

American Legion

Lloyd E Hutcheson

Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves



Volume 5, Issue 3, March 2024



Follow Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/meridianpost113>



IN THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Corner
Chaplain's Corner
Honor Guard
Scouts
Radio Club
Officer Reports

AND MORE

February 2024 Lloyd's Koffee Klatch Breakfast

This Month's Events

(kitchen remodel may impact some events)

~~March 6 — Monthly informal Pot Luck Dinner @ 5:30 pm~~

March 19 – Post Dinner (pizza) & Meeting

March 23 – Lloyd's Koffee Klatch (coffee & donuts) @ 9 am

March 27 – Post HAM Radio Club @ 7 pm

March 29 – Vietnam War Veterans Day

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 2

Commander's Corner – Ralph Cavalieri

It's Leap Day as I write this article and I appreciate the extra day this year. Post 113 is having a really busy year with many exciting and positive things happening.

Plumbing and Kitchen

At our February Post meeting, the Post voted to authorize up to \$20k to bring the building's plumbing and sewer up to current Meridian code requirements. This week, Mark Grothe, Ernest Cook, Dan Pruett, and I met with Veteran's Plumbing to go over the details of the major re-plumbing for our building. The work should be completed in March with a new connection to Meridian City water through a back/low flow preventer, new PEX plumbing throughout the building, and a new grease trap and air gap sewer connections for the kitchen. Led by Mark Grothe, when completed this project will end up with new cabinets in the kitchen and canteen designed and constructed by Dan Pruett, a new epoxy floor in the southwest kitchen, a new-to-us three-bay stainless-steel sink (courtesy of Matt Wrobel), and a new handwash station. During February, our Duty Officers have been assisting in the demolition of the existing cabinetry, etc. While keeping the disruption to a minimum, there will be a few days in March when the Post will be without water and consequently, will have to be closed. I'm sure we will be pleased with this long-overdue improvement to our Post.

Duty Officer Program

Last summer we began a new initiative, that of having the Post open Monday through Friday from 1000 to 1400 to be available to veterans and others who may wish to visit, have a cup of coffee, etc., and learn more about the American Legion and our Post. Beginning with a group of five individuals and subsequently growing to about ten, our Duty Officers have used their time productively. In addition to greeting and interacting with people, several of whom have become members of the Post. The Duty Officers have done light maintenance around the building, and actively conducted Buddy Checks on our membership. This last effort, along with those of our Adjutant, Susan Barnett, has resulted in bringing our roster up to date with correct contact information, and, in some cases, learning of the passing of members. I wish to thank all those who have been engaged in this program. It is improving the Post and is of great value to our members.

Membership Efforts

As I noted last month, the response by the Legionnaires of Post 113 has been nothing short of phenomenal. We currently are at over 111% of our membership goal, having met the 100% goal by December 31, 2023, which won the Post a check for \$1,000 from the Department of Idaho. With leadership from First Vice-Commander Dan Pruett and Adjutant Susan Barnett, and the active support of our members, Post 113, the second-largest post in Idaho, has made an incredible showing in its membership efforts. Congratulations and thanks to all.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 3

Commander's Corner (Continued)

Communications and Member Services

The new electronic sign on the post is one way that we are trying to communicate to the public that many important veteran-related activities are occurring in the Ada County Veterans Building, aka American Legion Post 113. In addition, we have been much more active in making our presence and activities known on Facebook, which I hope you have noticed. In the next few months, you should see a dramatic improvement in our Web presence as we update it. If you have requests or suggestions for how we can better communicate and meet your needs, please contact me.

Honor Guard

Honor Guard Commander Doug Hanks and the faithful members of the Post 113 Honor Guard have continued in their historically busy pattern of providing rifle salutes, presentation of colors, and other honors. In a typical year, the Honor Guard performs over 100 such activities. While February was quiet for the Honor Guard, the coming of Spring will bring many opportunities to render honors. If you would like to help in the Honor Guard, please contact Doug Hanks. The Post provides the uniforms and Doug provides the training.

Oratorical Competition

Led by Second Vice Commander Rich Dees, Post 113's efforts to support the American Legion Oratorical Competition culminated in the hosting of the Department of Idaho Oratorical Competition in February. The competition took place at Meridian City Hall followed by lunch served in our Post. We have high hopes for the Departmental winner to be successful in the National Oratorical Competition later in 2024.

Boys State

Doug Hanks, our Post leader for Boys State and a member of the Department of Idaho Boys State leadership, has been busy making arrangements and recruiting for Boys State this year. As it has in the past, Boys State will take place at Gowen Field and will include activities at the Idaho State Capitol. If you would like to be involved in this unique opportunity to educate the next generation about the American way of government, please contact Doug.

Scout Troop

We have renewed our charter for our Scout Troop, which has been done every year since the late 1940s. We have a boy's troop, a girl's troop, and an adventure troop. It is a privilege to support this fine program, as we have for many decades. If you wish to be involved, please contact Mark Grothe.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 4

Commander's Corner (Continued)

Radio Club

One of the most active areas of our Post, the Radio Club regularly is on the air, conducts license exams, and serves the community. If you are interested, please contact Rich Dees.

Meals and Other Social Events

We have added to our list of meals and social events in several ways. First, thanks to our Adjutant Susan Barnett, we now include breakfast with our once-per-month Lloyd's Koffee Klatch on the fourth Saturday morning of each month. Susan has initiated the breakfasts and they have been well received. We also have added a Pot-Luck meal on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30. Those who have come have enjoyed the camaraderie at such events and have had some culinary surprises. If you haven't been able to make it, please give it a try. And, of course, I can't forget the meals at 1800 before our monthly Post meetings. Susan has been our host along with Janet Cook from the Auxiliary and once a quarter we are hosted by the Scout Troop. We hope to increase activities like these as our kitchen becomes more usable.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to find an area of life at the Post that interests you and join in. And, if you would like to contribute to post leadership, please let me know as we are entering the time of elections for officers.

Very Respectfully,

Ralph Cavalieri

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 5

Chaplains Corner - Dan Pruett



March 2024

"Happy Birthday American Legion"



The American Legion was founded on March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces. The organization was chartered by the U.S. Congress later that year on September 16.

A message from the Chaplain.

As we step into the month of March, let us embrace the spirit of renewal and growth that accompanies the changing seasons. March is a time of transition, where the remnants of winter yield to the promise of spring. In this transition lies a profound lesson – the inevitability of change and the opportunity for new beginnings.

As your chaplain, I encourage you to reflect on the journey of March. Just as the Earth sheds its icy cloak to welcome the warmth of the sun, we too can shed the burdens that weigh us down and embrace the light of hope and possibility.

During this month, let us find strength in the courage of those who have faced adversity and emerged resilient. Like the budding flowers pushing through the thawing ground, may we find the determination to overcome our challenges and bloom with renewed vitality.

Remember, in every ending lies the seed of a new beginning. As we navigate the uncertainties of life, let us hold fast to our faith and trust in the promise of tomorrow. Together, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger on the other side.

May March be a month of growth, renewal, and endless possibilities.

With blessings and warmth,

Dan Pruett, Chaplain, Post 113

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 6

Chaplains Corner (Continued)



Staff Duty Officer volunteers at the post play a vital role in supporting veterans, their families, and communities. They contribute their time, effort, and skills to various programs and initiatives aimed at honoring veterans, advocating for their needs, and fostering a strong sense of community. They give freely of their time to do an important task here at the post.

The dedication and commitment of these volunteers contribute immensely to the American Legion's overarching goals of serving veterans, advocating for their rights, and making a positive impact on society. They are as follows:

- John Brekke Dan Kujawski Ernest Cook
- Kevin Neumann Ralph Cavalieri Dan Pruett
- Thom Juul Jay Romlein Matt Ouellette

After our email campaign asking the members to be a volunteer, won't you consider volunteering for Staff Duty Officer! Just 1 day a month could make a real change!



Are You Curious About Church?



If you're interested in learning more about churches, I encourage you to explore! Churches hold significant cultural, historical, and spiritual value for many people around the world. Whether you're curious about their architecture, religious practices, community involvement, or simply the role they play in society, there's a wealth of

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 7

Chaplains Corner (Continued)

information waiting to be discovered. Don't hesitate to visit churches, read about their histories, attend services or events, or engage in conversations with members of various congregations. Understanding different perspectives and traditions can broaden your knowledge and enrich your appreciation for the diverse tapestry of human experience. So, if you're curious about churches, dive in and explore the fascinating world they encompass!



"March forward with determination, embracing the challenges as opportunities for growth, and let each step you take be fueled by courage and unwavering belief in your abilities."

Morning Prayer For Your Confessions!



**American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette**

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 8

Chaplains Corner (Continued)

If you know of someone who is recovering from a illness, has any health related issue or a death in the family



please contact me at :

208-890-3384 Cell

dan@anywhereusa.org

208-202-5737 X103

American Legion Post 113

And one last thing:



That is all for this month but remember to always:

**Be Grateful, Give Thanks, Be Honest, Stay Humble, Be Kind,
Laugh, Dream Big, Be You and always Love One Another.**

Blessings from Chaplain Dan Pruett

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 9

Membership - Dan Pruett



March 2024
Membership
Report

Membership Status as of 02/22/2024

| <u>Legion</u> | <u>(As of This Date)</u> | <u>SAL</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Dept = 90.21% | | Dept = 76.78% |
| Area B = 95.13% | | Area B = 82.13% |
| Post 113 = 111.50% | | Post 113 = 61.11% |
| Goal 374 Actual 417 | | Goal 36 Actual 22 |

We are continuing to beat our 2023-2024 membership goal. I want to thank everyone for their hard work in making this come true.

Staff Duty Officer:

Attention Post 113,

We are seeking dedicated volunteers to serve as Staff Duty Officers for our organization. This is a crucial role that helps ensure the smooth operation and security of our facilities during the 1000 to 1400 hours that we want the post open. Volunteers will play a vital part in maintaining safety and readiness.

Requirements:

Must be a current veteran in good standing.

- Availability during the 1000-1400 hours.
- Strong sense of responsibility and commitment.
- Ability to handle emergency situations calmly and effectively.
- Excellent communication skills.

Responsibilities:

- Monitor and secure premises during designated shifts.
- Respond to any security or safety incidents as they arise.
- Maintain accurate logs of activities.
- Make a pot of coffee and hot water for hot chocolate!
- Serve as a point of contact for any inquiries or emergencies.
- The link below is to our calendar for Staff Duty Officer. Please click on the link and pick a date to volunteer for Staff Duty Officer.
- <https://calendly.com/meridianamericanlegionpost113>
- Then click on the Post 113 Duty Officer and pick a date that is available.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 10

Membership – (Continued)

Benefits:

- Opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility.
- Gain valuable experience in security management.
- Appreciation and recognition for your contribution to Post 113.
- Possible incentives or rewards for volunteering.
- Pick a date that you can be the Duty Officer of the Day. Copy and paste this address in a web browser.
- **Even 1 day a month will be tremendously helpful.**

If you are interested in volunteering as a Staff Duty Officer, please contact Dan Pruett at 208-890-3384 email post113.1stvice@gmail.com or Ernest Cook at 408-858-1995 email post113.finance@gmail.com. Training will be provided for selected volunteers.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to keeping our American Legion Post 113 safe and secure!

- **American Legion multiyear membership is here.**

Eliminate the yearly hassle of remembering to renew your American Legion membership by taking advantage of the new multiyear membership available to current and potential members. Legionnaires needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can lock-in a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join. It's a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate.

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website.
- Renew now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/renew.
- Join now with a three-year membership by visiting legion.org/join.
- Legionnaires already renewed for 2024 will soon be able to renew under the multi-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.
- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.

Please note: the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is the what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. Once the member renews after the three-year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 11

Membership – (Continued)

Membership Dues Raised:

- At the October 2023 Post meeting we voted to raise our dues to \$55.00 per year starting 7/1/24. National increased their dues by \$5.00 and Post 113 voted to increase their dues by an additional \$5.00.
- The dues increase comes at a time when the need for American Legion advocacy, expertise, influence, services, and programs are needed in every corner of our nation and because of the current membership standings and economy. This is a time to continue supporting the American Legion's ability to serve veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and young people. The increase in dues is needed to prevent National HQ from having to cut programs and services.
- The American Legion's ability to succeed over the next decade depends on a positive cash flow and the ability to invest in the future.
- We are aware of what this increase does to our veterans. But the Post simply cannot survive on the money we would be getting if we hadn't voted to raise our dues.
- This is why it is so important to attend the meetings and be able to cast your vote. We always have a delicious dinner before the meeting starting at 6pm. Please come!

Incentive Program Passed:

- A **\$5.00 discount** for renewing in the month of July 2024, if you renew your membership through our Post 113 adjutant.
- Look for more Incentives in the coming months.

A 1st Vice Challenge:

- Since the PUFLs don't have a pay raise for their dues I am challenging all PUFLs to give a donation of **\$60.00** as a gift paid to the adjutant immediately.
- **We have 104 PUFLs who will be the first to take my challenge?**

Buddy Check Week :

- We are featured by National at Legion.org. Here is the link to that <https://www.legion.org/buddycheck/260287/idaho-post-every-week-buddy-check-week>. (Copy & paste in your browser).
- You can find the on-line interview for our Post Buddy Checks here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PuBOI3GIwI> (Copy & paste in your browser).

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 12

Membership – (Continued)

As Duty Officers rotate each day, they will continue to do Buddy Checks. We will start the calling over and try to get those that we left messages.

Members who have renewed (As Of Dates): Thank you!

- **02/05/24**
 - Robert E Hitchcock, John Crow, Richard A Foster, William J Orton Jr, Dustin Gardiner
- **02/18/24**
 - Edward F Decouto, Robert A Ambrose, James E Montgomery Jr, Olan Anderson, George H Fitz, Robert C Mitchell, Harry D Hall, Dustin Gardiner, Christopher C Cook, James R Novak, Donald L Hook, Brent Myers, William L Johnson, Harry E Lear Jr, Milan P Kovach, Wesely J Musser, Eric C Anderson, Johnny W Beal, John G Evans, Thomas Martin Heinrich
- **02/28/24**
 - Gerry J Ulwelling, Dale Ruch, William A Patten III, Albert Tikker, Raymond Stevens, Floyd F Reichert, Terrance L Yeager

Members who are deceased as of 03/01/24:

By the grace of God

- **Happy to report that we haven't had any more deceased since February report.**

That is all for this month but remember to always:

Be Grateful, Give Thanks, Be Honest, Stay Humble, Be Kind, Laugh, Dream Big, Be You and always Love One Another.

Blessings,

Dan Pruett

1st Vice President

American Legion

Post 113 Meridian ID

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 13

HONOR GUARD – Doug Hanks



POST 113 HONOR GUARD
FEBRUARY 2024 HONORS
By DOUG HANKS



Honors February 2024 “1”

Total for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 “61”

Hours February 2024 “10” Fiscal Year Total “796”

DONATIONS FEBRUARY 2024 “\$150.00” TOTAL YEAR “\$3010.00”

A LOT OF HARD WORK, TIME, AND EFFORT MAKES YOUR HONOR GUARD THE BEST

ANOTHER “LITTLE KNOWN” WAR

UNITED STATES INVASION OF PANAMA

The [United States](#) invaded [Panama](#) in mid-December 1989 during the presidency of [George H. W. Bush](#). The primary purpose of the invasion was to depose the *de facto* ruler of Panama, General [Manuel Noriega](#), who was wanted by U.S. authorities for [racketeering](#) and [drug trafficking](#). The operation, codenamed **Operation Just Cause**, concluded in late January 1990 with the surrender of Noriega.^[9] The [Panama Defense Forces](#) (PDF) were dissolved, and President-elect [Guillermo Endara](#) was sworn into office.

Noriega, who had longstanding ties to United States intelligence agencies, consolidated power to become Panama's *de facto* dictator in the early 1980s. In the mid-1980s, relations between Noriega and the U.S. began to deteriorate due to fallout of the murder of [Hugo Spadafora](#) and the removal of [Nicolas Ardito Barletta](#). His criminal activities and association with other spy agencies came to light, and in 1988 he was indicted by federal [grand juries](#) on several drug-related charges. Negotiations seeking his resignation, which began under the presidency of [Ronald Reagan](#), were ultimately unsuccessful. In 1989, Noriega annulled the results of the [Panamanian general elections](#), which appeared to have been won by opposition candidate Guillermo Endara; President Bush responded by reinforcing the U.S. garrison in the [Canal Zone](#). After a U.S. Marine officer was shot dead at a PDF roadblock, Bush authorized the execution of the Panama invasion plan.

On December 20, the U.S. invasion of Panama began. Panamanian forces were rapidly overwhelmed, although operations continued for several weeks. Endara was sworn in as president shortly after the start of the invasion. Noriega eluded capture for several days before seeking refuge in the [Holy See](#) diplomatic mission in Panama City. He surrendered on January 3, 1990, and was then flown to the U.S., where he was tried, convicted and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 14

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

The Pentagon estimated that 516 Panamanians were killed during the invasion, including 314 soldiers and 202 civilians. A total of 23 U.S. soldiers and 3 U.S. civilians were killed. The [United Nations General Assembly](#) and the [Organization of American States](#) both condemned the invasion as a violation of international law. The United States invasion of Panama can be seen as a rare example of [democratization](#) by [foreign-imposed regime change](#), which was effective long-term.^[10]

In the late 20th century, the United States had maintained numerous military bases and a substantial garrison throughout the [Canal Zone](#) to protect and maintain American control of the strategically important [Panama Canal](#). On September 7, 1977, [U.S. President Jimmy Carter](#) and the *de facto* leader of Panama, General [Omar Torrijos](#), signed the Torrijos–Carter Treaties, which set in motion the process of handing over the canal to Panamanian control by 2000. Although the canal was destined for Panamanian administration, the military bases remained and one condition of the transfer was that the canal would remain open to American shipping. The U.S. had long-standing relations with Torrijos' successor, General [Manuel Noriega](#), who served as a U.S. intelligence asset and paid informant of the [Central Intelligence Agency](#) (CIA) from 1967, including the period when [George H. W. Bush](#) was [director](#) of the agency (1976–77).^[11]

Noriega had sided with the U.S. rather than the [Soviet Union](#) in [Central America](#), notably in sabotaging the forces of the [Sandinista](#) government in Nicaragua, and the revolutionaries of the [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front](#) (FMLN) in El Salvador. Noriega received upward of \$100,000 per year from the 1960s until the 1980s, when his salary was increased to \$200,000 per year.^[12] Although he worked with the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) (DEA) to restrict [illegal drug shipments](#), Noriega was known to simultaneously accept significant financial support from drug dealers and facilitate the [laundering](#) of drug money.^[11] These drug dealers received protection from DEA investigations due to Noriega's special relationship with the CIA.^[13]

In the mid-1980s, relations between Noriega and the U.S. began to deteriorate. In 1986, U.S. President [Ronald Reagan](#) opened negotiations with Noriega, requesting that the Panamanian leader step down after his criminal activities were publicly exposed in *The New York Times* by [Seymour Hersh](#).^[14] Reagan pressured Noriega with several drug-related [indictments](#) in U.S. courts; however, since [extradition](#) laws between Panama and the U.S. were weak, Noriega deemed this threat not credible and did not submit to Reagan's demands.^[15] In 1988, [Elliot Abrams](#) and others in the [Pentagon](#) began pushing for a U.S. invasion. Reagan refused due to Bush's ties to Noriega through his previous positions in the CIA and their potentially negative impact on Bush's [presidential campaign](#).^[16] Later negotiations involved dropping the drug-related indictments.

In March 1988, Noriega's forces resisted an attempted *coup d'état* against his regime. As relations continued to deteriorate, Noriega appeared to shift his Cold War allegiance toward the Soviet bloc, soliciting and receiving military aid from [Cuba](#), Nicaragua, and [Libya](#).^[17] U.S. military planners began preparing contingency plans to invade Panama.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 15

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

In September 1988, Panamanian authorities reported that they had arrested 16 people on suspicion of plotting another coup d'etat. Twelve of the conspirators were alleged to be part of the "National Patriotic Committee", a U.S.-supported guerrilla group that sought to oust Noriega. Panamanian newspaper *Critica* claimed that the plot had been financed by the United States.^[18]

In May 1989, during the [Panamanian national elections](#), an alliance of parties opposed to the Noriega regime counted results from the country's election precincts, before they were sent to the district centers. Their tally showed their candidate, [Guillermo Endara](#), defeating [Carlos Duque](#), candidate of a pro-Noriega coalition, by nearly 3–1. Endara was physically assaulted by Noriega supporters the next day in his motorcade.^[11] Noriega declared the election null and [maintained power by force](#), making him unpopular among Panamanians. Noriega's regime insisted that it had won the presidential election and that irregularities had been on the part of U.S.-backed candidates from opposition parties.^[19] President Bush called on Noriega to honor the will of the Panamanian people while the U.S. reinforced its Canal Zone garrison, and increased the tempo of training and other activities intended to put pressure on Noriega.^{[11][20]}

In October 1989, Noriega foiled [another coup attempt](#) by members of the [Panama Defense Forces](#) (PDF), led by Major [Moisés Giroldi](#).^[21] Bush, under mounting pressure, declared that the U.S. would not negotiate with a drug trafficker and denied knowledge of Noriega's involvement with the drug trade prior to his February 1988 indictment, although he had met with Noriega as CIA director and had been chair of the Task Force on Drugs while [Vice President](#).^[22] On December 15, the Panamanian general assembly passed a resolution declaring that a state of war existed between Panama and the United States.^{[23][24][25]}

1st Lt Robert Paz, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines

On the night following the war declaration, at approximately around 9:00 p.m., four U.S. military personnel were stopped at a roadblock outside PDF headquarters in the [El Chorrillo](#) neighborhood of [Panama City](#). [Marine](#) Captain Richard E. Hadded, [Navy](#) Lieutenant Michael J.

Wilson, [Army](#) Captain Barry L. Rainwater and Marine First Lieutenant Robert Paz had left the U.S. base at [Fort Clayton](#) and were on their way to have dinner at the Marriott Caesar Park Hotel in downtown Panama City. The Pentagon reported that the servicemen had been unarmed, were in a private vehicle and attempted to flee only after their vehicle was surrounded by an angry crowd of civilians and PDF troops. The PDF asserted later that the Americans were armed and on a [reconnaissance](#) mission. The PDF opened fire and Paz was fatally wounded by a round that entered the rear of the vehicle and struck him in the back. Hadded, the driver of the vehicle, was also wounded in the foot. Paz was rushed to [Gorgas Army Hospital](#) but died of his wounds; he received the [Purple Heart](#) posthumously.^[26]

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 16

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

According to U.S. military sources, a U.S. Naval officer, [SEAL](#) Lieutenant Adam Curtis, and his wife, Bonnie, witnessed the incident and were detained by PDF troops.^[27] While in police custody, Curtis was beaten and his wife threatened with [sexual assault](#). Curtis spent two weeks in the hospital recovering from the beating.^[23] On December 16 Bush ordered the execution of the Panama invasion plan; the military set [H-Hour](#) as 0100 on December 20.^[28]

U.S. rationale^[edit]

The official U.S. rationale for the invasion was articulated by President Bush on the morning of December 20, 1989, a few hours after the start of the operation. Bush cited Panama's declaration of a state of war with the United States and attacks on U.S. troops as [justification for the invasion](#).^[31]

Bush further identified four objectives of the invasion:

- Safeguarding the lives of U.S. citizens in Panama. In his statement, Bush stated that Noriega had declared that a state of war existed between the U.S. and Panama and had threatened the lives of the approximately 35,000 U.S. citizens living there. There had been numerous clashes between U.S. and Panamanian forces; one U.S. Marine had been killed a few days earlier.
- Defending democracy and human rights in Panama.
- Combating drug trafficking. Panama had become a center for drug money laundering and a transit point for drug trafficking to the U.S. and Europe.
- Protecting the integrity of the Torrijos–Carter Treaties. Members of [Congress](#) and others in the U.S. political establishment claimed that Noriega threatened the neutrality of the Panama Canal and that the U.S. had the right under the treaties to intervene militarily to protect the canal.^[32]

U.S. forces were instructed to begin maneuvers and activities within the restrictions of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, such as ignoring PDF roadblocks and conducting short-notice "Category Three" [military exercises](#) on security-sensitive targets, with the express goal of provoking PDF soldiers. U.S. [SOUTHCOM](#) kept a list of abuses against U.S. servicemen and civilians by the PDF while the orders to incite PDF soldiers were in place.^[16]

As for the Panamanian legislature's war declaration, Noriega insisted in his memoirs^[33] that this declaration referred to a state of war directed by the U.S. against Panama, in the form of what he claimed were harsh [economic sanctions](#) and provocative military maneuvers ([Operations Purple Storm](#) and [Sand Flea](#))^[citation needed] that were prohibited by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 17

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

Bush's four reasons for the invasion provided sufficient justification to establish bipartisan Congressional approval and support. However, the secrecy before the invasion's initiation, the speed and success of the invasion itself, and U.S. public support for it (80% public approval)^[34] did not allow Democratic lawmakers to object to Bush's decision to use military force.^[34] One contemporary study suggests that Bush decided to invade for domestic political reasons, citing scarce strategic reasoning for the U.S. to invade and immediately withdraw without establishing the structure to enforce the interests that Bush used to justify the invasion.^[34]

**To request flag folding, taps or rifle salute, please contact a Post 113 officer or Doug Hanks,
208-809-7519**

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

HONOR GUARD (Continued)

[illegible]

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 19

Scouts – Mark Grothe

The Scouts had a successful fundraiser event that was held on Feb 10th at the Meridian United Methodist Church.



American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 20

Post Meeting Minutes - Susan Barnett

The February 2024 Post meeting minutes will be published and distributed in the March Post 113 Meeting email.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 21

Amateur Radio Club -

N7LGN — Post 113 Amateur Radio Club

By: Yers Trooly a.k.a., Richard Dees



"Elmer in the House" seemed to be a success. We had many people attend. John Kernkamp and Ken Kaae assessed radios, and several other people were programming radios. Using some hand-held radios, we got at least one person "on the air" for the first time. I heard conversations that ranged from radios to antennas to operating events. I was especially surprised to have an "Eye Ball QSO" with a friend of mine who I met on the air some time ago, but never in person.

We also learned a few things about programming different types of radios. The idea was to use Chirp to program most radios, but we found out that one size does not fit all. Chirp was unable to program all the radios that people had. I think we were about 50% successful. We are going to have to think about that for future events.

We had some suggestions to include demonstrations during the event. Great idea! For the next Elmer in the House event, we are going to pursue having someone show the crowd a POTA (Parks on the Air) set. We can feature different things at future events. Open to suggestions!

Our next Elmer in the House will be March 24, 2024. We had to slip it a week from what will be our normal time because the Post has a scheduled event. Also, because of a request, I am moving the time to 3:00 PM. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Test session this month will be on March 20, 2024 at the Post. Start time is 10:00 AM.

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 22

Post Adjutant - Susan Barnett

| Money handled by Post 113 Adjutant | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| 2/1/2024-2/28/2024 | | | | | |
| Post Account | Amount | | | invoice # | |
| 23-Jan | \$5.00 | cash | coffee | | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 26-Jan | \$90.00 | check | dues (2) members 2023 | 2401260039 | deposited 1/30/2024 |
| 27-Jan | \$180.00 | cash & Checks | \$20 cash- dues (4) members | 2401280051 | deposited 1/30/2024 |
| 27-Jan | \$59.07 | check #5431 | supplies for post breakfast- (Winco) | | money spent |
| 27-Jan | \$164.00 | cash | Koffee Klatch/Breakfast Dues Dylan Holtzclaw | 2401290046 | deposited 1/30/2024 |
| 2-Feb | \$1.80 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 5-Feb | \$225.00 | checks | dues (5) members | 2402050026 | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 13-Feb | \$10.37 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| 16-Feb | \$315.00 | checks | dues (7) members | 2402280111 | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| 17-Feb | \$20.00 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 17-Feb | \$33.00 | cash | oratorical lunch donations | | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 18-Feb | \$900.00 | checks | dues (20) members for 2021,2022 and 2023 | 2402180401 | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 23-Feb | \$31.00 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| 24-Feb | \$3.86 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| 24-Feb | \$104.36 | Check #5432 | supplies for post breakfast- (Winco) | | money spent |
| 24-Feb | \$174.04 | cash | feb breakfast donations | | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| 27-Feb | \$1.00 | cash | coffee donations | | deposited 2/28/2024 |
| | | | | | |
| S.A.L. account | Amount | | | invoice # | |
| 26-Jan | \$ 15.00 | check | dues 1 member | 2401290043 | deposited 1/30/2024 |
| 5-Feb | 60 | check | dues (3) members- 1 for 2 years | 2402050028 | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| | | | | | |
| Radio Club account | Amount | | | | |
| 9-Feb | \$ 35.00 | check | dues | | deposited 2/9/2024 |
| | | | | | |
| Building Account | Amount | | | | |
| 9-Feb | \$10,000.00 | check | ada county grant | | deposited 2/20/2024 |
| 9-Feb | \$9.06 | cash | refund from equip exchange gem state | | deposited 2/20/2024 |

American Legion

Lloyd E Hutcheson

Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 23

Finance Report – Ernest Cook

- On a high level, the post has approximately 7K more income and 2.5K less expenses than the budgeted amount. This provides us with a total of \$9.7K more funds available than budgeted.
- At the February meeting, we voted to increase the budget for the kitchen improvements by \$14,000. The total estimated expenditure for all steps of updating the kitchen area is now \$20,000.

8:32 PM

02/20/24

Accrual Basis

AMERICAN LEGION POST 113

Organization position

As of February 20, 2024

| | Feb 20, 24 | Feb 20, 23 | \$ Change | % Change |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | | |
| BLDG ACCT at ICCU | 29,741.79 | 16,440.51 | 13,301.28 | 80.9% |
| Ham Radio | 1,996.51 | 1,387.51 | 609.00 | 43.9% |
| POST ACCT at ICCU | 28,041.45 | 18,583.68 | 9,457.77 | 50.9% |
| SAL | 570.73 | 677.18 | -106.45 | -15.7% |
| SAVINGS at ICCU | 1,924.03 | 1,922.82 | 1.21 | 0.1% |
| Total Checking/Savings | 62,274.51 | 39,011.70 | 23,262.81 | 59.6% |
| Total Current Assets | 62,274.51 | 39,011.70 | 23,262.81 | 59.6% |
| Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Furniture and Equipment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Land | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total Fixed Assets | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 63,274.51 | 40,011.70 | 23,262.81 | 58.1% |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Credit Cards | 130.41 | 0.00 | 130.41 | 100.0% |
| Total Current Liabilities | 130.41 | 0.00 | 130.41 | 100.0% |
| Total Liabilities | 130.41 | 0.00 | 130.41 | 100.0% |
| Equity | | | | |
| Designated Assets | 10,000.00 | 6,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 66.7% |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 31,528.84 | 35,471.17 | -3,942.33 | -11.1% |
| Net Income | 21,615.26 | -1,459.47 | 23,074.73 | 1,581.0% |
| Total Equity | 63,144.10 | 40,011.70 | 23,132.40 | 57.8% |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 63,274.51 | 40,011.70 | 23,262.81 | 58.1% |

American Legion

Lloyd E Hutcheson

Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 24

Finance Report (Continued)

6:23 PM

02/20/24

Accrual Basis

AMERICAN LEGION POST 113

Budget vs Actual

July 2023 through January 2024

| | Jul '23 - Jan 24 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Unknown Deposit slips | 43 | | 43 |
| Dues Income | 4,488 | 1,800 | 2,688 |
| Honor Guard | 3,040 | 1,750 | 1,290 |
| Ada County Contribution | 10,000 | 10,000 | |
| Rental - building useage | 5,900 | 4,083 | 1,817 |
| Other Types of Income | 1,581 | | 1,581 |
| Total Income | 25,052 | 17,633 | 7,418 |
| Expense | | | |
| Facilities | | | |
| Building Cleaning Services | 500 | 3,500 | (3,000) |
| Building Insurance | 2,480 | 1,400 | 1,080 |
| Building MGR | 1,050 | 1,050 | |
| Lawn | 896 | 750 | 146 |
| Operations and Maintenance | 1,271 | 1,750 | (479) |
| Remodel and Repairs | | | |
| Exterior sign | 420 | | 420 |
| Remodel and Repairs - Other | 31 | | 31 |
| Total Remodel and Repairs | 451 | | 451 |
| Utilities | 3,342 | 3,087 | 256 |
| Total Facilities | 9,970 | 11,537 | (1,567) |
| Post Operations | | | |
| Accounting Costs | 0 | | 0 |
| Insurance - Liability, D and O | 257 | | 257 |
| Office Miscellaneous | 1,441 | 88 | 1,353 |
| Post Office Box Rental | 176 | 134 | 42 |
| Postage, Mailing Service | 264 | 146 | 118 |
| Web site | 99 | 121 | (22) |
| Total Post Operations | 2,237 | 488 | 1,749 |
| Program Expenses | | | |
| Post gatherings, net | | | |
| Post gatherings | 151 | 350 | (199) |
| Donations received-offset costs | (325) | | (325) |
| Koffee klatch | 167 | 88 | 80 |
| Total Post gatherings, net | (7) | 438 | (445) |
| Commanders Discretionary fund | | 292 | (292) |
| Badges, awards, patches, etc | 171 | 292 | (120) |
| Donations | | | |
| Idaho Veterans Home | | 500 | (500) |
| Wreaths Across America | 98 | 200 | (102) |
| Total Donations | 98 | 700 | (602) |
| Honor Guard | 99 | 600 | (501) |
| Membership fees | 25 | 25 | |
| Raffles | 132 | | 132 |
| Youth Programs | | | |
| Boy Scout Projects | | 200 | (200) |
| Halloween Event | 100 | | 100 |
| Youth Christmas Party | 318 | 300 | 18 |
| Oratory Contest | | 600 | (600) |
| Total Youth Programs | 418 | 1,100 | (682) |
| Total Program Expenses | 936 | 3,446 | (2,510) |

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 25

Finance Report (Continued)

6:23 PM

02/20/24

Accrual Basis

AMERICAN LEGION POST 113
Budget vs Actual
July 2023 through January 2024

| | Jul '23 - Jan 24 | Budget | \$ Over Budget |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Travel and Meetings | 150 | 180 | (30) |
| Total Expense | 13,293 | 15,651 | (2,358) |
| Net Ordinary Income | 11,759 | 1,982 | 9,777 |
| Net Income | 11,759 | 1,982 | 9,777 |

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 26

Service Officer's Report – John Brekke

The following summarizes the February 2024 Service Officer announcements for American Legion Post 113

Idaho Property Tax Reduction

Just like last year, Veterans Property Tax Reduction Benefit reduces property taxes for qualified veterans with a 100% service-connected disability or receive 100% compensation due to individual unemployability. However, according to Idaho law you must submit a request for this benefit each year. If you qualify, the property taxes on your home and up to one acre of land might be reduced by as much as \$1,500.00. The program doesn't have an income limit. If the state granted this benefit to a qualifying veteran who then dies, the surviving spouse may use it for that current property. This benefit isn't transferrable to a new property.

<https://idahotap.gentax.com/TAP/ /#2>

Idaho Absentee Voting

Some Idahoans must vote by absentee for a variety of reasons. Idaho law requires that you must submit a request to vote by absentee each year. If you wish to vote by absentee, your request must be received by your applicable county clerk's office by the 11th day prior to the election. You may still cast an absentee ballot in person at the absent elector's polling place (usually the county clerk's office) up until 5 p.m. the Friday before an election. You may submit a request to vote by absentee online by using the URL below or by submitting a request using a paper absentee ballot to your applicable county clerk office. The URL below also allows you to check your voting record to make certain you're eligible to vote.

<https://voteidaho.gov/online-voter-tools/>

Boise State Veterans Home

The Boise State Veterans Home is slated to begin construction of the new Home (on the same grounds as the current Home) by May 2024. The Lewiston State Veterans Home should begin their remodel project next year and the Pocatello Home in the next 2-3 years. Once complete, all four State Veterans Homes will be single bed/single bathrooms. That's the good news! The bad news is government roadblocks are getting in the way.

https://www.idahopress.com/news/local/stop-playing-politics-idaho-leaders-sound-alarm-on-imperiled-veterans-home-projects/article_cbe4356c-cb79-11ee-b741-3f3a0bb8d259.html

Proposal To Extend Presumed Areas of Exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides

Early this month the Veterans Administration (VA) issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, the VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam. Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States, Canada and India in addition to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/va-presumes-exposure-agent-orange-herbicides/>

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 27

Service Officer's Report (Continued)

Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claim/Lawsuit

If you want to file a Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claim/Lawsuit, it must be submitted before August 10, 2024.

The Department of Justice is proposing to move Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water claims (lawsuits) more quickly by establishing set payout amounts depending on what conditions a veteran/family member had and how long they were actually at Camp Lejeune.

<https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/Press-Releases/display-pressreleases/Article/3516646/departments-of-the-navy-and-department-of-justice-announce-voluntary-elective-op/>

To Get Reimbursed for Post-2010 Emergency Medical Expenses, Apply by February. 22, 2024

In 2023 the Veterans Administration (VA) announced that it had created a unique, one-year open period during which veterans enrolled in VA Health Care can apply for VA reimbursement of their emergency medical expenses at non-VA facilities for emergencies that occurred at any time after February 1, 2010 – that is, during the last 14 years. This right to a VA reimbursement decision applies even if the veteran was denied reimbursement or did not apply for reimbursement in the past. But VA has made clear that it will not decide whether the veteran is entitled to reimbursement unless the veteran files a reimbursement claim on or before February 22, 2024. To file a reimbursement claim, a veteran must complete and sign VA Form 10-583 and mail or deliver it to the nearest VA medical facility to where you live.

<https://www.nvlsp.org/news-and-events/press-releases/alert-to-get-reimbursed-for-post-2010-emergency-medical-expenses-vets-must>

<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/file-a-claim.asp>

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/12/19/millions-of-vets-got-health-care-and-benefits-under-pact-act-thousands-left-out-want-same-chance.html>

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 28

American Legion Auxiliary – No update this month

American Legion
Lloyd E Hutcheson
Post 113 Bugle Gazette

For God and Country, We Associate Ourselves

Page 29

Post 113 Officers for 2023 – 2024

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Commander | Ralph Cavalieri | 208/336-0012 | rpcavalieri@gmail.com |
| Adjutant | Susan Barnett | 208/550-7395 | suekbarnett764@gmail.com |
| 1 st Vice Commander | Dan Pruett | 208/890-3384 | dan@anywhereusa.org |
| 2 nd Vice Commander | Richard Dees (aka Yers Trooly) | 208/888-1343 | rjdee@aol.com |
| Finance Officer | Ernest Cook | 408/858-1995 | post113.finance@gmail.com |
| Service Officer | John Brekke | 801/989-6764 | John.Brekke25@gmail.com |
| Chaplain | Dan Pruett | 208/890-3384 | dan@anywhereusa.org |
| Past Commander | Richard Dees | 208/888-1343 | rjdee@aol.com |
| Sgt-At-Arms | Al Carlson | 208/320-7264 | alcarlson72@gmail.com |