

Fifth Grade Flag Essay—What the Flag Means to Me.

The Ames Post received 27 entries in the Fifth Grade Flag Essay contest this year from Ames Christian School and Sawyer Elementary School. Kolo-Immanuel Lueth's essay was judged the best of the group.

Kolo attended our March meeting and read his essay. He is shown with Second Vice Commander Jennifer Monserud being presented a certificate and a check for \$50. We also recognized his teacher, Britta Sjobush of Ames Christian School for working with her students on the project and having the winning entry.

Kolo's winning essay is printed following.

It Isn't Just a Piece of Fabric

Kolo-Immanuel Lueth

The flag isn't just a piece of fabric, it is the thing that unites us as Americans, I think the flag means three things. 1: The flag helps us stay up and going. For example, September 11, 2001, us as Americans



knew we could build back The World Trade Center. That's the same idea for The Pentagon. Americans are brave and free. This is the land of the free and the home of the brave.

2: We stick together. Nobody is left behind. We are united, everyone helps each other. In the revolutionary war we were all helping each other, no one wasn't helping. Americans were fighting for our own free country. All of us support the U.S.A., and whenever Americans say the pledge it means something. It isn't

just a bunchy of words that Americans say every morning. It means something to all the people that served in the military and are serving as we speak. When I say the pledge, I think about all the veterans that served and worked together to make America a free country. All Americans should thank everyone that stuck together to protect our country, and even the ones that did it alone.

3: Americans are free. Us as Americans are free from communism and we have the right to let our own opinion be heard. Our opinions can be sent out to all of American and sometimes all of the world. We have the freedom of speech, press and religion. All these freedoms allow us to let our opinion be heard. America is a free country with government and free laws. I love living in America. I will always remember this, the flag isn't just a piece of fabric.

Boys and Girls Staters Selected

The Post/Squadron and Unit selection committees have chosen four delegates to represent the Post & Squadron at Boys State and two to represent the Unit at Girls State.

They are: Tristan Popillion, Devin Von Querner, and Mark Steffen from Gilbert High School and Brayden Bergum from Ames High to Boys State. Attending Girls State will be Hana Lee from Ames High and Jackie Murphy from Nevada High School.

Each year our members have the chance to make nominations This year three members did exactly that and two of the Boys Staters and one of the Girls Staters are a result of those nominations. They were at the top after the interview process.

We will get reports from all of them after they return at Post, Unit and Squadron meetings. Watch for the announcement of those appearances.

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Post Commander Pat's Comments

Greeting Legionnaires! I am truly hopeful that Spring is just around the corner. I'm ready for some "Green" in the landscape. We have had a great month at the Legion with activities. The word is getting out about our dinners like the Steak Fry and Fish Fry. Numbers were up again this month. Check the calendar this month for upcoming April events

It is getting to be about crunch time for Membership. If you haven't renewed for this year, now is the time! Our Department Commander, Mike Etzel's motto for this year is RENEW-RETAIN-RECRUIT. I would like to highlight the RECRUIT statement for this month.

In our daily activities, we encounter



numerous different people daily. If you notice one with a Veterans hat, license plate or bumper sticker, make it a point to talk to them and see if they are interested in being a Legionnaire. We have a great template to help them understand what the Legion does for Veter-

ans daily. Send them my way (515) 290-2991 and I'll be more than happy to talk to them. If every one of us found 1 veteran to RECRUIT, our Post would be over 1,000 members.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that elections for the 2018-2019 year is coming up soon. If you have any interest on being on the Executive Committee or other positions or committees, please show up to our monthly meeting on the April 12th and throw your hat into the ring. We keep our Post vibrant by getting new members in leadership positions to move the Post into the future. Please consider!!!

Wishing you and your family a great month and look for warmer days ahead.
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Unit President Jammie's Comments

Greetings....

First I would like to thank everyone (somewhat in advance) that helped with the Spring Bake Sale. I say in advance because as I write this article we have not yet held this event. We had a great turnout for the March Steak Dinner and we were able to take in quite a few donations for Cookies for Hero's. Thank you as well to everyone that came out to support that event.

The Story County Spring Conference was well attended by 8 members of Unit 37. Congratulations to Sharon Bellinghausen who was elected Vice President for Story County 2018/2019 and to

Joyce Elliott who was elected as President of Story County for 2018/2019.

The April Steak Dinner (Saturday April 7th) will be sponsored by the Auxiliary. If you are able to help, please contact myself or Sandy Deacon.

The 6th District Spring Conference will be held on Saturday April 28th. As of March 20th Unit 37 is at 247 members. This is 77 percent of our 320 membership goal. We appreciate the support we receive from all of our members, thank you for renewing, thank you for joining and most of all thank you for taking part in the largest women's patriotic service organization.

Poppy Days: The American Legion Auxiliary will hold Poppy Days on Memorial Day weekend. The dates are Friday, May 25th and Saturday, May 26th. Volunteers will distribute poppies at various locations around Ames from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Friday, and from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday. We are in need of volunteers to help with this. Any donations received will be used to help veterans and their families. If you can help, please sign up at the Legion or contact Jan Schmidt, Chairman at 450-5058 or cell phone 515-290-5444 or by email at jansch1@juno.com. Thank you!

Squadron Commander Mike's Comments

HAPPY SPRING!!!!!! Hope that every one had a Great Easter. I am writing this before Our Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast, so I Hope that it was a Success and that everyone had a Good time. Will report to you next month to let you know how we did.

Well seems that we are having the same old problem, that of getting members to Our meeting, Please, remember that this is Your Squadron and we want you to feel comfortable coming to a meeting. We will not pressure you into taking an office if that is not your wish, we just want you to try to get a little active in what we are doing.

We also want you to know that you can make suggestions as to what you think that we should be doing to better get our name out in the Public so that everyone knows that we are here to Help

with local programs. We discussed some ways to get better attendance at the meetings and some thought we might need to change the Night and time, what are your thoughts. I would like to know what you think.

Our Scholarship applicants will be judged in the coming week and we will let the winner or winners know so they can get going on their studies.

We have been wanting to update Our Constitution and By-Laws for the Squadron but it seems that we can never get enough people to attend a meeting to do so. At Our next meeting we will make the necessary changes to keep us current and in good standings with the National Organization.

Membership is still coming in Very Slow and we are not sure why, Legionnaires,

are you paying for your Sons, Grandsons, or even Great Grandsons Dues? If you are do they even know that they belong? I am sorry to say, but I have known in the past where they DO NOT. This is a shame because maybe if they did know, maybe they might want to get involved.

The Real Down side is, if You are paying someone else's dues and You Pass away, not only have We Lost a Great Legionnaire, but we have Lost Sons members that did not even know that they belonged to The Greatest Family in the World, The American Legion Family. Just think about it.

In Closing, the May Steak Dinner is the responsibility of the Sons, so start thinking now about getting involved and help out.

Clubroom News

Hooray for Spring!! We have had a crazy winter of weather. We hope everyone has a chance to stop into the clubroom and catch up with some friends. We have a little something for everyone. We have happy hour every day and some great nightly specials as well. Due to the popularity of the last fish fry, the crew has agreed to do another on Friday March 30. Hope to see you there.

Taco Tuesday-Enjoy a soft shell or walking taco with all your favorite toppings for just \$2

Winesday Wednesday gives you the chance to try any of our wines for just \$3 a glass.

Thursday is a great night to stop in. We have regular, jalapeno or cheddar sausage dogs for just a dollar. It's also \$2 Bud family bottles starting at 6pm.

Friday, April 20 is Tenderloin Basket Night. Tenderloins will be served from 5:30-7:00pm. Stop in and try this delicious sandwich with fries and all the

fixins for just \$6. If you can't make it in to eat, give us a call, we can always do them to go.

Friday April 20 is Country Dance Night. Come for tenderloins and stay for a night of dancing. Wear your boots out from 8pm-1am. Should be a great night at the post.

Saturday April 21 is Spring Fair-We will be having our Spring Fair from 9-3pm. Come shop from some of your favorite vendors.



Thanks again for everyone's help around the post. The events would not be possible without you. Chris Duncan, John and

Lynn Sellmeyer, John Schomaker, Bill Donovan, Addison Donovan, Sandi Deacon, Mike Deacon, Tom Hadaway, Ken Woodley, Rodger VanVoorhis and Paul Madson.

Centennial Committee Active



The 100th Anniversary celebration of The American Legion will begin this summer at the National Convention in Minneapolis. That will be our 100th National Convention and is going back to the city that hosted our first National Convention on Armistice Day 1919.

This convention will be held in August so the weather in Minneapolis is expected to be somewhat more conducive to a parade although the weather did not hold the WW I veterans back in 1919.

We will also be honoring that centennial here in Ames beginning this summer. The committee that is planning the centennial has made some initial plans over the last two years but is now stepping up their activities as time for the celebration comes closer.

Initial work included creation of a centennial website in space hosted by our National Organization. The web address for material from our post is

centennial.legion.org/iowa/post37

But involved Legion family members would find it interesting to go to the main page centennial.legion.org and explore what The American Legion has

been doing and the history of other posts.

Past Commander MacCrea is chairing the joint committee that will continue the planning of the centennial for the Ames Post. We have members on the committee from the Post, Unit and Squadron but that does not mean there is not room for more.

We will be working on many parts of the centennial project, planning events to celebrate significant dates, researching more of the history of the Post over the last 100 years and building a vision for the next 100 years. Anyone that is interested in working on a part of this project should contact the post through Adjutant Dave Rehbein at 515-231-3685 or davidrehbein@msn.com.

There are still large sections of the history of the Post to be explored. One of the questions that still lingers is the location of the Post prior to the purchase of our current building. We have indications that the Post was located on the corner of Fifth and Duff for a time but have no records to confirm that.

The Iowa American Legion and the National organization are both working on projects and items to commemorate the centennial. A museum quality exhibit of the history of the GI Bill from 1994 until the present has been created and is touring the country. The exhibit has been displayed at the WW II museum

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A Quilts of Valor Award Ceremony will be held April 12, 2018 at the Ames Post at 7:30 p.m. immediately preceding the monthly meeting. The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

The awardees for this ceremony will be Ben Wogsland of Jewell, John Eidemiller, Lloyd Lee and Marvin Holmgren of Ames.

Please join us for this award ceremony to honor these veterans.

Save the Date-May 13



Mark your Calendar now. We will be hosting Sunday brunch again on Mother's Day, May 13.

and Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles. Plans are being finalized for the exhibit to be displayed for a month at the Gold Star Museum on Camp Dodge. We hope to announce the opening date soon.

National is also working on a set of videos showing that the programs that were important after WW I are still important to today's generation of new veterans.

Iowa has designed and will be selling centennial coins, glasses and pins as well as raffle tickets on a commemorative M1911A1 pistol specially engraved for the centennial. All those items will be available through the post.

Join this project and help make the centennial celebration worthy of the legacy of this post.

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

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APRIL

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1 BINGO | 2 LEGION RIDERS 6:30 | 3 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30 | 4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO | 5 DOLLAR DOG DAY | 6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MAIN STREET MUSIC WALK 5-8PM | 7 PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST 7:30-10:30 STEAK DINNER 5:30—7:00 |
| 8 BINGO | 9 | 10 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30 | 11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO | 12 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION BOARD 6:30 REGULAR 7:30 | 13 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT | 14 |
| 15 BINGO | 16 | 17 TACO TUESDAY PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 7:00 | 18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO | 19 DOLLAR DOG DAY COMMITTEES SOCIAL 6:00 CENTENNIAL 7:00 | 20 FIREBALL FRIDAY TENDERLOIN BASKET 5:30-7 COUNTRY DANCING 8-1 | 21 SPRING VENDOR FAIR 9AM-3PM |
| 22 BINGO | 23 | 24 TACO TUESDAY 40&8 | 25 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY BINGO | 26 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00 | 27 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT | 28 SIXTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE WAUKEE |
| 29 BINGO | 30 | |  Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37 | | | |