



Monthly Newsletter

# Pack 208

# TROOP 208

providing Scouting in Swanton since 1923



Chartered by the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post 479 in Swanton, OH

June 2020

*Pictures of activities, forms, updated news at our website*

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



For those who don't know it, the Kroger Community Rewards program allows you to help yourself to pay for your Scout's expenses like Summer Camp or Day Camp.

<http://www.swantonscouts.org/KrogerCommunityRewards2015.pdf>

Please either Sign up to participate (friends & family too) or RE-Sign up to continue participation. Also, send Mr Raven your quarterly "rewards" amount so he can credit your Scout's account for it! Have your friends & family give us their amounts also please. It helps your Scout's finances. Thank you.

## Flag Day 2020 at the Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post in Swanton



Flag day is on June 14th when we respectfully retire worn flags that have served both our nation and our communities.

Hopefully Ohio will allow the Post, and us, the opportunity to retire these flags, with respect again this year. We'll let you know what the decision is for this year as soon as we are told ourselves.



Troop 210's Invitational Pool Party @ the Rolf Park Swimming Pool will not happen this year; Maumee will not be opening their pools this summer - sorry

## Congratulations & Thank You to our Leaders

Leaders of Pack & Troop 208 who were recently recognized at the annual District Recognition Dinner are:

Pack Paddlers' Award: Mrs Jessica Hand

Troop Paddler's Award: Mr Richard Sorgenfrei

Typically this is a good time at the annual District Recognition Dinner to recognize and honor someone for their dedication and support of the Scouts. While the current events did not allow for the dinner, we still say Thank You!

## To the Scouts and families who helped put out American Flags on May 16th ~ Thank you.

Many of us appreciate your time and volunteering to honor our veterans for Memorial Day and this summer. It's a small act on our part to recognize their sacrifices and services rendered unto this country. Thank you!

## PSR - Summer Camp 2020

Unfortunately not this year Scouts. It's not for lack of interest, the virus



This year sounds like a modified Camporee opportunity for our Scouts. Not a summer camp as you know it with Merit Badges, but more of a Camporee with round robin events and cooking in the camp sites.



<http://www.usflag.org/history/flagday.html>

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating **June 14th** of each year as **National Flag Day**.

# The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and those who stand guard

## 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard)



Historically snowfalls in the National Capital Region shut down the entire region (sometimes before the snow even arrives) Soldiers of The Old Guard still render Final Honors to our Nation's Fallen. Our Soldiers still carry on with their duties in Arlington National Cemetery with precision and dedication regardless of weather condition. In honor of these soldiers, here's a little information about them.

### 1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

### 2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

### 3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

### 4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and , if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

### 5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

### 6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30. *They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.*

Sgt Heather Lynn Johnsen became the first woman to earn the prestigious tomb guard ... an honor afforded to only 3 other women soldiers since it was created in 1958. She earned her place with determination and maintained it with pride.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are over 600 presently worn (as of May 2020) for those who have served in this honor guard duty.

*The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.*

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are:

President Taft, Joe Lewis (the boxer), and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC Evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the Hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!'

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding The Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930. And the winter storms that recently shut down the entire Washington DC region failed to stay these soldiers from their duties.

May God Bless and keep them.



# The Army Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge

## and how they can relate to each other

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Combat%20Infantry%20Badge%20CIB>

<https://veteranmedals.army.mil/>

The **Combat Infantry Badge (CIB)** was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in its creation. He originally recommended that it be called the "fighter badge."



The CIB was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle." Then Secretary of War Henry Stinson said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry." Originally, the Regimental Commander was the lowest level at which the CIB could be approved and its award was retroactive to 7 December 1941. There was a separate provision for badge holders to receive a \$10 per month pay stipend, which was rescinded in 1948. From the beginning, Army leaders have taken care to retain the badge for the unique purpose for which it was established and to prevent the adoption of any other badge which would lower its prestige. At the close of World War II, our largest war in which the armor and artillery played key roles in the ground campaigns, a review was conducted of the CIB criteria with consideration being given to creating either additional badges or authorizing the badge to cavalry and armor units. The review noted that any change in policy would detract from the prestige of the badge.

The definition of requirement to be "engaged in active ground combat" has generated much dialog over the years as to the original intent of the CIB. The 1943 War Department Circular required infantrymen to demonstrate "satisfactory performance of duty in action against the enemy." The operative words "in action" connoted actual combat. A War Department determination in October 1944 specified that "action against the enemy" for purposes of award of the CIB was to be interpreted as "ground combat against enemy ground forces." In 1948, the regulation governing badges stipulated that "battle participation credit is not sufficient; the unit must have been in contact with the enemy." This clearly indicated that an exchange of hostile fire or equivalent personal exposure was the intent of the Army leadership. In 1963 and 1965 HQDA messages to the senior Army commander in the Southeast Asia theater of operations authorized award of the CIB to otherwise qualified personnel "provided they are personally present and under fire." U.S. Army Vietnam regulations went so far as to require documentation of the type and intensity of enemy fire encountered by the Soldier. The intended requirement to be "personally present and under fire" has not changed.



### Criteria for being award the Bronze Star (Army)

a. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the military of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

b. Awards may be made for acts of heroism, performed under circumstances described above, which are of lesser degree than required for the award of the Silver Star.

c. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or meritorious service.

General George C. Marshall, in a memorandum to President Roosevelt dated February 3, 1944, wrote: "The fact that the ground troops, Infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance. The award of the Air Medal have had an adverse reaction on the ground troops, particularly the Infantry Riflemen who are now suffering the heaviest losses, air or ground, in the Army, and enduring the greatest hardships."

President Roosevelt authorized the Bronze Star Medal by Executive Order 9419 dated 4 February 1944, retroactive to 7 December 1941. This authorization was announced in War Department Bulletin No. 3, dated 10 February 1944. [ **Earning the CIB qualified** ] The Executive Order was amended by President Kennedy, per Executive Order 11046 dated 24 August 1962, to expand the authorization to include those serving with friendly forces.

As a result of a study conducted in 1947, the policy was implemented that authorized the retroactive award of the Bronze Star Medal to soldiers who had received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II. The basis for doing this was that the badges were awarded only to soldiers who had borne the hardships which resulted in General Marshall's support of the Bronze Star Medal. *The medal was after the fact, but earned.*

# June Historical & Current Events

June 2nd

- United States citizenship granted to all American Indians, 1924
- The Beatles US album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band,* was released, 1967



June 4th

- Henry Ford made successful test run with his horseless carriage in Detroit, 1896

June 6th

- First drive-in movie theater opened in New Jersey, 1933

June 9th

- The first U.S. Ballistic Missile Submarine launched, 1959



June 10th

- The first United States Mint was established in Boston, 1652

June 11th

- The first U.S. patent for gas-driven auto issued, 1895

June 12th

- Virginia's colonial legislature became first to adopt a Bill of Rights, 1776

June 14th

- The United States Army was founded, 1775
- The Stars & Stripes was adopted as the American Flag, 1777



June 15th

- Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity, 1752
- Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton established a military burial ground, which became Arlington National Cemetery, 1864



June 19th

- Slavery was outlawed in United States Territories, 1862
- The first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington, 1910
- Pope Paul VI proclaimed a 19th century bishop & John Neumann became the first male United States Saint, 1977

June 20th

- The Great Seal of the United States was adopted, 1782
- The Beatles US album, *Yesterday and Today,* was released, 1966



June 24th

- The National Minimum Wage law was enacted, 1938

June 25th

- Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry were massacred by Sioux & Cheyenne Indians at the Battle of Little Big Horn, 1876

June 26th

- The first section of the Atlantic City, New Jersey, boardwalk was opened to the public, 1870
- Jefferson Memorial was created, Washington, D.C., 1934



June 26th

- Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River made surrender arrangements, 1865
- The first legal casino opened in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1978
- The Beatles US album, *A Hard Day's Night,* was released

June 28th

- Molly Pitcher (Mary Ludwig Hays) carried water to American Soldiers at the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth, 1778... carried water and more!
- Labor Day was established as a federal holiday, 1894



June 29th

- British approved the Townshend Revenue Acts, which imposed import duties on tea, glass, lead, paint & paper, 1767