

would he have had? He was so capable at whatever he did.”

At Superior High School, Grant played basketball with a smaller player nicknamed “Rabbit.” “He wasn’t big, but he could play. He was one of those guys you just wanted to be around because he enjoyed every day.

“He joined the Navy and they put him in submarines. We’d write back and forth. He was gone about a year, and when he came home he told me that they’d sunk a lot of Japanese ships.

“Then he had to go back to the war, but he was all excited because he was assigned to one of the new class of subs. It was bigger, better, faster, could carry more torpedoes and it was more comfortable for the crew. It was called the USS Bullhead.”

The Bullhead was operating in the Java Sea when it was sunk in August 1945. It was the last U.S. warship sunk during World War II.

“And so I think of him. I wonder what kind of a life he would have had if he had survived the war. And that’s what I do. Instead of thinking about a football game I might have won or lost, I think about these guys.”

Sometimes the former Viking coach thinks about American Legion Baseball. He began playing on the Superior Post team when he was 14 years old. “I was precocious,” he said.

“There was not much else to do in the summertime but play baseball. We could hardly wait. We’d tape up our baseballs, and put screws in our bats to hold them together. We were just waiting for that first warm day.

“The only team in town was the Legion team so you had to make that team.”

Grant did make the team. He recalls two experiences, one bad and one good, from those early days.

“I was in left field and they hit a ball out to me and it went between my legs. A run scored and we lost the game. I was haunted by that. I vowed to never let a ball go through me again, and I don’t think one ever did.”

The second game was in the early 40s when Superior traveled down to Minneapolis to take on the powerhouse Richfield Legion team. In 1943, Richfield won the Legion World Series.

“I remember we played the game at the Fort Snelling field. It came down to the bottom of the ninth, and they had a runner on third base with one out. We were ahead one to nothing.

“I knew that if they hit a ball out to me, I’d never be able to throw the guy out at the plate if he tagged up. So I cheated in a little bit. Sure enough, the batter hit a line drive right to me, and I threw the runner out at home plate.

“In those days you never took a shower after the game, you just hopped on the bus. I remember we sang all the way back to Superior. It was the first time I was ever the hero.”

Grant’s baseball prowess grew as he grew, and toward the end of his Legion career he was selected for a national East-West all-star game to be played in Chicago.

“They only paid for one berth, so my mom and I slept in the berth, and my dad sat up all night on the train.

“I was pretty excited, but I was just a punk kid from Superior. We didn’t have a shower at home, and so I was really excited at taking a shower at the hotel. The trouble was I didn’t know you were supposed to put the shower curtain inside the tub. So pretty soon there was a knock on the door because the water was going down into the room on the floor below.

“We practiced for three days and the coaches tried to figure who should play where. I really wanted to play outfield so I could hit. In batting practice I hit one out of the park, and this was Comiskey Field, the big-league park.

“But they decided I was the best pitcher on the team, and so they made me pitch. After three days of practice, my arm was dead. I only got one at-bat and I didn’t do anything.”

Grant said he and the other players truly appreciated American Legion Baseball. “It gave us structure. The Legion scheduled the games, they scheduled the practices. There was always a manager from the Legion post, and he made sure we had bats and balls and catching equipment.”

Grant said that he needs to be cautious about what he says about youth baseball or youth sports in general, but he said there’s room for improvement these days.

“I think the parents are more involved than the kids. They get them the equipment, and they get them uniforms. And then there’s always treats after the games. Treats after the games?”

In the Depression and war years, the kids played ball all summer, but managed to do so without adult supervision. “We made up the teams. We decided where we would play and when and how long. I’d get a bunch of guys and someone else would get a bunch from the other side of town, and we’d play.

“We didn’t spend a lot of time arguing because we wanted to play. You’d settle the dispute quickly, just accept what the other guy said and move on.

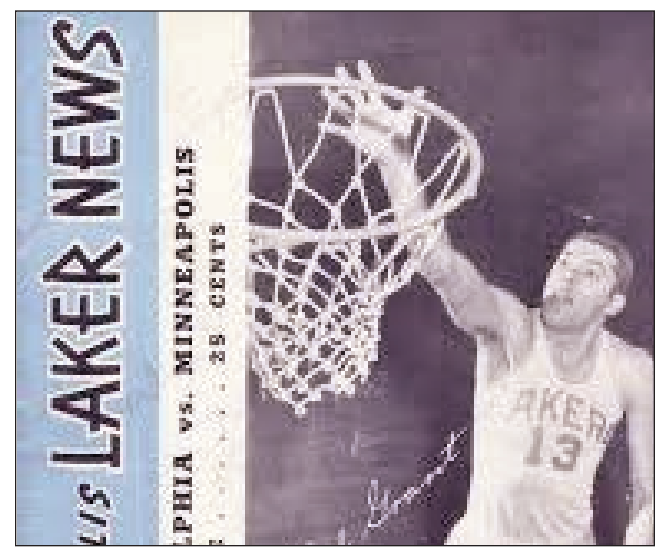
“And that’s the problem. The kids don’t make any decisions today. Back then, we made them all. They’re not learning those life skills. The kids are only worried about what treats they get after the game.”



An American landing craft in the Pacific in 1944.



Grant spends most of his spare time hunting and fishing in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Canada.



As a bench player, Grant helped the Minneapolis Lakers win a world championship.



Grant at his office at Winter Park, the headquarters of the Vikings. He is a consultant for the team.

World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling

In defense of Admiral Husband E. Kimmel

By Al Zdon

The U.S. military was caught by surprise on December 7, 1941, when Japanese planes swooped over the Hawaiian island of Oahu and wreaked carnage on the nation's battleship fleet and the airfields surrounding Pearl Harbor.

Somebody had to take the blame for the disaster, and those two somebodies were Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, in charge of the Pacific Fleet, and Gen. Walter Short, in charge of the Army defenses on Oahu.

Kimmel was relieved of duty shortly after the attack, reduced from a four-star admiral to a two-star rear admiral, and then found guilty by a presidential commission of "dereliction of duty." He left the service in early 1942.

While Kimmel may have served as a prime scapegoat for the unpreparedness of the Navy at Pearl Harbor, historians, commissions and Congress have, through the years, determined that Kimmel was unfairly singled out in the rush to judgment.

Kimmel's main defender and exonerator these days is his grandson, Thomas Kimmel, a former FBI agent who travels the country giving talks on his ancestor.

Kimmel was the featured speaker at the December meeting of the World War II Round Table held at the Fort Snelling History Center.

"There's no question that Admiral Kimmel was responsible and accountable for what happened at Pearl Harbor," Thomas Kimmel said. "The question is whether he was blamable, and should he have been punished."

The younger Kimmel presented a series of slides making his case that the admiral was unfairly treated.

One of the accusations was that Admiral Kimmel was listening to the MAGIC code breaking interceptions of Japanese diplomatic messages. Thomas Kimmel said the admiral and other key officials did not have access to all the MAGIC information, "and besides that, the Japanese diplomats were not aware of what was going on in the military."

There have been historical revelations in more recent years, Kimmel said, that the Soviets and the British had access to knowledge that the attack was coming, but that information, while shared with President Franklin Roosevelt, was not shared with Kimmel or Gen. Short.

"Admiral Kimmel was dependent on Washington for intelligence, and he expected to get all that information. He had a false belief he was getting that information. He was 'affirmatively misled.'"

Thomas Kimmel said that information received at the White House in the days before Pearl Harbor caused Roosevelt to say, "This means war."

"What would be the logical thing for FDR to do? Wouldn't he notify the Army and the Navy as soon as possible?" That notification apparently never came.

The fate of Admiral Kimmel's reputation went through eight commissions and one naval inquiry. The naval tribunal was the only inquiry where Admiral Kimmel was allowed to testify on his own behalf. That inquiry found there was no evidence to support the dereliction of duty charge.

What the family has been seeking all along, and what it continues to seek, Kimmel said, is for Admiral Kimmel to be posthumously advanced to his highest rank. Nearly all American flag officers in World War II were allowed to retire at their highest rank – except Kimmel. "It's the last official stigma."

In 2000, Congress passed a law recommending that Admiral Kimmel be posthumously advanced. As of now, the Department of Defense has chosen not to do so.

Thomas Kimmel recently wrote a lengthy letter to Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, asking that the congressional recommendation be heeded.

The letter included testimonials from dozens of people who are interested in restoring the admiral's rank and reputation.

"I don't believe there was a flag officer in the Pacific Fleet who did not feel that Kimmel was an ideal man for the job. Unfortunately, even an ideal man can't do the job without proper tools, and Kimmel did not have them." – Fleet Admiral William Halsey.

"It seems to me that they are (Kimmel and Short) no more blamable than a number of people in Washington..." – Samuel Eliot Morison, official naval historian for World War II.

"I consider that after Pearl Harbor, Admiral Kimmel received the rawest of raw deals." – Commander, U.S. Fleet, James Richardson.

"This is the most tragic injustice in American military history," – Vice President Joe Biden, who co-sponsored the posthumous advancement bill when he was a U.S. Senator.

Thomas Kimmel said the effort to restore the admiral's reputation also has the full support of, and was suggested by, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. "It would be nice to get this done while some of them are still around."



THOMAS KIMMEL
Speaker at the December Round Table



ADMIRAL HUSBAND E. KIMMEL
Commander of the Pacific Fleet on Dec. 7, 1941

Another speaker at the Round Table was Jack Lambert, a military historian who has done much research on Pearl Harbor. He spoke about the radar sites that were supposed to give early warning of an attack.

"There were six radar sites on Oahu. But it was like having a state of the art fire station and no fire fighters to man it. A blob on a radar screen didn't tell us who was coming. Those who could interpret that blob were not there. There were no trained personnel."

Lambert also talked about why American planes were left in such an exposed position at the Army airfields. "The fighters were removed from the protective barriers to protect them from sabotage, which was thought to be the main threat. The pilots were told to take the weekend off. So the planes were lined up on the ramp, wingtip to wingtip by squadron, ready for the Saturday morning review."

He also said that the Army was told that anything that came over Oahu, the Navy could shoot it down.

Jim Johns, who has written an unpublished conspiracy theory book on Pearl Harbor, also spoke.

He claims that Washington knew that a carrier force of six attack ships was en route east from Japan in the week before Pearl Harbor.

Johns also showed a document that ordered the clearing of the sea lanes between Hawaii and Japan. "FDR cleared the way for the Japanese Fleet."

Johns told a questioner that President Roosevelt was interested in making sure that the United States got into the world war, and the sea lanes were cleared so that nothing would interrupt the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Bud Nakasone, who was a 14-year-old Japanese American living on Oahu, told of his first-hand observation of the attack.

"We lived in the middle of Oahu. It was about 7:30 or 7:40 in the morning, and I was eating my Kellogg's Corn Flakes. I could see about 15 or 18 Navy aircraft coming through the pass.

"I could see them strafing Schofield Barracks, and then they were up in the air again in perfect formation. Then they bombed Wheeler Airfield. I saw those bombs coming down and I said, 'Oh my God, this is terrible.'"

Nakasone said he ran back inside and turned on the radio. "A voice was saying, 'All servicemen return to their bases. The Japanese are attacking. This is no joke, it's the real McCoy.'"

Nakasone said at one point one of the Japanese planes flew right by him. "I could see the white scarf blowing in the wind. I could see his eyes behind the goggles."



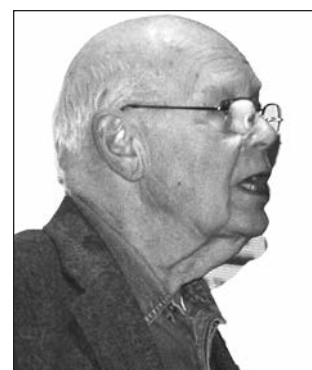
The USS Shaw at Pearl Harbor after her forward magazine exploded.



BUD NAKASONE



JACK LAMBERT



JIM JOHNS

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

**Brian Medinnus
Commander**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Members of the 1st District Family.

Now comes the time that tests the mettle of all good members of the Legion Family. This is the time frame where all Members must redouble their efforts to get all Members to pay their dues so they will not lose their continuous years in the Hospital Association. A nice present for someone this Christmas is a paid Membership in The American Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL.

The next District event will be the District's Mid Winter Meeting. It will be held in Adams on January 4 at Post 146. The Executive Board will meet at 9 a.m. and General Session will meet at 10.

SECOND DISTRICT

**Eugene Olsword
Commander**



Welcome to year 2014. It doesn't seem possible half my term as your Second District Commander is over. How time does fly.

The District celebrated their Christmas party differently this year. Instead of the usual Christmas party and gift exchange, we went to the Luverne Veteran's Home and celebrated with our vets with carols, each veteran getting a gift and followed up with cake and coffee. I have received cards of thanks from the veterans on the wonderful time they had and receiving a gift from their wish list. This couldn't have been a success without the help of District President Jeannette and the support of the 2nd District. Thanks one and all.

National Commander Dan Dellinger is making two stops in our District on his tour of Minnesota, stopping in Pipestone for breakfast then onto Redwood Falls for dinner on February 3rd. Currently, we have seven posts at goal and I foresee many more posts at goal by the end of January so these post members can be present at one of these stops to have their picture taken with the National Commander and displayed on their post's wall.

Sweetheart Rally is being held at Post 428 in Waite Park on February 1st. As always, blue caps are encouraged to attend. All posts should be at 85% by this date. Watch our website at: www.mnlegion2nndistrict.com for more/

THIRD DISTRICT

**Mark Dvorak
Commander**



Thank you to Rosemount Post 65 for hosting our 4th rally of the year and thank you to Vice Commander Don Skow for organizing the rally - the food was excellent and we had a good turn in.

The Third District's Facebook is up and running. Adjutant Linda has been busy taking pictures and posting them to Facebook. Please let Adjutant Linda know if you want an item posted. If you get the Third District Newsletter via e-mail, you can click on the Facebook OR Third District Web site link to be automatically connected. For those who get the newsletter via mail, the website address for the Third District web site is:

WWW.MNTHUNDERINGTHIRD.ORG

The Facebook address is:

www.facebook.com/pages/MN-Third-District/448188778623168?fref=ts

Elysian Post 311 will be hosting the Third District Mid-Winter conference on Saturday, January 25th. The joint session with the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion will be from 9-10:00 a.m. with general sessions to follow. Committee chairpersons should give a brief report at the conference and if you are unable to attend, please send a copy of your report to Adjutant Linda.

The consolidated report is the most important report the post completes. Each post should be documenting activities the post is involved in on a continual basis. The Third District goal is to have 100% turn-in rate.

FOURTH DISTRICT

**Carroll Partridge
Commander**



Hello 4th District,
Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a super New Year.

The last count on our shop, ship, and share is over 900 boxes sent to our troops. Great job Legionnaires.

It will be good to see all of you at the February district meeting. There will be some special events happening at this meeting. Don't miss it.

Looking forward to the new year. As always, hi to Darrell and the guys at Creekside.

FIFTH DISTRICT

**Robert Johnson
Commander**



We had an exciting first-half of our current Legion year and we look forward to a great finish. Many thanks to all who have volunteered to go that extra mile to help us to continue to serve our veterans.

It is time for our Posts to think about endorsing District Officer candidates for 2013-2014. Strong bench strength is the key to our continued success. We have a great cadre of officers onboard now. Let's keep it going. Think about endorsing your qualified candidates today.

At the time of this writing, the Fighting 5th District has surpassed the January 2014 National Membership goal of 80%. As of December 18, 2013 we are at 80.37%. Congratulations to our Membership Team headed by Wayne Wessel.

Winter Carnival time is here. January 25, 2014, we march with our friends from the Fabulous 4th District in the Grand Day Parade. Meet at Arcade-Phalen at 12 noon, march in the parade and enjoy a membership turn-in, lunch and camaraderie.

Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

SIXTH DISTRICT

**Vern Massie
Commander**



Well Happy New Year to one and all. 2013 was a great year and hope everyone can look back and reflect on the good throughout the year. As we look forward to 2014 and the hope's a new year brings with it.

By the time most of you get this we will be planning to attend the District Mid-Winter in Brainerd on January 25th. I hope each post will consider sending at least one member to this training and information meeting. More information on the conference is listed in the bulletin.

We made a big push on membership at Pearl Harbor and fell just a little short but we are still in the race. Now the Holidays are over it is time to make a more concentrated push to sign up new members and renew the current members. Something to give thought to as the District advance's into the tech world that would be nice if each post had an e-mail contact.

Lots of information could be relayed to Post's if everyone had an address. Something for each post to consider. I know some posts are pretty small but maybe helping the Adjutant or Commander that has been the stable part of the Post to get an e-mail address would be a step in the right direction.

Department provided each district with an Ipad and the district is learning and using it more every day. So hopefully to better communications each post will have an e-mail address soon.

With the new year, the commanders and adjutants will soon start receiving various reports from department and district committee chairs. No matter your Post size and whether you did anything or not please fill out the reports and sign them and send them back. Do not put same as last year as that means nothing as last year's reports are long gone.

The Consolidated Post report is the big one and I would like to see the Sixth District have a 100% report this year. So look for it and please fill it out, sign it and mail it in. I am sure you will find your post did something on the report to fill out and if not please tell us and send it back. Don't discard it, take a few minutes and fill it out. Everyone will greatly appreciate it.

Until next time wishing you a Happy 2014 and remember your sweetheart on Valentine's day and keep our troops in your prayers. Sweetheart Rally is next big membership turn in so work on those last few members left. Again break

SEVENTH DISTRICT

**Harold Meyer Jr.
Commander**



Greetings from the mighty 7th district.
Remember the mid-winter conference is on Saturday January 18th in Browns Valley Post 58. The conference will

start at 0900 hours. It would be nice to have at least one member from every post to attend the meeting.

Membership is still coming in slowly and we need to go out and work a little harder to get those last few members. I would like to thank all of the posts that have made goal. There are a few posts that are really close to making goal so like I would say is "Let's Get It Done".

From my Family to yours have a very Merry Christmas And a safe and cheerful New Year.

God Bless you, May God Bless America the greatest land in the world. And God Bless all our Troops in harm's way.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

**Jerry St. Michel
Commander**



Legionnaires of the Great Eighth. Now that the holidays are behind us, its time for us to concentrate on our American Legion programs. Of course, our most important one is membership. We are doing well but the time has come to start calling those unpaid members and, of course, ask the hundreds of veterans who are not members to join the largest veterans association in the country.

To all the Legionnaires, please keep up the good work and have the happiest of New Years.

NINTH DISTRICT

**Thomas Norgaard Sr.
Commander**



Now that the holiday season and my wife's' Christmas wreath business are done for the year, I can get back to Legion business. I hope that everyone had a very joyful holiday season and didn't get into too much egg nog. Our membership is going along great but it will take some effort to 'shovel' the last few out of the 'snowdrifts.'

My Commander's Project to raise money for the Recreation Fund at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home is doing pretty good. I have been presented with several donations from Posts that I have visited. Remember that even a small donation will go a long way in the lives of our fellow Veterans. Remember that January 17th and 18th is our District Mid-Winter Conference in Crookston Post 20. I encourage as many of you that can make the trip to attend and see how our 9th District works and meet many of the District chairmen/women and hear about all the programs we have available. Until the Mid-Winter, I wish everyone a warm season.

TENTH DISTRICT

**Richard Juhl
Commander**



What will the New Year bring? I remember the words of a song from when I was young. "Que Sera, Sera," what will be, will be. Is that really true?

I believe we all have the ability to effect change in our lives and the lives of those around us, whether good or bad. We are part of a very special organization called The American Legion that has almost 100 years of helping others. That, by itself, says something about each of us. We unselfishly give of our time, our labor and, when possible, our dollars. Let us never lose sight of that and as we start the New Year, try every day to put a smile on someone's face.

As you think about your New Year's resolutions, here are a few suggestions.

1. Call a friend you haven't spoken to in a while.
2. Send a card to someone, just because.
3. Meet your neighbors(who knows, they might become your best friends).
4. Open a door or carry a bag of groceries for a stranger.
5. Walk a mile in someone else's shoes.
6. Think about the Legion programs, pick one you feel passionate about, and jump in. It feels good.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we are about to start a new legislative session. Learn what the issues are, who your representatives are, what the Legion objectives are and vote.

Listening Post

News from around the State



HUTCH DEDICATION -- Hutchinson Post 96 dedicated a new helicopter as part of its McLeod County Veterans Memorial Park. Former Minnesota Adjutant General Eugene Andreotti was the featured speaker, and he introduced special guests. At left is Michael Benge, a former Marine who was captured as a civilian in Vietnam in 1968 and was held for five years in various North Vietnamese prisons, and Jack Zimmerman, a soldier from Cleveland, Minn., who lost both legs and his right arm to an IED explosion in Afghanistan.



FALLDIN APPLES -- As has been the tradition with FallDin Post 555 for many years, apples were delivered to seven different schools for American Education Week. From left: Ray Eiden, Chuck Kirk, Columbia Academy staff person, Virgil Persing and Commander Don Ortell.



STILLWATER TREE -- Stillwater Post 48 had a hat, scarf, glove and mitten tree. The 200 donated items were distributed by the post during the holidays.



WALKER MEDAL CEREMONY -- Glenn Bakeberg of Walker was presented with a Purple Heart by Col. Gregg Parks, the featured speaker at a ceremony at the Walker Post 134. Bakeberg served in the Korean War. On Oct. 4, 1951, he carried an injured comrade two miles to safety and then returned to his machine gun. The gun got so hot, it severely burned Bakeberg's hands, and he was taken to Japan for treatment. He waited 62 years for his Purple Heart and other medals.



DEERWOOD COURT OF HONOR -- Troop 100 held its annual Court of Honor at Deerwood Post 557, the sponsors of the troop. At right is Post Commander Ted Olson.



BACKUS CHRISTMAS PARTY -- Karch Sawyer, 1, and his sister Kenzlee, 4, sit on Santa's lap at the annual Backus Post and Auxiliary 368 Kid's Christmas Party. Over 100 kids attended the party, co-sponsored by the Lions' Club.



ST. FRANCIS TOURNAMENT -- A golfer and veteran head out to the first hole of the Support the Troops tournament sponsored by St. Francis Post 622. The tourney featured a silent auction at the post and the SAL was active around the course and in cooking the banquet meal. Proceeds went to packages sent to the troops.



WOODBURY WALL OF THANKS -- Woodbury Post 501 members and Santa participated in the Wall of Thanks program. Donations go to several deserving veterans causes. From left: Henry Kolashinski, Tom Grezek, Bob Halter and John Schuster.

Listening Post

News from around the State



BAGLEY TOURNAMENT -- Bagley Post 16 held its 8th annual softball tournament this past summer. The tournament included a food tent next to the field.



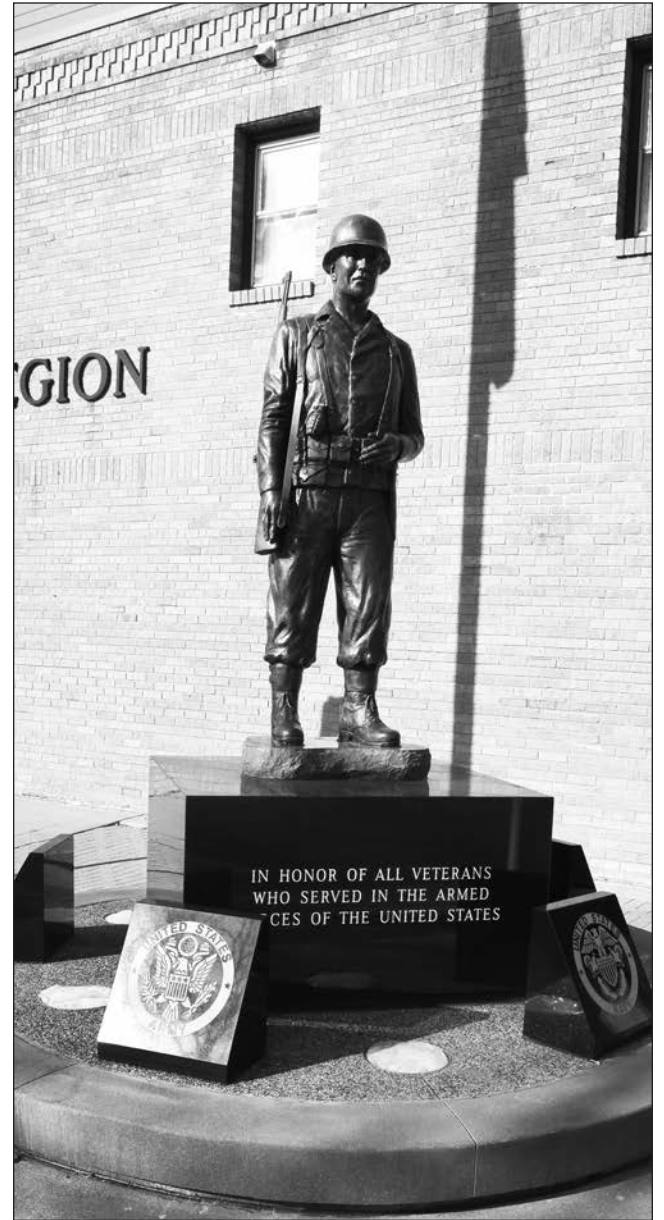
MARSHALL VISIT -- American Legion Riders paid a visit to Marshall Post 113 this past year, collecting funds for the Legacy Scholarship. The post contributed over \$1,000. The donation was later presented at the national convention.



SQUARE KNOT AT ELYSIAN -- Rod Reifsteck was awarded the prestigious Boy Scouting Square Knot award at Elysiian Post 311. The national award honored Reifsteck's 30 years of leadership, dedication and service.



MONTICELLO AT VETS CEMETERY -- Monticello Post 260 participated in the Veterans Day parade at the Veterans Cemetery near Camp Ripley. Pete Larson prepared for the parade with his granddaughter Ginny Alexander.



CHASKA SENTRY -- A new bronze statue has been dedicated just outside Chaska Post 57. "The Sentry" is a World War II soldier walking guard duty. The monument is made out of bronze.



LISMORE CEREMONY -- Lismore Post 636 hosted the Nobles County Council Flag Disposal ceremony. All posts in the county were represented and 81 flags were properly disposed of.



FRANKLIN OFFICERS HONORED -- Legionnaires gathered at the Franklin Post 308 to honor long-time Adjutant Rollie McGraw and Commander Roger Sherman. From left, front: Glen Lund, McGraw and Sherman. In back: Ron Deming, Ray Thompson, Carl Buboltz, and Gary Sharfencamp.



REVERE MAKES GOAL -- Revere Post 582 achieved goal and was honored by the Second District. From left: District Membership Director Harvey Noble, District Commander Gene Olsword, Post Commander Dennis Erickson, Membership Director Marvin Kleven and Department Vice Commander Clint Burt.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 14-6

President Shirley Frederick

January 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

Department Headquarters, Veterans Service Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 651-224-7634

The President's Column

By
Shirley Frederick



Welcome to 2014 and Happy New Year. If you made any New Year's resolutions or not I know that all of you will continue your dedicated volunteering in helping our veterans, service men and women and their families. That is who we are and what our great organization is about.

The past two months everyone was busy with Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas activities for our veterans, our service men and women and their families making sure they were remembered with cards, calls, gifts, and visits.

Now is the time to remember them in another way. January is Legislative and National Security month. We need to turn to our elected officials with calls, emails, letters and personal visits reminding them of the needs of our veterans, our service men and women.

Medical insurance, cost of living, safety and security, hospitals and clinics that are well staffed, clean, good working equipment and structurally well maintained are some of the issues to contact them about. Help is needed to care for our homeless veterans.

If you are unsure of what bills are out there concerning them, contact The American Legion Department Office and talk with Randy, contact your District and State Commanders and their NEC and Alternate NEC.

Each one of them will be able to help you. Also the Minnesota Legionnaire has information. If we as an auxiliary to a veterans organization, along with the veterans do not do this, who will?

Here is some food for thought. Who better than the veteran understands and knows the importance of "For God and Country," patriotism, security of our country and the care of our veterans and service men and women. We need to encourage some of them to become senators and representatives. If you have not experienced the war and injuries and disabilities how can you make good decisions that affect our people and our country.

If your Unit has not ordered some of the educational comic books or need more please contact Sandie or Cathy at Department Office. 651-224-7634 or toll free 1-888-217-9598 or email to deptoffice@mnala.org. They are wonderful educational tools about our veterans, our liberties and our flag.

Remember, "Patriotism, Thank our Veterans – Teach our Children"

New employee will join Department office staff

I thought I would start something new this month and give you all a bit of news that is happening at the Department Office. I would like to introduce each of you to our newest employee, Janet Lauby from Apple Valley who will be starting on Monday, January 6. She will be the first one to greet you on the phone when you call in. Jan is currently the Membership Chairman in the 3rd District so she knows quite a bit of our organization. I am very excited to have her as part of my team. Just a note to everyone, if you are ever in St. Paul, stop in and see us at the Department Office. We would love to have you come in and visit.

LEGISLATIVE MONTH

Do you know who represents you in Congress? How about what Legislative District you live in? Take this time to learn what Legislative District you live in and get to know those who represent you.

Keep informed on veteran's issues and the bills that will affect them and their benefits. Read the "Legionnaire and The Dispatch". Keep informed of what is happening on the various veterans issues The American Legion is working on.

Support those families in your community who have loved ones serving in the military. Keep abreast of what is happening.

GIRLS STATE RESERVATIONS

In the January Unit mailing, every Unit received the necessary information and reservation form to reserve a place for their candidate(s) to the 2014 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State. Please ask your Unit President for the necessary information.

After your Unit sends in the reservation fee (\$300.00 per girl) and it has been processed, your Unit will receive a packet of information including a complete registration packet for each girl you are sponsoring. This will be sent to the person who signed the reservation form.

Information will be mailed to each high school on January 7th. The schools will be waiting to be contacted by you. Let them know now if you will be sponsoring a girl.

A Unit may sponsor as many girls from the same high school as it would like to. There is no limit. The candidate(s) must attend a Minnesota public, charter, parochial, private, home-school, or be a resident of Minnesota. All reservation fees will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

The exciting "new news" regarding Girls State is that it is moving to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul this year. The University is 100% supportive of our program and is very excited to have our sessions there. Please make sure and pass this on to prospective citizens. There will be many new, fun things in the agenda this year and the girls will be going home on Friday evening rather than Saturday.

GIRLS STATE ANNUALS

The annuals from the 2013 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be sent out soon. Every citizen receives a complimentary copy. Please check to make certain your citizen receives hers. Don't forget to invite your 2013 Girls State citizen to one of your meetings so she can share her experiences with your members.

JUNIOR PATCH PROGRAM

Does your Unit have Juniors? What are you doing with them? Are they active in your Unit? Involve your Juniors in all the programs. They are members of your Unit, not a separate entity.

The 2013-14 Junior Patch program has been included in the January Unit Mailing. It is a set of activity sheets for three age groups. Make certain your Junior Activities Chairman receives this information and the forms so your Junior members can become involved and earn their patches under the various programs. As your Juniors complete these activities, please send the form(s) into the department for processing. Do not wait until the end of the year to send them in. Recognize your Junior members for their accomplishments and involvement by presenting them with these National patches as they are earned.

You do not need to have an organized Junior group in order for your Junior members to participate.

DEPARTMENT JUNIORS

Saturday, April 12th is the date for the annual Department Junior Conference. It will be held at the Hopkins American Legion Post #320 with the Tenth District serving as our hosts. A fun evening has been planned for Friday, April 11th. Complete information and the Call to the Junior Conference will be included in the January Unit mailing. Be sure you share this information with your Junior Activities Chairman. Arrange now for your Juniors to attend. There will be a mailing sent out to parents of all Junior Members sometime in January. This is something new this year in order to encourage more of our Juniors to attend and learn more about what the Auxiliary is and what Juniors can learn about the organization.

2014 POPPY ORDERS

Poppy orders are still being accepted in the department office. As of this writing, we have not yet received orders from 141 Units. Please get your order into the Department Office. We need to know how many 2014 Poppies are needed so we can plan accordingly. If you have already ordered and need to place a second order, please do so.

Shipment of Poppy orders has been ongoing. Upon receipt of your order, please check it carefully and report any discrepancies to the department office immediately. Please do not wait until Poppy Day.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports will be sent to the Unit Presidents around the 15th of January. When you receive your annual report packet please open it immediately and become familiar with the new format. This mailing will include not only the reports, but all the instruction sheets, history paper, etc. you will need. Please be on the look-out for it, sometime in January. Also, in the January Unit Mailing there will be a checklist that each Unit needs to fill out and return to the Department Office by January 10. This will tell us which programs you would like Annual Reports for. It will cut down on unnecessary postage and paper being sent to those who don't participate in all of the programs.

MEMBERSHIP RALLY

December 7th found around 200 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members at the Osseo Post 172. It was an afternoon of fun, fellowship and membership. Our many thanks to the Osseo Post and Unit for their warm hospitality. The meal was simply wonderful. I would encourage each of you to attend these Department Membership Rallies - it is a great way to meet fellow members and make many new friends.

Thanks to everyone's effort 1204 members were turned in for the rally, giving the Department a total of 30708 members or 72.96% of goal at that time. We have made it to #2 in the Nation and our Department leads the way in the Northwestern Division.

Keep sending your membership in. It seems this is the time of the year that membership comes in at a very slow pace. We need to stay at the top - what a great feeling that is. At your Mid-Winter Conference report how many members you have sent in and where your Unit stands. Ask every member to help. Get them involved in your membership campaign. Come up with a Membership Drive for your Unit. Have a get together and make calls to those who haven't paid and find out why. If your Unit is not at/above 80%, work in teams to collect those non-renewals.

SECOND DUES NOTICES

The National organization will be sending out a second dues notice around January 15, 2014 to all Senior members whose 2013 dues were NOT received and recorded by the National organization by December 10. That means some of you will receive this second notice though you recently paid your dues.

If you have already paid your dues and receive another notice, please disregard it. We know that some of the dues and the dues notices cross in the mail.

Auxiliary Membership as of Dec. 18, 2013

District	12-18 Tot.	Percent	Goal
First	4,101	72.23	5,678
Second	4,330	79.41	5,453
Third	3,607	74.17	4,863
Fourth	629	74.88	840
Fifth	742	71.00	1,045
Sixth	5,289	77.79	6,799
Seventh	3,340	75.51	4,423
Eighth	1,393	72.48	1,922
Ninth	3,911	81.11	4,822
Tenth	4,212	72.96	5,773
Total	31,661	67.88	41,784

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Reminder: Any member who has not paid her 2013 dues by January 31 is considered delinquent and loses her rights, privileges and benefits of membership. Payment of her 2013 dues reinstates her as a member in good standing.

2015 DIRECT BILLING

My how the time flies - though the calendar just turned to 2014, it is already that time of the year when the National organization requires the necessary information for printing the 2015 dues notices. Every Unit will receive a notice asking for the amount of your Unit's year 2015 Senior and Junior dues, and the name and address of the person whose name should appear on the year 2015 dues' notices. The information and form will be in the February Unit mailing. The information is due into the department office no later than March 31, 2014. We would appreciate your cooperation and getting this form back to us in a prompt manner.

THANK YOU

The American Legion Auxiliary undertakes a number of programs each year for our veterans, their families and the youth of our nation. But none of these would be possible without the generous financial support from our Units. Thank you to all who have contributed to our department programs.

Thank you too, to those Posts that have been supportive of several of our Auxiliary programs, namely the Gift Shop, our American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program, Girls State and the \$5.00 Bill Shower. We appreciate your help in making these programs possible.

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

In reviewing the contributions to the various approved Department programs, we find there seems to be some questions as to what are our own Auxiliary programs; what are not.

Each year the Department Chairmen receive approval from the Department Executive Committee for those Auxiliary programs that need our financial support. These programs are listed on pages 14-15 of the Unit Guide. Those marked with an * are our own Department Auxiliary programs, namely: Junior Activities, Department Scholarships, Girls State, Past Presidents Health Care Scholarship, American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program, \$5.00 Bill Shower, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and the Christmas Gift Shop. These programs cannot be carried on without the financial support of our Units and those Posts that have so kindly supported our programs.

Many Units are having difficulties financially. Every Unit should look carefully at what they are donating to. Many, many letters of solicitation come to the Unit from other organizations. Some Units feel that they "must" support these other organization in order to be carrying out the programs of the ALA. That is not the case. Too, some Units are supporting programs we are no longer involved with financially or that have been completed.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Question. What has your Unit done with the copies of the scholarship applications sent to you last fall? Are they sitting in your Unit's files, or have you taken them to your local schools and shared them with the students who are searching for ways to finance their education? If you are in need of additional copies for distribution, you may duplicate those you received or contact the department office for additional copies.

All scholarship applications are due into the department office by March 15, 2014. Let your schools and community know about these scholarships. There are eight Department scholarship awarded each year at \$1,000.00 each. The Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarships are also \$1,000.00 each.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

There is a very special group of people who serve our hospitalized veterans every day of the year. These are our Hospital/Home Representatives and the volunteers who work with them. Each month is busy for them as they make the stay of our hospitalized veterans a bit more pleasant and comfortable. During the month of December they are exceptionally busy with the Christmas Gift Shop and \$5.00 Bill Shower programs. Our appreciation and many thanks to all our representatives and the volunteers who serve with them.

- Carolyn Albertson, Fargo
- Phyllis Mealey, Silver Bay
- Mary Ann Davis, Minneapolis
- Sandra Gibson, Minneapolis
- Jan Benson, St. Cloud
- Doris LaFayette, Fergus Falls
- Gloria Lindquist, Sioux Falls
- Darlene Wondra, Hastings
- Judy Kumerow, Laverne

Legislative Program supports priorities

First to fight for the right and to build the Nations Might and the Caissons go rolling along.

Off we go into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun, here they come zooming to meet our thunder.

Anchors aweigh my boys, Anchors aweigh, Farewell to college joys, we sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.

From the Hall of Montezuma, to the Shores of Tripoli, we fight our Country's battles in the air, on land and sea.

From North and South and East and West, the Coast Guard in the fight. Destroying subs and landing troops, the Axis feels our might.

This is what is all about, we the people standing up for our rights to make sure our veterans and servicemen and women and their family are taken care of.

HOW WE PROMOTE THE SUPPORT OF LEGION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Objective: know what The American Legion Priorities are. To promote support of American Legion's priorities/agenda by American Legion Auxiliary members.

Action Step: Schedule meetings with the local, state and national officials to discuss issues facing veterans.

Communicate with the Legion and request that the Auxiliary will be included and be invited to Legion Legislative briefings and other functions.

Write - but make sure it will be sent to your District Representatives, it will reach officials much sooner.

Call - the District or Washington Office.

Email - use your own words and thoughts. Consider using the Legion's Legislative Action Center at www.cap-wiz.com/legion/home/

Visit in Person - in the Washington or District offices.

Resources: ALAforVeterans.org, Dispatch, Legion Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide.

www.legion.org/legislative, and www.Senate.gov and www.house.gov

Be an active member in your Legislation program and make sure your voices will be heard over and over again.

Chris Ronning
Department Legislative Chair



CHRIS RONNING
Legislative Chair



RALEEN TOLZMANN
National Security Chair

NATIONAL EMBLEM SALES

The National Emblem Sales catalog for the year 2014 has been sent to all Unit Presidents and Post Commanders. If you have not received your copy by the end of January, please request a copy of same directly from National Emblem Sales. 2014 prices are now in effect.

UNIT MAILING

The January Unit mailing left the Department Office on December 19th. Due to the holiday mail, there might be a delay in you receiving it.

Our Department Chairmen have provided a wealth of information to your Unit Chairmen through the Unit mailings. Presidents, be certain you give each Chairman the bulletins on their program responsibilities.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The 2014 Washington Conference will be held in Washington DC, March 23-26, 2014. If any member is interested in attending, please contact the department office for details.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I would like to take this opportunity, along with Department Treasurer Cathy Radil to wish each and every one of you a very Happy New Year and hope it is full of wonderful blessings - talk to you next month.

Sandie Deutsch, Department Secretary

National Security starts with families

What is National Security?

The purpose of National Security is: To maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

The Auxiliary meets the needs of our military service members by supporting their families at home and supporting them with activities for that veteran as the whole family transitions back when he or she returns home.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a good example of this.

Operation Home Front is sending care packages to our active military or family member support packages.

POW/MIA Initiatives are also important in National Security. We need to remember to designate a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion and Auxiliary.

National Security is keeping our own families safe, especially in the winter with winter survival kits for our cars.

This is just a short list of all the things National Security is - more information is included in the Unit Guide and in unit mailings.

Raleen Tolzmann
Department National Security Chairman

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in historic Ft. Snelling, Minnesota ...at Hwy's 5, 55, & 62

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Worship Services each Sunday at 11:00 a. m.

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Chad Shultis, Soloist; Chuck Cimijotti, Flute

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Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
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- 7-Night Southbound Cruise on the **Crown Princess**
- All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the "Crown Princess"
- All transfers to and from the airport and pier
- Cruise Gratuities
- Luggage handling on the ship (1 suitcase per person)
- Fully escorted by Larry Alvey, 4 Seasons Tour Director

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Glacier National Park

by Amtrak
July 17-24, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Amtrak Coach seats to Glacier Park
- 5 Nights Hotel
- 12 Meals
- Luggage handling for one suitcase per person
- Going to the Sun Road via the REDS
- Entrance fees to Glacier National Park
- UNESCO Heritage Site-Head Smashed In
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum

DOUBLE \$2,229.00
TRIPLE \$2,129.00

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

San Antonio, Texas

February 22-March 2, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 8 Nights accommodations
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners
- Guided tour of San Antonio
- Visit to the famous ALAMO and IMAX Theater presentation: "ALAMO" The price of Freedom
- Tour of the LBJ Ranch
- Cruise at San Antonio's famous River Walk District

DOUBLE \$949.00
TRIPLE \$929.00

Alaska Tour & Cruise

July 7-19, 2014

\$4,249.00
Per Person Double

Tour Includes:

- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- Accommodations at Superior and Deluxe Hotels
- All sightseeing/entrance fees
- 7-Night Southbound Cruise on the **Crown Princess**
- All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the "Crown Princess"
- Cruise Gratuities
- All transfers to and from the airport and pier
- Luggage handling on the ship (1 suitcase per person)
- Fully escorted by Larry Alvey, 4 Seasons Tour Director

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Mackinac Island & Door County

July 20-26, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 6 Nights Accommodations
- 10 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 Dinners
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- Ferry Ride to the Island
- Gordon Lightfoot Musical Show
- Guided Tour of Mackinac City & Door County
- Carriage Ride on Mackinac Island
- Lunch at the Grand Hotel
- Soo Locks Lunch Cruise
- Fish Boil in Door County
- And much more!

DOUBLE \$1,039.00
TRIPLE \$1,019.00

New Orleans, Louisiana

March 27-April 5, 2014

INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR

- 4-Seasons Vacations Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 9 nights hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling for one suitcase
- 16 meals: 9 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches
- WW I Museum
- Orpheum Theater performance of "War Horse"
- New Orleans city and post hurricane Katrina tour
- Elvis Presley's Graceland
- Airboat swamp ride
- Oak Alley Plantation
- Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum
- Nashville Tour
- Louisville Slugger Factory
- Gateway Arch

\$1,749.00
Per Person Double

Niagara Falls & Toronto

June 21-27, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 6 Nights Accommodations
- 8 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- Reif Estate Winery
- Evening show "Oh Canada Eh"
- Guided Tour of Niagara Falls, Niagara on the Lake and Toronto
- Ride the Maid of the Mist
- Visit Welland Canal
- Casa Loma Castle
- Floral Clock

DOUBLE \$979.00
TRIPLE \$959.00

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Heart of Alaska

July 30-August 6, 2014



INCLUDED IN YOUR TOUR

- 4-Seasons Vacations Tour Director, Sue Barber
- Delta Air Flights between Minneapolis and Anchorage
- 7 Nights Quality Accommodations
- 13 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners (including an Alaskan Salmon Bake)
- Iditarod Travel Headquarters
- Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna and Denali Park
- Denali Park History Tour
- Riverboat Discovery Cruise
- Chena Indian Village
- Sled Dog Demonstration
- Pan for god at the Gold Dredge #8
- Prince William Sound Cruise
- Mears Glacier
- Baggage Handling at hotels (1 bag per person)
- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation

\$3,199.00

Savannah, Georgia

March 29-April 6, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 8 Nights accommodations
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners
- Tour of amazing Jekyll & St. Simon's Island
- Guided tour of charming Savannah
- Tour of gorgeous Beaufort, SC, "Queen of the Carolina Sea Islands" plus a visit to Parris Island

DOUBLE \$949.00
TRIPLE \$929.00
SINGLE \$1,149.00

National Parks, Utah & Arizona



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 10 Nights Accommodations
- 13 Meals: 10 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners
- Admission to Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert & Petrified Forest and Badlands National Park
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- And much more!

DOUBLE \$1,365.00
TRIPLE \$1,345.00

Montreal & Quebec City

August 16-24, 2014



Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation
- 8 Nights Accommodations
- 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 6 Dinners
- Luggage handling (1 bag per person)
- Visit to Montmorency Falls
- Guided Tour of Montreal and Historic Quebec City
- Tours of the St. Anne De Beaupre Shrine and the Notre Dame Basilica
- Olympic Park in Montreal: Experience "Biodome" and the Montreal Tower
- Visit the Underground City in Montreal
- And much more

PASSPORTS REQUIRED

DOUBLE \$1,139.00
TRIPLE \$1,119.00

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