

# Hillsboro Post 6 News



The American Legion Family



Still Serving America Proudly



Volume MMXX

Official Newsletter of Hillsboro Post No. 6

May Issue

## A Time To Remember



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. - Ecclesiastes 3

As we honor those who gave their lives in service to our country, let's not forget that freedom is not free, that we must be ever diligent to continue their effort and honor the oath that we have sworn.

The Post will not conduct "in person" ceremonies for this Memorial Day, however we are working on appropriate displays and we'll keep you informed as Memorial Day approaches. ~ Ed.

Hillsboro Post No. 6, The American Legion,  
Department of Oregon, G.A.R. Memorial Day Ceremony,  
Pioneer Cemetery, Hillsboro, Oregon - Excerpt of the Program Narrative

Ladies and gentlemen, in 1940 the Hillsboro Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, upon disbanding, requested Hillsboro Post No. 6 of The American Legion, Department of Oregon to continue the G.A.R. Memorial Day observance. Hillsboro Post No. 6 accepted this obligation and these ceremonies today are in the tradition and according to the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic.

This is the National day of Memorial – the time when in mind and thought our glorious past is made to live again, and the noble men who molded and shaped its destiny, though dead, are to memory once more instilled with life and being. It is the hour when a nation awake to the remembrance of deeds of heroism performed in its defense; the day when a loyal people, grateful for service rendered their country, united to honor their patriot dead, to enrich and ennoble their own lives by recalling a public valor and a private worth that are immortal, and to encourage, by their solemn services, a more zealous and abiding patriotism in the heart and life of every American citizen. Differences of party, creed and sect are today forgotten, while North and South, East and West, all over our broad land, our people, with reverent hearts, circle the sacred mounds where sleep our country's dead. The cares of business, the pursuits of pleasure, the usual and common concerns of secular life are put aside while we bring flowers and wreathes of evergreen with which to decorate the graves of the men who have sacrificed on the alter of patriotic devotion everything that men hold dear, in order to preserve the integrity and unity, and to perpetuate the power and glory of our American republic. But on this Memorial Day, let us not forget that many eyes are clouded with tears, that many hearts are heavy with regret, that many lives are desolate because of a father, brother, husband, or lover

*Continued on Page 2.*

*Continued from Page 1.*

who did not come back, and that many graves are the shrines of a sorrow whose influence is still potent, though time has mercifully robbed it of its first keen anguish. Therefore with our regard for the dead, let us mingle a tender sympathy for the living who mourn for the loved ones they have lost. And now, Comrades, in this silent camping ground of our Nation's dead, let us recall to memory their toils on the long and weary marches, their intense sufferings in the hospitals, their fearful sacrifices in the prison pens, their sublime heroism in the days of battle, and their supreme fidelity to home and country and native land at all times and under all circumstances, that we who remain may see that the flag under which they fought, and from the shadow of whose folds they were promoted to the eternal camping grounds, may never be dishonored; that the country for whose union and supremacy they surrendered that most precious of all things – life – may have the fervent and enthusiastic devotion of every citizen, and that as today we stand at every grave as before an altar, we pray that the memory of our Country's dead shall strengthen and encourage in us all a deeper and more abiding patriotism.

## Commander's Corner

*By Tim Pierce, Commander*

As we look at the opening of our state after being locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic we are not in the clear yet. It has been stated by many that are in the know that we are still in for a long process of recovery from this virus and the economic problems it has brought. We still have a long road to travel. The fear is those who don't follow the guidelines and recommendations to recover from the COVID-19 virus will start the cycle over again. I agree we need to get the economy restarted but if we don't go about it the right way we will end up creating a prolonged COVID-19 event which may put the US in a situation that we cannot recover from.

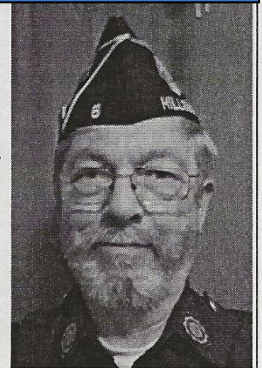
The threat from COVID-19 is the fact that it takes 5 or more days for a person to start having the effects from it. In the meantime they are infecting any one that might come in contact with them. That starts the countdown period where the new person is infecting those they come in contact with and it continues on to many more. It turns into a vicious circle and where does it end? Like the Flu it may become a yearly event (God forbid hopefully).

At this time and until we know we can safely gather without infecting each other we will continue to hold meetings virtually. We have not been given clearance at this time to end the Shelter in Place order. Until the time we can safely meet there will not be any gatherings at the Post for meetings and dinners.

Post Nominations, Elections, and other Business are suspended. The current roster of Officers and at large board members will continue unchanged for the coming 2020-2021 Legion year. This decision was made by the E-board as provided by the By-laws of the Post.

Memorial Day will be celebrated virtually without any gatherings. We don't want the appearance that our American Legion Post is not doing what needs to be done to keep our members and Community safe. I feel that would be the wrong message to send out.

*Continued on Page 4.*



## Chaplain's Corner

*By Lynn Hamm, Chaplain*

Today our country and other nations around the world are facing uncharted territory. During these difficult times of uncertainty, we know that our living God will see us through. We have a faith that allows us to say at all times, "It is well with my soul".

It is also gratifying to see our community and the whole country responding during this craziness that is called COVID-19. People making masks for medical professionals. Folks checking on those who are older in their neighborhoods. Car manufacturers stepping up to make respirators, business executives donating their salaries to pay their employees. It is definitely encouraging to see all this happening all around us.

Below are some additional scriptures of encouragement for your consideration:

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the lord with all your heart do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will show you which path to take".

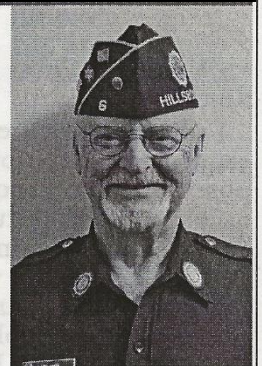
Philippians 4:6-7 - "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done".

Psalms 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble".

Lamentations 3:22-23 - The faithful love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. Great is His faithfulness, His mercies begin afresh each morning".

Blessings, Lynn

P.S. please contact me if you become aware of anyone facing a serious illness or the passing of a member of our Post. My phone number is listed on this newsletter and if I don't answer right away, please leave a message along with your phone number. I promise I will respond. Thank you.



## The Adjutant's Desk

By David Bogner, Adjutant

Greetings comrades. Even though the Post stands vacant at the present time, business goes on as usual. The mail continues to come in, the answering machine registers an occasional call and the bills arrive like clockwork. Daily visitations help to keep things moving and the building monitored.

Recent happenings: The office production printer received a new fuser earlier in the month of April. It was damaged prior to shipment and was returned. This has delayed half of the mailed newsletters for April and the replacement fuser didn't arrive until April 16. After it was installed, print quality problems have prevented finalizing the April mailing. Adjustments can be made in the printer firmware to fix the quality issue. Now it's a matter of my time and availability to accomplish that.

Preparation of the May issue of the newsletter commenced April 22 and I will try to get it sent by e-mail before the end of the month. It's a time consuming process few seem willing to tackle. Printing folding and mailing of the hard copy requires help from others. We thank the Auxiliary for their continued support. Other issues related to the newsletter are discussed in the Editors comments later.

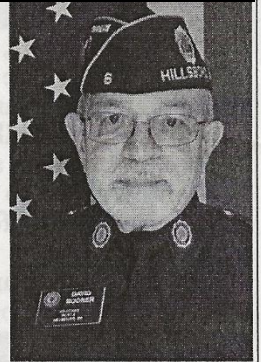
It's time to compile your **volunteer hours** for the annual **Consolidated Post Report**. Send community service time and Volunteer time at the VA Hospital reports separately. **Blood donors**, please send me the number of pints you donated last year. Activities reporting period ends June 30 but Department would like reports by May 15. Project your times and activities estimates accordingly.

Convention plans are moving forward at Department. Send me a note if you plan on attending so I can certify your eligibility and add your name to the registration form. Our membership entitles us to 5 Delegates. We can send Alternates too. The cost to the Post is \$15 per Delegate/Alternate. Convention Meal Forms are available on the Department web site. I also have hard copies if necessary. Department will meet on May 30 to confirm Convention status.

District 1 Meeting will be held by remote teleconference on May 2. Nominations for District Officers are scheduled with elections to follow. Somewhere in that mix the District Caucus is to be held for Department Officer nominations. I am not aware of how this will be done, but I assume it will follow the District teleconference.

Watch for news regarding Memorial Day. We may have an on line video presentation and other activities arranged to comply with government's encroachment on the peoples first amendment right to peacefully assemble.

Pray for our Post family, for those afflicted by COVID-19, for those who have lost loved ones, for those who continue to serve at risk of their own health and safety and for the leadership of our great country. By Gods grace, we will overcome.



## Membership Report

By Robert D. Liebenow, Chairman

Our membership goal is 270, so far, we have 227 that have paid for 2020. There are 45 of you who paid for 2019 and have not paid for 2020. There are 10 who have not paid since 2017 and 19 who have not paid since 2018. I do not know why you joined The American Legion or why you choose to drop out. Only you know that. If there is something we can do to get you back in, please feel free to reach out to any on us and maybe we can help. We are only as strong as our membership.



## National Vice Commander Western Region

By Robert D. Liebenow, NVC

As National Vice Commander of The American Legion, I oversee 15 Departments. There are 13 western states and 2 foreign countries. My term of office was supposed to end Sept. 3, 2020 but due to the cancellation of the National Convention, my duties will now end on Sept. 2, 2021. Once my term is over I will have more time to devote to Hillsboro Post #6 and Squadron #6.

I am the Post Membership Chairman and will continue with that position. If there is something I can do for any of you, feel free to reach out to me. My contact info is (H) 503-826-5877 or email [robertliebenow@comcast.net](mailto:robertliebenow@comcast.net).

Remember, your membership is critical for the survival this post, department and the national organization, so we may continue to serve all veterans and their families.

## Sons of the American Legion

By Robert D. Liebenow, Commander

Our goal for 2020 is 10 and we have 13, that is 130%. Thanks to all our members who renewed and the 3 new members. Once I am through with my duties as National Vice Commander of The American Legion, which will be at the end of national convention 2021, I hope to start some fundraises and work our programs. Hang in there and together we will build the squadron and help the post in anyway we can. Just a reminder, starting with the 2021 membership year, our dues will be going up to \$25, which is still cheap compared to other organizations.



## Auxiliary

By Teresa Hammond, Auxiliary President Unit 6,

Hi All, These are uncertain times for everyone. With many things cancelled and other events still undetermined, sometimes all we can do is to focus on the tasks for that day. It's looking like we will not be able to distribute poppies in person much, if at all. We will know better later in the month.

Since most things are on hold for now, the best thing you can do is to be safe and careful. Call people you know who are on their own, just to check in with them. For some people, being safe can be very isolating and lonely. Be thankful for those who remain on the forefront of this to keep us safe and for those who are treating the afflicted. We thank you. Be safe and take care.

Always, Teresa Hammond Auxiliary President Unit #6, Hillsboro  
teresahcat@gmail.com 503-929-3075 Please leave a message

*Commander's Corner Continued from Page 2.*

At this point the following have been canceled: The Spring DEC - business conducted via teleconference 4/11/2020 Oregon Legion Baseball, Boys State, Law Enforcement Career Camp.

Pending: Junior Shooting Sports, Pre-Convention DEC, Annual Department Convention, Post-Convention DEC.

From the Department: The pandemic continues to be extremely dynamic. Just as quickly as shelter-in-place (SIP) and stay-home/stay-safe (SHSS) directives were issued, now various levels of government and non-governmental entities look to lighten or lift restrictions and re-open business.

The DEC teleconference conducted Saturday, April 11 prudently agreed to convene another teleconference on Saturday, May 30, to weigh a decision on the 2020 convention.

Potential options include holding the convention as scheduled, canceling the convention, rescheduling convention, and conducting an amended, virtual convention.

The DEC is evaluating suspension and or amendment of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, as necessary, in order to fully conduct the business of the Department of Oregon, due to the dynamic changes brought on by the current emergency.

Until we are released from Shelter in Place, please stay safe, separated and healthy. Even when released it will be important to stay separated for safety of yourself, family and community.

## School Awards Medal



This year's 2020 School Award Medal program recipient is Isabelle Bernhardt from Glencoe High School. This is Glencoe's first awardee. The School Awards Medal places emphasis on 6 qualities of **COURAGE, HONOR, LEADERSHIP, PATRIOTISM, SCHOLARSHIP, and SERVICE.**

We are proud to present Isabelle with an American Legion School Award Medal, \$100 award, certificate, and a Hillsboro Post 6 t-shirt. Way to go, Isabelle!

## In Memorium

### A Digger Died Today

A veteran friend of mine sent me this missive the other day. There being no credit to the originaor, the mention of the R.S.L. prompted some research which revealed a likely Austrilian tie. The Returned and Services League of Austrailia is their version of the American Legion and was founded in 1916, just three years prior to the formation of our organization. I thought this poem was quite appropriate for our Memorial Day thoughts. I hope you think so too.

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the R.S.L.,  
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his mates;  
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours  
His tales became a joke,  
All his mates listened quietly  
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol' Jack has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Digger died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;  
And the world won't note his passing,  
'Tho a Digger died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

The Media tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a Digger  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some smoothie who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
And the style in which they live,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that they give.

While the ordinary Digger,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Digger  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Digger,  
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Digger,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Digger's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
A DIGGER DIED TODAY."

Author unknown.

"Digger" is the common term for  
Soldier in Austrailia and New Zeland.  
For information on the R.S.L. go to:  
<http://rslnational.org/>

### In Flanders Fields

"In Flanders Fields" is a war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician and Lt. Col. John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died during the Second Battle of Ypres.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

-Lt. Col. John McCrae



## MAY – This Month in Military History

The Month of May has its notable events, and we begin by reminding everyone that this May 27, 2013, Memorial Day will be celebrated as a day to remember the men and women who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the long holiday weekend in peace and prosperity. Without the sacrifices of the men and women who serve their country in the armed services, both in peace and in war, here and around the world, there would be no security against the tyranny that engulfs much of the world.

On May 6, 1942, General Jonathan Wainwright surrendered Corregidor and its 11,500 man garrison to the Japanese. The men on The Rock bravely withstood a month long siege until lack of food and supplies made further resistance impossible.

On May 7th of that same year, the Battle of the Coral Sea marked the first naval encounter in history in which the opponents fought each other with air power alone. During the two day battle, American planes sank one light cruiser, the Shoho, and damaged two others. The Japanese sank the USS. Lexington. The Battle of the Coral Sea halted the Japanese advance on Australia.

In 1943, on May 13 to be specific, the German forces in Africa surrendered. After Tunis fell to the British and Bizerte to the Americans, the German forces in Africa under General Jungen von Armin surrendered. The Allies captured 250,000 German soldiers. This marked the end of the North Africa campaign that cost the Americans about 18,500 casualties.

On May 2nd, 1945, the German forces in Italy surrendered to the Allies. The Italian campaign cost the United States 114,000 casualties; however, the Allied presence in Italy forced the Germans to maintain a large defensive army, thus preventing the use of some 26 German divisions against Allied Forces in France.

On the 7th of that month in 1945, the German High Command surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. The German delegation led by Field Marshal Alfred Jodl went to General Eisenhower's headquarters in Reims, France, and signed the instrument of surrender. The official end of the war in Europe, VE Day, became effective May 8th.

Jumping in time to 1951, the U.S. Far East Air Force launched a 300-plane strike on Sinuiju on the Yalo River. It is the largest raid of the war to date. Also in May 1951, The battle of the Soyand River began. It was also called the May Massacre and it occurred along the No Name Line. The second Infantry Division stems the enemy tide, inflicting severe casualties on the Chinese 23rd Infantry Regiment.

And in May of 1953, a dramatic raid by the 59th Fighter Bomber Wing called The Raid on Taksan Dam, destroys a major irrigation system.

1955, the first known airborne H-bomb exploded over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific proving grounds. Major David Critchlow, USAF, dropped the hydrogen bomb from a Boeing B-52 8-engine jet bomber from an altitude of 50,000 feet.

On May 1st, 1960 Soviet guns shot down an American U-2 photographic reconnaissance plane flying over the USSR. The pilot was Francis Gary Powers, an Air Force Captain on loan to the CIA. A Soviet court in Moscow convicted Powers of espionage and sentenced him to a 10-year term. He was released on February 10, 1962 in exchange for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel, who had completed five years of his 30 year sentence for spying on the U.S.

The first American in space went there on May 5, 1961. He was Commander Alan B. Shepard Jr. USN. He became the first American to cross the space frontier in a Redstone rocket which blasted the Project Mercury (MR-3) "Friendship 7" capsule to an altitude of 115 miles at a maximum speed of 51,000 mph. The flight lasted 15 minutes and traveled 302 miles.

The second American to orbit the earth was Lt. Commander Scott Carpenter, USN. He did it on May 24, 1962. he made a three orbit tour of the earth, duplicating John Glenn's trip. The four hour and 56 minute flight reaching a speed of 17,532 mph.

Also in May, on the 15th of May, 1963, the last and longest of the Project Mercury flights occurred. Major Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr. USAF, orbited the earth 22 times in an MA-9 "Faith-7" capsule. Cooper made a manual re-entry after the automatic control system failed. He was the first American to orbit the earth for more than a day, spending 34 hours, 20 minutes and 9 seconds in flight.

Reconnaissance of Laos began on May 21 in 1964. The United States disclosed that unarmed U.S. jets had been flying recon missions over the Plain of Jars, Laos, to gather information on attacking Communist forces.

American and South Vietnamese forces launched a 10-day assault on "Hamburg Hill in the A Shau Valley, on May 10, 1969. There was heavy criticism in the United States over the battle, since the hill had little strategic value and was abandoned within two weeks of the bloodiest fighting of the war.

Although the United States Government does not recognize them as Vietnam Veterans, their names are on the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall). They are the forty-one men who died on May 15, 1975 during the rescue mission of the U.S. registered container ship SS Mayaguez.

On May 12, 1975, the Mayaguez incident occurred when a Cambodian gunboat seized the SS Mayaguez, an American merchant ship, in transit from Hong Kong to Thailand. The ship and its 39 member crew were taken to the Cambodian island of Pulo Wai. The Khmer government said the ship was spying inside Cambodian waters, and President Ford called it an act of Piracy. The final 15 men to die in the Southeast Asian conflict known as the Vietnam War, are those who died trying to rescue the Mayaguez and her crew. Their names are forever listed on "The Wall."

*Editor's note: This listing was reproduced from the desk of Bob Hogan, Former Director, Burlington, MA Veteran's Services from the following web site: [http://www.burlington.org/community\\_development/may.php](http://www.burlington.org/community_development/may.php)*



## May 22<sup>nd</sup> – NATIONAL POPPY DAY

### You Can Help Our Veterans

One of our main sources of income is through the generous donations made by people who receive and wear a poppy to remember our Veterans. Safety is a priority during this time of social distancing. It is currently unclear if we will be able to personally distribute poppies in the month of May. You should, however, receive a poppy that will be mailed to you.

Now, more than ever, we depend on your donations to support our Veterans and their families. If you are able to make a donation, we would be extremely grateful.

Best Wishes for your health and safety,  
Teresa Hammond  
Auxiliary President  
Unit #6, Hillsboro



Donations can be mailed to:

**American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #6**  
**285 W Main St**  
**Hillsboro, OR. 97123**

## Memorial Day Ceremony and 5K Virtual Run



### The American Legion Family Fun Run

This year's Memorial Day Ceremony and events will be virtual! Our planning committee has been quite busy organizing the event and activities to continue our nation's holiday and tradition in May to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. The Hillsboro Post 6 is putting together a video presentation with the goal to be made available for viewing on Memorial Day through our website and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionHillsboroPost6/>. You will not want to miss this!

It is finally here! The 2nd Annual Family Fun Run will be held over Memorial Day weekend in a virtual format. We are encouraging a 5K walk/run in a manner of your choosing. Walk on a treadmill, run in place, or take the dog for a walk are just a few suggestions as you dawn your Red, White, and Blue attire. Take a photo or short video clip and share on our Facebook page and Instagram! We will have a drawing for a free Hillsboro Post t-shirt from the submissions.

## Activities

### No "In Person" Events Scheduled for May

ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*We hope all of you stay well. Pray for those afflicted and for the safety and health of our membership.*

*If any of you have needs, don't hesitate to contact Post leadership.*

*Contact information is listed below.*

*We continue to serve. God Bless America!*

### Your Articles Are Needed

Please help us publish an informative and interesting newsletter by submitting articles of interest and photos to the Post e-mail address by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you for your support!

### Last Call - District 1 Raffle

District 1 is raffling a framed lithographic print of "Legacy & Vision" to be awarded at the 2020 Department Convention. This print also has an American Legion silver commemorative coin included in the frame. Tickets are available at the Post. \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00. See Adjutant Bogner for tickets.



## Contacts

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