



The Clarion

St. Charles American Legion Post 312

NOVEMBER 2025



COMMANDER JOHN

Thanks to everyone that came to the family picnic! The weather was a little crazy, one minute the sun was shining, the next minute we were holding down the poles so the tents wouldn't fly away. Despite that I think a great time was had by all. Thanks to the SAL and Auxiliary for their hard work cooking and bartending.

Fall has settled in and now it is time for our Fall Conference. Oct 17 through the 19 the conference will be held in Jefferson City at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, This is a great opportunity to take advantage of the training sessions. If you are a post officer or just need some refresher courses this would be your prime chance. Those of you who would like more information about VA benefits will have the opportunity to speak with representatives there. In addition, training will be provided for service officers, suicide prevention and membership training.

The Legion is hosting its own USA250 challenge in celebration of our nations' 250th birthday next year. The three categories of participation are physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service. Legionnaires may participate individually or part of a team. Registration is \$30.00 with proceeds benefiting the Veterans and Children Foundation. For more information on USA250 Challenge or the mission of VCF or to register for the challenge please visit www.legion.org/getinvolved/community-programs/usa250/challenge.

Keep up the good work in representing Post 312 in our community. The Color Guard presented colors at the Watchfire Ceremony on the 19th of Sept. and they are slated for the 8th of Nov for the Salute St. Charles parade and ceremony. If any of our members are interested in joining the Color Guard, please let me know.

Please be on the lookout for potential members. Anyone wearing a ballcap with a branch insignia, or a shirt with an emblem. Just ask was the motto of the Legion a few years back. So, I would like to make that my motto. JUST ASK if they would like to be a member of the largest veteran organization in the country.

I hope to see some of you at the Conference!

For God and Country

Semper Fidelis

John Gonzales Post Commander

314-707-3758



POST CHAPLAIN

GOOD NEWS

None of our Post 312 members have been reported sick or injured since our last report.

SAD NEWS - Post 312 member Michael G. Schaffner answered his final roll call and reported to the high command of us all. May his soul and all the souls of the faithfully departed "Rest in Peace". Amen

Let us all give thanks on this Thanksgiving Day for all our blessings.

May God bless our entire American Legion Family. Amen

Larry DuFour Post Chaplain 636-441-7102



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Well, here we are in November, it seems like only yesterday we were bringing in the New Year.....2025. It's that time of year where life gets crazy planning, cooking, shopping, cooking, wrapping presents, cooking. The little ones will be making their list for Santa and

(speaking for myself at least) and the adults will be reading that list going "what is that!?"

I hope that each of us will take pause on Nov 11th to honor our military veterans on their day. A Congressional Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made Nov 11 in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'". I will be thinking of my uncle Carl R. Diel Jr. who served with the 187th Airborne Combat Team and Purple Heart recipient and hero to many but to us he is "Uncle Snookie". He always enjoyed the St. Louis Veterans Day Parade.

October was a busy month for our Unit! We will formally welcome our newest members at the October Meeting. Thank you to our 50/50 chairman Mary for coordinating the volunteers for our 50/50 drawing at Friday night Bingo. If you are looking for a simple volunteer opportunity this would be it! We are always looking for volunteers, if you are interested, please let us know. Thank you to our Children and Youth Committee Brenda and Jenn for gathering volunteers and planning the dinner at Ronald McDonald House. Remember to bring your pull tabs to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Wouldn't it be fun if we outweighed our last year's total!?

I hope that during this busy season you still have time for friendship and fellowship at our monthly Unit meetings. With our monthly themes in place, we bring a little sparkle to the evening and the good work that we plan and do continue to be our real priority. I want to remind our entire American Legion Family at Post 312 that I am always available to discuss opportunities, questions, or concerns on behalf of the Auxiliary and please reach out to me at 636-219-7091 or lauraldiel@gmail.com.

May this holiday season bring blessings abound for you and your family. May we keep our military and veterans in our thoughts and prayers and may God Bless America.

God's Blessing

Laura L. Diel Auxiliary President
lauraldiel@gmail.com 636-219-7091



AUXILIARY FIRST VICE

So why do members procrastinate paying their dues? It is common, and it usually boils down to a few practical reasons:

Low sense of urgency – no immediate consequence there is no hard deadline or benefit risk there for it is easy to think "I'll do it later"

Emotional distance or shift in priorities – maybe you joined with high enthusiasm but over time your connection faded. Get involved, pay a visit to the fox hole attend a meeting.

It Feels like a chore – It's a small task but even small tasks take mental energy especially if it involves logging in and writing a check.

What Helps? Set a recurring calendar reminder, tie it to a habit like paying bills, revisit your "why" for joining in the first place – community, service, connection and support. Get it over with now it usually takes 2 minutes once you sit down to do it.

You can drop them off at the foxhole, you can bring them to a meeting, or you can mail them to me at 2345 Federalist Place, O'Fallon MO 63368

Judi Sovanski, Auxiliary 1st Vice President & Membership Chair
Twinsn3@hotmail.com
2345 Federalist Pl, O'Fallon MO 63368
314-413-8883 cell



AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

True beauty has little to do with what we see in the mirror, for reflections can only show the surface. Real beauty lives in the quiet ways we treat others, in the kindness we choose when no one is watching, and the love, we carry even on the hardest of days. A pretty face may catch someone's eye for a moment, but a gentle heart will hold them for a lifetime. A thoughtful mind brings wisdom, a tender spirit brings comfort, and a soul filled with love brings light to even the darkest places. Pooh, with his simple smile and humble flower, reminds us that beauty is not found in perfection, but in sincerity...in being honest, kind, and true. And

when the world within us is soft and good,
everything we touch becomes more beautiful too.

Happy fall everyone. Make this month the
one to reach out with kindness.

Bam Kelly Auxiliary Chaplain terikkelly@aol.com
314-795-0283



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Next meeting Mon. Nov. 3 at 7pm.

John Leonard Squadron Commander
314-303-6665



AMERICANISM CHILDREN & YOUTH COLOR GUARD

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK NOV 17 THRU
NOV 21

The title of this year's Americanism Essay Contest with the Fifth (5TH) Graders is "WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS TO ME". The three top fifth grade winners along with their parents and siblings will attend our Buddy Supper at 5:00 PM on Sat Nov 15 for awards and recognition. All essays submitted will be posted for public display during 'AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK' November 17 thru November 21, 2025, in the Rotunda of St Charles City Hall "REMEMBER TODAY'S YOUTH ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS"

AMERICAN LEGION HIGH SCHOOL
ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM "A
CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST"

In this Americanism program high school students earn scholarships by speaking on the U. S. Constitution. All high school students wanting to enter the St Charles County contest must be certified to enter by their respective high schools and oratorical chairman on or before Nov 30.

Your Color/Honor Guard team will participate in the St Charles City and St Charles County Veterans Day ceremonies on Veterans Day, Nov 11. At this point, Oct 6 a time and place for the Veterans Day ceremonies on Nov 11 has not yet been announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry DuFour 636-441-7102
Americanism/Children & Youth/
Law and Order/Color Guard Captain



My band has partnered with the Legion for a fundraiser on October 18th in the hall. We are expecting over 260 people and if you get this in time, I could use some help with the door, serving food and conducting a 50/50 Raffle. Any help is appreciated, you will receive food, beer and I am sure we will play a couple of songs you like as we play County, Rock and Pop.

Oct 31 is our official Halloween Party, there is no Bingo so we will move the previous plan from Oct 25th to Oct 31st, be there or be scared. I will run Scaryoke that night. We will be closed on Thanksgiving.

For Nov entertainment, we have Music Bingo on Nov 8th, Jackie D on Nov 15th. Boston Dave on the 29th.

A reminder, we have received new key cards they are light blue in color. You will need to "buzz in" and get a new key card. They are \$1 each and you need to show your ID card from Post 312, Auxiliary Unit 312 or Son's Squadron 312.

Larry Carron Bar Chairman
LarryCarronRealtor@outlook.com 636-345-6106



NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

LAST CALL FOR WREATH SPONSORSHIPS!

Sponsorships as of Oct 7: 200

Goal: 400

Extended Deadline - November 8th!

Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a national nonprofit organization with a yearlong mission to **REMEMBER** the fallen, **HONOR** those who serve, and **TEACH** the next generation the value of freedom. National Wreaths Across America Day is December 13, 2025. On this day, sponsored Veteran's wreaths will be placed on our local hero's graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery (JBNC).

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Post 312 St. Charles, Missouri would like to invite you to join us in this mission and sponsor a Veteran's wreath! Your \$17 per wreath sponsorship will ensure the placement of a wreath on a veteran's grave at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery on December 13th. You may sponsor a wreath for general placement, or you may request a grave specific placement for your loved one who is laid to rest at JBNC.

HOW TO ORDER A WREATH



When you sponsor a veteran's wreath for \$17, Wreaths Across America gives back \$5 to our organization to help us with our local veteran causes! To order online, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/MO0261P or scan the QR code. You can also complete the order form in the Clarion and mail it to Elaine Vollmar. Orders must be postmarked on or before November 8th to ensure placement on December 13th.

Please help us honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring a remembrance wreath today! Thank you for supporting our veterans!

Elaine Vollmar elainevollmar@gmail.com
314-440-2780



SAVE THE DATE

Dec 7 Children's Christmas Party

Dec 8 Auxiliary Christmas Party

Dec 14 District 9 meeting Post 347 St. Clair

Dec 21 St. Charles Co. Oratorical Post 312 1

Dec 25 Merry Christmas

Jan 1 Happy New Year

Jan 4 Post Everlasting Post 312 2pm

Jan 11 Dist. 9 Oratorical Wentzville 1pm

Jan 18 Zone 1 Oratorical Hanibal 1pm

Feb 28 1st Responders Awards Post 312 5pm

Mar 1 District 9 meeting Post 297 Union

Jun 7 Dist 9 meeting Post 312 St. Charles





SAVE YOUR TAB TOPS

I want to remind everyone to please continue to save your Tab. The Children and Youth Committee Jenn Slater and Brenda Richarz and several others including Mary Bandini, Kathy Brandes and Nancy Ticacheck had the pleasure of making and serving dinner for 35-40 people at the Ronald McDonald House in West County on Oct 4. We got to see firsthand with a tour of the house and how the tabs and the generosity of the community have helped the families that stay at the Rondal McDonald Houses. Last year the total amount of money the tabs brought in was \$20,000 and in the ST. Louis area 5658 pounds were collected.

Children's Christmas Party
American Legion Post 312

Sunday, December 7
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sign up for the party in the Foxhole
or

Please call and leave a message:
*provide the child's name, boy or girl and a gift idea
Brenda Richarz: 636-288-1250
Jennifer Slater: 636-734-5503

Deadline is Friday, November 21

A letter from one of our own:

ST. LOUIS HONOR FLIGHT 2025

Author Kerry W. Humphrey

On Sept 16, I participated in the St. Louis Honor Flight. Originally scheduled for 2021, my trip was delayed due to a cancer diagnosis and limited availability. I received an invitation for the 2025 event and had concerns about visiting the Vietnam Wall. My veteran acquaintances assured me that the experience would be beneficial. Julie Poiser served as my guardian; she was selected because of her prior experience and longstanding friendship. Julie assisted with arrangements, offered support throughout the visit to Washington DC, and used her previous knowledge to help with logistical aspects. She coordinated the collection of letters and cards from various individuals and organizations, accompanied me during activities, took photos, and ensured my well-being.

A special shout out to the American Legion post 312 Legion Riders who voted to pay for Julie's way on the trip. I would also like to thank Jan Julie's sister for getting us to the airport at 2:30 am. Tom picked us up and took us both home after a long physical and emotional day. To Ricci, Grayson, Janice, and Steve thank you for coming to the airport to greet me. I was genuinely happy and proud to see all of you.

People have asked "What was your favorite part of the trip?" My answer is that in DC I most enjoyed and was extremely impressed by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I always wanted to see that in person. Wish now granted. The Vietnam Wall was what I expected, very emotional. Seeing the monument of the three soldiers was much more moving in person than any photo has proven to be. I really enjoyed the Reflecting Pool and believed I could see and hear Jeanie running through the water calling after Forest. I was especially impressed with the Korean War Memorial for Papa having told me their eyes would follow you as you walked by. The Pentagon and Washington monuments together with their background story we were given were interesting. The World War II monuments was just so big and beautiful. The Netherlands Carillon was

another backstory that was very enlightening. They did not ring while we were there. Darn the luck. The Airforce Monument was interesting, but the grounds were under construction, so I only saw it from the highway while on the bus. Some went to see Kennedy's grave site; however, I decided to go to Audy Murphy's gravestone. I stopped four of the National Guard members patrolling the area just to thank them and ask where they were from. Pete, our lead guide with SLHF, convinced them to take me into custody for a picture. Near the end of our tour the rain came down so hard we had to abandon our visit to the FDR and MLK monuments.

Now for my answer to "What was your favorite part of the trip?" When we arrived at St. Louis Internarrial Airport there were all this people clapping, waving flags, whistling, shaking our hands, and thanking us for our service. There were Airman and Women, Army, Navy, SLHF volunteers, people from Schnucks, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Bagpipes, people waiting or leavening the airport more than I can remember or call to name. More than I could ever have imagined. God bless each and everyone.

We were welcomed home! Fifty-Three years in the making for me. Many of us, including myself openly wept. We held each other and comforted one another. I waited that long to be welcomed home in the place I was treated so poorly. A heavy weight that I carried for so long I have now laid on the ground. I have come Home. We were each given an envelope containing cards and letters "Mail Call" I will attempt to thank all of you. If I missed, misspelled your name, or somehow failed to get what you sent please excuse me. Some of you included tokens or photos of us together. Thank you all for my welcome home.

Nick Damaso, Tim and Jill Cudd, Mary Bandini, Nancy Hallahan, Steve Janice Mauricio, Debbie Hall, Judy Holden Busse, Stacie Martin, Shelly Ludwig "Mail Call Lead, Alen Garibovice, Jack, Nancy Ebert, Mrs. Lou Midgett, Liz Carron, Chuck Critti, Debbie Do, Michael Robinson, Barb Lash, Dave & Cheryl Braun, Danielle Renteria, Nancy Newbourne with Zoe and Layla, Leslie Scott, Barbara Unruh, Mike & Pattie Ochs, Jerri Merklinger, Miss S, Chris Fulz, Lynda Brady, Mark

& Jill Wooldrige, John Leonard, Tom Gaines, Mike Ellis, Ricky Mocerri, Will Townsel, Davy Gillespie, Suzie Kirkendoll, Mark Ebert, Anna Lee Schulte, Sandy Hendrich, Beth Wehmeier, Greg & Janet Ploch, Chandra Brush, Michael Skeeters, Graig Hueffneier, Kris Marsden, Cindy Wahl, Joan Parmentar Huecker, Leslie Seabaugh, Peggy Pompe, Matt Pedersen, Anne Wilkinson, Sheri Cupps, Julia Perneti, Donna Cooke, Karen Nixon, Kevin Hartley, George Callway, Brian Gazzell, Ed Kingler, Alan Willius, Tar & Dave, GLJS, Sons Line Squad Monica, Cynthia and Maria, Mike & Grace Ratliff, Cynthia Masterson< Sheryl, Daughters of American Revolution Beverly M. Dana Joines, Women's Army Corp Korea Margie Jacob, Cara Akridge, Niki, Mary McNeely, Rosie Sel, Kathy Crocker, Gila & Raymond Gocal, Becky & Gary Pingel, St. Charles Harley Davidson, Arlen Brunsvold, Mike & Lynn Endsley, Rane & George, Jim & Dianne Eyster, Anne Weimer, Jody & Ken Martin, Alan & Lisa, Cathie Nurse, Norbie & Kim Hulett, Jim Harrer, Justin Marsden, Senator Hawley, Governor Kehoe, Addison, Don Burke, Amerin Patsy & Rachel, P Humphrey, Schnucks Challenge Coin, Tim Ahlers, Steve & Janice Maurico, Ken, Ricci Even, Patay Draper, Nancy Runyan Seaton & Grayser, Larry Shane, Kim Picard, Teri & Randy, Linda Williams, Bill Muhs, Jon & Carrie Johnson, Caleb Spoon, Greg Wilkinson, Bill Jeffries, Malia Hanwinkel, Michael Hanwinkel, Rich Warren, Jan Moore, Joe Bilodeau, Maribeth Huddleston, Phyllis Bilodeau, Harvey & George Lietman.



St. Charles American Legion Post 312

November 2025

Hall Rental 314-952-8833

Post 636-947-7666

Foxhole 636-724-9712

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Sons Meeting 7pm Clarion Articles Due ClarionPost312@gmail.com	4 Foxhole Closed	5 Bowling in the foxhole	6	7 Bingo 6:30pm	8 Music Bingo Foxhole Deadline to order Wreaths
9	10 Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm Legion Meeting 7:30pm Foxhole open 5-10	11 Foxhole Closed Veterans Day	12	13	14 Bingo 6:30pm	15 Jackie D
16	17 Foxhole Closed	18 Foxhole Closed	19 Bowling in the foxhole	20	21 Bingo 6:30pm Deadline to reg. For Children's Christmas party	22
23	24 Foxhole Closed	25 Foxhole Closed	26	27 Foxhole CLOSED 	28 Bingo 6:30pm	29 Boston Dave
30						

American Legion Post 312

2500 Raymond Drive
St. Charles, MO 63301



Commander John Gonzales
1st Vice Commander Brian Bush
2nd Vice Commander Tony Rumbo
Finance Officer Jim Rau
Chaplain Larry DuFour

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Thank You!

A huge thank you to ***Tony's on Main Street*** for donating the delicious Chicken Modiga meals on October 28th, and for Tony's continued support of American Legion Post 312.

You are the best!