



Region 8 Veterans Committee News Letter

February & March



“The amount of good luck coming your way depends on your willingness to act!” an Irish quote...

Operation Victory Announced their latest Completion of 3rd Renovated Home for Homeless Veteran

Home to be Provided to Veteran at January 27th Dedication Ceremony

Louisville, KY (January 27, 2020)—Greater Louisville area unions, The Housing Partnership Inc., Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, Metro United Way, the Greater Louisville Building & Construction Trades Council, and businesses have formed a partnership to Help a Homeless Veteran. Union, businesses, and community groups came together to rehabilitate a home in the South End of Louisville. With more than 50 organizations donating and volunteering, and after more than 1000 volunteer hours, the formerly shuttered and dilapidated house is ready to be a home and be provided to veteran Torre Keith Harris.

A homeless hero now has a place to call home. “I’m short for words. I can’t really explain how I feel,” said Torre Keith Harris. “Appreciative. I’m really appreciative. I don’t have to worry about where I have to go to next, where I go to eat.” A former veteran, Harris served in the United States Marine Corps in Special Operations as a Forward Observer in Fire Support, an important artillery position coordinating the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps on specific targets essential to battle. Forward Observers are first responders and require intelligence, accuracy and difficult decision making under extreme pressure that may change the course of battle. Harris has expressed post-traumatic stress from having served.

Harris currently works as a construction contractor on various jobs, but after suffering a car accident that compromised his ability to work, Harris found himself homeless. He has been living this way on and off for nearly 15 years. Recently hired as a contractor to rehabilitate abandoned homes by The Housing Partnership, Inc., Harris was found by HPI’s Director of Construction, Tawana Hughes, to be living in houses he was contracted to renovate. Ms. Hughes argued that a contractor of The Housing Partnership, Inc., a nonprofit real estate development company whose mission is to provide affordable housing opportunities to those in need, should not be homeless. She encouraged Harris to apply to Operation Victory.

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: Todd Dunn with the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council/UAW 862, Teresa Reno-Weber from Metro United Way, Rob Locke Board Member w/Housing Partnership Inc., Mayor Greg Fischer, Pam Evans with GE Appliances, Heather French Henry MC for the event, Lt. Colonel Keith Jackson with KDVA, Nicole George with Metro Council, Harold Reynolds from IBEW 369, Christie McCravy with Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and Torre Keith Harris the veteran receiving the home, and to many more.

###

Operation Victory was started in 2017 by labor unions, community groups, and local businesses wanting to help reduce veteran homelessness. This event marks the third home and third formerly homeless veteran Operation Victory will have assisted with permanent housing, after taking boarded up houses and through the work of coalition partners, renovating the structures into homes. The renovation of these boarded up houses not only provide homes for military

service members, it also decreases the number of vacant abandoned properties in our community? This what Louisville KY has.



What is happening in your community! Check out this website for more information and ideas.

http://www.glclc.com/?zone=/unionactive/view_page.cfm&page=Press20Releases

May joy and peace surround you,
contentment latch your door, and happiness
be with you now and bless you ever more!



Did you know:

St. Patrick's Day Facts

As long as you celebrate safely, St. Patrick's Day can be fun for all.

Here are a few facts about the Irish holiday:

- St. Patrick's Day celebrates the traditional religious feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.
- The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but the United States on March 17, 1737, in Boston.
- More than 100 St. Patrick's Day parades are held across the United States. New York City and Boston host the largest.
- There are roughly 35 million U.S. residents with Irish ancestry, more than seven times the population of Ireland itself.
- There are approximately 144,588 current U.S. residents who were born in Ireland**.
- You may hear some phrases in Gaelic/Irish on St. Patrick's Day. The most common: Erin go braugh = Ireland forever; slainte = good health/cheers.



The Irish Special Forces



The Irish Military



The Irish Pipers



The Irish Farmer



The Carlingford
Leprechauns: Protected by the European Union,
But are they real?

PLEASE, Drink responsibly!



THE BEAMISH BROTHERS-IRISH RAF HEROES

-Posted on May 18, 2016 under History, Irish WWII Heroes, RAF, World War 2



Sometimes it is difficult enough to find a compelling story relating to WWII. But then there are times when you are having your lunch and are listening to a radio show.

On the Irish radio talk show, Loveline, a lady called in to talk about the ordeal her 98-year-old mother had to go through in the A&E dept. (Accident & Emergency) in the local hospital. That story was compelling enough. However, yesterday there was a call back where the lady was asked how her mother was at the moment, then the story got a new twist. It emerged that the 98 year old woman was the widow of one of the Beamish brothers and the sister in law of the other 3. Unfortunately, it wasn't clear how her husband had been but looking at the ages I presume it was Cecil.

Below is the story of the 4 brothers.

The 4 x Irish Beamish brothers (Victor, George, Charles, and Cecil) were truly remarkable as both sportsmen and RAF officers:

Group Captain **Francis Victor Beamish** (27 September 1903 – 28 March 1942) was a Royal Air Force fighter pilot and flying ace of the Second World War. After flying during the Battle of Britain he continued to lead fighter operations until he was killed in action in 1942.



Beamish was born at Dunmanway, County Cork on 27 September 1903 the son of Francis George Beamish and Mary Elizabeth Beamish. He attended Coleraine Academical Institution.

Of the 4 brothers he was the most decorated and well known.

Victor Beamish. Gp Capt. Francis **Victor** Beamish flew in the Battle of Britain and became a 'fighter ace' by scoring 10 victories. Victor was station commander at RAF North Weald and RAF Kenley and was awarded the DSO (plus bar), DFC and AFC before being killed in action on 28 Mar 1942 leading the Kenley Wing.



Graduated from Cranwell 1923, retired from RAF on health grounds 1933, re-joined 1937, commanded 64 Squadron, AFC 1-1-38. Commanded 504 Squadron. Became OC North Weald 7-6-40 and flew operationally whenever possible.

He went to Canada on 22nd March 1929 on exchange with an RCAF officer. When he returned two years later, he was posted to 25 Squadron at Hawkinge as a Flight Commander.

In January 1932 Beamish was appointed Personal Assistant to the AOC at Uxbridge. A year later he went into hospital at Uxbridge, suffering from tuberculosis, with the result that he had to retire from the RAF on 18th October 1933.

Very unhappy at this, Beamish got a job as civilian assistant at 2 FTS Digby, later returning to Ireland in 1936 to become civilian adjutant at RAF Aldergrove on 18th May. This was a non-flying appointment in the Air Force Reserve. Beamish was sufficiently recovered to be reinstated with full flying status as a Flight Lieutenant on 27th January 1937 and was posted to command 2 Armament Training Camp and Met Flight at Aldergrove. His comeback was complete when he was given command of 64 Squadron at Church Fenton on 8th December 1937. He was awarded the AFC (gazetted 1st January 1938) for establishing the Met Flight.

After a course at RAF Staff College, Andover, he took command of 504 Squadron at Digby on 13th September 1939. He returned to Canada in mid-January 1940 on Air Staff duties but, back in the UK, he took over RAF North Weald on 7th June 1940. Beamish flew operational sorties with his station squadrons whenever he could.

On 18th June he claimed two Me109's destroyed, on 9th July a Me110 damaged, on the 12th a Do17 shot down, on 18th August a probable Ju88, on the 24th a Do17 damaged and on the 30th two probable Me110's. On 6th September Beamish claimed two Ju87's, on the 11th a probable He111, on the 15th a share in a He111 and on the 18th and 27th probable Me109's. He damaged a Me109 on 12th October, probably destroyed one and damaged another on the 25th and probably shot down another on the 30th.

On 7th November 1940 Beamish collided with P/O TF Neil of 249 Squadron whilst on patrol and made a forced-landing at Leeds Castle in Kent. In all his sorties in 1940, he was damaged by enemy action three times, on each occasion getting his aircraft down safely. On 11th November 1940, Italian aircraft based in Belgium attempted a raid and Beamish claimed a probable CR42 biplane fighter.



Two days later he damaged a Me109 near Dover. On 10th January 1941 he shot down a Me109 over the Channel. Beamish was posted to HQ 11 Group on 17th March 1941.



He was back in action later that year and claimed a probable Me109 near Mardyck on 9th August 1941. He was awarded a Bar to the DSO (gazetted 25th September 1941).

On 25th January 1942 Beamish went to RAF Kenley to take command and again flew with his squadrons. With W/Cdr. RF Boyd he took off on the morning of 12th February 'to see what was happening on the other side'. After chasing two Me109's, they saw part of the German Fleet making its 'Channel Dash'. The ships had been reported ten minutes earlier by two pilots of 91 Squadron but the news was received with complete disbelief at 11 Group. Beamish's confirmation was enough to set in motion a series of uncoordinated attacks on the German fleet.

On 13th February Beamish had a share in the destruction of a He115 over the Channel. On 9th March he claimed a Fw190 destroyed and another on the 26th, as well as a Me109.



Leading the Kenley Wing and flying with 485 (NZ) Squadron on 28th March, Beamish saw a force of Me109's and Fw190's a few miles south of Calais. He turned the Wing towards them. In the ensuing engagement Beamish was seen to be attacked and damaged by a Me109. He requested a vector over the radio and was last seen entering a cloud near Calais. It is presumed that he crashed into the Channel, possibly wounded and perhaps unconscious. He was 38 years old.

In May 2016 the life of RAF Spitfire ace Victor Beamish was celebrated during the Listowel Military Tattoo in a small town of Listowel Co. Kerry Ireland, where a replica of Victor Beamish's Spitfire was revealed.



Air Marshal **Sir George Robert Beamish**, (29 April 1905 – 13 November 1967) was a senior commander in the Royal Air Force from the Second World War to his retirement in the late



1950s.

Prior to World War II, whilst Beamish was in the RAF, he was a keen rugby union player, playing for Leicester and being capped 26 times for Ireland and was selected for the 1930

British and Irish Lions tour. He was also the chairman of the RAF Rugby Union and an Air Force rugby selector.



Group Captain **Charles Eric St John Beamish** (23 June 1908 – 18 May 1984) was an Irish rugby player and Second World War RAF pilot.



He gained 12 caps for Ireland as a prop forward and also represented the British and Irish Lions on their 1936 tour of Argentina.

Air Vice Marshal **Cecil Howard Beamish** (31 March 1915 – 21 May 1999) was an Irish RAF officer, who served during the Second World war and was later Director of RAF Dental Services 1969–1973.



All 4 brothers had also been members of the RAF Golf Association.

After the war, many returned home to be branded deserters.

Deserters were found guilty of going absent without leave by a military tribunal.

Their punishment came after the war when many of the soldiers headed home to Ireland.

He was the youngest of the Beamish brothers, he played rugby for London Irish, the Barbarians and the RAF.

They were barred from holding jobs paid for by the state, they lost their pension rights and many-faced discrimination. In 2012 the Irish government apologized for the way they were treated and in May 2013 a pardon bill was passed it gave pardon and also granted an amnesty and immunity from prosecution to the almost 5,000 Irish soldiers who fought alongside the allies.

U of L interior design students to design tiny homes for veterans in need.



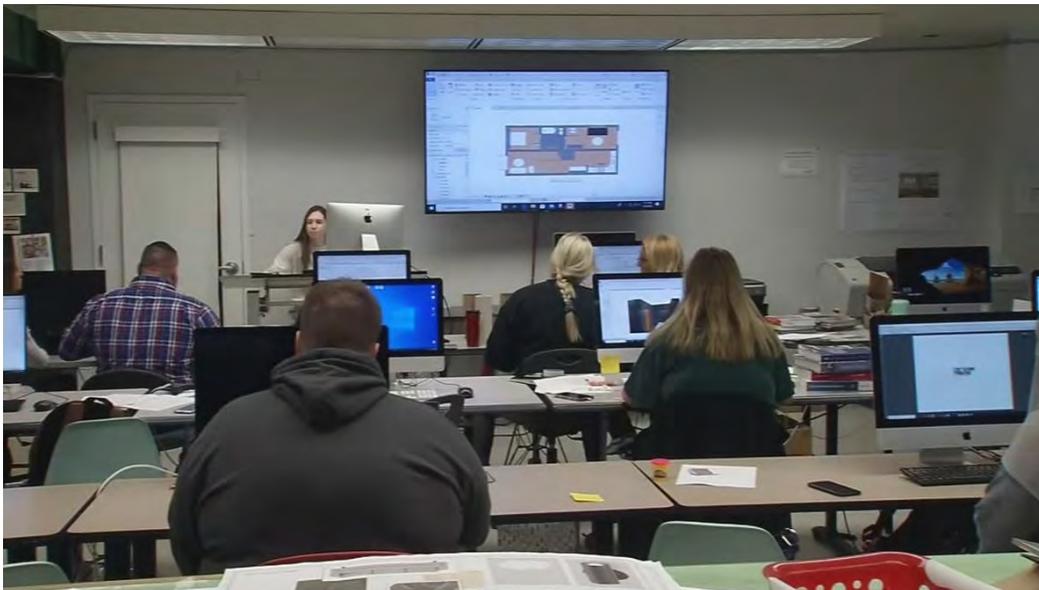
The University of Louisville interior design students are developing ideas for “Camp Restoration”, a community of tiny houses for homeless veterans.



Jeremy Harrell and Chief of the Kentucky Veterans Club.



The community is an effort by the Kentucky Veteran's Club.



U of L students working in class to make this DREAM happen.

Now this is a Co-op for sure. Investing in the community and all who live within. Love what makes it drive to work. Debbi-

VFW POST 5908

VFW Post 5908, 32 Mt. Zion Road, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456

**1st ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 9:00am**

PRE-REGISTER \$20

DAY OF \$25

TO REGISTER CONTACT
VFWPOST5908@GMAIL.COM
MORE INFO ON FACEBOOK
@ROCKCASTLEVFW5908



**Bike Run includes event entry and t-shirt. Non-rider entry \$5
T-shirts available for \$20. Kickstand up at 11:00am.
Raffles - Door Prizes - Food - Live Music by Lowdown at 5:00pm**

See more on Facebook Rockcastle VFW Memorial Post 5908 @RockcastleVFW5908

www.facebook.com/Lowdown502

**Sponsors: Cromer Trucking, Mt. Vernon - Martin's Peterbilt, London
Wildcat Harley Davidson, London - Long Rider Leather, London**

GONNA BE AWESOME TIME, FOR A GREAT CAUSE. Who's with me??

What is a coronavirus?



Watch for the signs: Coronaviruses: COVID-19

Coronaviruses are types of viruses that typically affect the respiratory tracts of birds and mammals, including humans. Doctors associate them with the common cold, bronchitis, pneumonia, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and they can also affect the gut.

Wash your hands



and refrain from putting hands anywhere above shoulders without washing hands for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer (Lysol spray and wipes are great for the home. When away from home. This virus is transferred from touch. Use caution when out in public (i.e. shopping carts/public restrooms etc.) Most stores provide wipes where the carts are kept. Keep some travel hand sanitizer

with you at all times.



Stay informed with [live updates](#) on the current COVID-19 outbreak.

This merger became effective today, February 28, 2020. States have been apportioned between Region 4 and 8.

Reminder: Got something happening in your neck of the woods? Send me a Word.doc file so I can add to the next newsletter. Send to:

debbiabattipearson@yahoo.com

Remember to check the Region 8 home page and watch for the next newsletter. Region 8's circle has widened; therefore, this is my last email with Newsletter. I just can't send mass emails out anymore, which is a great! We have expanded, see below.

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UAW REGION 8

- ***Was... Region 8:***

Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware and four Pennsylvania counties: Franklin, Cumberland, Adams and York.

- ***NOW... Region 8:***

ADDED: Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Utah and California.

Please make all our new brothers and sisters feel welcomed and show Solidarity!

Debbi~