



Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado Electronic Update



**THESE ARE OUR
OUR PROGRAMS**



This is Our Purpose:

To Adapt in Letter and Spirit, All the Great Principles for Which The American Legion Stands, and to Assist in Carrying on for God and Country



BE THE ONE

**A Triple Nickle Detachment
Home to Past National Commanders
Mike Moss and Danny Smith**

2022-2023 National Vice-Commander Michael Kirschner

Detachment Commander: Richard Humphrey



BE THE ONE

This publication does not express the official position of the SAL Detachment of Colorado, The American Legion Department of Colorado or their respective National Organizations. It is a forum to share information about events and happenings within the Detachment of Colorado, the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion, and information that is pertinent to the programs and four pillars of The American Legion. This publication is compiled and published as a volunteer service by Detachment Adjutant Mark A Kilstrom. Submit questions, comments, photos and stories to saladj@coloradolegion.org.



Celebrating 2022 Accomplishments

November 19, Colorado Springs

The Detachment annual awards banquet was hosted by Post 209 this year and what a celebration of accomplishments it was.

Prior to the banquet, the Detachment executive committee met and approved a couple changes to the Detachment Financial Policy and was presented the proposed budget for CY 2023. The changes to the Financial Policy involved travel to national meetings and events. The change reads as follows:

Paragraph 5. G. a. For authorized attendance at national spring and fall meetings held in conjunction with the National Executive Committee, individual per diem payments shall be established on an annual basis for the fiscal year. The amount is determined by an average non-stop round trip Denver to Indianapolis airfare and one night's hotel room plus \$50.

a) The maximum individual per diem is \$600 \$350 plus current airfare for travel to the Washington Conference and \$300 \$220 plus current airfare per individual for travel to any other national conference or meeting. **Current airfare from DIA will be determined and announced by the finance officer 30-35 days prior to the first day of the meeting.**

The full revised financial policy will posted to the Detachment website within 30 days. For those wishing to receive a copy of the proposed budget for CY 2023, you can contact the Detachment Finance Officer. His contact information is provided in the Detachment Officer section of this update.

National Commander Visit

The Detachment was pleased and honored to host the Sons of The American Legion National Chris Carlton (IN) for the weekend. De-

tachment Commander Richard Humphrey and NEC Scott Garrett met Commander Chris at DIA on Friday morning and took



him for a visit to the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora The glass shows the names of all Coloradans killed in action since the Civil war, dedication to Gold Star Mothers; and those died and were buried in cemeteries around the world with some of the dirt



from those cemeteries. Later in Colorado Springs, the entourage visited Garden of the Gods and took Commander Chris on a nearly 2 mile hike through the park. Chris climbed up on a rock to get a good look at the valley below to take in some real Colorado beauty. I'm still waiting for the truth about how NEC Garret completed the hike. Personally, I think it's fake news. None the less Commander Chris got a good feel the patriotism and honor

that Colorado has for it's many active duty military members and Veterans living in mountain state.

On Saturday, Commander Chris attended our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting hand and had words of praise for all the things that the Detachment of Colorado has achieved. Specifically on membership, having achieved 100% goal last year and on track to achieve the Triple Nickle this year. Chris talked about the value of buddy checks and reaching out to members we haven't seen for



some time especially on the heels of the pandemic. Chris spoke during the meeting and during the banquet of Being The One. Chris relayed a moving story about a seemingly small gesture of brining a couple pieces of used furniture to a veterans small apartment can

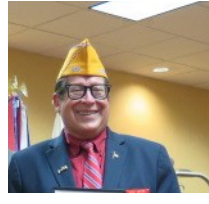
make a huge difference in the life of that veteran and be the beginning of a new life and road to recovery. Be The One is a joint project that Chris and TAL Commander Troiolia as they spread the message of reducing and preventing veteran suicide is reported to at a rate of 20 per day. Be The One to reach out to that veteran and get him help, by directing him to or putting him in touch with agencies with the resources to assist. The national suicide prevention hotline number is 988#1. Commit the number to memory and call it if you encounter someone contemplating taking their life. It doesn't have to happen. Be The One to save or change a life.



Your 2022-2023 Detachment Leadership



NEC (Assistant Adjutant)
 Scott Garrett
 123 Laura Ave
 Clifton, CO 81520
 (303) 257-8698
 ceilingmanjsg@yahoo.com
 Squadron 200



ANEC
 Nick Arceo
 7821 Owl Creek Cir
 Littleton, CO 80125
 (303) 903-5262
 nicrco@gmail.com
 Squadron 103



Commander
 Richard Humphrey
 1803 Carson St
 Aurora, CO 80011
 (720) 244-7389
 dandrigh11@comcast.net
 Squadron 23



Sr. Vice Commander
 Wally Weld
 1187 E Berry Ave
 Englewood, CO 80111
 (303) 995.1739
 wwrmac24@msn.com
 Squadron 1



Jr. Vice Commander
 Robert Jones
 PO Box 815
 Durango, CO 81302
 (970) 749-7104
 norton85020@yahoo.com
 Squadron 28



Jr. Vice Commander
 Ron Noakes
 1477 3rd St
 Pueblo, CO 81007
 (719) 544-3284
 mrron14@yahoo.com
 Squadron 2



Jr. Vice Commander
 David Smith
 221 W. 8th St
 Loveland, CO 80537
 dueces65@gmail.com
 Squadron 1985



Jr. Vice Commander
 Robert Barry
 4245 Midlothian Ct
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 (719) 930-5725
 Colo.rsb@yahoo.com
 Squadron 209



Jr. Vice Commander
 Jim Gaddis
 1755 Road 3
 St Francis, KS 67756
 (720) 963-8343
 Jeremiah_579@yahoo.com
 Squadron 211



Jr. Vice Commander
 Randy Forsythe III
 12449 Wagon Wheel Rd,
 Eckert, CO 81418
 (970) 644-7811
 jax5203@gmail.com
 Squadron 65



Adjutant
 Mark A Kilstrom
 1870 River Dr
 Fountain, CO 80817
 (719) 640-6692
 sadadj@coloradolegion.org
 mark.kilstrom@comcast.net
 Squadron 2



Chaplain
 Brad Henderson
 2960 Tuft Blvd #117
 Colorado Springs, CO 80922
 (830) 660-4072
 bradh229@gmail.com
 Squadron 209



Sergeant-at-Arms
 Teddy Kuntz

 Contact Detachment
 Adjutant
 Squadron 1985



Finance Officer
 Rick Baldessari
 P.O. Box 615
 Golden, CO 81230
 (303)423-1887
 rbaldessari@hotmail.com
 Squadron 21



Assistant Finance Officer
 Jim Gelwicks
 P.O. Box 539
 Gunnison, Co 81230
 (970) 641-1101
 jgelwicks@western.edu
 Squadron 54

Awards and Recognition

Here's a report on the awards that were presented at the banquet on 19 November:

Americanism Certificate of Meritorious Service: Squadrons 2-Pueblo, 4-Fort Collins, 5-Colorado Springs, 15-Loveland, 17-Edgewater, 19-Fort Morgan, 21-Golden, 23-Aurora, 28-Durango, 39-Manitou Springs, 54-Gunnison, 65-Delta, 66-Akron, 70-Johnstown, 89-Hayden, 103-Littleton, 119-Estes Park, 151-Commerce City, 170-Westcliff, 178-Lakewood, 193-Denver, 200-Grand Junction, 206-Aurora, 207-Pueblo West, 209-Colorado Springs. Recipients of the **Joe D Roe Americanism Award** were Squadrons 103-Littleton and Squadrons 178-Lakewood.

Children & Youth National Certificate of Appreciation: Squadrons 2-Pueblo, 4-Fort Collins, 5-Colorado Springs, 15-Loveland, 19-Fort Morgan, 21-Golden, 23-Aurora, 28-Durango, 39-Manitou Springs, 54-Gunnison, 70-Johnstown, 89-Hayden, 103-Littleton, 178-Lakewood, 200-Grand Junction, 206-Aurora, 207-Pueblo West, 209-Colorado Springs. Recipients of the **Woodrow L Mudge Jr Memorial Award for Children & Youth** were Squadron 70-Johnstown and Squadron 178-Lakewood.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation: Squadrons 2-Pueblo, 4-Fort Collins, 5-Colorado Springs, 15-Loveland, 19-Fort Morgan, 21-Golden, 23-Aurora, 32-Longmont, 54-Gunnison, 66-Akron, 70-Johnstown, 103-Littleton, 151-Commerce City, 178-Lakewood, 200-Grand Junction, 206-Aurora, 209-Colorado Springs. The **Woodrow L Mudge Sr Memorial Award for VA&R** re-

ipients were Squadrons 103-Littleton and 5-Colorado Springs.

100% Membership certificates were presented to Squadrons 2-Pueblo, 4-Fort Collins, 5-Colorado Springs, 13 Canon City, 15-Loveland, 19-Fort Morgan, 21-Golden, 28-Durango, 32-Longmont, 39-Manitou Springs, 54-Gunnison, 66-Akron, 100-Carbondale, 101-Denver, 102-Fort Lupton, 113-Alamosa, 119-Estes Park, 151-Commerce City, 160-Byers, 161-Arvada, 170-Westcliff, 204-Denver, 206-Aurora, 209-Colorado Springs, 1985-Firestone. The **Terry Kelley Memorial Award** for largest Squadron was presented to Squadron 32-Longmont. The **Joseph Bokan Memorial award** for largest percentage membership increase was presented to: Level 12 (<25 members) Squadron 102 For Lupton and 151-Commerce City 150%. Level 2 (26-75 members) Squadron 5-Colorado Springs 128.57%. Level 3 (>75 members) Squadron 4-Fort Collins 118.81%. Honorable Mention (>110%) went to Squadrons 15- Loveland 110.2%, Squadron 28 Durango 140%, Squadron 100-Carbondale 113.15%, 170-Westcliff 140%, Squadron 1985 114.92%.

85% Renewal Achievement Award was presented to Squadrons 2-Pueblo, 4-Fort Collins, 5-Colorado Springs, 10-Boulder, 13 Canon City, 17-Edgewater, 19-Fort Morgan, 20-Sterling, 21-Golden, 36-Eaton, 28 Durango, 54-Gunnison, 55-Buena Vista, 58-Broomfield, 65- Delta, 66-Akron, 100-Carbondale, 101-Denver, 113-Alamosa, 119-Estes Park, 151-Commerce City, 160 Byers, 161-Arvada, 170 Westcliff, 178-lakewood,

204-Denver, 206-Aurora, 207 Pueblo West, 1985 Firestone, 1992-Auroar, 2000-Loveland. The **William D Abbey Jr Award** for largest percentage renewal rate was awarded to: Level 1, all with 100% renewals; 13-Canon City, 19-Fort Morgan, 26 Eaton, 28-Durango, 54 Gunnison, 55-Buena Vista, 101-Denver, 151-Commerce City, 160-Byers, 170-Westcliff, 206-Aurora, 2000-Loveland. Level 2 all at 100%; 5-Colorado Springs, 65-Delta, 66-Akron. Level 3; at 94.56% Squadron 161-Arvada

Special Presentations—National Awards to the Detachment: Child Welfare Foundation for achieving \$2.00 per capita. Child Welfare Foundation for highest per capita in Mid-West Region. Child Welfare Foundation for Highest donation amount in Mid-West Region.

Individual Awards and Recognition



Detachment Mom: Pat Steranka (Unit 2)

Dual Member of the Year: Dick Wellensiek Post/Squadron 21 (not available for photo)
Member of the year: Ken Taylor Squadron 209



All of these awards are well deserved, and results of lot of hard work Squadron awards are based on information from Squadron Consolidated Reports.



Mid-Year Conference Information



Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Colorado
Mid-Winter DEC
Schedule of Events and Information

Dates: January 28-29, 2023

Meeting Location: American Legion John Harold Buckley Post 32, 315 S. Bowen St. Longmont, CO 80503

Lodging Accommodations: Hilton Garden Inn, 570 South Martin Rd, Longmont, CO 80501. Phone (720) 759-4422. Room Cost \$109.00 plus tax. Room rate is available until 12-26-2022. Book with hotel directly under CAL Block.

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/denlcgi-hilton-garden-inn-longmont/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-GI-DENLCGI&v_source=L.MTV2Nig2NiktNzEJLWcvY2F0aW9uLndlYnNpdGU%3D

The hotel is approx. 1.5 miles from Post 32. Post 32 will be operating shuttles.

Activity/Meeting Schedule
(Subject to change, cost of meals at Post 32 TBA)

Friday, January 27

1:00-4:00 p.m. DEC meetings - Legion in banquet hall. ALA in the Aux room.

5:00-7:00 p.m. 7:00-10:00 Normal Friday night dinner served in banquet room. Entertainment in the lounge.

Saturday, Jan 28, 2023

Breakfast is available at the hotel 7:30-9:00 am. Light breakfast available at Post 32

8:30-10:00 am Joint Opening—Post 32 Banquet Hall

10:15- 11:50 am SAL training Post 32 game room (no darts allowed):

VA&R awards and recognition programs/award criteria/nomination process –ANEC Nick Arceo (103)

On-line membership processing—Ken Taylor (209)

10 Ideas and 5 Points of Service—Commander Richard Humphrey

SAL Reports and Online Resources—Adjutant Mark Kilstrom

12:00-1:30 pm Past Commander's Lunch. Post 32 Banquet Hall

1:30-2:00 pm Continue training if needed, Post 32 game room

2:00-3:30 pm (approx.) DEC meeting—Post 32 game room.

4:30-5:30pm Drawing and Hippy haircut. (information to be provided separately)

5:30 -6:15 pm Social Hour in banquet hall.

6:15-8:30 pm Media Awards Banquet in banquet hall Adjutant Lish to MC the banquet and keep on schedule.

8:30-11:00 pm Entertainment in lounge.

Sunday, January 29

7:30- 10:00 am Breakfast by Post 32 in Banquet Hall.

8:30-9:30 am Memorial Service, Chaplain Ron Wunsch, in ALA room.

Commanders Message

Commander Richard Humphrey



Detachment of Colorado,

Hope everyone will be having a good Turkey Day with family and friends.

As some of you know who attended our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting on the 19th of November and Awards presentation later that night, your National Commander, Chris Carlton was in town and greeted us with praises for the great job we are doing as a Detachment. You can all be proud of what you have done in Colorado for the Sons of The American Legion and your Squadrons. The end of the year is approaching quickly, Thanksgiving is this week, Christmas is less than 1 month away and the New Year a week after that. Which means that your membership will be due and about to expire. **Don't let that happen.** Get your dues paid now, before the rush. Colorado has done outstanding this year keeping in the middle of the pack. Let's get above the pack and get your renewals in to the Adjutant as soon as possible.

I want to put a special thanks out to Squadrons 13, 26, 65, 66, 75, 101, 103, for being 100% or more. Gentlemen, thank you so much. However, that is only 7 out of 62 and by this time of year, half of the Squadrons in Colorado should be at or over 100%. The sad part is we have Squadrons that have not submitted any membership this year. Gentlemen, PLEASE, PLEASE, get your membership in, make those phone calls if necessary to your members. If you would like assistance, let your Detachment leadership know and we will assist you in anyway we can. We are here to help you.

I sincerely hope that you all have a great and wonderful Thanksgiving Day with your family. Happy Holiday. Thank you for all you do.

Richard Humphrey
Detachment Commander

Sights From the Awards Banquet



From the Chaplain "Where's the Beef"



Detachment Chaplain, Brad Henderson

It was a cold, rainy January day at the Rifle Range for our Army basic trainees at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

I laid down in two inches of water and assumed a good, prone unsupported firing position. I could not WAIT for lunch! I was grateful for a simple meal of meat and potatoes, served in the metallic "china" of our mess kits. As I stepped out of the mess tent and into the weather, a torrent of water came down the roof of the tent with a force that splashed my long-awaited lunch out of the kit and into the mud.

Welcome to the Army!

Years later, I would have a better reception in Germany, where a stroll past the village bakery would assault the senses with the most wonderful aroma of breads, cakes, cookies, and other treats.

Not to mention the beer. I would return home twenty pounds later. Not everyone is so fortunate.

There are 842 million hungry people (12 percent of the world's population) on any given day.

Here in the USA, 32 million people (10 percent of our population) face hunger each day. Soon, Americans around the world will gather around the family table, or in facilities on land and sea to celebrate Thanksgiving.

I remember one such feast in Saigon, Vietnam. I had thoroughly enjoyed my meal and put a couple of oranges in my cargo pocket for a later snack. As I left the dining facility, I saw a young boy who by his appearance, hadn't had a meal recently. I tossed the lad an orange and felt good about it. Suddenly, a crowd of a dozen starving boys seemed to come from nowhere. I tossed my remaining orange into the ravenous crowd. They were not the only ones. As many American families gather around loaded tables each Thanksgiving, they will see a bounty of traditional delicacies. I will see faces...

Sometimes, dinner comes with a message. Those of the Christian faith may remember the Bible story of Jesus speaking to a crowd of 5,000. When it came time to eat, Jesus told his disciples to feed them.

They replied, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish..." The disciple Luke records, "Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them." (Luke 9: 16-17) The supply of bread and fish satisfied the people's physical hunger, but they neglected to understand the deeper meaning of the miracle. Jesus told the people not to labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life.

"And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

Perhaps the most famous dinner of all is known to those of the Christian faith as "The Last Supper", sometimes called "The Lord's Supper"; the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in an upper room in Jerusalem., depicted in the artwork of Leonardo da Vinci. Jesus often spoke in parables and sometimes, the disciples didn't understand what he was saying to them. During the meal, Jesus wanted the disciples to know that He would leave them soon. "A little while and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." (John 16:16) It was during that meal that Jesus revealed that one of His disciples would betray Him. His communion with the disciples included Jesus blessing the bread and wine and giving it to them to eat and drink. Jesus told them that the bread represented His body, and the wine represented His blood of the Covenant. The disciples remained confused, but Jesus assured them that one day, they would understand.

Christians symbolically celebrate the Last Supper by taking communion (often small wafers and little cups of grape juice) regularly in their worship services. One year, our congregation celebrated World Communion Sunday, held the first Sunday in October. The traditional little wafers representing the bread, were replaced by little samples of breads (flour, unleavened, etc.) from around the world.

It was one of the most meaningful communion services that I have ever attended.

As we enter this holiday season, I hope we remain hungry – hungry for giving service to others.

Serving God and Country,
Chaplain Brad

Ten Things You Didn't Know About the Marine Corps

FROM MILITARY.COM 26NOV, 2022

Nov. 10 is the birthday of the Marine Corps, first formed as the Continental Marines in 1775 during the Revolutionary War. Here are some things you may not know about the service branch.

1. The Corps' first amphibious raid was only weeks after its creation; Marines successfully stormed a British weapons cache in the Bahamas. (via USO)
2. Marines often pin their next promotable rank onto their uniforms as motivation. They usually hide it in their cover, or under a pocket flap. (via USO)
3. Male recruits attend boot camp in one of two locations, depending on which side of the Mississippi they're from. Marine Corps Re-

- cruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego is for West Coast recruits, and MCRD Parris Island (S.C.) is for East Coast recruits. Female recruits only attend MCRD Parris. (via USO)
4. The license plate of the Commandant of the Marine Corps reads "1775." (via USO)
5. In 1798, the Marine Corps began issuing "one stock of black leather and clasp" to Marines. The item was worn to protect their necks when fighting with swords. Today, the standing collar on the dress coat of the Marine Corps uniform is a vestige of the "leatherneck" tradition. (via Mental Floss)
6. Ed McMahon, Drew Carey and novelist Robert Ludlum (who wrote the Jason Bourne books) all served in the Marine Corps. (via Mental Floss)
7. The first Marines enlisted at Tun Tavern

in Philadelphia, which is considered the birthplace of the Corps. (via Mental Floss)

8. "The Marines' Hymn" is the oldest official anthem of any U.S. military service. (via www.mca-marines.org)

9. President Andrew Jackson (in office 1829-1837) wanted to abolish the Marine Corps, thinking it no longer necessary. (via www.mca-marines.org)

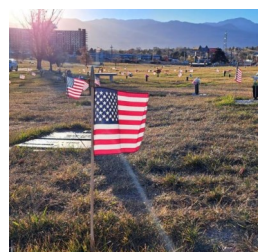
10. During the cake-cutting ceremony every Marine Corps birthday, the first three pieces are presented to the guest of honor, the oldest Marine present and the youngest Marine present. This tradition is also part of the Corps' birthday celebration on the battlefield, if possible. (via We Are The Mighty)



Squadron 209 Places 1,000 Flags at Memorial Gardens Cemetery

From legiontown.org, Nov 19, 2022

Memorial Gardens in Colorado Springs had 1,000 flags placed at veterans' graves. This was in honor of Veterans Day. It was a beautiful sight to see all of the flags flying with a snow-capped Pikes Peak in the background.



Do You Have A Story or Event to Share?

Legiontown USA is a forum for the Legion family to share their stories and events that meet the Four Pillars of The American Legion. It's simple to share your story and pictures. As you see in the article to the left, you don't have to say much. Simply go to Legiontown.org and click on share your story. You can add text and a couple pictures, It does go through a review content of course, but entries are generally posted within a day or two.





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF COLORADO

THIS OLD HIPPIY NEEDS A HARICUT AND YOU COULD BE THE ONE TO CUT IT!!



TAL National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola Has set a goal of raising \$2,000,000 for The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation. Never one to turn down a fund raising challenge, the Detachment of Colorado is raffling off a chance to shave this old hippy's head! That's right, our Past Detachment Commander, retired Adjutant and current NEC will sit in the chair during mid-year conference and sacrifice his once golden locks and have his head shaved for the cause!

Tickets for a chance drawing are \$5.00 each or six tickets for \$20.00. You can buy tickets on site or you can pledge in advance and get your tickets at the event. The drawing and hair cut will be on Saturday January 29th 2023 at 4:30 pm at Longmont Post 32. To pledge in advance, you can send a check to Detachment Adjutant Mark Kilstrom at 1870 River Dr. Fountain, CO 80817. Make checks payable to SAL Detachment of Colorado, in the memo field write, Vet. Kids Fund. If you have questions contact Adjutant Mark at (719) 640-6692 or email saladj@coloradolegion.org. Remember, the more tickets you buy, the better your chance of doing the honors.

Chaplain's Holiday Message

Brad Henderson, Detachment Chaplain

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM: The word spread quickly. A baby would be King of the Jews? This is fulfillment of the prophecies? Um – WHAT? You'll find him wrapped in cloths and laying in a *feed trough*? Herod the Great, known for his cruelty, was troubled anyway. There could be only ONE king of Judea, and that was he. Herod sent three emissaries "...that I may come and worship Him also." (Matt. 2:7) Truth was, Herod planned to kill the child, but The Good Lord intervened. After they had worshiped Him, the three "departed for their own country in another way" (Matt 2:12).

SILENT NIGHT: One of our most beloved Christmas carols came about by accident in the winter of 1818 in Oberndorf, a tiny village in Austria. Josef Mohr was the priest of the local church. He needed a carol for worship. On Christmas Eve, he discovered that the church organ was broken. Herr Mohr visited a friend, Hans Gruber and presented Gruber with a poem he had written. That evening at Midnight Mass, Herr Gruber strapped on his guitar and led the congregation in the first rendition of "*Stille Nacht*" ("Silent Night").

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE: Infantrymen of the 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, were spending Christmas Eve in their trenches, "shivering in the muck, trying to keep warm". The constant, soaking rain at Flanders Field gave way to frost, and a light snow blanketed the area. At about 10 p.m., the soldiers could hear a noise. The Germans were singing Christmas carols. A voice called, "Come over here." The British replied with, "You come here. We'll meet you halfway." Then, the enemy came nervously out of their trenches, to meet the British in "No Man's Land". Normally, the two traded bullets. That night, fathers and sons, uncles, and brothers from both sides, gave handshakes and words of kindness. The soldiers traded songs, tobacco, and wine, joining in a spontaneous holiday party in the cold night. One soldier wrote home, "There was not an atom of hate on either side."

AN ORPHAN CHRISTMAS: It was 1968, and I had recently arrived at the 579th Ordnance Company (Pershing missiles) in Neu Ulm, Germany. I was 19 years old, and a long way from home. The company had "adopted" a local German orphanage. Our commander took a Sears catalog to the director there and invited the children to our unit for Christmas lunch. He asked the director to share the catalog with the children. Each child could select an item from the "Wish Book". What they did not know, was that St. Nikolaus would arrive; and each child would receive his or her wish. I wish you could have been a little bird on the windowsill, to see the children's eyes as each opened his or her gift. It was for me, the best Christmas ever.

Regardless of your faith, or if you have no religious faith at all, Pam and I wish you and yours, a holiday filled with Love – and the peace of a little Child.

One night, a Viking known as "Rudolph the Red" looked out his window. He turned to his wife and said, "It's going to rain." "How do you know that?" she asked. "Because", he replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

Serving God and Country, Chaplain Brad