

## Holiday Message from National Commander Helm

As you celebrate this holiday season, I ask you to pause and think about those who are unable to be with their spouses, children, parents and other family members at this time. Please remember all our deployed military personnel who keep our nation safe every day, no matter what corner of the planet they are stationed. And please join me in saying a special prayer for our comrades who remain MIA or held as POWs, as well as those I recently met in Vietnam who work every day to



repatriate remains and bring closure to families and veterans alike.

Many others deserve American Legion gratitude and the blessing of the season for the work they performed so admirably in the past year. Let's give thanks to those who compassionately care for our nation's military personnel and veterans, no matter their needs, from DoD transi-

tion unites, homeless shelters, VA medical centers and nursing homes.

Last but not least, I want to thank all the members of The

American Legion family for all they do every day to keep our communities, states and nation strong. Our veterans advocacy, legislative efforts, youth programs and patriotic values are the backbone of this country. That backbone would not exist without you.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to you.

Michael D. Helm  
 National Commander

### Thank You for Your Membership

Welcome to the following new Members of the Post 37 Family: Logan Patrick, Eli Brace, Scott Mumper, Gary Bridges, David Graham, Nancy Harrison, Donald Hancock, Roger Demiter, Steve Mercer, Dennis Brooks, Michael Brennan, Hugo Kenemer, Mathew Suckow, Carl Pelzer & James Meek.

We value every member of the Ames Legion family. It doesn't matter how active a person can

be, by maintaining your membership, you are making a contribution to serving the veterans and military of this country. Your membership makes possible our community service and youth programs

To those that have recently joined, Welcome and Thank you. To those whose membership has been long term, THANK YOU. You are all making a difference.

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## Post Commander Doug's Comments

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a joyous and relaxing December holiday with family and friends and that Santa treated you all well. Santa and the Claus Family, along with several others, were certainly good to the Post this year, providing us with generous donations that will help improve the Post Home. Our thanks to Santa and all of his helpers!

It is hard to believe that it is 2015! Either the time is flying by, or I was just too busy to enjoy 2014.

2014 saw a lot of good from our Legion perspective. As Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons and Riders, we helped achieve record donations for the Legion Riders Legacy Run to provide scholarships to the children of our fallen warriors, to promoting and passing the Home Base Iowa initiative in support of veterans state-wide, to participating in the Story County Veterans Stand-down, and many more. We also learned of significant and troubling problems within the VA that negatively



affected our fellow veterans and their families.

In addressing many of these events and issues we were successful and in others we found that we could do better. We proved throughout the year, time

and again, that when the Legion Family dedicates itself to addressing and resolving an issue or supporting our troops, veterans and their families at the local, state or national level, we are unbeatable.

As 2015 commences, I encourage all members of the Post to rededicate ourselves in supporting our members and their families, to maintain a strong and vibrant Post Home, and work to ensure that our veterans and their families get the help and support they have earned and so richly deserve. At times it will not be easy, and at times it will require patience and understanding, but together we can strengthen our Post, its membership and the American Legion Family. I look forward to working with you to make those things happen.

In closing, it is my wish that each of you have a joyous and prosperous 2015 and that you will be able to visit the Post a little more often and participate in some of our wonderful Post events.

For God and Country.

## Unit President Sharon's Comments

Hi everyone.

This has been a busy month. I would like to thank everyone who baked the goodies for the cookie fair and those who worked it. We had a great fair!

Membership is up, it is at 278 but we need 78 more by the end of the month to meet our goal. So PLEASE! Get your dues in to the Post. Thank you all who did get your dues in. We have two new members, they are Micki Nelson and Magen Whitver.

I would like to invite you to our meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Post. We'll have a speaker at our next meeting, so please come.

I would like to thank Sandy Deacon for taking the clothes to the homeless vets. They still need men's shirts and pants all sizes. They also need winter coats so please go through your closets.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our prayers go

out to those of you that are sick and to those who have lost a loved one.

Don't forget the steak fry the first Saturday of the month. We are looking for helpers, ladies.

Don't forget to sign up to work Bingo!

The Past Presidents Parley went out for our Christmas dinner, we had a great time. We all received a goody bag from President Ann.

Hope to see you at the Post.

## Squadron Commander Keven's Comments

A very Happy New Year to those who have served and to those who are still serving. Enjoy this one and the many that will follow it. We members of the Squadron salute you for what you have done and for what you will accomplish in the future.

Happy New Year to the Squadron. 2014 was busy and I'm sure 2015 will be at least that.

The Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast was a huge success. Over 200 people were

served and enough money was made to take care of several of our projects. Let's hope the one in April goes equally well.

We are responsible for the February Steak Dinner. Come and eat, come and work, why not do both?

Someone is needed to put the Past Squadron Commander's names and pictures on the centennial website. If you have the knowledge and equipment to do so, please contact me.

It is time for members to start thinking about stepping up and becoming more active in the Squadron. You obviously care enough to belong. The life of the Squadron needs and depends on a continual influx of people willing and able to work for it and to lead it. Working functions is great and appreciated, but why not be one of those who lead. It is a very rewarding and satisfying experience. Try it, you'll like it.

I hope you enjoyed and had a Merry Christmas.

## Clubroom News

Happy New Year to all!! We hope that everyone had a joyous Holiday season. December was very busy in the Clubroom and we want to thank everyone for your continued support. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, we can't do it without you!! Congratulations to Sandy Deacon, the winner of the Holiday Canapé contest!! Thanks to those of you who participated.

Bring it on!!! We want you to bring down your very best chili for our **Annual Chili Cook-off**. You may drop off your chili on the 31<sup>st</sup> or the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>. We also encourage those not competing to bring a snack to share. There are prizes for first, second, and third place. As a bonus, the winner has bragging rights all year long. Of Course, all are welcome to come in and sample all the delicious entries and watch some football.

Don't forget that the post is the ultimate

place to enjoy all the bowl game action. We encourage you to stop down and enjoy all the football games with us on our enormous TV.

Join Today!! The Clubroom will be having a Wii Bowling League. Bowling leagues are a great way to spend time with friends, co-workers or family. The cost is \$1 per person per week and bowlers must bowl 3 games per week. Stop into the post to sign up and get the full details.

Drop by and check out our Happenings! Find out about new drinks, appetizer specials and a whole lot more! Don't forget that the clubroom serves a great home-made meal every Wednesday; eat in or take it to go.

**Wednesday, January 21 is \$2 Burger Nite.** Burgers will be served from 5-6:30pm. Add cheese or an order of fries for a small extra cost. Enjoy them at the Post or get them to go!

## Post Centennial Website

The 100th Anniversary of The American Legion will be celebrated beginning with 2019 National Convention. As part of that celebration, website space has been provided for the each American Legion post to celebrate their history.

Work has begun on that website for Ames Post #37. That address is

<http://centennial.legion.org/iowa/post37>.

Some of the early history of the post is there including a story behind the original temporary charter and the naming of the post as well as an article about

one of our founding members, Anson Marston.

Pictures of the Past Post Commanders have been posted as well as the Ames Legion family honorary life members. A listing of the Ames Post members who have served in leadership positions at District and above since 1920 is also there.

More of the history of the Post will be posted as time passes. Stories in the works include a children's toy shop that was held in the 1930's to help the chil-

**CLUBROOM COUPON**  
**Any Tuesday in January**  
**Present Coupon to get**  
**2 drinks for the price of 1.**  
**Cash Purchase Only**

## PPP Adopts IVH Floor

The Ames Past Presidents Parley has been working hard this year to support some of the residents of the Iowa Veterans Home. They have adopted the 3rd floor residents of Dack Hall, the largest group at IVH.

Those residents have been supplied with Halloween and Thanksgivings treats to help them remember the holiday. The Parley was scheduled to go caroling at the Home and deliver cookies but could not go due to sickness at the Home.

The Parley will meet in January to continue work on their projects

dren of families struggling in the Great Depression and the application for a permanent charter. Bookmark that web address and come back to it often to find out more about the history of your American Legion family.

## Kudo Korner



Well done to the following this month: Galen Omvig for his continued help in conducting minor re-

pairs around the Post; Lynn & John Sellmeyer, Steve Jones, Chris Duncan, Sandy Deacon, Sarah Schendel, Judy Trumpy, Michelle Sime, Phil Harris, Randy Freeland & Jim Demarest for their efforts serving the December Steak Dinner to a record crowd; the members of the Auxiliary for another great Cookie Fair; the SAL for a wonderful Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast; Kathy Link, Junior Metzger, Mellissa & Michelle McEnany, Sarah Schendel & Michelle Sime for another great Burger Night and Paul Madsen and Megan McEnany for cooking the monthly Tenderloin Dinner.

## Tree Town Festival



In 2014, The American Legion of Iowa began a relationship with the Tree Town Music Festival as the official charity of the Festival.

That relationship is continuing and is growing stronger each year. The Festival will run Memorial Day weekend from Thursday, May 21 through Sunday, May 24.

The line-up is set for this year with Thursday night being rock and roll nite.

The rest of the weekend is devoted to country music and is headlined by

Dierks Bentley, Blake Shelton and Rascal Flatts.

You can go to the Tree Town website at <http://treetownfestival.com/> for more information on acts and tickets. You will find that many of the acts will perform on The American Legion.

Soldiers Wish will also be there with us and will present a wish each day. Last year one of their wishes went to Joel Priebe, a member of the Ames Post, in the form of a mobility chair.

This is one more of the ways that The American Legion is working to make sure people know who we are and what we do.

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37  
 225 Main Street  
 Ames, IA 50010

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LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON

# JANUARY

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	Find us on Facebook at <b>American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37</b>			1 CHILI COOKOFF	2 MUNCHIES NIGHT	3 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00
4 BINGO	5 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	6 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 7:00	7 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	8 LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30	9 MUNCHIES NIGHT	10
11 BINGO	12 BUILDING FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE	13 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	14 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	15	16 MUNCHIES NIGHT	17 40&8 CHILI DINNER 5:00—7:00
18 BINGO	19	20 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00	21 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY \$2 BURGER NITE 5:00-6:30 BINGO	22 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	23 TEXAS HOLD-EM 7:00 MUNCHIES NIGHT	24
25 BINGO	26	27 TOASTED CHEESE TUESDAY 40&8	28 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO	29	30 MUNCHIES NIGHT	31