



# THE AMERICAN LEGION



**February 2011**

## Upcoming Events

- **February 4:** Bunkhouse Karaoke
- **February 14:** Valentine's Day Buffet
- **February 19:** Bull Fry
- **February 28:** Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- **Every Sunday thru March:** Pool Tournaments

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 Rick Lange

Rick Lange, son of the late Dale Sheldon and Eleanor Laue Lange, was a 1965 Gibbon High School graduate. Rick's parents farmed by Ft. Kearny until 1948 when they bought the current farm, south of Gibbon, where Rick and his siblings were raised; Rick was the second youngest of Virgene, Karen, Ginger and Bill. Rick went to school with Dick Leisinger and Marlin Thomas, and the three boys joined the United States Armed Forces at the same time.



Dick and Rick joined the Nebraska National Guard in Grand Island on January 14, 1966, while Marlin joined the Army Reserves. Rick joined and then went home and told his parents. They were not happy and wanted to know why he joined. "You know, it was the time of Vietnam and joining is what I thought I needed to do."

Rick reported to Ft. Polk, Louisiana, on August 15, 1966, for Basic Training. "I thought I'd train with my Gibbon buddies, but we were all spread out." The trainees were held at the induction center for two weeks while waiting to be assigned to a company. During this time they cut palmetto, which were used to make hooches for training the soldiers who were headed to Vietnam. "It was the hottest and worst work of the entire training," said Rick.

Rick remembers during Basic Training that they could eat as much as they wanted as long as they ate it in 10 minutes. "The drill sergeants were always hollering at somebody. I learned quickly to keep my mouth shut, do what I was told, never volunteer and never stand in the front or back of a line. Basic training was what you made of it," stated Rick. "I think one guy is still doing calisthenics because during live fire grenade training he dropped the grenade in the bunker. The drill sergeant wasn't happy."

"When we were run through the infiltration course, it had been raining every day. We were submerged under water when low crawling under the wire; we had to take a breath, hold and crawl. Our uniforms were stained red from the dirt and our white t-shirts were dyed red." Rick entered basic training as an E2 and was promoted to Private First Class (PFC/E3) upon graduation. Typical as any military operation, Rick had joined as a machine gunner, but was turned into a cook. He completed his Advanced Individual Training in Ft. Polk as a

Lange cont p. 2

The January membership meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions. Plan to come to this month's meeting on February 28 at 7:30 p.m. Bring a another member with you!!

A color portrait of a young man in a military uniform. He is wearing a dark garrison cap with a silver-colored emblem. His uniform consists of a dark jacket with silver-colored buttons, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

and was responsible for meeting Julia Christensen (died in a 1982 car crash). Martin lives in Gibbon. He has construction skills. Committed to Rick as a member. He has been to so many projects that he is installing panels over



Kuwait City. They encountered trenches, barbed wire, and minefields. However, these positions were poorly defended, and were overrun in the first few hours. Several tank battles took place, but apart from that, Coalition troops encountered minimal resistance, as most Iraqi troops surrendered. The general pattern was that the Iraqis would put up a short fight before surrendering. However, Iraqi air defenses shot down nine American aircraft. Meanwhile, forces from Arab



countries advanced into Kuwait from the east, encountering little resistance and suffering few casualties. Despite the successes of Coalition forces, it was feared that the Republican Guard would escape into Iraq before it could be destroyed. It was decided to send British armored forces into Kuwait fifteen hours ahead of schedule, and to send American forces after the Republican Guard. The Coalition advance was preceded by a heavy artillery and rocket barrage, after which 150,000 troops and 1,500 tanks began their advance. Iraqi forces in Kuwait counterattacked against U.S. troops, acting on a direct order from Saddam him-

self. Despite the intense combat, the Americans repulsed the Iraqis and continued to advance towards Kuwait city. Kuwaiti forces were tasked with liberating the city. Iraqi troops offered only light resistance. The Kuwaitis lost one soldier killed and one plane shot down, and quickly liberated the city. On 27 February, Saddam ordered a retreat from Kuwait. However, an Iraqi unit at Kuwait International Airport appeared not to have gotten the message, and fiercely resisted. U.S. Marines had to fight for hours before securing the airport, after which Kuwait was declared secure. After four days of fighting, Iraqi forces were expelled from Kuwait. As part of a scorched-earth policy, they set fire to nearly 700 oil wells, and placed land mines around the wells to make extinguishing the fires more difficult. On 25 February 1991, a Scud missile hit a U.S. Army barracks of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, out of Greensburg, PA, stationed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia killing 28 soldiers and injuring over 100. One hundred hours after the ground campaign started, on 28 February, President Bush declared a ceasefire, and he also declared that Kuwait had been liberated. On 10 March 1991, 540,000 American troops began to move out of the Persian Gulf.

The DoD reports that U.S. forces suffered 148 battle-related deaths (35 to friendly fire), with one pilot listed as MIA (his remains were found and identified in August 2009). A further 145 Americans died in non-combat accidents. The UK suffered 47 deaths (9 to friendly fire), France two, and the Arab countries, not including Kuwait, suffered 37 deaths (18 Saudis, 10 Egyptians, 6 UAE, and 3 Syrians). At least 605 Kuwaiti soldiers were still missing 10 years after their capture. The largest single loss of life among Coalition forces happened on 25 February 1991, when an Iraqi Al Hussein (missile) hit an American military barrack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 28 U.S. Army Reservists from Pennsylvania. In all, 190 coalition troops were killed by Iraqi fire during the war, 113 of whom were American, out of a total of 358 coalition deaths. Another 44 soldiers were killed, and 57 wounded, by friendly fire. 145 soldiers died of exploding munitions, or non-combat accidents.

The number of coalition wounded in combat seems to have been 776, including 458 Americans. However, as of the year 2000, 183,000 U.S. veterans of the Gulf War, more than a quarter of the U.S. troops who participated in War, have been declared permanently disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. About 30% of the 700,000 men and women who served in U.S. forces during the Gulf War still suffer an array of serious symptoms whose causes are not fully understood. This is a list of Coalition troops killed by country. United States - 294 (114 by enemy fire, 145 in accidents, 35 to friendly fire); United Kingdom - 47 (38 by enemy fire, 9 to friendly fire); Saudi Arabia - 18; Egypt - 2; United Arab Emirates - 6; Syria - 2; France - 2; Kuwait - 1 (as part of Operation



Desert Storm). Many returning coalition soldiers reported illnesses following their participation in the Gulf War, a phenomenon known as Gulf War syndrome or Gulf War illness. There has been widespread speculation and disagreement about the causes of the illness and the reported birth defects. Some factors considered as possibilities include exposure to depleted uranium, chemical weapons, anthrax vaccines given to deploying soldiers, and/or infectious diseases. Major Michael Donnelly, a former USAF officer during the Gulf War, helped publicize the syndrome and advocated for veterans' rights in this regard.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_War)





**JANUARY 2011 MINUTES:** The Gibbon Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion met for its January 2011 meeting at 4:00 p.m. on January 30 with eight members in attendance. Members spent time prior to the meeting assembling some "We Care" boxes to send to local soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The fact that the Legion will need help taking money, etc. for Legion baseball games this summer was discussed. Commander Steve Van Meter said he would mention the matter in an upcoming newsletter to SAL members.

SAL-Legion Liaison, Mick Darnell, mentioned that there is still a need for SAL help with the Legion Color Guard at area funerals. He also suggested the purchase of three more sets of SAL hats and ties for members being part of Color Guard funerals. The purchased was approved by members.

Commander Van Meter discussed the offer to have 13 boxes of "Treats For Troops" mailed by the SAL. Commander Van Meter noted that, at the present time, there were only two troops overseas so it was suggested that the "Treats For Troops" boxes would be sent to troops for them to share with other soldiers they are serving with. Commander Van Meter said he would talk with the "Treats" donors.

Commander Van Meter reported that the SAL Fun Night held earlier in January went well with SAL picking up several new members and both SAL and the Legion made money. Van Meter also noted that SAL has about 80 paid members at the present time. He also said that the Skala-Hodges wedding party had donated \$300 to SAL in advance for members who would be willing to help with their wedding reception at the Legion on February 12 and that volunteers are needed to help out.

Members moved to make a \$50 donation to the Kearney Legion for their fundraiser on January 30, to bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to Kearney over July 4. A short discussion was also had on holding a welcome home event for Stormi Eatherton when a date is know for her return from overseas. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



**THANK  
YOU**

**Thanks, SAL members, for all your assistance during the Bull Fries.**

## FROM THE STATE HEADQUARTERS:

**District Convention:** The District 6 Convention will be held in St. Paul, Nebraska on March 13. Gibbon has five delegates.

**Boys' State Applications:** Applications for the 2011 session of the American Legion Cornhusker Boys State are due March 15. Please encourage any junior (11th grade) boys to participate. Posts may send as many young men as they wish to nominate. Posts can accept outside assistance and co-sponsorships. The fee remains at \$300 for each boy.

**Junior Law Cadet Program:** Applications for the 2011 session of the American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program have been mailed to schools. The dates for the women's session are June 13-17, 2011 and the men's session will be held June 20-24, 2011. The dead to return the application is March 15. Two boys and two girls will be selected from each of the 15 districts.

**Scout of the Year Nominations:** Post Commanders and local Scout leaders are reminded that completed nomination forms for the Eagle Scout-of-the Year are due March 1 to the Department Headquarters. There are three scholarship awards (\$500, \$300, \$200) at the state level and the state winner is entered into the national scholarship competition.

**Umpire Clinics Scheduled:** Please check at [www.nelegionbaseball.net](http://www.nelegionbaseball.net) if you are interested in officiated for the American Legion Baseball program. Umpires selected to work Area Tournaments are required to have attended the Clinic within the last three years.

### 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!**

**Michael Ross**  
*Financial Consultant*  
**AXA Advisors, LLC**

2001 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

Tel. (308) 237-9598

Fax (308) 234-5397

[michael.ross@axa-advisors.com](mailto:michael.ross@axa-advisors.com)



**AXA ADVISORS**

redefining / standards®

[www.axa-equitable.com](http://www.axa-equitable.com)

Securities and investment advisory services offered through AXA Advisors, LLC (NY, NY 212-314-4600), member FINRA, SIPC. Annuity and insurance products offered through AXA Network, LLC and its subsidiaries. GE-50545(a) (7/09)

## Membership News

The Gibbon American Legion has 113 members who have paid their 2011 dues. Our goal is 132 paid members. Please submit your dues before March 1 or you'll be receiving a Renewal Notice from the National Office.

The Department of Nebraska is extending a \$5.00 rebate to the Post for any NEW MEMBER that is processed for the 2011 membership year from January 15 through April 1, 2011. The rebate applies for new members who have never belonged to the American Legion. Bring new members to our next meeting. Our goal is have 20 members at every monthly meeting. The Flooring Committee will be sharing information regarding possible choices to replace the carpeting.



Monday, February 14

Celebrate  
Valentine's Day at  
the Gibbon Legion

Supper Buffet only \$8.95  
Includes  
Roast Beef & Ham  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Bread, Salad Bar & Dessert

Happy Hour Drinks

All Night Long

4:00 p.m. to Close

January 2010 Bull Fry



### **NEXT BULL FRIES:**



*February 19 and March 19*


We appreciate the volunteers and  
customers who make these nights  
a success. See you soon!!!




**Baseball Raffle Tickets Available**  
**Members: Stop by the Legion to**  
**pick up your books of tickets to**  
**sell. All proceeds are in direct**  
**support of the Shelton/Gibbon**  
**baseball team. If you would like**  
**to serve on the Baseball commit-**  
**tee or volunteer for the baseball**  
**program, please see Commander**  
**Randy Stocker.**




















 April is Spring Cleaning. We'll be  
 asking for volunteers to help clean  
 the Legion. Watch for a date to be  
 announced.  














### CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP PINS

The members listed below will be recognized with membership pins at the April 25 Legion meeting. If you have a question about your continuous years, please contact Adjutant Julie Schnitzler. Congratulations to all Gibbon members who have made a milestone this year.

5: Robert Kutsch, Rick Lange, Terry Moffett

10: Ron Catlin, Joseph Hehner, Kenneth Macek, Ray McLaughlin, John Rinaker, Mick Ross & Orville Schuster

15: Kelly Murr, Martin Schmidt, Jerry Winslow

20: Elmer Jurgens

25: Frank Spotanski

30: Neil Avery, Terry Eatherton

35: Delbert Johnson, Ray Moffett

40: Rick Musil

45: Stephen Clark, William DeBrie, James Nutter

55: Robert Thomsen

The Gibbon American Legion has had many volunteers donate their time and talents. Three years ago we started an annual recognition supper to honor these people. All Legion members are asked to nominate no more than seven people and write a brief explanation or listing of tasks the volunteer completed. The Executive Committee will pick five people from the nominations received. These five volunteers will be recognized at a dinner in April at 6 p.m. Honored volunteers' names will be inscribed on a plaque and they will receive a certificate. Legion, auxiliary, SAL and social members are eligible to be recognized. All ballots are due by April 1st to a Legion officer. Everyone is encouraged to attend the dinner. The Auxiliary members are all honored guests.

Please note your nomination's name followed by work they've done for the Legion. This information will be used on their certificate. You may submit up to seven names. You may use additional paper if necessary to expand on your nominations' service. Give your ballot to a Legion officer or manager Ryan Brehmer.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name \_\_\_\_\_

6. Name \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name \_\_\_\_\_