

QUARTER 1- 2025

# POST 673 NEWSLETTER

## Commander's Corner

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By Mike Stojak, Post Commander



American Legion Newsletter Article - JANUARY 2025

Greetings from American Legion Post #673!

Greetings,

Another year has come and gone. It has been a good year, here at the Legion. All of our events have had excellent support from our members and the community in general. Our volunteer base has grown significantly this year.

Younger and more energetic. The average age of Legion members is 67 years old. Of the 2.3 million members, with over 400,000 over the age of 80.

We can use all the help we can get. You children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. are welcome. We like to believe that we are a family oriented Legion.

As you may have heard, we have decided not to hold a parade on Memorial Day. We will continue to have a ceremony at the Huntley cemetery. The details are still in the works. I hope that you will join us in remembering our fallen comrades on this solemn occasion. One hour a year is not too much to ask.

The coming year should be a good one. With Memorial Day, Poppy Day, Flag Day, Vetfest, Veterans Day and more. Watch for updates on Social media and at the Legion.

We look forward to seeing you around here.

For God and Country  
Michael Stojak

# 2025

## Auxiliary

By Suzan Hoehn, President Auxiliary



I hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays.

Auxiliary hosted a pasta dinner on December 7th 2024 during The Very Merry Huntley event. A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers and attendees who joined us for a delicious meal from Cafe Roma and SAL's Pizza Place. The Auxiliary raised \$1400 for the Grafton Food Pantry. With their \$8 spending power at the Northern Illinois Food Bank that is \$11,200.00 worth of resources to help those in need.

Auxiliary will be sponsoring the last Bears regular season game on January 5th with a 50/50 raffle and a \$50 cash prize at the end of the game. Come up to The Legion during the game and help support the Auxiliary.

Queen of Hearts: The Queen was found in December! We have a new board and jackpot which is \$27,798.79 (as of December 17th 2024). Due to the holidays we are not drawing again until January 7th 2025 - tickets are still being sold.

Auxiliary meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:15pm in the Legion Hall. Please consider joining the Auxiliary and giving back to those that have and still serve our Country.

Thank you and God Bless America.

Suzan Hoehn  
President Auxiliary



## Sons of the Legion

By Mike Pickell, Commander SAL Squadron #673



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On behalf of the SAL's and the Auxiliary, I would like to thank everyone that came out to buy raffle tickets at the Legion for the Bears games, despite the outcome of most of them. Apparently the Bears didn't want the White Sox to be the biggest disappointment of Chicago sports this year.

The SAL's seasonal raffle had one of the Legion's own as the big winner at our drawing on December 18th! Congratulations to Kelly Jo Bartlett on having her ticket drawn for the \$1,500 prize!

Tickets are now available for the next drawing on March 19th at 7:00 PM. You can see any of the SAL members to get your tickets or ask at the bar and they will make sure we get them to you.

Thank you to everyone and on behalf of the SAL's, have a safe and warm New Year!

Mike Pickell



## Entertainment

By Ken Raymer

The fourth quarter was busy with events here at the Post and hopefully most were able to come by and enjoy the events that we had.

The first Saturday in November was the Feather Party Meat Raffle, and as always, it was highly attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time. I would like to thank all that volunteered to help with this event because without the help and support we get from the army of volunteers we would not be as successful as we are here at the Post.

For the second consecutive year we did a special event for the Army vs. Navy football game, and it was a lot of fun. We served SOS, and SPAM (for the brave).

The Legion Christmas Dinner was held on December 15th. This year we had almost seventy people come to the dinner. Catering with Elegance did a fantastic job with the food again and I truly hope that all that attended had an enjoyable time and found the meal to be as delicious as I did.

I am working on scheduling the Legion Birthday Dinner in the first quarter of 2025. Other than that, we have nothing further for the first quarter, but there is always a fun time to be had at the Post. Stop by to watch one of the many sporting events that are always on one or all the TVs, or just to be entertained by our fabulous bar staff.

## Meeting Notes

### Huntley Post 2025 Meetings:

Jan 16 , 2024 (7:00PM)

Feb 20, 2024 (7:00PM)

Mar 20 , 2024 (7:00PM)



**A sign up sheet is available at the Legion for all volunteer opportunities.**

**Please stop in to see what is available and donate an hour (or more) of your time.**





## HUNTLEY AMERICAN LEGION CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

HALCF

*By Don Smolinski, Treasurer*

Planned Giving and other ways to donate to the Huntley American Legion Charitable Foundation:

### Cash Gifts

You may contribute to the Foundation in memory of a loved one, friend, or colleague, or to commemorate a special occasion. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift by sending a letter to the person(s) you designate. Please be sure to include the appropriate names and addresses with your gift.

### Securities

It may be to your financial advantage to give marketable securities – stocks, bonds, or mutual funds – instead of cash to the Foundation. Any securities you have owned for more than 12 months that have increased in value since you bought them are subject to long-term capital gains tax when you sell them. If you make a gift of these securities to the Foundation however, you can save twice – once when you receive a charitable deduction for the securities' fair market value as of the day of transfer, and again when you avoid the taxes on the capital gains. Consult your financial advisor regarding the details of such a transaction.

### Bequests

A bequest - a gift made through your will – allows you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. After providing for loved ones, many people choose to include a gift to the Foundation. The most common types of bequests include a fixed dollar amount, a specific property, a percentage of the estate, or the residual portion of the estate. A charitable bequest may reduce the estate tax. Consult an attorney when making or revising a will to ensure compliance with state law and to minimize any applicable taxes.

Don Smolinski  
Treasurer

# From the Adjutant's Desk

By Dan Stewart

## Membership:

We have approximately 235 paid out of 365 members.

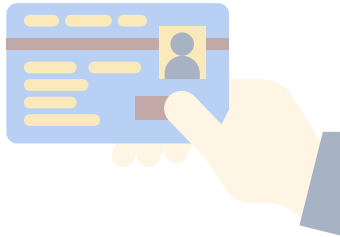
If haven't paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Stewart at (244) 427-8013 or [dstewart13@yahoo.com](mailto:dstewart13@yahoo.com).

Dues may be paid online at MyLegion.org or mailed to **Huntley American Legion, PO Box 389, Huntley, IL 60142** or drop-off at the Post.

Dan Stewart/Adjutant

(224)427-8013

[post673@huntleylegion.org](mailto:post673@huntleylegion.org)



If you were not aware, as a member you can get discounts from the American Legion website, for things like insurance, car rentals, hotel, etc... Here's the link:

<https://www.legion.org/benefits>

**The American Legion Membership Application**

NAME  DATE OF BIRTH   
Format: mm/dd/yyyy - select date by clicking inside box

MAILING ADDRESS  PHONE NO.


CITY  STATE  ZIP  POST NO.

EMAIL   MALE  FEMALE  DUES

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

**Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Space Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	



SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT  DATE  NAME OF RECRUITER   
Format: mm/dd/yyyy - select date by clicking inside box

**RECEIPT OF DUES**

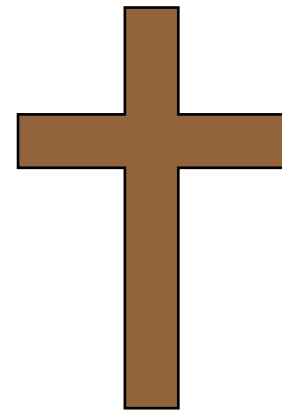
FROM

\$  FOR 20  POST NO.

RECRUITER'S NAME

RECRUITER'S SIGNATURE

RECRUITER'S PHONE NO.



**John "Jack" Todd**  
US Army - Vietnam



**George Burger**  
US Army - Vietnam



**Daniel Drasler**  
US Army - Vietnam



## **A Hero's Welcome**

by Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother  
Your tour of duty through  
You've given as much as anyone  
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further  
The smoke will start to clear  
Others here will guide you  
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers  
You clearly gave it all  
And through your selfless actions  
Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor  
Among those who have gone before  
And know you will be remembered  
For now and evermore

# Oktoberfest 2024



# Veterans Path to Hope Gala



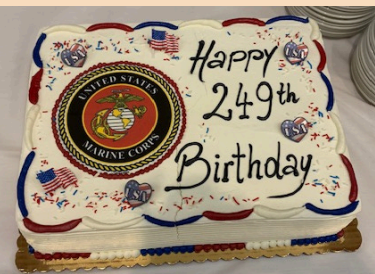


# Feather Party / Meat Raffle



The 2024 Feather Party / Meat Raffle was great success!  
Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out!

# Veteran / USMC Birthday



The Huntley Legion sponsored a table at the  
Veteran's Birthday Celebration (aka USMC Birthday)

# High School Oratorical Contest



We had 3 students participants win \$500 each at our Huntley Legion High School Oratorical Contest. They are:

**Madelyn Stein**  
**Abigail McKoy**  
**Michelle Sobelewski**

They will all continue on to District and Division contest in January. We hope they will all be attending State and maybe even the National Contest!

A big THANK YOU to all of the following who helped with contest:

**Don Smolinski**  
**Gayle Smolinski**  
**Wayne Gardiner**  
**Jeannie Ziller**  
**Nancy Pope**  
**Chad Panier**  
**Patrick Conley**  
**Michelle Stewart**





# Wreaths Across America



REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

WREATHS  
— *across* —  
AMERICA



# Football: Army vs Navy

Congratulations to the US Navy for winning the Commander in Chief Trophy.



31



13

Final Score



# Gifts to Yanks



# Legion Christmas Dinner





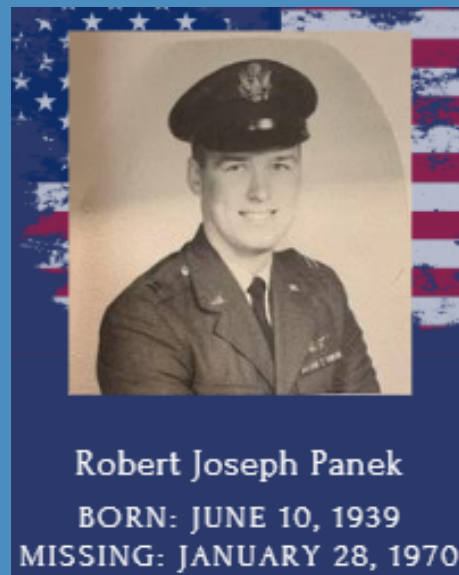
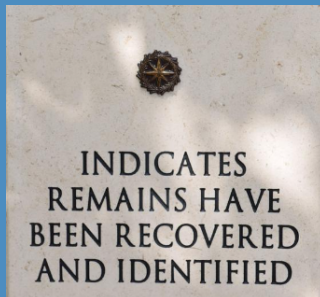
# Members Photos 2024



On September 20, 2024 the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency hosted a National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.



Our own Son of the Legion - Bob Panek and his wife Ann were in attendance. Bob's father was MIA, until his remains were identified in May of 1989.



Bob was able to place a bronze rosette next to his father's name, signifying that he was no longer missing.

**BINGO 7PM**  
**2ND & 4TH MONDAYS**  
**HALL OPENS**  
**@ 5:00**



**MONDAY CARD DRAW**  
**CARDS ARE \$1.00 EACH**  
**WINNER TAKES 6:00PM**  
**80% OF THE POT!**  
**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE 80%**  
**REMAINING 20% SUPPORTS THE VETERANS'**  
**ORGANIZATIONS LOCAL TO HUNTLEY AND MCHENRY COUNTY**

**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY  
 QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE**



TICKETS SOLD  
 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 ALL WEEK UNTIL 7:15PM ON TUESDAYS  
 DRAWING EVERY TUESDAY@8:15PM

**POST 673**

**POST PIZZA**  
**HOT & FRESH**  
**LARGE**

CHEESE \$10.00  
 CHEESE & SAUSAGE \$10.00  
 CHEESE & PEPPERONI \$10.00  
 (Cheese, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion) PARTY \$10.00




**TORN & TATTERED FLAGS**  
 BRING YOUR TORN AND TATTERED FLAGS  
 TO THE LEGION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR  
 THEN COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
 FLAG BURNING CEREMONY  
**Held annually on Flag Day**



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**"THANK-YOU" TO OUR SPONSORS!**



***Alliance***  
**CONTRACTORS, INC.**



**Join us for Bingo  
2nd and 4th Mondays  
each month**

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# MONTHLY PLANNER

## January 2025

December '24							February '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31											

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	8 4PM Legion Executive Committee Meeting 7:15PM Auxiliary Meeting	9	10	11
12	13 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	14 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	15 7PM S.A.L. Meeting	16 7PM Legion Meeting 	17	18
19	20	21 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	22	23	24	25
26	27 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	28 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	29	30	31	1
2	3	Notes				

# MONTHLY PLANNER

## February 2025

January '25							March '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21
26	27	28	29	30	31		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	5	6	7 Huntley American Legion Birthday (104th)	8
9 Super Bowl LVIII	10 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	11 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	12 4PM Legion Executive Committee Meeting 7:15PM Auxiliary Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	19 7PM S.A.L. Meeting	20 7PM Legion Meeting 	21	22
23	24 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	25 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	26	27	28	1
2	3	Notes				

# MONTHLY PLANNER

## March 2025

February '25							April '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28		27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	5	6	7	8
9 Legion B-Day Dinner (4:00PM)	10 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	11 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	12 4PM Legion Executive Committee Meeting 7:15PM Auxiliary Meeting	13	14	15 AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY (1919) 
16	17 St. Patricks Day	18 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	19 7PM S.A.L. Meeting	20 7PM Legion Meeting 	21	22
23	24 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	25 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes				

# MONTHLY PLANNER

## April 2025

March '25							May '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
30	31												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	9 4PM Legion Executive Committee Meeting 7:15PM Auxiliary Meeting	10	11	12
13	14 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	15 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	16 7PM S.A.L. Meeting	17 7PM Legion Meeting 	18	19
20	21	22 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	23	24	25	26 Family Day (Noon - 3:00PM)
27	28 7PM Bingo (Doors Open 5PM)	29 Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	30	1	2	3
4	5	Notes				

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 673  
PO BOX 389 HUNTLEY, IL 60142**



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## **HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR LEGION NEWS?**

**Our Legion newsletter has been a great success with over 265 emailed and approximately 90 sent out through regular mail. If you are receiving this and getting the mailed newsletter, there is no need to respond to this section, unless you'd like to change your email or mailing address. If you do need any changes, please make corrections here and drop it at the post or mail to: **Huntley Legion Post #673, PO Box 389, Huntley, IL 60142****

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**Suggestions for improvements or additions should be addressed by the same means.**