

Ames Legion Family In Action

December 14 Will Be a Big Day at the Post



Start off your day with the Squadron's famed biscuits & gravy breakfast. They will begin serving at 7. There is no set price, this is a free will donation event.

One thing you can be sure of, this breakfast will be the best biscuits & gravy you can get anywhere in Ames.



After breakfast, stop by the Unit's cookie fair tables and get stocked up with cookies for your Christmas.

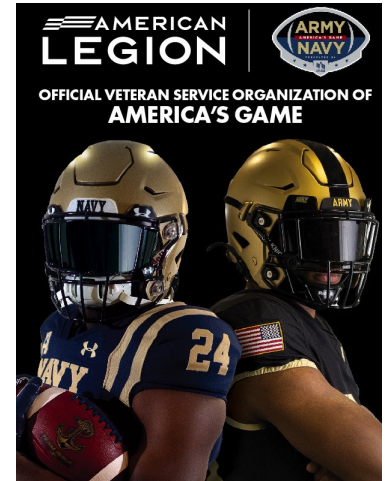
You buy the box and put in as many cookies as you can and still close the lid.



The Wreaths Across America ceremony will begin at 11AM at Ames Municipal cemetery. Each year more graves have been adorned with a wreath.

The citizens of Ames have been outstanding at turning out for the ceremony and then helping to place wreaths.

We find more graves each year that are not marked as being the resting place of a veteran. If that happens with your family, please let us know. We hope to one day have every veteran's grave decorated but we need your help to do that.

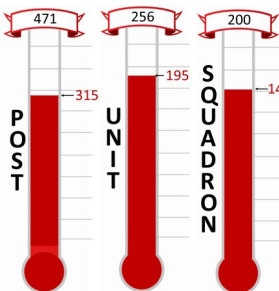


Join us at the Post for an Army-Navy watch party on Dec 14. Everyone is welcome, member or not, but you might be invited to join.

We are organizing a pork loin smoker competition. Thanks to the Hansen Foundation, we have 8 loin sections that 4 of our members will be smoking. You will be able to cast a vote for which you like most.

The game starts at 2. Be sure to be there in time. It promises to be a good time.

Membership



Membership keeps coming in. Thank you to all those who have renewed and welcome to our new members. We hope that you were one of those that enjoyed the membership brunch before Veterans Day. We hope that can become an annual event.

The challenge is to meet our membership goals by January 1 or at the very least before the Iowa Midwinter Conference.

Here is an idea. If you have someone in your family who is a member but hasn't renewed, give them their 2025 membership as a Christmas gift.

For those Legionnaires that might be thinking about not renewing due to the cost, read the article on Page 3 about Grouper. You can get the money to renew just by being a member if you qualify.

Inside this issue:

Post Commander	2
Unit President	2
Squadron Commander	2
Clubroom Events	3
Legion Riders	3
SAL Merit Award	3
JSSP Club	3

Post Commander Cliff's Comments

Happy Holidays. Before I go any further I want to say that the days around Veterans Day last month tested the post and quite a few members. Whether it was at the Veterans Supermarket, the Membership breakfast, the Academic awards, and yes, the steak dinner minus the dumbwaiter, You all did a fantastic job. So many members stepped up, and stepped in, it all came together and I'm glad to say it was all a success. Thank you as well to HyVee, Fareway, and the Hansen Foundation for the sponsorship donations.

We have our fingers crossed the dumbwaiter is working for the steak dinner and our Wednesday night meals very soon. I know it's a pain to work around, and again thank you all for your patience. A 40 year old piece of machin-

ery might as well be stone wheels with the rate of progress since then.

December 14th is shaping up to be a monumental day as well. The SAL has their breakfast, the ALA has their cookie fair, the Riders will be at the Cemetery for Wreath Day, and that evening is the Army/Navy game. The post will be having a game night and have invited the ISU ROTC groups as well as other Student Veterans to come join us at the post. Regardless of what side you're on, or who wins, (Go Army), lets all get together for the game and have a great time. Stay tuned to the weekly newsletter for more details as they get finalized. If you want to bring a snack plate to pass that would be great. I asked for some Ideas for the post, this was one of them, and we're looking at others, so

keep them coming. I look forward to it.

Lastly, we're going to be seeing a weather change before too long, Everyone take a moment and think about a quick safety check. Making sure you have a blanket or a heavy coat, a phone charger, and even a second ice scraper in your vehicle is never a bad idea. If you remember the big accident on 35 a few years ago in the snow-storm, it took quite a while to get to everyone. You don't have to be in the country to need these things. If you're dressed for work you probably aren't ready to walk in the snow.

Everyone be safe, we'll see you on the 7th for steak, and on the 14th for football, and everything else.

Unit President Jamie's Comments

November had shortened our days it seems, but certainly not our spirits! We have found a family to adopt for Christmas and there will soon be a tree with tags just waiting for our generous members to help us with this endeavor. I'd certainly like to thank all of you for participating in this opportunity to bring happiness, warmth and gratitude to one of our veterans and their family. The tree will be up by the time we have our Cookie Fair on Dec. 14.

Speaking of gratitude, I'd like to take a minute and thank our members who have helped us with the Academic Awards at Ames High School and eve-

ryone who has participated in our Terri Lynn Nuts Fundraiser. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped with the early bird breakfast and everyone who attended. What a great bunch of friends we have here at Post, Unit, Squadron and Chapter 37!

Pearl Harbor Day is a day of remembrance on Dec. 7. Reflecting on the "Day of Infamy" and honoring the members of our great service members for their sacrifice, courage and perseverance. Please take just a moment to reflect on that turning point and the significant losses we suffered in WW2.

As mentioned, the Cookie Fair and

many other activities will be held on Dec. 14, so I hope you have all marked that day as a Legion Family Day as we participate in the SAL breakfast, the ALA cookie fair, the ALR Wreaths Across America and TAL supported Army/Navy Game! What a day to remember and support our Legion Family!

Wishing you all a warm and cozy holiday season. Be safe, keep your car ready for emergencies, watch for traffic while shopping on these darker afternoons and always Remember your "Why" (you joined the ALA). Dues are due now and late as of Jan. 1. We need YOU! Holiday Blessings to you!

Squadron Commander Cort's Comments

November was a busy month for your Squadron. We hosted November's Steak Dinner night on November 2. We co-hosted (with the rest of the Legion family) the membership breakfast on November 10. We contributed our part to November 12th's Academic Award ceremony at Ames High School (thank you Russ Belz for representing the Squadron!) And we were responsible for November's 50/50 raffle. No wonder we're tired all the time.

December will be a little bit easier, but we can't relax too much. We just pack all the things into one day this time. On December 14, the Squadron will be having our Biscuits and Gravy Break-

fast (we need volunteers to help) in conjunction with the Auxiliary's Christmas Cookie sale. But wait, there's more. December 14 is also the Riders' Wreath's Across America event at Ames Cemetery. So be sure to plan your day accordingly by stopping by the Post first for breakfast and Christmas Cookie shopping and then heading out to support the Riders' worthy event.

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership. Much appreciated! Please get those in if you haven't yet.

On a personal note, I had the awesome opportunity to participate in a ruck march in November. ("Awesome" and "ruck march" don't usually go together.)



This was an inaugural annual ruck march organized by the Military-Affiliated Student Center at Iowa State University. The center provides support for Iowa State University military veterans.

That's a cause very similar to our Legion Family's mission and I was happy to come along side of them to show our support. I hope we can make this an annual tradition. I'll let you know when the second annual ruck march is so you can join me. Who doesn't love a good ruck march?



We know our snowbirds are headed south Where it is warm. We need to know if you are doing that so we can make sure your newsletter gets to you. Send us your winter address please and let us know when you plan to return. Better than that though, just give us your email address and then wherever you are your newsletter will get to you. Send it to the editor at davidrehbein@msn.com



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 for some of our activities. Our clubroom hours will remain the same but if Iowa State has an earlier basketball game we will open early for you to come watch with us. We are able to stream ESPN+ so you can come watch at the Post if you don't get that at home.

As the year comes to a close, we are just giving you a friendly reminder that YSS is nice enough to allow us to use their parking lot on the evenings and on weekends. Please do not park in the lot before 5pm on weekdays and if they are having a special event.

Curbside Meals: Call Clubroom, 232-9870, anytime after 2pm for pickup between 5-6:30pm

Wed. Dec 4-Meatloaf

Wed. Dec 11-Chicken Enchiladas

Wed. Dec 18-Ham Balls

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

Friday, Dec.20- Join us for our annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party and Quarterly Drawing Night. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater, bring a snack to share and enjoy some Christ-

SAL 2025 Merit Award

It is that time of year again when young people we know will be graduating high school soon. Many are thinking about their future in post-high school education or training. Help them out by telling them of the SAL Merit Award program. The SAL Merit Award program awards two \$1000.00 awards.

Current high school seniors from one of the following groups are eligible to apply as long as they fit in one of these groups:

Descendant of an Ames Legion Post 37 member from any school.

Descendant of a veteran and attends Ames High School, Gilbert High School or home schooled in the Ames or Gilbert school districts.

The application is available now on the Ames Post 37 web site, through the Ames and Gilbert High School web sites, the Home School Network or at the Post Clubroom (ask the bartender for a hard copy.)

The deadline for submission is 7:00pm, February 28, 2025

mas cheer with friends. The first drawing will be at 5:30pm. If you have been signed in at least half the time on our weekly drawing then you are eligible to win. You must be present to win so we hope to see you.

The clubroom will be open from 12-6pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day. 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 Christmas Day.

The clubroom will be having our weekly meat raffle again this December. 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 make it so we are able to have some great events. Russ and Vicki Belz, Bill Donovan, Tom Fowler, Julie Ri-
nard, Mike and Sandy Deacon, Addi Donovan, Corinne Klaver, Ella Rogotzke, Greg Hobbs, Paul Madson, Colten Christiansen, Marty and Jo Kelly, John and Lynn Sellmeyer, Chris Duncan and the entire fish fry crew.



JSSP Club Grows

Our JSSP club had a busy November! Weekly practices on Sunday's continued. Our participation rate stands at 24 youth. We are now able to accommodate twelve shooters on the range at a time - up from the initial ten. Equipment purchases were concluded to accommodate the growth in our club. The Iowa Postal match will start December 1st and we will have 19 youth participating in this eight match competition that goes until March 2025. And last but not least, the club raised \$750 volunteering at two Ames Free Yard Waste days.

Legion and Grouper Partner

You may receive information from Grouper about a partnership with The American Legion and \$50 that you can receive if you are eligible. This is real and not a scam. Grouper is a company that has shown that social activities can have a beneficial effect on people's health. Your membership in The American Legion qualifies.

Go to app.hellogrouper.com/p/a/ to see if you qualify based on your Medicare benefits and Medicare supplement insurance. If you do, Grouper will send you a check for \$50. If you stay active by attending events for meetings, Grouper will send you \$20 every three months. You will need to know your Medicare supplement and create an account. Once you qualify that money will be free for you to use as you like.

Legion Riders



Well here we are. After 6 years of writing this column it's time to hand it off. For my last column I want to thank everyone for following along this crazy journey. The aftermath of a split

in membership, the passing of so many good friends, the Covid thing, countless laughs and a few moments where we all just came together because we needed to. It has prepared me for so many things within the Legion and the SAL, training you get no other way than doing and asking questions. To lead what I consider to be the greatest Riders Chapter in the state is an honor and I look on it with pride. Your next Riders Director will be prepared and ready to make Chapter 37 theirs, and I will support them 100%. I would like to give a special thank you to our Riders membership. Without you NONE of this would be possible. I'm proud to have lead you, and proud to say the Riders get stuff done. I'm looking forward to the future with you all.

Now onto business, December 14th is going to be a fantastic day. From the beginning to the end the American Legion has something for everyone. The Riders contribution is of course Wreath Day. A week earlier than usual because of the holidays, on December 14th at 11am we will have the ceremony to place 1800 wreaths on the graves of veterans at Ames Cemetery. You are all welcome to come out and help, it shouldn't take more than an hour and a half and the view of the grounds when we leave is breathtaking.

Lastly, on behalf of the Ames Legion Riders I want to wish everyone the best for the holiday season, no matter the holiday of your choice. We live in country where we are free to believe and practice how we choose, and that right isn't given to us. It's ours already and cannot be taken.


AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 37

225 Main Street
Ames, IA 50010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 147
Ames, IA

DECEMBER

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 YOUTH AIR RIFLE 1-3 AT IZAAK WALTON BINGO	2 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	3 GRILLED CHEESE & SOUP AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL MEATLOAF	5 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	7 STEAK DINNER 5:00—7:00
8 BINGO	9 	10 GRILLED CHEESE & SOUP SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL CHICKEN ENCHILADAS	12 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	14 SEE ARTICLES ON PAGE 1 FOR ACTIVITIES
15 BINGO	16 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 SLOPPY JOES	18 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL HAM BALLS	19 \$2 DOG NIGHT SOCIAL COMMITTEE 7:00	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY UGLY SWEATER PARTY AND DRAWING	21
22 BINGO	23 	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CLUBROOM OPEN 12-6	25 WINESDAY WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS DAY CLUBROOM CLOSED	26 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUSIC BINGO 7-9	28
29 BINGO	30 	31 SLOPPY JOES	 Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			