

Happy 100th Birthday American Legion

The Minnesota Legionnaire



AMERICAN
LEGION
AND
AUXILIARY

Volume 101, Number 3

For God and Country

March 2019

Ludwig to be speaker at Redepinning Testimonial April 27

The testimonial for Department Commander Darrel Redepinning will be held at Anoka on April 27.

The featured speaker for the event will be Past Department Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing.

Redepinning was elected at the 2018 Department Convention in Rochester, and is the 102nd Minnesota commander.

The testimonial will be held at the Anoka Post 102 with the social hour beginning at 4:30, the dinner at 6 and the program to follow.

Tickets are \$25 each and the contact for purchasing tickets is the Anoka Post Pulltab Booth, or Denise Adler, 763-421-0883. The last day to buy tickets is April 22.

The meal will include country-style fried chicken, Caesar salad, baked potato bar, glazed carrots, cheese

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Washington Conference



Members of the Minnesota Delegation visited with Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minnesota, in her office in Washington D.C. to talk about the Legion's legislative proposals for this year. From left: Smith, Aide Sam Fellman, Past Department President Chris Ronning, NECman Marland Ronning, Adjutant Randy Tesdahl and Department Commander Darrel Redepinning.

Legionnaires lobby Congress in Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. — Minnesota delegates to the Washington Conference were well-briefed on their way to talking to their congressional leaders in February.

First they heard from Department Veterans Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller at the Minnesota caucus on Sunday night, then from a "Know Before You Go" panel on Monday

night, and then at the Commander's Call on Tuesday morning.

The 20 or so Minnesotans then headed up on Capitol Hill to talk to representatives or staff in their offices.

The national veterans community has a lot on its plate this year, and in particular the rolling out of the new Mission Act, which could

change the face of veterans care in the nation.

The Mission Act was passed by Congress this past year, and is slated to be fully implemented by June 6 this year.

"The Mission Act is the most transformative legislation in the history of the VA," said Jim Byrne, the General Counsel of the VA, repre-

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THE
BAR MAN

A clip from a Browning Automatic Rifle.

Minneapolis VA takes on veterans' suicide issue

By Al Zdon

The Washington Post recently ran a story about a Minnesota veteran who killed himself in the parking lot of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center over a year ago.

It was one of 19 such suicides on a VA campus in a one-year period. Despite making an intense effort to deal with the problem in recent years, the Minneapolis VA and the Veterans Administration in general have taken much criticism about

the continuing trend of veteran suicides.

There are an average of 20 veteran suicides in the nation each day, considerably higher than the suicide rate in the general population.

Referring back to the 33-year-old former Marine who died in the parking lot, Minneapolis VA Medical Center Director Patrick Kelly said such events have a lasting impact on everyone.

"First of all, it's really a tragedy for that family. But it's also very hard on the

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Lake Crystal student is Oratorical winner

ANOKA — Olivia Flack, a senior at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial High School, won the 2019 Minnesota Oratorical Contest and will represent the Department at the national contest in Indianapolis.

Flack earned a \$1,500 scholarship and will receive an additional \$1,500 for participating in the national contest.

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OLIVIA FLACK

Past Dept. Commander Frank Fay, 92

Frank Fay, 92, who served as Department Commander from 1980-81, died January 30, 2019.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, achieving the rank of staff sergeant.

He was post commander of the Hutchinson Post 96 and in 1974 became Third District Commander. He was elected Department Vice Commander in

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FRANK FAY

Minnesota war hero Peter Thompson Jr., 76

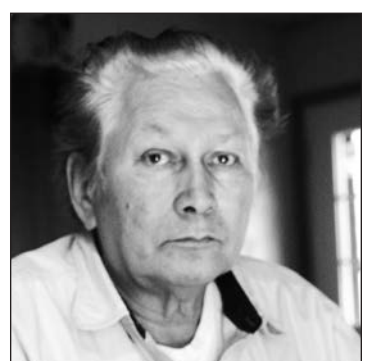
Peter Thompson, one of Minnesota's most decorated Vietnam veterans, died January 30, 2019.

Thompson served two tours in Vietnam and received six Purple Hearts, a Silver Star and three Bronze Stars.

A member of the White Earth band of Ojibwe, he was a member of Bagley Post 16.

Thompson joined the Army in 1960 when he was 17 years old. He

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PETER THOMPSON

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By
Jeremy Wolfsteller



The Mission Act

If you've been actively engaged in VA Health Care over the last year then you most likely have been waiting in anticipation for the VA to release regulations regarding the VA Mission Act, which became law in 2018. The Act included a consolidation of VA's seven separate community care programs that was a bureaucratic maze difficult to navigate for veterans, their families and VA employees. The Act also would change community care eligibility rules that were previously used under the choice program. The other major change in the Mission Act includes expanding its comprehensive caregiver program to all eras of veterans. In this column I'll be only focusing on the community care portion.

The VA was given one year by lawmakers to develop proposed regulations on its community care programs and prepare to implement the new authority. This was of highest priority for the VA because the previous Choice Program third party administrator (TPA) contract with Health Net Federal Services was preparing to sunset September 30, 2018. Although the Act included appropriations of \$5.2 billion in mandatory funding for the Choice Program to continue but under a new TPA, Triwest Healthcare Alliance until the new consolidated community care program is operational. Last month VA released its new rules including "access standards" just weeks after it awarded a 55 billion dollar contract to United Health Group, "Optum" to be VA's TPA for its community care programs.

"Although these new standards represent an important win for America's Veterans, they will not be without controversy. Some will claim falsely and predictably that they represent a first step toward privatizing the department." Secretary Wilkie shared these comments prior to the release of the new regulations.

Before I get into the new rules and access standards let's recap how they worked under the previous choice program. If you wanted to seek treatment closer to home in the community you would have to meet one of two eligibility standards, either a VA 30-day wait time to see a provider or had to travel 40 miles or more to get to a VA facility. The newly released proposed rules include: services unavailable at closest VA medical facility, residence in states without full-service VA medical facility like Alaska, Hawaii etc., 40 mile legacy from prior choice program, and best medical interest.

Those are all factors for VA authorizing veterans to receive care in the community. VA has also updated its "Access Standards" (wait times) which are for primary care, mental health, and non-institutional extended care services, VA is proposing the same 30-minute average drive time standard currently used for primary care by portions of the TRICARE Prime program. For specialty care, VA is proposing a 60-minute average drive time standard. VA is proposing appointment wait-time standards of 20 days for primary care, mental health care, and non-institutional extended care services, and 28 days for specialty care from the date of request with certain exceptions. Eligible Veterans who cannot access care within the above standards would be able to choose between eligible community providers and care at a VA medical facility.

These rules also include for the first time for community care services, Urgent (Walk-In) Care benefits for veterans although there will be co-payments and certain eligibility standards like have been seen by VA within 24 months. The urgent care covers services that are non-emergent, but need

Frank Fay

Continued from Page 1

1977 and was named Membership Director in 1978.

He was also involved in the Midwest Kidney Foundation and served as chairman of the board. He was a past president of the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce. He was involved in AA, and served as a mentor to many. He was sober for 44 years.

He is survived by his wife, Margeret Fay, and four daughters.

He was a native of York, North Dakota, and was a graduate of Rugby High School. He was at Minot Business School for two years. Fay and his family moved to Hutchinson in 1965.



FINALISTS — The Department Oratorical Contest was held in Anoka and the four finalists posed for a photo. From left, Oratorical Vice Chairman Cliff Newman, Third Place Jonathan Vickers, Fourth Place Shaonhanna Emery, second place Madelyn Eickhoff, Winner Olivia Flack, Department President Jean Walker, Oratorical Chairman Sy Fix, Department Commander Darrel Redepinning.

2019 Oratorical Contest

Continued from Page 1

She is the daughter of Keith Flack and Angie Schuck, who are both dentists in North Mankato. The family lives in Lake Crystal.

Madelyn Eickhoff of Chanhassen, a 10th grade home schooler, was second. She was sponsored by Chanhassen Post 580.

Jonathan Vickers of Minneapolis, a ninth grade home schooler, was third.

He was sponsored by Falldin Post 555.

Shaonhanna Emery, an 11th grade home schooler from Montevideo, was fourth. She was sponsored by Dawson Post 177.

The second, third and fourth place winners received scholarships of \$1,000, \$700 and \$500. The contest was held at the Osseo Post 172 and Anoka Post 102.

There were six candi-

dates in the state contest — the First, Ninth and 10th Districts did not send a district winner — and the Sixth District candidate canceled because of weather.

Flack has had a remarkable high school career. She was limping slightly at Anoka contest because she turned an ankle while playing basketball for her high school this past week. The team finished the year 21-4.

She is also a runner in cross-country and track, and is part of a 4x800 relay team that holds the school record.

Flack attended Girls State this past year, and was elected mayor of her city. She praised the help she has received from her post and unit at Lake Crystal. "They have good members to work with at the Legion."

This was her first attempt at the Oratorical Contest and she paid tribute to her parents and high school speech coach, Jackie Slama, for their help.

She also attributed her poise to her life-long hobby of showing horses.

She is also involved in Math League, Knowledge Bowl, Science Bowl,

Science Fair, and she served on the Student Council as Class President.

Flack has been playing the piano since she was five, and she also performs on percussion instruments and leads the children's choir at St. Joseph the Workman Church.

She recently learned that she received a musical scholarship at the College of St. Benedict at St. Joseph. She plans to study bio-chemistry with a goal of becoming a dentist.

"I'm very excited about going to Indianapolis. This is a super big trip for me," she said.

The two other contestants were Christian Strommen of Hastings, sponsored by Christie-Deparcq Post 406, and Breanna Metznerhuber of Deer River, sponsored by Deer River Post 122.

Madeleine Schuld of Pillager, sponsored by Brainerd Post 255, could not attend because of the weather.

The national finals will be Indianapolis on April 5-7. The top prize is an \$18,000 scholarship for the winner.

immediate attention, such as influenza, strep throat, minor burns, pink-eye, ear infections, skin infections, and flu shots. Certain therapeutic vaccines that are furnished during the course of treatment of another condition may also be included. To access this new benefit, Veterans will select a provider in VA's community care network and may be charged a copayment. Keep in mind that VA has made tremendous progress offering veterans same-day services at all VA Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics.

These major changes within the VA are putting veterans at the center of their own health care decisions. VA has been receiving many accolades lately. For example a 2018 Rand study generally delivers higher-quality of care than other health providers, 2018 Dartmouth study proved that VA Hospitals out-performed non-VA hospitals in most healthcare markers, 2019 study by the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) showed VA wait times are shorter than those in the private sector in primary care and two of three specialty care areas. Only time will tell if veterans will prefer VA to care for their healthcare needs or choose the private sector. Currently these proposed rules are in the public comment period and will be published and made final in June 2019 when the new consolidated community care begins.

jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org

Membership Chart as of February 27, 2019

District	2019 Goal	Total 2018	Total 2019	Weeks Gain	Total Posts	Goal Posts	% Of Goal	
District 1	8,553	8,495	7,729	34	58	9	90.37%	8,200
District 2	6,793	6,709	6,156	34	84	6	90.62%	6,541
District 3	11,262	11,197	10,400	66	65	16	92.35%	10,665
District 4	2,281	2,263	2,049	29	18	4	89.83%	2,130
District 5	2,340	2,318	2,129	25	22	5	90.98%	2,154
District 6	11,342	11,271	10,379	71	71	21	91.51%	10,840
District 7	6,089	6,013	5,517	51	76	19	90.61%	5,800
District 8	3,998	3,958	3,569	42	40	3	89.27%	3,788
District 9	6,482	6,417	5,836	46	65	10	90.03%	6,082
District 10	9,539	9,485	8,596	76	54	7	90.11%	9,043
District 11	2,009	2,084	1,803	1	2	0	89.75%	1,965
Totals	70,688	70,210	64,163	475	555	100	90.77%	67,208

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Endorsements

Locker endorsed for Vice Cdr.

Shaddrick-LaBeau Post 303 has endorsed Robert Locker for Department Vice Commander, 8th and 10th District for 2019-2020.

Locker is eligible for membership through his service in the United States Navy from 1959 to 1968.

Locker is a 35-year member of Post 303 serving as Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Membership, Historian and Adjutant for a number of years. On the District level he has served as Commander, Membership Director, Adjutant, Historian and Post Development.

He presently serves his Post as Financial Officer and Honor Guard Commander. He presently serves his District as Sub-District Vice Commander.

He is a member of Anoka Voiture 390 of the 40 and 8 where he has served as Chef de Gare.

At the Department of Minnesota level he is presently serving as Vice President of the Brain Science Committee and is a member of the Legionnaire Board of Publication.

He used his electronics training in the Navy and attended college in the



BOB LOCKER

evening to support a career in hardware and software engineering and worldwide Technical Sales.

His wife Sandy of 60 years is an active member in The American Legion presently serving as Sargent At Arms of Unit 303 and 10th District President.

Peter Thompson


Continued from Page 1 became a drill instructor, and then volunteered for a tour in Vietnam where he earned three Purple Hearts. He also volunteered for a second tour, and received three more Purple Hearts.

He served 12 years in the Army and later held jobs as a police officer in Red Wing, a corrections officer at Sandstone, and a trapper for the Tribal Predator Control.

He was a founder of the White Earth Honor Guard and was a Minnesota delegate to the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in

Washington. He received a war bonnet from the Dakota tribe in North Dakota.

He was survived by his wife, Evelyn, and two daughters.



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2019 National Commander's Tour

Post	Event	Day	Contact:
Two Harbors	6 p.m. dinner	March 10	218-834-4975 or 218-206-5796 Jennifer Havlick
West Duluth	8 a.m. breakfast	March 11	218-628-2181, post
Pequot Lakes	6 p.m. dinner	March 11	218-820-7683 218-568-9881 in February Ken Meyer
Brainerd	8 a.m. breakfast	March 12	218-829-2249
Anoka	6 p.m. dinner	March 12	763-421-0883, Denise

All meal stops require a reservation at the above numbers. Commander Reistad will also tour the 148th Fighter Wing and St. Cloud State University. These events are not open to the public.



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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

4 FANTASTIC WAYS TO EXPERIENCE MNHHS

1 ADVOCATE FOR HISTORY
Spend a morning advocating for history! **History Matters Day**, Thu, Mar 7, Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul.



2 ATTEND CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM
Hear talks on working women during the Civil War at the **2019 Civil War Symposium**, Apr 6, Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul.



3 EXPLORE WWII HISTORY
Join professor Richard Muller at **WWII Roundtable: A New Look at the Combined Bombing Offensive**, Mar 14, Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul.



4 LEARN IMMIGRANT STORIES
Featuring immigrants from 22 countries, the **Green Card Voices: Immigrants Telling Their Life Stories** exhibit tells stories of coming to Minnesota. On view Mar 12-May 27, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.





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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Darrel Redepenning



Greetings Legion Family,

Polar Vortex, four feet of snow, 50 mph winds, it's like lions and tigers and bears....oh my! We won't soon forget the winter of 2019. March has just gotta be better.

Happy Birthday American Legion. "100 Years of Making a Difference." What a great time to be a Legionnaire. Let the celebrations begin. Be proud of the great organization that we are all a part of. Be sure to show all of our communities that this is indeed a big deal and we are all striving for another 100 years of service.

At the time of this writing I have just returned home from the Washington D.C. Conference. I am not a Democrat or a Republican, I am a veteran. I represent the Veterans Party. And I'm here to inform you that it appears our elected officials are indeed bi-partisan when it comes to our veteran initiatives. I heard several times: "Well, that's a no brainer, of course we support that." I was told that for many years the National Commander's testimony before Congress lasts less than an hour. This year it went on for 3 hours. It seemed like every Congress person and Senator

Mail Call

Legion Survey

To the Editor:

I just received the "Area Veterans Priority Survey" in the mail and I am writing with several thoughts.

The survey's lack of depth and obvious slant disturbs me – one glance lets one know that you are essentially directed to respond with the first choice of answer on queries 1 and 3 – 7. Yet any thinking person would likely want to qualify answers, i.e. "Do you support (area) children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every day in school?"

I am a Vietnam era veteran and longtime Legion member (and a past Boy's Stater) – growing up in the 50s and 60s, I recited the pledge each day in grade school. My father was a veteran's veteran, he served as a Marine in WWII and fought on Iwo Jima. My mother's brother – the uncle who gave me my middle name – was a naval aviator who died flying out of the Aleutians to Japan in WWII (so I never met him). I support our Constitution and to this day remain sworn to uphold it as an attorney and officer of the Court.

Now, with regard to the question "Do you support (area) children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every day in school?" My father always told his four sons, "God gave you a brain, now use it." Accordingly I must answer, "I support children being taught the Pledge of Allegiance, but requiring mandatory participation strikes me as nothing more than "spurious nationalism" to borrow a quote from the late great Sen. John McCain.

As to the rest of the survey and mailing, it is obviously nothing more than a donation solicitation. Certainly our money could be better spent in more thoughtful ways and I question whether these "surveys" produce any significant response and donation.

I would hope our Department – and the National Department – begin a reexamination of what appears to me to be outdated marketing and lobbying. Certainly given the present day politics I would hope our Legion would shine as an example of the freedom for all for which we veterans fought.

Steven V. Besser
Litchfield

Relevancy

To the Editor:

Thank you for your editorial "Relevancy in Changing Times". You have brought to light a situation that has been ignored by the Legion hierarchy. Post membership committees are exhorted to recruit more members, but the numbers just aren't there. We have very few younger veterans returning to our communities after their service. If we want to continue to support veterans, youth, and our communities, we must change what we are doing.

Legion and VFW buildings are social hubs in many small towns. Our facilities are used for myriad meetings, events, and social occasions. These buildings are expensive to keep and maintain. As our membership ages and becomes unable to volunteer as we once did, these community hubs, along with the volunteers who do so many community services, are in danger of disappearing.

When we are gone, who will look out for our veterans?

there wanted their five minutes to show support for veterans. Many times stating that they rely on The American Legion for direction on veteran issues. I walked away feeling like they not only support some of our initiatives, they support all of our initiatives. We now turn to our own state to seek support for our Minnesota initiatives on March 20th Veterans Day on the Hill. Let's keep this momentum going and show up in large groups.

This month we'll have a little help with that momentum as our National Commander comes to visit Minnesota. Minnesota is where he was elected and he looks forward to returning. Although his visit is later this year, in some ways it's perfect timing. Just before our 100th birthday and our own day on the hill. I hope many of you have the opportunity to attend at one of his stops.

We also have another big membership opportunity this month, with our Appreciation Rally in Montgomery. This one is sponsored by the Legion and at our Membership Director's home post. A big day is planned with a Strategic Planning meeting, DEC meeting, Rally and dinner. Membership Director Mike has worked his rear off this year trying to turn this membership boat around. I'm sure this will be a rally you don't want to miss. Hope to see you there.

A good sign of spring is planning testimonial dinners. I've been advised that I need to get that information out about my own. Mine will be on April 27th at my home post in Anoka. Social will be from 4:30 to 6 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and program to follow. I have to be honest with you: Your Department Commander loves honoring other Legionnaires but is very uncomfortable when it's about himself. Please do not feel obligated to bring me any gifts. The biggest gift of my life has been the honor of serving as your Commander. That is the gift that I will remember for the rest of my life. Feel free to roast or toast, but let's just plan on having some fun.

Who will see that the young people are educated about veterans, patriotism, and respect for the flag?

We have been asking ourselves these questions for some time in Ashby, where we have a Legion membership over 200 but shrinking, with very few active members who are younger than retirement age.

After years of discussion we decided to advocate for the formation of a SAL squadron. This has been very successful so far, with more than 50 members now on our SAL register. The SAL has helped with, and even taken over, many of the jobs that Legion members have been doing. We hope we can pass along our pride and ideals to them, so that they will continue to help our shrinking Legion do the things that are important to them and to us.

Our SAL, in just a couple of years, has run street dances, helped with many kinds of fund raising, directly helped veterans' groups, done work to improve our building, and many other activities. We are grateful to have them!

The road isn't always smooth. We bump heads now and again, as we old Legion members reluctantly give way to the new ideas and energy of the SAL. While it is true that SAL needs our approval for everything they do, we are learning to respect their thinking and to give them support for their ideas and plans.

This is certainly not the only or complete answer to the problem of the shrinking Legion, but it's a start for us. The important thing is, at every level, Post, District, Department, and National, the Legion must recognize that yes, we need to strive as hard as we can for Legion membership, but we had better start planning and sharing thoughts about how we will continue our work with a much smaller organization. Legion posts need much more help than they are getting to figure out how to survive and prosper in this new era.

Beaver Johnson
American Legion Post 357, Ashby

Korea Trail

To the Editor:

I sure enjoy those articles you write about veterans and their service. The Christmas story you wrote about the trail in Korea up to the Yalu River was very accurate as my brother was on that trail and he was trapped when the Chinese entered that conflict.

My brother told me a little bit about that conflict and their retreat back south. He was in the tanks of the 25th Division.

We were in the Minnesota National Guard and were activated in January of 1951 with the whole division shipped to Camp Rucker in Alabama. I was a senior in high school at that time, and after a short basic training, we were supplying replacement soldiers to go to Korea. I was very fortunate as I was sent to occupation duty in Germany and was stationed in Munich.

Jarvis Anderson
Plainview

Chaplain's Corner

By
Bonnie Hanson



Happy March Legionnaire. As you read this we will be having National Commander Brett Reistad visiting our great state. There will be stops in Two Harbors, West Duluth, Pequot Lakes, Brainerd and ending at our Department Commander Darrel Redepenning's Post 102 Anoka. I hope that the Legionnaires here in Minnesota went and greeted him and listened to what he had to say..

GOD IS THE LIGHT

Amid the turmoil in this world and all the problems that exist, always be aware that God is forever in our midst, He is the shining beacon; He is the guiding light; The hope this is enduring through every day and night. For when we stay within His light, He will guide us as sail Through tempest storms confronting us; God's the light that will not fail, He will lead us to safe harbor, Keeping vigil as we go. No harm can ever come to us When we stay within God's glow. — Patience Allison Hartbauer

Everything you do is based on the choices you make. It's not your parents, your past relationships, your job, the economy, the weather, an argument or the age that is to blame. You and only you are responsible for every decision and choice you make. Period.

Quote from George Washington Carver:

"How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

What is Friendship Tried and True? These are little things I have read in different books and would like to pass it along.

Friendship is a special bond; one that's often tried and true, for it always seems to stand by When a soul feels low and blue. It offers word of sweet compassion and makes us lift our hearts in thanks above because we have a caring friend who offers loyalty and love. It's a relationship that's been tested and proves its solid gold—Yet it's not for sale for any price 'Cause friendship can't be bought or sold. On a rainy day, it's an open umbrella to help weather life's raging storms, and on a summer's day it's the sunshine helping to keep us happy and warm. When we're depressed and lonely with nothing much to do, it's a cup of tea, a visit-Oh for friendships tried and true. — Linda C. Grazulis

For me sometimes when I read these words it helps me get through some of those days that you are sick and can't go anywhere and you think how you have those friends that you can call and they will bring you that cough medicine that you ran out of or if your car won't start, come and help you. Those are the ones you want to keep in your heart and prayers.

Psalm 100, A Psalm of praise

1. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
2. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates and thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

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Al Zdon, Editor

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POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Minnesota Legionnaire, 20 W. 12th Street, St. Paul, MN, 55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)

What's Happening

Twins Game

The 19th annual American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be held at Target Field on Friday, June 14, at 7:10 p.m.

The Twins will play Central Division rivals Kansas City Royals.

There will be two choices for tickets. Diamond View seats on the Terrace Level, will be on sale for \$22 each, while Field Box High Seats will sell for \$38 each. There will be a service fee added to each order.

Commander Darrel Redepening will throw out the first pitch, and Legion selected veterans will raise the flags at the game.

All posts who attend will be recognized on the scoreboard. Make sure to provide post information when ordering.

To order by phone, call 1-800-33-TWINS and hit 0. At the start of your call, please reference the American Legion promotion. A \$5 mailing fee will be added to each order if it the tickets are mailed. Tickets that are emailed will not have a mailing fee.

To order online, go to <https://groupmatics.events/event/Americanlegion561>.

For groups of 20 or more, contact Brian Bessler at 612-659-4083.

Eagan Post Renaming

Eagan Post 594 will be holding a ceremony on Friday, March 15, at Eagan High School Auditorium/ Theater from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45. The post will be renamed Daniel R. Olsen Post 594. Those attending can park in the South Lot and enter the school at the horseshoe entrance between the middle school and the high school.

Veterans Day on the Hill

The annual Veterans Day on the Hill will be held Wednesday, March 20, at the Capitol.

The event will begin with socializing in the morning followed by a lunch at the Armory Building at 10:30 a.m. The lunch will be paid for by the DAV Foundation.

Veterans will then gather at the Veterans Service Building and march up to the Capitol at about 12:45 p.m. A program will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Rotunda. Afterwards, veterans can see their legislators. Veterans should make their own appointments.

Veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the buses that are running from all parts of the state. Please contact your post to see if a bus is being sent, or contact the event coordinator, Trent Dilks at trent@davmn.org.

Round Tables

The Vietnam War Roundtable will feature "Women

Nurses in Vietnam." Dr. Kim Heikkila will lead a discussion on nurse's experiences in the war, with a special emphasis on Minnesota nurses. The Vietnam group meets at Concordia College in St. Paul at the Beutow Auditorium. The program will be at 7 p.m. Monday, March 18.

The World War II History Round Table will meet twice in March. On March 14, the program will be "Intelligence from the Skies" with Rob Ehlers the author of Targeting the Third Reich. Veterans will be on hand to describe their experiences.

Meetings of the Round Table are at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center beginning at 7 p.m. A student outreach program begins at 6 p.m. A \$5 donation is accepted.

The second program on March 14 will be "The Contributions of Women in the Air War with Sarah Bryn Rickman author of Wasp of the Ferry Command: Women Pilots, Uncommon Deeds."

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Round Table will be held Monday, March 28, and the topic will be "Three Paths to Glory: The 2nd and 5th Minnesota and the 1st Tennessee." The speaker will be Dean Urdahl. These are dinner meetings and reservations can be made by calling Steve Anderson at 715-386-1268. The meetings are at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater.

Legal Clinics

Free Legal Clinics, sponsored by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, will be offered in Mankato and Minneapolis in March. The clinics offer counsel on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, family law including child support.

The Mankato clinic will be at the Mankato Armory from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27.

The Minneapolis clinic will be at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12. For more information, call 651-200-4750.

Women's Conference

The 2019 Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, March 23, from 9:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the YMCA at the Maplewood Community Center.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided and there will be a day care option. There will be workshops on acupuncture, massages, yoga, henna tattoo and a talk session. The keynote speaker will be Dajon Farrell, a military sexual trauma survivor. The woman veteran of the year award will be presented.

The conference is free.

Caribbean Night

North St. Paul Post 39 will sponsor a Caribbean Night on Saturday, March 23, with a social hour at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6. Prepay only with tickets at \$20. It will be a Caribbean inspired evening that will include dinner, a silent auction, games and music, photobooths and entertainment.

All proceeds go toward veterans projects.

St. Cloud Events

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System will have two events coming up. A veterans care enrollment fair will be held at Buffalo on Thursday, March 14, from 4-6 p.m. Veterans who are not currently enrolled in the VA should attend and sign up. Veterans should bring their DD-214 and their 2018 annual household income statement.

A veterans town hall meeting will be held in Alexandria on Tuesday, March 19, at 5 p.m. at the Max Beilke VA Clinic in the city. Prior to the meeting at 4 p.m., VA staff will be on hand to provide info on benefits.

Craft, Antiques

The North St. Paul Auxiliary will sponsor the annual craft and antique market and bake sale on Saturday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is free admission. For more information, contact Betty at 651-777-5552.

Military Ball

The 15th annual Military Ball will be held Saturday, April 27, at the Fest Building in Spring Grove. The speaker will be Dr. Eric Evanson who served with the Army Medical Corps.

The cost is \$27 per person and the dinner will include pork and chicken. Attendance is by RSVP only.

The social hour and photos will begin at 4:30 p.m., with dinner at 5:45 and dancing at 8. The Cheers Big Band will play.

For more information, call Gary Buxengard at 507-489-3461 or email gnjlbux@springgrove.coop.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to mentor a fellow veteran as they go through the Veterans Court in the Duluth area. Female volunteers are especially needed.

For more information, contact Jim Booth at 218-393-1998 or email jeb2301@gmail.com.

Legion College

The National American Legion College will be held Nov. 3-8 in Indianapolis. Applications are being accepted.

Applications can be obtained from Jennifer Kelley at the Department Headquarters, 651-291-1800.

Minneapolis VA deals with suicide issue

Continued from Page 1

staff here at the hospital."

The veteran had checked into the emergency room, and then spent four days at the hospital before being released. "We provided him with a fair amount of in-patient service before we released him," Kelly said. "When we release a patient, we think they're safe."

The hospital was found to have made some errors including not communicating with the family and in not determining if the veteran had access to a firearm.

"We've spent a lot of time evaluating what we did and how we could have done it differently," Kelly said. "The veteran did the right thing himself by coming to us for help. At the time, we thought we also did the right thing."

Kelly said during his four days at the hospital the veteran was asked seven times if he had access to a firearm, but his answers obviously did not lead the staff to conclude that he did. "We know that we have to have more structure in how we ask, so the answer is not open to interpretation."

Kelly said the VA gives away thousands of gun locks that would prevent a suicidal veteran from being able to use a weapon. "We know that most veterans have access to weapons. We want them to have an opportunity to avoid a bad choice in the short term."

As for involving the family, the veteran was asked if he wanted his family involved, and he said he did not.

What is the hospital doing to improve its suicide prevention program? The staff at the Minneapolis VA for the program has been increased to seven people, three of them just for outreach. Any Legion post or other veterans group that would like an outreach person to talk at a meeting simply needs to ask the hospital.

Only six of the 20 veteran suicides a day nationally have had any involvement in the VA system – thus the need for

outreach.

Any veteran with suicidal thoughts is welcome to services at the VA whether he or she is enrolled or not.

Kelly said the suicides seem to come from two demographic groups. The first are the younger vets, mainly in their 20s and 30s who may or may not have been to war. A surprising amount of service people who have difficult mental problems never were deployed to a combat area.

The second group of suicide-prone veterans are the elderly, those who may have lost their spouse, their homes, their friends and their happiness.

Reaching out to young or old veterans is difficult. They often don't join service organizations or other groups. Veterans who are having a difficult time are encouraged to call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1.

Veterans can also go to the VA medical center at any time and receive help.

Veterans' mental health, Kelly said, has become an increasingly important part of the Minneapolis VA mission. The hospital is completing a \$5 million project in the medical center that will increase the number of mental health beds from 24 to 30.

The availability of mental health beds in Minnesota, he said, is not good, nor are community resources. The expansion at the Minneapolis VA will bring the number of beds for veterans to where it should be.

Kelly touched on other subjects that affect veterans and the VA. The biggest change coming down the pike this year is the implementation of the Mission Act.

It will replace the Veterans Choice program which has earned considerable criticism in the veterans community.

The program is due to begin June 6. Unlike the Choice Act, where the third party administrator of the program did the scheduling and the customer service, this time around the VA will provide those services. "We'll do a better job

than they did," Kelly said.

The third-party provider will only handle the financial parts of the plan.

"This gives the veteran a choice of whether to get his care, in some cases, from a private provider or the VA. We are going to have to be smart in how we provide our care. The veteran will be seeking quality, and the VA will have to be good so the veterans will choose the VA."

Overall, Kelly said the medical center continues to improve. The staff has now grown to 4,200 and space at the medical center now is at a premium.

With this in mind, the Minneapolis VA is nearing completion of a project in Building 222 at the Fort Snelling campus. The building, an old barracks, will house 200 non-medical staff and thus will free up space in the medical center that can be used for medical purposes.

The renovation of the old building has won an architectural award for preserving its historical integrity while creating a modern work site for the hospital employees.

Dr. Krebs wins major award

The VA announced that Minneapolis VA's Erin E. Krebs, MD, MPH, is the recipient of the 2018 VA's Best Research Paper of the Year Award.

The annual award honors a single article or collection of articles resulting from one or more VA funded investigations. Research studies also must involve Veterans, with results that are important to Veterans' health and care, and to the VA healthcare system. Dr. Krebs's article, "Effect of Opioid vs Nonopioid Medications on Pain-Related Function in Patients with Chronic Back Pain or Hip or Knee Osteoarthritis Pain: The SPACE Randomized Clinical Trial," was published in JAMA.

District Commanders

FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller
Commander



Looks like we're on our way to a record year of snowfall. (February that is.) Sorry we had to cancel the 1st and 3rd Dist. Fishing Contest, but safety rules over social time.

We are also on our way to our 100th birthday this March (15-17), so its coming up fast. Are you ready for it? Are you planning any special events or activities to mark this special time in the Legion? How many new members have you signed up, letting them know that we've been around for 100 years. (Did you sign up enough to get the National Commanders Pin?) And we plan on being around for another 100 years and more after that.

Also in March on the 9th the Department Appreciation Rally will be at Montgomery Post 79 honoring the Vice-Commanders for a outstanding job they have done this year. As well as all the officers in the state

Veterans Day on the Hill, will be March 20. The DAV is trying to line up about 20 buses, the program starts at 10:30 till 12:30 at the St Paul Armory, then at the Capital Rotunda from 14:00 to 16:30. If your able to attend the better the numbers the more they pay attention to us.

Don't forget the 3 commemorative coins will be going on sale soon. (3-14-19), will make a good birthday present for us.

The National Commander is calling on all of us to make "Buddy Checks" the week of March 11-16, 2019. This is not just for membership, it is more for seeing how our fellow veterans are doing. March will be a busy month.

SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk
Commander



Daylight Savings Time will start March 10th so spring ahead. In spite of all the cold weather and snow and the trials of what could hold us back, Second District is keeping in step and moving forward.

This week's bulletin showed us in 3rd place in the district for membership turn in. Thank you so much, don't stop now, just ask.

Consolidated Post Reports have been sent out and are due June 1 so please start filling them out, tell your story, we need a 100% turn in, thank you.

Thank you to VCDR Tracy Woitas and the Lake Crystal Post for hosting the membership rally, and to Commander Roberts for the Honor Flight Presentation. If you were not there you missed a wonderful program and lunch.

Please continue to visit our veterans in the nursing and veterans homes. Thank you to all the post members that travel to Luverne and play bingo with the residents.

March 9th — Appreciation Rally, Legion Post, Montgomery.

March 16th — 2 p.m. District Rally, Legion Post, Madelia.

May 5th Commander Cindy Brunk Testimonial, Legion Post, Brewster.

June 5th Legion Family Picnic, East Side Resort, Round Lake.

June 8-9th 2nd District Convention, Pipestone.

Ice Cream Machine Unveiling and Party at Luverne Veterans Home. TBA

THIRD DISTRICT

Carla Tappainer
Commander



I can't tell you how proud I am to be part of the Thundering 3rd District. We are a group of amazing people. We've been in first place now for membership for some time and I'm looking forward to staying there....hint, hint....don't let the 6th District catch up to us. We should all be working on our Buddy Lists and our members that haven't paid their dues yet.

St. Patrick's Day is on the way and I'm sure there are tons of opportunities to spread the word about The American Legion at your local events. Set up tables or just walk around and talk to people about the Legion. It's a great way to get the word out about all the great work we do for the community.

Don't forget about the Appreciation Rally at Montgomery Post 79 on March 9th. I have tickets for those who need them. Please call me if you need one.

"The U.S. Military is us. There is no truer representation of a country than the people that it sends into the field to fight for it. The people who wear our uniform and carry our rifles into combat are our kids, and our job is to support them, because they are protecting us."

— Tom Clancy

FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel
Commander



Let's talk membership. As of bulletin 34, the 4th District slipped to 9th place. Let's work hard to retain our current membership and to find new members. The District is at 88.56%. Post Commanders and Adjutants, and Post Membership Officer please reach out to your District Vice Commanders, Mickey or myself for assistance, we all are here to help each Post make 100%.

Keep these dates in mind:

Appreciation Rally – March 9th, Montgomery Post 79 – Tickets are \$18.00, please let me know ASAP how many tickets you would like.

4th District RCCC – March 13th North St. Paul – E Board will meet at 5:30, we have a lot to talk about, general meeting starts at 7 p.m..

VA Visitation – March 17th, 1:00pm, at VAMC

The National Security / Foreign Relations Committee is looking for Outstanding Enlisted Soldiers from the Guard and Reserve Units. If you know of an outstanding soldier that is in the Guards or Reserves please let me know and I will put you in contact with the District Committee Chair.

I want to thank everyone who sent get well wishes and the many phone calls over the entire month of February, again I thank everyone for your prayers – the 4th District is truly an American Legion Family.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Joe Bayer
Commander



Congratulations 5th District on reaching third place in membership with 89.66% as of February 13, 2019 bulletin. At the Sweetheart rally at Royalton, the 5th was .0012% of taking the top spot. I want to thank all of you who've worked so hard to reach out to those members who haven't paid and convince them to renew and help keep our legislators aware of their obligations to the 'Veteran' community.

Membership is not the only program we need to worry about though. I encourage all who haven't been to hospital visitation at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center to give it a try. We're fortunate to have a regional hospital. Sometimes veterans come from quite a distance and enjoy seeing a friendly face while they're here. Our National Commander will be visiting Minnesota this month and any Post reaching 100% can have their picture taken with him. Commander Reistad will be at the Anoka Post #102 on March 12th at 6:00 pm for dinner. Call the Post for reservations. It's also time to start looking for those Boy Staters and school safety patrol candidates. Legionville is scheduled to open this summer for the normal sessions. Our best wishes to 4th District Commander Lane Stunkel and hope for a speedy recovery.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Richard Cross
Commander



In talking to the other District Commanders, we all agree that the year is drawing down at a fast pace. We, as a Legion family, are looking at a critical time, as far as the dwindling membership for the Department. The attrition through death, health problems, and the lack of interest in the Legion is taking a heavy toll. If you look at the average age at most of the posts, it's 60 to 80 years old. While still productive members, these members will be gone in five to ten years. If we don't restructure our thinking from 40 years ago to the present time, we will not get new members. I know that it is hard to change, but it must be done. I have heard theories that in the future, the younger veterans will join when their families have grown up and they are close to retirement, but this will take 15 to 20 years. In five years, if the trend of non-members does not stop, we will not be effective to help Veterans.

Remember, membership is everybody's job.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay
Commander



Remember the quote from the movie "Field of Dreams"? "Build it and they will come..."

A century ago Veterans "built" The American Legion and more Veterans "came." We have enjoyed decades of working for our veterans and our communities. We thrived.

Now it's not so much anymore with many Legion's closing their doors, proud veteran members passing each day and the excitement waning overall.

It's time to "build it" again, increasing the odds of a resurgence of membership and community value. In other words, if you put thought and energy into a project you can increase the likelihood of success. It would provide a revitalization and making a draw for veterans to come.

Much can be done without spending a lot of money, there are programs already in place, all we need to do is adopt them into our communities. Getting youth involved may also get their parents involved, prospective new members.

Educating your community about other Legion programs to help those in need and what the Legion really is all about will attract more interest.

I'm not young any more but I surround myself with not just those my age or older but many younger people which keeps me "in touch" and forces me to think and thus be younger. Open your minds and let others in and the ideas that come with them. It's not just good for the Legion but it's good for you too.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson
Commander



Thanks to Larry Pocrnich and Post 222, our midwinter meeting went off well even if it was a little cold, about -20. We were pleased to have Post 480, Orr, in attendance. I would still like to see better attendance from other posts in an effort to get information out to our membership.

Post Commander Donovan Goblirsch is doing better with his health and we continue to send him our best wishes to get well soon.

I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming visit of our National Commander, Brett Reistad, to the District. He will be at Post 109, Two Harbors, for a dinner on 10 March. Also, he will be in Duluth, Post 71, for breakfast on 11 March at 8 a.m. There will be a free breakfast for those attending. If you would like to attend the breakfast, give the post a call at (218) 624-1495 to give us an idea of how much to prepare for the meal.

We are still working on our membership and encourage everyone to recruit, retain, and renew members. May God bless the USA and the American Legion family.

NINTH DISTRICT

Arlo Rude
Commander

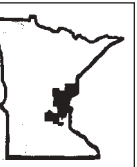


Thank you to the City of Karlstad, Elwood Monroe Swenson Post 445 and community members for designating Karlstad a Purple Heart City. A program was held in the Karlstad Community Center on February 2nd to recognize the Purple Heart veterans of the community. Attending from the American Legion family were Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary President Jean Walker, 9th District American Legion Auxiliary President Lynn Carr and myself. The program was well attended. I thanked the community for recognizing the veterans and having Purple Heart signs posted on the city name sign declaring to visitors the support the community has for the Purple Heart veterans.

Let's hope spring will be here by mid-March. For God and Country

TENTH DISTRICT

Paul Orson
Commander



The 10th District has had a busy beginning of the year. The major event was our 48th annual snowmobile rally where five groups representing Family members, one each from Legion, Auxiliary, Son of the American Legion and Riders, crossed the district stopping at between 4-7 post and picking up membership. We all gathered at Lino Lakes Post 566 for final turn-in. The family had a great weekend as a total of 510 memberships were turned in. I want to say thanks to those who volunteered to make this a great event. Special thanks to Auxiliary member Patty Coleman for coordinating this event.

Spring is around the corner and people are ready to get outdoors. This is a great time to get in touch with your neighbors. Gently ask them if they have renewed their legion membership.

Our final rally of the year is March 23 at Delano Post at 1 p.m. hosted by our Riders. Hope to see you all there.

Department and district Post reports are starting to be due. Make sure each post gets yours turned in. These reports are what national compiles and uses when lobbying for our benefits and programs.

Royalton Rally

This time around, it was the Auxiliary's turn to plan a rally as the Legion, Auxiliary, Riders and Sons of the American Legion gathered in Royalton in February to participate in the Sweetheart Rally.

The Legion Family has been taking turns at organizing the rallies.

Robin Dorf, the membership chair for the Auxiliary was the emcee for the rally. Her program for the meeting was a call for volunteers for the VA Volunteer Service, usually called VAVS.

Carol Kottom of Buffalo and Sandy Gibson of Minneapolis told of volunteering at the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VAs.

"We are allowed to give hugs and kisses to the veterans and if they want to talk, we can talk to them. They often thank me, but I thank them," Gibson said.

Those who would like to volunteer can do so through the VAVS website: www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/.

Membership totals were announced: Leading the SAL is the Sixth District with 84.42 percent of goal. The Department is at 9,060 members or 75.5 percent.

The Sixth District is also leading the Auxiliary with 78.73 percent of goal. For the Legion, the Eighth District won the rally.

Chuck Stone, the Riders director, said there will be a coin for sale within the next two months. Detachment Commander Shawn Davis said the spring meeting of the SAL will be May 15-16 at a new location, Waite Park Post.

President Jean Walker said the National President will be visiting Minnesota on May 13-16. The dates were incorrect in the last Auxiliary Bulletin in the *Legionnaire*.

Commander Darrel Redepenning said one of his commander's projects has changed its name from Eagle's Nest to Haven for Heroes, located in Anoka.



President Jean Walker hands out membership prizes to district leaders at the Royalton Rally.



The rally was organized by the Auxiliary with Membership Chairman Robin Dorf in charge. Part of the afternoon's festivities included a game where those at the rally put a hand on their head or on their rear end before the correct placement was called out by the emcee. After several rounds, Department Vice Director Tom Fernlund was the last man standing and received a prize. From left are Department Membership Director Mike Maxa, Dorf, Fernlund and SAL Membership Director Dave Vulcan.



Past Second District Commander Randy Olson signs get well cards being organized by Past Department President Dee Dee Buckley. Ralliers also made Valentines for veterans.



The Eighth District was honored for finishing first at the Sweetheart Rally. From left: Department Commander Darrel Redepenning, Vice Commander Jennifer Havlick, Membership Director Mike Maxa.

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

Sons of The American Legion

By Shawn Davis



Greetings from your Sons of The American Legion. I hope you are all surviving this winter. I hope you are getting membership turned in since we are doing well. We met the 75% goal for February and we are almost to our March goal. Only 232 more memberships to go. Can we do it? Of course, the better question is how far over will we go! Make those phone calls, and let's work on those renewals.

Donations to my projects are going well. Remember they are Child Welfare Foundation, Brain Science, and Legionville. \$2,000 a piece to help the youth of America, to advance the science of the brain helping our veterans with mental injuries (and many in our communities as well), and finally the youth in Minnesota. All worthy causes, all deserving some attention. Can you help them?

This is also the time to begin work on your Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR). While not due until Detachment Convention/Campout (June 28 - 30), working early on them makes completing them easier, and will improve the % of squadrons who turn them in. For any Legionnaire who is reading this and has a Squadron at their post, follow up to ensure that this form is completed timely and submitted. It is just as important as the Consolidate Post Report (CPR) in telling the numbers of what we have done in volunteer hours and donations.

Do not forget Spring Conference. Due to several scheduling conflicts it had to be moved to Waite Park, and will begin on Saturday March 16th. 8 am will be the Executive board meeting, 9 a.m. will be Finance board meeting, and general membership will be at 10. I have not heard what the cost of registration will be or the food situation at the time of writing this article, so more to come there. Due to the hours, we will likely run a bit later than usual.

At last my Testimonial has been set: Saturday April 6th at Richfield American Legion. Social will be at 5:30, Dinner will be at 6:15 and program to follow. Cost is \$15. To RSVP contact Jill Davis at 612-968-1172 or email jfd@pro-ns.net. Thank you for all you do.

Boys State program vital to the Sons

Please read this information and consider sponsoring a boy to Boys State. It's a great way to work one of the key programs of The American Legion and recruit members for your Squadron. This information was culled from the Boys State Website.

We are excited about our 71st session and our 3rd year on the beautiful St. John's University Campus in Collegeville, Minnesota. The 2019 session of the Minnesota Boys State is June 9-15, 2019. This year we are expecting over 300 delegates. We would like for you to be part of this year's class.

The efforts of many people and organizations are necessary to provide such a program for Minnesota's best. A dedicated staff of volunteers organize the program and guide the delegates throughout the week. In addition, many American Legion Posts and Squadrons sponsor delegates and financially support Boys State. The gratitude of the MN Boys State staff goes out to all.

Minnesota American Legion Boys State is a week-long experience of learning about Minnesota government at the local, county and state levels by "doing". It is a week of intensive study and involvement. The participants will actually organize and participate in the various levels and branches of government in addition to participating in athletics, music, writing for the newspaper or holding leadership positions across all levels of the program. Every boy will participate in the process of city, county and state government. Minnesota Boys State is a program for young men who have just completed their junior year of high school. Highlights of the week include political speakers, mock trials, campaigning, elections, and announcement of the Boys State Governor and State Constitutional Officers.

Unlike a summer or recreational camp, Minnesota Boys State is a week of studying and learning by involvement. However, we do have fun times, too. The citizens also have the opportunity for group living. For many, it will be their first exposure to dormitory living and sharing a room. Meals are served cafeteria style. This is quite different from their home environment. This week will be a good preview of college dorm life. The citizens have both an opportunity and a responsibility. The opportunity is one of participating in a program of government with hundreds of other young men from throughout Minnesota. The responsibility is not only spending the week learning as much as he can, but also

taking this knowledge and experience back into his school and his community, using it and sharing it with others. If you have any questions concerning Minnesota American Legion Boys State, please contact State Headquarters or your local American Legion Post.

Our staff is an all volunteer organization comprised of Legionnaires, former Boys Staters, teachers, and civic minded citizens from various professions. Combined the staff has decades of experience in instructing the delegates at Boys State and works hard to fulfill the objectives and goals put forth by The American Legion.

Objectives and Goals

A program of this scope encompasses many important objectives. Those which we, The American Legion, feel are most important and for which we strive the hardest are:

To develop civic leadership and pride in American citizenship. It is our earnest hope that each young man attending a Boys State will return to his community a better citizen and that we will have aroused in him a desire to demonstrate this fact by his willingness to make civic contributions that will help to make his community a better place.

To arouse a keen interest in the detailed study of our government. Here we desire to create more than just a passive interest in the study of government; we strive to create an interest that will be born of the desire for knowledge.

To develop an understanding of American traditions and belief in the United States of America. Here we desire to impress upon the young men the glorious traditions which have made this country what it is today.

To arouse in the young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government. This we attempt to accomplish in many ways but primarily by bringing them into the full realization of how wonderful it is to be an American!

The final two objectives are taken from the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation . . . " "To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy . . ."

Cdr. Shawn Davis: salshawndavis@gmail.com
Adjutant Doug Bible: saladjm@gmail.com
Website: www.mnsal.org

Washington Conference

Continued from Page 1

senting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

The act will replace the old Choice Act which had been implemented several years ago to address scheduling and other problems veterans were encountering in the VA system.

The Choice Act stumbled out of the gate with lapses in scheduling and problems in billing.

The new Mission Act will allow veterans to shop for care in private settings, but scheduling will be done by the VA. "But it will have little effect unless we get the customer service right," Byrne said.

National Commander Brett Reistad said, "The VA must take the lead in running the Mission program."

Other topics the delegates talked over with their Congress people included veterans suicide, collaboration between the VA and the Department of Defense, and the Legion-sponsored bill that would change wartime eligibility dates.

Lindsay Deering, a lobbyist for the Legion in Washington, said that 14 of the 20 veterans who commit suicide daily in the U.S. never had contact with the VA system. "These are really alarming numbers."

Deering said there should be adequate funding for suicide prevention, and that the VA needs to focus on PTSD treatment.

The collaboration between the VA and DoD has been a billion dollar project for several years, but there are still problems having a smooth, seamless transition of veterans' health records between the two agencies.

The Legion Act would open up eligibility to any veteran who served since Dec. 7, 1941 and now.

Mathew Shuman, national legislative director, said the Legion has turned down over 40 resolutions brought by Departments over the years to change the eligibility criteria. The Legion in its bylaws requires Congress to approve its eligibility dates.

The proposed legislation, Senate Bill 504, would do that. There is no House companion bill at this time. "Over 1,600 veterans have died for their country in 'non-war' periods," Shuman said.

He urged Legionnaires to reach out to their House members to sponsor the bill in that chamber.

National Commander Riestad said it was about time those veterans "are welcomed into our organization."

Resolution after resolution has failed through the years to open up eligibility because the Legion leadership opposed such a change.

The delegates in Washington had a chance to hear several national leaders including Sen. John Tester of Montana and Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California.



Minnesota NECman Marland Ronning presented a check from Osseo Post to National Commander Brett Reistad for the National Emergency Fund.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, right, and Leading Candidate for National Commander Jim Oxford of North Carolina have some fun at the Minnesota Caucus at the Washington Hilton. Ludwig presented a check to Oxford for his campaign fund of over \$5,000 from the Minnesotans who serve on national committees.



The American Legion's leadership team listened to speakers talking about veterans issues before lobbying began on Capitol Hill. From left; Past National Commanders Daniel Dellinger, Virginia; Dan Ludwig, Minnesota; Jake Comer, Massachusetts.



Minnesota Legionnaire Carl Moon of Minnesota was selected to represent all inductees into the ANAVICUS organization, an American Legion honor group. Dominion President Ronald Smith, the leader of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, read the oath of office. ANAVICUS President Jake Comer looked on.

Federal priorities

Redefine “wartime service” period

More than 1,600 U.S. military men and women since the end of World War II have been killed or were wounded during times of armed conflict not recognized by the U.S. government. History is clear that the United States has been in a continuous state of wartime activity since the attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In fairness to all who have served and sacrificed, not just those who fall within a government-defined window of dates, The American Legion passed Resolution 1 at its Fall 2018 National Executive Committee meeting calling on Congress to direct VA to expand the definition of “wartime veteran” to include all military personnel who served honorably under Title 10 orders for at least one day during this continuous period of armed conflict.

Support VA suicide-prevention efforts

An estimated 20 veterans end their lives every day. Most were not receiving care or support through VA that may have saved them. The American Legion supports expanding and promoting mental health treatment for veterans and urges Congress to provide VA necessary funds to hire mental health professionals and proper staffing for its Integrative Health and Wellness Program.

Implement, oversee new laws

The 115th Congress passed multiple American Legion-supported bills that help veterans and their families, from the backlog-aimed VA Appeals Modernization Act to the omnibus VA MISSION Act. The Legion now calls on the 116th Congress to ensure these measures are accurately and quickly implemented, as designed.

Fully fund a superior national defense

The American Legion supports a defense budget that reverses sequestration and its effects, rebuilds U.S. military end strength and weaponry and fairly compensates military personnel, especially in an ongoing time of global warfare.

Improve care for women veterans

VA must continue to develop and expand health-care services for the fast-growing population of female veterans, a large percentage of whom do not enroll for VA health care for a number of reasons, according to surveys. Among the factors are limited gender-specific treatment services and awareness of VA benefits. All veterans, regardless of gender, must receive fair and equal VA health-care services.

Expand Agent Orange benefits

Efforts by the 115th Congress fell short of finally extending fairness to Blue Water Navy Vietnam War veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange while at sea. The American Legion remains firm in its position that all veterans exposed to Agent Orange – on land, sea or air – deserve service-connected disability benefits for adverse health conditions presumed to be linked to such exposure.

Programs to end vet homelessness

To fully implement VA’s pledge to eradicate veteran homelessness, Congress must continue making investments in affordable housing and programs such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing with supportive services.

Re-employment rights for veterans

Veterans should not lose their jobs while deployed to protect the freedoms all Americans enjoy. When servicemembers deploy, worrying about whether they will still have employment can hinder mission focus. The American Legion urges Congress to prohibit employers from pressuring servicemembers into waiving their employment rights and protections through arbitration agreements.

Access to business capital via GI Bill

As times change, so must the GI Bill. For veteran entrepreneurs, access to capital for starting, purchasing or expanding small businesses is a serious obstacle. The American Legion supports legislation that would expand GI Bill benefits to assist veterans in obtaining access to small business capital.

Citizenship for honorable service

Immigrants to the United States often join the U.S. Armed Forces as a route to citizenship. Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while in service.



Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., shares a laugh with the Minnesota delegation in her office at the Capitol.



Minnesota Legislative Chair Peggy Moon goes over the national agenda with the Minnesota Caucus on Sunday night.



The sun shines down on the Washington Monument and the African-American Museum on the Capitol Mall in Washington D.C. Minnesotans enjoyed the warm weather while walking between buildings.



New ANAVICUS members posed with some old timers. From left, Wilson Spence of Duluth and Carl Moon of St. Joseph, who were both inducted at the ANAVICUS meeting in Washington, Past National Commander and ANAVICUS vice president Dan Ludwig and Department Commander Darrel Redepenning.

The BAR Man

By Al Zdon

Gene Nelson had a friend in the Army named Arvid Larson. They were friends from back home and at the very beginning of the war, they stood guard duty together in California, protecting the coastline from a Japanese invasion that was probably never going to come.

"Yeah, we called each other 'Nels' and 'Lars.' We were pretty close."

At one point Larson looked Nelson in eye and said, "Take my hand. You're going to come home and I'm not."

"I don't know how he knew that, but that's what happened."

Seventy-seven years later, Nelson says he still misses his friend. "I don't know how one guy comes home and one guy doesn't."

Eugene Arthur Nelson was born on a farm near Eagle Bend, about as close as you can get to dead central Minnesota. It's between Wadena and Long Prairie, just a few miles east of Parker's Prairie.

It was a cow farm of 160 acres with 10 cows.

Nelson went to school in Eagle Bend, about a mile's walk each way. "When we had a blizzard, my dad would hitch up the old gray mare to the cutter, and mom would drive us to school."

Because the local school only went through 8th grade, and there were no buses, and no convenient way for Nelson to get to the high school in Parker's Prairie, he ended his formal education and went to work full-time on the farm.

"Sometimes, I'd work for our neighbor for 50 cents a day."

His younger brother did go to high school by staying with grandpa and grandma in town. "We'd bring him food, and on weekends, we'd go get him and bring him home."

One day, he and his father were plowing, and Gene found a hunk of money out in the field. He looked around. "I figured there had to be a purse, and then I found the purse. We think it may have been a pheasant hunter who lost it. My dad took it down to the bank, and there was \$19 in it. I used the money to buy a suit."

He also had a job in a creamery in Rose City, a little crossroads town not far from Eagle Bend.

He remembers exactly where he was when he found out about Pearl Harbor in late 1941. "I was heading for town to have a beer with the boys. It was Sunday and it was our day off. It was also my dad's birthday."

In early February, 1942, just two months after the war started, Nelson was not thrilled when his draft notice came. He was 21 and enjoying civilian life.

"My number came up," he said. "My dad had to drive me 100 miles to Fergus Falls so I could take a bus to Fort Snelling."

For basic training, he was sent to Camp Wolters, an infantry training replacement center near Mineral Wells, Texas. "It was so hot, and they'd put us out in the open to talk to us. And then they just about starved you. I think they were serving goat. Anyway you could smell it about a mile away."

"I finally had to send home for some dough to go to the PX and get some snacks. I was only making \$20 a month, and I had to pay for my own laundry."

It was at Camp Wolters that Nelson received word that his brother had been killed in Illinois in a motorcycle accident. "All the guys in the barracks chipped in whatever they could, and got me a ticket home. It took me three days to get there."

Nelson applied to get out of the service since he was the only son left in his farm family, but the Army ignored his request.

After six weeks, Nelson and others were sent to guard the west coast at Ventura, California. He was placed in Company C, 134th Infantry, 35th division. The Division originated out of Kansas, but many of the soldiers in Nelson's outfit came from Beatrice, Nebraska.

"Two of us would walk a half mile up the coastline and meet another pair of guards. We had signs and counter signs. Then we'd go another half mile the other way and meet another team."

He thinks he was a good soldier. "The Army loved us farmer boys."

Then it was on to Camp Rucker, Alabama, "Where it was hotter than blazes," and then up to Tennessee for maneuvers. "It rained and it snowed. The corporal and I butted our tents up against each other, and we sat in there and played cards and ate candy."

They would play a Minnesota game called "smear" or "pitch." "I just remember you couldn't touch the side of the tent or it would start leaking."

Then it was onto Camp Butner in North Carolina, Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, and then aboard the troop transport USS General Anderson for a two-week journey in a convoy to England.

"There was a storm in the middle of the ocean and a lot of guys got sick, but I didn't." He recalls that one of the men in his regiment met up with his brother, one of the ship's crew.

The 35th Division landed at Bristol, England, in early 1944. They settled in at Penzance in the very tip of southern England.

"One day Eisenhower and Patton came to talk to us. You know what Eisenhower said? He said, 'See you on the Rhine.'"

The division was still at Penzance when the D-Day landings occurred.

"I was standing guard and we could hear a lot of noise

Gene Nelson was a strapping young man from the farm country of central Minnesota. The Army gave him the task of carrying a Browning Automatic Rifle, a 20-pound weapon that kicked like a mule.



when they landed." Six days later, his division also landed at Normandy. "We went in on an LST, and they dropped the back gate and we had to walk through the water."

"They lined up all these divisions on the beach because Hitler said he was going to drive us back into the pond. But then we started to move inland."

Nelson was a Browning Automatic Weapon man. The Army often looked for big, brawny farm kids so they would have enough muscle to carry the 20-pound weapon and fire it while absorbing a strong recoil. A Browning could fire over 500 rounds a minute. Two others were on his team, one an assistant and the other



GENE NELSON
At war with the 35th Division



GENE NELSON
At home in Little Falls

to carry the ammunition.

The 134th Regiment ("All Hell Can't Stop Us.") had its first real taste of combat in the hedgerow country along the Normandy beach.

Charley Company quickly moved into the hedgerows, where individual sections of land were separated by large berms with thick hedges planted on top of them. "They put bull dozers on the front of the tanks so they could push through the rows."

The fighting was lethal.

"We went in there with 175 men, and in three hours we had 40 left. We just ran into some Germans. We think they were sleeping in the hedgerows. We were so close, we could hear them talking. I fired off 300 rounds. The barrel of the BAR was really hot."

"I became a squad leader right away.

"When we reorganized, we went and helped out at Hill 122." Taking the hill was one of the toughest early encounters for U.S. troops with the German forces. It took several divisions four days to oust an elite German paratrooper regiment from the top of the 300-foot hill.

And then it was on to St. Lo, an even tougher battle. The U.S. forces held off 12 counter attacks by the Germans before taking St. Lo, which was reduced to rubble.

"I remember someone hung a dummy of a clown from the top of the only building left in town. Charley Company got into the town and dug in. We were up against a Panzer outfit and they shelled us all night. When we woke up in the morning we found we had dug our foxholes into a cemetery. That was the first thing I wrote about to my mom. Waking up in a cemetery. But when I saw the letter later, the Army censors had cut all that out."

Nelson picked up a little shrapnel in the rear end during this time, but not enough to stop moving forward. "We'd throw our pineapples at them and they'd throw their potato mashers at us. The wound drew blood, but not enough for a Purple Heart." The shape of the grenades became part of the GI lingo.

The division headed down the Cotentin Peninsula. "We heading down towards Patton's Army. I remember we were going so fast that we found a beef the Germans had just butchered. We didn't dare eat it, thinking they had poisoned it."

On the march, Nelson recalls a house near the road. "There were white flags coming out of every window. The officer said, 'Sergeant Nelson, take your squad over there and find out what's going on.'"

It turned out to be a group of Polish soldiers, who had been fighting at the behest of the Germans and now were eager to get out of the war.

A new officer arrived in Nelson's company. "We told him to keep his head down, but he didn't. He caught a bullet right in the middle of his forehead."

When the division encountered the Germans resisting, the fighting was often at close quarters. "I had my helmet blown off three times by concussion grenades. It's not easy to blow a helmet off your head. I think that's why I still have PTSD."

Every night at exactly 11 p.m. the Germans would send a single airplane over the American troops that the soldiers called "Good time Charlie." It would drop a parachute with a flare to illuminate the territory below and then strafe the U.S. positions.

"You didn't get a lot of sleep on the battlefield."

In order to better lead his squad, Nelson put away his BAR and took up an M-1, a lighter all-purpose rifle that was used by most of the ground troops. "I loved the M-1. It was a great rifle. And it only weighed eight pounds."

The American forces pushed on ahead, meeting strong resistance.

"At one point we were surrounded by the Germans. They had just knocked the hell out of us. I thought for sure we'd become prisoners of war. Over 2,500 American bombers came over to help us. I saw three of them shot down, and there's no way those crews got out.

"Our tanks got pinned down. They were being attacked by the German 88s (artillery) that were zeroing in on them. The guys in the tanks just got out of the tanks and moved away. You don't want to be in a tank when there's that kind of ack-ack."

"But then we did a spearhead through the Germans. It lasted all night long."

Nelson said his squad was constantly in the lead of the company. "The captain had me spearheading every damn day.

"And then we crossed a small river, and my bazooka man lost his bazooka."

"One day a captain and a major came up through our lines. We told them not to go any further, but they said they wanted to see what this was all about. Only one of them came back."

It was at Mortaine, France, that Nelson got wounded.

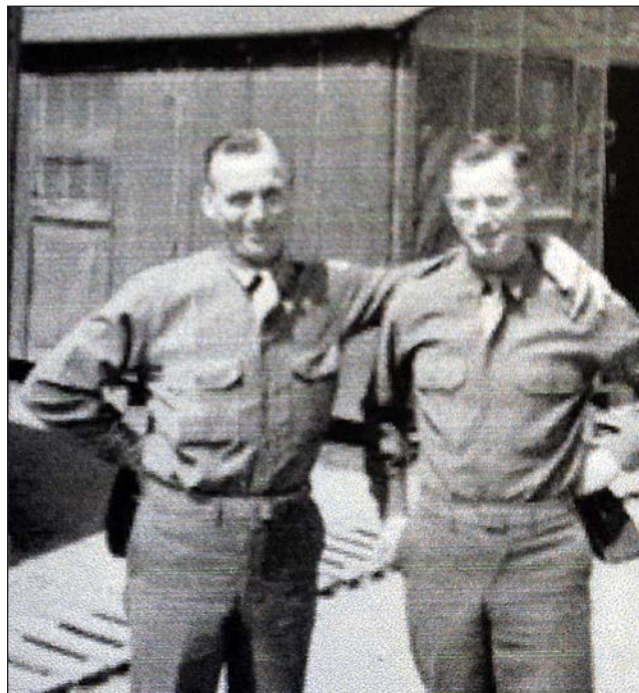
He was leading a squad through some hedgerow country when the Germans attacked with 88 shells, one of the most feared of the enemy weapons. "Five of us got killed, including two guys in my squad."

Nelson was hit mainly in the hand, ripping it open near the thumb. His ear drum was also shattered.

"My hand bled to beat the dickens. They gave me some



Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander, inspects the 35th Division prior to the D-Day landings.



Nelson, left, poses with his close friend Arvid Larson early in the war. Larson predicted that he would not come from from the war.



The sunken roads between the hedgerows were death traps for American troops.

Memorial Rites For Pfc. Larson

Friends Mourn Loss of Machine Gunner Killed Near St. Lo

A great number of friends assembled at the First Lutheran church, Parkers Prairie, Sept. 10 to pay tribute to the late Arvid Gustaf Adolph Larson. The Rev. Engvall was in charge of the memorial service.

Pfc. Larson was born in Parkers Prairie July 6, 1915. He was inducted to the army Feb. 12,

A local newspaper clipping reports the death of Arvid Larson near St. Lo.

We Quote The Correspondents

SPECIAL EDITION

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY

Baade Praises 35th Record; Recalls Battles

THE MEMBERS OF THE 35TH DIVISION, PAST AND PRESENT

Knowing that each of you would like to see the Division, and your unit, has been glorified at home, and how the exploits of individuals as well as units have been

Division Covered 1600 Combat Miles, Fought Under Four Armies And Nine Corps In E.

134th CRUSHES NAZI MORTAIN

From Omaha Beach to the E. four armies and nine corps, the Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, the 35th Infantry Division has in every objective.

An Army newspaper Nelson acquired along the way touted the deeds of the 35th Division in Europe.

morphine right away and took me back to an aid station. I fell asleep from the morphine.”

An ambulance took him to a tent hospital that had a red cross painted on the top. He slept on an Army cot. An airplane, a C-47 transport, then took him and others to a hospital in Birmingham, England.

As the hand healed, one of the officers in his outfit who was also a patient at the Birmingham hospital, made contact with him. “I know officers and enlisted aren’t supposed to fraternize, but he wanted me to go to London with him. He made all the arrangements. We stayed at the Winston Hotel, the highest priced hotel in London. We were there four days. We had a ball.”

“When I got all healed up, they sent me back to France. I couldn’t hold a rifle anymore, so they had me giving talks to guys who were going to the front. I remember standing on a rock talking to 175 guys one time for an hour.”

Another job, which he didn’t care for, was to go out in the French countryside and disarm the artillery shells that had landed but not exploded. “The French farmers wanted to get back in the fields, but there were all these unexploded shells. We’d go out and find them, and then attach a blasting

cap to them and blow them up.”

Time passed and the war ended in Europe and then in the Pacific. “One day, one of the officers came up and said, “Sergeant Nelson, you’re going home.”

Nelson was sent to Camp Lucky Strike on the French coast and waited for transportation back to the United States.

“I was the senior non-commissioned officer in my group, so I was in charge of a group of about 50 guys.” His trip on the SS Mariposa, a converted luxury cruise liner, took six days and he arrived in Boston on Oct. 24, 1945. It was then on to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin to be mustered out.

Somewhere along the way he heard what had happened to his friend, Arvid Larson. “He and his guys were going down a road, and the Germans were lying in wait and they just mowed them all down.” As his friend had predicted, he had died and Nelson had made it home.

Nelson worked for his dad for a time before settling in to a long career with NAPA as a salesman. He moved from Eagle Bend to Little Falls.

He and his future wife June Taylor of Marble, Minnesota, began a letter correspondence while Nelson was still in the army. When he got home, they made plans to

meet in Eagle Bend. “She was there.”

Nelson and June married the next year and they had one daughter. June died some years ago.

As he looks around his room at the assisted living center he calls home in Little Falls, he is surrounded by some of the memorabilia he has gathered through the years. He has clips for both a BAR and an M-1 rifle. He has a shadow box with his medals including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

And he has the small Bible his mother gave him when he was drafted. “I carried it with me every day. My mom had written in it.”

Nelson will turn 100 in November. A recent diagnosis of cancer has him worried a bit, but doesn’t seem to slow him down. He says people ask him all the time about how to live a long life.

“Be happy all the time.”



STATE TOURNEY UNDERWAY — The Minnesota State Bowling Tournament got underway in Dayton, sponsored by the Osseo Post. Throwing out the first balls were SAL Detachment Commander Shawn Davis, Department Vice Commander Tom Fernlund, filling in for Commander Darrel Redepenning, and Department President Jean Walker. The tournament will run through the end of March.



NEW SHIP PLANNED — The USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (LCS-21), a Freedom-class littoral combat ship is being built by the U.S. Navy at the Marinette Marine shipyard in Wisconsin. The ship will be the second Navy vessel to bear that name, the other being a nuclear-powered submarine that was taken off the naval rolls. The new ship will be launched and christened at a future date, and organizers will be seeking donations to fund the events that will mark the addition of the ship to the fleet. The ship is a small, multi-purpose warship has a steel monohull and an aluminum superstructure. It will be deployed along shorelines of seas or lakes.



CTF LEADER — Commander Darrel Redepenning addresses a meeting of veterans service organizations and Minnesota Legislators at the Capitol Ridge motel. Redepenning is the chairman of the Commander’s Task Force.



TESTIMONY — Commander Darrel Redepenning addresses a session of the House Veterans Committee recently at the Minnesota Capitol. Redepenning talked about the history and future of the 100-year-old American Legion.

Testimonial slated for April 27

Continued from Page 1
cake and coffee.

The post is located at 400 West Main Street in the Halloween Capital.

Redepenning is the son of Bud Redepenning, who

was also a Department Commander.

Ludwig served as National Commander from 1995-96.

Prior to that he served as Department Commander

and was a leader in the fund drive to raise money for a Brain Sciences Chair at the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Round Table learns about Roosevelt's World War II team

Leading up to World War II, the American government began to get ready for war.

It wasn't an easy task since a good portion of the country was dead set against another European war — just 20 years since the Great War. And it wasn't easy because of the rowdiness of the Washington political landscape in those years.

Dr. James Lacey, a professor at the Marine Corps War College and the author of a dozen books on war strategy, told the February World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling that a colorful cast of characters dealt with the problem of getting America prepared for the upcoming war.

A partial list of those characters included:

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt. “With his overwhelming victory in the 1936 election, he felt he had carte blanche to do whatever he wanted.” Unfortunately, FDR squandered much of that political capital on an ill-advised scheme to pack the Supreme Court so they would quit ruling his programs as unconstitutional.

— Harry Hopkins. He was Roosevelt's closest advisor and even lived in the White House. “He could spend money at an incredible rate of speed. He knew what the president wanted and how to get it for him. He was not a nice guy, but he told great stories.”

— Harold Ickes. Roosevelt's Secretary of Interior and Harry Hopkins greatest enemy. He often did the dirty jobs that Roosevelt needed done, and some called him “Horrible Harold.”

— Felix Frankfurter. An associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and “the talent scout for the New Deal.”

— Dean Acheson, Assistant Secretary of State. Imposed an oil embargo on Japan prior to the war without Roosevelt's blessing. “When Roosevelt found out, it was

too late to do anything. The embargo put Japan on a time table to war.”

— Charles Lindberg. Minnesota's flying hero led the America First movement, trying to keep America out of war. Lacey said Lindberg became infatuated with Hitler's national socialism.

— Bernard Baruch. A fabulously wealthy businessman who had turned statesman and presidential advisor. He had led America's war production effort in World War I, and many of his ideas were adopted for mobilizing the U.S. for World War II. “Everybody wanted to know how to mobilize for war, but he was the only one who had actually done it.”

— Jimmy Byrnes. Senator from South Carolina and called “the most powerful man in the United States.” Byrnes had a reputation for being able to get anything through the Senate, and was nicknamed “the fixer.” “If two sides met with him and one side thought two plus two was four, and the other side thought two plus two was six, they would leave the room both agreeing the answer was five.”

Lacey said Roosevelt could see the future. “FDR knows that war is coming, and he knows that the U.S. can't stay out of it.”

A key player in mobilization was Donald Larson who was head of the War Production Board. Nelson showed an inability to make hard decisions with the competing interests like business, Congress, the president and other clamoring for attention.

“There is a word for people who manage by consensus, and that word is roadkill.” Nelson was removed by Roosevelt in 1944.

Lacey noted that Roosevelt did not have complete political control. “The bill to extend the draft passed by a single

vote. It only passed through the president's raw political power.”

Lacey introduced three more characters into the government drama: Simon Kuznets, Stacy May and Robert Nation, who he called the “three heroes.” All played an important role in maximizing American production.

In a questions and answer session after the presentation, Lacey was asked if he knew Lindbergh, who he had roasted in his presentation, was from Minnesota. “He wasn't a bad guy if you overlook that he was an early supporter of Hitler. During the war, he did some great things to help the war effort.”

Lacey said the true mobilization of America began in 1941 with the collapse of France and the sudden interest in Congress with spending billions on creating guns, planes, ships and tanks.

He noted that even Germany did not hit full production until 1944. “They were mobilized at first for a blitzkrieg war, only doing short battles.

The might of America became clear as the war went on. “They U.S. had three times the Gross Domestic Product of all the Axis powers put together.”

He was asked to compare present-day Washington with the Washington prior to World War II. “It was just as bad. The Democrats and Republicans were at each other's throats. Both sides were patriots, but the fighting continued. Both sides felt they had a better way to win the war.”

He was also asked about the national debt. “We keep adding a trillion a year, and one day we'll go bankrupt and have to fix it. It will be a bad five years, but we'll get over it.”

Taps

Meyer, William, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 16, 2019. He was a past commander and was the chaplain and Post Foundation Finance Officer for Round Lake Post 461.

Hotchkiss, Benjamin Marshall, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 20, 2019. He was a member of Apple Valley Post 1776.

Wehrs, Roger, 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 10, 2019. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Peterson, Charles, 81, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 2, 2019. He was trained as an electronics technician. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Larsen, Gerald, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 5, 2019. He was a past commander of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Anderley, Vergil L., 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died Feb. 5, 2019. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Gahler, Wilbert, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 6, 2019. He was a corporal. He was a member of Janesville Post 281.

Grams, Gene, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 12, 2019. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Hanson, Willard, 74, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 13, 2019. He was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Albert, John, 94, Navy and Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Jan. 29, 2019. He enlisted in the Navy and joined the Army during the war. At the end of the war, he was stationed in Japan helping injured U.S. POWs return to the United States. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Cummins, Roger L., 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 6, 2019. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

Engel, Orville, 88, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Jan. 26, 2019. He participated in the Berlin Air Lift. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Tack, Larry L., 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 15, 2019. He was a tank commander who earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Winkler, Douglas R., 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 16, 2019. He served in Korea. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Olson, Andrew, 90, Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died Jan. 31, 2019. He was a chaplain at Willmar Post 167.

Mundahl, Dean DeNolan, 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 22, 2019. He was a member of Kensington Post 268.

Groebner, Max, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 11, 2019. He fought in France and Germany and helped liberate a concentration camp. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Franklin, Charles G., 70, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 12, 2019. He was a fighter jet crew chief on the F-101 and the F-106. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Bernholtz, Norman J., 87, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 26, 2019. He was a helicopter mechanic. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Hosch, Robert A., 94, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 23, 2019. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Lewis, Ellis Lyman, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 23, 2019. He was on the honor guard of Brooten Post 288.

Hoffbeck, Earl N., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died Dec. 13, 2019. He was an amphibian truck driver. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Prill, John M., 81, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan.

20, 2019. He served in the Army Reserve as a tank commander. He was a member of Chisago City Post 272.

Kostreba, Anton A., 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 19, 2019. He was a diesel mechanic. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Molus, Alfred S., 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 19, 2019. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Krummel, Richard, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 22, 2019. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Belkholm, Kenneth, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 28, 2019. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Asher, Warren D., 97, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Jan. 3, 2019. He was stationed on Guadalcanal with the 13th Air Force, also known as the “Jungle Air Force.” His unit, the 410th Signal Company Aviation, was involved in the shooting down of Admiral Yamamoto. He was a member of Minneapolis Post 1.

Hunzeker, Hubert, 98, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 23, 2019. He served as an officer on naval transports in both the Atlantic and Pacific. He was a member of Spring Grove Post 249.

Weick, Wayne Wesley, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 11, 2019. He served in Japan and Korea. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

Bisek, Blase Benedict, 98, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 2, 2019. He served with the 10th Armored “Tiger” Division and fought at the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle for Metz. He was a past commander of New Prague Post 45.

Bisek, Larry B., 71, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 1, 2019. He was on the honor guard and a past commander of New Prague Post 45.

Schauer, Wayne, 71, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 2, 2019. He served in Vietnam. He was a member of Green Isle Post 408.

Hammel, Leonard, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 20, 2019. He served in the occupation forces on Okinawa and Japan. He was a member of Eyota Post 551.

Czech, James J., 90, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 30, 2019. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Lutterman, Gary, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 22, 2019. He served in the Signal Corps. He was a member of the honor guard at Gaylord Post 433.

Johnson, Dennis Verne, 84, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 5, 2019. He served in Virginia and California. He was a member of Milaca Post 178.

Helling, Eugene, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 18, 2019. He was a tank commander. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Negen, James K. 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 20, 2019. He served in the 10th Infantry Division. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Ondrachek, Larry, 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 30, 2019. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

Rickmeyer, William H., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 4, 2019. He was a member of Morris Post 29.

Cameron, Tom, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 31, 2019. He served aboard the USS Prairie in the Pacific and off China. He was a member of Cambridge Post 290.

Fiedler, Darrel J., 73, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 5, 2019. He was a member of Rice Post 473.

Watercott, Adrian, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Jan. 17, 2019. He was a member of Rice Post 473.

Olmscheid, Rich, 76, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 2, 2019. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Caldwell, Bill, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Jan. 23, 2019. He served in the occupation of Japan. He was a member of Monticello Post 260.

Wentland, Louis T., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 7, 2019. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Crawley, Leslie, 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 22, 2019. He served three tours in Vietnam. In his 25-year career, he also served in Germany, Korea and Laos. He was a member of Eyota Post 561.

Theisen, Arthur J., 88, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 29, 2019. He was a member of Waite Park Post 428.

Leenderts, James, 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 9, 2019. He was a member of Ellsworth Post 196.

Polzin, Winfred, 100, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 4, 2019. He served on LST-539, which was sunk by Nazi E-boats off the coast of England. He was the last surviving member of the crew. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Koelln, Kenneth, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 15, 2019. He was a past commander of Litchfield Post 104.

DeFrang, Richard, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 24, 2019. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

Schmidt, Eugene W., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 3, 2019. He was part of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne. He served in Japan working with chemical biological warfare and later was a sergeant first class mess cook. He was a member of Robbinsdale Post 251.

Forristall, Rodney, 92, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 17, 2019. He was a member of Chaska Post 57.

Zins, Howard A., 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 20, 2019. He spent 26 years in the National Guard at New Ulm, retiring as a command sergeant major. He was also New Ulm chief of police. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Brooken, Anthony, 73, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Feb. 23, 2019. He earned a Purple Heart. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Schrader, Theodore J., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 1, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Gooden, Karl, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died March 1, 2019. He served in the South Pacific in the occupation forces at China and Japan. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Folkerts, Lester L., 97, Army veteran of World War II, died Feb. 17, 2019. He was a member of Pequot Lakes Post 49.

Hoffman, Roger, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 18, 2019. He was a member of Raymond Post 420.

Dalziel, Roderick W., 85, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 13, 2019. He was a truck driver. He was a member of Princeton Post 216.

Krienke, Orville, 82, veteran of the Korean War, died Feb. 28, 2019. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

Maher, Daniel, 83, veteran of the Korean War, died Jan. 13, 2019. He was a past commander of Elk River Post 112.

Wildeman, Jeremy Ryan, 35, Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War, died Feb. 27, 2019. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Nowlin, John B., 81, veteran of the Vietnam War, died Jan. 15, 2019. He was a member of Hastings Post 47.



The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 19-4

President Jean Walker

March 2019

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

The President's Column

By
Jean Walker



First off, I would like to begin this column with a very Happy 100th Birthday to The American Legion from our 36,000-plus members of the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to all of our Legionnaires for your service to our country. I am looking forward in joining many of you in your upcoming birthday celebrations throughout the month of March.

February was a busy month. It started off up north in Karlstad as I attended the Recognition of the City of Karlstad in becoming a Purple Heart City and honoring the Purple Heart Veterans from the Karlstad Area. Then, the Ninth District Godfathers Rally in Gary, the Sixth District Mid-Winter in Waite Park, and the Sweetheart Rally in Royalton. Then to the Minneapolis VAHCS National Salute to Veterans Patients. We went around and passed out valentines, caps, and pins to the patients. Also, while I was there I got to see the entries in the Creative Art competition. They were just precious. Our veterans are very talented.

Also, went to the St Cloud VAHCS and volunteered for an event. A performance by a Brass Quintet was done for the Salute to Veterans Patients. Then, on to Montgomery for their Sweetheart dinner where the Legionnaires served the Auxiliary members. They had great attendance and I had the honor to participate in an initiation of new members as well that evening.

The month ended with my attending The American Legion State Bowling Tournament in Maple Grove and having the honor to throw out the first ball with my counterparts from the Legion and Sons of the Legion. I got 6 pins. Woohoo. At least it wasn't a gutter ball. It has been a fantastic month visiting around the state. Thank you to all for the courtesies that were extended to me throughout the month.

As our district midwinters are now finished, please remember to take the information back to your Units and share with your Unit members. As I visited the different Districts (unable to make some), I noted they are each unique in their own way. The Program Chairman did a superb job on their reporting and it was great to see that they took the time to answer questions from those members in attendance.

March is Community Service Month and Children and Youth Month. Take time to toot your horn by utilizing your local news media on what your unit is doing to promote both programs. Spread the word of your great work that you do for your communities and our youth.

Please keep our veterans in your prayers. This has been a very harsh winter for many of them so far. We have many that are homeless.

Again, thank you all for all you do for our Veterans, their families and our active duty military. This is a team effort and working together for our veterans we can make a difference.

"Veterans Are Our Stars and Our Heroes."

Scholarship applications due at the office March 15

Applications for all scholarships awarded by the Department are due by March 15th. Announcement of the recipients will appear in this column when the judging is completed. Make sure and follow all of the rules on the application. We don't want our students disqualified because something isn't signed.

National President Kathy Dungan to visit Minnesota

Note the corrected dates.

Get ready – National President Kathy Dungan will be visiting Minnesota from May 13-16, 2019. Department President Jean Walker, NEC Raleen Tolzmann, Membership Director Robin Dorf and Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch will be touring parts of Minnesota, visiting units, veterans homes and Camp Ripley. Following is a brief itinerary of stops:

Date, stop and reservation information:

May 13, Litchfield – Dinner – 5:30 p.m. American Legion Post 104 – 320-693-9074 – contact is Beth.

May 14, Morris – Lunch 11 a.m. Contact Pam Gades – 320-589-2147 or the post 320-589-2040.

Fergus Falls Veterans Home
Park Rapids – Dinner 6 p.m. Lynn Spilman – 218-732-8250 or Post 218-237-5238.

May 15, Sauk Centre – Lunch 11 a.m. Contact Bev Huot – 320-351-1206 or Post 320-352-9931

Camp Ripley
Waite Park – Dinner 5:30 p.m. Marsha Bible – 320-252-3864 or marsha.bible@gmail.com or Post 320-252-7880

May 16, Haven for Heroes
Chanhassen – Lunch 11:00 am Kim Carlander – 952-934-5995 or Post 952-934-6677

Hastings Veterans Home
Montgomery – Dinner 5:30 pm Jean Keogh – 952-334-2172 or Post 507-364-7779

This is a very big honor for our National President to visit our state so please try to attend one of our functions and get to know President Kathy.

JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 13, is the date for the 56th Annual Department Junior Conference. It will be held at Richfield American Legion Post 435 with the Fifth District serving as hosts. A fun evening has been planned for Friday, April 12th. Complete information and the Call to the Junior Conference was included in the January/February Unit mailing. Be sure you share this information with your Junior Activities Chairman. Make arrangements for your Juniors to attend. We need more Juniors to attend our Conference and share their successes with other Junior members so we can grow the program. Junior members are the Auxiliary's future and we must nurture and promote what they do. We have a wonderful Honorary Junior President, Harley Donnelly, who has done a great job promoting Juniors and what they do for our Veterans.

PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONIAL

The Warren American Legion Auxiliary Unit 27 will be hosting a Testimonial for Department President Jean Walker on Saturday, May 18 at the Warren American Legion Post. More information will be in the April Legionnaire. Please keep the date open and plan to attend. Jean has been a marvelous President representing our organization this year.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Our Department Convention is coming up fast and will be held July 11 - 13 at the Willmar Conference Center, hosted by the Willmar American Legion Family 167. Further information will be forthcoming. Our appreciation is sent, in advance, to all the Legion and Auxiliary members who will be serving on the convention committee for their efforts to ensure another outstanding Department Convention. Circle these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Don't wait to make your hotel reservations.

UNIT REQUEST

All Units received a request for information on your Unit's 2020 dues. This information is due in the Department office by March 15th. If your unit has not yet responded, please send in the information. The form is on the mnala.org website under the Forms tab and select 2020 Unit Data Form Direct Billing. Please keep in mind when setting your dues for 2020 the Department Dues will be increasing to \$12 per Senior member and the National Dues

are at \$12 so the amount remitted to the Department must be \$24. The Junior dues for 2020 will be \$3.50 for Department and \$2.50 for National so \$6 must be sent into the Department for each Junior member. Also, please be sure to get your 2019/2020 officers list to the Department Office as soon as possible.

2019 POPPIES

Poppy time is fast approaching. To date, 289 out of 438 units have ordered their 2019 small and/or large poppies. To the remaining 149 units, please place your orders now.

Keep in mind who assembles these poppies. They are made by our veterans, many of whom have disabilities. If the poppies you receive aren't as perfect as you would like, remember where they came from. Let people know who assembles these – I think you will be surprised at how many individuals don't know.

GIRLS STATE

Remember your application for reservation and your \$300 registration fee must be received by March 31st to reserve a place for your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen. If your Unit has not yet sent this in, please take care of it immediately. Reservations with the payment of the \$300 registration fee for each candidate will be accepted on a "first-come-first served" basis. Upon processing your Unit's reservation fee you will receive the necessary registration packet for each citizen you are sponsoring. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State can accommodate 445 citizens.

A Unit may send as many young women to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State as they wish to. The candidate must be a Minnesota resident, attend a Minnesota school or home school.

The 2019 session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held at Bethel University in St. Paul, June 9 - 15. We look forward to the 73rd annual American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State week and another educational and successful session.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Guess what? Annual Reports. Yes indeed it is that time of year again. All units should be preparing their reports covering the time period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. The Department copy of all reports must be mailed to the Department office on or before April 15th. Please mail one copy to your District President and keep one for your records. No matter how much or how little your Unit has been able to contribute in time, energy, resources and talent to our programs, it is important that everything be included in your reports. Your reports make up our Department and National reports. You have all received your forms - let's have a 100% turn in this year.

TROPHY AND AWARD ENTRIES

Entries for any trophy and award competition are due by April 15th, unless otherwise stated in the rules. Be certain to label each entry with the name of the award you are applying for. A separate entry is needed for each award unless the winning Department entry is being forwarded for National competition. See the rules for complete details.

You may apply for any award, whether your Unit has reached its membership goal or not, unless that requirement is stated in the rules. Please apply for awards - let's get the members recognition for the hard work they do for our Veterans. To save yourself some postage, just mail these right along in your Annual Reports envelope.

SECRETARY SANDIE'S NOTES

My article this month is written with a heavy heart. My, and our, long time Administrative Assistant Julie Deneffe has left the Auxiliary Office to start a new adventure. Julie has been with us more than four years and most of you don't realize how much work that girl did for us all. Jan and I will miss her sorely and she will be hard to replace. There was never one task that she wouldn't help out on, truck to load or unload or any of the other many things that need to

Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

be done in the office. My job is to find a "Julie Clone" – it will be tough but there has to be one out there someplace. Jan and I will be working our tails off to give you the same customer service you have become accustomed to.

Post 79 in Montgomery lost a wonderful Legionnaire and an almost step-father to me, Chester Retka. He put up such a hard fight but that danged cancer was too much. I will miss him so – he was a Montgomery icon. You had to know him to love him. A quick story about Chester is that he owned a bar and café in Montgomery and never served french fries. Anybody, whether he knew them or not, who would come in and want a burger and fries were told the same thing, if you want french fries, go to the **. **. . bowling alley. He wouldn't make fried egg sandwiches either. His sense of humor was second to none, always being grumpy but would give you the shirt off his back. Gosh darn, how I will miss him. Vrzy, you and I will have to become the grumps now.

Americanism is for every month of the year

February was Americanism month, but Americanism isn't only done in February.

I encourage everyone to take some time and reflect on what Americanism means to you. The American dream is different for everyone, and so too is the meaning of Americanism.

Here are several ways to work the Americanism program all year long:

Collect unserviceable flags from your community and hold a flag disposal ceremony; invite people from your community to attend.

Contact your schools and see if you can be a part of their Veterans Day, Presidents Day or Memorial Day programs; a POW/MIA table presentation or a flag folding demonstration are things many students like to see and find very interesting.

Make up thank you's and give them to businesses and individuals who properly displaying our flag.

Create a place to display the US Flag Code, there is a lot of misinformation spread around about what we should and

should not do with our flag

We are ramping up our Americanism Essay Contest as the submission deadline approaches. This year's topic is "How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?"

If you have children in your life in grade 3 – 12, they are eligible to participate in the contest. Contact your local auxiliary for a cover sheet and the guidelines. The submission deadline is March 27, 2019.

Bethany.A.Dickert@gmail.com
Department Americanism Chairman



BETHANY DICKERT

Feb. 20, 2019, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 2.21.2018
One	4,907	3,717	75.75%	4,076
Two	4,924	3,711	75.37%	4,068
Three	4,422	3,554	80.37%	3,722
Four	720	542	75.28%	587
Five	788	517	65.61%	615
Six	6,042	4,834	80.01%	5,159
Seven	3,934	3,001	76.28%	3,261
Eight	1,628	1,162	71.38%	1,308
Nine	4,344	3,287	75.67%	3,542
Ten	5,129	3,766	73.43%	4,078
1982	160	164	102.50%	151
Totals	36,998	28,255	76.37%	30,567

Third District is Hooked on Veterans

Greetings all,
 Here in the Thundering Third we are Hooked on Veterans. My project this year is the Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC). For those who may not know, the CRRC is a center that assists homeless veterans in getting the services they need with an ultimate goal of finding them homes. I am happy to report that their shelves are now full of clothing from underwear to outerwear, inside clothes and outside clothes, hygiene bags and gift cards. Thank you all for the outpouring of support. I am asking that any additional donations be made payable to: Third District ALA and mail it to Joanne Joachim, Treasurer, 8923 Partridge Road, St. Bonifacius, MN 55375. Please note President Lynn's project on

the memo section.
 There remains a need for lunches on Mondays. This could be a great opportunity for those who may have the ability to prepare and deliver lunches for 60-70 veterans. I am asking that any organization able to prepare and deliver (not serve) lunch for 60-70 homeless veterans please think about the CRRC. It could be any type of lunch from soup to a gourmet meal. Mondays are the only day they can serve lunch at the facility as the kitchen is used in the therapy program. It could be a one-time lunch or a commitment for longer. Thus far, the 2nd Monday of the month is filled through August. The CRRC is located as 1201 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN. They are a part of the VA system

and one of only 17 facilities across the nation. Again they serve veterans only. It's a great way to work our service to veterans program. Please contact the CRRC at 612-313-3240 and ask for Lisa Sundberg to schedule a lunch.

Thanks to all of you for all the support you give to our military and their families, and all of our veterans.

Lynn Duffy
3rd District President



LINDA DUFFY



EAGAN BAGGING - Members of Eagan Post and Unit 594 participated in the Annual Open Door Super Bagging Event at Cub Foods (Town Centre).

Sixth District has one team, vision, goal

The 6th District is approximately 311 miles from north to south. The widest point east to west is about 170 miles. Logistics and traveling around our district to make visits or collect membership is quite an adventure, especially in our winters.

Building on a membership team each year and working together as Legion Family the 6th District members are helping their veterans, active duty military and their families in their communities all over our state.

Units are thinking outside the box, doing things differently and mentoring our traditions. Holding a Unit meeting at a nursing home where some of your members are residents is a good way to include them when they no longer are able to drive to a meeting. Mid Year reports are beginning to take shape.

More Units are reporting their early accomplishments for a December Mid Year report. Getting the information from the Units can be a challenge but we need to keep encouraging our Units to report so that the District Chairmen have information to send into Department for

their mid year reports. After traveling to multiple pheasant dinners, membership dinners and Unit meetings, I am looking forward now to the year end reports that are due by April 15th.

Remember to be branded with your Auxiliary logo everywhere you go and let every one know that you are an American Legion Auxiliary Volunteer.

As 6th District President my theme this year is "One Team, One Vision, One Goal". Project: Working together with the 6th District Commander Richard Cross Sr. and the SAL Commander. Collecting \$11,000 to be able to purchase two new vaccums and other incidentals needed at Legionville (\$1000) and help purchase and train Patriot Assistance Dogs for veterans. The cost of \$10,000 for each dog includes the following:

- Radiographs of hips and elbows; cardiac and dental exams and a blood wellness profile. This allows PAD to offer as healthy a dog as possible.
- Micro-chipping for permanent identification.
- General obedience and assistance training of the dog plus additional specific

training to match the dog to the Veteran's needs.

- Handbook and training updates.
- Collars, leash and backpack of supplies for the dog. Identification for the dog/Veteran.

Follow-up training for the team as needed.

To date there has been no cost to the Veterans for the dogs and training provided by PAD.

Sharon Thiemecke
Sixth District President



SHARON THIEMECKE





WHEATON DONATION — The Wheaton American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the VFW recently made a donation to the Fergus Falls VA Nursing Home and also the St. Cloud VA Hospital. The items donated totaled \$2,000. From left: Doris Lafayette, Hospital Rep, Betty Beal, Wheaton Unit 80 treasurer, and Deanna Mounts, Fergus Falls home.

Administrative Assistant

There is an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. Seeking strong customer service skills. Must have experience in Word, Excel and telephone skills. Must be able to work independently in a very busy office environment. Please sent resume to Sandie@mnala.org or call 651-224-7634 for more information. Salary based on experience.

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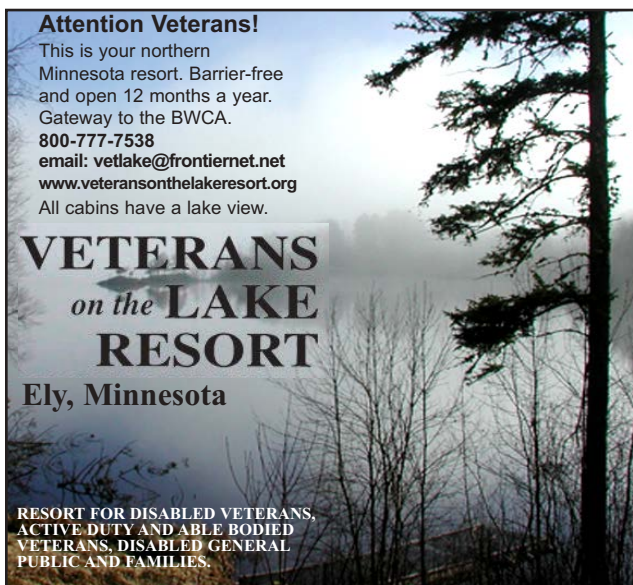
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<p>NYC, New England Fall Colors Canada Cruise</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services of 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney • Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York • All transfers to and from the airport and pier • 2 nights stay at the Millennium Hotel in Times Square In New York • Circle Line Cruise of Manhattan w/lunch • A Broadway performance • Welcome Dinner @ Carmine's Times Square • A 5 night cruise on the Regal Princess • Cruise Gratuities • Luggage handling at hotel and on cruise <p>October 24-31, 2019</p> <p>\$2,999.00 Balcony double occupancy</p>	<p>New York Your Way June 25-29, 2019</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey • Delta Airlines flights, MSP to New York City • Transfers • Hotel in Times Square • Lunch at VIRGIL'S BBQ <p>2,599.00 per person double occupancy</p>	<p>Pella Tulip Festival & Bridges of Madison Country</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-Seasons Vacation Tour Escort Linda Andersen • 3 nights accommodations • Deluxe motor coach transportation • 7 meals: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunch, 2 dinners • Pella Historical Village • Pella Community tour • Pella parade w/ grandstand seating • Quilt show • Pella Opera House show • Scholte House Museum & Garden tour • Iowa quilt Museum in Winterset, IA • John Wayne Birthplace & Museum • Covered Bridges Winery (wine tasting) • Guided tour of Covered Bridges of Madison County • Madison County Historical complex <p>\$629.00 per person double occupancy</p>
<p>Monuments of Washington D.C. May 17-21, 2019</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney • Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Washington D.C. • 4 nights accommodations in the Washington D.C. area • Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tours • 4 Breakfasts, 4 Dinners • Tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery • Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Garden • Two full-day guided tours of Washington D.C. • WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War, Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the Smithsonian, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and much more! <p>\$1,649.00 Per Person Double Occupancy</p>	<p>Heart of Alaska July 11-18, 2019</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Tammi Haney • Round trip Delta flights between Minneapolis & Anchorage • 13 Meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake) • Iditarod Trail Headquarters • Denali National Park Natural History Tour • Riverboat Discovery Cruise • Chena Indian Village • Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna & Denali National Park • Sled Dog Demonstration • Pan for gold at the Gold Dredge #8 • Prince William Sound Cruise • Meares Glacier • Luggage handling for one suitcase per person <p>\$3,499.00 Per person double occupancy</p>	<p>The Best of Italy September 17-28, 2019</p> <p>Tour Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney • Round trip deluxe motor coach to Minneapolis airport • Round trip Delta Airlines flights Minneapolis to Rome • 10 nights accommodations in superior hotels • Full breakfast buffet daily, 5 three-course dinners • Local expert guides all along the way in 11 magical cities • VIP access to must see sights and headsets throughout the tour • Transportation included deluxe motor coach, private boat rides in Venice (optional gondola serenade), jetfoil boat, funicular railway, open top taxi and boat cruise in Capri <p>\$5,399.00 Per Person Double Occupancy</p>

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Including insignia, hats, helmets, and uniforms from WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam, (I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet). I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods. CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6

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