January 1, 2024 Volume 3, Number 1



Cynthia Robbins Commander Post 32

The Morning Report

Quarterly Newsletter for The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family

Past National President (PNP) Sharon Conatser The American Legion Auxiliary

PNP Sharon Conatser in Her Words



Suzie Q. Weiss President Unit 32



Jim Peters Commander Squadron 32



Mike Lee Director Post 32 Riders How do you sum up one of the best years of your life in 500 words? In March of 2012, I received a call to ask if I would take the National Auxiliary Children and Youth Chairmanship. This is the first step in line to becoming National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

August of 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland, I was installed as the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, making a promise to serve our veterans, our children, and our communities. Team Illinois helped make this possible and I am so grateful for that support.

During my tenure, I visited 44 Departments and 8 countries. I was honored to share the Far East Trip and the Europe Trip with Dale Barnett. National Commander of The American Legion. We placed wreaths at memorials across the world and shared the story of our American Legion Family. We shared time with our military. visiting bases in the Far East and in Europe. We had Thanksgiving dinner with the troops in Okinawa. met the troops at the 38th parallel in Korea and visited Landstuhl, Germany just to mention a few. In Taiwan we met with the President of Taiwan and visited the veterans "educational center". The President had done his homework. After the visit with Dale and our group, he asked me what my theme "keeping the promise" meant. My answer was that, as an organization, we keep the promise to our troops, children and our communities that Abraham Lincoln made so many years ago. We had a heartfelt conversation and I felt that he understood the American Legion Auxiliary better after having this time to share.

Visiting the Departments of the American Legion Auxiliary, gives you a new outlook. Each Department works the same mission, but each Department works it different ways. We all take care of our military and our veterans, give children opportunities, and support our communities, but the ideas are different. Meeting members was one of my favorite parts of serving. I continue to have friends across this great country.

Each National President chooses a "special project". I chose the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. At the Washington Conference during the parade of checks, we collected over \$25,000 in donations. Members helping members is what we do!

Sharing ideas at a Unit, District or Division meeting is the way to get new ideas to share with your members. One of the most important ways to help the ALA is recruiting new members and keeping the old ones. Ask someone to join and take the opportunity to serve our beloved American Legion Auxiliary.

You may ask why I continue to serve. I have been a member since I was a few days old. I was an active junior member and continue to serve at all levels of our organization. WHY??? I continue to serve to honor my dad's service. He was a U.S Army dual veteran with service in WWII and Korea.

Serving as the National President was an honor, and I am humbled to have had the opportunity and continue to have opportunities to serve our American Legion Family and our Veterans.

May God Bless America and May God bless each of you.

Editor's Addendum

PNP Sharon Conatser continues to actively support The Auxiliary. She will represent current National President Lisa Williamson at the 2024 National Pilgrimage to Mr. Lincoln as "PNP and Special Envoy". For some time, she has served as interim "Managing Director" for The Auxiliary Department of Illinois.

The 90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln - Part 1

A Brief History of the Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage Mike Walton

The American Legion Springfield Post 32 has sponsored the Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln since February 11 and 12, 1935. It is the longest running commemoration of Mr. Lincoln's birthday held on his birthday. The 2024 Pilgrimage will be the 90th Annual celebration.

In 1935, World War I Veterans and members of The American Legion decided to honor President Lincoln and the many Civil War Veterans who lived in Springfield, Illinois at the time.

They created the Annual Pilgrimage to Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, thus establishing a Tradition in Americanism that continues to this day.

Since its inception, the Pilgrimage has had a total of five Chairmen. The first Pilgrimage chairman was Herbert N. Tragethon, a World War I Veteran. Noel C. "Whitey" Moore, a World War II Veteran took over for Mr. Tragethon but we are uncertain about what year Whitey assumed the reins. Michael E. Walton, a Vietnam Veteran took over from Whitey in 1978 and served as Chairman through 2012, a total of 35 years as General Chairman. Retired Colonel Anthony P. "Tony" Libri Jr., a Veteran of Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Kuwait and Panama took over in 2013 through 2019. Since 2020, Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran Robert M. "Bob" Wesley took over and now holds the honor of being General Chairman.

The Lincoln Day Pilgrimage each year begins on **February 11**th with the National Commander of The American Legion, the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion and American Legion dignitaries from Illinois and throughout The United States coming to Springfield to honor Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, on his birthday. The Wreath Ceremony is held on **February 12**th at Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

The tradition continues in 2024. The 90th Annual National American Legion to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held on Monday, February 12, 2024. See Page 3 for details about the events.

Post 32 Open House – February 11, 2024 In Celebration of The Lincoln Pilgrimage



90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln

Open House: 4:00 PM to 1:00 AM

Sunday, February 11, 2024 Springfield Post 32, The American Legion 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois

From 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM, February 11, 2024 Post 32 Mess Hall Restaurant

presents the following menu:

1 – Gouda Stuffed Chicken Breast With Blue Cheese Smashed Potatoes

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2 – Roast Pork Loin Dinner With Cheesy Potatoes

Both With Vegetable, Roll and Butter

Choice of 1 for \$13.95 + Tax

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Chicken Strip Salad	\$9.95
Taco Salad	\$9.95
Chef Salad	\$9.95
Seafood Salad	\$10.95
Dinner Salad with Dinner	\$2.50
Dinner Salad by Itself	\$3.95
Choice of Dressing With All Salads	

Dinner Reservations Recommended

Telephone 217-523-3415 or email spfldpost32@outlook.com

4:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Continuous FREE Shuttle Service between the Headquarters Hotel and Post 32

8:00 PM - Midnight - Free Juke Box

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report



THE INTER-VETERANS BURIAL DETAIL OF SANGAMON COUNTY

NEEDS YOU

VOLUNTEER AT <u>KAMPER279@COMCAST.NET</u> ATTEND A FUNERAL AT CAMP BUTLER N.C.



OUR POP-POP and GRANNY LOVE THE AMERICAN LEGION Dylan Walton, Benjamin Walton, Lincoln Davis & Levi Davis

The 90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln – Part 2 Sunday and Monday, February 11 and 12, 2024 Event Details

The American Legion Springfield Post 32 and The American Legion Department of Illinois extend an invitation to you to participate in the **90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln** on Sunday and Monday, February 11 – 12, 2024 in Springfield, Illinois. The President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel will be our **Headquarters Hotel**. The following is a list of scheduled events.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM: American Legion Family Leadership Reception – Headquarters Hotel

Donald Hall, jr., National Commander, The Sons of The American Legion (Keynote Speaker)

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM: Free shuttle service between Headquarters Hotel and Springfield Post 32

4:00 PM – 1:00 AM: Springfield Post 32 Open House – See Page 2 for details.

Monday, February 12, 2024

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM: American Legion Family Breakfast at the Headquarters Hotel Honorees Include: **Daniel J. Seehafer**, National Commander, The American Legion **Sharon Conatser**, PNP and Special Envoy (Keynote Speaker).

Representing National President Lisa Williamson, The American Legion Auxiliary

Donald Hall, jr., National Commander, The Sons of The American Legion

10:00 AM: Depart Hotel for Pilgrimage to Mr. Lincoln's Tomb

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM: Wreath Placing and Tomb Ceremony inside President Lincoln's Tomb

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Commemoration Luncheon at the Headquarters Hotel

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander, The American Legion (Keynote Speaker)

Reservations for Breakfast (\$30.00 per person) and Dinner Reservations (\$35.00 per person) must be received or canceled by February 1, 2024.

After that date, we are unable to guarantee seating or refunds. Please include a note with your name and the number of reservations you want.

Make checks payable to American Legion Post 32 and mail it to:

American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage Attn: Barb Lush, Ticket Chairman 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853

Telephone: 217-523-3415 email: spfldpost32@outlook.com

Hotel Reservations may be made at the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel (our Headquarters Hotel)

Special Rate for the Pilgrimage are \$112.00 + taxes per night, single or double rooms, includes parking. Call 217-544-8800 to reserve rooms (press 0 when prompted). Say you are attending the Pilgrimage. We prefer that you register online at: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/americanlegionpilgrimage/

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Legionnaire Bob Wesley, General Chair of the Pilgrimage Committee: 217-899-6826 or email to bobwesley37@yahoo.com

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The American Legion Springfield Post 32 Family Leadership

Post 32 Commander Cynthia Robbins

In October, Post membership voted to increase the scholarship award to \$5000. Applications can be downloaded at www.SpringfieldAmericanLegion.com, under the resources tab. Scholarships are available for college and trade school tuition.

State Commander Delmar Buske awarded a plaque in recognition of Post 32 as having the largest membership in Illinois. More members equal a louder voice to advocate for the interest of all veterans.

Our Veterans Day celebrations, throughout this community were attended by many and local businesses rolled out the red-carpet. If anyone went hungry it was their own fault. Post 809 did a spectacular job hosting Mayor Buscher's reception. The Veteran's Day Parade was fun!

Operation Jingle Bell Feast is in full swing for the second year. The Post was able to provide a \$100 gift cards from Humphrey's Market to deserving Sangamon County vets through the generosity of the Vala Family. Thank you to Sam Madonia who invited me to share this program on his radio show.

Our Holiday for Heros program awarded handmade quilts to veterans in local nursing homes, thanks to the Blue Jean Project of Macomb, IL. Each quilt is tailored to each recipient's branch of service. Each quilt is embroidered with words of thanks, an American flag, and Victory insignia. This is all done by veterans for veterans. Please contact me to dispose of your old denim which is the key fabric used to create these works of art.

I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas season and prosperous New Year. Please feel free to reach out to me sacinrob@yahoo.com or call me at 217-638-9197.

Unit 32 President Suzie Q. Weiss

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making our two fall fundraisers, Harvest Time Dinner and \$250 Humphrey Meat Market Drawing, hugely successful this year. It is an honor to announce that at this early date Springfield Unit 32, American Legion Auxiliary is 100+ percent. The Unit would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. God Bless America

For more information, please contact me: Weisssuziq@aol.com, 217-341-3728; or Ethellynn Neville: Ethellynn1@comcast.net, 217-836-9173.

Squadron 32 Commander James Peters

Squadron 32 had two firsts in October. We held our first ever Schnitzel lunch fundraiser in support of Pam Ray's run for Auxiliary National President. I'm proud to say as the Schnitzel Chef that we received rave reviews, and the event was a success. Secondly, we hosted a pancake and sausage breakfast. We had a great crowd and were able to make a sizable donation to the tear down fund for the house across the alley, recently donated to Post 32. Watch for both events again in the future. We are making good progress on SAL membership. If you have not, please submit your dues as soon as possible and help us recruit another member. Sign up your sons and grandsons! Membership is our voice and dues are only \$20.00 per year. The 90th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln is coming up February 12, 2024. Events associated with the Pilgrimage, including the Post 32 Open House on Sunday, February 11, 2024, are detailed elsewhere in The Morning Report. Thank you for supporting our Post 32 American Legion Family in 2023; we are look forward to a fantastic 2024. For God and country. Contact me at: Jpeters.ilsal@yahoo.com or 217-416-1533.

Post 32 Legion Riders Director Mike Lee

As we start the New Year, I would like to reflect on our past year. It began sadly for The Riders. We lost two Riders: Larry McCarthy and Carol Bayer. Both will be missed. They will be riding with us on every Ride we make.

In October we kicked off our fundraising campaign for Wreaths Across America.

In November, we attended the Mayor's reception at Post 809. The Friday before Veterans Day, we got together for breakfast at HYVEE. I've got to say it was a great breakfast. We met up on Veterans Day morning for breakfast before taking part in the Veterans Day Parade.

December was also busy. On the 1st of December we had our first annual breakfast to remember our lost Legion Riders. We took part in the Christmas Twilight parade; celebrated our brotherhood and sisterhood at our annual Christmas Dinner. The Riders donated hats and gloves to McClernand Elementary school with the help of the Auxiliary 32 and Post 32. Onn the 16th of December, we placed Remembrance Wreaths at Oak Ridge and CBNC. We helped with the Post 32 Hometown Heroes Program; we donated cookies to put a little sweetness into their Christmas.

For more information about these events, contact me: 217-741-3003 or Biker1950@comcast.net.

Post 32 Quarterly Calendar

October, November, and December 2023

Event

Time and Date

Regular Events at Post 32

4th Monday, 50/50 Drawing (Final)

4th Monday, Sons of The American Legion Raffle Drawing (Must be present to win \$500.00. If not present, you can win \$250.00) (Final)

4th Wednesday Drawing (Must be present to win Color TV or Gift Certificates)

Unit 32 Meetings Legion Riders Meetings LaFemmes ALMHC Club Committee Meetings Squadron 32 Meetings Post 32 Meetings

Special Events at Post 32

Lincoln Pilgrimage Committee
Post 32 Workers Lunch
90th Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage Events (See Pages 2 & 3)
Sons of The American Legion Fried Baloney
Morning Report Meeting
Bruce O'Neil's Famous Chili
Easter Sunday

January, February, March 2024

6:50 PM – January 22, February 26

7:00 PM - January 22, February 26

7:00 PM – January 24, February 28, March 27 5:00 PM – January 2, February 6, March 5 6:00 PM – January 2, February 6, March 5 5:00 PM – January 9, February 13, March 12 5:00 PM – January 16, February 20, March 19 5:30 PM – January 23, February 20, March 26 6:30 PM – January 23, February 20, March 26

6:00 PM – January 16, March 19
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM – January 20
February 11 and 12 (Mess Hall Restaurant Closed 2/12)
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM – February 17
6:00 PM – February 20
11:00 PM – 2:00 PM – February 24
Post 32 Closed All day – March 32

Veterans Day 2023 Pictures (Left to Right)

Post 32 Commander, Cynthia Robbins and Post 809 Commander, Mike Johnson at the Parade Department Commander, Delmar Buske, Presenting Award Honoring Post 32 as the Largest in the Department Post 32 Commander and Springfield Mayor Misty Buscher at The Mayor's Veterans Reception Hosted by Post 809







Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank You!

American Legion Post 32,1120 Sangamon Ave – 217-523-3415 Mess Hall Restaurant

> Lunch: Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM Dinner: Wednesday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

Bar & Gaming open Monday and Tuesday — 10:30 AM-6:30 PM Wednesday - Friday — 10:30 AM — 10:00 PM Saturday - NOON — 10:00 PM Sunday — NOON — 4:00 PM 1120 Sangamon Avenue — 217-523-3415 Mess Hall, Bar and VIDEO GAMING — ALWAYS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Honor, History and Humor at Camp Butler National Cemetery

Gael Kent, Commander, Inter-veterans Burial Detail of Sangamon County

Camp Butler National Cemetery (CBNC) is hallowed ground. It is the final resting place for tens of thousands of deserving veterans and members of their immediate family. Members of the Inter-Veterans Burial Detail of Sangamon County (The Detail) consider it an honor and privilege to provide military honors, with or without the Department of Defense, for these veterans and their families. In 2022, The Detail provided military honors at 339 funerals, averaging almost seven per week. Approximately 294 (87%) were at CNBC.

Members of The Detail take the opportunity between funerals to honor and remember their family members buried at CNBC by visiting their final resting place. They also honor veterans with whom they served on The Detail, those with significant achievements and those with unique information on their headstones. Every veteran deserves honor and remembrance for their service.

One site of significant achievement is that of a Springfield native Medal of Honor Recipient. On July 26th, three members of American Legion Post 32, Springfield, Illinois, honored Medal of Honor recipient John Catherwood at his grave site. They are David Janssen, Bill Settles and David Cooper. According to Wikipedia, John Hugh Catherwood (1888 – 1930), was a United States Navy Ordinary Seaman (OS), born in Springfield. He ". . . received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Moro Rebellion aboard USS Pampanga (PG-39). Seaman Catherwood was critically wounded during action on September 24, 1911." Visitors can honor their relatives and secure their personal history. Visitors to the cemetery can locate the grave of family members by accessing the "Grave Locator" terminal located outside the cemetery office and/or online at http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/campbutler.asp.

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CNBC has its history documented online and on plaques, monuments, and memorials throughout the cemetery. The CNBC website lists a memorial carillon that the American Veterans (AMVETS) donated around 1970. The website also list the Blue Star Memorial installed May 19. 2006, and the Korean War Memorial installed May 23, 2006. A monument honoring the Illinois LST sailors was erected in May 2006. Several plagues and informative signs are displayed on walkways throughout the cemetery. CNBC was selected in 1861 as a Union army training site. State Treasurer William Butler assisted General Tecumseh Sherman in acquiring the site. "General Sherman was pleased with the site and named it CNBC to honor his companion." CNBC was a prison after the capture of Fort Donelson, Tennessee. 2,000 Confederates were held there. Primitive facilities, harsh winters and summers, diseases and epidemics decimated the prisoner population. 700 POWs died in the 1862 smallpox epidemic. They are buried in a special section of CNBC.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) permits next of kin the opportunity to personalize the headstone the NCA provides with as many as four lines in addition to the record of service of the veteran. Sam Montalbano was a conscientious member of The Detail and served at every funeral for over 20 years. He had a great sense of humor. He always had a joke to share and always requested fellow Detail members to share jokes with him that he could tell at the Little Flower Catholic Church Mens' Club. His humor is reflected in the lines that he requested that are forever chiseled in stone.



Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!





Post 32 Legionnaire Frank Campo Elected as the 2023 – 2024 Chef De Chemin De Fer Frank Campo Homecoming Celebration



Chef De Chemin De Fer Frank Campo The Forty and Eight Honor Society

Your Post 32 Service Officers

William "Bill" Mowder

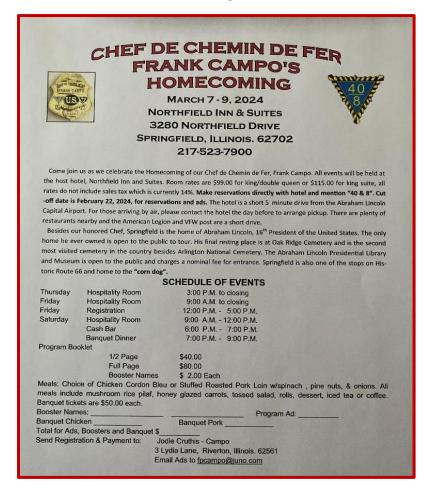
217/607-7158 bill.mowder@yahoo.com

Keith Milliman

217/626-1378 klmill@casscomm.com

Mr. Mowder will be your first contact. If unavailable, contact Mr. Milliman.

What does a Service Officer do? Email both.



Important Notice – Change in Hours at Post 32

Please Continue Reading

The Final Page of The Morning Report

New Hours for Post 32 Bar, Restaurant and Game Room

Friends of the American Legion Family and Sponsors of The Morning Report – Thank you!

American Legion Auxiliary
Springfield Unit 32
1120 Sangamon Avenue
Meeting first Tuesday of every
month except July at 5 pm.
Come join us











The American Legion Springfield Post 32 1120 Sangamon Avenue Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853 217-523-3415

<u>Spfldpost32@outlook.com</u> www.springfieldamericanlegion.com Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 18

The Mess Hall Restaurant at Post 32

Best Fried Chicken, Walleye, and whole Catfish on the North End

Changes in Bar-Video Hours - Effective January 1, 2024

Bar & Video Gaming

Monday & Tuesday 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM*
Wednesday - Friday 10:30 AM - 10:00 PM*
Saturday 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM*
Sunday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

MESS HALL RESTAURANT - Lunch

Monday - Friday 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MESS HALL RESTAURANT - Dinner

Wednesday – Friday 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM *We will stay open later for crowds and special events.

We welcome everyone to our Video Gaming Room at your American Legion Post 32. It is considered the nicest private Gaming Room in Springfield. We have six of the most up to date gaming machines, along with our private area with very comfortable chairs.

The Gaming Room offers free Soft Drinks, free Coffee, free Hot Chocolate, and free Snacks to Gamers. You should also sign up for the free Give Aways offered by Prairie State Gaming. Each time you visit be sure to get your Card punched for a free Meal. 10 punches get you a free lunch or free "All You Can Eat" Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday or free Chicken Dinner on Thursday or free Walleye Dinner on Friday.

You can sign up once a day, every day that you come in for our free 4th Wednesday Drawing where we give away a 32" Color TV; a \$50 Gift Certificate and a \$25 Gift Certificate.