



# FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MN

## DEC 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES

- December 7, 2017 - Pearl Harbor day
- December 16, 2017 - Wreath laying program at the Preston Cemetery at 11 am. More info can be found in the flyer section of this newsletter.
- December 17, 2017 - The First District Christmas Party at Hayfield Post 330 starting at 1 PM.
- December 25, 2017 - Christmas, don't forget the reason for celebrating Christmas.
- December 31, 2017 - New Years Eve - be smart and safe.
- January 1, 2018 - New Years Day— Happy New Years to all.
- January 6,, 2018 - First District Mid— Winter at Albert Lea Post 56, Albert Lea, MN. 9am e-board 10am conference.

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### INDEX

<b>LEGION</b>	<b>1 thru 11</b>
<b>AUXILIARY</b>	<b>12 thru 20</b>
<b>SAL</b>	<b>21 and 22</b>
<b>LEGION RIDERS</b>	<b>page 23</b>
<b>FLYERS</b>	<b>24 thru 30</b>



# COMMEMORTIVE COINS FOR MINNESOTA

HERE ARE THE FRONT AND BACK PICTURES OF THE 100TH ANIVERSERY COIN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA.

THEY ARE TEN (10) DOLLARS EACH AND IF YOU WANT ONE OR MORE PLEASE EITHER LET BILL GOEDE OR WAYNE HAMMON JR KNOW AND SHOULD HAVE THEM AT THE FIRST DISTRICT MID-WINTER ON JANUARY 6, 2018.



**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

If your Post, Unit , Squadron or ALR Chapter needs information for the Oratorical Contest please contact Sy Fix and he will get the information to you.

It is very important to get this information to our schools as soon as possible so the students can get started on this project.

Don't just throw this information at the school offices, make sure and get it to one of the teachers who teaches the constitution. We have not had a public or parochial student compete in several years.

Sy Fix - First District Oratorical Chairman

## FIRST DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS

All committee chairman's are supposed to give a report at the District Mid-Winter on January 6,2018. I need each one of you to send me a copy to me by e-mail, if possible, by the last week of December.

I will put your report on a flash drive and have it up on the TV in the hall while you give your report.

If you cannot make it to mid-winter your report will be given by me to the members present.

My contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

First District Adjutant—Wayne Hammon Jr

## FROM YOUR COMMANDER-

Greetings

We continue to be in 2nd place in the Department membership race. Our Vice Commanders are doing a great job. Let's give them a big thank you. We are ahead of our December 18th target percentage. However, we are about 270 members behind last year's membership at this time.

We had our Area 1 VA&R Rally in St. Charles Saturday November 18th. We only had around 30 people in attendance. We did have a couple of first timers at the rally. I presented a plaque to Glenn Mueller, who was representing TSGT Christ Seguin, for being selected Air Force Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year.

I also presented Past District

Commander Sy Fix with his Commanders Scrapbook for the year 2016-2017.

Post# 190 did a great job of hosting the rally and served a very large and delicious lunch. Veterans Day was very busy this year. With the holiday falling on the weekend, it spread the activities out over several days. On Friday I attended several school programs. On Saturday I assisted with the annual program at the county courthouse, followed by a luncheon at the Post. That night I had the honor of attending and speaking at the Kellogg Post# 546 Veterans Day and Membership Night program. We had a very good turnout and a fabulous meal. Thanks for the invite.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We had a beautiful day to travel and give thanks for all the good things we have received this past year. I hope everyone kept our servicemen in their minds and in their prayers.

December 2nd will find us in Duluth for our Department Pearl Harbor Rally. It's been quite a while since we have been there. It would have been nicer if it would be earlier in the year but we will make due. I hope we have a decent turn out. I only sold about half of the tickets I received.

The annual Christmas Party will be held in Hayfield , December 17th. We haven't been there for a while. Let's plan on attending and show our appreciation for their hospitality and have an enjoyable Legion Family holiday get together. Post# 330 always does a good job.

I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Let's begin the New Year with enthusiasm and a vigorous attitude to our Legions goals. Remember those who are not as fortunate as we are. Especially remember our Servicemen at home and abroad.

God Bless America!!!!

1st District Commander

Les Shaunce

## DISTRICT CHRISTMAS PARTY INFORMATION

**The 1st District Christmas Party will be Dec 17th at Hayfield Am Legion at approx. 1pm. We will play 50/50 Bingo. 50% to winner and 50% to Commander Les's project of a six pass golf cart. Tell everyone to bring plenty of money!!!!!!!!**

**Food approx. 4:00 Weather permitting !!**

**David M Haukom  
Cmdr Hayfield, MN 330  
Cell 507-251-5051**

## FROM AREA ONE

## FROM AREA TWO

I hope that you all had a very good Veteran's Day. Thanksgiving has come and gone and I hope that you full plate of goodies on Thanksgiving.

December 7th is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Let us all remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice on that day. Moving on, the 1st District Christmas party will be at the Hayfield Post. This will take place on Sunday, December 17th. Hope to see a lot of you there!

Wishing all a Merry Christmas...Please remember those that are serving away from their homes and loved ones.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Area 2 Vice Commander Myron Ehrich

## FROM AREA THREE

Greetings from Area Three:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and took time to thank God for all our blessings. Christmas is fast approaching and may we all experience the child-like joy that is part of the season.

I have noticed in some Posts in Area Three that the membership is falling short of where they should normally be at this time of the year. There is one way to correct this problem and that is send the memberships you have collected to the State every Friday. I know some Posts like to send off all their membership at one time but that makes it hard to control the average.

May God bless our men and women in uniform.

Area Three Vice Commander

Carroll Hill

## FROM AREA FOUR

Hello Comrades,

Here it is December. I had a busy month visiting Lyle, Adam and Leroy Posts. There was also a Fall Rally in St. Charles. Membership is doing well. Thanks to all the Posts in the District.

Pearl Harbor Day is coming up along with the Pearl Harbor Rally. I chatted with a veteran of Pearl Harbor the other day at a local restaurant. He is a 101 years old and still doing well for a man his age.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Remember to thank a veteran and I thank you now!

Area 4 Vice Commander, Rollie Hanson

First district membership report for 11/23/2017

POST	LOCATION	GOAL	PREV	TURN IN	TOTAL	PERCENT	LEFT	Date
9	WINONA	597	470	2	472	79.06%	125	11/23/2017
90	LEWISTON	78	44	12	56	71.79%	22	11/16/2017
190	ST CHARLES	144	121	13	134	93.06%	10	11/23/2017
<b>WINONA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>819</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>80.83%</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
50	WABASHA	242	173	28	201	83.06%	41	11/23/2017
110	LAKE CITY	141	114	7	121	85.82%	20	11/2/2017
179	PLAINVIEW	194	146	10	156	80.41%	38	11/23/2017
546	KELLOGG	73	50	5	55	75.34%	18	11/9/2017
573	ELGIN	37	26	1	27	72.97%	10	11/23/2017
579	MILLVILLE	140	155	1	156	111.43%	-16	11/23/2017
588	MAZEPPA	78	49	7	56	71.79%	22	11/9/2017
<b>WABASHA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>905</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>85.30%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
92	ROCHESTER	988	756	30	786	79.55%	202	11/23/2017
119	BYRON	148	118	1	119	80.41%	29	11/23/2017
164	STEWARTVILLE	305	249	7	256	83.93%	49	11/23/2017
446	ROCHESTER	17	11	3	14	82.35%	3	9/14/2017
551	EYOTA	183	124	15	139	75.96%	44	11/23/2017
<b>OLMSTEAD COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1641</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>80.07%</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
<b>AREA ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>3365</b>	<b>2606</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>2748</b>	<b>81.66%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
295	WEST CONCORD	57	37	6	43	75.44%	14	10/12/2017
330	HAYFIELD	242	176	9	185	76.45%	57	11/23/2017
333	KASSON	269	226	8	234	86.99%	35	11/23/2017
384	DODGE CENTER	87	61	7	68	78.16%	19	11/23/2017
422	CLAREMONT	36	25	3	28	77.78%	8	11/23/2017
<b>DODGE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>691</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>80.75%</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
52	BLOOMING PRAIRIE	111	92	6	98	88.29%	13	11/9/2017
77	OWATONNA	556	360	57	417	75.00%	139	11/23/2017
296	ELLENDALE	33	19	1	20	60.61%	13	10/19/2017
<b>STEELE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>76.43%</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
75	NEW RICHLAND	58	44	3	47	81.03%	11	11/16/2017
228	WASECA	342	268	2	270	78.95%	72	11/23/2017
281	JANESVILLE	102	85	3	88	86.27%	14	11/23/2017
587	WALDORF	22	21	5	26	118.18%	-4	11/2/2017
<b>WASECA COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>524</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>82.25%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
<b>AREA TWO TOTALS</b>		<b>1915</b>	<b>1414</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1524</b>	<b>79.58%</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
40	LANESBORO	106	91	2	93	87.74%	13	11/23/2017
68	SPRING VALLEY	85	76	4	80	94.12%	5	11/9/2017
81	HARMONY	34	22	2	24	70.59%	10	10/5/2017
94	RUSHFORD	134	91	1	92	68.66%	42	11/23/2017
166	PRESTON	76	53	5	58	76.32%	18	11/2/2017
197	CHATFIELD	50	48	1	49	98.00%	1	11/9/2017
299	MABEL	179	108	1	109	60.89%	70	11/23/2017
369	WYKOFF	19	1	17	18	94.74%	1	11/23/2017
400	CANTON	13	1	5	6	46.15%	7	10/19/2017
492	FOUNTAIN	15	1	7	8	53.33%	7	8/23/2017
526	PETERSON	37	23	2	25	67.57%	12	9/28/2017
544	OSTRANDER	29	19	3	22	75.86%	7	9/28/2017
637	WHALEN	15	1	11	12	80.00%	3	8/3/2017
<b>FILLMORE COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>792</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>75.25%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>

191	CALEDONIA	170	145	5	150	88.24%	20	11/23/2017
249	SPRING GROVE	162	86	32	118	72.84%	44	11/16/2017
423	HOUSTON	113	90	2	92	81.42%	21	11/23/2017
498	HOKAH	20	10	4	14	70.00%	6	9/14/2017
595	LA CRESCENT	324	252	2	254	78.40%	70	11/23/2017
<b>HOUSTON COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>789</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>79.59%</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
<b>AREA THREE TOTALS</b>		<b>1581</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>1224</b>	<b>77.42%</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
56	ALBERT LEA	678	525	2	527	77.73%	151	11/23/2017
264	GLENVILLE	87	57	6	63	72.41%	24	11/9/2017
266	HARTLAND	15	1	14	15	100.00%	0	9/14/2017
317	EMMONS	72	58	2	60	83.33%	12	11/23/2017
404	ALDEN	109	89	1	90	82.57%	19	11/23/2017
552	FREEBORN	38	36	2	38	100.00%	0	11/9/2017
<b>FREEBORN COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>999</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>79.38%</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
91	AUSTIN	610	457	2	459	75.25%	151	11/23/2017
105	LYLE	92	44	27	71	77.17%	21	11/23/2017
140	GRAND MEADOW	50	37	5	42	84.00%	8	11/2/2017
146	ADAMS	219	172	1	173	79.00%	46	11/23/2017
161	LEROY	66	42	6	48	72.73%	18	11/23/2017
570	AUSTIN SPAM	5	5	1	6	120.00%	-1	8/23/2017
<b>MOWER COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>1042</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>76.68%</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
<b>AREA FOUR TOTALS</b>		<b>2041</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1592</b>	<b>78.00%</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>
1111	DAKOTA	51	0	0	0	0.00%	0	11/23/2017
<b>DISTRICT ONE TOTALS</b>		<b>8953</b>	<b>6661</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>7088</b>	<b>79.17%</b>	<b>###</b>	<b>11/23/2017</b>

AREA	VICE	COMMANDERS						
AREA ONE			3365	2606	142	2748	81.66%	617
AREA TWO			1915	1414	110	1524	79.58%	391
AREA THREE			1581	1118	106	1224	77.42%	357
AREA FOUR			2041	1523	69	1592	78.00%	449

### FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Where did the year go, went by pretty fast didn't it. So that means we only have about 4 weeks to go before all those that have not paid their dues will be in what they call a member but not in good standings. So now is the time to go and get that person and also get that new member that we need. Tell them get their dues paid as a Christmas present to themselves, or pay for someone's as a present to that person. District 1, is still in second place because you have been very good at sending in the renewals, every member counts and every time you send in even one helps in the end because that brings our percentage up. So that now we are in second and ready to get to first place so like I said get those sent in every week and we will get there.

I will be in Duluth this weekend for Pearl Harbor Rally, got a few to turn in, we just had a rally in St. Charles and those we sent in but I don't think they got it in time to put in the last report so it should be counted in the report from this weekend, I already put it in the report for this week. That's why our numbers don't match the states numbers.

Enough about memberships, get out and get your Christmas shopping done, (@ get my present) just bring it to the Dist. Party on the 17th of Dec. at Hayfield. And in case I don't see you there my you have a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS @ HAPPY NEW YEAR.....Also be safe out there.....

# The American Legion blasts NFL for disrespect

The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization characterized professional athletes and other Americans who fail to show respect for the national anthem as "misguided and ungrateful."

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan lamented the politicization of what used to be a display of unity at NFL games and other sporting events throughout the country.

"The American Legion is one of the original architects of the U.S. Flag Code," said Rohan, a U.S Army veteran. "That code was produced by 69 patriotic, fraternal civic and military organizations in 1923. It included members of all political parties, big labor, industry, and minorities. The code calls on all present to stand at attention while the anthem is played. It wasn't political when it was written and it shouldn't be political today. Having a right to do something, does not make it the right thing to do. We salute Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who stood alone respecting the flag as his teammates stayed in their locker room. NASCAR also deserves credit for their support of our anthem. There are many ways to protest, but the national anthem should be our moment to stand together as one UNITED States of America."

With a current membership of two million wartime veterans, The American Legion, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts across the nation.

# PITCURES OF THE ST CHARLES RALLY



Commander Les presenting the certificate for SGT Seguain to Glenn Mueller



Commander Les presenting Sy Fix his scrapbook for his year as district commander.



Commander Les giving the members present several messages that he had received from Department.



Area One Vice Commander Scott Ihrke running his first rally. "Great job Scotty".

**FIRST DISTRICT COMMANDER  
LES SHAUNCE'S  
PROJECT FOR THE YEAR**



**A SIX PASSENGER GOLF CART FOR THE STATE  
VETERANS CEMETERY IN PRESTON, MN.  
TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT FAMILY MEMBERS TO  
THE GRAVE SITES OF THEIR LOVED ONES.**

## **DELEGATE INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

I have received a couple of questions from posts in our district on how the delegates are selected so here is a short explanation.

We have a limited number of delegate and alternates than can go to the National Convention set by our membership numbers. Some of the delegates are automatic selections but everyone planning on going must send a request letter to the district adjutant and a committee appointed at the district convention will pick the delegates and alternates.

But anyone can go as a quest, there is no limit on how many quests that can go. As a quest you still have to pay the registration fee but you do not have to stay in the convention hotel which the delegates and alternates have to. As a quest you still need to send a letter to the district adjutant so your name can be forwarded to Department. The quests will be issued a name badge which allows you the get into the exhibition hall and convention hall.

I hope this short explanation helps with some of the questions that are out there and if you want to contact me that is fine also. My contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.

First District Adjutant - Wayne Hammon Jr.

## **SAMMY MUELLER'S POLAR PLUNGE 2018**

Again this year Glenn Mueller's daughter Samantha will be doing the polar plunge for Special Olympics. Her goal is to raise seven hundred fifty (750) dollars. The plunge is in February of 2018.

But if she can raise two thousand dollars Jill Mueller (her mom) will jump with her.

Special Olympics is a 501-C3 . There will be more information coming in next month's newsletter

## **ATTENTION WOMEN VETERANS, SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALL WOMEN AMERICAN LEGION SPAM POST 570 IN AUSTIN, MN**

American Legion SPAM® Post 570 is looking for new members, and we want you, women veterans!

The all-women SPAM® Post 570 was originally founded in 1946 by Jay C. Hormel, with 20 local women veterans. Eight of these women worked at the Hormel plant. As the post grew, it included veterans from all branches of the military. Jay had also initiated a program prior to the close of World War II as an effort to help find jobs for returning soldiers, augmenting his company's sales staff with women veterans. These women became known as the "Hormel Girls". Those Hormel Girls with both military background and musical talents were required to join SPAM® Post 570, with the intention of having the post form a marching band to compete in the August 1947 National American Legion Convention in New York City. Jay handed this near-impossible task to Dale Schamber, SPAM® Luncheon Meat product manager, who managed to find 74 eligible candidates willing to embark on an arduous five-week training session of marching and practicing for the event. The team was the first all-women American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps to enter this prestigious competition, and was a big hit at the convention even though it did not win. Photos of Austin's "All GI Girls SPAM Post 570" showed how welcome they were to the crowds and other parade participants.

Not all SPAM® Post 570 members were chosen to join the Hormel Girls and promote Hormel products across the country. The SPAM® Post members in Austin focused on American Legion's mission, and were "devoted to mutual helpfulness . . . committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans". Post activities included participation in Veteran's Day events, work in child welfare, baskets for the needy, and visits to local hospitals. They held meetings where girls could speak with recruiting officers, and provided educational programs for expecting mothers. Members also volunteered as part of "Operation Skywatch", manning a ground observation post to monitor aircraft and weather.

Although the Hormel Girls sales teams and SPAM® Post 570 shared some of their history for several years, the Hormel Girls eventually disbanded in 1953. On the other hand, SPAM® Post 570 remains an "active" post on the American Legion books, and now, in 2017, a new generation of women veterans would like to re-energize this historic post, and invites any interested parties to join up – musical ability is no longer required! Female members of other American Legion posts are also welcome to transfer their memberships to SPAM® Post 570.

The SPAM® Museum is proud to be a sponsor of SPAM® Post 570.

For more information or to join our post, contact Eileen Chao, Adjutant, SPAM® Post 570, at 507-437-4583 or [echao8@charter.net](mailto:echao8@charter.net).

# FIRST DISTRICT AUXILIARY NEWS



## Auxiliary Contacts

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**Gilmore-Stensrud Post #552 in Freeborn MN Auxiliary dates of upcoming events**

**December 3, 2017 Santa/Hospice Tree Lighting/  
Christmas Potluck/Bingo party at Freeborn Legion  
Hall beginning at 3:00**

**January 27, 2018 Soup N' Pie/Dessert at Freeborn  
Legion Hall time: 4:00 to 6:00**

**Thank You  
Sandy Anderson  
Auxiliary President**



Wow, time flies, I hope everyone had the opportunity to celebrate Veterans Day with their Post and Thanksgiving with their loved ones. November was a busy month to say the least, and December is shaping up to be that way as well.

November took me to the Owatonna Unit Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the Adam's Unit meeting, the Wabasha Unit meeting, the Kellogg Veteran's Day Program on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Lake City Veteran's Dinner, the LaCrescent Unit meeting, the Waldorf Unit meeting, in the morning, and District 1 Rally in St. Charles. One thing I've been realizing as your District President is that each Unit that I have visited all serve delicious food. All kidding aside, everyone seems to have their own little niche with projects that serve veterans. I was duly impressed with Owatonna and the way that they partner with their Sons of the American Legion for projects. I spoke at veterans dinners as well as the Unit meetings- bringing updates of the District and Department. Please let me know if your Unit would like me to visit.



Visiting the Wabasha ALA Unit meeting



Membership /Veterans Day Dinner in Kellogg



Above, visiting the Owatonna ALA Unit Meeting with a very delicious meal with the Post prior to the meeting. Right, I received an excellent tour of the Hastings Veterans Home with Sue Registrar; loved the greenhouse!!





A very delicious meal was served at the Adam's ALA Unit meeting. A special presentation was made to a Poppy Poster winner that was recognized at the Northwestern and National levels.



Attended the Veterans Day program in Plainview.

I also attended the Elgin program; along with the Wabasha Veterans Day program at their high School where I experienced a profoundly remarkable and moving POW/MIA ceremony provided by the Wabasha ALA Unit.

I have available a booklet on Parliamentary Procedures and Protocol from Fall Conference that has some very good information in it. Let me know if you want a copy, I can email or mail it to you!!

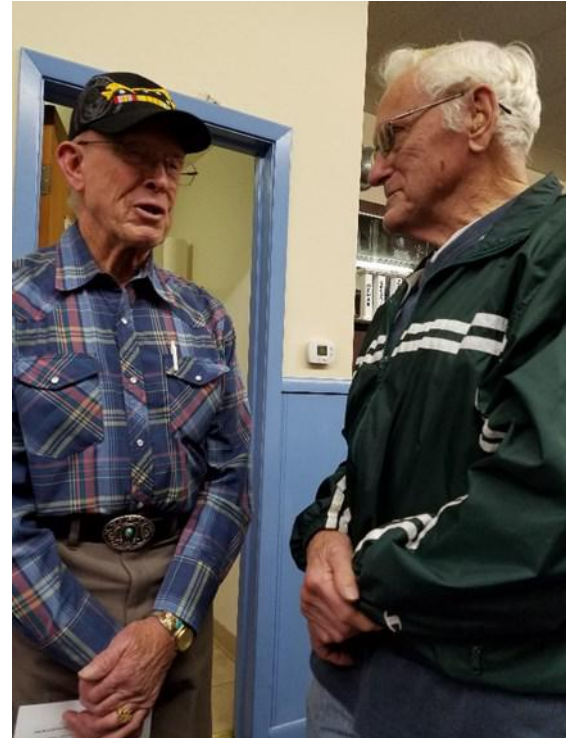
The December District 1 event will be the Christmas Party in Hayfield at 1pm on December 16<sup>th</sup>. If the weather is decent, we will walk down to the Memorial and back singing Christmas Carols. Then, there will be bingo played with half the proceeds going to Commander Les' project. Please consider joining the District American Legion Family as we gather and celebrate love in this Christmas Season.

December is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Month for the Auxiliary. From Mary Hendrickson, VA&R Chairman. She wrote, "Goal #7 listed in the National VA&R Programs Action Plan is: "Assist and support caregivers of veterans." The Auxiliary most certainly does this with our volunteer work at and contributions to the 4 hospitals/5 veterans homes we serve. Most of us also know some of our Unit members who are caregivers



Working together with the Plainview Lions club during their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration I received a donation to my projects (specifically Project New Hope ~ which was actually a program that was started by the Lions Club).

to their veteran husbands, fathers or brothers in their own homes. These individuals also need our recognition and assistance. In many instances, these members are unable to attend our meetings. As the busy holiday season approaches, I ask that you acknowledge them with a card, a small gift or even a telephone call to let them know the Auxiliary is thinking of them. Some of you may even be able to sit and visit with the veteran while the caregiver gets a couple of hours to run errands or do some shopping. I know that Auxiliary ladies have warm hearts and a willingness to help others who could use a little assistance." I think Mary brought out an excellent point. Showing our appreciation to the caregivers to our veterans is something that we all can do. I know the Christmas season is a busy time of year for us, but take the time to recognize our veterans in nursing homes, and assisted living centers. The holidays can be a particularly lonely time for our veterans. Time is short now, but has your Unit considered 'adopting a veteran' at a veterans home?



I was invited to and attended the Lake City Membership and Veteran's Day Dinner, of which my Pops (Everett Johnson – Korean War Veteran and over 50 year Legion member) was my guest {he's in the green coat}.



Visiting the LaCrescent Unit meeting was a treat to hear Dept. President Donna Arends speak. Also there that evening was Sue Registrar from the Hastings Veterans Home – pictured with LaCrescent Unit Pres. Michelle Weaver.

**Auxiliary VA&R Solicitation Programs Include:** Please donate generously to these very worthwhile projects.

American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program  
 \$5.00 Bill Shower  
 Minnesota Fisher Houses (2)  
 Gift Shop (guided by Vida Bacon and Linda Deschene this Auxiliary year)  
 Minnesota Creative Arts Festival  
 Overall support of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program

**\* Heart and Neck Pillows (firm please)  
 Needed at Minneapolis VAHCS**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\* Mittens, Hats and Scarfs (for Adults)  
 Needed at Minneapolis VA**

I found this poem and it is dedicated to those currently serving who are unable to be home with their families at Christmas. It is from a Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan.

### **Merry Christmas, My Friend**

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
 In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
 and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,  
 no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
 No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.  
 On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,  
 a sobering thought soon came to my mind.  
 For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.  
 This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more,  
 so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.

And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,  
 Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,  
 Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.  
 Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
 Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?



Jill Mueller at the 1st District meeting in St. Charles in November. She was making compassion (sleeping) mats for the homeless. Save those plastic bags for her and bring them to a District meeting.

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.  
 I soon understood, this was more than a man.  
 For I realized the families that I saw that night,  
 owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,  
 And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
 They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,  
 because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,  
 on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
 Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
 I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,  
 "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
 I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.  
 My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,  
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.  
 I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.  
 So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,  
 and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.  
 Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,  
 with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.  
 And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,  
 and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,  
 this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
 But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,  
 said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."  
 One look at my watch and I knew he was right,  
 Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

I wish you all have a joyous and happy Christmas, particularly remembering the reason for the season – that God became one of us in the person of Jesus. May God Bless you, God Bless our families, God Bless this great country of ours, and God bless our veterans and currently serving military.

Cheryl Nymann, District 1 President

Unit	Location	Goal	Previous	Turn In	Total	Precent	Left
9	Winona	181	12	94	106	58.56%	75
90	Lewiston	42	0	17	17	40.48%	25
190	St Charles	81	21	25	46	56.79%	35
50	Wabasha	142	35	56	91	64.08%	51
110	Lake City	88	42	25	67	76.14%	21
179	Plainview	185	16	101	117	63.24%	68
546	Kellogg	141	12	91	103	73.05%	38
573	Elgin	24	1	13	14	58.33%	10
579	Millville	50	5	30	35	70.00%	15
588	Mazeppa	54	16	20	36	66.67%	18
92	Rochester	183	44	65	109	59.56%	74
119	Byron	95	32	13	45	47.37%	50
164	Stewartville	188	96	52	148	78.72%	40
551	Eyota	109	6	68	74	67.89%	35
<b>Pod One Total</b>		<b>1563</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>64.49%</b>	<b>555</b>
295	West Concord	37	2	0	2	5.41%	35
330	Hayfield	198	104	39	143	72.22%	55
333	Kasson	151	65	39	104	68.87%	47
384	Dodge Center	81	2	41	43	53.09%	38
422	Claremont	22	1	20	21	95.45%	1
52	Blooming Prairie	118	58	24	82	69.49%	36
77	Owatonna	138	44	23	67	48.55%	71
75	New Richland	66	25	21	46	69.70%	20
228	Waseca	237	58	130	188	79.32%	49
281	Janesville	61	8	27	35	57.38%	26
587	Waldorf	30	17	5	22	73.33%	8
<b>Pod Two Totals</b>		<b>1139</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>66.11%</b>	<b>386</b>
40	Lanesboro	104	5	0	5	4.81%	99
68	Spring Valley	47	6	31	37	78.72%	10
81	Harmony	53	1	38	39	73.58%	14
94	Rushford	78	1	42	43	55.13%	35
197	Chatfield	40	3	34	37	92.50%	3
299	Mabel	139	14	79	93	66.91%	46
369	Wykoff	17	17	0	17	100.00%	0
526	Peterson	38	34	3	37	97.37%	1
544	Ostrander	18	0	10	10	55.56%	8
637	Whalen	25	0	14	14	56.00%	11
191	Caledonia	79	39	31	70	88.61%	9
249	Spring Grove	144	65	40	105	72.92%	39
423	Houston	144	102	20	122	84.72%	22
498	Hokah	21	3	16	19	90.48%	2
595	LaCrescent	233	54	92	146	62.66%	87

Pod Three Totals		898	232	305	537	59.80%	361
56	Albert Lea	342	185	55	240	70.18%	102
264	Glenville	111	44	31	75	67.57%	36
317	Emmons	32	1	0	1	3.13%	31
404	Alden	49	19	13	32	65.31%	17
552	Freeborn	65	50	10	60	92.31%	5
91	Austin	169	7	90	97	57.40%	72
105	Lyle	55	1	0	1	1.82%	54
140	Grand Meadow	79	33	22	55	69.62%	24
146	Adams	148	59	31	90	60.81%	58
161	Leroy	68	15	11	26	38.24%	42
Pod Four Totals		1266	306	263	569	44.94%	697
Total		5000	1260	1972	3232	64.64%	1768

Hello Ladies of the 1st District

We are in 5th place in the state as of the 11/22/2017 report and I was so happy to see that. Of the 4 areas of membership in the District, Pod 2 is in 1st with 66.11%, Pod 1 have 64.49%; Pod 3 59.80%; Pod 4 44.94%. We are doing awesome. Remember memberships need to be paid by the end of the year to continue the perks. With the holidays approaching it may be forgotten please reach out to your members that have not yet paid and give them a gentle reminder. I know we can get the 1st District to 1st place by the end of the year

During the holidays remember the veterans not able to be with their families please take time to volunteer at a Veterans home in your area.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year

Michelle Weaver - Membership Chairman

**FROM YOUR HONORY JUNIOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT****JOHANNA (JO JO) WELTER**

Greetings First District,

My name is Johanna (JoJo) Welter. I am the First District Honorary Junior Auxiliary President. My project is making patriotic fleece tie blankets for soldiers overseas. I am doing this project through Soldiers Wings South East Minnesota. I have already made & shipped 24 blankets. I received a wonderful Thank You from the troops in Poland.

I am adding a twist to my blanket project. If you know a veteran within the First District that you would like to nominate to receive a patriotic tie blanket, please send your nomination to me at, [welterbunch@yahoo.com](mailto:welterbunch@yahoo.com) (in the subject line put) Tie Blanket Or you can call me at [507-533-9434](tel:507-533-9434). (Approximate size is 60" x 72") Include your name, who and why you are nominating them, branch of service they served and your contact information.

May God continue to bless the USA!  
JoJo Welter

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS



### COMMANDER

Dave Nelson

Albert Lea, MN  
507-383-1115  
Didavemn@gmail.com

### ADJUTANT

Gary Weaver  
29 North Elm St  
LaCrescent, MN 55947  
507-450-9580  
gweaver@acegroup.cc

### EAST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Jeremiah Oeltjen

Stewartville, MN

### WEST SIDE VICE COMMANDER

Ron Wolff  
1213 Clear Lake Dr  
Waseca, MN 55903  
507-456-3817  
ronwolff@gmail.com

### MEMBERSHIP

Tim Weaver  
1303 Kane St  
LaCrosse, WI 54603  
608-304-6532  
timweaver595@gmail.com

Greetings American Legion Family!

Veterans Day has come and gone, but every day should be Veterans Day. Remember this holiday season that many of our soldiers are unavailable to be with us. Send a card, gift, or a prayer for them this season.

Thanks to St Charles for hosting our November rally. It was a good time during and after. At the beginning of the year, we will be on a big push to get everyone off but the goose egg, and officer's lists in.

December is time for this Santa's helper... So I will be unable to attend the Christmas party. So if I don't see you before, have a Merry Christmas, and a happy new year!

Commander Dave

### **SQUADRON 92, ROCHESTER, MN MONTHLY EVENT**

SAL Fish and Chicken Dinner.

The Third Friday of each month - September thru May.

At the Legion Post 92 Club in Rochester.

\$11.00 for all you can eat.





## 2017 - 2018 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. You must meet the requirements and directions listed below:

- Recruit five (5) new members to S.A.L. **Must be new members only**, no renewals.
- All information must be legible. Un-readable forms will not be accepted.
- The new members membership record must be available on the national database.
- This form must be sent prior to midnight of August 31, 2018.
- Only one (1) award pin per member regardless of the total new members recruited.
- American Legion Family members are also eligible for this award.
- Information must be spelled out and complete. **No Abbreviations.**

### Recruiter Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Squadron Name/Number \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address*

### New Member Information

#1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 #3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 #4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
 #5 Name \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Digit Sequential Card or ID # \_\_\_\_\_

### VERIFYING SIGNATURES

(Underline) SQUAD / POST COMMANDER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Underline) SQUAD / POST ADJUTANT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Required) SQUADRON ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East- Mark Nave (PA)	<a href="mailto:coolcameo@aol.com">coolcameo@aol.com</a>	10 N 50th St, Philadelphia, PA 19139
South- Raymond Rollins (GA)	<a href="mailto:raymondrollins@yahoo.com">raymondrollins@yahoo.com</a>	9685 Reinhardt College Pkwy, Waleska, GA 30183
Central- Brian Kessler (IA)	<a href="mailto:kesslerb@mchsi.com">kesslerb@mchsi.com</a>	PO Box 624, Lake Park, IA 51347
Midwest-Charles Keith (WY)	<a href="mailto:crkeith@hotmail.com">crkeith@hotmail.com</a>	PO Box 433, Lander, WY 82520
West- Joseph Roberts (AZ)	<a href="mailto:azmembership@yahoo.com">azmembership@yahoo.com</a>	6501 E Calle La Paz, Unit A, Tucson, AZ 85715

**PINS WILL MAILED AT THE END OF EACH MONTH**

# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

## RIDERS CONTACT INFORMATION

### DIRECTOR

Dennis Lewison  
68127 150th St  
Adams, MN 55909  
507/440/6067

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dale Nicholson  
Glenville, MN

### SECRETARY

Tonia Bettermann  
1625 Crest View Lane  
Owatonna, MN  
507/456/2315

### SGT AT ARMS

Jim Rinehart  
28006 US Hwy 218  
Austin, MN  
612/991/4699

### HISTORIAN

Kassy Bettermann  
1625 Crestview Lane  
Owatonna, MN

### CHAPLAIN

Dan Klingfus  
Austin, MN 55912  
507/573/2329

### ROAD CAPTAIN

Joe Smillie  
1001 7th St NW  
Austin, MN 55912  
641/590/3522



Greetings,

There will be a First District Mid-Winter on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Albert Lea American Legion Post. The sessions start at 10 a.m. and there will be an oratorical competition at 1 p.m. All American Legion Riders from the First District are welcome to attend.

There will be a meeting on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 2 p.m. in Albert Lea American Legion Post. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the First District American Legion Mid-Winter. All are welcome to attend.

There was an email sent to all the First District American Legion Riders to do the Rider of the Year nominations. Please have this done by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and sent to Nancy Lewison at email; lewisonnancy@gmail.com or call her at (507) 582-3390 with any questions.

Any chapter that wants to endorse someone for district offices should submit the information to Tonia Bettermann.

Dennis Lewison needs a count of the chapters. Please give detail for how many Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members are in each chapter. This is for the First District Legion leadership.

Thank you,

***Tonia Bettermann***  
***First District ALR Secretary***





**The Forte Milers Barbershop Chorus &  
The Adams American Legion Auxiliary  
present**

***CHRISTMAS CABERNET  
CONCERT***

**Sunday December 3 – 3:00 p.m.  
Adams American Legion**

- 2:00 p.m. – Wine Available, Cheese & Crackers
- 3:00 p.m. – Forte Milers Christmas Chorus Concert
- 4:00 p.m. – Desserts & Coffee

**Free Will Donations**

***All proceeds go to the Adams American Legion***

# *It's a 50th Anniversary Party*

## *Let's Celebrate!*

The children of Tom and Audrey Erwin—Jeanette, Stacy, Kevin, and Casey—invite you to celebrate 50 years of marriage on February 3, 2018, at the Dodge Center American Legion. Festivities begin at 4:00 p.m.

We will have food and a full cash bar.

Please RSVP to [jenniferlerwin@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferlerwin@gmail.com) or call Jeanette at 612-730-9478, by January 29.

The American Legion is located at 401 Hwy Street West in Dodge Center.



**Adopt a Vet**  
**Hastings Veterans Home**

We give you a first name, branch of service, and size or hobby

You shop and wrap the gifts. No weapons or alcohol based items please

Bring items labeled with the vet's name to Hastings by December 11<sup>th</sup>

We will have groups out west and south who will help with transportation. Please don't waste money on mailing them.

There is no limit to what to spend but please think modest in range.

Contact me if you have any questions. We are sending this out early to give you time to work with your organizations and friends. Please let me know as soon as you can with numbers of vets you would like to adopt. Sometimes a few is better than a bunch so they can each be treated as individuals. Gift cards are welcomed too but we would like at least one gift wrapped so they have something to open. Gift cards for our local area are best. I can give you a list if you desire.

If your group has more funds and would like to help out more, we are always looking for \$10 gift cards to use for motivation and rewards for weight loss, stopping smoking, exercise programs, and more. These are a great way for us to treat those working hard to improve their lives. We do also have transitioning Veterans who may need a bit of extra help as they move out of our Home into the community. I try to find \$50 Walmart cards for each of them to buy supplies and such.

Again, thank you for considering the Hastings Veterans Home in your holiday planning. We love our vets.

Sincerely,

Sue Register

651-539-2442

# VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2018

**WHEN: MARCH 12TH**

**Free Pre-Rally Breakfast and Info 8-10am**

(5th Floor Veterans Services Bldg)

**Rally in the Rotunda 10-11am**

**Regional Rooms for Lawmakers 12-2pm**

**WHERE**

**Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda**

**Pre-Rally at MN Veterans Service Building**

**20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN**

**NEW THIS YEAR— FREE PRE-RALLY BREAKFAST, REGIONAL ROOMS FOR LAWMAKERS TO COME TO YOU AFTER THE RALLY, METRO AREA PARK AND RIDE AND MUCH MORE. DETAILS @ DAVMN.ORG**

**ALL VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS ARE INVITED TO RALLY IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS LEGISLATION**

**INCLUDING:**  
KEEPING SURVIVING SPOUSES THEIR HOMES!  
ENDING ILLEGAL PREDATORY LENDING AGAINST VETERANS BENEFITS!  
INCREASING ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS FOR OUR DISABLED VETERANS!  
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

**NEW METRO-AREA PARK AND RIDE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT**

For details on location and time check out [WWW.DAVMN.ORG](http://WWW.DAVMN.ORG)

**BUSSES WILL BE OFFERING FREE RIDES FROM ACROSS GREAT LAKES MN.**

To see if a bus will be coming from your area checkout [WWW.DAVMN.ORG](http://WWW.DAVMN.ORG)

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT TRENT DILKS AT [TRENT@DAVMN.ORG](mailto:TRENT@DAVMN.ORG)**



Stewartville American Legion  
Santa's Workshop Holiday Bazaar



Saturday, Dec. 9th

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Lot's of Crafts and Home Businesses  
for your shopping needs!

Join us for Lunch 11:30 to 1:00

DOOR PRIZES!!!

# First ever Wreaths For The Fallen ceremony to take place at State Veterans Cemetery, Preston

November 20, 2017 by Fillmore County Journal [Leave a Comment](#)



This year, *WreathsForTheFallen.org* will be expanding with the addition of the new veterans cemetery in Preston, Minn. This addition will require several hundred additional honor wreaths needed to honor our country's fallen veterans and their families at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries this year.

With almost 700 additional interments at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries in the last year, the challenge for *WreathsForTheFallen.org* to honor all our fallen veterans is greater than ever.

For a number of years, *WreathsForTheFallen.org* has endeavored to honor all our country's fallen veterans at the cemeteries by placing a wreath on each veteran's grave in December.

"We are in hopes this year we will again be able to honor all our country's fallen veterans at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery's in Little Falls and Preston," said John Thomas, president of *WreathsForTheFallen.org*. "Now would be an excellent time to send that contribution or sponsorship to honor a veteran," said Thomas.

"For those that would like to make a general donation to this worthy cause, please feel free to contribute to the wreath general fund for the 2017 event. Information is on the [www.WreathsForTheFallen.org](http://www.WreathsForTheFallen.org) website. Everyone is invited to join and assist us with this most worthy program," said Thomas.

This year the date for the National Remembrance Ceremony has been scheduled for Saturday, December 16 at 11 a.m., at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries in Little Falls and Preston.

For a number of years now the annual ceremony has been conducted at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries, honoring those veterans that have served honorably for our country. After the ceremony consisting of representatives from each branch of the military, several thousand

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

honor wreaths will be placed on the many markers of our fallen veterans. Many volunteers from Camp Ripley, the Minnesota Patriot Guard, Minnesota Civil Air Patrol, VFWs, American Legions, and many other civic organizations along with hundreds of families coming from a wide area will perform the honor of placing the honor wreaths on the gravesites. Everyone is invited to come and assist in the wreath distribution.

Due to the limited parking at the cemetery, carpooling is recommended.

It is suggested everyone plan to arrive by 10 a.m. Plans are to have hot coffee, hot cider and other refreshments for all attending this most honored event. The ceremony starts at 11 a.m. sharp. Wreath placement begins at about 11:20 a.m.

To have your personal honor wreath hand made and included in this memorable event; send your name, address, and phone number (in case of questions) and a minimum of \$15.00 (or more for each wreath requested) to: Wreaths, 5244 Ashdale Ln, Baxter, Minn. 56425. Also include the full name and date of birth of the veteran or family member the wreath is for. *WreathsForTheFallen.org* will confirm the exact location of the grave site number. Please make your check out to "Wreaths." All contributions are tax deductible.

For those that would like to make a general donation or sponsor a specific wreath for a loved one, information is on the *www.WreathsForTheFallen.org* web site. Everyone is invited to participate in the wreath laying ceremony.

For additional information, contact John Thomas at (218) 829-6622 or go to *www.WreathsForTheFallen.org*