



## New vets' Mission Act begins on June 6

The next big thing for veterans getting benefits from the VA will begin June 6.

The "Mission Act," which was passed by Congress last year, will finally begin operation on that date. The old Veterans Choice Program will cease and will be replaced by the Veterans Community Care Program.

Eligible veterans who are enrolled in the VA system will be able to get their care outside the VA if they meet certain criteria.

Some of those are:

- The care you seek is not available at a VA facility
- You are grandfathered in by the 40-mile criterion in the Choice Program.
- You and your referring clinician decide it's in your best interest to receive your care in the community.

The access standards for receiving community care

include an average drive time of 30 minutes or more for primary care, or 60 minutes for specialty care.

Another access standard is wait times. If the wait time is more than 20 days for primary care, or 28 days for specialty care, the veteran is eligible to use community care.

There will be new urgent care benefits. Veterans will have access to non-emergency care for certain conditions in the VA network of community care providers. Veterans can go to an urgent care or walk-in care provider in the VA network. A co-payment may be charged. It should be noted that not all community care systems will participate in the Mission Act. For instance, in the Choice program in Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic and its system did not participate.

A key aspect of the new program is that the veteran must receive approval from the VA prior to getting care in the

community. The VA will generally make all eligibility determinations.

Veterans who prefer VA care can continue to use it.

One of the reasons the change was made from 40 miles to 30 minutes was that veterans in urban areas often have longer drive times than those in rural areas.

Choice Cards will no longer be valid after June 5.

The VA says the new Mission Act will provide a variety of improvements. Those include:

— Existing programs will be combined into one single community care program. There will be a single set of rules and processes.

— The VA is implementing a re-designed, streamlined internal process, they say. It is intended to make community care easier.

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### Rain doesn't stop Memorial Day activities at Fort Snelling Cemetery



The Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery presented the colors on Memorial Day. Umbrellas were in order for the participants during the ceremonies. More Memorial Day photos on Page 9.

### Lawmakers pass veterans legislation in session

The 2019 Minnesota Legislature passed several bills that will affect the veterans community, but as this edition went to press, the bills were still being reviewed and had not been signed by the governor.

The Omnibus State Government Finance bill (S.F. 10) included maintenance of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs base funding (no cuts) plus the MDVA will receive the full amount of its requested funding increases, including an operating adjustment for the Programs & Services Division, additional money for the State Veterans Cemeteries operations and

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### Minnesota's top police and fire officers are honored by Legion

Officers from North Branch and Mounds View have won the 2019 Department of Minnesota Outstanding Firefighter and

Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer awards.

The Department Law and Order Committee chose Pat Heinen of Harris as the top firefighter, and Nate Garland of Lino Lakes as the out-

standing Law Enforcement Officer.

Garland is a Mounds View police officer assigned to the Ramsey County Violent Crimes Enforcement Team. He previously served as a

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PAT HEINEN



NATE GARLAND

### Prestigious Carlson School has program for younger veterans

By Al Zdon

The Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota is considered one of the top MBA schools in the nation.

This year, as in years past, nearly 20 percent of its graduates will be veterans.

And that didn't happen by accident.

Two Vietnam veterans got together nine years ago and decided the advantage they had received in life by attending the Carlson School should be extended to other veterans, particularly those coming back from the wars in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

William Walter, who is president of Heartland Realty Investors, owners of some of the major hotels in the Twin Cities, and William Van Dyke, the CEO of Donaldson Co., a major technology company in Minnesota, decided to put their money where their mouth was.

Together, they chipped in \$6.5 million and began the

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### Willmar gets ready for Department Convention

The 101st Minnesota American Legion Convention will be held in Willmar July 11-13, and the post is gearing up activities for the convention.

On Wednesday, July 10, the post will have registration at the post home from 4-8 p.m.

On Thursday, there will be an evening spaghetti dinner at the post for \$8. The band will be Custom Made.

On Thursday and Friday, registration will be at the Willmar Conference Center from 7 a.m. on.

On Friday, there will be

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# VA Mission Act about to kick in

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— For emergency care in the community, the veteran must notify the VA within 72 hours.

A new community care network will be administered through a third-party administrator. It is hoped that the new system will provide timely payments to community providers, a situation that did not work well in the Choice program.

The VA is implementing a new information technology system it says will improve the implementation of the new program.

On June 6, the VA will publish the final regulations for the new program and it will go into effect.

No information on which providers are in the VA community care network was available as this newspaper went to press.

For more information, contact your nearest VA medical center. For the Minneapolis VA, please call the general number, 612-725-2000 and ask for a patient advocate.

To find out who is in the community care network, go on the internet to: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>.

The bill will also provide funding to allow the VA to better recruit and keep clinicians. It will also strengthen the telecare network, allowing veterans who do not live near a facility to receive care electronically.

## Legion promotes survey

National Commander Brett Reistad has urged American Legionnaires to participate in a national survey on mental health that was begun last week.

The objective of the survey is to reduce and prevent veterans suicide.

To find the survey go to The American Legion website: [legion.org](http://legion.org). Type into the search box "mental health survey."

Responses are confidential. More are needed to help the guide the VA in what veterans are thinking.

## Willmar Convention

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a noon lunch at the post, soup and sandwich. The past commander's dinner at the post will be at noon. Transportation is available for both events.

The parade will be a 7 p.m. on Friday and there will be a social hour following at the post.

Registration will begin at 7 a.m. again at the conference center on Saturday. There will be an afternoon reception for the new officers.

Free transportation will be available.

The convention itself will begin Thursday morn-

ing and run through about noon on Saturday. The convention will deal with all the Department's business, consider resolutions, and hold elections for Department officers.

A convention registration form is on page 2 of this Legionnaire.

Housing is filling up fast, and those interested should contact local motels in Willmar. The Holiday Inn number is 320-231-2601. The Best Wester is 320-235-6060. Those who are having trouble booking after calling those numbers should call Laurie Barpness at 320-444-9480.



**MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE** — Department Commander Darrel Redepenning reads this year's Memorial Day message while recording at the Twins studio at Target Field. The monitors show his voice electronically. The message was repeated 12 times during the Twins radio broadcast over the weekend.

## Carlson MBA veterans program

Continued from Page 1

MBA Veterans Program. The program provides tuition, or if the tuition has been covered by GI Bill or scholarships, a stipend for the veterans.

The next step was to hire a director for the program, one who could make it a success. The school sought out Charles "Chip" Altman, Ph.D, a retired commander in the Navy.

"Both Bill Van Dyke and Bill Walter wanted to treat veterans better than they had been treated," Altman said.

The first year, the program drew in seven veterans, and the stipend seemed to be the factor that made the program go. Altman didn't say what the stipends were, except to say, "It's good money."

If the program is just paying tuition, that could be as much as \$39,000 at Carlson per year, or \$50,000 for a non-resident.

The money, he said, is meritoriously awarded. "All veterans get something."

By 2013, the number jumped to 16 veterans, and has fluctuated between 15 and 20 students since then. Since the school only allows 100 students per class, that means as many as 20 percent are veterans.

Altman says it's not the only veteran-friendly program in the nation, but it has earned a national reputation as one of the best. "It's our eighth year, and we're becoming known for this now."

Altman said the professors and staff have been happy with the large veteran population. "They tell me that the veterans come to class, sit in front, they are well-dressed, and they volunteer for projects. They tend to take a lead in the school's programs."

The students have their own veterans club at the school.

Dave Burton is an MBA candidate from Indiana. "I was vetting different MBA programs around the nation. Some of the programs just send you brochures, but I got a personal call from Chip and from the admissions office. That personal touch was a game changer for me. I put the Carlson School at the top of the list."

Burton's served in the Army in the 82nd Airborne, doing 28 jumps in his career. He said he was fortunate to be selected to participate in the 70th anniversary of D-Day and was able to jump into some of the landing zones that were used by Americans in World War II.

Burton has just finished his first year at the school.

"There are definitely a lot of us at the school, and we come from all different backgrounds. Some are still in the service and some aren't."

He said the veterans club at the school has events, and the students share their service stories. "We also talk about the struggles we face as veterans coming back into society."

He said he is interested in marketing, but also is interested in disaster relief work. He volunteered in Puerto Rico for six months after the hurricane struck that territory.

Burton urged those who are interested in the school to email the veterans club at the Carlson School: [veterans@umn.edu](mailto:veterans@umn.edu).

The original pot of money the veterans program was using began to erode, and an effort to raise more money was begun. In 2017, with contributions from companies around the state, the goal of \$10 million was reached.

Altman said the program is considered fully funded at this point.

"The veterans who are here may not be able to get their MBA without the program. They are generally 28-32 years old with a couple of kids." The MBA Veterans Program allows them get the advanced degree and further their careers.

Altman said about 75 percent of the veterans who enter the program complete it.



CHIP ALTMAN

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION  
AMERICAN LEGION & AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
2019 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA CONVENTION**

I am registering as a representative of: (check only one and write in number)	I am registering as a: (check only one)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Post #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Unit #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate
<input type="checkbox"/> SAL Squadron # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate at Large (Auxiliary Only)
District #: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest (No Vote Allowed)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

A \$15 registration fee and separate registration form is required for every person registering to attend the convention. If you are registering as a **voting member** of both the American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, a separate registration form and \$15 fee is required for each organization.

Registration at the door will be \$18

Mail registration forms and payment to: <b>Legion Post 167 Attn: Greg Krause 220 19th Ave. SW Willmar, MN 56201</b>	Make checks payable to: <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 167</b>  (credit cards not accepted)
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# Endorsements

## Maxa endorsed for state VC

Mike Maxa has been endorsed for Department Vice Commander by American Legion Post 79, Montgomery, and the "Thundering Third District."

Maxa is currently serving out his appointment from Department Commander Darrel Redepening as Department Membership Director. He has held numerous positions from the post level to the department level. His post responsibilities started with 1st Vice Commander, Commander, currently Membership Director, Boys State Chairman and Boy Scout Troop 322 Montgomery Executive Liaison.

At the District level he served as Boys State Chairman, Vice Commander, Membership

Director, Commander and currently is the Resolutions Chairman.

At the Department level, the Fund for Hospitalized Veterans Chairman and Membership Director.

Maxa's eligibility for the American Legion is from his twenty years of active duty with the United States Air Force, 1978-1998. His career included Aircrew Life Support Technician, Electrical Power Production Supervisor, and Superintendent Aircraft Maintenance, Plans, and Scheduling.

His bride of 41 years is Nancy, who served with him the entire 20 years in the USAF. They have three children and four grandchildren. He is currently employed with RES Pyrotechnics Specialities.



MIKE MAXA

## Minnesota Scout is runner-up

Rhylan Peterson of Dodge Center has been selected by the national American Legion as a runner-up for the Eagle Scout of the Year.

With that honor, Peterson has earned a \$2,500 college scholarship.

The Eagle Scout of the

year was Jaden Anderson of Utah.

Peterson is the son of Kevin and Karen Peterson and is a member of Troop 58 of West Concord. He earned his Eagle Scout designation this past December.

His Eagle Scout project

was the renovation of a community softball field.

Peterson is a senior at Triton High School, and is the class president.

He is considering a future as a music educator, a computer scientist or a mechanical engineer.

## PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF MINNESOTA VETERANS



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Military veterans and their accompanying family members (up to 5) will receive **FREE general admission** during the 2019 season at **Historic Fort Snelling**, and discounted general admission at all other MNHS sites and museums.



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**COMMANDER'S  
COLUMN****By Darrel  
Redepenning**

Greetings Legion Family,

I'm sure most of you are aware that these articles are written a few weeks before you're reading them in the Legionnaire. Al Zdon gives your Commander a break with a little extra time because he or she has one event after another. So I'm writing this article on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Yesterday I was honored to be the featured speaker at Morningside Cemetery in Coon Rapids. In preparing that speech I was overwhelmed with memories of the people I knew that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Some of them were classmates, some were guys from basic training, some were people I met while in the Army, but all of them had an impact on who I am 50 years later. I still remember all of their names, I still dream about them (especially the last few days). As a kid, Memorial Day was a three-day weekend, the kickoff to summer and the end of school for another year. As a wartime veteran, it's remembering the loss of friends and the loss of innocence. So for my brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country; who couldn't come home and marry their sweethearts; who never knew the joy of having children or grandchildren; who were never able to be all that they could be or fulfill all of their dreams, I remember you. I'll always remember you and I am duty bound to honor your sacrifice.

Honoring our fallen comrades is important to me and so is honoring our war heroes that did make it home. On Friday the 31st, I have the unique honor of presenting a

## Mail Call

**Still strong****To the Editor:**

Comrades

To quote Mark Twain; "Our death has been greatly exaggerated."

In this month's *Minnesota Legionnaire* it was reported that the Legion Charter was revoked for "Business and Professional Men's" Post.

Per the article that it was Post 332 in the 5th District.

We are and continue to be the "Business and Professional" Post 450 in the 4th District.

Similar names but different posts.

That was Post 332 "Business and Professional MENS" Post in Minneapolis.

Our Post 450 "Business and Professional" in St Paul's 4th District is as healthy as ever.

When Bill Pollard was Post Commander, Bill and Karin Smith (SFC USAR Ret) conspired to recharter Post 450 and we dropped the "Men's" from our Post name.

The idea was to be gender neutral as all who served are veterans.

Post 450 is not going away anytime soon. Thanks to all who contacted me on the premature rumor of our "demise."

**Ernie Denzer  
Minnetonka****Legionnaire articles****To the Editor:**

I am a Vietnam Era Navy veteran and a member of Eagan Post 594. I always enjoy my monthly Minnesota Legionnaire, although I don't usually read every word. I especially enjoy your writing, and know it takes a tremendous amount of work and energy.

The Legionnaire for May 2019 was, to me, very enjoyable because of two articles you wrote: "News played a large role in Vietnam War" and "You can't win the war without logistics."

I liked the first article because, of course, I am very familiar with Don Shelby as a news announcer. Reading what he and the other two former journalists had to say was somewhat of an eye-opener for me.

I liked the second article because I felt you captured the essence of Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee. General Lee's basic intelligence, his devotion to duty and his strong faith all appear to have made him a good, strong leader. Strong leaders face immense challenges from envious peers and it takes great courage to stay the course in the face of adversity.

Thank you, Mr. Zdon, for all you do for us Minnesota Legionnaires and especially for your outstanding writing skills.

plaque at a birthday party of one of our 66 year members. Hjelton G. Johnson of Crystal turns 100 years old. How great to attend a centennial birthday party the same year that The American Legion turns 100. Mr. Johnson is a WWII veteran. He's a D-Day/Omaha Beach survivor and was awarded 3 bronze stars. His daughter asked if we could do something special to commemorate this occasion. Of course, I said; give me a time and a place and I would be honored to do something special for one of our WWII heroes. Sometimes this job is just super cool and this certainly is one of those times.

The month of June has us edging closer to the end of another Legion year. I want to thank all the Post and District officers that served this year. Thank you for your time and dedication to our great organization. As you change positions, please help your successors by mentoring them on all you've learned this past year. Experience is the best teacher and new people are often intimidated by their lack of knowledge and experience. Please help them off to a good start and share what you've learned. June also has eight District Conventions on two Saturdays. If you are a Department officer or a candidate there is just no way that you can make it to all of them this year. So I'll apologize in advance for my inability to make it to all of your conventions.

This month also features two of our premier programs in our Legion Family with Boys and Girls State. It takes many volunteers to pull this off every year and I thank you for your dedication to these programs. When I attended the National Commander's testimony to Congress in Washington D.C., I was impressed by the number of Senators and Congress-people who stated that they were former Boys or Girls Staters. They spoke with pride of having been one. It just goes to show you how important that these life changing programs are and how we need to assure their continued success in the future.

June 14th is the Legion Day with the red hot Minnesota Twins. Membership Director Mike Maxa will raise the flag and I will attempt to throw out the first pitch. I'll have my grandson with and I told him if I can't do it I'll have him do it. He said: "No way Papa you're on your own with that one!" Oh well, hopefully I won't embarrass myself too much. I hope to see many of our Legion Family there.

**John M. Gustin  
Eagan****Relevancy****To the Editor:**

Re: your editorial "Relevancy in Changing Times."

I concur that the American Legion needs to make an assessment of its purpose to meet changing cultural needs of our Country. In my opinion there is not time then the present time that our Country needs a strong American Legion to provide leadership and direction to core values.

It is essential that The American Legion examine its self and make the necessary changes to meet the needs of today's veterans, their family's, and their communities. Unfortunately, if we do not make these changes the membership slide will continue and The American Legion's influence in our country will wane.

Thank you for all that you have done for our Department. Your skill in putting out the monthly paper has set a high bar for all American Legion Departments. We will miss you in the future.

**Bob Silvagni  
St. Paul****VA smoking****To the Editor:**

The Minneapolis VA Health Care System is committed to providing excellent health care for Veterans. In our efforts to promote a healthy environment for all Veterans, visitors and staff, we will be a tobacco-free campus effective May 29, 2019. All tobacco products, including pipes, vaping devices, chewing tobacco, etc., will no longer be allowed on the campus, and the Veteran smoking area will be closed.

There are numerous services available for those who would like to reduce or quit their use of tobacco products. These include:

— Group Classes - first and third Wednesday of each month from 10-11:30am

— Tobacco cessation medications through your medical provider

— Counseling sessions through Primary Care or Mental Health

— Annie text messaging Tobacco Cessation Module

— Tobacco cessation video classes on line.

— Pharmacist assisted support available over the phone or in person

To access these services, we are asking Veterans to please speak with their Primary Care Provider or call the Patient Call Center at 612-467-1100 or 866-414-5058.

**Patrick Kelly  
Director, Minneapolis VA Health Care System****Chaplain's  
Corner****By  
Bonnie Hanson**

Hello all,

We are moving into Summer, and Winter is far behind us as we all have prayed and has put those smiles back on our faces.

It now means we start to do all that outside work; trying to get caught up on the project we didn't finish last year. We have all been watching the news also about the troubles that are taking place in the world. Each of us needs to include people in those troubled areas in our prayers.

The Ten Commandments are what we are to live by. God gave them to Moses not just for his people, but for all to live by. Each commandment pertains to how we are to live our lives. There are times that I go back to my confirmations days, and going thru pictures seeing me in my Confirmation group, we had to learn the commandments and the meaning of each one. The 5th commandment stands out for me. Why you might ask? We just celebrated Mother's Day and soon we'll celebrate Father's Day on 15th June. That says "Honor thy father and thy mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Let's not forget our fathers on Father's Day..

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house (wife, servants, and animals).

The seven deadly sins also have counterparts, the seven heavenly virtues: humility (opposed to pride), kindness (envy), temperance (gluttony), charity (greed), chastity (lust), diligence (sloth), and patience (wrath).

The American Legion Family as well as our Founding Fathers has always stressed the importance of God in everything we do.

I ran across a poem from Marian Donnell called:

**THE SECRET PLACE**

There's a secret place own in my heart where I visit God in prayer, as I listen closely for His voice, I feel His presence there. I think about my blessings which surround me day by day, His tender mercies give me strength when my own has slipped away. While resting in my favorite chair with my window open wide, the birds are singing happily as I watch them soar and glide, they sing a song of comfort with their sweet melodious tones; they have no cares or worries as the rest of us have known. They're aware that their Creator is providing for their needs. If only we could find that trust to follow when He leads. He knows the path that's best for us, although it's sometimes hard. If only we'd relax our hold and give our life to God. It's when we find the lasting peace when we cast our burdens at His feet; then all our struggling will cease and we'll find in Him release.

Have a good June.

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The American Legion, Department of Minnesota****Al Zdon, Editor**

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# What's Happening

## Legion Day at Twins

It's the last chance to buy tickets for the annual Legion Family Day at the Twins. The game will be played on Friday, June 14, at 7:10 p.m. vs. the Kansas City Royals. Reduced cost tickets are \$22 for Diamond View and \$38 for Field Box High seats. All posts at the game will be recognized on the scoreboard. Please provide post information when ordering.

Commander Darrel Redepenning will throw out the first pitch. To order tickets, call 1-800-33-TWINS and hit O to speak to an attendant. Reference The American Legion promotion. Tickets can also be ordered by going to [groupmatics.events/event/Americanlegion561](http://groupmatics.events/event/Americanlegion561).

If you have questions or group ordering call Brian Bessler, 612-659-4083.

## Luverne Open House

The Minnesota Veterans Home at Luverne will hold a 25th anniversary open house on Friday, June 7. There will be lunch and tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a program will begin at 1. Parking will be available in the home's back lot or at the American Reformed Church. There will be a shuttle service from the church.

## Hangar Dance

The annual Spring Swing Big Band Hangar Dance will be held on Saturday, June 8, at the Commemorative Air Force Hangar at 310 Airport Road in South St. Paul. The doors open at 6 p.m. with free dance lessons at 7, and the band at 8. Tickets are \$17 at the door or \$14.50 online. Tickets can be ordered at [www.cafmn.org](http://www.cafmn.org).

## Legal Clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans will have several free legal clinics for low-income veterans. The clinics will include housing, employment, benefits, expungement, wills, debt collection, family law including child support. The clinics include:

Fargo VA Health Care Services, Third Floor Auditorium, Wednesday, July 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Cloud VA Health Care System, Auditorium, Tuesday,

July 16, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium Balcony, Tuesday, June 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Stand Down in Rochester

There will be a Stand Down for veterans on Thursday, June 27, from 2-7 p.m. at the Soldiers Field, held during Rochester Fest. There will be a welcome ceremony at 2 p.m. All veterans are welcome.

The Stand Down will include local resources, VA benefits, clothing, housing, public benefits, haircut coupons, employment assistance and legal assistance. It is a family-friendly event.

## Christening Ceremony

The USS Minneapolis/St. Paul christening ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 15, at the Marinette Marine, in Marinette Wisconsin. It will be a morning event and travel is encouraged the day before.

The ship's sponsor will officially name the ship and break a champagne bottle against the hull in proper Navy tradition. Then the ship will launch for the first time.

The sponsor is Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy Jodi Greene, a native of Northfield, Minnesota.

## Free Admission at Snelling

The Minnesota Historical Society will now offer free general admission to all military veterans plus up to five accompanying family members who visit the historic Fort Snelling site. Fort Snelling tells several stories from 1820 to World War II and beyond. New content this summer includes the story of the 25th Division, an African-American unit posted at the fort during the Civil War.

The MNHS will break ground this summer on a revitalization project that will include a new visitor center.

## Info sought on veteran

Information is being sought on Francis N. White, a soldier who was in the Second Division, 23rd Infantry in World War II. He died on May 6, 1945, and is buried in the American Cemetery at Saint-Avold in France.

He earned a Purple Heart.

A family has chosen to tend his grave and is seeking information on the veteran, who may be from Minnesota. Please email: [lucie\\_wack@hotmail.com](mailto:lucie_wack@hotmail.com).

## Post 39 events

North St. Paul Post 39 has planned two events for August. The post will celebrate its 100th birthday with a special general meeting with all members of the post Legion Family invited. Cake, ice cream and coffee will be served. An anniversary dinner will be held Aug. 3 at the post home. Cost is \$20 per person.

A golf tournament will be held at the Goodrich Golf Course in Maplewood on Sunday, Aug. 11, as an 18-hole scramble. Cost is \$300 per four-person team and includes golf, cart, prizes and dinner at the post. For a team entry form, contact Ken Giannini at [kenng5822@hotmail.com](mailto:kenng5822@hotmail.com) or call 651-330-9217.

## Obituary Policy

Updated: February 2006

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading "Taps."

Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Age at death.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran's service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries.

# Taps

**Lindquist, Robert L.**, 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 28, 2019. He was Second District Commander from 1988-89. He was also district adjutant. He served two years aboard a ship. He was a member of Round Lake Post 461.

**Alexander, Gordon David**, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died April 22, 2019. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

**Amsrud, George A.**, 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 3, 2019. He was a medic. He was a member of Janesville Post 281.

**Anstine, Kermit Samuel**, 75, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 6, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Bender, Willard Anthony "Bink,"** 88, Army veteran of the Korea War, died April 16, 2019. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

**Bockes, Lester G.**, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 29, 2019. He was a member of Marietta Post 156.

**Borman, John Philip**, 73, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 7, 2019. He did two tours in Vietnam and was an armorer, ordnance specialist and a helicopter gunner. He was a sergeant. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

**Breitkreutz, James**, 72, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 19, 2019. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

**Britz, Herbert**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died April 18, 2019. He was a member of Pierz Post 341.

**Bushard, Gordon J.**, 72, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 10, 2019. He was a combat engineer stationed in Pleiku during the beginning of the Tet Offensive. He was a member of New Ulm Post 32.

**Corcoran, James R.**, 91, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 7, 2019. He was a Seabee. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Corradi, Thomas Michael "Angelo,"** 72, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 19, 2019. He was a member of the Mid-Range Color Guard and of Keewatin Post 452.

**Dehning, Donald L.**, 86, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean War, died May 10, 2019. He served stateside. He was a member of St. Peter Post 37.

**Driscoll, Patrick**, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2019. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Flatness, Earl H.**, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 2, 2019. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

**Flicek, Theodore**, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2019. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Galler, Gordon**, 92, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 23, 2019. He was a past commander and membership director of Janesville Post 281.

**Gerth, Lloyd H.**, 95, Army veteran of World War II, died April 30, 2019. He served in the field artillery. He was a past commander of Princeton Post 216.

**Green, Jonathon J.**, 73, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 17, 2019. He served the USS Andrew Jackson and the USS Orion. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Henderson, Archie B.**, 90, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died April 19, 2019. He was a navigator on B-52 bombers. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Isdo, Gilbert I.**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died April 16, 2019. He served in Guam. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

**Jaspersen, Arlo L.**, 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 27, 2019. He served in Australia, Eniwetok and other Pacific islands. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Jensen, Kenneth**, 95, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died April 15, 2019. He was a flight engineer on B-29 bombers. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

**Johnson, Marvin Leroy**, 83, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died April 29, 2019. He served in Greenland. He was a member of Keewatin Post 452.

**Justin, Clarence A.**, 89, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 1, 2019. He was a past commander of St. Stephen Post 221.

**Keller, Reinold "Skip,"** 83, Army National Guard veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died April 27, 2019. He served 29 years and retired as a sergeant first class. He was a member of St. Peter Post 37.

**Keller, Vernold J., "Dick,"** 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 19, 2019. He was a member of Waite Park Post 428.

**Kretsch, John T.**, 81, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 20, 2019. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

**Kruse, Michael P.**, 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 20, 2019. He served in the 1st Air Cavalry. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Kurlz, Peter P.**, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died April 27, 2019. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

**Long, Duane Arthur**, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 19, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post

212.

**Mathison, Harold**, 85, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 3, 2019. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

**Modest, Kurt E.**, 89, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died April 24, 2019. He served for 22 years in Germany, Taiwan and the United States. He was a chief master sergeant. He was a member of Blackduck Post 372.

**Peterson, Darrell**, 76, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 28, 2019. He was a member of Lake City Post 110.

**Peterson, Donald Edward**, 80, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 3, 2019. He was a member of Deerwood Post 557.

**Plantage, Edwin Sr.**, 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II and Air Force Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died April 29, 2019. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

**Seidl, Michael J.**, 69, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 2, 2019. He received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

**Sjoquist, Donald A.**, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War. He served in Germany in the infantry. He was a charter member of Lakeville Post 44.

**Smith, Larry Michael**, 72, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 3, 2019. He served in England as a jet aircraft mechanic. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 96.

**Storjohann, Ray D.**, 78, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 18, 2019. He worked in water purification. He was a member of Janesville Post 281.

**Strehlow, Vernon**, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 12, 2019. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

**Taylor, Earle**, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died May 24, 2019. He was a member of Elysian Post 311.

**Tschann, David L.**, 81, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 19, 2019. He served in the 101st Airborne in Germany. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

**Tweten, Basil**, 90, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2019. He trained troops at Ft. Leonard Wood when he was recalled for the Korean War. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

**Zitzman, Lyle L.**, 91, Navy veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died April 6, 2019. He was a commander and led two squadrons, VP-811 and VP-2E5. He was a member of Wabasso Post 263.

# Call for 101st Department Convention

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155  
CALL FOR THE 101st ANNUAL DEPARTMENT  
CONVENTION

The 101st Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, is hereby called in conformity with provisions of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and by action of the Department Executive Committee, sponsored by Willmar American Legion Post 167 and held at the Willmar Conference Center, Willmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019.

## PURPOSE OF CONVENTION

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

## REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

The Department Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Post, members of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Chaplain, Treasurer, Historian, and the District Adjutants, but only delegates from Posts shall be entitled to vote at such Convention, (Sec.2, Article Five, Department Constitution). Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and to one additional delegate for each hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose Department dues have been received by the Department Treasurer and whose District dues have been paid to their respective District officers, 30 days prior to the

Convention for which they are chosen. The final voting strength of each Post shall be determined 30 days prior to the Convention. Each Post shall choose its own delegates, who shall be members in good standing of such Post. In addition, each Post may choose alternate delegates to serve in the absence of the principal delegate, (Sec. 3, Article Five, Department Constitution). Delegates or alternates must register in order to vote.

## GAMBLING SEMINAR MEETING

The Gambling Seminar will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 7, Willmar, MN.

## DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Department Executive Committee has been called and will be held at 7:00 P.M on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, in Willmar, MN at Willmar Conference Center, Gallery 7, as specified in the upcoming Call to Meeting.

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Standing Department Committee Meetings will be held at the Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, Minnesota, in the meeting rooms to be determined. These rooms will be confirmed in each committee's Call to Meeting.

AMERICANISM 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2019 TBD

CHILDREN AND YOUTH 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2019 TBD

FINANCE 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2019 TBD

NATIONAL SECURITY 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2019 TBD

REHABILITATION 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, July 10, 2019 TBD

GENERAL SESSIONS Gallery 7 Thursday, Friday, Saturday

## HOUSING AND REGISTRATION

For the 2019 Department Convention, hotel reservations will be done "on your own" directly with the hotel. Please call the hotel directly: Best Western Plus – 320-235-6060, Holiday Inn Express – 320-231-2601. A registration fee of \$15.00 for each Delegate/Alternate and/or Guest must be sent to: Legion Post 167, Attn: Greg Krause, 220 19th Ave. SW, Willmar, MN 56201. Registration checks should be made payable to "AMERICAN LEGION POST 167". Registration will be \$18.00 at the door.

## DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

A temporary Legion Department Headquarters office will be at the Willmar Center in a room still to be determined starting Thursday, July 11, 2019 for convention service and business during convention business hours only. Meetings will start ON TIME as scheduled unless otherwise announced.

Darrel Redepening  
Department Commander

ATTEST: Randy Tesdahl  
Department Adjutant

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 1st day of May, 2019

## 2019 rules for the Department American Legion Convention

The Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Willmar, Minnesota, July 11, 12, 13, 2019.

1) With the following modifications, Robert's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention.

2) (a) That the speech of any Delegate, recognized by the Commander, shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

(b) Where a motion is made to table a resolution, the sponsor shall be entitled to speak to the Convention for three (3) minutes on the subject, and three (3) minutes rebuttal be granted to the maker of the motion to table before the motion is put.

3) That the Floor be permitted but once to any individual on any subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

4) (a) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by Convention Committees, must be presented in writing signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee without debate. Each District Delegation Chairman or Secretary will meet with the Department Resolutions Assignment Committee at 9:00 A.M. of the first day of the Convention to be informed as to the resolutions assigned to each Convention Committee, then provide copies of those resolutions to the representatives they have appointed to said Convention Committee. The Resolutions Assignment Committee is responsible for receiving, registering and accounting for all resolutions forwarded to it by the Department Adjutant and all committee originated resolutions.

(b) Resolutions containing matters of legislation shall be cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.

5) On matters where voting has been by roll call vote, when the poll of any Post Delegation is demanded by the Delegate of any Post, the Secretary of the Convention shall poll the vote of that Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.

6) That on Roll Call, the Chair or Acting Chair of each Delegation on the Floor shall announce the vote of this Delegation.

7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but Past Department Commanders and members of the Department Executive Committee shall have the privilege of speaking from the Floor, but not of voting, except as Delegates.

8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate and that every Delegate or Alternate, to be duly accredited, must be registered.

9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Post shall vote unless at least one registered and accredited Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.

11) The voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair or Acting Chair of at least three Delegations; and except for elections which shall be as follows:

(a) The election of Department Officers, NEC positions, and the Member of the Board of Publications shall be by written ballot unless there is but one candidate or, in the case of election of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.

(b) The election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in one round of voting shall be elected to the positions.

If there are more than five candidates for Vice Commander, those five receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at

least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention. For the election of Department Officers and NEC positions, the Tellers shall issue to the Delegation Chair of each registered Post the number of written ballots equal to the delegate strength of that Post. Said Chair shall sign for the ballots.

Ballots shall be issued and the polls shall be open during the following times:

(a) Friday, for one half hour after recess of the Convention.

(b) Saturday, from 8:00 A.M. until 9:00 A.M.

No ballots shall be counted before Saturday morning. No ballots shall leave the polling place.

The District Commander of each District shall appoint a Teller. Tellers shall elect among themselves two Tellers from the Districts which have no candidate for Commander. These two Tellers, and the Judge Advocate, shall tabulate and total the election results. The result of each contest shall be confidential and shall be placed in a separate envelope and delivered to the Commander.

If there is a written ballot contest which has not resulted in a majority vote (except for Vice Commanders), the Commander will be informed immediately. Then, written ballots for that contest shall be distributed immediately in accordance with these Rules and be cast within one-half hour of completion of the distribution. Tabulation and reporting shall be in accordance with these Rules.

Results of the vote count shall be reported to the Convention. All ballots and results shall be destroyed immediately following the close of the Convention, unless there is a motion to preserve.

12) Nominations for Department Officers and NEC positions shall be held on the afternoon of Friday of the Convention. Nominations shall be made from the Floor on Roll Call by Districts, in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention; each District may present as many candidates as it chooses. Thereafter, nominations may be made from the Floor.

13) Nominating speeches for Department Officers shall be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches allowed for any candidates.

14) When the convention has adopted a Motion to suspend the rules and vote on a matter by District, each District may vote its entire voting strength. If the matter is the election of individuals for any open positions (such as Department Delegate at-Large), each District may vote its voting strength times the number of open positions, but shall not vote more than its voting strength for any one individual. The call for District votes shall be in ascending order starting with the District whose number matches the last digit of the year of the Convention.

15) In the event more than two candidates are nominated for any office, the balloting shall continue until one candidate shall have received a majority of the votes cast. In elections where there are more than two candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes in each round of voting shall be eliminated.

16) No personalities or partisan politics shall be discussed or indulged in on the Convention Floor, and the Department Commander shall prohibit such indulgences.

17) (a) Rules Committee approves the following list of Convention Committees to be chosen at this Convention, each District to choose one representative on each Committee:

Americanism	National Security/Foreign Relations
Children and Youth	Public Relations
Constitution-By-Laws	Recreation-Sports
Employment	Rehabilitation
Energy and Conservation	Resolutions
Legislative	Safety-School Patrol
Membership	

(b) The following Department Standing Committees are approved as Convention

Committees:
Finance
Next Meeting Place

(Convention Corporation Committee)  
Resolutions Assignment  
Credentials

18) The order of business of the Convention shall be in accordance with the printed program, except that the election of officers shall be a special order of business, to be held in accordance with Rules 11 and 12. The order of election of Department Officers shall be as follows:

Commander  
Five Vice Commanders - without numerical designation  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Sergeant at Arms  
Member of Publication Board - for three-year term  
Delegates-at-Large to the National Convention  
Five Alternates-at-Large to the National Convention  
National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman (when appropriate)

19) The Committee Chairman shall inform the Department Commander when the report is

ready to be presented, and the Department Commander shall recognize it as an order of business. The committees reporting action on Resolutions must read all approved Resolutions. It is sufficient to report all rejected Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.

20) All printed reports, which shall have been handed to the Convention Committees, shall be referred to the proper Convention Committee for action.

21) No Band, Drum Corps or other musical organization shall be permitted in the Convention Hall without the invitation of the Department Commander.

22) (a) Any Guests who are not on the official program as speakers shall be introduced by the Department Commander only, and shall be limited to an address of not more than three (3) minutes.

(b) The Commander is to adhere as nearly as possible to the printed program so that guests, and others to be honored, are presented without undue delay.

23) No elective political office holder shall be permitted to speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the State of Minnesota, and the Chief Executive of the Convention City, or such persons as are on the official printed and published program.

24) All major speeches shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes and all others not to exceed five (5) minutes.

25) No intoxicating liquors shall be sold or dispensed in the building of the Convention meeting, except as authorized by the Convention Corporation.

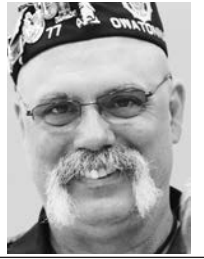
26) The Roll Call of Posts shall be called in numerical sequence in accordance with Post numbers assigned, including the city or town, beginning with Post No. 1, except in odd numbered years the order of call will be reversed, but only those Posts having one or more duly registered and accredited Delegates or alternates accredited prior to 9:00 a.m. as confirmed by the Credentials Committee, shall be included in the Roll Call at any time.

27) Posts challenging exclusion from the Roll Call shall consult with the Credentials Committee for resolution of the problem.

THE COMMITTEE: (Members Present)		
DISTRICT	MEMBER	HOME TOWN
First	Not Present	
Second	Lucinda Brunk	Brewster
Third	Carla Tappainer	Apple Valley
Fourth	Lane Stunkel	St. Paul
Fifth	Joe Bayer	Minneapolis
Sixth	Richard Cross	Sauk Centre
Seventh	Jeffrey L. Gay	Jackson
Eighth	Carl Hendrickson	Cloquet
Ninth	Not Present	
Tenth	Paul Orson	Circle Pines

## American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone  
Department Director



Memorial Day weekend was good for the most part. A few of the ceremonies that were held on Sunday had the best weather of while those on Monday got a little wet. Parades were canceled while a few brave soles dug out rain coats and umbrellas. Anyhow those Veterans that have answered the call were honored with distinction, honor and respect.

There seems to be some confusion as to the meaning of Memorial Day. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It originated in the years following the Civil War and didn't become an official federal holiday until 1971. In the late 1860s Americans began holding tributes to the many fallen soldiers, decorating their graves and saying prayers. It wasn't until 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, as the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo first celebrated the day May 5, 1866.

It wasn't until WWI that Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day. A day in which we honored American military personnel who died in wars. Memorial Day was observed on May 30th for many years. In 1968 congress passed the uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday on May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The official change took effect in 1971.

Many still honor the service of veterans still alive today as well as those currently serving. Veterans Day is the day set aside to honor veterans still alive while Armed Forces day is the day when honor those currently serving.

If you haven't reserved your room for the upcoming Department Convention July 11-13 in Willmar, do it now. There will be a Riders meeting and as in the past we have been asked to lead off the parade.

I have seen a number of chapters posting rides on facebook. The earlier you get the word out the better. I know there are a number of rides all raising money for an equal number of causes, trying to pick which to attend is the difficult part. Hopefully we can meet up on one this summer.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By  
Jeremy Wolfsteller



### Community Care Program

Accessing health care shouldn't be a challenge, especially for America's men and women who served their country honorably. Unfortunately, in recent years that has been the main issue for veterans. VA has done a great job implementing more community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC's) throughout their health care system to make it more convenient for their patients needing appointments. This expansion of CBOC's has helped in some states but in other larger states where veterans reside in more rural populations, veterans may have to drive several hours for an appointment. Another issue that CBOC's do not address is the rising demand for specialty care services, although some do offer high demand services like audiology and optometry, that's where it typically ends. An example in Minnesota, if a veteran enrolled in the Fargo, Sioux Falls, or St. Cloud VA Health Care System and needs specialty care services that those facilities do not provide, the closest referral is to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center which is the only tertiary care center in the region. As a tertiary care center Minneapolis exceeds in the delivery of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, geriatrics and extended care, but it's not realistic that veterans should have to travel to Minneapolis for a specialty care consult.

With pressure from United States Congress in 2013 the VA started providing care outside their facility walls through a program called Veterans Choice. This program was to ensure veterans had timely access to care without having to drive more than 40 miles. The VA was no stranger to referring veterans to community providers because they've always had a complexity of their own internal community care programs established with community providers through provider agreements or VA contracts. The difference was "Choice Program" providers were administered through a 3rd party administrator called Health Net Federal Services and funding allocations were in a separate account only to be used for community care. The intentions of the Choice Program were to address vet-

eran appointment wait times although the implementation failed by causing mass confusion not only for veterans but the VA. Now over five years later the program has sunset, the millions of dollars were spent, and VA is back to square one but not for much longer as a newly improved community care program is about to become operational June 6, 2019.

Veterans Community Care Program is what it is called and its under the authority of VA Mission Act of 2018. This program consolidates all VA community care programs under one single authority. It will still be administered through a 3rd party administrator which is TriWest for now and most likely Optum Health Solutions soon. VA is very optimistic it will be much better than Health Net. Everyone is hoping this will help eliminate some of the confusion. It also allows for more veterans to use the community care program by offering eligibility "access standards". Access standards are wait times for appointments, 20 days for primary care, mental health and extended care services and 28 days for specialty care from the date of request. Access standards also include veterans drive time to get to a VA facility that can provide the care needed. The standard is 30 minutes and if it's more, a veteran is eligible for the program. There are many other changes and VA is starting to inform veterans by mailing correspondence and communicating with their stakeholders.

Another important change to care in the community under the Veterans Community Care Program is now VA will offer "urgent care" (walk-in's) for veterans. The urgent care benefit will cover services that are non-emergent, but need immediate attention like pink eye, influenza, strep throat, flu shots. These urgent care providers must be within VA's network of providers for veterans to be approved.

As the Veterans Community Care Program rolls out this week, VA Medical Centers will be under immense pressure to accommodate more veterans using care in the community. Each VA has established a care in the community office that will handle all referrals for veterans from care providers, calling veterans, scheduling their appointments with a provider in the network closest to them etc. Keep in mind that more veterans that choose to use community care, less appropriations VA is allocated for internal operations to expand their services, remodeling and hiring of quality providers as more funding goes into the private sector. This is the largest change in VA modernization within VA Health Care and it will be an exciting time for veterans as their health care options start to open up.

[jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org](mailto:jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org)

# Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News

## Sons of The American Legion

By  
Shawn Davis



This time last year I posed the question, have we failed? I felt that we must strive for greatness since good (enough) is the enemy of greatness. At the end of the article I stated that the journey continues, and we have a ways to go before we can claim success. We will always have our mission.

But how do we measure success?

The most common method is through the use of membership. We set monthly and yearly goals. We measure monthly how many members have joined. How many are new. How many renewed. This information is shared to the District leadership. I hope it is then shared with each squadron. But is membership the best yardstick of what success looks like for our organization?

Another method of measuring success of our mission is looking at the donations we make and the volunteer hours we do all in support of the 4 Pillars. And boy do we make donations and volunteer. From donations to the Legacy Scholarship, CWF, MN American Legion Family Hospital Association, and MN Veterans homes located throughout the state, to the hours put in at Boys State, the VA, blood drives, funerals, and Legionville. And these are just a few. Last reporting year (2017 - 2018) 25 Squadrons reported over 5000 volunteer hours and donated over \$27,456 to charity.

This information is reported on a yearly basis, by each squadron submitting a Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) documenting their activities and donations. The forms for this year have been mailed to each squadron. If we could improve the reporting of the squadrons sending in this form from 10% of our squadrons to 50%, imagine how the results would go up for us as an organization. Consider how all that information can be shared as a measure of suc-

cess (no matter how big or small) to our members, our American Legion Family, and to our communities. If a squadron completes the CSR to be sent in by Detachment Convention (Campout on June 28 - 30), they can then 1) share a copy of it to their membership; 2) Provide a copy to the Post, Unit, and Chapter to share the success; and 3) share the information to our communities. The CSR gathers the information that creates a great press release to share with your local news. Imagine the civic pride in touting that success the Squadron had in fundraising and volunteer results, especially since it involves the community!

This information can be shared monthly as well. Keep a monthly total based on the CSR categories, and use that for distribution at meetings, displaying at your Post, sharing with your communities.

So how would you measure success in our organization? Let me know your thoughts. I will share them with future leaders and see if we can support you in our mission of supporting Veterans, their Families, and our Communities.

So in conclusion:

Complete that CSR that was sent out, and either mail it to Department, or turn it in at Detachment Convention (Campout). Even if your squadron did not do anything (which I doubt. Remember even little things you do as an individual where you live may count towards CSR reporting) or donated nothing, please send in the CSR to indicate that you support the 4 Pillars of The American Legion.

Plan on attending Detachment Convention (Campout) on June 28 - 30 at Legionville School Patrol Education Center. Please pre-register so we know how much food we need to order. The registration forms can be found in the same packet as the CSR came in.

And above all, thank you for all you do.

Cdr. Shawn Davis: [salshawndavis@gmail.com](mailto:salshawndavis@gmail.com)  
Adjutant Dennis Henkemeyer:  
[dennish56621@hotmail.com](mailto:dennish56621@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.mnsal.org](http://www.mnsal.org)

## Call to meeting 47th SAL Convention

Article X, Section 2. Representation of the Detachment Convention shall be by Delegates elected by the Squadrons on the basis of one Delegate for each Squadron of ten (10) members or less, and one additional delegate for every ten (10) members or major fraction thereof whose Detachment dues have been received in the Detachment Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the Convention for which they are chosen.

Article X, Section 3. Each Delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The vote of any Delegate absent and not represented by an Alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered Delegates present from his Squadron. Alternates for Delegates shall have all of the privileges of registered Delegates except that of voting. Delegates from five (5) Districts shall constitute a quorum.

Article X, Section 4. Voting shall be done by a voice vote, except for the election of Officers. During elections, uncontested elections shall be by voice vote. Contested elections shall be by written ballot by Squadron. The Commander shall appoint tellers as necessary to count ballots and to ensure that each Squadron has voted properly. The Commander shall announce the winner and give to total amount of votes if requested by any candidate for that Office.

Article X, Section 5. All actions of the Detachment Convention are subject to ratification and approval of the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 6. Except as noted in these Constitution and By-Laws, the parliamentary authority shall be Roberts Rules of Order, the most recent edition.

Reservations are needed for everyone in attendance at Legionville. Deadline is no later than June 14.

Mail the following information to Dennis Henkemeyer, Detachment Adjutant, Box L, Bagley, MN 56621.

1. Squad number.
2. Location.
3. District.
4. Contact name.
5. Phone number.
6. Camp/Dorm/Hotel.

## World War II History Round Table

## Bombing helped Allies; was a tragedy for France

By Al Zdon

For those at the May World War II Round Table who were expecting a feel-good story about U.S. bombing during the D-Day invasion – 75 years ago – they got anything but.

Historian and author Stephan Alan Bourque instead revealed the downside of the bombing campaign during and after the invasion, particularly its effect on the French civilian population.

Bourque was joined later by two pilots who flew bombers for America in the war.

The author of *Beyond the Beach: The Allied War Against France* started with one example of the bombing campaign.

The village of Lisieux in Normandy was a picturesque community dating back to the Roman times. The U.S. air forces dropped leaflets on the community prior to D-Day warning of the bombing but few heeded the call to evacuate.

Bombers dropped hundreds of bombs on the village on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and the day after, probably aiming to destroy the city's bridges and railyards in an effort to stop the Germans from bringing troops to the beach.

That goal may have been accomplished, but the result for Lisieux was horrific. Two-thirds of the town was reduced to rubble, and over 700 civilians were killed.

Bourque tells of one survivor who lost his family. "One must wonder what he thought of his liberators."

Bourque didn't fudge when assigning blame for the bombing attack on Lisieux. "No one in the strategic air forces wanted to bomb France. It was all the U.S. and British armies behind it."

The discussions of whether to bomb or not resulted in "shouting matches," he said.

In fact, Bourque said, the Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower threatened to quit his job unless he was given power over the air forces.

"Why bomb France?" Bourque asked. "The Germans had reinforcements close at hand. The French had a superb rail and road network, and so the Allies knew they were going to have a problem."

The Army Air Corps leadership only wanted to bomb Germany. "They wanted to take the war to the enemy, to go deep. There was no theory or doctrine about bombing the occupied states."

The air forces knew that bombing was an imprecise method of eliminating an enemy target. "It's like using a riding lawn mower to take out one dandelion." Bomb patterns often covered many square miles around the target.

The Army, though, was concerned with making Operation Overlord, the largest invasion in the history of mankind, successful. "There was little concern with damage to historic places. There was little concern for the civilians who lived there."

The bomber crews were made up of 21 and 22 year olds who had no training in precision bombing. "These are the same kids who, if they were home, would be getting into auto accidents and doing other dumb kid stuff."

Several dozen French cities were targeted for bombing, and Bourque focused on one other, Rouen, the major city of Normandy and a historic treasure. "Many bombs didn't hit the targets. The people mainly lived in wooden houses, and that's trouble. When the bombing was over, 900 were dead, and Rouen's magnificent cathedral lay in ruins."

Bourque quoted one survivor: "Instead of bringing us liberty, you bring us wooden crosses."

One other feature of the bombing campaign is that it wasn't focused on where the landings would be. The Allies did not want to tip off where D-Day would take place. "Twice as many bombs were dropped on the villages up north where there was no invasion."

Weather also played a factor in the lack of accuracy in the bombing campaign. "They had something called the 'overcast bombing technique.' Mainly, it was 'Throw the bombs out and I think they'll hit the ground.'"

On D-Day, the air forces, mainly the 8th and the 9th, flew 14,000 sorties over France using 1,130 heavy bombers. "They didn't hit a lot of targets, but they created a lot of noise, and they woke the Germans up."

He said that on June 4, two days before the invasion, the 8th Air Force switched to a different bombing technique that made accurate bombing even more difficult.

The result was that 3,000 French civilians were killed on D-Day, 8,000 by June 21, and 60,000 total that died in France from Allied bombing. Over 20 French cities were destroyed by the bombing.

Bourque asked the question of whether the bombing of the French cities didn't verge on a war crime, as defined by international law.

As a last example, he brought up St. Lo, a famous battlefield in the invasion where the Americans and Germans fought a desperate battle to control the important crossroads city.

On D-Day, bombers hit the city hard, and by the time the smoke cleared, 95 percent of the city lay in ruins. Over 800

civilians were killed.

"I spent my whole life thinking that St. Lo had been destroyed in the fighting. But St. Lo was destroyed on June 6 by Allied bombing."

John Clark grew up in Michigan, went through pilot training, and ended up as a co-pilot on B-17s in Europe in August, 1944 – about two months after D-Day. He was with the 100th Bomb Group, known as the "Bloody 100th" because of the extreme casualties they took during the war.

He was asked by moderator Don Patton what it felt like to fly the massive B-17s. "Actually, I looked forward to the day when I wouldn't be a B-17 pilot," he said.

He described a typical mission. "We would take off every 30 seconds in total darkness. By the time we were all aloft, there would be 500 aircraft within 10 miles of us."

The planes would assemble, and then head for the target, usually in Germany. The flights would take eight or more hours.

The most difficult part of the mission, Clark said, was often the return to the English airfield which had become socked in with fog. "The ceiling would often be at 100 feet, and visibility wasn't as long as the air strip. The instrument landing devices were a great achievement."

Clark told about his experience at the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans had attacked and they were pushing the Allies back steadily. A solid cloud cover meant the U.S. had no air support for the troops.

"All we could do is sit in the officer's club, which was kind of our waiting room. There were three lights on the wall. One was green, meaning it was a stand-down, no flying. The other was yellow which meant a mission was planned. It told the pilot to quit drinking and get some rest. The other was red, which meant there was a mission."

"That light was green day after day after day. We'd sit and drink coffee and other things, eating that good English country bread covered with peanut butter and marmalade."

Ten days went by, and the Germans were pushing further and further into U.S. territory in Belgium.

"Finally the yellow light went on, which meant they closed the bar. At one a.m., the red light went on."

It was called a maximum effort mission, meaning that every airplane that could fly would fly. Clark's group put five squadrons in the air when usually they would fly with three.

"There were 2,000 targets in western Germany, targets that were supplying the Germans in the Bulge. It was the largest mission the Eighth Air Force ever mounted."

The surprise for the American pilots was that the Germans had 900 Tiger tanks between them and the targets, and the tanks were able to elevate their guns to 90 degrees. "They could shoot straight up, and they were using optical sites which were very good."

The shells took out a plane right over Clark's B-17. "You can imagine the chaos in our planes as guys were struggling to put on their helmets and their flak jackets. I looked out the window and saw a propeller from another plane flying by. Somehow it missed us and went right under our left wing."

In a matter of seconds, six B-17s were shot down.

After fighting through that, the bombers reached their target. They were being led by a pilot plane from the 390th whose bombardier mis-set his instruments. "And so we dropped our bombs 14 miles short."

The mission had one nice aesthetic effect. "It was Christmas eve, and as the bombers came into land, they had their red lights on one wing and the green lights on the other wing. It looked just like a Christmas tree."

Clark, who flew 32 missions, recalled one other mission to Frankfurt. "They gave us a new airplane. They thought they were doing us a favor, but pilots don't like new airplanes. Getting a new airplane is like getting remarried. You've got to learn everything all over again."

Clark said each plane is different, and fuel consumption is a major way planes can differ.

The ground crew also told Clark there were new fuel gauges aboard the plane. "It's been my experience that gauges are never reliable. And with a new gauge, you just don't know."

The group dropped its bombs, made the turn and headed back toward England.

"Suddenly a red warning light started to flicker on the fuel gauge for the number three engine. Then it was a red light. And then it was out of gas. The engine quit working."

Now the pilot and co-pilot were faced with the question of when the other engines would go out. Clark got on the intercom and offered the crew a choice of bailing out, over enemy territory, or staying with the plane as it tried to make an emergency landing in Belgium. They chose to stay.

Not long after, the number two fuel tank gauge began to flicker and then went red. That engine shut down, and now the plane only had the two outboard engines left.

"We threw everything overboard. I told the crew it was time to make a final decision. We were just crossing the

front lines, but who knew what side we were on." Again the crew decided to stay with the plane.

They saw a flat spot in the distance, and it turned out to be an airstrip, way too short for a B-17, "but any airstrip in a storm."

As they approached the strip, the final two engines went out. "We were now a 30-ton glider."

They landed, zoomed over the short airfield and plowed into a swamp on the other side. "Finally the wheels caught something and the plane tilted up on its nose and then came back down."

"All the training we had done on emergency landings paid off. The plane was totaled, but the crew didn't get one scratch."

A few seconds later, another B-17 came in and landed right behind them, skidded through the swamp, and their wing went right over the wing of Clark's plane. "We talked to them later, and they said, 'Well, we saw you guys trying to land, and we decided to try it too.'"

A strange outcome of the emergency landing was that the Air Corps lost track of Clark's plane and officially declared it missing in action with the 10-man crew presumed dead.

"In the official records of the 8th Air Force it will say that 26,000 crew lost their lives, but you can subtract 10 from that."

Dick Brown grew up in Fargo, and became a pilot in the 294th Bomb Group flying the two-engined B-24 Liberators.

Brown had worked as a ticket agent at Northwest Airlines before the war, and in 1942 was accepted as a cadet in the Army. He trained with civilian instructors in Florida and graduated in June of 1943.

"I was offered a position as a flight instructor, but then it turned out that one of the other pilots had a wife. They said, well, you can have the flight instructor job, and Dick can go to war."

He arrived in England in February 1944 and joined the 9th Air Force.

He said that the crews had a feeling D-Day was coming, "but we didn't know until the day before. We found out we would be bombing at Utah Beach."

A surprise to them when they got to their plane that morning was that it had been painted over with black and white stripes. "They told the gunners on the ships that if it had stripes, let it go. If it didn't have stripes, shoot 'em down. It was a good thing, because without those stripes, they couldn't have told us apart from the Germans. I found out later they used three million gallons of paint to put those stripes on."

It was raining when his B-24 took off at 4:45 a.m. "We got up to about 11,000 feet, just on top of the clouds. We found a hole in the clouds over the Channel and we found Utah at about 1,500 feet."

It was Brown's 33rd mission.

He said of the 66 missions he flew in the war, 65 of them were over France. "We were always worried that we were killing a lot of French people, and I'm sure we did. Those bridges always had homes around them. That was no fun, and we didn't like it, but we had to do it."

After he went home to the United States he was sent to Harlington, Texas. "There were WASPs there (women pilots who ferried planes around, or helped with target practice.) Those women could fly a dozen different airplanes, and I could only fly one."



STEPHAN BOURQUE



JOHN CLARK



DICK BROWN

# Memorial Day activities



Navy junior cadets advance the colors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.



Umbrellas were the order of the day at Fort Snelling on Memorial Day.



Graves were neatly decorated at the Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Little Falls.



Department President Jean Walker and Commander Darrel Redepenning placed wreaths at Fort Snelling.



Dignitaries gathered at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis on Memorial Day.

## Vets enjoy a day on the turkey trail



**TURKEY SHOOT** — Commander Darrel Redepenning poses with some successful shooters at the 2019 Disabled Vets Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley.



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Help for veterans  
and families

# The vet who became a vet

By Al Zdon

When Jack Register decided he wanted to join the National Guard in Stillwater he was only 17.

His motives weren't necessarily patriotic.

"They had a good basketball team, and they would travel around the state. I wanted to play basketball with them."

But first, as a minor, he had to get permission from his parents. Register approached his dad and got turned down in quick order.

"So I went to my mom. She was always a soft touch. So she signed my papers, but she told me, 'You're going to be sorry.'

"I told my mom that she didn't have to worry. World War II was over. The world was at peace. But she said I'd be sorry. I guess she was right."

Two years later he found himself firing mortar shells at the Chinese army in the hills of Korea.

Register was born in 1931 and grew up in Stillwater. "We were poor. My dad worked in a shoe factory. I delivered papers for a long time. Those damn hills in Stillwater nearly killed me."

By his own admission, he was a terrible student. "My mom always wanted to have a scholar. Every day I would dutifully bring home a stack of books and put them on the kitchen table. And the next morning I would haul them back to school, untouched."

Out of 140 in his class at Stillwater High School, he was 30th from the bottom.

"I was also kind of a hell raiser. We didn't have drugs or any of that stuff, but we liked to have fun. My dad was bawling me out one time about my behavior, and I asked him, 'Well, how did you do in school?'"

Register did excel at sports, though, and played for both the basketball and football teams. "I was a five foot eleven and one-half inch forward and center in basketball. I took a beating from the elbows, but I enjoyed it a lot."

Despite his academic career, Register was determined to go to college, and he had a discussion with his high school principal. "I told him I was torn between going to the University of Minnesota or to River Falls. He laughed and laughed and laughed. He told me I'd better pick River Falls because I'd never last at the University."

Register took that as a challenge. "It was a turning point for me. I was determined to get through the University of Minnesota come hell or high water. All I got at the University was A's. It was the first time in my life that I'd really studied."

And on one weekend a month, he would do his time for the National Guard. For two weeks, he would do his duty at Camp Ripley. "I liked the Guard. The extra money was good, and I liked the guys."

In his sophomore year at the "U," the nation of North Korea invaded the nation of South Korea, and Register's life changed. Seven from his unit of the National Guard were activated in December, 1951. It was 30 below zero when the train left St. Paul for Camp Rucker, Alabama.

One day he was a student, and a few days later he was a sergeant, training new draftees on the intricacies of the M-2 4.2-inch heavy mortar. Register had become an expert on the weapon in the Minnesota Guard.

"The new guys hated us. We were the same age, but I was a sergeant. Rank came easy in the National Guard, but not in the regular army. So here was this 20-year-old sergeant telling them what to do."

He said that the regular army was also a culture shock for the Minnesota boys. "There were no blacks in Stillwater, but the Army was full of black soldiers. We had to be careful about what we said."

He said that one time on the practice range, a shell was fired from Register's mortar, but it was defective and exploded about 20 feet after leaving the weapon. "It just sprayed us with shrapnel. Almost everybody was hit. But I

just happened to be standing behind a guy, and he caught a piece of shrapnel right in the testicles. I never got a scratch. The whole time I was in the service, it was like Someone was looking after me."

Register heard rumors that he and others might be sent to Korea, but figured his job as a trainer was too important. He was wrong.

"We went over on a Navy ship, and it took two weeks. The first few days, the weather was really bad and everybody was sick. You couldn't walk up the steps without slipping because they were covered with vomit."

The seas became calmer, and some of the Army passengers turned to poker to pass the time. "They wanted us to do KP and that stuff, but we resisted. I mean, what were they going to do to punish us, send us to war?"

Despite the fact that both his grandfather and father had been professional poker players at one time, the skills were not passed on to the third generation. "I was a terrible poker player. By the time we got to Japan, I owed about \$400 and that was a lot of money in those days. But then the guys sort of said, 'We're going to war, and who cares about money?' So they all tore up their IOUs."

The ship reached Japan and the troops were put on another ship that brought them to the Pusan Peninsula, at the southern tip of Korea. It was November of 1951.

The war by this time had gone through several massive back-and-forth movements and had settled into a more-or-less static line along the 38th parallel.

Register was assigned to the 15th "Can Do" Regiment of the Third Division which was famous World War II hero Audie Murphy's unit. Register was informed of that distinction as soon as he arrived.

He was sent to the front lines adjacent to Hill 266, usually called "Old Baldy" by the soldiers. The hill was hotly contested by both the Americans and the Chinese, who had entered the war by this time, and it was captured and re-captured many times as the war dragged on.

"My first day in Korea, I reported to the 15th, but it had been pulled off the line for a little rest. This guy came up

*Jack Register of Stillwater was a mortar man in the hills of Korea near the key high ground called Old Baldy. After leaving the service, he went back to the University of Minnesota and became a large-animal veterinarian*



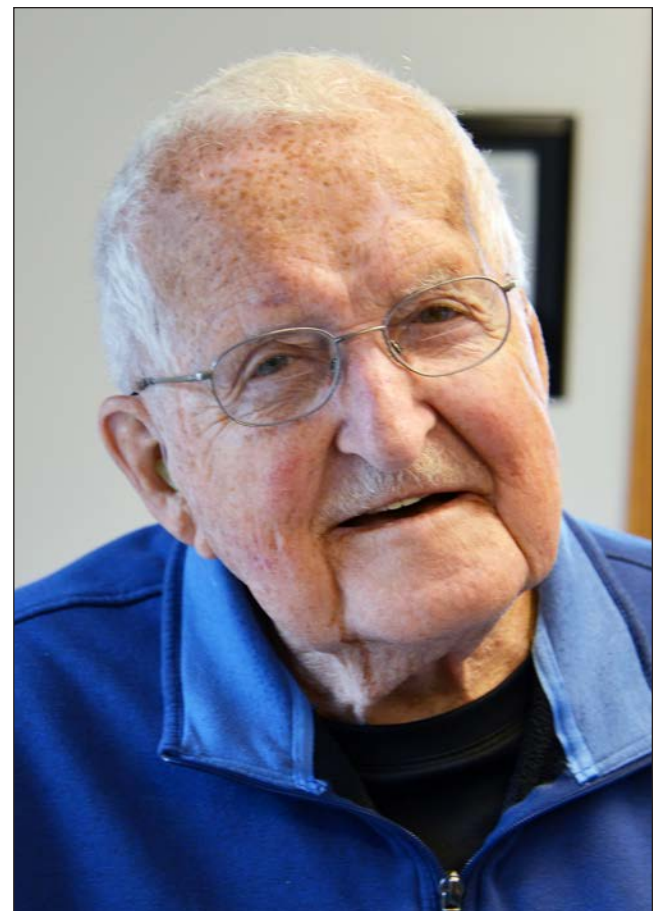
and said, 'Are you from Minnesota?' I said I was, and he said he was from North Dakota.

"He said he wanted to go for a hike and see the countryside, but he wanted somebody to go with him and so I said I would. We took along our guns and some grenades and we climbed this hill. There was an opening at the top, but he said he was tired and I should go on.

"I hadn't gone very far when I heard this tremendous explosion. I ran back, and he was laying on the ground with his left leg completely blown off. Lucky for him, the explosion had stopped the bleeding."



**JACK REGISTER**  
Serving in Korea



**JACK REGISTER**  
At his veterinary business in Menomonie, WI

It turned out the soldier had sat down on a rock and detonated an anti-personnel mine that had been placed as a booby trap by the American Army.

"He was calm as hell, and told me I should get some help. So I ran all the way down the hill, and then I had to run all the way up the hill again to show the medics where he was.

"That was my first day in Korea. I was lucky I wasn't the one who sat on the rock."

A typical day for Register was to get up very early and make contact with the patrols that were going out that day. He usually was the sergeant in charge of the fire control center, a tent where the firing of the mortars was controlled.

The first thing was to make sure they knew exactly where they were at and so they would plot their location on a map. From that they could figure out where to send the mortars shells when needed.

"If a patrol got in trouble, they would call their location in. Often, there were Chinese all around them. On the radio you could hear the rifles and the machine guns going off.

"They would call in their position, knowing that we probably couldn't land one exactly on top of them. Plus they would protect themselves by digging in."

The mortars were often firing from three or four miles away.

"We would land one on one side, and then one on another side. And they would tell us if we were on target."

To this day, Register is amazed that while they were firing off mortars all day long on some days, nobody wore anything to protect their ears from the deafening noise. "We never even thought about it."

Several times a month, the enemy would fire back with mortar rounds. "One time a round came in, and we all jumped in a hole. I had five guys on top of me as the rounds went off all around us. I never heard so many 'Hail Marys' and other prayers from the guys on top of me. And then when it was all over, and they crawled out of the hole, I never heard so much swearing."

The Americans couldn't figure out how the Chinese could locate their position on the far side of the hill so accurately, especially since they often changed positions. And then they found out a Korean boy who was a helper in the camp was signaling the Chinese with a mirror. "We didn't see that boy around anymore."

Both sides in this deadly "stalemate" in the war would hunker down on the far side of hills. "The artillery would just go over everybody's head, so the mortars were the best weapon in the war. We could hit the far side of the hills. The Chinese and North Koreans were good at mortars and artillery, but we were better."

His unit supported several attempts to retake Baldy. He said that in his area, there were American, British and Turkish troops. He said that both sides in the war admired the Turks.

"When the Chinese would see that it was the Turks coming up the hill, they would just give up and run away. If it was the Americans or the British, they would fight to the last man."

Register and the others were in awe of the fighting spirit of the Turkish soldiers. "If they were sending out a nine-man patrol, the tenth guy would get in a fight because he wasn't going to get to go. I remember one time a Turkish soldier came in with a deep cut from his shoulder to his butt. He walked into the medical tent all by himself."

Register, who also served as a forward observer for the mortars, said his closest call was when he and another soldier were traveling by Jeep through a valley. "The Chinese had the crossroads in this valley locked in, and as we went past the crossroads, a mortar hit five seconds behind the Jeep. If we'd been just a little slower, it would have been all over. But that's the way things happen."

One particular exercise in caution was when his unit found that another unit on the far side of the valley was going to get hot food for Thanksgiving. Much thought was given to crossing the valley, but self preservation won out.

"So we sat there and watched them eat their hot turkey while we had our K-rations."

His second winter in Korea was better he said, because the Army was more prepared. "The first winter was hell, especially for the guys from the South. They just froze their butts off. The second winter we had better clothing and equipment."

During his tour, Register earned one five-day rest in Japan. "They called it R&R for rest and recuperation, but the guys called it I&I for intoxication and intercourse. We stayed in a hotel in Tokyo, and one day they wouldn't let us out because there were some demonstrations against the United States."

Register was slated to serve eight months in Korea, but when his time was up he never got orders home. "They told me they had lost my paperwork, and that I'd have to stay until they found them. And so I stayed for three more months. I can see losing somebody's paperwork, but three months?"

Register wonders if the Army just wanted to keep him in Korea because he was good at his job. "When I got out of the Army, my DD-214 said I had served a three-month



Register, second from left, and his buddies get ready to depart Stillwater for Fort Rucker in September of 1951.



Register gets a haircut in Korea from PFC Brown of North Dakota.



Preparing for a five-day R&R in Tokyo in May, 1952, the troops get a moral message from the chaplain in Seoul.



Off duty, Register walks down a Korean road.



The troops walk the streets in Tokyo as part of a five-day rest and recuperation. Note the difference in size between the GIs and the Japanese civilians.



Sandbags held the 4.2 inch mortar in place as Register's unit prepares to fire on the Chinese enemy.

'involuntary extension.'

Again, it was a two-week trip back on a ship, and then the group was sent to Colorado Springs. "I've never understood, but they brought us back from Korea and just set us loose in Colorado Springs. We were just a bunch of animals."

First Sergeant Register was let out three months early on his two-year activation, and went right back to the University. He had chosen veterinary medicine as his career. "I had read a book called Circus Doctor and I said, holy cow, that's really interesting."

He applied and was one of 500 candidates for 50 slots in veterinary school. "I'm sure my service helped me out, but I got selected."

Even with the GI Bill, Register continued to work jobs to stay afloat. "I had a great job with the railroad, but I would work eight-hour shifts at night. I learned how to sleep standing up. The money was good, but I had to give it up. I couldn't work all night and do school all day."

He met his wife, Eileen, at a dance at the Prom Ballroom in St. Paul. The two had six children, 18 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren with one on the way.

He began school in 1953 and graduated in 1957. He looked around Wisconsin for a place to set up a practice, and picked Menomonie, partly because two of his uncles had farms in the area.

He started a single doctor practice in 1957, and in 1960 hired another veterinarian. Over the years, it became a six-doctor practice serving over 600 farms in the area. "When I wanted to retire, I hoped someone would buy me out, but it didn't happen."

In the end, he quit his large-animal practice in 1988 and began a business that sold a "drench gun" for forcing liquid medications into cows. They also made medications. It was mainly aimed at small farmers so they could do their own medical work.

The business is still going, and Register at 88 goes to work every day. "They don't let me do anything, but I still like going to work."

He stayed in shape over the years and one year he decided to enter the American Birkebeiner, the famous cross-country ski race in Wisconsin. But there was no snow that winter, and he was struggling to get into racing shape.

"A friend of mine suggested that I start running. I hated running. I thought it was boring as hell."

But run he did. "Then it was suggested that I run in a marathon. I said, 'Are you crazy. Run for 26 miles?' But I did. I ran three marathons that year. I've run 18 marathons since I turned 50, including the Boston Marathon."

Staying in shape has its benefits. Last year, Register had open heart surgery where they put in four bypasses and a new aortic valve. "My doctor said that he normally wouldn't do that operation on an 87-year-old because it was just too hard on the body. But he said I was in such good shape, I could take it. I healed up good."

He and Eileen make their home in Menomonie.

"It's been a great life. We had a good practice, and I'm still working."



Register computes the trajectory of a mortar round on the graphic firing table as Lt. Owens mans the radio.



On Dec. 24, 1951, Register kneels by letters spelling out "Merry Christmas."



Register got a good look at his future occupation as a Korean cow pees while plowing.



Register looks at the camera during a USO show featuring Betty Hutton in February of 1952 at majom-ni. Troops from Belgium are on his left.



Dr. Jack Register shows how to use his patented drench gun on a customer. Register's business aims mainly at small farmers, and many of his sales are in Canada.



Register shows off the size of the 4.2 inch heavy mortar shell.



Slick Ciszewski, SFC Fonand, Lt. Owens and Register pose by the graphic firing table.

# District Commanders

## FIRST DISTRICT

Gary Miller  
Commander



Legion Family:

Well the 1st District 100th Convention is over, thank you to Stewartville Post 164 for hosting a great convention. Everything was great except the weather. Meeting rooms were good, meals great and your personnel were most accommodating on every level. And that goes for the whole Convention Committee also (too many to name).

We will have almost a new slate of officers, next year. Thanks to all those that stepped forward. It shows that the younger ones do want the Legion to continue, and I thank them for that.

Now, like I said before, get those CPR and Officer Reports as well as all other reports in on time, not just now but all the time when they are due. (Yes sometimes the State is late too.) Your being late doesn't help.

State Convention is coming up fast and some of these need to be in before that. Speaking of Sate Convention, if you plan on attending you had better get your reservation in. I hear rooms are going fast. I hope to see most of you at the convention. I'm not retiring just slowing down a bit. Still see ya at some rallies and other state events.

## SECOND DISTRICT

Cindy Brunk  
Commander



Hello American Legion Family,

Barbecues, family gatherings, graduations, and many other events have kept everyone busy over the past week-end, and along with those, many, many Memorial Day activities. In this hustle and bustle world, some people may have forgotten the reason for this holiday, and it is important to remember and celebrate this solemn occasion, and to do so for years into the future. Continue to remember and honor those who have given their lives for our freedoms, and continue to share the importance of Memorial Day with others, through programs, graveside services, and parades. Thank you to everyone in the American Legion Family for remembering our Veterans this past Memorial Day and everyday.

Summer with a little too much rain will soon be here, mark you calendar and plan to participate in the following events.

June 5th Wednesday, Veterans Picnic east side resort by Round Lake, MN starts at 9:00am. Bring a salad or dessert, and or fishing pole or just come and ride along on the pontoon with our Veterans from the Luverne Veterans Home.

June 7th Friday, MN Veterans Home-Luverne, 25th Anniversary Open House 10:00am start.

June 7-8th 2nd District Convention, Pipestone, MN.

June 14th Friday, 7:10pm Legion Family Day at the Minnesota Twins call 612-659-4083 for tickets.

Please continue to send in membership, CPR Report, and your Officers Report, thank you.

Thank you to everyone who came to my testimonial. Special thanks to the Brewster Post, Round Lake Post, Denny and Diane Strassburg and everyone that made that day a day to remember. It was so special to me and a lot of fun. I appreciated everything especially my Atlas from Floyd and Judy Kumerow.

Thank you all for your service.

## FOURTH DISTRICT

Lane Stunkel  
Commander



Greetings Fabulous 4th District.

Thank you for renewing your memberships and thanks to the new members of the 4th District, as of bulletin 45, the 4th District is at 92.903%, congratulations – everyone pat yourself on the back for a great year.

Keep these dates in mind:

— District Convention – June 8th, Doors open at 8AM Convention starts at 9AM, N St Paul Post 39

— VA Visitation – June 16th 1PM, met at the VAMC

— Legion Family Day at the Minnesota Twins – Friday June 14th at 7:10PM, tickets can be purchased by calling 612-659-4083

— Department Convention – July 11-13, Willmar

I am humbled and honored to have served as your Commander of the Fabulous 4th District these past two years. Together we all serve Veterans, Service Members and their families, and we all provide some support to our local communities, churches, schools and non-profit organizations.

I want to thank the entire 4th District Family for your

support and confidence, we all worked together to make the 4th the best in Minnesota.

God bless each and every one of you of the 4th District American Legion Family and please keep our ailing members in your prayers. Thank you all for everything you do in your Post and Community, and all of the Volunteer work you do. God bless America.

## SEVENTH DISTRICT

Jeffrey Gay  
Commander



As stated by U.S. Navy Admiral William McRaven you should begin your day by simply "making your bed, [is] your first accomplishment of the day"... You need to listen to the poignant commencement speech delivered by the Admiral

ADM McRaven a retired US Navy Admiral who last served as the ninth commander of the US Special Operations Command, Aug 8, 2011 to Aug 28, 2014. The crowning achievement of his 37 years as a Navy SEAL was that of commander of the operation of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound. He has since retired.

Hear and see this speech at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxBQLFLei70](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxBQLFLei70).

In Navy SEAL training "All you have to do is ring the bell to get out," McRaven said. "If you want to change the world, don't ever, ever ring the bell."

Actually changing the world is not something we generally think about individually but consider this. Everything we do has an impact, big or small, on the world around us and essentially that impacts even further as you have planted the idea and others continue the discussion or the task.

As a Legion member we have the opportunity to change many lives for the better, we just have to make the effort, we merely have to begin by "making our bed" and beginning each day with that. Once that's done we have the rest of the day to do many other things which compliment that one task every day. In other words, don't languish in inaction, get out there and change your world and that of our American Legion. This is the only way we will grow and continue to "be."

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

Wilbur Swanson  
Commander



Greetings to the 8th District family. I hope the white stuff is finally gone and we can have some good weather!

We will have had our District Convention by the time you read this. I hope we get a good turnout from our posts. We continue to encourage attention to membership by making contact with those members who have not renewed. All members should look for prospects to join The American Legion. We need to get out the information on all of the many programs we have which are available to our members. Let us make our centennial year a memorable one so we can look forward to another 100 years.

I know that there are many functions scheduled for Memorial Day and I hope they all go well. I expect many of us will have made visits to cemeteries to place flags and visit family members. It is important to remember those who have served and have gone, and to remember those who have made the supreme sacrifice for us to enjoy the freedoms that we have today. We are thankful for all that we have as we continue to support our country and veterans.

God bless the USA and the American Legion family.

## NINTH DISTRICT

Arlo Rude  
Commander



Greetings,

The 9th District Convention is June 8th, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Detroit Lakes Post 15. I encourage all 9th District Posts to have representation. The Executive Committee will meet June 7th at 5:00 p.m. at the Detroit Lakes Post.

My year as Commander is ending. It has been a pleasure serving this year. Thanks to all District Officers and Committee Chairman for volunteering to serve and completing the work of the District.

Enjoy the summer.

For God and Country  
[post117commander@mncable.net](mailto:post117commander@mncable.net)

# Officers honored by Minnesota Legion

Continued from Page 1

patrol officer and a bike patrol officer.

He has been employed by Mounds View since 2011. He came directly from his service in the Army to the police department and he also served as a field training officer.

Garland has his BA in criminology from the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He is married, and he and his wife, Kelly, have a daughter.

He is a member of Eagle Brook Church in Anoka, and is a member of the Minnesota Warriors hockey team, a group of former veterans.

He has won numerous commendations including the Mounds View Police Department Team Spirit Award.

Garland had served a 22-month combat deployment to Iraq.

"I can't think of any single officer that has had more of an impact on their community or one so deserving of this award," said Nate Harder, chief of Mounds View Police.

Garland was sponsored by Lino Lakes Post 566.

Heinen has been a firefighter for 21 years. He began his career with the Stacy Fire Department and, after he moved to North Branch, with that city's fire department for the past 11 years.

He and his wife have two daughters.

He has used his experience to become North Branch's training officer.

"He is an example to all firefighters. He has done a great job to use his experience to encourage, motivate and prepare our new firefighters," said Keven Grote, North Branch Fire Department Chief.

Heinen was sponsored by North Branch Post 85.

# Lawmakers pass veterans legislation

Continued from Page 1

an increase to the amount available annually to our C.O.R.E. program.

Policy language in S.F. 10 includes the establishment of:

□ POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September each year),

□ Veterans Suicide Awareness Day (first Saturday of every October),

□ American Allies Day (June 30 of each year), and,

□ Hmong Special Guerrilla Units Remembrance Day (May 14)

This bill also authorizes County Veterans Service Officers to communicate with County Assessors to disclose private data to determine eligibility for the disabled Veteran Homestead Market Value Exclusion.

Finally, S.F. 10 includes \$100,000 in one-time funding for the Armed Forces Service Center remodeling project at MSP airport, and one-time funding for the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial on the State Capitol grounds in the amount of \$150,000.

The Omnibus Tax bill (H.F. 5) included the elimination of the 8-year expiration of the surviving spousal benefit of the disabled Veteran Homestead Market, as well as changes to the application date (from July to Dec 15) and the permissibility of sharing info between CVSOs and Assessors. No one-time transferability (no downsizing) was included.

Ben Johnson, the Legislative Director of the MDVA said there was some disappointment that the Legislature did not pass any justice-involved veterans policy, did not expand Veterans courts language, and did not renew funding for the Veterans Defense Project.

# Spring storms bring need for NEF grants

Spring storms are bringing severe flooding and tornadoes to parts of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, and other severe weather is hitting the Midwest. The heavy rains are flooding homes and closing roads. In times like this, The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) is available to assist those in need.

NEF grants provide immediate financial assistance for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members who have been affected by the natural disaster. Legion posts also qualify. The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for Legion and SAL members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

Donations to NEF can be made online at [www.legion.org/donate](http://www.legion.org/donate).

To apply for an NEF grant or to learn more, please visit [www.legion.org/nef](http://www.legion.org/nef).

## Vietnam War Roundtable

## The Minnesota connection at a key battle



**JOHN MORRIS**  
Retired Chaplain



**RICK NASH**  
Retired Adjutant General

By Al Zdon

The Battle of Suoi Tre, where an American firebase was attacked and nearly overwhelmed by a Viet Cong regiment in 1967, had a remarkable Minnesota connection.

The commander of the artillery regiment at Fire Support Base Gold was Lt. Col. John Vessey of Minnesota, who would later go on to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Many of the troops who came to the rescue of the besieged fire base were from Minnesota.

The Battle of Suoi Tre was the subject of the May meeting of the Vietnam War Roundtable at Concordia University in St. Paul.

A description of the battle was provided by retired Col. John Morris, a former Army chaplain who is writing a book on Vessey. Retired Adjutant Gen. Rick Nash provided insight into Vessey's leadership, and seven Minnesota veterans described their participation in the army and in the battle.

Morris said the battle evolved from a new U.S. policy in Vietnam where the U.S. forces went from defense to offense. The manpower in the Southeast Asian country had been ramped up to 350,000. "We were going to take it to the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese as much as we could."

The overall plan was called Operation Junction City. It was hoped two huge American forces moving south could trap the enemy between them.

Both sides were spoiling for a big battle.

Vessey was the executive officer of the 25th Division artillery, but was transferred to be the acting commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 77th Artillery Regiment for Junction City.

"He was a well-known officer. He had spent 517 days in combat with the 34th Division during World War II. He was a top man," Morris said. "Col. Garth (the brigade leader) wanted Vessey. He knew something was about to happen."

On March 19, 1967, three sets of helicopters tried to land in a clearing surrounded by a tree line. The enemy had placed remote controlled explosives in the clearing, knowing it was a likely landing spot, and three helicopters were destroyed, six more damaged, and 15 men killed during the touch down.

"The enemy had a game plan, and we are going right into the battle they had planned."

In later years, Morris said Vessey said he did not have "special information" about the mission. In other words, it's possible that the establishment of the fire base was used as bait to draw the enemy into battle.

Morris said his research has also found that the enemy force, a regiment of Viet Cong, had likely been reinforced

by North Vietnamese regular army forces.

By March 21, the Fire Support Base Gold had been established, and Vessey had worked the previous day to improve the perimeter defense. The base contained 18 105 mm howitzers that would be used to support other "search and destroy" missions by Americans nearby.

The fire base was about 500 meters by 450 meters, perhaps the size of a dozen football fields, and it contained about 450 men. "They didn't know there were 5,000 enemy waiting in the tree line."

At 4:30 a.m. on that day, an American patrol reported activity in the tree line and Vessey got his men up and about. The attack began at 6:30, and the patrol was quickly ambushed and wiped out.

The first enemy mortars hit close to the battalion headquarters. By the end of the battle, the VC would launch 650 rounds into the clearing.

"By 7 a.m., the battle was in full fury."

Areas of the American perimeter began to fall to the enemy. "The infantry perimeter had been pushed back and the enemy was now to the artillery perimeter." The airplane that was directing American fire at the enemy was shot down. "It was a bad day getting worse."

In addition to the shells, the artillery also had 36 "beehive" rounds that it began to fire at the enemy point blank, the guns depressed to zero elevation. Each beehive round had 8,000 little steel missiles, like nails.

Morris said Vessey was supposed to get permission to use the beehive rounds, but in the heat of battle, he opted to use them and seek permission later.

The enemy was about 15 meters from the perimeter in most cases, and had reached a position only five meters from the battalion aid station.

At one point, a large American machine gun was captured by the VC, but before it could be turned around and used against the U.S. forces, it was blown away by a round from an American howitzer.

When the beehive rounds were exhausted, the howitzers began firing high explosives into the oncoming enemy.

American planes attacked the enemy in the tree line and within 50 meters of the perimeter.

Col. Garth, the brigade commander, was circling above the battle in his helicopter and twice called Vessey by radio as the battle raged. After the second call, Vessey responded, "Don't call me again, I'm extremely busy."

By 9 a.m. the fire base was running out of ammunition. Vessey later estimated that they had perhaps five minutes left.

Meanwhile, the infantry units that had been landed at the fire base had turned around and were coming back to the battle.

Just at 9 a.m., the relief column from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry broke through the enemy lines and reinforced the perimeter. The 2nd Battalion of the 22nd Infantry was slowed by the need to cross a river, but arrived shortly afterwards.

The VC continued to attack, with soldiers sometimes helping those who had been wounded earlier to the front to fight some more.

In the end, though, the fire power of the Americans was dominant. By 9:30, the original perimeter had been re-established, by 10 a.m. the dust-off helicopters arrived to take out the wounded, and by 10:45 the battle was over.

The final body count found 647 of the enemy outside the perimeter. Large trenches were dug, and the bodies were buried. The Americans suffered 36 killed.

Morris concluded that the Vessey-led defense had been fierce. "Anybody who said that draftees can't fight wasn't in South Vietnam in 1967."

In later interviews, Vessey was asked by Morris if he had been overrun and needed rescuing. He replied, "Chaplain, we weren't rescued, we were just reinforced. It was a sporty

day."

Morris persisted, and noted that the field kitchen had almost been taken. Vessey said, "That's because our cooks were so good. We weren't overrun because I'm here to tell about it."

Gen. Rick Nash, a close friend of Vessey's in the later years, told the Roundtable that Vessey was "Minnesota's own national treasure. He was a mentor, teacher and friend."

Nash noted that Vessey, who had risen up from the ranks, had an "unshakable integrity. He never forgot what it was like to be an enlisted man, to be a regular GI. He was gentle, kind and selfless."

The seven veterans all lived in Minnesota and had been drafted into the Army, had gone through training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and had served in the units that rescued or reinforced the firebase that day in 1967.

Doug Bekke, the moderator, asked each about their situation when they got drafted.

Jeff Klein, who served in the 2/12 as a machine gunner, said his goal after high school was to "get a car and have fun on the streets. I didn't know anything about the draft or Vietnam."

Dennis Defiel, who served in the 2/22, said that he got his draft notice exactly the same day as his friend who lived across the street.

Bekke asked about Fort Lewis.

Klein said, "We had some of the best trainers. We had Green Berets and Rangers and West Point men. Something big was coming, and it was very intense. We spent all day training. I fired 10,000 rounds firing that machine gun from the hip until I could fire it with either hand."

Bruce Peterson of the 2/12 said he thought his drill sergeant was a jerk, and he resisted the training. "But once we were in Vietnam, we turned into a unit."

John Mersinger of the 2/22, said the Minnesotans bonded at Fort Lewis.

Joe Fernlund, 2/12th mortar man, said his instructor was small. "He had the alligator mouth and the hummingbird butt. He could scare me enough to pee in my pants."

Bob Holmstrom, who did recon in the 2/12, said the training made sure the recon men were physically fit. "We took care of each other."

George Dahl, a squad leader in 2/22, noted that the trip over on a ship was miserable and took 23 days. Fernlund said the men called it the "love boat from hell."

At the battle, Klein observed that he thought Col. Garth was a scatterbrain. "I never liked him. I never liked his little helicopter."

Holmstrom said that when his unit was set to be flown into the firebase, they noticed that some helos from a previous trip didn't come back. When they got there, he said he noticed a deer in the grass. "It was actually a forward observer for the VC. I was going to take a picture, but then I noticed there was a scorpion on my machete. When I looked up the deer was gone, but I got a good picture of the scorpion."

Peterson said that when the orders came to go back to the firebase, they took a different route than they had used heading into the forest. He said they could hear the battle going on.

Klein remembered the air support. "Those jets were coming in at 600 miles per hour. They were blowing the h-e-l-l out of everything."

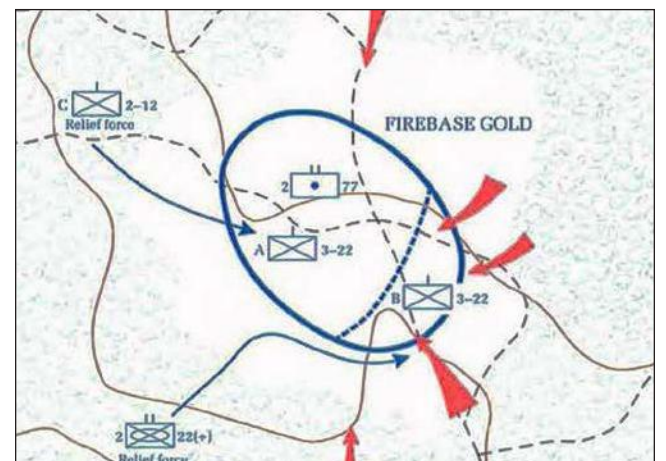
Dahl, who was in charge of an armored personnel carrier, said there were 28 "tracks" in his unit. He said that on the way back to the fire base, his track got hung up on a termite mound.

Dahl also said there was no river that the 2/22 had to cross.

Mersinger said that when they approached the perimeter, they didn't fire because they couldn't tell where the enemy or the U.S. troops were. "We didn't fire because we didn't know. We came in amongst the enemy."



Seven veterans from Minnesota who fought at the Battle of Suoi Tre in Vietnam in 1967 told of their experiences in the action. From left: George Dahl, Bob Holmstrom, Joe Fernlund, Dennis Defiel, Moderator Doug Bekke, John Mersinger, Bruce Peterson, Jeff Klein.



From "Taking the Offensive" by George MacGarrible

# Listening Post

# News from around the State



**TYLER CERTIFICATE** — Les Sanderson of Tyler Post 185 recently received his 60-year certificate of membership. He served in the Coast Guard in WWII.



**EAGAN FLAG RETIREMENT** — Eagan Post 594 Color Guard retired the flag at the School of Environmental Studies and donated a new, larger flag.



**NORTH BRANCH HONOR** — Shannon Stepp, left, of North Branch Post 85, was honored for 45 years of membership. Attending were his grandson, Ryan Stephens and Post Commander Rick Hals.



**OUTSTANDING ENLISTED MAN** — U.S. Coast Guard Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Grant Larson was unable to be present to receive his Outstanding Enlistedman Award at the Fall Conference. It was presented to him in Duluth by Eight District Commander Gene Swanson, NS/FR Committee Member Curt Norenberg, and Department Vice Commander Jennifer Havlick.



**WOODBURY AWARDS** — Woodbury Post 501 and the Woodbury VFW had a joint awards program. Veterans Service Awards were presented to Washington County CVSOs Ryan Carufel, left, and Thalassa Gunelius, right. They were presented by Post Commander Tom Grezek and Vice Commander Bob Dolan.



**BAGLEY CERTIFICATES** — Bagley Post 16 recently honored Joe Boon, Andy Olen and Arnold Sundbom with 50-year certificates. Post Commander Dennis Henkemeyer made the presentations.



**LAKEFIELD 100 YEARS** — Lakefield Post 4 celebrated its 100th birthday recently. Attending were District Commander Cindy Brunk and Vice Commander Jim Hunt.



**NORWOOD YOUNG AMERICA PARTY** — The Auxiliary of Norwood Young America Post 343 celebrated a Valentine's Party with 14 members attending.



**SAVAGE PARTY** — The Savage Auxiliary Unit 643 hosted its annual Valentine's Party with children making Valentines, playing games, getting prizes and using a photo booth. They also had food and a bake sale was held.

# State Legion Bowling Tournament results for 2019

## Auxiliary Team

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	40 Lanesboro	Gwen Harmon Ronda Flattum Sharon Post Dawn Vogen	2515	\$200
2	377 Delano	Bonnie Bradenberg Carol Daniels Brandi Henning Jan Henning	2505	\$150
3	85 North Branch	Betty Boatman Kelly Fedun Sherri Pierce Shari Carlson	2495	\$68
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$418</b>

## Auxiliary Singles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	377 Delano	Brandi Henning	737	\$179
2	1 Minneapolis	Cari Lamb	712	\$125
3	334 Coon Rapids	Kathy Mead	699	\$75
4	164 Stewartville	Julie Fischer	687	\$25
5	40 Lanesboro	Sue Lance	679	\$20
6	112 Elk River	Emily Kappel	677	\$20
7	94 Rushford	Andrea Hoheisel	676	\$20
8	418 Hamline	Angie Perrizo-Salaba	672	\$20
9	254 Sauk Rapids	Karen Kramer	664	\$20
10	39 N St Paul	Laurie Burns	658	\$10
11	320 Hopkins	Deb Carlson	643	\$10
12	40 Lanesboro	Lori Anderson	641	\$10
13	6 Pipestone	Jenny Masters	639	\$10
14	428 Waite Park	Linda Williams	636	\$10
15	507 Mahtomedi	Meg Peterson	633	\$5
15	333 Kasson	Rhonda Rhodes	633	\$5
15	377 Delano	Angela Winterhalter	633	\$5
18	507 Mahtomedi	Jackie Lagoon	631	\$5
18	94 Rushford	Kallie Carlson	631	\$5
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$579</b>

## Auxiliary All Events

Placing	Post	Name	Final	Payout
1	377 Delano	Brandi Henning	2074	\$47
2	418 Hamline	Angie Perrizo-Salaba	2008	\$30
3	6 Pipestone	Jenny Masters	2002	\$20
4	39 N. St Paul	Laurie Burns	1983	\$10
5	333 Kasson	Rhonda Rhodes	1953	\$5
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$112.00</b>

## Auxiliary Doubles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	377 Delano	Jan Henning Brandi Henning	1361	\$175
2	428 Waite Park	Kelly Williams Linda Williams	1360	\$120
3	333 Kasson	Deb Ruport Rhonda Rhodes	1344	\$70
4	292 Richmond	Norma Tramm Cindy Goepford	1300	\$50
5	85 North Branch	Shari Carlson Sherri Pierce	1283	\$20
6	94 Rushford	Kallie Carlson Deb Carlson	1269	\$20
7	94 Rushford	Kristine Hobland Andrea Hoheisel	1246	\$10
8	254 Sauk Rapids	Karen Kraemer Judy Cagle	1242	\$10
<b>Total</b>				<b>475</b>

## Legion Team

Placing	Post	Name	Total	Payout
1	418 Hamline	Joe Uzpen Harry Peka Angie Perrizo-Salaba Steve Broberg	2751	\$608
2	132 New Ulm	Sheldon Pearse Darin Zanke Brad Reinhart Mike Pearse	2653	\$504
3	255 Brainerd	Darrel Johnson Dave Johnson Dan Johnson Ron Mickevicius	2651	\$400
4	328 St. Joseph	Dave Loso Ron Rennie Mike Twedt Terry Loso	2650	\$200
5	104 Litchfield	Gary Holtz Dave Telecky Matt Bielke Brad Ziegenhagen	2641	\$150
6	104 Litchfield	Don Holtz Rod Nordling Gerald Ide Brandon Karles	2630	\$150
7	577 Arcade Phalen	Jerry Anderson Jim Mrosak Jim Jensen Mike Kotzmacher	2625	\$100
8	85 North Branch	Kristina Farr Glenn Pierce Charlie Hunt Ryan Farr	2609	\$100
9	281 Janesville	Dave Blasing Dave Struck Clinton Rogers Floyd Herme	2598	\$100
10	489 Underwood	Eldy Martin Jim Lindenfesler Al Rochel Glen Anderson	2597	\$100
11	172 Osseo	Robert Mika Gene Prehatney Nate Erickson Steve Erickson	2593	\$100

12	104 Litchfield	Jesse Johnson Brian Ziegenhagen Jack Bruggemier Brad Bruggemier	2579	\$80
13	377 Delano	Joy Stolenberg Angela Winterhalter Pete Larson Chris Daniels	2576	\$80
14	507 Mahtomedi	Jack Eberhard Todd Rogers Ken Lagoon Bob Lagoon	2572	\$80
15	507 Mahtomedi	Mark Morse Meg Peterson Cole Dupre Jacob Bender	2571	\$80
16	320 Hopkins	Larry Muehlberg Craig Taylor Craig Skorheim Deb Carlson	2557	\$80
17	334 Coon Rapids	Steve Wadson Dell Hederman Norbert Konz Kathy Mead	2556	\$40
17	206 Windom	John Madson Ron Alm Fred Meyer Kevin Bristow	2556	\$40
19	164 Stewartville	Peter Fischer Kevin Heydt Wayne Bamlet Brett Bushman	2554	\$40
19	108 Le Center	Dan Stepka Mike Hounder Larry Nelson Bob Weiland	2554	\$40
19	206 Windom	Isaac Glidden Terry Fife Ken Lease Harold Jurrews	2554	\$40
22	94 Rushford	Luther Berge Loren Berge Mike Axtman Mike Monson	2551	\$40
23	132 New Ulm	Bob Roth Bob Lindeman Mike Fahey Dave Brown	2550	\$40
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3192</b>

## Legion Singles

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	104 Litchfield	Matt Bielke	775	\$300
2	320 Hopkins	Craig Skorheim	755	\$200
3	428 Waite Park	Jay VandenEinde	751	\$100
4	94 Rushford	Mike Monson	744	\$75
5	428 Waite Park	Jon Williams	727	\$75
6	418 Hamline	Dennis Ross	723	\$75
7	428 Waite Park	Lance Hengel	723	\$75
8	104 Litchfield	Brad Debolt	721	\$75
9	377 Delano	Chris Daniels	715	\$75
10	206 Windom	Josh Berg	715	\$75
11	507 Mahtomedi	Jacob Bender	714	\$75
12	489 Underwood	Paul Buendiger	708	\$75
13	320 Hopkins	Craig Taylor	707	\$50
14	112 Elk River	Tim Hiller Jr	701	\$50
15	290 Cambridge	Robert Hamlin	698	\$50
16	104 Litchfield	Dan Clark	697	\$50
17	71 W.Duluth	Ron Laliberte	697	\$50
18	104 Litchfield	Brad Bruggemier	696	\$50
19	71 W. Duluth	Ron Holets	693	\$50
20	126 Cosmos	Nathan Frederiksen	692	\$50
21	428 Waite Park	Jerry VandenEinde	692	\$50
22	255 Brainerd	Ted Anderson	691	\$50
23	206 Windom	John Madson	688	\$40
24	290 Cambridge	Jim Hamlin	687	\$40
25	206 Windom	Terry Fife	687	\$40
26	550 Bloomington	Kevin Kick	686	\$40
27	85 North Branch	Rod Boatman	686	\$40
28	112 Elk River	John Wirtz	684	\$40
29	206 Windom	Fred Meyer	684	\$40
30	334 Coon Rapids	Norbert Konz	683	\$40
31	172 Osseo	Calen Girbertson	683	\$30
32	145 Howard Lake	Nicholas Schmitz	680	\$30
33	254 Sauk Rapids	Paul Kuehl	676	\$30
34	290 Cambridge	Brian Hall	675	\$30
35	164 Stewartville	Ty Mullenbach	675	\$30
36	274 Milroy	LeRoy Sik	675	\$30
37	102 Anoka	Tim Gray	674	\$30
38	206 Windom	Brian Kocak	673	\$20
39	255 Brainerd	Ron Mickevicius	671	\$20
40	334 Coon Rapids	Dell Hederman	671	\$20
41	281 Janesville	Dave Blasing	668	\$20
41	108 Le Center	Dan Stepka	668	\$20
43	260 Monticello	Al Schmidt	667	\$20
43	290 Cambridge	Gordy Franz	667	\$20
43	320 Hopkins	Larry Muehlberg	667	\$20
46	320 Hopkins	Gary Kull	666	\$20
47	641 Plato	Ralph Prehn	665	\$20
47	333 Kasson	Dave Leth	665	\$20
47	320 Hopkins	Larry Woods	665	\$20
50	172 Osseo	Robert Mika	664	\$20
51	251 Robbinsdale	Pat Thiner	660	\$20
52	320 Hopkins	Rich Delozier	658	\$20
52	94 Rushford	Jake Highum	658	\$20
54	172 Osseo	Tom Olson	657	\$10
54	206 Windom	Gene Heironmus	657	\$10
56	433 Gaylord	Myron Nelson	655	\$10
56	428 Waite Park	Vern Hieserich	655	\$10
58	377 Delano	Pete Larson	654	\$10
58	489 Underwood	Jim Lindenfesler	654	\$10
58	6 Pipestone	Myron Koets	654	\$10
61	126 Cosmos	Travis Frederiksen	653	\$10
61	206 Windom	Kevin Bristow	653	\$10
63	428 Waite Park	Wes Thompson	651	\$10
64	550 Bloomington	Glen Ramthun	650	\$10
64	85 North Branch	Chris Fedun	650	\$10
64	71 W.Duluth	Ken Holets	650	\$10
67	126 Cosmos	Aarin Frederiksen	649	\$10
68	164 Stewartville	Peter Fischer	648	\$10
68	85 North Branch	Ryan Farr	648	\$10
70	126 Cosmos J	ohn Frederiksen	647	\$10
70	489 Underwood	Larry Overcash	647	\$10
72	6 Pipestone	Gene Spicer	646	\$10
72	206 Windom	Jay Kastner	646	\$10
74	641 Plato	Vernon Wilkens	645	\$5
74	334 Coon Rapids	Steve Wadson	645	\$5
74	164 Stewartville	Brandon Verbout	645	\$5
74	206 Windom	Kevin Ella	645	\$5
78	206 Windom	Ron Alm	643	\$5

## Hamline takes first in Legion team, Auxe champs are from Lanesboro

Hamline Post 418 won The American Legion team championship at the Department of Minnesota Bowling Tournament, held earlier at the Sundance Lanes in Dayton. Lanesboro Unit 40 won the Auxiliary team title.

Bowling for Hamline were Joe Uzpen, Harry Peka, Angie Perrizzo-Salaba and Steve Broberg. They finished with a 2751 total to win by nearly a hundred pins.

Bowling for Lanesboro were Gwen Harmon, Ronda Flattum, Sharon Post, and Dawn Vogen. Their score was 2515.

The singles winner for the Legion was Matt Bielke of Litchfield Post 104 with a total of 775.

For the women, Brandi Henning of Delano Unit 377 rolled a 737 for the singles title.

“The tournament went great,” Bowling Secretary Cari Lamb, said. “Sundance did a wonderful job as usual. Next year we are talking about making it four weeks. So let’s fill the weekends up.”

Lamb, who is the Fifth District President, finished second in the Auxiliary Singles.

There were no 300 games in the tournament, and no Kangaroo winners.

There were four Clean Sweep winners: Mike Pearse, Craig Skorheim, Jace King and Neil Busch.

79	507 Mahtomedi	John Thouwald	642	\$5
80	164 Stewartville	Anthony Lilly	641	\$5
80	274 Milroy	Lydell Sik	641	\$5
82	507 Mahtomedi	Cole Dupre	640	\$5
82	550 Bloomington	Ken Keller	640	\$5
82	164 Stewartville	Tom Mullenbach	640	\$5
85	251 Westphal	Jeff Wendt	638	\$5
85	254 Sauk Rapids	Cliff Anderson	638	\$5
85	172 Osseo	Nate Erickson	638	\$5
85	142 Cannon Falls	Dean Rux	638	\$5
85	132 New Ulm	Darin Zanke	638	\$5
85	108 Le Center	Bob Weiland	638	\$5
85	104 Litchfield	Gerald Ide	638	\$5
85	104 Litchfield	Anthony Carlson	638	\$5
93	164 Stewartville	Wayne Bamlet	637	\$5
94	251 Westphal	Todd Arndt	636	\$5
94	489 Underwood	Eldy Martin	636	\$5
94	85 North Branch	Justin Hunt	636	\$5
97	126 Cosmos	Braedon Lies	635	\$5
98	418 Hamline	Brad Rardin	634	\$5
98	428 Waite Park	Duane Steffes	634	\$5
98	94 Rushford	Luther Berge	634	\$5
98	6 Pipestone	Bob Buffington	634	\$5
102	580 Chanhassen	Paul Differding	633	\$5
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$2,970</b>

## Legion All Events

Placing	Post	Name	Score	Payout
1	104 Litchfield	Matt Bielke	2306	\$103
2	172 Osseo	Nate Erickson	2136	\$75
3	281 Janesville	Dave Blasing	2130	\$50
4	377 Delano	Chris Daniels	2127	\$40
5	320 Hopkins	Craig Skorheim	2121	\$40
5	85 North Branch	Rod Boatman	2121	\$40
7	94 Rushford	Luther Berge	2086	\$30
8	104 Litchfield	Brad Bruggemeier	2083	\$30
9	428 Waite Park	Jay VandenEinde	2054	\$20
10	206 Windom	Ron Alm	2044	\$20
11	172 Osseo	Calen Girbertson	2035	\$20
12	206 Windom	Terry Fife	2026	\$20
13	112 Elk River	John Wirtz	2024	\$20
14	507 Mahtomedi	Jacob Bender	2015	\$10
14	206 Windom	Josh Berg	2015	\$10
16	428 Waite Park	Jon Williams	2014	\$10
17	377 Delano	Pete Larson	2012	\$10
18	164 Stewartville	Wayne Bamlet	2010	\$10
19	320 Hopkins	Gary Kull	2009	\$10
20	255 Brainerd	Ron Mickevicius	2006	\$10
21	255 Brainerd	Dan Johnson	2001	\$5
22	333 Kasson	Marty Sackett	2000	\$5
23	251 Westphal	Scott Arndt	1996	\$5
24	255 Brainerd	Dave Johnson	1994	\$5
25	489 Underwood	Paul Buendiger	1993	\$5
26	428 Waite Park	Jerry VandenEinde	1988	\$5
26	108 Le Center	Bob Wieland	1988	\$5
28	112 Elk River	Timothy Hiller Jr	1987	\$5
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$608.00</b>



# State Legion Bowling 2019



A large contingent from North Branch took to the Lanes at Sundance Bowling in Dayton, the scene of the 2019 state bowling tournament.

## Legion Doubles

Placing	Post	Names	Scores	Payout	
1	104 Litchfield	Matt Bielke Gary Holtz	1561	\$504	
2	320 Hopkins	Craig Skorheim Deb Carlson	1423	\$227	
2	418 Hamline	Jeff Broberg Adam Goetzke	1423	\$227	
4	428 Waite Park	Jay VandenEinde Jerry VandenEinde	1382	\$80	
5	255 Brainerd	Ron Micevicius Dave Johnson	1381	\$80	
6	39 N St Paul	Laurie Burns Ken Coy	1376	\$80	
7	206 Windom	Terry Fife Fred Meyer	1371	\$80	
8	281 Janesville	Floyd Herme Dave Blasing	1364	\$80	
9	172 Osseo	Steven Erickson Nate Erickson	1363	\$80	
10	251 Westphal	Scott Arndt David Wendt	1358	\$80	
11	206 Windom	Jay Kastner Josh Berg	1353	\$80	
12	333 Kasson	Bruce Ludwig Marty Sackett	1352	\$60	
13	132 New Ulm	Darin Zanke Brad Reinhart	1343	\$60	
14	172 Osseo	Calen Gilbertson Robert Wilsey	1334	\$60	
15	85 North Branch	Rod Boatman Chris Fedun	1333	\$60	
16	206 Windom	Gene Heironmus Brian Kocak	1330	\$60	
17	255 Brainerd	Gerry Greenwalt Sonny Klabo	1326	\$60	
18	428 Waite Park	Dick Steffes Duane Steffes	1325	\$60	
18	255 Brainerd	Darrell Johnson Dan Johnson	1325	\$60	
18	6 Pipestone	Myron Koets Chuck Vaux	1325	\$60	
21	418 Hamline	Brad Rardin Bob Broberg	1320	\$50	
22	254 Sauk Rapids	Brandon Reese Aaron Alexander	1312	\$50	
23	418 Hamline	Steve Broberg Pat Meyer II	1311	\$50	
24	40 Lanesboro	Jerry Post Steve Rahn	1305	\$50	
25	40 Lanesboro	Tim Anderson Jim Himli	1301	\$50	
25	274 Milroy	Jordy Beek Lydell Sik	1301	\$50	
27	377 Delano	Chris Daniels Pete Larson	1300	\$40	
28	112 Elk River	John Wirtz Tyler Hiller	1297	\$40	
28	580 Chanhassen	Doug Dare Ken Larson	1297	\$40	
30	164 Stewartville	Brett Bushman Wayne Bamlet	1296	\$40	
31	260 Monticello	Bruce Thibodeau Al Schmidt	1294	\$40	
32	126 Cosmos	John Frederiksen Braedon Lies	1293	\$40	
33	85 North Branch	Jim Hunt Justin Hunt	1291	\$40	
34	112 Elk River	Lenny Wirtz Chad Degroat	1290	\$40	
35	126 Cosmos	Gerald Peterson Aarin Frederiksen	1289	\$20	
35	94 Rushford	Duane Hegland Donny Hegland	1289	\$20	
35	104 Litchfield	David Boll Anthony Carlson	1289	\$20	
38	94 Rushford	Loren Berge Luther Berge	1287	\$20	
39	6 Pipestone	Jenny Massters Bob Buffington	1285	\$20	
40	334 Coon Rapids	Dell Hederman Steve Wadson	1284	\$20	
41	428 Waite Park	Wes Thompson Tom Fernlund	1282	\$20	
42	206 Windom	Nate VanNote Kevin Bristow	1281	\$20	
42	320 Hopkins	Gary Kull Duane Lundquist	1281	\$20	
44	104 Litchfield	Kenneth Koelln Timothy Koelln	1280	\$20	
45	328 St Joseph	Mike Twedt Terry Loso	1279	\$20	
46	251 Westphal	Dave Anderson Pat Thiner	1275	\$20	
47	85 North Branch	Charles Hull Ryan Farr	1274	\$10	
48	112 Elk River	Tim Hiller Sr Timothy Hiller Jr	1273	\$10	
48	94 Rushford	Dalton Kingsley Mike Carlson	1273	\$10	
48	132 New Ulm	Mike Pearse Sheldon Pearse	1273	\$10	
48	104 Litchfield	Brad Ziegenhagen Dave Telecky	1273	\$10	
52	489 Underwood	Jim Lindenfelser Eldy Martin	1272	\$10	
53	71 W.Duluth	Neil Busch Carl Hendrickson	1271	\$10	
54	71 W.Duluth	Chad Huikko Ron Holets	1270	\$10	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3078</b>



Post 1 showed off their matching tee-shirts.



Young and old turned out for the Stewartville Post 164 keggers.



Rushford ladies had a great time at the tournament.



Steve, Harold, Nick and Gary from Howard Lake Post 145 sported patriotic matching shirts.



# The Auxiliary Bulletin

No. 19-11

President Jean Walker

June 2019

Secretary Sandie Deutsch

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

## The President's Column

By  
Jean Walker



Time is flying by.

May was a busy month. Mother's Day dinner in North Branch, a Memorial Service in Nashwauk and our National Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan here for a week-long visit.

Our Department had a great time showcasing to her our Minnesota Veteran's Homes, Legionville, Fort Snelling, and Haven for Heroes. Our American Legion Families did a fantastic job hosting our lunch and dinner stops.

It was a busy four days for our National President Kathy who was impressed with our state. We had a lot of driving time between stops, but we had some fun stopping and seeing some of the sites.

Thank you once again for all your hospitality as we stopped at your Posts.

National President Kathy always said she is a grass roots member and that is what she wanted to do. That is to visit with our members and female veterans.

Then to end the week was my testimonial at Unit 27 in Warren. Thank you to all who attended. I appreciate all of you so much for the gifts, cards, donations to my project, and the cards from those who were not able to attend in person.

It was a busy day for our members with two District Conventions going on the same day and other family events. But in my heart, you all were present. I truly appreciate all your support this last year and I will always remember all the courtesies you extended to me as I traveled.

I also had the honor of placing a wreath at the Fort Snelling Memorial Day program to honor our fallen heroes as the rains came down. You had to think of our fallen heroes of what they went through when they were away protecting our freedom, so the rain did not bother me. Governor Tim Walz was there along with Senator Amy Klobuchar and some great speakers.

After the program was completed, we went to the Minneapolis Veterans Home for a luncheon.

The Memorial Program had a wonderful service with excellent speakers. I will end the month as Guest Speaker at the Memorial Day Program for The American Legion Family Post 35 in Alvarado.

As we remember our Mission Statement: In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad.

So all of us as a TEAM have to keep advocating for our veterans and keep our membership growing so we will be here for the next 100 years. If we are not here, who will be?

Due to prior commitments, I know I will be unable to attend many of the District Conventions and so many are on the same weekend.

I will be attending Girls State as a Counselor the whole week. So please know that I am very proud of all of my ten District Daughters this year.

I will be thinking of all of you as you have your District Conventions. Thank you once again for all you do for our Veterans, their families, our active duty military and our communities. Keep up the great work. God Bless you all and God Bless America.

Always remember our heroes and the sacrifice they made for our freedom.

## Girls State will convene at Bethel University on June 9

The 73rd session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 9, at the Bethel University St. Paul. Some 350 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government.

The Counselors and Staff are looking forward to returning to Bethel this year.

Thank you to all the Units for making this program possible for those young women who will be attending. We are all looking forward to an exciting week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program. Make sure and stay in touch with the citizens you have sponsored so you can report next year in your Annual Reports!

### 2019 POPPY DAYS

The 2019 distribution of poppies was a very huge success thanks to our American Legion families and also those Veterans who made the poppies. A shout out has to go to Ken Goettl from Montgomery who puts together our large poppies. It is quite a task and Kenny makes sure each one is perfect – thank you so much Ken. This year the Department shipped out 282,600 small poppies and 552 dozen large poppies to Units and Posts.

### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The Department Convention is coming up very fast and will be held July 11-13 at the Willmar Conference Center. Information on housing and registration is found in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

Our National Northwestern Division Vice President Barb Vetter will be attending our Convention this year. Barb is from South Dakota. Only 2 delegate and 2 alternate cards were sent to each Unit in the May Unit mailing. If your Unit needs additional delegate and alternate cards for the Department Convention, please contact the department office. Please note: The Department does not have the delegate/alternate cards for district conventions. These must be obtained from your district.

District caucuses will start at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 11, with the Convention being called to order at 9:00 a.m. Following is an abbreviated schedule of events for this year's Convention. A more complete schedule will be in the next issue of the Legionnaire.

Wednesday July 10 - Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 11- Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - District Caucuses Meet at 8:00 a.m. - Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at 11:15 a.m.

Friday, July 12 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 13 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Announcement of Election Results at 10:00 a.m. along with installation of new Officers.

### POPPY CONTESTS

Don't forget to get going on creating your entries for our Poppy contests. Department Poppy Chairman Sharon Baarnes, is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Potted Plant or Terrarium 2) Stuffed Animal. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People's Choice Award, votes by donation with all proceeds going to the President's Project Fund. We all look forward to the beautiful entries and we can never have too many – get your ideas put to reality and bring your creations.

To all of our members, please remember who puts our poppies together – our very own veterans, many of whom are disabled. When you order poppies and get them delivered to your Unit, please check them over before your distribution day and if you are dissatisfied with them, call the Department Office – we will take care of your issues. Don't go through Social Media and post negative posts. We are a strong, positive organization and must stay true to our purpose.

### NATIONAL PRESIDENTS TOUR

The National Presidents Tour was held in May and the attendance by our American Legion Family was just great. President Kathy Dungan was so very gracious and spent time meeting all of the Minnesota family that she could. Kathy was very impressed in visiting the Fergus Falls, Minneapolis and Hastings Veterans Home. We also had time to stop at the St. Cloud VAHCS and had a wonderful tour lead by our Auxiliary Representative Jan Benson. All are very different but yet their mission is the same, serving our Veterans. We also had the opportunity to stop and give President Kathy a "mini-tour" of Legionville. Another highlight was a tour and briefing on the Haven for Heroes Housing project in Anoka. This is also Commander Darrel Redepenning's project this year. Commander Darrel and his wife Donna joined up on the tour. After putting over 1000 miles and having the following American Legion Auxiliary Units hosting our tour group, Litchfield Unit 104, Morris Unit 29, Park Rapids Unit 212, Sauk Centre Unit 67, Waite Park Unit 428, Chanhassen Unit 580 and finishing up with Montgomery Unit 79, the tour was deemed a tremendous success. Many thanks to all of the Units who graciously accepted hosting duties for the tour

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Indiana is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 23 - 29. Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District's representation is based on your District's total membership. If you are elected a delegate or alternate, you will receive a convention mailing from the Department the latter part of June, giving you all the particulars.

If you are elected a delegate or alternate and find you are not able to attend, please notify the department office immediately.

### ST. CLOUD VAHCS

The Auxiliary clothing room at the St. Cloud VAHCS is in need of the following:

NEW sweat pants, sizes Medium through 2XL

Jan Benson will gladly accept any of these sweat pants. If you don't have a way to get them there, please call Sandie at the Department Office and she will make sure they get there.

### SECRETARY SANDIE'S CORNER

I am a little behind this year so the Scholarship winners for this past year will be posted in the next Legionnaire issue. Jan and I are quite excited as Julie will be back in the office to help us out while I find time to get her replacement hired. We have had wonderful volunteers step up and help us out over the past couple of months. Marilyn from Montgomery, May and her granddaughter from New London and of course are once a week, couldn't live without Past Department President Carol Kottom who has been a lifesaver. Thank you so much ladies.

Shorty and I had the best present ever, Brad, Shannon and Elizabeth visited from Texas over the Memorial weekend and we got to celebrate Elizabeth's second birthday, our son Brad's birthday and also Grandpa Shorty's birthday. It was a wonderful weekend, but now back to work.

### AUXILIARY REP NEEDED

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is in need of a Hospital Home Rep to work at the St. Cloud VAHCS. Our organization is a very important part of the St. Cloud VA Hospital and our current representative Jan Benson is retiring from the position after many years of service. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Sandie Deutsch at the Department Office, 651-224-7634 for more information.

# Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page



A golf cart was helpful at St. Cloud VAHCS.



The National President's Tour visited the Haven for Heroes Home in Anoka. Department Commander Darrel Redepenning joined the tour group.

## National President's Tour



The tour group posed: Robin Dorf, Jean Walker, Kathy Dungan, Raleen Tolzmann, Sandie Deutsch.



The American Legion's official state color guard welcomed the President at Waite Park Post 428.



The head table at Litchfield. Membership Chair Robin Dorf was the emcee.

### May 22, 2019, Auxiliary Membership

District	Goal	Membership To Date	Percent of Goal	Membership Last Year 5/23/2018
One	4,907	4,023	81.98%	4,396
Two	4,924	4,067	82.60%	4,311
Three	4,422	3,956	89.46%	3,960
Four	720	604	83.89%	688
Five	788	592	75.13%	652
Six	6,032	5,212	86.41%	5,466
Seven	3,934	3,276	83.27%	3,472
Eight	1,628	1,304	80.10%	1,425
Nine	4,344	3,529	81.24%	3,756
Ten	5,129	4,147	80.85%	4,354
1982	160	175	109.38%	156
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36,988</b>	<b>30,885</b>	<b>83.50%</b>	<b>32,636</b>

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 • 14 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 2 dinners (including an Alaskan Salmon Bake)  
 • Iditarod Trail Headquarters  
 • Travel the Alaska Railroad between Talkeetna and Denali National Park  
 • Riverboat Discovery and Prince William Sound Cruises  
 • Chena Indian Village  
 • Sled Dog Demonstration  
 • Meares Glacier  
 • Pan for Gold at the Gold Dredge #8  
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**\$3,499.00** per person double occupancy

**October 28—November 4, 2019**  
**Tour includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Vacations Tour Director, Joyce Langerud  
 • Deluxe Motorcoach transportation  
 • 7 nights accommodations  
 • 15 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 7 dinners  
 • Grand Ole Opry  
 • Country Music Hall of Fame / Ryman Theater  
 • All day tour of Smoky Mountains  
 • Dollywood themepark, Country Tonite, Comedy Barn & Smoky Mountain Opry Shows  
 • Flood Walls of Paducah  
 • Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

**\$1519.00** Per person double occupancy

**Mackinac Island, Door County & Apostle Island**  
 July 8-15, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Joyce Langerud  
 • Deluxe motor coach transportation  
 • 7 nights accommodations  
 • 13 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners  
 • Door County Fish Boil  
 • Guided tours of Door County, Washington Island, Mackinac City & Mackinac Island  
 • Shipwreck Museum  
 • Glensheen Mansion  
 • Northern Sky Theater  
 • Pictured Rock Cruise  
 • Apostle Island Cruise  
 • Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

**\$1,559.00** per person double occupancy

**Lake Superior Circle Tour**  
 September 8-13, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Joyce Langerud  
 • Deluxe motor coach transportation  
 • 6 nights accommodations  
 • 8 meals  
 • Guided Tours of Thunder Bay & Sault Ste Marie  
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 • Soo Locks Dinner Cruise  
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 • Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

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**PASSPORTS REQUIRED**

**Wild West**  
 September 15-23, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Peterson  
 • Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation  
 • 13 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 4 Dinners  
 • 8 nights accommodations  
 • Buffalo Bill State Park  
 • Tour Stanley Hotel  
 • Bison Ranch & Train Tour  
 • Old West Museums  
 • Wyoming Territorial Prison  
 • Gun fight & Trial of Jack McCall  
 • Little Bighorn Battlefield  
 • Mount Rushmore & The Badlands  
 • Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

**\$1,899.00** Per person Double occupancy

**The Best of Italy**  
 September 17-28, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Tour Director, Tammi Haney  
 • Round trip deluxe motor coach to Minneapolis Airport  
 • Roundtrip Delta flights Minneapolis to Rome  
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 • Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

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**PASSPORTS REQUIRED**

**NYC, New England Fall Colors Canada Cruise**  
 October 24-31, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • 4 Seasons Vacation Tour director, Tammi Haney  
 • Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to New York  
 • 2 night stay at Millennium Hotel in Times Square  
 • Circle line cruise of Manhattan with lunch  
 • A Broadway performance  
 • Welcome dinner @ Carmine's Times Square  
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**PASSPORTS REQUIRED**

**Civil War Battlegrounds**  
 October 7-15, 2019  
**Tour Includes:**  
 • Services of 4seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Peterson  
 • Deluxe motorcoach transportation  
 • 8 nights accommodations  
 • 12 meals, 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners  
 • Admission to all parks museums & battlefields including Vicksburg, Shiloh and others  
 • Jesse James, Patee House, Pony Express, Vicksburg Old Depot & Mississippi Civil Rights Museums  
 • Old Warren County Courthouse  
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