



## FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## AUGUST 2019

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### IMPORTANT DATES

August 18, 2019—The district picnic is Sunday August 18th , in Dodge Center at the West park, 1st Street and 4th Ave NW. The Legion is the back up in case of inclement weather which is 3 blocks north of the park. The park is alcohol free. Pot-luck and meat is furnished.

September 7, 2019—The Department Harvest Rally at Legionville. It will be part of "Camp-O-Ree".

Please check out the flyers as there are a couple of American Legion Rides coming up along with a memorial dedication in Elba, MN.

### INDEX

LEGION	1 thru 7
AUXILIARY	page 8
SAL	page 9
LEGION RIDERS	page 10
FLYERS	11 and 12

## FROM THE COMMANDER'S PEN

Greetings from district commander Dale Wellik and the District American legion family.

Thank you for your vote and support now we need to continue to move forward in a positive way for a great year.!

Thank you vice commanders. Mary Hanson, James Westby, Mike Parry, Mark Maloney for getting the 1st district off the Goose egg, with the help of All of the posts for getting those first memberships in and the officers reports done and in before the deadline. A GREAT start!!!

The district picnic is Sunday August 18th , in Dodge Center at the West park, 1st Street and 4th Ave NW. The Legion is the back up in case of inclement weather which is 3 blocks north of the park. The park is alcohol free. Pot-luck and meat is furnished.

All district family members are invited. Get the word out

The Legion riders will be accepting your donation to the American legion legacy scholarship fund also since they are not going to be having there ride this year.

We are continuing with the membership program from last year. Look for many membership updates from our membership chairman Myron Ehrich.

We, the American legion, have many programs and there's a program that everyone may help with. The list of program chairman will be in the district newsletter soon. Step up and help and support them.

We still need a Post to step forward to Host the District convention May 15-16 2020. We need this information soon. Please call Wayne Hammon Jr the District Adjutant at 507-696-2707. or Dale Wellik District Commander at 507-421-5674. Thank you.

Pray for our deployed troops and all that are serving and all that need help afterwards. Thank you.

Thank you Veterans for your service and family for the support you have for our Military.

Dale Wellik – First District Commander



## From your 1<sup>st</sup> District Legion Chaplain

To the 1<sup>st</sup> District American Legion Family, I start this newsletter with 2 Bible verses from Psalms and Proverbs. Psalm 33:12 states “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” and from Proverbs 22:6, “Train children in the ways they should go and when they are old, they will not turn from it.”

While at the State Legion Convention in Willmar, I happened upon an article in the local newspaper, (West Central Tribune, July 12, 2019), entitled “America is Greater than ‘Just Ok’” by Marc A. Thiessen. He quotes a New York Times video that challenges the mythology of America’s greatness. It states that “America may have once been the greatest but today is just ok.”

He makes a great case for America from our founding fathers to our present day military power. Because of America, in World War 1 and 2 and up until today Mr. Thiessen states that, “4.1 billion people live in democracies; of those who don’t, four out of five live in China.” Every country that enjoys freedom today owes it to our founding fathers and the continued existence of their democracy to the U.S. military. I continue to agree with Mr. Thiessen as he stated, “The men and women who flew those fighters and bombers over the mall, (Washington D.C.) last weekend, (4<sup>th</sup> of July), made it all possible.” Furthermore, I’d like to add that every person who served in the military from day one until today have made it all possible.

If you’d like to see more of the article written by Marc A. Thiessen it can be found at [opinion@wctrib.com](mailto:opinion@wctrib.com) or on Twitter , @marcthiessen.

Now you’re probably wondering about the 2 Bible verses mentioned at the beginning of this article. In the founding documents of the American Legion, the Preamble begins with “For God and Country we associate.....”. Our founding fathers knew that without God first, this country and the American Legion would not succeed. So let us always keep God in our hearts, minds, and prayers and teach our children the importance of God’s place in the workings of our great nation, so as they become leaders, our nation will continue to honor God and country.

Some of us have remained true to what we were taught as children. Others have chosen a different route and have forgotten what the founding fathers wanted for our country. Let us make a stand with our voices and show support for those in uniform--

BECAUSE WE KNOW AMERICA IS MORE THAN JUST OK.  
IT IS GREAT.

The United States of America is not without flaws,  
but we are still better than anything else out there.

Till next time, in service to God and Country,  
Larry H. Otto, 1<sup>st</sup> District Chaplain

Left— Outgoing District Commander turning over the gavel to Incoming District Commander Dale Wellik at the Department Convention in Willmar. Thanks to Sy Fix for the photo.

Hello Area One – 1<sup>st</sup> District:

As I begin my term as Vice Commander Area 1 I would like to express to all that it is my honor and privilege to represent the American Legion 1<sup>st</sup> District.

My goal for the upcoming year is to bring awareness to the public of what the benefits of becoming a member of the American Legion are. My experience has been one of comradery and support. As some of you know I am a combat veteran who served during Desert Storm. I have PTSD and strongly believe in helping others as well as raising public awareness.

Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> is Purple Heart Day. It is also the day that the cities of Eyota & Dover will be recognized as Purple Heart Cities. I invite you to join in the Declaration Signing Ceremony at 6pm at the Eyota Legion. Senator Carla Nelson will be the guest speaker. Dover-Eyota High School is scheduled to perform. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Looking forward to this year. God Bless.

Area 1 Vice Commander, Mark Maloney

### FROM AREA FOUR

Hello Legion Family,

It was an honor to be elected as the Area 4 Vice Commander for this year. I have enjoyed delivering the membership packets and getting to know people at the posts in the area. Good news - we are off the goose egg. I was happy to be able to support our District Commander Dale Wellik in this endeavor. It was a total team effort to get it done.

I attended the District Convention in Willmar, July 11th - 13th. It was very informative and it was nice to see old friends.

Please be sure to attend the district picnic in Dodge Center on August 18th. The details will be in this newsletter. Mr. Kellogg has requested that the area vice commanders help him cook. It will be a good time.

I will be attending the National Convention in Indianapolis this month. I will pass on the information that comes out of the meetings.

Big news with the passing of the Legion Act. Once it is signed we all need to go out and capture all of the members that were not eligible before. We really need

Greetings to Area 2-1<sup>st</sup> District Legion Family members,

As your new Vice Commander, I'm looking forward to visiting each of your upcoming Post meetings. I'm eager to learn more about each of the Posts over time and how we can work together to build new memberships and retain our current members. To help you get to know your new Vice Commander, let me take a brief few lines to give you some background. I was born in Albert Lea (1953) to 38 year Veteran & POW First Sergeant Joseph & Lorraine Parry. Served from 1971-1978. Careers included Radio Broadcasting (Ownership & Management) Police Officer & Deputy Sheriff. Past Waseca City Council Member and Past Minnesota State Senator served as Chairman of State Government Innovation and Veterans Policy & Finance. Raised a daughter, Michelle and a son, Dustin who between them gave me three beautiful granddaughters and two grandsons. That's a quick snapshot of your new Vice Commander. Please contact me with any questions or ways I can help your Post.

Regards,  
Mike Parry

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### Question for everyone

I am changing the format of the newsletter from horizontal articles to column . Hopefully we might be able to cut down on the number of pages. Let me know what you think.

### AREA FOUR CONTINUED

to go out and capture all of the members that were not eligible before. We really need to use this to our advantage and boost our membership.

I look forward to meeting more members in Area 4 and supporting the posts in any way I can.

Mary Hanson  
Area 4 Vice Commander

Vice Commander

District 1

James Westby, a Legion member for 51 years of Post 299 Mabel. Has been married for 42 years to Brenda. Have three kids Shannon, Clare and Carl and 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter that keep me busy.

World War I Memorial Celebration at Preston on July 15, 2019 at 1800 hours. The celebration include a parade of flags representing the various military organization in Fillmore County. All other military personnel, retired or Active members were asked to master around the main entrance. A great showing of color. A short program include Staff Sargent Nathan Pike, Olmsted County Veterans Service office. The National Anthem was performed by Johnny Holiday (Air Force). Speakers were Josh Krage representing recent Veterans and Col. Joe O'Connor representing older retired veterans. FJ Anders Field was reached by Hannah Schneckloth, Mabel-Canton Girls State Representative. Navy Riverine Forest was on Display and the Legion Riders. I want to thank everyone for a great celebration to recognize the 78 men who were from Fillmore County that lost their lives in World War I.

Would like to congratulate the City of Preston and its Legion VFW to be Named Purple Heart City. Great Job Done!

James Westby, Semper FI  
1-District

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

**Kasson Post 333 has a over supply of medical equipment which includes hospital beds with mattresses, wheel chairs (both regular and electric), motorized scooters and much more. If interested please call Richard Denny at 507—259—2081 for more information.**

# LEGION COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS

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Thank you from your membership director Myron Ehrich.

I would like to start with a big Thank You to the District Vice Commanders, Area One—Mark Maloney, Area Two—Mike Parry, Area Three—James Westby and Area Four Mary Hanson.

They worked hard to get membership in from all the posts in their area.

Also I need to thank all the posts in the First District for working with the Vice Commander.

We are now off the “Goose Egg” for the year but the work has just begun. So lets keep it going for the entire year.

Once again I would like say Thank You one and all for a job well done.

See you at the District picnic at Dodge Center on August 18th.

Your Membership Director

Myron Ehrich.

### ADJUTANT’S COMMENTS

To the right is a picture of the President signing the “LEGION ACT BILL”.

Please take time to read the article below the picture and on the following page as this is very important information for the entire legion family as it has to do with changing the eligibility for membership in the legion which will also affect the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.



In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law’s journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

## MORE INFORMATION ON THE LEGION ACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

With President Trump's [signature on the LEGION Act](#), the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

**Question:** *How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?*

**Answer:** The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

**Question:** *What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?*

**Answer:** Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join).

**Question:** *I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?*

**Answer:** The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

**Question:** *So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?*

**Answer:** The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

**Question:** *How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?*

**Answer:** The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

**Question:** *How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?*

**Answer:** This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

**Question:** *How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?*

**Answer:** This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

**Question:** *The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?*

**Answer:** New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

**Question:** *What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?*

**Answer:** A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

**Question:** *How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?*

**Answer:** There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

**Question:** *Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?*

**Answer:** Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://>

**Consolidated Post Submittal Report, 7-31-19**

District	Post	Location	Submitted	District	Post	Location	Submitted
1	9	WINONA	X	1	570	AUSTIN SPAM	X
1	40	LANESBORO	X	1	573	ELGIN	
1	50	WABASHA		1	579	MILLVILLE	X
1	52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	X	1	587	WALDORF	X
1	56	ALBERT LEA	X	1	588	MAZEPPA	X
1	68	SPRING VALLEY	X	1	595	LA CRESCENT	X
1	75	NEW RICHLAND		1	637	WHALAN	
1	77	OWATONNA	X	1	1111	DAKOTA	
1	81	HARMONY					
1	90	LEWISTON	X				
1	91	AUSTIN	X				
1	92	ROCHESTER	X				
1	94	RUSHFORD	X				
1	105	LYLE	X				
1	110	LAKE CITY	X				
1	119	BYRON	X				
1	140	GRAND MEADOW	X				
1	146	ADAMS	X				
1	161	LE ROY	X				
1	164	STEWARTVILLE	X				
1	166	PRESTON	X				
1	179	PLAINVIEW	X				
1	190	ST. CHARLES	X				
1	191	CALEDONIA					
1	197	CHATFIELD	X				
1	228	WASECA	X				
1	249	SPRING GROVE					
1	264	GLENVILLE	X				
1	266	HARTLAND	X				
1	281	JANESVILLE	X				
1	295	WEST CONCORD	X				
1	296	ELLENDALE					
1	299	MABEL	X				
1	317	EMMONS	X				
1	330	HAYFIELD					
1	333	KASSON					
1	369	WYKOFF	X				
1	384	DODGE CENTER	X				
1	400	CANTON					
1	404	ALDEN	X				
1	422	CLAREMONT	X				
1	423	HOUSTON	X				
1	446	ROCHESTER 446					
1	492	FOUNTAIN					
1	498	HOKAH					
1	526	PETERSON	X				
1	544	OSTRANDER					
1	546	KELLOGG					
1	551	EYOTA	X				
1	552	FREEBORN	X				

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>71.9</b>

Here is the Post Consolidated Report that was sent to me by Sy Fix who is on the American Committee for the Department of Minnesota. The actual due date was the end of July but the Department of Minnesota will accept them until October 2019 so the chairman can give a complete report at Fall Conference. If your post does not have a check with a yellow box your CPR has not been submitted. Please check this out as it is very important information with is used to help National push for veteran's bills going through congress. If you need some help either get a hold of District Adjutant Wayne Hammon Jr, the District Commander Dale Wellik or the District Americanism Chairman Mary Hanson.

# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



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### FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer! A little about myself, I am a ALA member and president of Unit 164 in Stewartville.

I am eligible through my grandfather, father, and late husband. My two sons are SAL members in Stewartville.

I look forward to an exciting year, getting to meet new members and visiting your Units! You only have to ask!

I would like to ask our Unit Presidents to compile a list of their chairs with the following information:

Name-Telephone #- Email Address and send to me at [w.prescher@kmwb.net](mailto:w.prescher@kmwb.net)

We will put together a list of the District for the Unit Presidents, District Chairs and Unit Chairs.

We have Units doing wonderful things that we need to share within the First District. This hopefully will be the easiest to try and do that.

Did you know the ALA is the largest women's organization in our country! We all need to be proud of that and make sure it continues!

November 10, 2019 is the ALA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! All Districts and Units will be asked to set aside a day in November for a "Minnesota Day of Service". Department will be sending more info with the September mailing to Units.

Units should have received their Membership Packets for 2019-2020. I would like to challenge ALL Units to get their membership turned in early. We all need to help in reminding members to pay their dues and recruiting new members.

If I can be of any help, you only have to email or call me. Hope to see many of you at the First District Picnic-August 18<sup>th</sup> in Dodge Center!

Remember that all we do is for our Veteran's, God and Country!

Wanda Prescher  
1<sup>st</sup> District President

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



## COMMANDER

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Greetings SAL members,

I would like to start out by saying thank you to Tim Weaver and his leadership team for all their hard work and guidance this past year. While one chapter ends another begins.

We have a new team heading up our 1<sup>st</sup> District SAL Squadron this year. We hope we fulfill the needs of you the members and our Veterans. I ask for your patience as several of us are new at this level in the SAL District. We are open to suggestions, comments and criticism in our leadership roles.

Please feel free to call upon any of us, especially myself if your need of assistance and or simply want to discuss what we can do to help you and your squadron.

I know Brian and Chuck our Vice Commanders are busy getting membership packets distributed to the individual Squadrons. Please work diligently to get this completed and sent in. This is a method for your Squadrons to report membership and populate other forms that help us gain data on all the good things we as Squadrons perform for our Legion Post.

As stated at the District meeting and during the election process I travel frequently for work which impacts my availability. I will do my best to lead us in the right direction and support our Veterans and Post alike. As stated early I am open to any communication from you that will improve our District and my role as the District Commander.

We are forming a By-laws committee that will review our current Constitution and By Laws. Our goal is to update these and distribute so they can be reviewed prior to convention. I have formed a team and will be the sponsor of that project. I look at the knowledge and guidance of that team to lead us in a thorough review and update process.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lemmer  
District 1 SAL Commander  
[gslemmer@HBCI.com](mailto:gslemmer@HBCI.com)  
507-312-2222

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## AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS



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### ATTENTION ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS !!!!!!!!!!!

The First District American Legion Riders will be collecting funds from individuals and posts for the Legacy Scholarship at the First District picnic on Sunday August 18th at Dodge Center, MN.

They will not be holding a First District Legacy Ride this year so bring the donations to the District Picnic. Everyone is invited to the picnic come and enjoy good food and comradeship.

PS - The district picnic is Sunday August 18th , in Dodge Center at the West park, 1st Street and 4th Ave NW. The Legion is the back up in case of inclement weather which is 3 blocks north of the park. The park is alcohol free. Potluck and meat is furnished.

**American Legion Riders Post 91  
Bob Kvam Memorial Scholarship Cruise**  
Cruising for Knowledge on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> 2019



- Registration 9:30 AM
- Coffee Donuts Available
- Departure: 10:30 AM
- Return: 5:30 PM
- Burgers, Chips After

“ Each year the American Legion Riders Post 91 Bob Kvam Memorial Scholarship help students with their tuition needs providing scholarships to 3 individuals each year”

Bikes & All Road Legal Vehicles  
Welcome \$20 per Vehicle Entry Fee

100% of all Proceeds go to the  
ALR Post 91 Bob Kvam Scholarship

American Legion Post 91  
809 12<sup>th</sup> St SW Austin, MN 55912

Cheers (Waltham)  
American Legion (Kasson)  
American Legion (Stewartville)  
American Legion (Adams)  
American Legion (Lyle)  
Hunters Bar (Myrtle)



For more information contact Roe Naylor ALR President at P: 507-438-5804

WASECA POST 228 WILL BE STARTING THIS  
BACK UP IN SEPTEMBER

**STEAK FRY**



**Choose steak, shrimp or both!**

**Served with a baked potato, dinner salad and Texas garlic toast.**

**12 oz. ribeye \$15**

**6 shrimp \$10**

**8 oz. ribeye & 3 shrimp \$15**

Proceeds go toward required kitchen upgrades  
and other building repairs.

**2nd Friday Monthly, 5-7 p.m.**

**Waseca American Legion**

**700 South State St ~ 507-833-9935**



**LACRESCENT SAL OMELET**

**BREAKFAST**



**AT THE LACRESCENT EVENT CENTER  
ON THE LAST SUNDAY MORNING OF  
THE ODD NUMBERED MONTHS.**

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**  
**Fall Color River Run**  
Sponsored by Rushford American Legion Riders  
**October 5, 2019**  
Registration 9am  
Kickstarts up at 11am  
Cost will be \$20.00 per driver  
& \$10.00 per rider  
Ride starts at Rushford American Legion  
Post 94, 213 Hwy 16, Rushford MN  
We will take a scenic river run thru the  
Tri-State Bluff Country.

Proceeds from this ride will support Veterans and Veteran Causes. A portion of this ride will also be given to Jenni Peterson (District 1 Rider) to recover from her medical expenses due to a motorcycle accident in June.



## Elba Veterans Memorial Dedication

**8/10/19**

**10:30 PM**

**Elba, MN**

## Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony

The Veterans Memorial is dedicated to all past, present and future Veterans for their service

### Service Dedication

Color Guard: Raising of the flags

National Anthem: John and Donna Bedtke

Welcome and Prayer: Father Tim

Mayoral Address: Jay Mollert

Dedication: Glenn Mueller

Local Veterans speak: Ben Dorman and Gary Lee

Three volleys from Civil War cannon to honor all veterans past, present and future.

\*Moment of silence\*

Final Blessing: Father Tim

All sing God Bless America

Thank You: Elba Community Outreach

*There's pride in every American heart and it's time we stand up and say:  
I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died who gave that right  
to me. And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today. Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land.*

**God Bless the USA**

## First District News

I was remiss in the August Newsletter of not mentioning that our own First District member Pat Nelson from Hayfield Unit 330 was presented with the first Goodwill Service Award from National!

Pat and Jerry will attend National Convention on behalf of National later this month. Pat and another member from Maryland were chosen from across the country to receive this award.

Congratulations Pat! On behalf of the First District, thank you for all you do for Unit 330 and the First District!

Wanda Prescher

President