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www.legion.org
www.alaforveterans.org
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Ames Legion Family In Action

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2021

Wreath Day 2021 is fast approaching and your Legion Riders are busy making the preparations to lead the Wreath Ceremony that will take place at Ames Cemetery on December 18th, at 11am sharp.

We will be looking for volunteers to help place the wreaths on December 18 following the ceremony and can accept donations to purchase wreaths until November 30.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony began last year in Ames. In December of 2020 we gathered at Ames Cemetery for a small Wreath laying ceremony. A Wreath for each service branch and one to honor the POW-MIA's of this country were laid at the memorial. Some of you attended or presented the wreaths. Mayor Haila of Ames spoke, the Legion Honor Guard and the Patriot Guard stood watch.

It was a special moment and at a Riders meeting in early 2021 it was suggested we step up and decorate every Veteran's grave with a wreath. So, a vote was taken, a committee was formed, and the rest as they say is history.

Wreaths Across America started in 1992 when the Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Morrill Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans.

Arrangements were made for



the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

In 2005 a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet.

Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help at Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes."

We were first told there were around a thousand Veteran graves at Ames Cemetery. Donations both small and large began to arrive, and some very special members of this post really stepped up. Further research showed that there are 1,714 veterans in Ames Cemetery as of Nov 20th.

We will likely fall short of having a wreath on every grave this

year. We met our goal of one thousand sponsored wreaths. We will not quit, the mission before us is still clear. We could not be more proud of the Wreath Committee for their hours of hard work.

A special tip of the hat goes to the donors. We know these are trying times for many, and we want everyone to know that each of you have made a difference. This year Ames Cemetery will be decorated like it never has been before, and we promise that each Veteran resting there, whether they are presented a wreath or not, will have their name spoken aloud. We do this to honor them, and so that we never forget who they are, and what they have done for our country.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Legion Riders	3
Squadron Scholarship	3
Calendar	4

Post Commander Jay's Comments

Hello again! It's hard to believe we're already here in December and getting ready to close out 2021. I want to start by publicly thanking Doug MacCrea and Dave Rehbein for filling in for me in my absence. Doug handled the regular monthly meeting and Dave gave the welcoming remarks for the Ames Veteran's Day program.

I think we've had a good year coming out of Covid and we're slowly but surely getting back to normal. Jodi and her team of volunteers continue to bring us Wednesday night curbside dinners. May saw the restart of Bingo, as well as sponsorship of a very successful American Legion State Baseball tournament and the Ames Memorial Day program. In July we had the opportunity to gather in person for the State American Legion Convention and August saw the National Convention taking place in Phoenix.

October brought the return of Steak Night and the Halloween Main Street Trick or Treating. Well done to the Auxiliary for the Trick or Treating. In November we had the return of the in-person Ames Veterans Day program as well as the Academic Awards program. Now here in December we see the return of the world-famous SAL Biscuits and Gravy breakfast as well as the Auxiliary's Cookie Fair both being held on December 11. Please come out and support those groups and get some good food and treats to boot. Steak night will be December 4, another opportunity to support the Post and enjoy a great dinner. Also, on December 18th the Legion Riders will be leading the placing of wreaths on the graves of veterans in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

Please consider sponsoring a WWII or

Korean War veteran who has not yet paid their dues. What a great way to show these veterans how important they and their service are to all of us. If you want to be a sponsor, please email amespost37membership@gmail.com!

In 2022 we can, and would certainly like to, do more. But to do that we need your help. Not just in supporting the various activities, but by volunteering your time and talents to help put them on. So, stay tuned for your opportunity to support your American Legion Post.

In closing I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! If you're travelling, please be safe. We want to see everyone back in 2022.



Unit President Rachel's Comments

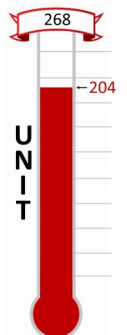
December is a time of joy, happiness and hope. It is bustling with activities of the holiday season. During this busy time, let's also remember those that may have recently lost a loved one or are alone this Holiday season. December 7, 2021 marks the 80th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and subsequently the United States officially entering WWII. In reading the history of the American Legion Auxiliary during that time, they helped distribute a series of books to families of those that went off to war. Included in some of those booklets were statements, such as "Do not, if they have been in battle, expect them to tell you of all of the experiences," the second American Legion book-

let explained. "There are some experiences that just are not told. Do not ask that they talk about those things. They are theirs and theirs alone." Fast forward 80 years to today. We are finding out that may not be the best practice. It is coming to the forefront that mental health, especially those of our veterans, is just as important as their physical health. Many more resources are available to our veterans than at the end of WWII. It is important that as an organization that supports veterans that we let them know they are not alone. So, what can we do? Give them hope by reaching out to those that aren't able to get out, especially now that we are entering the cold months of winter. Ask them for

coffee, take them a meal or cookies or just give them a phone call.

Our annual Cookie Fair is being held on December 11th in conjunction with the Squadron's Biscuit and Gravy breakfast. We are in need of Cookies!! Please see the attached flyer. This is one of the biggest fundraisers that our unit has to help support the programs for our veterans.

Keep your eyes open for a possible Family Day at the Post after the new year. There will be activities that the whole family can enjoy. Hopefully, Mother Nature can cooperate with us this year.



Squadron Commander Doug's Comments

Season's Greetings! It is hard to believe that it is December already and the holidays are upon us.

It will be a busy month for the Sons. We are hosting the December Steak Dinner on the 4th and we will hold our Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast on December 11th. We can use some help, especially with Biscuits and Gravy, so please let me or a member of the Sons Executive Leadership know if you can help us during one of those events. Remember, it is the season of giving and what better way to give than to give a little of your

time to help us with these great causes. If you can't help us with these events, please attend them. Many don't realize this, but the Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast (a free will donation event) is the largest fund-raiser the Sons conduct in support of the Sons Merit Awards Program for graduating high school seniors – not to mention that we have a lot of fun!

As we close out the year, please remember to renew your membership by January 1st. Membership makes a difference – your membership makes a

difference, you make a difference, not only in support of our Legion Family, but in the collective voice we project in support of our veterans, their families and the young men and women who will carry on for us in the future.

Congratulations to Cliff Barker who won the November meeting raffle. Who is next?

I hope to see you at the December meeting!

Happy Holidays!



Clubroom News

Season's Greetings!! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. We have lots of activities going on around the Post this month. We hope you are able to join us. The clubroom will be open from 12-6pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day. Join us on Sunday to catch your favorite NFL team. The clubroom will open at 11:30am. After a year break we will be having our annual New Years Day Chili cook-off so get your recipes ready!

Our clubroom hours will remain the same but if Iowa State has an earlier game we will open early for you to come watch with us. We will continue to do our curbside meals on Wednesday nights. As things get colder and the weather gets worse we will also be offering delivery to our members in Ames that are unable to come get it yourselves. Just give us a call and we will add you to the list.

Weekly drawing bonus night!! The end

of the year bonus drawings will be held Friday the 17th. Six drawings will be held every half hour beginning at 6pm. Members that have signed in a minimum of fifty percent of the year are qualified for the drawings and must be present to win.

We will be having a Clubroom Christmas Party on Friday, Dec 17 starting at 5:30pm. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater, bring a snack to share and enjoy some games with friends!

Monday- Weekly Drawing- Once a week, drop your dollar into the wishing well and enter for a chance to win up to \$500.

Check our Weekly Update and our Facebook page for additional items and more info.

December 24th the Clubroom will be open from 12-6pm. If you have never joined us on Christmas Eve, please do. We have so much fun and cheer. Please note that we will be closed on

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

Christmas day.

The clubroom will be having our weekly meat raffle again this season. Stop by for a chance to win one of four fabulous weekly prizes.



Kudos to all that help keep things running in the Clubroom and help make the Curbside Meals and fish fry's happen. Russ and

Vicki Belz, Julie Rinard, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Tom Fowler, Bill Donovan, Ken Woodley, Lynn and John Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan, Ashley Kitten, Hunter Schomaker, Colten Christensen, and Randy Freel.

LEGION RIDERS

Well that was quick, leaves are falling and them, BAM, snow is falling. As riders, this is where we top off the tanks, add a little stabilizer, plug in the trickle charger, and cover em up for the winter. Most of us do that. Some of us still get the urge even in the winter. Wintertime riding is planned with an keen eye on the ever changing Iowa weather, and the road conditions. Several of us plan to keep at least one ride a month going on through the season. We'll see. December's meeting will be off site for the traditional chili feed at Bill Couser's Cow Palace where we will elect new officers.

This is where I'm going to digress from two wheels to four. As Jamie presented to the Auxiliary last month, winter weather driving takes a little preparation. Gone are the days of snow tires, little yellow bottles of HEET, and card-

board in front of the radiators. Making a quick checklist now to make sure you're ready could pay off tomorrow. Nothing complex, but ask yourself, where's the snow-brush and ice scraper? Is your windshield washer fluid rated for below zero? I drive around 40 to 60 thousand miles a year and I admit I'm usually over prepared, but a frozen windshield washer bottle has got to be the worst. Who keeps a blanket somewhere in the vehicle? Have you ever considered a small towel? They're pretty useful. If you plan to travel for the holidays be sure to leave time so you aren't rushing should the weather turn bad. Motorcycle riding requires situational awareness, winter driving is no different. Be careful and be aware of what's happening.

Now for the update. Wreath Day is fast

approaching. December 18th we will gather at Ames Cemetery. I would like to give all the credit and my thanks to the Wreath Committee for all their hard work. Without them, all of this could never of happened.

Volunteers are still needed to place the wreaths, signup is available online, or you can volunteer in person on Wreath Day. Corporate sponsorships are beginning to come in, as are donations from all of the Legion families, including a couple other Legion posts from around the 6th District.

On behalf of all of us Riders, and the Wreath Committee, Thank you all so very much.

Ride safe, and drive safe, we'll see you next month.

Cliff

Squadron Scholarship Reminder

Greetings fellow Legion Family members.

I just want to put a bug in everyone's ear that the award is in the amount of \$1000.00 this year. It can be used at any vocational school, college, university, or nursing school in the United States. It is for High School seniors that will be graduating at the end of the '21-'22 school year. If you have a daughter / son / niece / nephew / granddaughter / grandson that will be gradu-

ating next spring they may qualify. One of the qualifications is to be a descendant of a current or deceased member of the Ames Legion Family. Another reason to get your dues paid up, if you haven't already.

As your family gathers for the holidays you will probably be talking with them, or their parents, about their future. It would be easy to slip that into the conversation.

More information, and the application can be obtained at the post by asking the club room staff for an application, or on our website or on Facebook at [American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37](#)

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm. There will be another reminder, and more information in next month's newsletter.


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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

LOOK INSIDE FOR COUPON **DECEMBER**

<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 American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post			1 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN FRIED CHICKEN	2 DOLLAR DOG DAY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	3 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	4 PPP 10:00 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
5 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON BINGO	6 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	7 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	8 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	9 DOLLAR DOG DAY LEGION REGULAR 7:00	10 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	11 BISCUITS & GRAVY BKfst COOKIE FAIR
12 BINGO	13	14 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	15 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL ROAST CHICKEN	16 DOLLAR DOG DAY SOCIAL COMMITTEE 6:00	17 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	18 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA AMES MUNICIPAL 11:00
19 BINGO	20 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	21 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP	22 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL LASAGNA	23 DOLLAR DOG DAY	24 FIREBALL FRIDAY CLUBROOM OPEN 12-6	25 CHRISTMAS CLUBROOM CLOSED
26 BINGO	27	28 TOASTED CHEESE & SOUP 40&8	29 WEDNESDAY WINESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TEX-MEX	30 DOLLAR DOG DAY	31 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	