



THE AMERICAN LEGION

December 2010

Upcoming Events

- **December 11:** Tom & Jerry's @ 2 p.m.
- **December 11:** Eatherton homecoming, tentatively
- **December 18:** Karaoke
- **December 25:** Merry Christmas
- **December 31:** New Year's Eve Supper

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 Jerry Jurgensen

Jerry Jurgensen, son of Harley & Leona (Gillispie), graduated from Burwel I High School in 1966. He was one of nine siblings and one of the five that served in the armed services: Kenny (Marines), Harold (Army), Dorothy, Roger (Air Force), Harley Jr. (Marine), Jerry (Army), Ronald, Roland and Cheryl. Dorothy's husband, Richard, was also in the Army.

Jerry volunteered for the Army "because it was the thing to do; my older brothers volunteered also."

Jerry's two best friends who graduated with him also volunteered. Obert Dimmitt was sent to Basic Training (BT) in September of 1966 and Jerry and Randy Blake left for Basic Training a month later. They reported to Ft. Benning, Georgia, where Jerry completed both BT and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Jerry hated his training days and wanted out. His unit accepted soldiers who had flunked out of Officer Candidate School (OCS), enlisted in the army and then were sent to Vietnam.



Jerry finished AIT the summer of 1967 and received orders for Germany, which superseded by orders to Vietnam. He came home June 11 and was married June 17 in Sutton to Eileen Scheierman. Jerry and Eileen had been introduced



Jurgensen cont. p. 2

November Membership Meeting Minutes

Commander Randy Stocker opened the Gibbon Bradley Buck Post #310 at 7:30 p.m. on November 29, 2010. Twenty members and manager Ryan Brehmer were present. **DONATIONS:** Leon & Betty Wilson, \$25; Source Gas donated three dozen gross caps and \$20 for postage to the Caps for Soldiers program; SAL donated \$500 for beer cooler; James and Nadine Nutter, \$1,000; Legion Auxiliary, \$44 for stamps for newsletter; Charlotte Leisinger Memorial was donated and to be shared with the Auxiliary. The Legion donated \$20 to the Gibbon Education Association. Adjutant Julie Schnitzler read the previous minute. Bucky Shiers made a motion to approve as read; motion carried. To date, 110 members have paid their dues. Our goal is 132 members. **NEW BUSINESS:** Julie Schnitzler suggested a flooring committee be formed to start researching flooring types, cost and timeline for installation. Ryan Brehmer volunteered to lead the committee and the following members will also serve: Rick Lange, Frank Spotanski, Jim Myrick and Ray Mayo. It was suggested a SAL member be asked to join the committee. Monthly reports will be given to the general membership. **FINANCE REPORT:** Mick Ross read the financial report. **MANAGER REPORT:** Eighty-two people attended the bull fry this month. Discussion was held on the price of the bull fries as well as the amount and variety of food served. There will be a New Year's

at a party by Jerry's friend Jimmy. Eileen had to set three wedding dates waiting for Jerry to get leave and come back to Nebraska.

On July 2, 1967, Jerry flew to San Francisco and then to Saigon. He served in the 241st Transportation Company, 34th Group. The unit was just being formed and when Jerry arrived they were living in tents. Their base in Phu Thai, which housed approximately 350 troops, was a main helicopter support unit and in 13 months six warehouses had been constructed to hold the helicopter parts. Convoys came in and out, delivering supplies. A lot of helicopter parts were taken to Qui Nhon and the South China Sea. Many parts were delivered by LST.



Jerry did get one week of leave during February which was cut short to three days. According to Eileen, Jerry's leave was during the TET Offensive and when she and other wives arrived at the RR station in Hawaii, some of the girls were told that their guys had been killed. During his stay in Vietnam, Jerry and a guy from South Dakota, introduced the sport of rodeo. They would drive the trucks into a circle and then steal a water buffalo in a nearby field and try to ride him for eight seconds. "The guys from Louisiana had never seen a rodeo. They had a great time." The water buffalo was let loose after the rodeo to wander back to his field.

Jerry was transferred to the Motor Pool and served as an equipment operator. Every duty day was different. When he first arrived in country, he and another soldier spent a lot of time at the LST beach stealing equipment by falsifying requisitions and sending the equipment to Phu Tai. The regulations were lax and the soldiers wore t-shirts and fatigue pants

In January 1968 Jerry was promoted to an E5 and became the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge and convoy leader. He had started at \$82 a month and came out from combat making \$235 a month. Most convoys contained 20 – 60 trucks that were protected by the Korean Guerrillas and the Australian National forces. These forces were also responsible for protecting the outer perimeter. "Only one guy was killed in our unit while I served in Vietnam." Only one convoy was ambushed during Jerry's 13 months in Vietnam. "We did take some sniper fire in our base, but the Korean and Australian forces would quiet the snipers. We could usually smell them after a couple days."

Because Jerry volunteered for another 30 days in country, he received a 90-day earlier out from the Army. He returned to San Francisco in August of 1968 and then flew to Omaha where he was met by his family. When he arrived at the San Francisco airport they were greeted by protestors. Jerry said, "I was in and out of the Army before I even turned 21."



Upon his return, Jerry and Eileen lived in Lincoln where he worked at the service station. In September of 1969, the couple moved to Burwell where Jerry worked as a ranch foreman for 15 years. Upon moving to Gibbon in 1984, Jerry worked at the feedlot for 10 years; the city, 9 years; Schuster Implement, 1 year and is currently working for Buffalo County.

Jerry and Eileen have three children: Calvin (Oswego, KS), Deon (Axtell) and Jennifer (Gibbon) and seven grandchildren. Jerry enjoys watching old westerns and spending time with the grandkids and watching them participate in sports.



The Gibbon Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion met for its monthly meeting on Sunday, November 28 with five members in attendance.

Items discussed included a welcome home event tentatively scheduled at the American Legion for Saturday, December 11 for Stormi Eatherton. The date may have to be changed depending on when the US Army allows her to return. It was determined that there are enough supplies on hand to hold the event without a lot of preparation.

Also discussed was getting the addresses of more soldiers that will be deployed overseas soon.

Members discussed helping with Tim Horacek's "Tom and Jerry" event at the Legion on December 11.

Thank You, Auxiliary, for honoring us Veterans with a fabulous dinner.

All of you and your talents are appreciated.



Generous Donors

Gold

Donald & Myrtle Halkyard
Robert & Veda Thomsen
In Memory of Norden Nutter
In Memory of Andy McIntosh
In Memory of Shirley Slater
In Memory of Pete Day
In Memory of Darlene Spotanski
In Memory of Wayne Stroup
In Memory of Tracil Power
In Memory of LeRoy Power
In Memory of Leonard Szafrajda
In Memory of Clifford W. Shiers
In Memory of Joyce Kraft
In Memory of Charlie Kraft
In Memory of Vern Johnston
In Memory of Erwin Lasich
In Memory of Charlotte Leisinger
James and Nadine Nutter

Silver

Pete Day
Frank & Darlene Spotanski
Donald & Barbara Cline
Randy & Sheila Stocker
Rod & Janell Towler
Raymond & Donna McLaughlin
Chuck & Janice Carman
Greg & Linda Brodine
Dianne Kraus & Lee Meents
Dan & Kae Dwigings

Bronze

Kermit Belau
Eugene & Joyce Giger
DeWayne & Laberta Olson
Craig & Julie Schnitzler
Mick & Anita Ross
Paul Frink
Jim & Shirley Slater
Dale Rose
Lee Meents
Bob & Joan Williams
Rick & Julia Lange
Bud & Betty Stall

November Minutes Cont. Eve dinner special with DJ music in the back and karaoke in the front. The SAL will host a Fun Night on January 8th. Tim Horacek will serve Tom & Jerry's on December 11 at 2 p.m. A tentative date of December 11 is being reserved for a homecoming party for Stormi Eatherton who is serving in Iraq. **SERVICE OFFICER:** Sympathies to Duane Sinn on the loss of his wife and a card was sent to the family of Frank Eddy for his death. **SGT of ARMS:** We received a flyer from a gentleman in Kearney that we could hire him to play Taps at funerals. We will continue to use Gibbon High School students. **SAL Report:** Same as the managers. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** We will continue to sponsor a dinner at Rowe Sanctuary during the four weekends of crane season. Volunteers are requested. There will be no membership meeting in December. The next regular meeting will be held on January 24 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

No Legion Membership meeting in December. Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.



Mark your calendars!!!

December 31: New Year's Dinner

January 1: Purchase Legion membership

January 15: Bull Fry

January 24: Legion Membership meeting

February 14: Valentine's Day

February 28: Legion Meeting

Sympathies to Duane Sinn on the loss of his wife, Gilda Sinn, on November 24.

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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Veterans Day 2010



Membership News

To date, 110 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 21 members to pay their dues by January 17, 2011, so the Gibbon Legion will receive the Two Star Citation.

Membership Update as of December 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.

Larry Andersen	Neil Avery	Lyle Beck	Tom Belau	Dwight Bon
Greg Brodine	Dean Brown	Stacy Brown	Dick Burr	Charles Carman
Arthur Carpenter	Terry Carpenter	Vic Carpenter	Frank Carr	Ronald Catlin
Don Cline	Tom Christy	*Joseph Crowder	Phillip Darnell	
Daniel Dwiggin	Donald Dye	Terry Eatherton	Warren Fitzgerald	Larry Fox
Paul Frink	James Ganz	Ben Garcia	Eugene Giger	Dean Grassmeyer
Don Halkyard	Alvin Hartman	Ronald Hudson	Delbert Johnson	
Elmer Jurgens	Jerald Jurgensen	Brandon Kee	Calvin Kelly	Rodney Keup
*Jeff Krupp	Dale Kruse	Robert Kutsch	Richard Lange	Lloyd Leetsch
Kim Lindgren	Ken Macek	John Mapel	*Bill Manfull	Alan McCall
Ray McLaughlin	Diana Merryman	Ray Moffett	Carl Moffett	Terry Moffett
Chester Morgan	Kelly Murr	Jim Myrick	James Nutter	Chadd Ohlman
Dwayne Olson	Bob Owen	Dale Pallett	Dale Pearson	Larry Puttergill
Joe Rayburn	John Rinaker	Danny Roeder	William Ross	James Saalfeld
LaVerne Scheidies	Martin Schmidt	Orville Schuster	Vernon Schuster	
Clifford Shiers	Larry Shiers	Trent Schrock	Duane Sinn	Shannon Slagle
*Robert Shafer	Dennis Smith	Tim Smallcomb	Frank Spotanski	Bud Stall-
Randy Stocker	Peter Tannis	Keith Thompson	Rod Towler	Dave Tracy-
Wendell Triplette	Alvin Volguardsen	Elton Weston	Gene Willmes	Lonnie Wilson

LaVern Yendra
*Denotes new members

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT? PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP TO THE GIBBON LEGION!

2010 Veterans Day Essay Winners: "Does my generation have a role in America's future?"



High School:

1. Micah Stall
2. Dalia Rodriguez
3. Andrew Mason



Middle School:

1. Gareth Stroh
2. Korbin Hynes
3. Bradyn Snell



Elementary: 4th, 5th & 6th

1. Gaby Montanez
2. Miranda Smith
3. Brie Bailey

PEARL HARBOR: December 7, 1941

Did you know that....

1. The Japanese Imperial General Headquarters called the attack Operation Z.
2. There were three distinct disadvantages of the attack: a) the targets were in very shallow water, so it would be easy to salvage and repair them; b) most of the crews would survive the attack, since many would be on shore leave or would be rescued from the harbor; c) the absence from Pearl Harbor all three of the US Pacific Fleet's aircraft carriers (Enterprise, Lexington and Saratoga).
3. Japan transmitted a 5,000-word notification of the attack but transcribing the message took too long for the Japanese Ambassador to deliver it before the attack.
4. Despite this low alert status, many American military personnel responded effectively during the battle. Ensign Joe Taussig, Jr., the only commissioned officer aboard USS Nevada, got the ship underway during the attack but lost a leg. The ship was beached in the harbor by the Senior Quartermaster. One of the destroyers, USS Aylwin, got underway with only four officers aboard, all ensigns, none with more than a year's sea duty; she operated at sea for four days before her commanding officer managed to get back aboard. Captain Mervyn Bennion, commanding USS West Virginia (Kimmel's flagship), led his men until he was cut down by fragments from a bomb which hit USS Tennessee, moored alongside.
5. USS Arizona (BB-39) during the attack Of the American fatalities, nearly half of the total were due to the explosion of Arizona's forward magazine after it was hit by a modified 40 cm (16 in.) shell.
6. Fifty-five Japanese airmen and nine submariners were killed in the action, and one was captured. Of Japan's 414 available planes, 29 were lost during the battle (nine in the first attack wave, 20 in the second),[nb 14] with another 74 damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the ground.
7. Ninety minutes after it began, the attack was over. 2,386 Americans died (55 were civilians, most killed by unexploded American anti-aircraft shells landing in civilian areas), a further 1,139 wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including five battleships.