

Rasset was given the handle, Kingsman 11. They served in the 101st Airmobile Battalion.

He was assigned to his room in the “hootch.” “It was about an eight-by-twelve foot room with two bunks in it. That’s where you spent your year. You put all your stuff in there, everything you owned.”

Rasset was welcomed into the group. “There was a lot of camaraderie. It was a very tight-knit group. We were basically on call 24/7, but we’d get a day off now and then.”

There was one little initiation ceremony the new pilots had to go through. In the Kingsman officer’s club, late one night, the new pilots were each given a glass of booze. “I don’t know what it was, but it burned.” The concoction was lit on fire, and the trick was to drink it dry while keeping the fire going.

If the fire went out, or the glass wasn’t empty, the new guy had to do it again.

“The first time, I didn’t do very well, but then I got the hang of it. On the second try, I burned off half my mustache, and I had second degree burns all down my neck, but I did it right. I could join the older pilots. They thought it was hilarious.”

The pilots’ main job was to bring troops to a landing zone (LZ), extract troops from an LZ, and bring supplies and ordinance to the fight. Each Huey had a crew of four including the air commander, the pilot (actually a co-pilot or “peer pilot”), a crew chief who was in charge of maintaining the aircraft, and a door gunner. Both of the latter two manned .30 caliber machine guns at the Huey’s doors.

His first job was as the pilot in the right hand seat, training under veteran pilots. “If anything happens to the pilot, your job is to get the chopper back home.”

The helicopters were sometimes so loaded down with ordnance or people that they would have to bounce down the runway until they could build up enough speed to take off. “If it was 70 degrees, it would have been easy, but when it’s 106 degrees and humid, it’s a little more difficult.”

The first missions were easy and involved little danger – often just bringing someone to another base. “After a couple of weeks of this, the other pilots would ask sarcastically, ‘How’s the taxi service going today?’”

Finally the day came when he was assigned to a mission that would extract soldiers from a “hot LZ,” one that was under attack. “I flew with the flight commander, and I thought he would be a great high school teacher. He was really by-the-book. I never wanted to fly with him again.”

Rasset’s Huey was one of four on the mission. “It was my first exposure to real combat. We had the Cobra gunships along with us. As we got over the LZ, I could hear these ticks or thuds. I asked, ‘What is that?’”

He was informed that it was bullets hitting the helicopter.

“Just then the crew chief was on the headphone. He said, ‘Let’s get the hell out of here. They’re shooting up our fuselage. I don’t want to be up all night patching holes.’”

After the extraction, the pilot took the Huey up to about five thousand feet. “There were two theories about that. One was to get high enough to get out of the small arms fire. The other was to just go along the treetops. They could hear you coming, but its jungle and they can’t see you. By the time you’re over them, you’re gone. It would take a lucky shot to get you.”

During Rasset’s time in Vietnam, he said the war would heat up and then cool off for different periods. About three months into his tour, it heated up, particularly in the A Shau Valley near Hue, where the 101st was conducting operations.

“There was a lot of activity, and it got pretty ugly. We lost a couple of pilots. There was a lot more contact with the enemy than before. They were behind you, and then they’d be in front of you. It was often our job to get the wounded out.”

The enemy had RPGs, rocket-propelled grenades, that could take down a helicopter in a hurry.

One day in this campaign, Rasset, who was still the co-pilot on his Huey, helped bring in a load of troops, about eight or nine soldiers. “We were third in line of four choppers. We had about thirty seconds to get the soldiers on the ground and then get out of the way for the next chopper. We knew this LZ was hot. We had just landed our guys, and we were beginning to pull off when we got hit by an RPG.”

The explosive shell hit the helicopter with a shock. “All of a sudden, you’re not going anywhere. All you can try to do is slow down the crash. We were now over the jungle and as we went down the rotor was cutting off the trees. The pilot did a great job. He was pulling all the pitch he could from the rotor just before we hit the ground. We all walked away.”

The Huey was crushed, but the landing had been just soft enough for survival.

“We didn’t spend much time on the ground. We walked back to the LZ and the next Huey coming in picked us up. It worked out really well.”

The action got even more intense in the following weeks. “It was a real reality check. It changed the whole dynamic of the war. It wasn’t somebody else that crashed, it was guys we knew, crews we knew.

“Guys that drank, drank a little more. Guys that had a bad attitude, got a little worse attitude. It was just stress.”



A Huey touches down in Vietnam to extract soldiers from a landing zone. (National Archives.)



The officer’s club for the Kingsmen pilots at Camp Eagle near Hue was the scene of some relaxation and recreation.



An initiation rite for new pilots was to down a glass of burning booze without putting the fire out. A pilot is shown attempting the trick in the upper right. Note the warrant officer, lower right, with the fire extinguisher.



A Huey lands in Vietnam with its doors closed, an unusual event. Rasset said some Hueys didn’t even have doors anymore. “The ones we were flying were pretty beat up.” (National Archives)

The Huey

BELL UH-1D IROQUOIS
 Crew: 1-4
 Capacity: 3,900 lbs (14 troops, six stretchers or cargo)
 Length: 57 ft.
 Width: 8 ft. 7 inches
 Height: 14 ft. 5 inches
 Power plant: Lycoming T53-L-11 turboshaft,
 1,100 horsepower

Main rotor: 48 feet
 Maximum speed: 135 miles an hour
 Range: 315 miles
 Service ceiling: 19,390 feet
 Rate of climb: 1,755 feet per minute
 Introduction: 1959
 Produced: 1959-1986
 Number Built: 16,000
 Armament, combination of: 2 M60 machine guns
 2 19 round rocket pods
 2 .303 Browning Mk II

About that time, Rasset was promoted to the left hand seat as air commander. He had to fly a check ride with an experienced pilot to make sure he could do all the things that might be required on the missions.

Again, he was only assigned to safe missions for a time.

A typical day usually started with breakfast at 4:30 a.m. followed by a thorough pre-flight of the aircraft, and making sure everybody had done their job, such as loading ammo for the guns. "These are really high maintenance vehicles."

The day might include operations off and on. "Sometimes at 10 at night I'd still be helping the crew chief get the chopper fixed."

Rasset generally flew with the same crew, but when the chopper was down for maintenance or to fix bullet holes, the crew would get a break and Rasset would take up another chopper. "The crews worked hard, and we liked to give them a break and not beat them to death back there."

The Hueys nearly always flew with the doors open, and the crew chief and gunner would have to deal with the wind, the elements, and everything else. "Some of the Hueys didn't have doors at all. I don't know what happened to them."

Rasset said the constant flights into dangerous neighborhoods became somewhat addictive for the pilots. "There's just that adrenaline rush of doing it."

During this time, the pilots could volunteer for what was called Command and Control North. "It was basically a classic CIA covert ops thing. We'd fly special forces recon teams in so they could do surveillance." Many of the flights were into Laos.

On one flight, the group of helicopters was joined by a silver-painted Huey. "They flew right with us. I looked over and these guys were wearing white shirts and ties and the reflective sunglasses. And they had their doors closed. They just gave us the thumbs up. There was no radio contact. Did we know who they were? We had no idea."

The teams that would be brought in often consisted of three or four Special Forces troops and maybe 12 indigenous fighters, usually Hmong or Cambodian.

"When we put people into Laos, they didn't have any trouble finding the bad guys. They were all around. And they always knew we were coming."

On a mission to bring in a team, Rasset's helicopter was the first of four coming into a hot LZ. As the Huey was approaching the LZ, it was struck hard in the tail section by an RPG. "You talk about those Bruce Willis movies where the helicopter goes spinning around. That was us. If that RPG had hit about 10 feet forward, we'd all been dead."

The other Hueys aborted the mission and headed home. "That's what they were supposed to do. They did the right thing." Rasset's Huey corkscrewed into the ground. "We were lucky we didn't get hung up in the trees."

The next thing Rasset knew, he was coming to with his Huey crashed into the jungle. "I must have been stunned, because I kind of woke up and the crew chief was telling me we had to get out of the aircraft. He unhooked my harness and got me out of my seat and told me we'd better f—ing get out of there."

But Rasset's training was taking over. Despite his mental fog, he knew he had to get his gun. "All I could think of was do I have enough ammunition?" He got his gun and his ammunition, and the crew chief thought he could get Rasset away from the crashed chopper, but not quite yet.

"I told him I had to get the black box. They train us that we have to get the black box. He looked at me and said, 'Really? Just leave that piece of crap. The whole aircraft is going to burn in about 10 minutes.' But I said, 'What if it doesn't burn?' What a fiasco."

The crew of the Huey joined the team they were supposed to land. "These were the specialists. They knew what they were doing. They immediately started using the hand signals, and we moved off into the jungle without a sound. I knew enough to keep my big mouth shut and follow the leader. If I'd been in charge, we'd have ended up in Thailand or China."

To this day, Rasset doesn't understand why the enemy didn't come to finish them off. "They knew exactly where we were. We were sitting ducks."

By the second day, the little group of survivors found a river bed, and the going got somewhat easier.

They still had their radio, and on the third day when they came to a clearing along the river bed, they were able to call for a helicopter to pick them up.

"They took us to Da Nang and then back to Camp Eagle. The next day, this guy shows up and says that Gen. Powell wants to see me and that a vehicle is waiting. I said, 'Holy shit.' I had to go through about three layers of offices, and I told the secretary I had an appointment with Gen. Powell. They brought me in.

"My knees were shaking so bad, I was sure that he could hear them."

The two chatted a bit about the 101st, and then Powell's demeanor changed. "Now let's get to the point. What were you doing in Laos?"

After Rasset's stumbling account of Command and Control North and the CIA, and after Powell had silenced him, he said to the young warrant officer: "Okay fine. But



Rasset at the controls of his Huey during his tour in Vietnam.



Rasset had his wings pinned on him by one of his friend's sister.



Christmastime brought a bounty of treats from families back home.

just between you and me and the mouse, we were never there."

Rasset replied, "That works for me, sir."

And that was the end of Rasset's interview with the man who many thought would run for president of the United States in years to come.

Months later, near the end of his tour, Rasset and others were in a ceremony where medals were being presented. Rasset had earned two Bronze Stars, several Air Medals and other awards during his time in Vietnam. Present for the ceremony was none other than General Colin Powell.

"When he got up to me, he looked and said, 'Congratulations, Mr. Rasset, we meet again. Have you been staying home?' I just said, 'Yes, sir.'"

But he hadn't been staying home. While still chauffeuring troops back and forth to Laos, Rasset guided one more chopper to the ground. "We were extracting a team. But the LZ was being hit with mortars and was basically overrun. The guys on the ground were trained for that stuff. I wasn't."

The Huey never actually landed, but tried to pick up the team by hovering just off the ground. "They were piling in, and then it was go, go, go. We were probably doing 90 miles an hour over the tree tops. Just then, the crew chief said on the headphones, 'There's a couple of those little guys hanging on the bars outside.' Somehow he was able to drag them in."

Afterwards, Rasset said the Huey started acting sluggish. "It was probably a mortar that got us, but it hit a hydraulic line. Everything on the helicopter runs on hydraulics. Pretty soon I couldn't do anything with the aircraft."

By this time, though, the helicopter had crossed back into Vietnam and Rasset found an abandoned airstrip to crash on. "Luckily it wasn't booby trapped." Again, everyone survived.

"We called Triple A, and they came and got us. That's

what it was like in Vietnam. There would be a war going on over here, and a few miles away they'd be having pot luck. That's the way that crazy war went on."

Despite the fact that in 11 months in Vietnam, having flown over 900 combat hours and having crashed three of Uncle Sam's helicopters into the ground, he said none of those miraculous escapes were his most exciting mission.

That came when the pilots were asked to go down to DaNang and pick up Bob Hope's Christmas show and bring it to Camp Eagle.

"They told us we'd probably have to stay overnight, but they told us not to get too drunk so we couldn't fly back. We said, 'Yeah we can do that.'"

"I remember writing my mother that I was giving a ride to Miss World. I told my mom that my life was pretty damn good right now."

He said Bob Hope came over and talked with the pilots and crew and was very friendly.

And then it was time to go home. "Some pilots stayed in and did other tours. But I could see it wasn't my calling. I enjoyed what I did, and I liked the people, but it was time to move on. You can feel it. Your mind and body just wear down."

Rasset was sent back to Fort Lewis in Washington and was expecting duty somewhere in the States or Germany to complete his enlistment. Instead, he was immediately processed out of the Army. "Talk about culture shock."

He returned to Maple Lake and the dairy farm which he worked for the next 30 years. Eventually he found that a small dairy operation could not survive in the new world of mega-agriculture and he sold the farm some years ago. He took a job in town.

He and his wife, Kitty, who just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, have six children, four boys and two girls.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Myron Ehrich
Commander



Greeting from the Big Red.

The month of November was a busy one here. I was at Triton school for their Veteran's Program. The kids sure put on a good program for us.

I went to Kellogg Post 546 for their program as well as a meal. Thank you to them for the invitation.

I also attended a meal at Dodge Center Post 384 on November 12. It was a good turn out.

Now December is here. The Pearl Harbor Day Rally is to be held in Montgomery.

The 1st District Christmas Party is Dec 14th. It will be held at the Stewartville Legion Post.

I would like to wish all Legion members, Auxiliary members, SAL members, and Legion Riders a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please as always, keep our service men and women and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

SECOND DISTRICT

Jennifer Kafka
Commander



Greetings and Merry Christmas to all, as I write this a list of everything from rallies, midwinter and holiday celebrations run through my head. Like many, this is a busy time of year so I'd like to take a moment out of my busy schedule to remember why I get to have the freedoms to celebrate and say Merry Christmas. We have them because of unselfish American men and women who stand watch, safeguarding some of our most cherished traditions, while they and their families sacrificed theirs. Many have come home yet, tens of thousands of others will continue their difficult and lonely missions of protecting us.

The holidays can be a time for many to remember loss and sacrifice. We as an American Legion Family need to be there when our Veterans and Soldiers need us most. A moment of our time is the best gift we can give but a card or letter, sending a package to those away from home, or visiting a family who has a member overseas these are just a few things we can do to show we appreciate their sacrifice so we can celebrate with our families.

Thank you my fellow Legionnaires for everything you do day in and day out, I am honored and humbled to be part of such a great organization. May you all have a Merry Christmas.

THIRD DISTRICT

Duane Anderson
Commander



Greetings from the Thundering Third

Last month was again full of activities involving duties of a District Commander. Attending the Fall Conference at Mahanomen was a good time and a learning experience again this year. This conference is always a good time to reunite with other Legionnaires, Riders, Auxiliary and SAL folks that you've met in the past and to meet new ones. Last week was Veteran's Day with a couple of days attending and speaking at various activities in our area. It is a good feeling to see school children and other folks expressing their gratefulness and appreciation of the sacrifices that our veterans have given to keep our country free and strong. I read an e mail message that stated that it seemed appropriate that Thanksgiving Day and Veteran's Day were in the same month because they represented similarities in appreciating our country and our freedoms that we many times take for granted. I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and were able to participate in Veteran's Day in some way. We now are only a couple of weeks away from Christmas and the holiday season. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and when the next newsletter is in print we will be enjoying 2015.

Embrace Change/Maintain Mission

FOURTH DISTRICT

Dan Williams
Commander



Greetings from the "Fabulous Fourth." Always give thanks.

This is the time of year when most of our nation is in the hustle and bustle for "The Holidays." Let me remind you of a portion of our preamble. For God and country we associate ourselves together... It's within this association I say

"Thank you to God" for allowing us to live in the greatest nation on earth. I am very thankful to be a member of this great organization. We take care of our veterans and support those men and women now serving at home and abroad. We also care for their families and our communities. Legionnaires, "thank you" for that and for supporting the 2014 Shop, Ship and Share. It was a great success. I'm sure we will receive wonderful reports from our troops.

Congratulations to SSG Johnny Angelo, American Legion Department of Minnesota's Outstanding NCO of the Year.

Mark your calendars. January 31 is the date for the ALR and Minnesota Veterans Homes Ice Fishing Tournament at Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake. Don't miss this "cool" event.

The District (RCCC) meets the second Thursday in the month starting at 7 p.m. Dinner is served after the meeting. Our December RCCC will be held at Rosetown Memorial Post 542. Our guest speaker will be a representative from the VA Regional office. He will be making a brief presentation on retirement and survivor benefits. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to join us.

According to History.com, in December, 1914, warring countries refused to create an official cease-fire. However, Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas Carols to each other across the lines. At the first light of dawn Christmas Day, some German soldiers approached the Allied lines calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongue. In 1914, World War I, we did have a Christmas cease-fire. I would to God that in 2014 we could have a world-wide cease-fire. Please don't forget our troops during this holiday season. Pray for peace on earth.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Wayne Glanton
Commander



Greeting from the Fighting 5th.

In membership, we are a little behind. Try using E-mail to pay your dues.

The fall conference held in Mahanomen was well organized, and the 5th District had a number of our people in key positions making it run very smooth.

Curt Norenberg did an excellent job. I met a Legionnaire who is running for National Commander. He was trying to visit all of us at the Fall Conference. To me this is a big job. I wish him well.

Our consolidated post reports will be made easy if you start making notes now of your activities. Thanksgiving is over and we getting ready for the big one: Christmas.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Carl Moon
Commander



Fall Conference has come and gone and I believe was not only very well attended but very educational. Oh, by-the-way, did I mention that the 6th District took first place in Membership.

Congratulations to the hardest working Membership Director that I know, Mr. Jim Lucas, and to all of our posts for such a great turn-in.

The leading candidate for National Commander 2015-2016, Dale Barnett of Georgia, gave an impressive speech and I believe he will be an outstanding leader for our organization.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and successful Veteran's Day program. I was able to accompany our Department Commander to the Official Minnesota Veteran's Day Program in Inver Grove Heights where Commander Peggy was the MC. Wow, what an impressive program. Great speakers, wonderful music by the Red Bull Band and over 15 new inductees into our Armed Services took their oath to serve our country.

As the holiday season is upon us, please consider helping those veterans and their families who are not as fortunate as we are. Invite them to a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, visit with them and offer your assistance and support. Especially, during this holiday season, keep our active duty troops in your thoughts and prayers. Have your post send some goodies, personal supplies or just write a few notes to those troops stationed overseas and let them know how much they mean to us and our country.

The Pearl Harbor Rally will have come and gone by the time you read this article. Will the 6th District be able to retain their lead in Membership Turn-In? The 3rd and 10th Districts look like they might be trying to give us a little challenge for first place title. Good luck to all.

A very happy Thanksgiving and merry Christmas to all.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Victor Gades
Commander



Greetings from The Mighty 7th.

The holiday season is now in full swing. Let's not forget our active military members who are away from home and their loved ones. You don't have to be in a combat zone to be away from family. Remember, we do have remote bases and ships deployed at sea on watch 24/7. They all are defending our freedoms and keeping vigilance for us 24/7. A short note to them can immensely lift their spirits. Similarly a brief conversation will have the same effect on our Veterans. Some of them are in nursing homes, hospitals, or are without family -- silently suffering. Remember this season of rejoice is for everyone.

My theme this year is "Building a Stronger America" and my Commander's Project is raising funds for the shadow (memory) frames for the Fergus Falls Veterans Home residents.

Membership is moving along at a fair pace, due to the good work by the membership team. Now as we tend to get busy with family, let's not forget to make that one contact for renewal or ask if someone you met is a Veteran and a member of The American Legion.

A little housekeeping: District 7 Mid-Winter will be January 17 in Olivia. We will be having a Mid-Winter membership rally the same day. This will be a full agenda, but we can make this a productive event.

May your new year be filled with many blessings and accomplishments.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilson Spence
Commander



Greetings from the Great Arrowhead 8th District of the Minnesota American Legion.

Again the members of The American Legion have made a difference in this nation and the Eighth District. Legion members contacted their congressional representatives and made a difference. The funding for active duty service members at funerals has been reinstated. The presence of the service members at funerals brings professionalism and great dignity to the American hero about to be interred.

American Legion members obtained another benefit after contact with their legislatures. On December 1, 2014, the VA Twin Ports Clinic is scheduled to have the equipment to provide the new VA Veterans Health Identification Card. The Veterans Health Identification Card provides many different benefits. It identifies the VA patient with their records at the VA Medical system. It provides proof of a VA disability to allow the disabled veteran to ride any public transportation at no cost. It also provides proof for businesses that the cardholder is a former service member for discounts of goods and services. Now the members of the Eighth District may obtain the card in their district and not have to go to Minneapolis. I want to thank every member who contacted the legislators and those who will contact the new members of congress.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas with family and friends.

TENTH DISTRICT

Tom Sanders
Commander



Greetings American Legion Family of the "Mighty" Tenth District and the "Mighty" state of Minnesota. Here we go into another month and I want to wish all the American Legion Family a very happy holiday season and a very properous new year.

The month of November went so fast and the hospitality from all the posts that I and President Robin Dorf had dinner at, we will never be able to measure. Your District President and I have had such a load of fun being able to "mingle" amongst the American Legion Family and introduce ourselves. Thank you for the "invites" and "Cap's" off to all for what you do for membership and the American Legion Family and its programs as an organization.

This years District Project, which is a combined effort, is "Helping Paws." We wish to thank everyone for there kindness and their generous donations to our project. At the 10th District Midwinter Conference, which will be held at Anoka Post 102 on Jan. 3rd, we will be having a demonstration of "Helping Paws" and its program.

As always the programs of the American Legion Family will not be complete without the effort of all you "Blue Cappers", my Cap's off to you and all you do.

Listening Post

News from around the State



BRAIN SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS -- At the annual American Legion Brain Science Lecture, two graduate students received The American Legion scholarships of \$1,000. Both are PhD candidates at the University of Minnesota's Neuroscience Graduate Program. From left: Jim Kellogg, president of The American Legion Family Brain Science Foundation; Scott Warren, scholarship recipient; Chris Ronning, Auxiliary President; Fatou Amar, scholarship recipient; and Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, Director of the Brain Sciences Center.



FALLDIN POST VETS DAY -- Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 greeted veterans and handed out gifts at Applebee's Restaurant in St. Anthony Village. The restaurant provided free meals for the vets on Veterans Day, and the post was allowed to set up and help host the event. From left: Applebee's Manager Mike VanVelkenberg; Donovan Orttel, Milt Stacy, Dave Roberts, Bill Tiede, Virgil Persing and Ray Eiden.



AWARD PRESENTED -- Department National Security /Foreign Relations Chairman Curt Norenberg presented an Outstanding National Guard Award to SSG John Angelo, Army National Guard, St. Paul. He was unable to be at the Fall Conference where the awards were presented originally.



NORTH BRANCH PINS -- North Branch Post 85 presented 45-year pins to Duane Damm, left, and Russell Good, right. Presenting was Post Vice Commander Darcy Doble. She also presented Randy Coe with a pin for 25 years.



WILLMAR SERVES VETS -- Willmar Post 167 served 43 veterans in area nursing homes a high quality meal. Shown is Post Commander DuWayne Underthun on the serving line.



BACKUS BREAKFAST CREW -- The Backus Post and Auxiliary breakfast crew wound up their nine-month season recently. From left, standing: Mickie Durheim, Suke Wolf, Jean Dawson, Larry Whalen and Judy Johnson. Sitting: Mike Elsner, Janine Thaler and Lynne Gagnon. Funds from the breakfast go to post and auxiliary programs throughout the year.



DOG TAG RETURNED -- Matt Rybakowsk, left, was digging in his garden in Holt when he found a dog tag with the name Henry Horack inscribed on it. Rybakowsk contacted his veterans service officer and was connected with the Horack family in Mahanomen. He presented the tag to Horack's wife Bernice and son Robert in Bagley. It is believed the dog tag had been missing for over 55 years.



Henry Horack as a member of the Army Air Corps in 1946. He died in 2013.



REDWOOD FALLS SHOOTERS -- Medals were presented to the top three regional shooting champions in the American Legion Junior Shooting competition at Redwood Falls. From left: Post Commander Jeff Olson, Melanie Foy, Sarah Ludwig, Kylie Doering and Jim Mertens.



WELLS HONORS 60 YEAR MEMBERS -- Wells Post 210 honored 60-year members at the annual birthday party. From left: Second District Commander Gene Olswold, Donald Ehrich, Donald Schmidt, William Barr, Larry Majeski, Department Vice Commander Clinton Burt.



DONATION TO VIETNAM MEMORIAL -- Randy "Hook" Eberling and his wife, Kerri, presented a check for \$2,200, that they raised, to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center slated to be built in Washington DC. Accepting was Tim Tetz from the VVMF.

World War II History Round Table

Wild Bill Donovan founded America's first spy organization

Wild Bill Donovan is one of the most intriguing, heroic and dominant personalities in 20th Century America.

He earned the Medal of Honor in World War I, served as President Roosevelt's personal envoy before World War II, and during the war established the OSS, the nation's first spy operation.

Oh, and along the way, he was also a founder of The American Legion.

Two men with intimate knowledge of William J. Donovan addressed the World War II Round Table in November at the annual Harold C. Deutsch Lecture at Historic Fort Snelling.

Douglas Waller, a journalist and former correspondent for Time Magazine, is the author of "Wild Bill Donovan, The Spymaster Who Created the OSS and Modern American Espionage."

Waller gave a physical description of Donovan: Five feet, nine inches tall; piercing blue eyes, expert ballroom dancer and singer of Broadway show tunes, non-smoker and non-drinker, and what some called "penguin shaped."

"He never laughed out loud, and he never told a dirty joke," Waller said.

Donovan was born in 1883 in Buffalo, N.Y., and for a while thought he would become a priest in the Irish family tradition. Instead he went to Columbia University where he was a star running back. He later attended Columbia Law School and was a classmate of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's.

In World War I, he led a battalion of the famed "Fighting 69th" Division out of New York, and received the Medal of Honor. Waller said a compatriot at that time said of Donovan, "He was the only man I ever met who actually enjoyed combat."

Waller attributes his Wild Bill nickname to an incident in the Army, while other sources say it came from his football days at Columbia. "He told people he didn't like it, but later his wife said that he secretly did enjoy the nickname."

He hoped to become U.S. Attorney General, and was promised the position by Herbert Hoover before he became president, but once Hoover got into office, he reneged on the promise. "To the day he died, Donovan never forgave Hoover."

He ran for governor of New York as a Republican and lost, but as war approached he and FDR, though separated by politics, found a common denominator. "FDR was trying to build the country up for war, and Donovan agreed. They were two very canny politicians who were seeing a common cause."

FDR made Donovan a special envoy on several missions, including a key assignment to England to find out if that nation could survive the war. "He came back with two satchels of notes. He told Roosevelt that Britain could survive the war, but it would need a great deal of material support from the United States."

Roosevelt won a tough election over Wendell Wilkie in 1940, but, Waller said, he was dismayed at his lack of information on international affairs. "Roosevelt was making decisions largely blind about what was really happening."

In July, 1941, as Roosevelt began his third term, he signed a one-page document establishing Donovan as "Coordinator of Information." It started as a one-person agency that later became the Office of Strategic Services.

It was Donovan's job to coordinate the fractured information gathering being done by many government agencies, but he quickly began building his own agency which eventually had thousands of employees.

Donovan had an endless stream of ideas, Waller said, and wasn't shy about trying them all. He used private companies that had sales forces overseas, he used the Kodak Camera Club to gather intelligence photos, and he used a major airline to get entry into other nations. "He was open to any idea that crossed his desk."

He also kept \$2,000 in cash in his desk at all times to pay for sources.

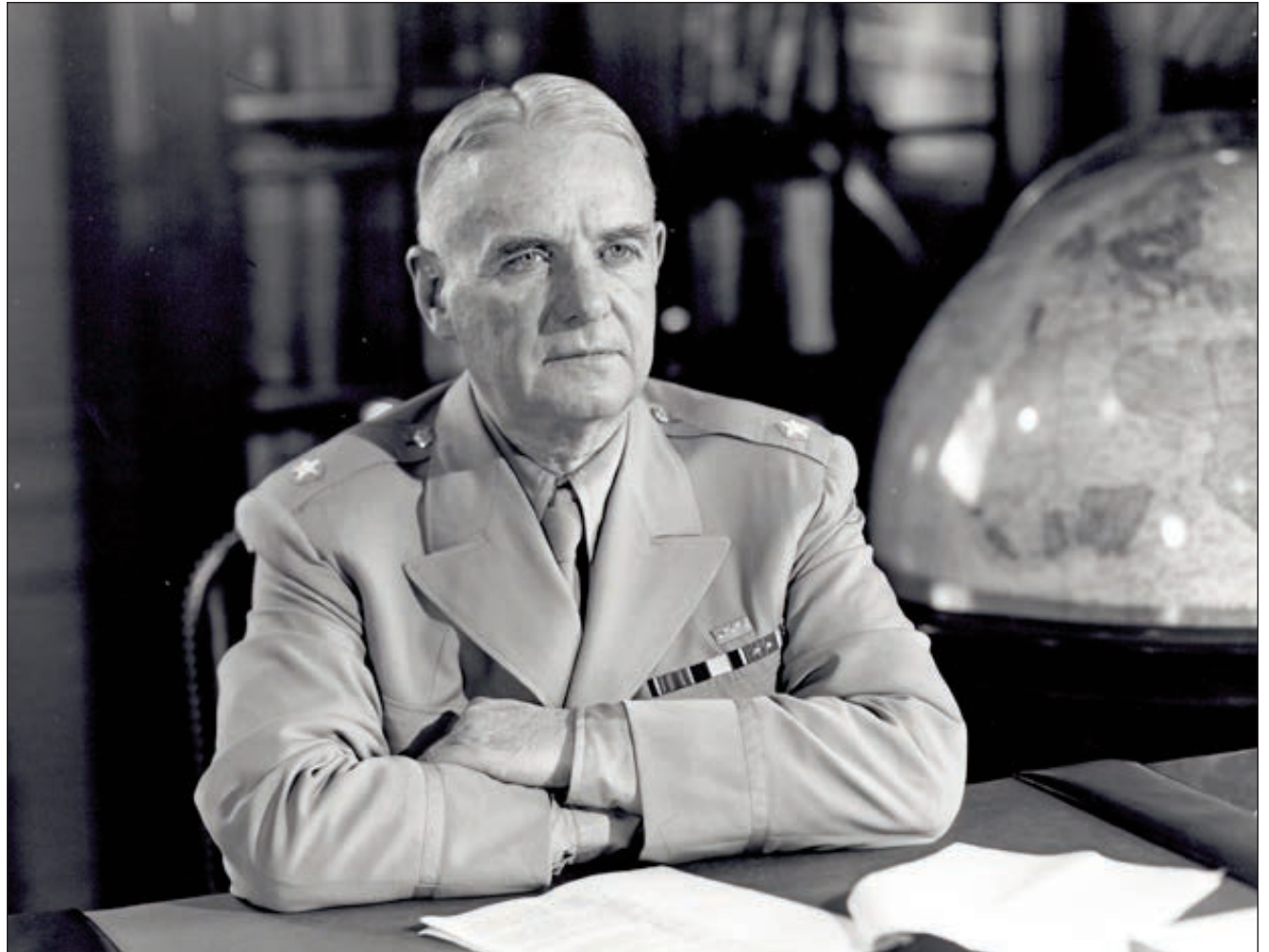
As the operation grew, it started to develop spy gadgets like miniature cameras and exploding pencils. It also developed drugs to use while interrogating prisoners.

Some ideas were total flops, like the plan to attach incendiaries to bats and set them loose all over Japan. Another plan was to find the source of Hitler's vegetables and inject them with female hormones so the German leader's mustache would fall out and he would get a falsetto voice. "That would have been a bumper for Hitler."

In the end, Waller said, "He was a horrible manager, but a very charismatic leader. The agents loved him."

Donovan had a sense of derring-do about him that was extraordinary. For instance, he landed with the troops on every major invasion of Africa and Europe during the war. After landing in Normandy, he stayed with the soldiers into the hedgerow country.

"He had all these secrets in his head. If he'd been captured, he would have been quite a prize. When he was in Normandy, he found himself in a place where the Germans were shooting machine guns. Donovan reached to see if he had his 'L pill,' which contained cyanide, but he had left it



William Donovan earned a Medal of Honor and founded the OSS during his Army career.

in the bathroom at his London hotel."

As the war progressed, he managed to make enemies of many in top positions including J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, and Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz in the Pacific theater. "He once said that his enemies in Washington D.C. were worse enemies than Hitler in Germany."

And Donovan was dismayed by the inter-service rivalry in intelligence gathering. "How in the world can we spy on other nations when we're so busy spying on each other?" he is reported to have said.

When the war ended, the animosity he had built up crippled his chances to lead any kind of post-war OSS. Plus, he was not a great favorite of Roosevelt's successor, Harry S Truman.

The Central Intelligence Agency was formed in 1947 and was put under the control of one of Donovan's former employees, Allan Dulles. Donovan never held any major position during his lifetime. He died in 1959.

Bob Maynard, a Minnesotan who served for a time as Donovan's aide during World War II when the OSS leader was doing work in China, recalled his experiences for the Round Table.

Maynard was in the Field Artillery, but got recruited into the OSS after officer's training.

During an evaluation period, Maynard got drunk when somebody spiked what they were drinking after a basketball game. "We had all been given fake names and backgrounds. But this one guy came up to me and said we should get together later, and he asked my real name."

The next day, Maynard found himself in front of a panel of evaluators, and his "friend" from the night before was part of the group. "I thought, 'I'm out of here.' But they told me I talked too much, that I didn't know how to hold my liquor, but that I was still part of the OSS."

When Donovan planned a trip to China, his regular aide did not go with him, and Maynard was picked as his fill-in. "I didn't have a clue what an aide was supposed to do, but they told me just to do whatever Gen. Donovan told me to do. And that was the truth."

Maynard confirmed that Donovan, who had earned many medals in his long career, only wore one ribbon on his uniform – the Medal of Honor. "It was light blue just like the color of his eyes. It was my job to lay out his uniforms, and it was on every one of them. I didn't see it, but I suspect it was on his pajamas too."

One time, Donovan asked Maynard to find him a good barber, and Maynard brought in a native Chinese barber who was known to be very skilled. "The barber laid out his straight razor, and Donovan looked at him and asked me, 'Has this man been cleared by security?' I had to admit that he had not."

Luckily, Maynard had a backup, a corporal who could cut hair. When it was over, Donovan quietly said to Maynard, "The corporal was a better choice, wasn't it?"

"Donovan never got mad, so that was like six lashes

from him."

On another occasion, the base was flooded and other arrangements had to be made for lunch outside the compound. The Army cleared all the native Chinese out of a restaurant in town, and Donovan and his party dined there.

"Donovan had a briefcase that contained all his secret papers. It had information about the atomic bomb and the timing of using it. And it had his plans for the OSS after the war. Donovan wouldn't let anybody else carry it except himself."

Back in the Jeep after lunch, heading back to the base, Donovan turned to the people on board and asked them if they had the brief case. Nobody had it.

They hustled back to the restaurant, and Maynard was sent in to find the brief case and retrieve it.

"I went back in, but now there's about six Chinese eating at the table we were at. But there was the briefcase, leaning against the leg of the table. I brought it back out to the Jeep, and there was silence for a long time. Finally, Donovan said, 'I won't tell anybody if you don't.'"

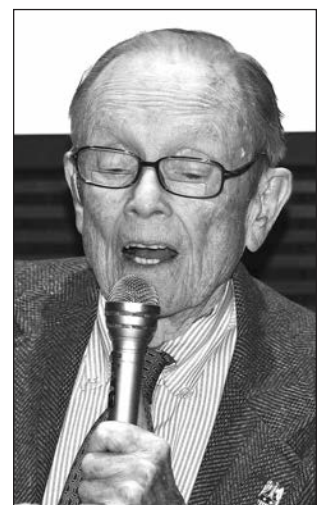
Maynard's final story was about a time when tee-totaler Donovan was meeting with top Chinese leaders. He asked the planners if there would be alcoholic toasts. He was told there would be. He asked if he could have a designated drinker. He was told he could. He picked Maynard, who hadn't had a drink since that day back in OSS evaluation.

"Whenever they had a toast, Donovan would hand it to me and I had to drink it. As I recall, there were four large glasses of vodka. I felt like a garbage disposal. I was rather sick the next morning, but Donovan gave me a very nice piece of jade he said he had bought for his wife. He said I deserved it. I still have it."

Dr. Connie Harris was the moderator of the evening, and she gave a presentation on the connection between Donovan and Deutsch, who was head of research for the OSS during the war.



DOUGLAS WALLER



BOB MAYNARD



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 15-5

President Chris Ronning

December 2014

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Chris Ronning



As we gather with family and friends for Christmas, let's remember the less fortunate. As we sit in our warm houses filled with laughter and joy, many sleep in the streets, under bridges and some find shelter somewhere else. Many of the homeless are Veterans, what a shame that these men and women cannot be surrounded by loved ones. Lot of our servicemen and women are on foreign soil fighting so the world can be a better place.

December is a time for our gift shop at our VA Facilities and Veteran's homes and it is the time when we bring a little sunshine into the Veterans life. Thanks to the V4V as we are able to give them a little more this year. A check for \$20,000.00 was given to the American Legion Auxiliary at our Fall Conference. We cannot thank them enough for what they did and our Veterans thank them also. I want to thank all the Units that have donated to the Gift Shop and \$5.00 bill shower.

With all the hustle and bustle, we still have a lot of work to do especially with membership. We are in the top 4 on the national level but we can't stop now. This is now the critical time when membership slows down. If your membership dues are not paid by December 31st, you will lose benefits your membership gives you. Not only will you lose your privileges but our programs will suffer.

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month; this is one of our most important programs. It is all about our Veterans and this is what we are all about, helping Veterans and their families.

This month has been very busy, many, many miles, visiting with old friends, and I don't mean age old, made many new friends and let's not forget all the delicious meals and desserts. This is not too good on the waist line, but it just tastes so good. I have attended membership dinners, Veterans Day dinners, and 5 Pheasant dinners. Our driver (yes, Marland the Chauffeur) took us to Silver Bay, New London, Waseca, my own Post Osseo, Duluth, St. Paul and the list keeps getting longer and still more food.

I do run into Commander Peggy once in a while, but sometimes we are like ships passing in the night. Lots of fun and good company where ever we go. Marland and I had the honor to attend a dinner of the 95th Anniversary of the Hellenic Post 129. The dinner was held at the Orthodox Greek Church overlooking Lake Calhoun. What a great experience, there were a lot of dignitaries in attendance and I had the pleasure of sitting next to the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito.

I had the opportunity to talk to Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, who is the U of M Brain Science Chair and the Director of the Brain Sciences Center at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis.

By the time you read my article I will have attended the Shop Ship and Share at the Maplewood Mall, getting ready to ship packages to our Servicemen and Women that are in harms way and bring a little Christmas cheer to make their season a little brighter.

Also my Homecoming will be past and I want to thank everyone that attended and I hope you all enjoyed your day with me. As I write this I have no idea what's in store, but I know it will be fun.

God Bless all of you and God Bless this great country and let's pray for the safety of our deployed Service men and women.

From our house to yours we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year und Froehliche Weihnachten und ein Glueckliches Neues Jahr.

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Month

December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation month. There are a number of special programs the Auxiliary is involved with this month, such as Gift Shop, our \$5.00 Bill Shower, Christmas parties, etc. These are in addition to the regular activities our Hospital/Home Representatives and their many volunteers sponsor at their respective facilities. Is your Unit planning on doing something special for our veterans?

Don't forget the veterans in the local hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities as well as those who are shut-ins in your community. Make December a special month for them.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED - Our veterans answered the call when our country was in need. Won't you answer the call when they are in need? Become a volunteer at one of the VA Medical Centers, a Field Service volunteer or a Home Service volunteer and assist our veterans. They need you!

\$5.00 BILL SHOWER - This year each hospitalized veteran in the nine hospitals/homes where we carry on our department program will receive \$5.00 during the holidays.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY HOSPITAL PROGRAM - We have nine facilities in which the Auxiliary carries on extensive programs for our hospitalized veterans. This takes funding as we provide many of those extras to our veterans. Your financial support is needed. Please send your contributions to the Department Office earmarked "\$5.00 Bill Shower" and "American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program". Thank you for your support. Please call the Hospital Home Reps to see what their needs are at this time.

V4V DONATION

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota, each one of our members would like to shout out a huge thank you to the V4V Board of Directors approving a grant to our Gift Shop Program. With this wonderful donation our Veterans can enjoy an even better Christmas for both themselves and their families this year.

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN'S FUND

Established in 1941 the Forgotten Children's Fund is a very important part of our children and youth program. Its purpose is to provide those extra items and gifts for children who are in the care and custody of the state as dependent or neglected children. The state provides these foster children with room, board, clothing and medical care. But there are no funds available from the state for more than the necessities of life. Through the Forgotten Children's fund, the Auxiliary provides some of those extra comforts and needs such as radios, graduation pictures, class rings, music lessons, instruments, bikes, class trips, etc. Application for these funds is through the county social services department.

GIRLS STATE INFORMATION

Information needed to reserve a place for your Girls State citizen(s) for the 2015 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be included in the January Unit mailing. Please make sure and go through all the information. The Committee has made some very exciting and positive changes to this year's session! It will include an American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State informational brochure, a cover letter from the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Chairman and a reservation form. After the department office receives your reservation form and your registration check of \$300.00 per girl, a packet will be sent to the Unit. This packet will include a set of registration forms for each girl you will be sponsoring. It will include the enrollment card, information sheet, pledge, brochure, dress code, order form for the polo shirts, etc. The packet will be sent to the person who signs the reservation form. The registration materials must be returned to the department office on or before May 1. If you have any questions, please contact the department office.

PRESIDENT'S PROJECTS

Department President Chris Ronning has chosen as her

special President's Projects to purchase outdoor furniture, a grill and recreational items for the Adult Daycare Center at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. She also would like to give both the Minneapolis VA and St. Cloud VA monies to use for the Minnesota Creative Arts Program. Any additional funds raised would go towards the completion of the Educational Building at Legionville. These programs depend on donations to function. Your support of our Department President's projects is appreciated. Please send your donation to the department office earmarked for the Department President's Project and indicate how much should go to each part of her project.

MEMBERSHIP GOING UP

How is your Unit doing in membership? Every Unit should be at/above 75% of their Unit's membership goal by Saturday, December 6, the date of the Pearl Harbor Department Membership Rally in Montgomery. Turn in starts at 3:00 and dinner is at 5:00. These rallies are really a lot of fun and everyone should attend one - hope to see you in Montgomery.

Now is the time to recruit new members - explain our organization and programs and the rewards that are reaped from them towards our veterans and military families. Make sure that after a new member is signed up you spend time explaining our organization and get them involved.

MEMORIAL/CHAPLAIN

As our Department Chaplain Erma Redden is compiling a book of prayers and devotional thoughts for President Chris, she would appreciate you sending her any readings you find that would be appropriate for Chris' keepsake. Please email or mail them to the Department Office or call and we can get you Chaplain Erma's address. Chaplain Erma is also looking for prayers to be included in a new, updated Department Prayer Book - please forward those on now.

MEMORY BOOK

When our Department President Chris visits your Unit please send any newspaper clippings, pictures and snapshots to the Memory Book Chairman Jill Mueller, or to the Department Office for our Department President's memory book. Your help in making this a special remembrance for President Chris is appreciated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

What has your Unit done with the department and national scholarship application forms you received in the Unit mailings? Remember putting the application forms in your file won't help those who need assistance. Get those applications into the hands of those who are eligible to apply.

If you need additional forms, duplicate those you received or contact the department office for additional copies. The forms are also on our website.

DONATIONS

Please see the Unit Guide for a list of those programs the Department Executive Committee has approved for the solicitation of funds. Please keep in mind those showing an * by them are our own Auxiliary programs within the Department of Minnesota. We need to support these causes - no one else does. Remember also that the Brain Science Foundation and the Legacy Scholarship Fund has been added to our list of funds to solicit for. It is a wonderful organization that is making tremendous strides to help out veterans returning from combat duty.

Kris Nelson has health challenge

Past National President Kris Nelson of Baxter is being admitted to the University of Minnesota Hospitals for tests. She will be having surgery the week of Nov. 24. Cards of well wishes can be sent to:

Kris Nelson
14678 Fairway Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

Please encourage your schools to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. There are classes for all grades. All of the rules are in the December Unit Mailing included in the Trophy and Awards booklet. All of this information is also on our website mnala.org. This is a great way to teach our youth all about the Poppy, our Memorial Flower. Last year the entries were very good. We have many talented children - let's do our best to promote the contest at our schools.

UNIT MAILINGS

We asked for your help in letting us know if you would rather get the Unit Mailing electronically or continue to get them by regular mail. Many of you have responded but we are still waiting to hear from some Units. You will continue to receive them via mail unless we get your response. Do let all of your members know that anyone can read or print out any of the mailing articles from our website.

EMBLEM SALES CATALOG

The 2015 National Emblem Sales catalog is in the mail. Every Unit President should receive her copy shortly. These catalogs are mailed out bulk rate. If anything is in error on a person's address the catalog will be destroyed by the post office. If a person has moved since August, the catalog was probably mailed to the former address.

If your Unit President does not receive her copy of the 2015 National Emblem Sales catalog she can request one directly from National Emblem Sales, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis IN 46206.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the office staff at the American Legion Auxiliary, Sandie and Jan, we want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope Santa brings you everything you ask for. We are sure you have been good all year.

GIFT SHOP DISTRIBUTION DAY

Sally Strasser, Department Gift Shop Chairman assembled her crew to sort and distribute all of the Christmas Gifts for our Veterans and their families to be given out at all nine VA facilities during their Gift Shop days. Approximately \$64,000.00 was spent on gifts this year. Our Finance Committee and Executive Committee took a very big leap of faith and again approved the increased budget this year. Our veterans are what our organization is all about and this small act of kindness at the holiday season is very important. Our Units have really stepped up and increased the amount they are donating to this program. Thank you so much for your help in making this program a success.

Here is a reminder of the Gift Shop Dates:

- Fargo VAMC - December 1 (evening)
- Fergus Falls Veterans Home - December 8
- Hastings Veterans Home - December 11
- Luverne Veterans Home - December 4
- Minneapolis Veterans Home - Dec. 3,4 & possibly 5
- Minneapolis VAMC - December 2 & 3
- Silver Bay Veterans Home - December 11
- Sioux Falls VAMC - December 18
- St. Cloud VAMC - December 1-3

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

In last month's Legionnaire you may have seen a job posting for a Bookkeeper for our Department Office. Our Department Treasurer Cathy Radil has resigned her position. I would like to thank her for all she did for our organization and wish her only the very best. I am very happy to report that Jan Lauby, our Administrative Assistant has been offered and accepted the bookkeeping position. Jan is a very capable, valuable asset to our organization and she will do a great job. I am now looking for an Administrative Assistant. If you know of anybody with excellent office skills, have them drop me a resume at sandie@mnala.org. I won't be writing again before the rapidly approaching holidays but I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Remember this is your Department Office and if you need any help or have questions, feel free to contact us at any time. I am still reformatting the Annual Report forms and they may be a little late in coming this year. Last year they went out very early in January. It may be closer to the end of January - have patience - they are coming.

We initiated a Department Fundraiser this past spring and are looking for interested buyers. We came up with a Department of Minnesota polo shirt. They are \$25.00 each and we have all sizes from small to 4X. They are lightweight and easy to care for (no shrinkage). We bring the shirts along to all membership rallies, conferences and conventions but you can order them just by either calling the Department Office or sending an email. It is so nice to go to functions and actually have one of our own Department of Minnesota shirts.



DEPARTMENT TESTIMONIAL -- Department President Chris Ronning was helped in her Testimonial by the highly talented district presidents.

Program of the Month: Vets Affairs and Rehab

Volunteers are always needed. Hospitals and Homes need your help to assist our veterans. If not there, than maybe as a Service to Veterans volunteer. Field Service and Home Service were combined to form the Service to Veterans program. Thanks to Diane Strassburg for chairing that portion of this program. Help our veterans at home - bake for them, mow their lawns, shovel the snow from their sidewalks. Save postage stamps (commemorative and foreign) and picture post cards. Spend some time with the people who serve or have served OUR country when called upon.

The Department of Minnesota has 9 hospitals/homes where we carry out our programs. Following is the facilities and the representatives: Minneapolis VAHCS -

Mary Ann Davis, Pres Chris Ronning, St. Cloud VAHCS - Jan Benson; Sioux Falls VAHCS - Gloria Lindquist, LuVerne - Judy Kumerow, Silver Bay - Phyllis Mealey, Minneapolis Home - Sandy Gibson, Fargo VAHCS - Carolyn Albertson, Fergus Falls - Doris Lafayette and Hastings - Darlene Wondra. Every hospitalized veteran in these facilities will receive \$5 this year.

The "American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program" participates at these nine hospitals and homes. The representatives of the Auxiliary work with our veterans to assure they have the extras they need. They go on outings and have birthday parties along with making sure they have all the personal care items they need. Call the representative of the hospital/home nearest you and find out what their

needs are. Have a sewing party or fundraiser to fill these needs.

Another major area of this program is the "Gift Shop". This area assures that every veteran and member of their immediate family receives a gift at Christmas. Thanks to Chairman Sally Strasser and Committee member Deb Bayer for buying and distributing all the gifts needed at the facilities.

Has your Unit sent in your donation for these programs yet? Please send your checks to the Department Office. The American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program and the Gift Shop combined budget totals more than \$110,000 for our veterans. We need your help.

-- Carol Kottom



Deb Bayer



Carol Kottom



Diane Strassburg



Sally Strasser



Hospital Representatives



SHIRTS FOR SALE -- Shirts are available in sizes small through 4X. They can be ordered by emailing deptoffice@mnala.org or calling 651-224-7634. The cost of the shirt is \$25.00.

Auxiliary Membership as of Nov. 19, 2014

District	11-19 Tot.	Percent	Goal
First	3,147	52.82	5,847
Second	3,678	64.61	5,693
Third	3,225	64.26	5,019
Fourth	551	63.33	840
Fifth	588	57.70	1,019
Sixth	4,464	63.12	7,072
Seventh	2,936	64.32	4,565
Eighth	1,099	56.80	1,935
Ninth	3,196	63.16	5,060
Tenth	3,791	62.95	6,022
Depart.	103	59.20	174
Total	26,778	61.88	43,276

Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake
 11300 180th Street N
 Marine on St. Croix, MN
 (651) 433-2699
www.vetscampmn.org



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Miami and Key West, Florida

January 9-19, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations, with 4 nights in the Miami area
- 17 meals: 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners
- Visit Key West
- Cruise by celebrity homes on Biscayne Bay
- Visit to the oceanfront Hollywood Beach "Boardwalk"
- Free time in famous "South Beach"
- Bayside Marketplace
- Guided tour of Miami




Double \$1,199.00 per person
Triple \$1,179.00 per person
Single \$1,559.00 per person

Monuments of Washington D.C.

April 17-21, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C.
- 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area
- 8 meals: 4 continental breakfasts, 4 dinners
- Evening guided Memorial and Monuments Tour
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Garden
- Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C.
- WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial



\$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

Italian Vista

June 6-14, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Rome, return Milan to Minneapolis
- 9 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Overnight in Assisi
- Excursion to Lake Como
- Ancient Rome with the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square & the Colosseum
- Visit Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance"
- Excursion to Venice
- Visit Verona, the medieval setting of Romeo and Juliet



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Savannah, Georgia

March 21-29, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Tours of amazing Jekyll and St. Simons Islands
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- Manhattan Island city tour
- Broadway performance, "Aladdin"
- Broadway performance, "Lion King"
- 9/11 Memorial and Museum
- Harbor Cruise with lunch



\$2,279.00 per person double occupancy

New Orleans

April 18-26, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Joyce Langerud
- Deluxe motor coach transportation
- 8 nights accommodations
- 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Guided tour of a Louisiana Plantation
- Riverboat Cruise on the Mississippi River
- Historic New Orleans French Quarter
- National World War II Museum
- Guided tour of New Orleans
- And much more!



Double \$1,039.00 per person
Triple \$979.00 per person
Single \$1,309.00 per person

National Parks

Utah and Arizona

May 8-18, 2015

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 and Petrified Forest and Badlands National Park
- And much more!



CALL FOR PRICING

Glacier National Park

By Amtrak July 16-24, 2015

Tour Includes:

- 4-Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
- Roundtrip Amtrak coach seats to Glacier Park
- 6 nights' hotel accommodations
- Luggage handling for one suitcase
- 15 meals
- Going to the Sun Road via the REDS
- Cruise on Swiftcurrent & Lake Louise
- Entrance fees to Glacier National Park
- UNESCO Heritage Site-Head Smashed In
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum
- Cruise on Waterton Lake to Goat Haunt



\$2,649.00 per person double occupancy

VA DISABILITY APPEALS



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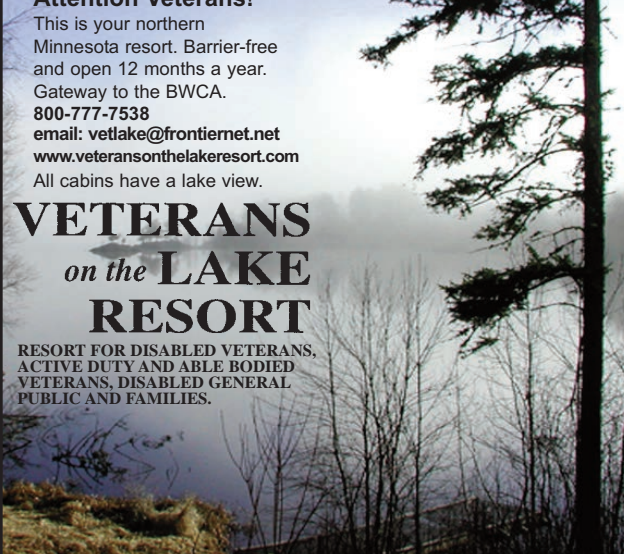
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