



Post 157 News

East Grand Forks, Minnesota



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November - December 2011

Commander Donken's Column —

Attention Legion Family: Veterans day is approaching fast, just think of the monumental aspect of this Veterans Day: the 11th day of the 11th month of 2011, pretty cool!!! Our speaker is Captain Daniel Chavez from the Grand Forks Air Force Base which will be held at our Veteran's Memorial at 11AM sharp. there will be Veterans Day dinner served from 4-7PM with turkey and all the trimmings. All veterans and their spouse are welcome.

Christmas is coming up very soon also and we have a program set up with the River City 12 cinema. The cinema will have Santa Claus 2 at 10AM with the American Legion passing out candy and drawing for prizes. The cinema is also doing face painting and hay rides.

At this time I would like to THANK the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, the Past Commanders and the Volunteers for all there hard work in the kitchen and all the Legion programs. A big THANK YOU to our manager and loyal staff who have put in many hours to make this Club number one!!

Please keep a special place in your heart for our men and women serving our great republic all over the world and in harms way, this Holiday Season!!

INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER!!

~Commander Donken

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

East Grand Forks American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157 Bev LeTexier, Chairman (218)773-2917

We are in full swing with our membership. We had our annual banquet on the 4th with our 9th District President, Jean Walker, as our special guest and also our 9th District Secretary, Frances Fanfulik was here. There was good attendance and the "Legion Cooks" did a fantastic job again. Special "THANKS" to them, also to the Willing Workers 4H Club for helping in various ways. They do an excellent job and we really do appreciate their dedication to our Auxiliary. YOUR DUES ARE DUE! IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PAID, PLEASE GET THEM TO ME ASAP. YOU CAN DROP THEM OFF AT THE CLUB OR MAIL TO ME. LET'S NOT WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THANKS!

CLARIFICATION: I have received lots of phone calls and letters regarding the continuous years on your membership cards. There was a computer error. The years printed on your card are the same as last year. It was voted on at National Convention to buy the necessary equipment to correct the problem. Next year, it should be CORRECTED. I have records indicating the correct year so I will be able to check if they have been corrected. Some people say it doesn't matter. Well, it does. If you are nearing 50 years of continuous membership, our unit pays for your dues for the rest of your years; also in order to use the American Legion Family Hospital Association, you need to have at least one year completed and three years for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

NOVEMBER: Our regular meeting is the 1st at 7 pm. in the small dining room. This is also the Auxiliary's 92nd year. We will have birthday cake and ice cream after the meeting. This is also Past President's Parley Month. VETERAN'S DAY (check for details elsewhere in the newsletter) Remember our Veterans on their special day. Also American Education Week and National Family Week.

DECEMBER: No meeting, BUT we do have our annual POTLUCK dinner at 6 p.m. on the 6th in the club rooms. We do not exchange gifts but ask for the price of a gift to be matched by our Auxiliary. The money donated each year is donated to Meals on Wheels. This year, the donations go to Grand Forks.

JANUARY: Our regular meeting will be on the 3rd at 7 p.m. in the small dining room. This is National Security/Legislative Month. It seems really early to wish each of you a "HAPPY THANKSGIVING" and a very "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR 2012." This will be the last membership report until 2012.

Please take care of your dues before the end of 2011.

Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank You at this holiday season for all the blessings and love You have given us. We thank you for our Country and the freedom that comes to us. We thank You for our servicemen and women who are away in other lands and cannot be with their loved ones. We ask You to watch over them and their families at home. Keep them always in Your care. Please be with our American Legion family. Be with us as we share our blessings with others this holiday season. We pray in Your name. Amen.

"Love is the message that was sent to the earth on the wonderful day of the Christ Child's birth." ~Helen Steiner Rice

Have a Very Merry Christmas, everyone.

**~Bev LeTexier
157 Chaplain/Memorial Chairman**

Dancing

Sundays, 5 - 9 p.m.

November

6 TBA
13 Rambling Fever
20 Cathy Erickson
27 Chuck Gust Band

December

4 Larry Charon
11 Just Wingin' It
18 TBA
25 Christmas Day - No Band
13 5-9 p.m.: Chuck Gust Band
9-close: Kenny & the Classics

BINGO

Sunday: 1:30 p.m.
Thursday: 7:15 p.m.

Meetings

American Legion

Third Wednesday

Auxiliary

First Tuesday

Sons of American Legion

Last Wednesday, 8 p.m.

40 & 8

Chef deGare: Walter Folendorf

Second Wednesday

Screening

Third Monday, 3:30 p.m.

Legion Riders

First Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Meals

Monday: 5 - 7 p.m. Spaghetti \$4.00 (No Spaghetti 7/4)

Tuesday: 5 - 8 p.m. Burgers

Wednesday: 5 - 7 p.m.

Meatballs every Wednesday

Liver & Onions:

November 9 & 23

December 7 & 21

Chicken Fried Steak:

November 2, 16 and 30

December 14 & 28

Thursday: 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Tacos, etc.
5 - 7 p.m. Tacos, etc.

Taco: 75¢

Burrito: \$4.50

Soft Shell: \$1.25

Chips/Cheese: \$1.75

Small Salad: \$3.00

1/2 Nachos: \$4.00

Large Salad: \$4.00

Nacho Plate: \$4.50

Baby Burrito: \$4.00

Friday: 5 - 7 p.m.

Chicken: \$8.50

Walleye or Shrimp: \$10.50

Steak: \$10.75

Salad Bar \$6.00

Saturday: 5 - 7 p.m.

Chicken: \$8.50

Shrimp: \$10.50

Steak: \$10.75

Salad Bar \$6.00

Sunday:

Breakfast: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Burgers: 1 - 7:30 p.m.

Best deal in town!

Many years ago Mondays and Wednesdays were slow nights at the club so a bunch of guys volunteered to serve a meal those nights to bring people into the club. Marlin Nelson put together a recipe for spaghetti sauce that is still used today. Ron Miller and Dick Wessling are now the head volunteers who spend many hours each week to make the meal possible. This is a meat sauce made from scratch verses the punch a hole in the bag prepared sauce served in many places. No one goes away hungry with the ample serving complete with garlic toast. Now for the best part it is only \$4 and take outs are available on Mondays from 5-7.

On Wednesday nights from 5-7 a meatball dinner is prepared with no filler, made from scratch, with special seasoning meatballs served in tasty brown gravy. The mashed potatoes are made from real potatoes and a vegetable and roll are added to the delicious


meal. You may choose chicken fried steak, with white gravy or liver and onions on alternating weeks. Now for the best part again it is only \$4 and take outs are available.

Leon Direker, a 20+ year volunteer, Ed Vanyo, and Jerry Bergman along with several others are long time volunteers that make this bargain possible. All the profits from the meals are used to support the club. Volunteers are the frosting on the cake that makes a club function at a high level. Many hands make the work easy. An example is when we husked 1200 ears of corn we had 15-20 volunteers that did the job in less than an hour. We have a need for many volunteers to make all the events work. We would like to thank the ones that have lent a hand and encourage others to jump in. Call Terry at 773-1120 to volunteer.

American Legion Post #157
1009 Central Avenue NW
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

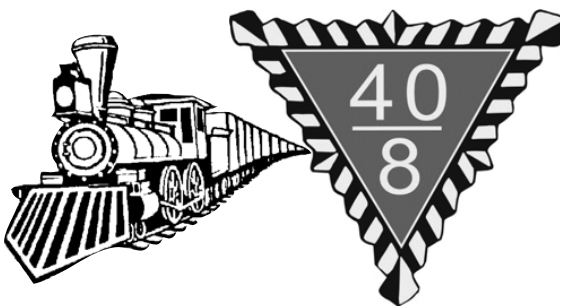
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“Address Service Requested”



TAPS

Andrys, George	56 years
Greenzweig, Robert C.	37 years
Saumur, William	66 years
Sondreal, Donnie R.	22 years



We will be bagging candy for the Christmas party so make the Promenade on November 9th to help get it done. Promenade for December is on the 14th; bring a new member and be sure to renew your own membership.

~Chef De Gare Walter Folendorf

Dates to remember

CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the River Cinema 15 showing Santa Clause 2 on December 3rd at 10 a.m. Kids are free; show ends about 11:45 a.m. American Legion Post 157 and Veterans of Foreign Wars 3817 will be giving out candy and drawing for prizes to be given out. At that time River Cinema 15 will have face painting and hay rides.

VETERANS DAY

American Legion Post 157 and Veterans Of Foreign Wars will be having a ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial in East Grand Forks on November 11th. Guest speaker is Captain Daniel Chavez from the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday December 13th from 8 to 11 a.m. by The Sons Of The American Legion to benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Serving french toast and meat; good will offering. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to any child that has lost a parent since 9-11.

EARLY BIRD DINNER

December 13 from 5-7 p.m. For all members and their spouse who has paid by November 11th. Serving ham, baked potato, vegetable and roll.

WHY VETERANS DAY?

Veterans Day in the U.S. is November 11th each year. Why this day? Originally, November 11th marked Armistice Day commemorating Nov. 11, 1918, the day fighting ended World War I, after the allied nations and Germany reached an agreement to end the war. In the U.S., congress established Armistice Day as a national holiday in 1938. The holiday was later extended to honor all Veterans when World War II broke out. In 1954, congress passed a bill renaming Armistice Day as Veterans Day.

The Sack Lunches

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me.

'Petawawa. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time...

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his buddy if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base.'

His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?'

'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your, thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars.

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seat-belt I stood and took the Captain's hand.

With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers. Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars! Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time to reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.'

Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers.

As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America ' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.'