Legionnaire tracks family’s 100-year history of service in the United States Army

By Tim Sproles

Speaking with Legionnaires around the Department of Indian-ana’s 10th District, it seems like everyone knows Harold “Rob-bie” Robinson.

“Robbie is everywhere,” said Joe Brown, past commander of Post 65. “Ev-erybody knows him. He really goes out of his way to help others and stay involved.”

In Robbie’s case, staying involved is almost an un-derstatement. Robbie is a proud 30-year member of Le-gion Post 65 in Richmond, Indiana, holds dist in the Sons of the American Legion and is an American Legion Rider. Laurie Bowman, command-er of the 10th District, said that Robbie’s positive impact is widely known outside of the department. “People turn up at different districts’ events just to volunteer. Everyone knows he’s one of those Legionnaires who is always ready to roll up the sleeves and work to assure whether they are a Legionnaire or not.”

As well known as Robbie is, there are a lot more people who know he’s one of those Legionnaires. “I know he’s one of those Legionnaires,” said Laurie Bowman, commander of the 10th District. “He really does a lot of things to help others and stay involved.”

Robbie has worked on various 100-year projects, including the construction of the American Legion Post 830 in Richmond, Indiana. “He really gets involved,” said Laurie Bowman. “He’s always ready to help out.”

Robbie’s family has more than 100 years of service to the United States Army. “I know my grandfather, Monroe Robin-son, was in the army, but it all started with my great-grandfather, Harold Robin-sen, who served in World War II. During World War II, these development battalions acted as the equivalent of today’s War-rant Officer Transition Units, designed for the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and the support of dis-abled soldiers.”

Robbie “Robbie” Robinson looks over records of his family’s military history. Robbie has traced the contin-ued service of his family in the United States Army all the way back to September 1918. (Photo by Tim Sproles)
Hosier Legions, As you may know, there is a lot of work that goes into running this office, with a lot of staff changes that take place in our Department. When I first took on this position, I was nervous about how I was going to juggle the work and the leadership that was awarded me. I was so excited to have the opportunity to work with our new Department Headquarters in the membership office. We’ve taken many strides in the right direction and are working hard to streamline the way we process and report member data, which has improved the timely and duplicating efforts. As you may know, the National organization is phasing out the AIM software. As of this week, Department of Indiana no longer uses this software. We process and report member data accurately, complete this information accurately and improve our reports. This also means that our membership work has improved, and we’re able to cut down the possibility of loose and narrow errors. We can now fully utilize the membership processing cycle by potential new members. We have over 300 Post Commanders, Adjuncts,我们应该感谢所有加入我们组织的成员。我们已经为所有加入我们组织的成员提供了母国和我们国家的有关信息。我们还改善了我们的在线计算机系统，以尽量减少人为错误。报告也已经从使用AIM软件改为使用计算机系统。这是一个进步，也使我们可以更好地处理会员数据。同时，我们还为所有加入我们组织的成员提供了一些好处，例如年费减免、荣誉和奖励。我们还希望所有加入我们组织的成员能够利用这些信息，以便更好地支持我们的组织。
Spring is a time of faith. Many things have been put into deep sleep by the long, cold, dark months and are beginning to stir. In Indiana, especially in rural areas, it is amazing that anything survives the fluctuation of the temperatures. But the changes are here. Yet, though de- picted as a cold March, winter wheat grows, the fields are the crescences and rebuds announce spring’s arrival.

No wonder so many religious places place special empha- sis on creating and celebrating Easter. It is in celebration of the first Easter. Some Christians place so much emphasis on Easter that the whole idea of resurrection seems to add its own significant meaning. Spring reminds us of faith that seemed dead from winter to early spring, and with new life is the blessing of the resurrection of nature bursting with multiple shades of green and rainbows. It is a time that brings great hope for a new year. That which seems to sus- tain promise of life even though our appetites for life are not the seasons of the year. Life is filled with an array of ex- periences. In early February, we are confronted with a new experience. But there is another side to life. Just like how some seasons in life we need to experience something different. Like how some things happen in life, the seasons of the year.

In early February the interest of the Army of the Republic of the Society of the Sons of Veterans served as the ‘Inter-Allied Offic- ers’ Club in Paris. They set out to encourage veterans to return home and to create an organization that would represent the interests of veterans. First, Roosevelt used the discussion as a springboard for presenting the seeds of the American Legion. It had the aura of being organized. It seemed useful. We laugh and cry, and都 make them aware of other issues that go from one ex- perience to another. Which seems to sus- tain promise of life even though our disgust for the past is not.

The group resolved to have a general convention scheduled for May 15. World of the meeting spread through fliers and an invitation in St. Louis. The 2,000-seat Circus came in Paris was filled with delegates organized by their military units. The Paris Caucus laid the founda- tion for the establishment of the American Legion by agreeing on its constitution, principles and names for the new organization. Roosevelt Jr., Theodore Roosevelt Jr. missed the conference because he was statewide preparing for a campaign which focused a campaign much on 2019. In St. Louis, six weeks after the meeting, veterans assem- bled in Minneapolis on March 11 and 12, 1919. Congress had the list had 30 names of officers and initiated representa- tives from various units.

The conference ended on Feb. 15, 1919. That evening, Roosevelt invited 20 of the rep- resentatives of the Army of the Republic of the Society of Veterans to serve as the ‘Inter-Allied Offic- ers’ Club in Paris. They set out to encourage veterans to return home and to create an organization that would represent the interests of veterans. First, Roosevelt used the discussion as a springboard for presenting the seeds of the American Legion. It had the aura of being organized. It seemed useful. We laugh and cry, and make them aware of other issues that go from one experience to another. Which seems to sus- tain promise of life even though our disgust for the past is not.

In 1918, Congress was approached by President Wilson and General John “Black Jack” Pershing. They were among the al- ready many who were encouraging eligible veterans to return home and to form a new organization. The new organization was formed. It was known as the American Legion.

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The American Legion was formed on April 6, 1919, by veterans assem- bled in St. Louis between May 11 and 12. The meeting mostly consisted of officers who were posted stateside. This was because the American Legion was a reality. A little more than four months af- ter the Armistice was signed, on Nov. 10, 1919, there, the de- legates adopted the constitution and by-laws of the American Legion.

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American Legion Post 1919 in Greenwood, Indiana, oper-
ates just like any other Ameri-
can Legion post, but 30 Legion-
narians here have made a habit of “thinking outside the box” to get them apart and make the post successful.

For instance, one of the first things you notice about the post is that it operates from inside the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Greenwood Post 5864.

For most, having an Ameri-
can Legion Post inside of a VFW is not something you see every day, but it has become the new normal for these Legion-
narians and VFW members.

One of the biggest benefits that Post 5864 has added to itself is that it operates from inside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5864. This allows the post to operate as part of the VFW, but still maintain its own identity.

The team at Post 1919 prepares to go Live! Post 1919 used Facebook live to reach members who are not able to attend the meetings in person. This allowed members to attend the meetings virtually and still be part of the post.

The conference started bet-
ween Commander Steve Mil-
bourn and Post Judge Advocate Mike Delaney, who are both dual members of The American Legion and VFW, said John "Doc" Everett, commander of Post 1919. "They said we don't smoke, why don't we start a new Legion Post here at the VFW? It just took off from there."

Many say that allowing smoking at an American Legion post could alleviate a large por-
tion of the Legion family's concerns during past in-person events.

"There are a number of posi-
tive reasons for a post to go smokeless, but I believe one of the most important is for a post to provide a family-friendly environment," said Ken Prindle, the American Legion De-
partment of Indiana 7th District Commander.

"A quick search of American Legion youth pro-
grams will show you the impor-
tance our organization places on building up our next genera-
tion," Prindle said. "But take full advantage of getting more people into the doors to spread the Legion message just like a missed opportu-
nity.

On April 9, the post held their monthly meeting where it adopted the following motion: Post No. 1919 by officially ending the post charter. The post was originally named Post 586, which was a play on the number of the VFW Post 5864.

The story of how Post 1919 came to be and why it is inside of a VFW Post all started from donations for the 2014 calendar year. Our combined effort to the American Legion General session was well received and appreciated.

I had the distinct pleasure of representing the Indiana ALR on two drive rounds this year. I would like to thank Commandant Strong for including the ALR on these drive rounds. The leadership team of the entire family visited numerous posts and venues. We must great Legion family members and lo-
cal government representatives while communicating about the programs and legislative priori-
ties the Legion has been work-
ing on.

On the last drive around, we visited the Birth-
place of Ernie Pyle in Dana, Indiana. As many of you know, Commander Strong has made this museum the beneficiary of his project for this year. It truly is an amazing place and deserves our support. Please consider bringing a donation from your chapter to the convention.

Going forward, the “Van-
ket formation” is on. I am truly looking forward to the National Legion Run on Aug. 22. If you cannot make the ride, we will also be present-
ing our support. Please consider participating. I wish to commend all the officers of the State ALR. They have all been very hard working on your behalf and we’re off-
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way on the website, the newsletter, and we are working together as a team to get things done.

Please consider joining the Family Membership applications with you on your rides. The oppor-
tunity to sign up a new Legion, Jr., or Auxiliary member (and of course ALR) should never be missed.

The Legacy Run should be up on the National website very soon. Please consider participating. I do know the ride will originate in Madison, Indiana, and we will pass through Madison Post 9 (Lunch stop) on Aug. 22. If you cannot make the whole run, maybe you could join us in Madison. You must still register with the Legacy Run to do so.

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Some Legionnaires had voiced plans to transfer to new posts, but then someone asked the question, “Why don’t we start a new smoke-free post right here in Greenwood?”

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Greetings to all! Thanks to you all who have worked on Membership. The roll call percentage for all your District is 101 percent. You are number one, and I thank you all for your hard work. This is a large membership and you should be proud. We have had the chance to meet and work with all of you.

My time as District Commander has been great. I’ve attended many events from all the posts in my district, from holidays to fundraisers. Last year, we had our 100th-birthday celebration of the American Legion, and we had many new and old post members. We also had the keypad dedication at the American Legion. I’d like to thank the Post Commander and his wife, Shawn Allen, Post Commander Ken Heicklen and Donald Cole, and our Past Post Commander, John Hudson. It was a pleasure seeing you and your officers at so many meetings this year.

I’d like to thank my executive officers: Executive Vice Commander Dave Mills, Membership Chairman Terry Wilson, Vice Commanders Charlie Rustamante and Genny Gonzalez; Assistant Mike Perine, the Service Officer Ray Guindon, Chaplain Bob Dowssett, Sergeant-At-Arms Tim Martel, our Secretary Rafael Perez, and Public Relations Director Pat Dorsey. I would like to thank the district that would not run as smoothly as it has this year. Lastly, I’m going to the national convention with my wife, Shawn Urbanchek, and as Lemar Perini said, Membership is in the majority of the party. As a final note, here’s what’s determined: the 1st District Commander that closes books is in coming on June 1st. We have a lot of the posts in the 1st District left with 10 percent. So, keep going, Brown Brothers, and let’s meet our goal. Bill Oxford, North Carolina should be proud of their 90 percent. Let’s all work hard this last month to finish with a 100 percent.

I look forward to an interesting rest of the year. Thank you, post Commander, my nieces and everyone at the posts who keep me busy. Thank you for attending and contributing to the American Legion. I am looking forward to attending the membership ceremony this year and with new posts, we have 253 for hosting a Vietnam Remembrance and we have another one coming Home day. To all my brothers and sisters, thank you all.

Thank you. Memberships Chairman Mark Gaynor, for all your hard work.

Greetings from the “Flying-squid” State. It is hard to believe that our service is almost here to an end. We do have the Indiana State Convention in the beginning of June, we then have the American Legion National Convention to plan for August 23rd through the 25th.

Greetings from our “Land of Lincoln” is here. It is hard to believe that our service is almost here to an end. For our Department, we have the Illinois State Convention in the beginning of June, and then we have the American Legion National Convention to plan for August 23rd through the 25th. We have some good news from our Department across the board.

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DISTRICT 6
from the District Commanders

Dear Commanders,

Sadly, my term is almost at an end. I have loved being the 8th District Commander for you, our members and our service members. I have learned so much about the American Legion and its mission. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and leadership throughout the past two years.

Now I am looking forward to supporting our incoming 11th District Commander, who will be taking the helm of the American Legion.

CLOSE OF BOOKS

District Close of Books will be taking place in Indianapolis this year, Aug. 23 through Aug. 25. The closing is an opportunity for you to attend the convention—and you should! Posts will be providing shuttles to and from the conference center to provide a shuttle service downtown. You can be sure that American Legion post meetings will also be taking place. In the event of any other events associated with our centennial, Family Night at Victory Field is scheduled for Aug. 24, so we encourage you to join in the celebration.

DISTRICT 6
from page 5

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from page 5

HOOSIER LEGIONNAIRE 2ND QUARTER 2019

100th Anniversary Legion Convention

Post 234 presented Mr. Killman with a life membership certificate honoring his service and a veteran's certificate honoring his membership in the American Legion this year, Aug. 23.

On the morning of Aug. 23, the Versailles Junior Shooting Sports Program had a successful day in winning both the American Legion and the Indiana Rifle and Pistol Association state title. It was a great day helping to participate in the national competition.

With close of books approaching, the district is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We must continue to make things easier for veterans, grandsons, granddaughters, mothers, and fathers of our service members. It is the job of every American Legion member to make sure our reports and decisions are made in a timely manner. Always keep a close eye on the decisions for corrections, help correct any claim issues, and be aware of the members association year and nominations for the District Commander.

Hoosier Legionnaires, Son’s, P.P.R.S., and Auxiliary Members, we must continue to focus on membership during the last three years of our Legion centennial. We work to get 100 percent of our posts, 100 percent of our American Legion, and 100 percent of our Auxiliary.

Hello! This is my last column as your 11th District Commander. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support and your loyalty. We have proven that we can work together as a team and result in having a very successful District 6, the American Legion and the American Legion Family. This year has been filled with challenges for our youth. We have made sure that we are keeping our reports and decisions for corrections, help correct any claim issues, and be aware of the members association year and nominations for the District Commander.

HOOSIER LEGIONNAIRE 2ND QUARTER 2019  Twitter @IndyLegion

See page 7
It’s been 30 years since an Indiana Auxiliary member has served as National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, but we could see a Bloomington Noon Kiwanis Officers meeting. 

Vickie Koutz of Bloomington, a 45-year member who has served in various positions in her Unit, District and Department levels, culminating in Vickie serving as Department President from 2006-07. 

Shortly after Vickie completed her year as Department President, the National organization called. 

Vickie accepted a call if I would like to chair the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. 

The Yorktown Post 321 coordinated this effort and will have information on the post for next year. Post 321 also held a community Easter egg hunt on April 21 with great success. Of eggs, baskets and other items. Vickie picked up the handful of eggs in the park. 

We had about 250+ event with hundreds from the community participating. 

A quick scan around the post, we could see many Legionnaires who missed our post at the Yorktown Post, 5864. 

She said, “I am really enjoying working with Nicole Chapp and Kathy Daustield. To have the next three candidates for national President working together and staying on the same page is extremely valuable for this organization.” 

Nicole Clapp with the National President for the 2019-2020 year with Kathy Serving as National Vice President. When Kathy retires in 2020-2021, Vickie Koutz will serve as her National Vice President and so on. 

I am excitedly blessed to be working with these ladies and I look forward to continue the relations. 

Vickie is a Paid Up Life member of Bloomington Unit 200. Her re-election of service and accomplishments on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary is long and varied. She has served her Unit, the 8th District and the Department of Indiana for the past 45 years. She has held numerous positions on all levels with the ALA as well as serving as Unit, District and Department President. She is currently serving the American Legion Auxiliary’s National Children and Youth Committee Chairman. 

Vickie Koutz has shown her dedication to The American Legion Family through her years of service to our organization. For information on how you can help Vickie on her mad to the Auxiliary Presidency through donations and volunteering, contact Lisa Lifer at prosoff- sa1415@gmail.com.

On the Road to the Presidency: with Vickie Koutz

By Tim Sproles

The only other mar- ried couple to serve as both National President/ Commander is PNG Sharon Conatser (2015- 2016) and PNC Marin E Conatser (2007-2008). 

Vickie has said that she is extremely excited for the opportunity and working with fellow candidates. 

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