



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER September, October, November, 2016**  
**Commander's Message to Our Legion Family:**

Legion Family,

As we kick off to a new year for Post 200, we have much to look forward to. We also have much to be thankful for the previous year. I cannot say enough how beautifully the pavilion is coming along. SAL, you are doing an outstanding job! Also, the dumpster pad up on the hill is 100% better than being directly next to the pavilion where it was. Another outstanding job! Your hard work is greatly appreciated, as well as all members of the Legion Family who help to keep our Post as nice as it is. Your help is needed and appreciated. The Auxiliary had another successful event with the Christmas in July. There were many vendors who had lots of nice things to sell. Wonderful food was sold and served by the Auxiliary. Great job!

I would like to introduce you to our newly elected officers. John Sharp is now D.E.C. ( Department Executive Committee ). Marvin Frush is now Carroll County Commander. Steve Swam is now Carroll County Sergeant at Arms. And for Post 200, Joe Marschall is our new Adjutant, Bill Wright is our new Finance Officer and Jack Bowersox is our new Service Officer. Congratulations on holding these positions.

I'm proud to say at the American Legion Convention in Ocean City last July, we received two awards. One for achieving 100% membership, and another for our Historian, Harry Smith for winning Best History Book. Congratulations on a job well done!

Here at Post 200 we have a mission to fulfill. First and foremost to support the Veterans and their families, and our community to the best of our combined ability. I believe we complete that mission every year here at Post 200. Being recognized last year by the Rotary Club as "Organization of the Year" made it clear. Keep up the good work, it is very rewarding.

Attendance at monthly meetings is very important. It helps to keep all members informed of exactly what is going on at the Post. Not only do you get free hot dogs, but you will receive a free drink for attending the meeting. Our meetings are always the first Monday of the month at 7pm.

In closing, I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Please don't be a stranger, you are part of our Legion Family and you belong here. I believe we have the best Post you could be a member of.

God Bless America and our Veterans,  
Commander Cid Reyes



**What does the Legion Emblem stand for?**

"It stands for God and country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning." **quotes the legion website.**

**"The rays of the sun** form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

**The wreath** forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

**The star**, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.

**The larger of two outer rings** stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades.

**The smaller inside ring** denotes the welfare of America's children.

**The smaller of the two inner rings** set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation.

**The larger outer ring** pledges loyalty to Americanism.

**The words American Legion** tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism."

*Congratulations to our newly elected Western Maryland District Officers for 2016 - 2017*

*Western Maryland American Legion District Commander, Steve Blank Post #282*

*Western Maryland Auxiliary District President, Cindy Shriner Post #282*

*Western Maryland SAL District Commander, Tom Clavell Post #200*

The American Flag does not fly because the wind moves it; it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.



Membership is starting to come in – and once again if you have paid your dues and you get a notice from Department please disregard it.

In our last newsletter, the 2 recipients of our Kathleen Twigg Scholarship had been selected, however we couldn't reveal the names until the schools Awards Ceremonies. So now, **Congratulations** to: Preston Scibek from North Carroll High and Olivia Crawford from Manchester Valley High. We wish you both the best on your future.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**August:**

13 Summer Fun Event in the POW/MIA pavilion  
20 & 21 Crab Feeds

**September:**

5 Labor Day Picnic at the pavilion 1-4  
16 POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil 7 p.m.  
18 Camp Fretterd 9/11 Ceremony  
25 Gold Star Recognition Day

**October:**

1&2 Ocean City Bus Trip  
3 Sub Sale Forms available at the lounge and at the meetings  
14-16 Auxiliary Fall Conference in Frederick  
14 Deadline for Sub Orders  
15 Calendar Feed 1 – 3 pm  
26 Subs available for pick-up

**November:**

13 Free Dinner for Veterans and families – 2 seatings 1 and 4 pm. Must sign up,  
14 Birthday Party for Long View Nursing Home  
19 Commanders Feed 1-4  
24 Post Is Closed

**December:**

4 Senior's 1-3 pm and Children's 4-6 pm Christmas Parties  
5 Regular short meeting followed by our Christmas Party with lots of food. The American Legion, SAL and Riders are all invited.  
17 Post 200 Christmas Party  
25 Christmas Day – Post is Closed

Next meeting is September 12, due to Labor Day.  
Hope to see you there.

**I cannot say this too often - we have without a doubt, the most helpful American Legion Family. We ask and you are available: to bake, set up tables and chairs, cook, serve, clean up, wash dishes, mop the floors, take out the trash, and everything in between. THANK YOU ALL !!**

**FOR GOD & COUNTRY**  
**Mary Jane Wickline**



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER**  
**September, October, November, 2016**

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. With September right around the corner, it is time to get back to work. Not that anything has slowed down for the summer with the pavilion getting its roof, ceiling and lights, the dumpster pad being installed, volunteers for Casey Cares event, fundraising with Plum Crazy, and getting ready for the crab feed. Well, like I said it doesn't slow down. Thank you to everyone who comes out and volunteers to help.

Just a couple things...

- Please come to our meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Unless the Legion is closed, then the meeting is the following Monday.
- Pay your dues in a timely manner.
- Support our raffles and events. Our next raffle will be a fishing trip for 6 on the Vista Lady. Tickets are on sale now in the lounge.
- Watch the newsletter calendar for all upcoming events.

Respectively,  
Roger F. Mazzone  
S.A.L. Commander

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**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Grace Dutterer       | Carla Wickline       |
| Richard Hess         | Joan and Phil Wilson |
| Caroline Marschall   | Tommy Clavell        |
| Helen Moore          | Tim Schurman         |
| Sharon Prajzner      | Justin Prajzner      |
| Stephanie Wardenfelt |                      |

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**Transferred to Post Everlasting:**

Joseph Tracey on 6/2  
Raymond Spangler on 6/7

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**Golf Tournament 7/29/2016**

**Thank you to all the golfers, sponsors and all who donated and all the volunteers in helping make our tournament a big success.**

**Jerry Reese, Tournament Director**

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**Notice**

We try to keep our members informed of what is going on at the Post by our newsletters. Please let us know if your address changes as these are mailed at the bulk rate and are not forwarded. We also have on file email addresses if available and phone numbers. If these change, please notify us also.

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**Website and Facebook Pages**

Our website is currently under construction and soon to be complete. Be sure to check the website or the Facebook pages often to see what's happening here at the post.

[www.alpost200.org](http://www.alpost200.org)

American Legion Hampstead Post 200  
American Legion Riders Post 200  
Hampstead, Md

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**Concerning Legion Membership**

Thanks to all members that renewed for 2016! Post 200 had 101% renewal. If you can, renew for 2017 as soon as possible to help us reach our monthly goals.

For our "Over 70" Members: The post has agreed to pay for one half of your dues - \$15.00\*. Please send only \$15.00 to renew your 2017 Membership. For those members over 70 that have sent the full \$30, I will send a \$15 check back to you with your new 2017 card. If anyone has questions, please call me at (410) 833-1600. Again thanks for a Tremendous Membership Goal!

Bill Nash

**\* "Over 70" means you have to have been 70 years old before July 1 2010 with 5 years of continuous membership.**



## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, September, October, November, 2016

Well folks the crappy weather finally broke & boy it got hot. I hope you've been riding. We've had some great rides this year in support of our Veterans. It was a busy Memorial Day. We started the morning with the ceremony at the War Memorial in Hampstead. From there we headed to Westminster to participate in the Westminster Memorial Day parade. The parade was followed by our Riders returning to the Post for the annual Memorial Day picnic.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> we had 22 Riders participate in the MPT 'Honor Ride to Salute Vietnam Veterans'. The comment was made how 'sharp' the Post 200 Riders crew looked complete with the American and Riders flags mounted to John (PorkChop) Ayers' bike. To see the video clip on MPT go to [Vietnam.mpt.org/home/](http://Vietnam.mpt.org/home/) scroll down to LZ Maryland-MPT's State Circle "Around Maryland" LZ Maryland Recap. The clip is 4 minutes and 14 seconds. At 3 minutes and 47 seconds you will get a glimpse of our own Harry 'Junebug' Ford holding the Post 200 Riders flag. Be sure to check it out.

Then on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> we had 15 bikes (22 participants) attend the annual Chicken Feed at Camp WestMar.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Towson Post 22, held their annual 'Hero-Dog' Ride and stopped by our Post for refreshments. The Riders were treated to hotdogs with the works. Two of our Riders accompanied them back to their Post.

Coming up on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> we will sponsor a Memorial Ride for Michael 'Maddog' Sater. "Maddog" was passionate about helping veterans receive their benefits and served many veterans in the State of Maryland and surrounding states. He was a member of VFW Post 467 and American Legion Post 200. There are flyers posted with the ride details or contact me via email at [tottomano@verizon.net](mailto:tottomano@verizon.net) with any questions or if you want to participate.

If you know of other rides you'd like to arrange, or have our group participate in, please bring them up at our monthly meeting held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the backroom at the Post, or email them to me or Tom Kurtz, our Ride Coordinator.

Ride safe,

Tony Ottomano, Riders Director

Check out our Facebook page at: American Legion Riders Post 200 for current and future events.

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## *POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil* at Hampstead Post 200, 4600 Legion Lane

Presentation of Colors  
Star Spangled Banner  
Table Ceremony  
Lighting of Candles  
Reading of Names  
Amazing Grace  
TAPS and Quiet  
Dismissal



Please join us for this meaningful evening. Learn about 12 men who were the only ones to escape as a group from a Japanese Prison Camp in the Philippines during war in the Pacific during WW II.

**Friday, September 16, 2016 7 pm**  
**In the POW/MIA Pavilion. Invite your friends. Public is invited.**  
**Presented by the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders**

# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	Meat Loaf 2 DJ in the lounge	3 Bonfire in the Bottom 7 pm
4	5 Labor Day Picnic at the Post 1-4 pm	6 Bar Bingo 7-9	7 House/Executive Meeting 7 pm Plum Crazy 7:30	8	OCChicken 9 DJ in the lounge	10 Karaoke in the lounge
11 Gold Star Mother/Member Recognition Dinner in hall	12 Regular Meetings Legion, Aux, SAL 7 pm	13 Bar Bingo 7-9	14 Riders Mtg 7 pm Plum Crazy 7:30	15 Practice for Candlelight Vigil 6:30 pm	Crab Cake 16 POW/MIA Candlelight Vigil 7 pm DJ in the lounge	17 Bonfire in the Bottom 7 pm
Air Force 18 Camp Fretterd 9/11 Memorial Service	19	20 Bar Bingo 7-9	21 Plum Crazy 7:30	22	Pork Chop 23 DJ in the lounge	24 Memorial Ride for Mike Maddog Sater
25 Gold Star Recognition Day ALA Dist. Mtg. Thurmont	26	27 Bar Bingo 7-9	28 Plum Crazy 7:30 House/Executive Meeting 7 pm	29	St Shrimp 30 DJ in the lounge	

# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Auxiliary hold Sub Sale this month	Order Forms available in the lounge	or from an Auxiliary member			1 OC Bus Trip No Bonfire
2 OC Bus Trip returns	3 Regular Meetings Legion, Aux. SAL 7 pm	4 Bar Bingo 7-9	5 Plum Crazy 7:30	6	Ham 7 DJ in the lounge Hampstead Fall Fest	8 Karaoke in the lounge Hampstead Fall Fest
9	10 Columbus Day	11 Bar Bingo 7-9	12 Riders Mtg. 7 pm Plum Crazy 7:30	13 US Navy Birthday	Meat Loaf 14 DJ in the lounge ALA Fall Conference in Frederick begins	15 Calendar Feed 1-3 in hall Bonfire in the bottom
16 ALA Fall Conference in Frederick ends	17	18 Bar Bingo 7-9	19 Plum Crazy 7:30	20	OCChicken 21 DJ in the lounge	22
23	24 Carroll County Mtg. at Sykesville #223	25 Bar Bingo 7-9	26 Plum Crazy 7:30	27	Crab Cake 28 DJ in the lounge	29 Halloween Party in the lounge
30	31 Halloween					

# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bar Bingo 7-9	2 Plum Crazy 7:30 House/Executive Meeting 7 pm	3	4 Pork Chop DJ in the lounge	5 ALA DEC Mtg at Reisterstown
6 AL West Md Mtg at Woodsboro #282	7 Regular Mtgs. Legion, Aux.,SAL 7 pm	8 Bar Bingo 7-9	9 Riders Mtg 7 pm Plum Crazy 7:30	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 St Shrimp Veterans Day DJ in the lounge	12 Karaoke in the lounge
13 Free Veterans Dinner in Hall 1 & 4pm seatings Must sign up.	14	15 Bar Bingo 7-9	16 Plum Crazy 7:30	17	18 Ham DJ in the lounge	19 Commander;s Feed 1-4 pm SAL DEC at Glen Burnie
20 ALA West Md Dist Mtg.. Cascade #239 AL DEC at Chesapeake Beach	21	22 Bar Bingo 7-9	23 Plum Crazy 7:30	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Meat Loaf DJ in the lounge	26
27	28	29 Bar Bingo 7-9	30 Plum Crazy 7:30 House/Exec. Mtg. 7 pm			

## Want to be a Member?

Check the website for the eligible dates. You will need a copy of your DD-214 (discharge papers). Or if you join the Auxiliary or SAL you will need the papers of your relative who was eligible.

To obtain a DD-214, go to

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> and download Form SF180

Fill it out and mail it to the location shown. You can also fill out an online form if you would like.

## December Dates to Remember

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Senior's Christmas Party 1-3 pm

Children's Christmas Party 4-6 pm

December 17<sup>th</sup> – Post Christmas Party 1-4 pm

December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve Party

## Free Veteran's Day Dinner

A free dinner will be served on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> in honor of all veterans. Veterans and their families are invited, but must have a reservation. There will be 2 seatings. 1 pm and 4 pm.

Call Elinore 410-374-4466 or email at [efrush@live.com](mailto:efrush@live.com)

Mary Jane 410-374-9014 or email at

[maryjanewickline@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewickline@comcast.net)

**We are proud to serve you as you have served us.**

## Hall and Pavilion Rentals

To rent the hall, back room or the small pavilion, contact Marvin or Elinore at 410-374-4466 email

[efrush@live.com](mailto:efrush@live.com)

To rent the POW/MIA pavilion, contact Tommy Clavell at 410-598-3168

## Ravens Sunday Games in the lounge

### Bring a dish to share

September 11, 18, 25 all at 1 pm

October 2, 9, 16, 23 all at 1 pm

November 6, 20, 27 all at 1 pm

December 4, 18, at 1 pm

December 25 at 4:30 pm

January 1 at 1 pm

## Legion Calendar Lottery 2017 Tickets

These calendar lottery tickets cost \$25 each. **If you sell 10 you get a free one.** Money prizes ranging from \$30 - \$200 are given away **every day** except Sundays.

Winning numbers are based on the Md. Pick 3 evening lottery drawing. If you buy a ticket in any month of the year, the numbers are **retroactive** back to January, so you may already have won! **Free feed** for all calendar lottery ticket holders for 2016 will be held on **Sat., Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm** and **new 2017 calendar lottery tickets** will be available at the feed and after that in the lounge. They make great Christmas and birthday presents or **'just because'**. Consider supporting this important fundraiser.

# OUR AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY OFFICERS 2016-2017



## AMERICAN LEGION

## AUXILIARY

## SONS

## RIDERS

<b>COMMANDER:</b>	<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>COMMANDER</b>	<b>DIRECTOR</b>
Cid Reyes	Mary Jane Wickline	Roger Mazzone	Tony Ottomano
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER</b>	<b>ASST. DIRECTOR</b>
Tim Reger	Sharon Prajzner	Tom Clavell	Ron Burton
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VICE</b>	<b>RECORDING OFFICER:</b>
John Crotts	Patty Sater	Dwayne Uhler Sr.	Teresa Kuntz
<b>ADJUTANT:</b>	<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>ADJUTANT:</b>	<b>TREASURER:</b>
Joe Marschall	Liz Armacost	John Armacost	Michele Burton
<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b>	<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>
Bill Nash	Stacey Nash	Al Painter/Eric Cellitto	Terrie Ottomano
<b>FINANCE:</b>	<b>CHAPLAIN:</b>	<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	<b>SGT. at ARMS:</b>
Bill Wright	Mary Maness	Darwin Sater	Joe Parks
<b>SGT. at ARMS:</b>	<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	<b>CHAPLAIN:</b>	<b>HISTORIAN:</b>
Steve Swam	Elinore Frush	Joe Prajzner	Harry Ford, Jr.
<b>CHAPLAIN:</b>	<b>SGT. at ARMS:</b>	<b>SGT. at ARMS:</b>	<b>CHAPLAIN:</b>
Jim Maness	Louise Smith	Steve Unkart	Keith Herion
<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>	<b>PUBLIC INFO/WEB MASTER</b>
Harry Smith	Bev Martin	Bryan Jones	John Sharp
<b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b>			<b>RIDE COORDINATOR:</b>
Jack Bowersox			Tom Kurtz
<b>MEMBERSHIP:</b>			
Bill Nash			
<b>D.E.C.</b>			
John Sharp		<b>D.E.C.</b>	
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>		Tom Clavell	
Jeff Brown			
Jim Brown	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	
Marvin Frush	Janet Griffith	Tom Clavell	
Dennis Verdecchia	Cathy Martin	Bryan Jones	
Dan Martin	Bev Martin	Darwin Sater	
<b>HOUSE COMMITTEE:</b>			
Dennis Cullison			
<b>CAR.CO.COMMANDER</b>		<b>Western Md. Commander</b>	
Marvin Frush		Tom Clavell	

Check us out on Facebook at; Hampstead Post 200

Visit us at [www.alpost200.org](http://www.alpost200.org)



**Francis Noah Utz**  
**Tech Sergeant – B-17's**  
**Top Turret Gunner/Flight Engineer**  
**Army Air Corps**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Air Force 45<sup>th</sup> Air Division**  
**96<sup>th</sup> Bombing Group**  
**337<sup>th</sup> Bombing Squadron**  
**WWII**

Francis was born on November 18, 1924 in Lineboro, Maryland to parents Millard and Treva Utz. He was the oldest of 7 children (5 brothers and 1 sister). He dropped out of Hampstead High School and went to work with his father at the Baltimore Shipyards building Liberty Ships to help his family. Their shift was 11 pm to 7 am and they rode to Baltimore on a school bus.

On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he received notice from the President that he had been drafted into the United States Armed Forces. Francis joined several others from the area on a train headed to Fort Meade, Md. where he learned that he was selected to go into the Army Air Corps. He then went by train to Atlantic City for basic training. Basic was tough with the cold and the wind off the Atlantic Ocean where they had to march on the boardwalk with full gear plus heavy overcoats. They learned how to use the Garand rifle, experienced the pain from tear gas and sniffed mustard gas to be able to identify the smell. From there he was chosen to go to New York to attend the Academy of Aeronautics at LaGuardia Field in Jackson Heights, Long Island where he learned the theory of flight plus operations of ailerons, flaps, rudders, controls, hydraulic systems, electric and fuel systems, instruments, etc.

From there he was sent to the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in Newark, New Jersey where he learned about radial engines, take down, rebuild, propellers and more electrical and hydraulics training. Leaving New Jersey, he returned to New York to Roosevelt Field on Long Island for the third and final phase of his aircraft course. This time they were taught on real aircrafts and tested to see if they would be a crew chief on a bomber or take a physical exam to fly a bomber. Francis wanted to fly; he passed and was on his way to Tyndall Air Base at Panama City, Florida to train to be an aerial gunner on a bomber

The next three months were tough as they learned how to use the oxygen masks as they needed them at high altitudes and how to shoot, take apart and reassemble 30 and 50 caliber machine guns. Shooting moving targets was another challenge as well as more intense physical training. At the end of this course, Francis said that his superiors had made men out of those 18 and 19 year old boys.

Graduation day was December 14, 1943 when they were promoted to sergeants. From there it was off to Drew Field Army Air Base in Tampa, Florida where he was assigned as an engineer gunner on a B-17. He learned how to fly the B-17 and did bombing missions near the base using dummy 100 pound bombs filled with flour. The B-17 carried a 10 man crew.

Francis went to Langley Field, Virginia where they picked up a new B-17 and headed overseas to their base at Snitteton Heath, Eccles Road England where he was assigned to the 337<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron of the 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Division of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. His first mission was on November 10, 1944 to Weisbaden, Germany where they dropped 38 100 pound bombs.

His 3<sup>rd</sup> mission on January 17, 1945 was a rough one. Flak was heavy and accurate. They were hit, lost two engines on the left wing and were going down. Francis began transferring fuel from the dead wing to the live



side. They were losing altitude and the crew threw out flak suits, machine guns, ammo flak helmets and anything of weight. He shot a flare gun for fighter protection and two P47 Thunder Bolts flew with them. They were skimming the English Channel at 2,000 – 4,000 feet expecting to ditch, but they were able to land on an emergency field in England. They counted 167 flak holes in the plane after they landed.

The radio operator always opens the door to the bomb bays and checks to make sure all bombs had been released. On Mission 11, it was reported that there was a bomb still hanging in the bomb bay. It was Francis' job as engineer to clear the bomb bay. He came out of his top turrets and unplugged his electric heat suit, unplugged his oxygen hose from the main system and clamped on a portable oxygen bottle. The outside temperature was 60 below zero and he started to chill very fast. He quickly opened the door to the bomb bay and stepped onto the narrow cat walk. The bomb release door was open and he was looking straight down at Frankfurt, Germany. The wind blast coming into the bomb bay was terrific. He could see where the bomb was stuck and he wrapped his arms around the center structure of the plane, swung his legs and feet across and came down on the bomb. Down and out it went. He surmised that the release was frozen or had an electrical malfunction. By this time, he was very cold. He quickly went back to his station, plugged in his electric heat suit and turned the rheostat on high, plugged back into the main oxygen system. This was all done without his parachute on because in his position there was no room for a chute with what he had to do.

As happens after every mission they were taken in for interrogation. At the beginning of interrogations, a bottle of whiskey was placed before each crew and a shot glass poured for those who wanted one to help calm their nerves.

Near the end of April, Francis and his crew along with several other crews were sent to a rest home to recover from flying many missions close together. Relaxation, nice beds, good food and games were all welcomed. While there they learned that the Germans had surrendered.

In all, Francis flew 27 missions and he said that no one on those missions got a scratch. He received the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Gunners Wings, WWII Victory Medal, European Theatre Ribbon with 4 Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged on October 5, 1945.

After the war, he worked at Wheeler Chevrolet in Hampstead for 30 years as a mechanic. Later he worked at Gray and Son, Inc. for 10 years as a large equipment mechanic. He retired in 1990. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, daily crosswords, gardening and raising beautiful roses. He was a proud member of the Hampstead American Legion Post 200 and Life Member of the Mollesville VFW Post 467 in Westminster.

Francis passed away on December 8, 2014 and is survived by his wife, Betty Reed Dovell Utz. Together they had 2 step children, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. We thank Francis for his bravery, service and sacrifice for our country.

Most of this information was taken from his own journal.

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*The "Community" Bank that  
Puts People First*  
MEMBER FDIC

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