52 Bombers, carpet bombing 500lb bombs called Archlite.
- I arrived in Germany 12 August, 1967. I was 23 years old, which was 57 years ago!
- GOD BLESS AMERICA AND the US MARRINES!



I took this picture of my sister aircraft as we were coming back to Cam Rahn Bay after a spray mission. I was in Patches standing at the rear troop door when I snapped this photo.

Bobba

Bulletin Board

September

- 5: Post 91 104th Birthday
- 7: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 9: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:30pm
- 11: Patriot Day
SAL Meeting, 7:30pm
- 12: Blue Caps Meeting. 7pm
- 14: Work Party, 8:30am
- 20: POW/MIA Recognition Day, 5:30
- 23: Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm
- 26: E-Board Meeting, 7pm

October

- 3: Riders Meeting, 7pm
- 5: DJ Jerome, 7pm
- 9: SAL Meeting, 7:30
- 10: Blue Caps Meeting, 7pm
- 12: Work Party, 8:30am
- 14: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:30pm
- 24: E-Board Meeting, 7:30pm
- 28: Auxiliary Meeting, 7pm

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Are you a Veteran, currently serving, have a parent, grandparent, or child that served or is currently serving? You can join as a member of American Legion Post 91. Obtain your DD214 (or your family member's DD214) and bring it to Post 91 with your yearly dues to sign up.



TAPS

Terry Skortz
Linda VanDuyn



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