

“Cooter’s Corner”

<http://cootershistorything.blogspot.com/>

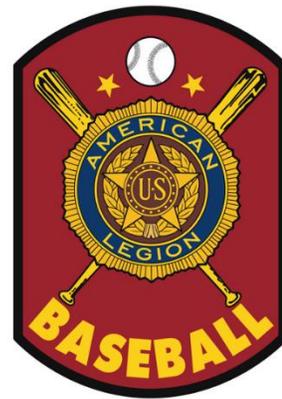
American Legion Baseball

Post 703 has been supporting an American Legion Baseball team for many years now and this year, we are planning a Legion Day for one of the team's home games at Grant Township High School. More information on that will be given when we know the schedule in June.

Our team is comprised mostly of boys from the Fox Lake area and managed by Brian Talbot.

But, in the meantime, to prepare for the season, we'll take a look back at the history of American Legion baseball.

From Wikipedia: American Legion Baseball is amateur played by 13 to 19-year-olds in all fifty states and Canada. More than 3,500 teams compete each year. The American Legion Department of South Dakota established the program in 1925 in Milbank, South Dakota.



PURPOSE:

To give players the opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness, leadership qualities, and to have fun. Hundreds of thousands of boys have been taught this over the years.

American Legion Baseball: Players Who Went On to Baseball's Hall of Fame

Wikipedia has a long list of American Legion baseball players who went on to MLB Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Here are just a few of them.

Bob Feller, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Yogi Berra, Al Kaline, Bob Gibson, Frank Robinson, Don Drysdale, Johnny Bench, Carl Yastrzemski, Nellie Fox and Ryne Sandberg.

In 2011, Shelby, North Carolina, was named as the permanent home for the American Legion Baseball World Series. Attendance in 2016 was 120,000. The last three winners:

Texarkana, Arkansas, Post 58 in 2016

Henderson, Nevada, Post 40 in 2017

Wilmington, Delaware, Post 1 in 2018

Probably one of the most interesting names for an American Legion team comes from Hooker, Oklahoma, whose team is named the Hooker Horny Toads. Hooker is in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Of course, I just had to have one of their tee shirts. Looking Forward to Baseball Season. –Cooter

***** If there are any more of our World War II or Korean War veterans in our post who would like to have their stories told, please get in touch with Commander Kelly and I would love to interview you.***

WWII: The Doolittle Raid

On April 18th, we commemorated the 77th anniversary of what today is known as the Doolittle Raid. This was a major boost to American morale, as things were going very bad for us in the first several months after Pearl Harbor. It was a huge blow to the Japanese, who were sure they were safe from American bombs.



There was a huge risk associated with the Raid. One of the biggest obstacles was to take off from an aircraft carrier in bombers which were thought to be too big. There were 80 Doolittle Raiders who flew five-man crews in 16 B-25B Mitchell medium bombers who took off from the aircraft carrier Hornet.

The planes dropped their bombs on Japanese targets but did not do serious damage. But, for the U.S., it was payback for Pearl Harbor. Of the eighty men, 77 survived the mission, three were executed and one died of disease while a prisoner. This past April 9, the last Doolittle survivor, Richard Cole, died at age 103.

Pearl Harbor Survivors

Unfortunately, most times I come across stories about Pearl Harbor survivors these days for this blog, Tattooed On Your Soul: World War II blog, they are reporting a death. Here are two recent stories from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Press from this past week.

RAY GARLAND, 96, Pearl Harbor Survivor, World War II Campaigns and Korean War veteran. Long-time resident of Couer d'Alene. He died April 19, 2019. Last surviving member of the Lilac Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Traveled to Spokane for the Pearl Harbor Remembrance every year. In 2017, he was the only Pearl Harbor survivor to attend.

Enlisted in the Marines at age 19 and was the youngest member of the Marine detachment on the battleship USS Tennessee at Pearl Harbor that day. He remembered; "I saw a Japanese dive bomber flying alongside us. He was so close; I could see his goggles." despite being injured in the attack, he was back on duty in three days.

Later in the war, he participated in the Aleutian, Marshal and Gilbert Islands campaigns. He was recalled by the Marines for the Korean War.

From the same newspaper on April 25, 2019, "Pearl Harbor survivor looks ahead to Memorial Day."

CHARLIE ISMUS, 98, was walking down the stairs from his barracks to the mess hall on Ford Island at the age of 21. He recalled: "I saw the red (dots) on the airplanes going by." At the time, he was a Seaman 2nd Class assigned to VP-23, an aircraft patrol squadron.

He fired a couple rounds at the enemy planes. All but one of his planes were destroyed.