



Sauls-Bridges American Legion

Post 13 News



Volume 68, Issue 22

December 2018

PEARL HARBOR DAY DECEMBER 7, 1941

The surprise attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was a day that will never be forgotten. It marked the entrance of the United States into WWII. It began at 7:48 a.m. and the onslaught continued for another 7 hours with coordinated attacks by Japan in the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island, on Malaya (a British holding), Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Two waves of 353 Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft bombarded the Hawaiian island. In total, 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded. On December 8th, the United States declared war on Japan and joined the Allies. This war proclamation led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to declare December 7th, 1941 as *“a day which will live in infamy”*.

After the attack, multiple medals were awarded to the American servicemen who fought at Pearl Harbor. Listed here are the medals given to our soldiers:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 15 Medals of Honor | 4 Distinguished Service Crosses |
| 51 Navy Crosses | 1 Distinguished Service Medal |
| 53 Silver Stars | 3 Bronze Star Medals |
| 4 Navy and Marine Corps Medals | 1 Distinguished Flying Cross |

An additional military award, the Pearl Harbor Commemorative, established by the United States Congress on November 5, 1990, was a bronze medal awarded to servicemen who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Attack on Pearl Harbor - 1941 | Atomic Heritage Foundation
<https://goo.gl/images/qsV3mM>

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Miscellaneous Moments

CHRISTMAS TRUCE BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND GERMANS



During Holy Week of 1914, troops traversed trenches to exchange seasonal greetings and converse. Joint burials and prisoner swaps also occurred during the lull in fighting, while leaders on both sides reexamined strategies and re-grouped soldiers. For more information, please reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_truce.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

300 Funerals

On November 10 2018, the Big Bend Honor Guard commemorated its 300th internment. The Honor Guard, which originally began at Sauls-Bridges Post 13 in Tallahassee, was later transferred to the Support Committee of the Tallahassee National Cemetery. We offer Chaplain services, Flag folding and presentation, Taps, rifle detail, along with Pall Bearers, if requested.

From left to right John Folsom, Jim Geuin, Jim Sigman, Chuck Howell John Froude, and Lee Mortimer.

JP Folsom



Christmas Trivia

1. In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life?
2. What Christmas beverage is also known as "milk punch"?
3. What Christmas themed ballet premiered in Saint Petersburg, Russia in 1892?
4. What Christmas edible is known for its long shelf life?
5. What Bing Crosby song is the best-selling single ever?
6. "Miracle on 34th Street" centers on what real-life department store?



Christmas Trivia Answers

1. An old silk hat
2. Eggnog
3. The Nutcracker
4. Fruitcake
5. White Christmas
6. Macy's

WWII PRESENTATION TO POST 13 AS TOLD BY RICH PONCEY III



Miller Walston's
Musette WWII Bag

Miller Walston was born in 1898 and died in 1979. He was a civil engineer employed by the City of Tallahassee from 1925 until his retirement in 1968. While employed with the City, he was granted leave for active duty during WWII in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Walston also served during WWI, beginning with the Canadian Military and then joining the U.S. Army once the United States became involved in WWI. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during this time and stationed in Europe.

Reared by grandparents, Mr. Walston was proficient in four languages including English, French, Italian, and German, which was of great use during WWII. The story goes: he was on a certain reconnaissance mission to determine where to build a pontoon bridge when he was approached by four German soldiers. In perfect German, he told the soldiers he was identifying places where the Americans were attempting to cross the water. A close call!

Mr. Walston's legacy lives on in Tallahassee. Some of his accomplishments include the Knott Building (which he designed) and the City Waterworks Building, survey of the highway south of Tallahassee heading to St. Marks, and the design of Post 13. Additionally, the Lake Talquin Dam, which originally supplied electrical power to Tallahassee, was also his project. In 1923, Miller was assigned to determine the point of origin; this is the point of beginning for all surveys in Florida. His father, George Walton II selected the original Initial Point of Florida. (and as an aside, also signed the Declaration of Independence). This Initial Point was thought to have been marked in 1824 and indicated by a large boulder. By 1892 no trace could be found, so Miller Walston dug down several feet a short distance from where this Point was thought to have been. He did find a wooden stake but no concrete. This Point was never authenticated even though he felt sure this was the spot. In 1925 the Florida legislature approved a new monument marking the Initial Point, which is today located in Cascades Park.

Miller Walston was a member of the American Legion Post 13 in its infancy. Having served in two world wars and contributed so much to Tallahassee during his lifetime, we want to encourage you to read the full letter submitted by Mr. Poncey, as presented to Post 13 by April Maier (contributor). If you would like an electronic copy of the letter as presented to the Post, please email us at: amlegp13@gmail.com.



Muriel Kweyama, Val Frailey and April Maier



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Members:

As a member of the American Legion, I recognize the dedication of many of our members. I'm talking about the ones who are always available to open and close the Post. Who are here during events, special functions and weekend dances. I'm talking of the many volunteers who decorate the Post for our socials every month and travel to American Legion functions to represent us. We are a truly blessed organization to have such wonderful people who take time out of their lives to give us so much at the Legion and for our community. Please consider volunteering in the coming year and giving our "regulars" some much needed time off.

Your help is greatly appreciated—Paula Wilkins

**AT CHRISTMAS PLAY AND MAKE GOOD CHEER, FOR CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR.
— THOMAS TUSSER**



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*Bob Wray
Post 13
Former Chaplain*

A CHRISTMAS STORY

One of the most impressive Christmas stories occurred on Christmas Day on the western front in 1914. WWI was only 6 months old and casualties and property destruction were still not horrendous. Christmas packages from home abound on both sides. The allied governments and the Kaiser also sent State gifts to the soldiers. A spirit of optimism still existed on both sides that the war would end soon.

Narratives indicate early on Christmas, British soldiers heard the Germans singing Christmas carols. In some sectors both sides erected signs wishing the other side "Merry Christmas." Spontaneously and certainly contrary to orders, many soldiers met in no-mans land, exchanging gifts, sharing greetings and even playing volleyball and football games against each other.

The Christmas truce lasted all Christmas Day in most sectors, but extended through New Year's Day in some areas. There were no reported instances of either side taking advantage of the Christmas truce to initiate hostilities.

Many of us believe this truce was God's will showing us how goodwill toward men can exist even in the midst of man's inhumanity to man. May we remember, respect and reflect on this Christmas truce, as it occurred on that blessed day 99 years ago.



POST JUDGE ADVOCATE RECEIVES PROMOTION

David Frank, a local Tallahassee attorney, will take the bench as the judge for the Second Judicial Circuit.

Frank won with more than 54 percent of the vote and will be sworn into office January 8, 2019.



FROM THE COMMANDER

POST 13 COMMANDER

Yes! Another great Veteran's Day Breakfast that honored our own Edmond Stearman! And everything went like clockwork—the incredible floats, marching bands, the turn out of people, etc.

Kudos to all that helped, especially George Michael Harrison who made the kitchen happen.

Don't forget, your dues for 2019 are due by December 31st.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Val Frailey



Photo Courtesy of Tallahassee Democrat



"WE ARE ALL IN"



HAPPY HOLIDAYS Ladies,

Poppy Distribution for Veterans Day Weekend went very well and all funds received via donations are used specifically to provide support and service to our Military Families in Tallahassee. A percentage will be sent to the Veterans at Bay Pines as a donation for their making the crepe Poppy Flowers for us. At other times when we do Poppy distributions, we help Veterans in other cities and abroad, and also make donations to organizations providing service and support to the military.

Moving on to this month, we have filled at least twenty-seven Christmas stockings, and have taken them to Abbey's Funeral Home, to be sent to our Military Families abroad. We filled some stockings specifically for females because "WOMEN ARE VETERANS, TOO" and we didn't forget. Also, at our December meeting, we will be finalizing the holiday project for our at-home Veterans as discussed in our November meeting. I will send an email with information needed to complete the project.

Let's put California in our Prayers, as well as continuing to keep our Legion Family in our Prayers. Personally, I had FIVE family and friends in both hospitals last week, and one passed, the others are still in. PRAYERS PLEASE.

Mark your calendar for second Thursday, December 13, 2018 for our ALA Unit 13 Executive Committee Meeting and General Membership Meeting at six o'clock and seven o'clock, respectively, at the Hooch. Remember, we will not have a Post Social in December because of the holidays.

Thanks to all of you who helped to decorate the Legion Hall for the holidays.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
GODSPEED ALWAYS,

Muriel Alexander Kweyama, President
ALA Sauls-Bridges Unit 13





DID YOU KNOW?

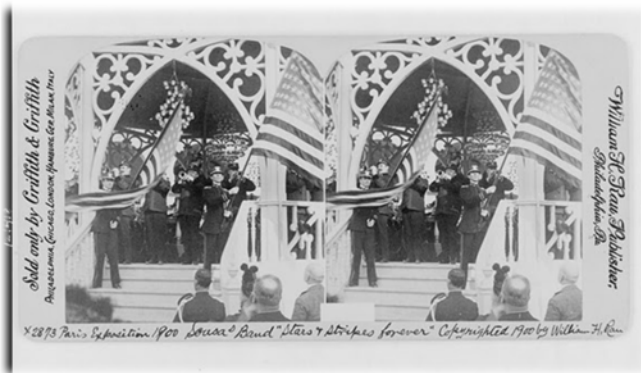
BY JOHN FOLSOM, PAST COMMANDER



1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" Is Written

While this wasn't exactly a military action, it's definitely a symbol of America's military might.

John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892.



On this stereoscopic card, the John Philip Sousa Band plays on a bandstand in Philadelphia around 1900 while two band members wave American flags. Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.

On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for "Stars and Stripes Forever" were born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader.

The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987.

So this Christmas, while you're enjoying leave, family, cookies and the holidays, think of some of your fellow troops, past and present, who had to forgo Christmas for the greater good of the country. While you're at it, you might even want to put on "Stars and Stripes Forever" in their honor.

Merry Christmas, everybody!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- DEC 18 TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND CHRISTMAS DANCE 6:30-10:00 PM
- DEC 27 REMEMBER! NO POST SOCIAL UNTIL JANUARY 24, 2019







CHRISTMAS DANCE Tallahassee Swing Band

Tuesday, December 18th





DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
02 7pm GLORY BOUND GOSPEL SING HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	03 7:30pm BALLROOM DANCE AND LESSON DANCE INSTRUCTOR HEATHER FULLER	04 7:30pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND	05 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	06 7:10am TIPS MEETING	07 5pm FSU PRIVATE EVENT	01 8:00pm BLACK CATS/OLD DOGS EVENT 08 5pm-Midnight CENTER POINT CHRISTMAS PARTY
09 1:00pm - 4:00pm CHRISTMAS BRUNCH HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	10 7:30pm BALLROOM DANCE AND LESSON DANCE INSTRUCTOR HEATHER FULLER	11 7:30pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND	12 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	13 7:10am TIPS MEETING 6:30pm EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30pm » GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	14 5pm WEDDING REHEARSAL PRIVATE EVENT	15 5pm - Midnight DIPIERO WEDDING PRIVATE
16 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	17 5pm PRIVATE CHRISTMAS PARTY	18 7:30pm TALLAHASSEE SWING BAND CHRISTMAS DANCE 	19 4pm PRIVATE CHRISTMAS PARTY	20 7:10am TIPS MEETING	21 5pm WESTMINSTER OAKS CHRISTMAS PARTY (PRIVATE)	22 11am LUNCH CELEBRATION GROUP HOMES 5pm EVENING ONLY AVAILABLE
23 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	24 CHRISTMAS EVE HALL CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY HALL CLOSED 	26 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	27 7:10am TIPS MEETING NO POST SOCIAL	28 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	29 7pm FRANK JONES NEW YEARS BLUES JAM
30 HALL AVAILABLE CALL 284-6967 OR 222-3382	31  7pm CROOKED SHOOS NEW YEARS EVE PARTY	01 NEW YEAR'S DAY HALL CLOSED 	02 6:30pm SUE BOYD DANCE & LESSONS	03 7:10am TIPS MEETING	04	05

Post News

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**For God
and Country**

December 2018

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage PAID

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EVENTS BOOKING:

(850) 284-6967



Deadline for the January 2019

Newsletter will be

DECEMBER 10th at 5:00pm

Newsletter items can be submitted three ways: (1) Place in the Newsletter Box in the Post 13 office (2) Mail to the return address above, or (3) Submit (with a subject line) to the Post's Newsletter Email Address: **(Please Note this is a NEW email address and should be used for NEWSLETTER communication only.)**

AML13NEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

All Articles published require the Commander's approval.

PLEASE NOTE:

Post General Membership Business Meetings are held on the 2ND Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ITEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER
PLEASE EMAIL AMLNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM**