



THE AMERICAN LEGION



October 2010

Upcoming Events

- **October 13:** Navy's Birthday
- **October 16:** Bull Fry Night
- **Oct 17:** District 6 Meeting @ Gibbon
- **Oct 25:** Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- **Oct 31:** SAL Meeting

Support
our
Troops!



Legion Officers

Commander
Randy Stocker

Vice Commander
Eugene Giger

Financial Officer
Mick Ross

Adjutant
Julie Schnitzler

Sergeant at Arms
Jim Myrick

Chaplain
Frank Spotanski

Service Officer
Marlin Westberg

Bradley Buck Post #310 ♦ 1029 Court St. ♦ PO Box 175 ♦ Gibbon, NE 68840 ♦ (308) 468-5845

Meet Delbert Johnson

Delbert Johnson, son of the late Earl and Marguerite (Fieldgrove) Johnson, remembers as a third grader when his school, District #30 (northeast of Gibbon) burnt to the ground and a new one was built in its place. Delbert's family then moved southeast of Ravenna and attended a school for a year and a half with only seven students before moving into Gibbon in 1939 and attending the District 2 from the fifth through twelve grade. Delbert graduated in 1947 and met a man in the bar who asked him to work his potato farm in Brule. While working in southeast Nebraska, Delbert received his draft notice. He left Kearney for Omaha on October 16, 1950.

The newly inducted soldiers stayed overnight in Omaha and boarded a train to Ft. Riley for basic training. After basic training Delbert was assigned to Camp Polk, Louisiana, where he was trained how to fire the 105 mm Howitzers. Delbert served in the light Infantry (HQ Battery 171 Field Artillery Battalion,



45th Infantry Division) and was given the job of radio and telephone operator and then later a 4 x 4 operator. He then trained for his military driver's license.

In April of 1951 Delbert's unit convoyed to New Orleans and loaded their truck on the ship General Wm. Weigel.

The Johnson's

< Now

↓ Then



[Johnson cont. page 2]

NEW!!! NEW!!! NEW!!! NEW!!! NEW!!!

The Gibbon Legion is now offering specials over your mobile phone Just text the letters GBNAMLEGN to the mobile number 69302 to sign up. You'll receive periodic updates and special offers via text message.

Their equipment was WWII vintage and the Oklahoma National Guard joined them for the voyage to Japan. From New Orleans they traveled through the Panama Canal and stopped shortly to pick up more troops in San Francisco. They sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and by the Alcatraz Prison before stopping for more troops and then on to Incho and the Hokkaido Japan. Delbert celebrated Thanksgiving Dinner 1951 in Chitose, Japan.

In Japan, Delbert lived on an Air Force Base in a tent that house 16 or so soldiers. They woke at 5 a.m., performed physical training and then started their duty day. Delbert worked in the FDC (Fire Direction Center) where he received request for fire support which he relayed to the field artillery. Most of the fire power was 105mm and 108mm which was directed at the Chinese.

Delbert's unit was sent to Korea, arriving on December 5, 1952; he spent a cold Christmas away from home. He

still has the two jewelry boxes that he sent his mother from Korea. They lived in tents and it "was 30 degrees below zero. There was a little round stove on each end of the tent. I could set my beer on the stove to thaw it". Delbert remembers when the gas line on his 4x 4 froze and he had to get his vehicle running. Betty White did a couple USO shows. "There wasn't much to do but cards, dice and the USO." Delbert remembers one incoming round landed 20 yards short of him. While in Korea, Delbert sent back two pool cues which doubled as walking sticks; a map of Korea was etched on the cues.

After eight or nine months in Korea the unit was shipped back to the United States arriving in Seattle, Washington. Delbert was discharged from Ft. Carson Colorado and "hopped a ride from a friend to Gibbon." Upon returning to Nebraska, Delbert took a job with the FDA storing grain in the Kearney/Gibbon/Ravenna area and then worked for Ernest Dobesh, Inc. near Wood River for 44 years.

Earl and Margueriette had six children: Everett, Delbert, Donald, Earlene, Belva and Louis, who died shortly after birth. Everett, like Delbert, was also drafted into the United States Army. Delbert met his wife Pauline while she was still in High School. They were married July 10, 1953 and had four children: Nancy, Connie, Mary and Mark. They have 13 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. Delbert enjoys fishing and camping.



Delbert graduates from Basic Training. He is in the 3rd row, 10th from the right. He is squinting.



September 2010 Minutes: The Gibbon Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion met for its September meeting on Sunday, September 26, with five members in attendance. Members prepared three "We Care" boxes to ship to troops overseas in Iraq and then recognized a generous donation given to the SAL from the Bombeck family for helping with their wedding reception.

The squadron discussed helping with the upcoming Legion bull fry on October 16 and perhaps having a welcome home event for Stormi (Eatherton) Upward this fall.

Legion Liaison Mick Darnell stated that the Legion still needed help with funerals. The meeting adjourned after noting the next meeting would be on Sunday, October 31, at 4:00 p.m.

October 13, 1775 Happy Birthday Navy The United States Navy traces its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on 13 October 1775, by authorizing the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength.

After the American War for Independence, Congress sold the surviving ships of the Continental Navy and released the seamen and officers. The Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1789, empowered Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress ordered the construction and manning of six frigates in 1794, and the War Department administered naval affairs from that year until Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.

Not to be confused with the Navy Birthday or the founding of the Navy Department is Navy Day. The Navy League sponsored the first national observance of Navy Day in 1922 designed to give recognition to the naval service. The Navy League of New York proposed that the official observance be on 27 October in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who had been born on that day.


In 1972 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 October as the Navy's birthday. In contrast to Navy Day, the Navy Birthday is intended as an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees, and dependents. Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

<http://www.history.navy.mil/birthday.html>



WANTED
FOR HAVING TOO MUCH FUN

Night Hawk



GIBBON LEGION CLUB
Saturday, October 16
9:00 PM TO 12:30 AM



Gibbon American Legion Club
Post 310 – Bradley Buck

Nut Fry followed by Night Hawk
Saturday, October 16th

Members and the Public are Invited!

MEAL:
5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Mountain Oysters, Pulled Pork, Fried Chicken

COST: \$12 for Adults
\$6 for Ages 6 to 12
Free for Kids 5 and under

MUSIC:
9:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.
Country Rockin Blues from *Night Hawk*

Free Will Donations - \$5 per person is suggested.

It's time to open the envelopes!



If you've stuck your investment statements in a drawer hoping that what you didn't know wouldn't hurt you, just gather them up, bring them in and we'll open them for you.

We'll

- Review your current statements.
- Assess your goals and strategies.
- Help ensure your portfolio reflects your objectives.

Don't wait – call now!

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NATIONAL COMMANDER TOUR IN NEBRASKA

National Commander, Jimmie Foster will pay his official visit to Nebraska November 1 –4. He will be stopping at the following locations:

November 1: Fort McPherson, 3:00—4:00 p.m.; North Platte, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

November 2: Sutherland, 8:30—10:00 a.m.; Gering, 12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.; Scottsbluff Veterans Home, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.; Western Nebraska Community College, 4:00—5:00 p.m.; Mitchell, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

November 3: Alliance, 9:00—10:30 a.m.; Gordon, 12:00—1:30 p.m.; Cody, 2:30—4:00 p.m.; Valentine, 6:00 p.m.

November 4: Springview, 8:00—9:00 a.m.; Callaway, 11:30—1:00 p.m.; Omaha, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

November 5: Departs for Maine



45th Infantry Division

At the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950, the US Army looked to expand its force again to prepare for major conflict. During this time, the US Army underwent a drastic reduction in size. At the end of World War II, it contained 89 divisions, but by 1950, there only 10 active divisions in the force, along with a few reserve divisions such as the 45th Infantry Division which were combat ineffective. It was one of four understrength divisions on occupation duty in Japan alongside the 1st Cavalry Division, 24th Infantry Division, and 25th Infantry Division, all under control of the Eighth United States Army. The divisions were equipped with antiquated equipment from World War II due to drastic reduction in spending. Few American weapons could penetrate North Korean T-34 tanks, and fewer still were available for use.

While the undermanned active divisions moved into the war suffered from lack of reinforcements and high casualties, the Army looked to the National Guard to provide additional troops to the region. On 1 September of that year, the 45th Infantry Division was activated as the first National Guard division to be deployed to the theater. The 157th Infantry was removed from the unit and replaced with the 279th Infantry Regiment. The 40th Infantry Division of the California Army National Guard would follow in April, 1951. The 45th Infantry Division was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana to begin training and fill its ranks in preparation for deployment.^[50] The division was sent to Japan in April, 1951 after its basic training was complete, for advanced training and to act as a reserve force for the Eighth United States Army, currently fighting in Korea.^[51] It was not deployed to Korea until December 1951, when its advanced training was complete.^[51] The division moved to replace the 1st Cavalry Division on the front line. The 1st Cavalry Division was delegated to the Far East reserve, having suffered over 16,000 casualties in less than 18 months of fighting.

By the time the division was in place, the battle lines on both sides had largely solidified, leaving the 45th Infantry Division in a stationary position as it conducted attacks and counterattacks for the same ground. The division was put under the command of I Corps, Eighth Army for most of the conflict. During its first few months of service in combat, the division did not fare well, though it improved quickly. In its first few months on the line, Chinese forces conducted three raids in the division's sector. In retaliation, the 245th Tank Battalion sent nine tanks to raid Agok. Two companies of Chinese forces ambushed and devastated a patrol from the 179th Infantry a short time later. In the spring, the division launched Operation Counter, an effort to establish 11 patrol bases around Old Baldy Hill. The division defended the hill against a series of Chinese assaults from the Chinese 38th Army.

The 45th Infantry Division, along with the 7th Infantry Division fought repeated Chinese attacks all along the front line throughout 1952, and Chinese forces frequently attacked Old Baldy Hill into the fall of that year. Around that time, the 45th Infantry Division relinquished command of Old Baldy Hill to the 2nd Infantry Division. Almost immediately the Chinese launched a concentrated attack on the hill, overrunning the US forces. Heavy rainstorms prevented the divisions from retaking the hill for around a month, and when it was finally retaken it was heavily fortified to prevent further attacks. The 245th Tank Battalion was sent to assault Chinese positions throughout late 1952, but most of the Division remained stationary that year as it attempted to hold a defensive line against the Chinese.

In early 1953, North Korean forces launched a large attack against Hill 812, which was under control of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 179th Infantry. The ensuing Battle of Hill Eerie was one of a series of larger attacks by Chinese and North Korean forces which produced heavier fighting than the previous year had seen. Chinese forces continued concentrated attacks on the lines of the UN forces, including the 45th Infantry Division, but the division managed to hold most of its ground, remaining stationary until the end of the war in the summer of 1953.

During the Korean War the 45th Infantry Division suffered 4,004 casualties; 834 killed in action and 3,170 wounded in action. The division was awarded four campaign streamers and one Presidential Unit Citation .

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_Infantry_Division_\(United_](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_Infantry_Division_(United_)



Veteran's Day Salute November 11
Gibbon School

Membership News

To date, 95 members have paid their 2011 dues. Renewal notices will be sent to all members who haven't paid their dues by January 1. If you'd like to avoid a third notice, pay now. Legion memberships are great gifts for friends and family. If you would like to purchase a membership as a gift, stop the Legion or call Julie Schnitzler.

MEMBERSHIP GOAL: We need 90% of our membership to pay their dues by December 1, so the Gibbon Legion will receive the Pearl Harbor Award.

Membership Update as of October 1, 2010

Paid-Up-For-Life & Life memberships

Marlin Westberg	Robert Thomsen	Richard Shafer	Eldon Ruby	Gerald Rose
Patricia Cantu	Lenard Pedersen	Rick Musil	Julie Schnitzler	Ray Mayo
Stephen Clark	Mick Ross	Joseph Hehner	William DeBrie	Kermit Belau
John Arias	Lee Meents			

The following members have paid their 2011 dues.

Neil Avery	Tom Belau	Dwight Bond	Greg Brodine
Dean Brown	Stacy Brown	Dick Burr	Charles Carman
Arthur Carpenter	Terry Carpenter	Vic Carpenter	Frank Carr
Ronald Catlin	Tom Christy	*Joseph Crowder	Phillip Darnell
Daniel Dwiggins	Donald Dye	Terry Eatherton	Larry Fox
Paul Frink	James Ganz	Ben Garcia	Eugene Giger
Dean Grassmeyer	Don Halkyard	Alvin Hartman	Ronald Hudson
Delbert Johnson	Elmer Jurgens	Brandon Kee	Calvin Kelly
Rodney Keup	*Jeff Krupp	Dale Kruse	Robert Kutsch
Richard Lange	Lloyd Leetsch	Kim Lindgren	John Mapel
*Bill Manfull	Alan McCall	Ray McLaughlin	
Diana Merryman	Ray Moffett	Carl Moffett	Terry Moffett
Kelly Murr	Jim Myrick	James Nutter	Dwayne Olson
Bob Owen	Dale Pallett	Dale Pearson	Joe Rayburn
John Rinaker	Danny Roeder	William Ross	Rodney Royle
James Saalfeld	LaVerne Scheidies	Martin Schmidt	Orville Schuster
Vernon Schuster	Clifford Shiers	Larry Shiers	Duane Sinn
Tim Smallcomb	Frank Spotanski	Bud Stall	Randy Stocker
PeteTannis	Dave Tracy	Wendell Triplette	Alvin Volguardsen
Elton Weston	Gene Willmes	LaVern Yendra	

*Denotes new members



The concrete handicap parking spaces were made possible from a donation by the Erwin Lasich family and volunteers. Thank you Frank Spotanski, Stacy Brown, Randy Stocker and Rick Lange (not pictured) for donating your time and talent.

EVERYONE
WELCOME!!

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14
6:30 PM

JOIN IN THE FUN!!!