Voice of the Vets
Sidney American Legion Post 217

NEWSLETTER **Nov - Dec, 2026** **Sidney, OH 45365**

FROM THE COMMANDER

Where has this year gone? Can't believe the Holiday Season is rapidly approaching. What better time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for those around us. We never know what tomorrow may bring, so take a moment and acknowledge how great today is by expressing your gratitude for everything and everyone you have in your life. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the veterans, past, present, and future for your sacrifices in times of war and peace; thankful to their families who provide support so they could serve our country, and thankful for my American Legion family, my family, and friends.

✝ **In Remembrance:** The following Comrade of Post 217 has been transferred to Post Everlasting: **Ralph (Boney) Inderrieden-USA Vietnam.** Please take a moment to remember our Legionnaire and his family. This veteran has left his footprints on our hearts and will be greatly missed.

Welcome New Members! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to Post 217**. Delores Littlejohn-USA, Brian Peterson-USA, James Piatt-USA, Mark Weber-USA, and Louis Whitlow - USAF.** Thank you for your service and for choosing Post 217. We look forward in having you as a part of our team!

Membership: Please see First Vice Commander Muhlenkamp's remarks regarding our membership update. He is working closely with our membership chair Gary Bonnoront to achieve 100% renewal. Please see either one if you have any questions regarding your 2027 membership. If you haven't already renewed, you can mail your $45 membership renewal to: American Legion Post 217, PO Box 297, Sidney, OH 45365. You can also renew online at https://www.legion.org/renew, click on "Renew membership online" or visit https://mylegion.org. You can reach me at (937) 638-9797 if you need any assistance. I appreciate everyone's efforts in making our organization strong through your membership.

OPERATION GREEN LIGHT: Once **a**gain, this Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to join Operation Green Light and show support for veterans by lighting our buildings and residences green from November 4-11, 2026. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

Youth and Children: Post 217 is sponsoring a program titled **"4th Grade Flag Education Program"** which consists of working in coordination with 4th grade teachers in our local schools. With this program, the students are provided with a comic book "Flag of Our Country." After an opportunity to read and study the book, they are given a 20-question

test. Once we have all tests graded, the top boy and girl who earned the highest score will receive an award and advance to County, if top score there will advance to 2nd District. Thank you, Mr. New (Hardin-Houston), Mrs. Mays (Christian Academy), and Carly Edwards (Holy Angels), for allowing us to provide this educational opportunity to your 4th Grade Students.

Americanism and Government Testing: Post 217 will be administering the test to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 beginning early November. Grades 9 will take the test as practice for next year. It is comprised of a 50-question test in addition to a 300-word essay. There are 4 judging levels, Post, County, District, and State. Only 18 final winners will be selected at State. The winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. with the highlight of the trip being a Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery. What an outstanding opportunity to show our support. This year, Christian Academy and Sidney High School have volunteered to participate in this valuable program.

American Legion Buckeye Boys State: Buckeye Boys State will be held at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, June 13-20, 2027. At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. If you know a junior in high school who would be an excellent delegate, please refer them to their school who in turn will submit a list of eligible candidates to Post 217. The post will then conduct interviews and select our representative(s) for the program. We hope to sponsor 6 delegates for 2027 in memory of Steve Peltier. If you have any questions or interest in being on Staff with Buckeye Boys State, please reach out to me. It is an extremely rewarding experience!

Gifts for Yanks Program: This program is completely dependent on the Legion Family fundraising efforts. This program provides Christmas Gifts and approves special projects for Veterans receiving care in Ohio VA Medical Centers and Veteran Homes. Our goal is to collect $5,000. Will you please consider donating? You can also mail your donation to Sidney American Legion Post 217, P.O. Box 297, Sidney, OH 45365, please write “Gift for Yanks” in the memo line. Any monetary contribution makes the life of a veteran just a little bit better. Thank you in advance for your donation.

Children’s Christmas Party: Save the Date! Our Children’s Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 13, 2026, from 2–5 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make a special visit from 2–3:30 p.m. as we celebrate the joy and spirit of the Christmas season.

The party is open to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the 2027 members of American Legion Post 217, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 217, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 217, VFW Post 4239, DAV, and 40 & 8. Children must be present to receive a gift from Santa.

***** Registration is required by November 17. Forms available at the Canteen. *****

We are also looking for volunteers to help make this a special day for our children! Whether you enjoy decorating, organizing activities, helping with refreshments, supervising games, or simply lending a hand, we would love to have you join us. Please contact me at (937) 638-9797 if you would like to help.

Honor Guard Appreciation: Thank you to all our Honor Guard members for your dedication and support in participating in various events and honoring our fallen veterans. I especially would like to extend my appreciation to Jack Curl, Don Nuss, Bob Shoffner, and Tony Speelman for presenting the colors at the Sidney High School Football game on September 25, and October 9, 2026. Our Honor Guard provides an honorable presence in our community and reflects great credit upon our organization! Thank you everyone!!

Upcoming Events:

November 3, 2026: Election Day, The Veterans Center is designated one of the voting polls.

November 7, 2026: 2-5 p.m. 2027 Membership Meal-Veterans Center Hall

November 10, 2026: Marine Corps Birthday. Happy Birthday to our Marine Corp Veterans!

November 10, 2026: American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919) Happy Birthday to our Auxiliary members.

November 11, 2026: 9 a.m. Veterans Day Breakfast, Sidney High School Cafeteria, doors open at 8:30 a.m. RSVP to Sidney High School at (937) 497-2238.

November 11, 2026: Happy Veterans Day! 11 a.m. Veterans Day Ceremony, Court Square. Following the ceremony, there will be traditional Beans/Cornbread/Ham at the Veterans Center.

November 11, 2026: 12:45 p.m. Carey Cemetery Dedication Ceremony, Public invited.

November 14, 2026: Ruck N Roll Event, Tawawa Park - 4-hour endurance event supporting veterans' mental health awareness.

November 26, 2026: Happy Thanksgiving

December 4, 2026: Shelby County Council American Legion Meeting, 7 p.m. Anna Post 446

(Christmas Dinner and Grading of the A&G and 4th Grade Flag Education Tests.)

December 7, 2026: Pearl Harbor Day (1941)

December 13, 2026: Members Children Christmas Party, 2-5 p.m. Veterans Center Hall. **Registration Deadline November 17, 2026.**

December 15, 2026: Bill of Rights Day

December 25, 2026: Merry Christmas

January 1, 2027: Happy New Year

January 24, 2027: 2nd District Winter Conference, New Bremen Post 241, 9 a.m.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to ALL Veterans, Active Military, and their families. All of you have sacrificed so much in your lives and deserve nothing but honor and appreciation for everything you have done for this country. Thank you to our Executive Committee, Trustees, and members for providing guidance and support to improve our services. “I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to every volunteer who gives their time and talents in support of our Post, our veterans, and our community.”

“Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” ***~Douglas MacArthur***

Wishing all my Legion Family and Friends a safe, happy, and blessed Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year! I hope one of your New Year’s Resolutions will be to increase your participation and support for our American Legion programs and

projects. Strength in Unity! I look forward to serving with you in 2027!

Judy Johnson,
Commander

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FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

Where is the time going? It feels like I was just writing my message for the newsletter two weeks ago and here it is again, eight weeks later. I am hoping this beautiful weather will continue until about April! I do not enjoy cold weather.

For the 2025/2026 Legion membership year we had 458 members who were paid with a quota of 472, so we had 97.03% of our quota paid last year. You may not know this but, there are several incentives built into the timeline of paying your dues early in the cycle and the post has opportunities to get CASH BACK if we reach high enough memberships by the predetermined dates. These monies can be used for making improvements and funding programs. If we have 65% of our quota paid by November 11th we will get to share with any other posts who achieve this quota goal in a $6,000 cash back bonus split equally. So, if we are able to reach that goal by November 11th and no other post reaches it, we get it all! At our last meeting we had 168 members paid with a quota of 459 for 28.45%. 66 of the paid members are paid up for life (something to think about doing and you never have to worry about increases in rates or remembering to pay your dues each year.) Let's all get together and get our memberships paid before November 11th (VETERANS DAY). We had 8 new members join this past month so I would like to welcome them to the American Legion, and I hope to see them around and hopefully they will join us for our monthly meetings which are the 3rd Tuesday of every month in our meeting room at 6:00 PM. We need all member's ideas and input to help us keep the Legion your Legion.

With November 11th just around the corner, I would like to invite everyone to the Sidney downtown court square on November 11th for our Veterans Day program. It means so much to pay tribute to our Veterans. We will be having Bean Soup at the canteen starting between 11:30 and 12:00 noon for all veterans. Please try to attend both of these events, if possible.

So, as we come up on closing out another calendar year, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe, and Merry Christmas and New Year! May 2027 bring everyone joy and happiness.

Jerry Muhlenkamp,
1st Vice Commander

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HEAD TRUSTEE REPORT

Greetings, Veterans Family and Friends,

Hopefully, you are doing great and staying healthy.

We had a wonderful Veterans Memorial Park Dedication in August. However, we are always striving to improve the park as we continue to honor all whose names appear there. We are thankful for our sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who continues to help us improve our facilities. God Bless them!

Veterans Park Improvements

1. We continue working to make the Veterans Park better for everyone. We now have stainless steel numbers on each side of the brick area to make it easier to find your veteran's brick. We are so thankful to all the special volunteers who assisted with helping clean and maintain our park.
2. We are in the process of obtaining bids for sandblasting and welding the VFW

Post 4239 deuce-and-a-half. We are working together to make things better.

3. We are also working on memorial trees and plaques. We currently have room for 5 trees at $250 each, memorial plaques for the trees are responsibility of the purchaser to place at the base of the tree.

4. If you are interested in having your name on a granite paver, donations are accepted for $100 or more.

5. Veteran bricks are available for $50 each.

6. Anyone who desires to purchase an outside memorial bench with a plaque, please let us know. 1/3 Bench is $300, ½ Bench is $400, and one complete Bench is $750. This includes the cost of the plaque and engraving. Ideally, we would like to purchase two more benches to place on either side of the entrance doors to the Canteen and Banquet Hall.

Quality Steel Fabrication

A special thank you goes to Quality Steel Fabrication for its help with the newest addition to the park, the stainless-steel numbers. We are grateful for all the special people and businesses who help clean, maintain, repair, and improve our property.

Donations and Improvements

1. We are thankful to the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 217 who donated an 85 inch television. Thank you to veteran Mickey Burress, who donated the mounting brackets for the TV. We appreciate everyone who gives of their time, materials, or money to make improvements possible.

2. There is still painting and other work that needs to be completed. We are also looking at replacing the tables and chairs in the meeting room and continuing to clean and organize our storage areas. Some items that are no longer needed may possibly be sold or auctioned.

3. We have two outside storage containers that need additional work, including roofing or covering the area between them. This is another project we hope to address in the near future as we continue improving the property.

4. With winter approaching, we have negotiated a snow removal contract.

5. We are always interested in your feedback. While we may not be able to implement every idea, your suggestions are presented to the appropriate committees for consideration. Funding, available volunteers, or other circumstances may sometimes limit what we can accomplish, but we will continue working together to make improvements whenever possible.

Volunteers Needed

We cannot accomplish everything without volunteers. We are thankful for the Trustees and their great input, which makes my job easier and the many people who step forward to help. However, there are always more projects than there are people and hours available to complete them. We currently have four or five dedicated volunteers who help whenever they can. Because some projects arise with little advance notice and schedules can vary, it is sometimes difficult to establish specific work times. If you have a few hours available and would be willing to help when needed, please let us know. If you see something that needs attention or have a few

hours you can volunteer, please let us know. Every little bit helps.

We also extend our appreciation to our Honor Guard for their continued service. If you are interested in joining this dedicated group of veterans, please let us know.

Thank You

As we remember and celebrate Veterans Day, let us remember all who gave some and those who gave all. We also need to remember our brothers and sisters during their time of need, even more now. God Bless our veterans and those who help serve them. Let us all be thankful for our great country. Let us join together to continue our service.

Thank you to everyone who serves our veterans, supports the Veterans Center, volunteers, donates, and helps us continue moving forward.

May God watch over our Veterans Family and Friends. May we celebrate our faith and remember that even when we face problems, we can continue working together to find solutions. We have many things to be thankful for.

Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas—a wonderful time to reflect on life's blessings—and Happy New Year.

Keep Smiling and Safe Travels,

Jack Curl,
Chair, Board of Property Trustee

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello, Fellow Veterans, Families and Friends,

Life is great, but we all have problems—some big, some small and some HUGE. Sometimes we need to ask for help.

We may not always be the best person to talk about a particular subject, but sometimes life is rough. We need others to have our backs, just as they need us to have theirs. We need to choose our words carefully and watch the tone in our voice as we speak.

I often say that some people could hand you a million dollars and still find a way to irritate you! But we need to help one another, be friendly, and do it without expecting something in return. We need to be helpful in a kind way and not become aggressive. We can have fun with one another, but we should always be careful that our humor never comes at someone else's expense.

We have done great things at the Veterans Center, but we could not have accomplished them without your help and the help of our volunteers.

Working Together

If you see a volunteer or someone making a recommendation or asking a question, remember that we are all working together Sometimes we may take offense at a comment before considering how it was intended. Instead, we need to remember that we are on the same team. God wants us to go forward on the right path. Sometimes we need help, and sometimes we are the ones who can provide that help. We all have the opportunity to work together and to worship in our own way.

Our Faith

Most importantly, I believe in Jesus Christ. We should learn from His example and try to follow Him in our lives. We should not treat our faith in Jesus like a Christmas present—something we open, use once, and then put away in the closet. Our faith should be something we live every day. We need to be a light unto others, just as Jesus is a light unto us.

Christ was present when we were at our lowest, and He is present when we are at our best. We need to remember that we should not only talk about doing what is right, we need to put those words into action. God gives us opportunities to learn from one another, help one another, and come together. We need to make the best of those opportunities. Learn much, help much, set a good example, and don't just talk about it, work at it. Doing what is right may not always be easy, but it is always worth the effort.

During this holiday season, take time to look around you. Someone may be carrying a burden that you cannot see. A kind word, a helping hand, or simply taking the time to listen may mean more than you will ever know.

May God bless you and watch over you.

God Bless All, Jack Curl
Chaplain, Post 217

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FROM THE SONS of AMERICAN LEGION

Hello from Post 217 SAL and Happy Fall. The hot humid summer is over, and the cool crisp air is refreshing. This makes for a great time to stop by the post on the 3rd Monday of odd months at 7 Pm to join us for SAL meeting. Our door is open to new and existing members, and we welcome your ideas and participation in our mission to support Post 217.

Anyone interested in SAL or needing additional info about membership can contact Post 217 SAL Commander, Mike Humphrey at 419-235-9607.

Your SAL Commander,
Michael Humphrey

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FROM THE LEGION AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary once again provided the Breakfast for the "Donuts and Coffee with Veterans" at the Sidney-Shelby County Veterans Center on Friday, October 30th. The ladies prepared a variety of delicious dishes. The Center offers breakfast for Veterans every Friday from 9-11. The next breakfast our Auxiliary will prepare is on January 29,2027.

We recently sent out an Auxiliary Newsletter to all Auxiliary members containing information of all our past and future activities. If you are a member but did not receive one, please let me know.

The Auxiliary and Legion are planning a Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 13th, from 2:00-5:00 pm. Please fill out a registration form at the Legion so Santa knows what gifts to bring. Santa will meet with the children from 2:00-3:30. It will be a fun time for the whole family.

The Membership Dinner is on Saturday, November 7th from 2:00-5:00pm. All Auxiliary members are welcome to attend and enjoy the meal. If you haven't yet paid your dues, you may do so at that time.

Remember our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm.

SPECIAL NOTE: With Veterans Day being on the second Wednesday this year, Our November Auxiliary meeting will be a week later on Wednesday, November 18, at 1:00 pm.

If any of you have new ideas or questions about our unit, please call me at 937-726-9040.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!!

Linda Limbert,
Post 217 Auxiliary President

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Wednesday Bid Euchre Night

All Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members are eligible to join in the fun!

Spouses are welcome.

A Special
"Thank You!"
to our volunteers
who help out
at our Post and
in our Canteen!

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE CANTEEN AND SHARE SOME GOOD TIMES WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

AMERICAN LEGION

Post Officers:

- Judy Johnson, Commander
- Jerry Muhlenkamp, 1st Vice Commander
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton, 2nd Vice Commander
- Patricia Hamberg, Adjutant
- Eric Lunsford, Treasurer
- Jack Curl, Chaplain
- Sherrye Lamma, Post Service Officer

Executive Committee:

- Bill Knasel
- Jerry Muhlenkamp
- Jim Neilan
- Buddy Terry
- Mickey Burress
- Jimmy Sloan

Board of Trustees:

- Jack Curl
- Patricia Hamberg
- Bill Knasel
- Brian Mantor
- Jerry Schmidt
- Gary "Tiny" Stockton

VISIT OUR WEBSITE - WWW.SIDNEYLEGIONPOST217.ORG