



Legionnaire

Volume 98, Number 10

For God and Country

October 2016

State halfway to veterans' homeless goal

By Al Zdon

Minnesota is more than halfway to its goal of having no homeless veterans, and the effort is continuing.

The 2016 Homeless Veterans Summit held at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center in September gave an update on Minnesota's progress, and also called together many of the government and non-profit entities whose goal is to get veterans off the streets and into their own homes.

"We are the team," said Eric Grumdahl, director of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs homeless vets program. "We are the different pieces of the work. In the end, we want to get every veteran in Minnesota into their

home."

Grumdahl said that in 2010, there were 644 homeless vets in the state, but as of January 16 this year, there were 279.

But, he said, the number is constantly shifting as new homeless veterans appear, others disappear, and others work their way through the system.

So far, nationwide, two states (Connecticut and Virginia) and about 30 communities have reached the goal of zero homeless veterans. But just reaching that goal doesn't mean the work is done.

"The work needed to sustain that goal is much harder

than reaching the goal," Grumdahl told the group of about 75 people at the summit.

While there is homelessness across the state, Minneapolis and St. Paul have the largest problem. Grumdahl showed a series of graphs that concluded that homelessness should be eliminated by 2023 in Ramsey and Hennepin counties, but he said hard work should achieve the goal much sooner than that.

What has helped has been that more housing for homeless veterans has been constructed in recent times, he said.

CommonBond, a St. Paul-based developer of affordable

Continued on Page 5

Fall Conference will feature a 'Walk for Veterans'

This year's Fall Conference, slated for Oct. 28-29 in Marshall, will feature a "Walk for Veterans" through the streets of downtown Marshall.

The walks were part of Past National Commander Dale Barnett's program to raise awareness of veterans issues and The American Legion, and new Commander Charles Schmidt has chosen to continue the walks.

The walk is slated for 1 p.m. on Friday and will begin at the Marshall post home.

The conference is Minnesota's annual school of instruction and will include one day, Friday, where the Legion and Auxiliary meet separately, and one day, Saturday, where Legion Family will meet jointly.

Several speakers are expected to participate including Leading Candidate for National Commander 2017-18 Denise Rohan of Wisconsin and the Auxiliary's National Northwest Division Vice President Virginia Nelson of Nebraska.

Congressman Tim Walz, D-Minn., has been invited to the joint session, as will Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, chair of the Veterans Affairs Division.

The Legion agenda for the conference begins on
Continued on Page 2

Medal of Honor Memorial groundbreaking



A symbolic groundbreaking was held for the new Medal of Honor Memorial on the Capitol grounds in St. Paul. MOH recipient Tom Kelly, head of the Medal of Honor Society, tossed some sand. The event began a week-long series of activities at the MOH national convention in the Twin Cities.

Oregon's Schmidt to lead Legion

CINCINNATI -- Charles Schmidt of Oregon was elected National Commander of The American Legion for the coming year at the annual convention held in Cincinnati.

The convention featured visits from both presidential candidates, as they laid out their platform on veterans issues for the thousands of Legionnaires and Auxiliary at the event.

Other convention high-

lights included a talk by Bob McDonald, secretary of Veterans Affairs, and entertainment by Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers.

Schmidt is an Air Force veteran who served for 28 years where he started as an enlisted man and retired as a major. He earned a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

He worked for a credit union in Oregon after retirement, and was the state's

commander from 2004-05. He was Oregon's NECman for 11 years.

He and his wife, Linda, have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Both political candidates at the convention created a stir, and both drew enthusiastic welcomes when they spoke.

Hillary Clinton appeared on Wednesday of the convention.

She began by noting that

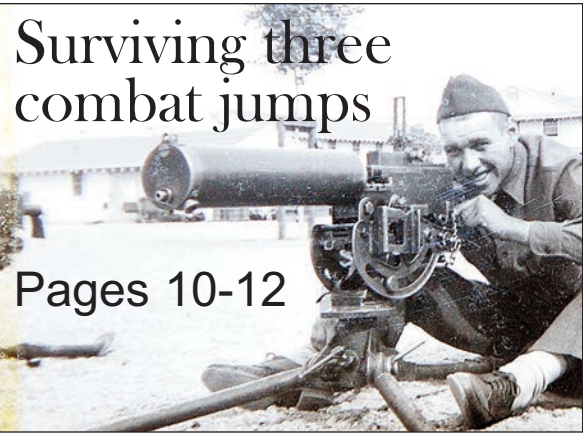
Continued on Page 2



CHARLES SCHMIDT

Surviving three combat jumps

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Ft. Snelling Cemetery designated historical place

By Al Zdon

The first person buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery was George Henry Mallon, a Medal of Honor recipient who was born in Kansas and lived in Minnesota.

Captain Mallon had earned his medal in World War I in the Bois-de-Forges in France by leading a band of men in capturing 11 machine gun nests, an artillery battery and over 100 prisoners. At one point, he attacked an enemy soldier with his bare fists.

Mallon died in St. Cloud in 1934, and was re-interred at Fort Snelling with the cemetery opened in 1939.

Since that time, over 220,000 other veterans and family members have been buried at the cemetery, including seven other Medal of Honor recipients.

In late August, the cemetery itself was honored

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Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., spoke at the ceremony announcing that Fort Snelling National Cemetery was designated a historic place.

National Convention elects Schmidt

Continued from Page 1

her husband, Bill, the former president, was involved at the Legion's Boys Nation program, and she said her father was a veteran.

"Whoever is elected this fall won't just be President of the United States, but will also be Commander in Chief," she said.

"I plan to unify the country so we can go forward with confidence and optimism."

Clinton said America must lead in the world, and that the nation faces "real threats and real enemies."

"Our military must be ready and agile. When we spend money on defense, we must spend it on the right things."

She said the national VA health system "must be refurbished and strengthened. We don't want to privatize it. I

will always support the VA and the military, and it will never be a partisan issue."

Trump also extolled a patriotic stance. "We will stop apologizing for America and we will start celebrating America."

Speaking the day after Clinton, Trump endorsed a strong military. "We need to rebuild our depleted military. We need a state of the art missile defense. We can only have peace through strength."

Trump called for a "total reform of the VA medical system. The stories you hear are so sad. We're not going to have that anymore."

He said he had a 10-point veterans plan, and said the VA "should not serve politicians, it should serve the veterans."

He also said the VA must provide the best care in the world for female veterans, and he said that veterans should have the best care they can get in the fastest amount of time. "They should not have to die waiting in line."

Secretary McDonald, speaking earlier in the convention, said the VA was not broken. "There are challenges. It can be transformed, in fact that transformation is already taking place."

He said in July this year, 96 percent of appointments were completed within 30 days of the veteran's desire. And he said major improvements are coming in primary care and mental health care.

McDonald said there has been a call to get rid of VA staff and leadership that do not perform. "Since I took over, we have terminated 3,755 employees, but we can't fire our way to excellence."

Fall Conference slated for Marshall

Continued from Page 1

Thursday, Oct. 27, with a gambling seminar at 2 p.m. and an Executive Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The conference will begin at 8 a.m. Friday at the Red Baron Arena in Marshall. The session will recess at about 11:30 a.m. for lunch and to prepare for the Walk for Veterans.

The Auxiliary session will begin with committee meetings on Thursday, and leadership training sessions on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.

The Auxiliary conference will begin at 8 p.m. at Southwest State University in the lower level conference center and will continue until about 2 p.m.

The Legion Family will meet beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Red Baron

Arena with adjournment slated for 11:30 a.m.

There will be a silent auction held during the convention at the Ramada Inn in the Pioneer Room.

The annual Grand March of Legion, SAL and Auxiliary officers will be held at the Ramada Inn on Friday with line-up at 6 and promenade at 6:30.

Following the Grand March, there will be a hospitality night at the Ramada.

A registration form and housing details are located on this page.

Both the Legion and the Auxiliary will have their headquarters at the Ramada Inn.

Marshall Post and Unit 113 are sponsoring the conference with Jeff Gay as the general chairman.

The post will be hosting special deals throughout the conference.

There will be a Legion volunteer shuttle service, plus a hotel shuttle.

Minneapolis VA has new surgery area

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center has opened a new 28-bed Surgery Center, adjacent to the operating room suites.

The new center has expanded to over 7,000 square feet with 17 additional private pre-procedure and post-procedure patient rooms.

There is also additional space for special procedures, consults, equipment storage and staff work areas.

A satellite outpatient pharmacy is also planned to open soon adjacent to the surgery center.

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Help for veterans and families



Official Registration Form – Mail to:
Legion Post 113 Fall Conference
412 W. Main St.
Marshall, MN 56258

Pre-registration sliding fee per postmark:

- Registration by 1 Oct: **\$15**
- Registration after 1 Oct 14: **\$18**
- Registration at event HQ: **\$20**

Dates: 28 – 29 October 2016

Registration form is for each person attending, with the exception of Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and **send a separate form for each person.** Make checks payable to: **'2016 Fall Conference Committee'**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BLOCKS OF THIS FORM AND PRINT LEGIBLY – NO CURSIVE

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SPECIAL NEEDS OR CONSIDERATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Please Check (i.e. first floor room or elevator, specific equipment, handicap accommodations, etc.)			

ADDITIONAL PRE-REGISTRANTS: A separate form is required for each additional registration accompanying this request. This form may be photocopied. **The registration fee must be enclosed for each person (except Junior Aux.).**

For more info please call (507) 933-4576 or e-Mail to jlymang@gmail.com
(Local reproduction of this form is authorized)

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Delux Motel	\$48.00	\$64.00	Inform front desk of special needs Millsa – deluxmotel@gmail.com No Block reserve necessary www.deluxmotelmarshallmn.com
516 E. Main St.; Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 532-4441			
*Quality Inn	\$83.00	\$83.00	Elevator available Marcia Friskey – gmmarshallmn@gmail.com Block reserved until 28Sep16 www.choicehotels.com/QualityInn
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*Ramada Inn Conference Headquarters	\$91.00	\$91.00	Inform front desk of special needs Curt Hoffman – fdm.ramada@gmail.com Block reserved until 28Sep16 www.ramada.com
1500 E. College Dr.; Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 532-3221			
*Super 8	\$70.00	\$70.00	Inform front desk of special needs Patrick – super8marshallmn@yahoo.com Block reserved until 28Sep16 www.super8.com
1106 E. Main St.; Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-1461			
*Sleep Inn	\$83.00	\$83.00	Elevator available Jennifer Jorgensen – jennifer.jorgensen@outlook.com Block reserved until 28Sep16 www.choicehotels.com/SleepInn
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Traveler's Lodge	\$59.00	\$59.00	Inform front desk of special needs Bruce Bjelland – travelers.lodge@outlook.com No Block reserve necessary www.travelerslodge.biz
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5616 Prairies Edge Ln.; Granite Falls, MN 56241 (320) 564-2121			
Jackpot Junction Casino	\$TBD	\$TBD	Elevator available Approx. www.jackpotjunction.com
39375 County Hwy 24, Morton, MN 56270 (800) WIN-CASH			

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Endorsements

Barbknecht endorsed for Alt-NEC

Bill Barbknecht has been endorsed by the Ninth District for re-election as Alternate NEC for the years 2017-2019.

He has held most Chairmanships and offices including Post Commander at Post 58 Browns Valley, Post 153 Barnesville, and Post 489 Underwood. He is currently a member of Post 489, Underwood.

Barbknecht has served in many capacities for the Ninth District, including Commander in 1982-1983 and currently is the District

Judge Advocate.

He has served the Department of Minnesota as VA&R chairman, Finance Committee and as its chairman, National Security, 2 terms as membership chairman and Department Vice Commander. He was Department Commander in 1994-1995. At this time he is chairman of the LIT.

The National Appointments Barbknecht has had are Veterans and Rehabilitation Committee, Region Six Chairman, Vice

Chairman of Merchant Marine, Distinguished Guest Committee, and National Security. Barbknecht is currently appointed to the National Veterans and Rehabilitation Committee and the special commission to study the problems at the VA.

He was in the Marine Corps for two years and in the Air National Guard for 24 years.

He and his wife Carol have two children and three grandchildren.



BILL BARBKNECHT

Davenport runs for Sgt.-at-Arms

Spicer American Legion Post 545 has endorsed Garylee Davenport for Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in February 1983 and served until January 1985 when he transferred to the US Army in February 1985 where he served until November 1988.

He is a Life Member of the American Legion Spicer Post 545 and has been with

the post for 10 years. He served as Post Commander (2010 - 2012), 2nd Vice Commander (2014 - 2016), Adjutant (2006 -2008), and on the Executive Committee (2006 -2008 and 2010 - 2014). Davenport is a Charter Member of the Post 545 Legion Riders and is also a member of Post 545 Sons of the American Legion.

He now serves as Seventh District as the District Commander, and he

served as Area C Vice Commander (2014 - 2015), Membership Director (2015 - 2016) and District Chaplain (2012 -2013).

He is a Disabled American Veterans Life Member and is also an active member of the 40 et 8, Eagles Lodge (2002 - present), and Elks Lodge (1982 - present).

Gary is currently serving with the Atwater Fire Department since 1993.



GARYLEE DAVENPORT

Schneekloth runs for chaplain

Mable Post 299 has endorsed Ralph Schneekloth for Department Chaplain 2017-18.

Schneekloth is a past commander of Post 299.

He has served three years as First District Chaplain and he was the district Public Relations chair for three years. He served as adult sports chair-

man for two years.

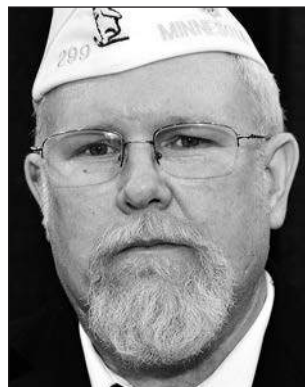
He was a county vice commander.

Schneekloth has served three years on the Department Public Relations Committee. He is a member of the National American Legion Press Association and the president of the Minnesota American Legion Press Association.

He is a 2016 graduate of Legion College.

He is presently serving as Department Historian.

He is a Friend of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, and he instituted an annual district Four Chaplains ceremony.



RALPH SCHNEEKLOTH

NALPA awards



Paul Hassing, Montgomery, won second place in the National American Legion Press Association for a guest editorial. He is deployed and could not be present but wife Jody brought a "flat Paul" to receive the award from NALPA President Priscilla Imburgia.



Dolly Zitur accepted the NALPA award for Karla Otterness for best district publication.



Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl accepted the first place award for videography.



Legionnaire Editor Al Zdon accepted awards for first place for editorial writing and second place for photography from Imburgia.

Minneapolis-St. Paul coming

The USS Minneapolis-St. Paul will soon be built at the Lockheed Martin Co. at Marinette Marine Corp. in Marinette, Wisconsin.

The ship will be designated LCS 21, a Freedom-class littoral combat ship.

The ship's sponsor is Jodi Greene who has worked for the Secretary of the Navy for 10 years. She has family ties to the Twin Cities.

It will be homeported in Mayport, Florida. The planned launch and christening is scheduled for June 2018. The ship will be 378 feet long and will be able to cruise at 40 knots.



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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Denise Milton



Greeting Fellow Legionnaires. It is hard to believe that I am starting my third month of my tenure. It seems like it was only a couple of weeks have passed since Department convention.

The Fall Camp-O-Ree was a success, thanks to all of you who attended. I noticed that we had several first timers there. The SAL did a fantastic job of managing the event. They spent several months preparing for this event, so please make sure to thank them when you have the opportunity. I would be remiss if I did not give a big shout out to Jay and Yvonne Beebe and the Brainerd American Legion Family for the many years of service to this wonderful fun weekend.

Thanks to all who attended our first rally of the year-our Harvest Rally hosted at Legionville. We managed to be in 1st place nationally (at least one week anyway) once our membership was tallied up and sent in. Wisconsin has managed to slip ahead of us again, but not for long. Our membership director conducted a MyLegion.org class and from the comments I heard it was successful. It is a great tool to help us find veterans in our communities. Look forward to short informational updates at future rallies.

Please transmit membership weekly, that is our key to our success. All it takes is to ask. Wear something that displays that you are a veteran and/or a Legion member, strike up a conversation and let them know what it means to you to be a member of The American Legion.

One of the highlights of my year so far was attending the County Veterans Service Officers Conference at Grand View Lodge near Nisswa. What an awesome, dedicated group of people. I sat in on several of the classes on various topics regarding constant updates on health care. They

included environmental exposures, Gulf War illness, legal issues, legislative updates, filing of claims and the ins and outs of filling out government forms. They are one of our best advocates, so please make sure to thank them for all that they do. If you know a veteran who is hesitant on contacting their CVSO for services due to personal reasons, remind them they can seek assistance from any CVSO as they are not restricted to the county they live in.

To top off a successful conference, we had a motivational speaker at the banquet by the name of Mark Lindquist, an Air Force Veteran that grew up in Ortonville, Minnesota.

I also attended the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Leadership Conference held at Camp Ripley. It was a one and a half day whirlwind of briefings and information sessions provided by federal, state and local organizations who provide support, services and other opportunities which benefit veterans and their families. We were provided an overview of the legislative process, their agenda and strategies for developing initiatives to benefit veterans. Several of our legislative leaders and/or their aides were present to discuss current bills affecting veterans. Commanders and Adjutants of Minnesota veteran's services organizations were present as well. It was a great opportunity to meet and network with our counterparts. Our first Commanders Task Force meeting with election of officers was conducted. In addition, we had a chance to discuss veteran's initiatives that the CTF will be supporting.

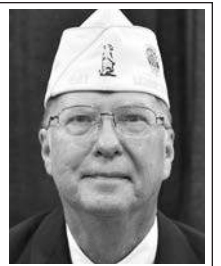
Fall Conference is just around the corner and Marshall has been planning for several months to make our visit a memorable one. They will be hosting us in their new event center. Saturday will be a joint venture-the entire American Legion Family will share a day of learning and recognizing special people who have made a difference in the lives of veterans. I hope I have a couple of hours to visit some of the many activities that Marshall has to offer.

Please remember that my project this year is helping the homeless veterans through the MAC-V and it would be great to see financial donations as well as filling the duffel bags with personal items at the Fall Conference. See you there! Speaking of homeless veterans, please remember that the winters in Minnesota can be brutal and a lot of them do not have access to the indoors at night. In addition to the white t-shirts and underwear for both men and women, donations of winter hats and gloves, scarves, hand and foot warmers, small flashlights and gift cards from Target, Wal*Mart and Shopko are needed in addition to gas cards.

For God and Country.

Chaplain's Corner

By Bill Brockberg



In Whom I Trust

At last month's Harvest Rally at Legionville much was heard about goal-setting and reaching our membership goals. So often the task at hand can seem insurmountable. However, as we look to the future in any endeavor, we need to listen to ourselves, but more importantly, listen to the one who holds our future in his hand. The future is in God's hands, and that should give us Legionnaires a great confidence and peace. We can use many encouraging words from the bible and spiritual texts as we navigate toward our goals and, even further, toward a happy, comfortable, successful and fulfilling life. An author named Betty Reese wrote, "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito."

As Legionnaires, we strive to get a message across to our fellow veterans about who we are and what we do as an organization. We represent The American Legion and we sell The American Legion to those veterans who would have us as fellow Legionnaires. In these membership tasks, Legionnaires may have apprehension about talking with someone or, heaven forbid, actually asking them to pay dues and become a member.

However, if we approach our daily earthly living looking ever upward with faith for help and guidance, good things have been promised. As written in 2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." The scriptures are full of instances where God has used ordinary people, like us Legionnaires, to accomplish extraordinary things.

God used self-serving fishermen James and John to lead his church and spread the Gospel, and impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build his Church. God uses imperfect people, even those who are weak and even flawed, to extend his kingdom. Martin Luther, the author of the Reformation which is celebrated the end of this month wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to freedom to serve joyfully. When we look at Christ and how he lived his earthly life and what he has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those he has placed around us. As Legionnaires, we serve for God and Country. We serve and in order to better serve, we recruit to build our organization. As we approach this duty, by being faithful and trusting in God, we stand in his favor and to receive his benedictions and blessings. We must go forward with faith and trust especially in our most trying and difficult of times.

We Legionnaires can place our trust in God while carrying on in our missions of daily life, employment, recreation, service to others and what we do for our Organization which in turn, benefits our fellow veterans and our friends and neighbors in our communities. Our future is in God's hands, and that will give us great confidence and peace. As we commit our lives to Christ and learn to trust him in every situation, then we can honestly say with the Psalmist, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:2)

Guest Editorial

Gen. Jack Vessey

Editor's Note: Gen. Vessey, Minnesota's highest ranking soldier, died this past month. Doug Bekke, the curator at the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley, was asked to write about Vessey. Bekke was a friend and biographer of the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

By Doug Bekke

I was able to spend time with General Vessey but not enough. He was always a first class gentleman. He had a commanding presence but was very modest. He would start telling stories and it was like talking to the guy next door over the fence, no pretenses, no ego issues, then suddenly you would realize the level at which his stories took place. My god he's talking about his regular meetings with the president or some other major leader, or dealing with some international crisis.

He had a great sense of humor and liked to laugh and tell funny stories. Even the combat stories were often told in a humorous way. He had so many stories to tell. I interviewed him for the Minnesota Historical Society for three days and thought we had covered a lot of ground, then I'd see him again later and he had a whole new set of great stories that I had never heard before.

He was a great patriot and often spoke about his concerns for the well being, safety, and defense of the nation. In one of my last conversations with him he listed that as his top priority. Close behind was doing anything he could do to honor his beloved 34th Infantry Division. In 2007 I asked him to speak at the opening of the museum's 34th Division exhibit. He asked me what I wanted him to talk about and I recommended that after all his years in the army and all the units he had commanded and served with, what were his feelings about his first unit, the unit he served with throughout WWII, the 34th Infantry Division. He gave a wonderful talk about how even then, 62 years later the 34th Division occupied a special place in his heart.

He was revered by the Lao because of his service in support of their nation. I escorted him to a special Lao Army anniversary dinner several years ago and Lao veterans came from across the country when they heard that he would attend.

Whenever I would see the general and Mrs Vessey together it was obvious that to the very end they had a special loving relationship.

I will always feel that getting to know General Vessey was one of the greatest honors of my life. He was a great man, a great soldier, and a great citizen.

Mail Call

Adjutant's Duties

Thank you Adjutant Randy for your succinct description of the duties of Adjutants. It truly is a great responsibility on every level. It is especially challenging in a state as diverse and rich in tradition as the Department of Minnesota.

I can relate to this having served as Department Adjutant for 15 years, from 1995 to 2009. I also served as Hospital Representative at the Minneapolis VAMC for two years, and five years as the Department Service Officer. I was the Assistant Department Adjutant for Al Davis during the year he served as Department Adjutant.

After I was elected Department Adjutant on January 15, 1995 I was asked by then Department Commander, Bill Barbknecht and Chairman of the Department Finance Committee, Brad Jorgens to operate the department office without having an Assistant Adjutant. I was pleased that they had the confidence in me to manage the administration without an assistant. I am the last person to serve as the

Assistant Adjutant in Minnesota.

The Department of Minnesota has also been fortunate to have had numerous individuals serve in important support roles through the years. We cannot forget Assistant Adjutant Shelly Hanson, Department Comptroller Gene Kahnke, Editor Steve Steele, and Mary Lou Savage, Freya Kask, and Agnus Polyak. They dedicated many decades of service to the Minnesota American Legion.

Department Comptroller Roger Myren served many years with distinction, and successfully modernized the financial structure of the department. We must also give thanks to the current, long serving staff members, Laura Weber, Jennifer Kelley, Misty Padilla, and Editor of the award winning Minnesota Legionnaire Al Zdon.

To be successful in any venture it truly takes a team effort, and the above mentioned individuals have made a great contribution in making the Minnesota American Legion second to none.

**Lyle Foltz
Apple Valley**

The Minnesota **Legionnaire**

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Al Zdon, Editor

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What's Happening

Round Tables

The Fort Snelling World War II History Round Table will feature two programs in October. On Oct. 13, the program will be "11th Airborne, from Philippines to Occupation" with author Jerry Devlin and veterans of the airborne division. On Oct. 27, the program will be "Germany During the 1930s" with author Henry Gole speaking on the rise of Nazism. The programs begin at 7 p.m. in the History Center adjacent to the old fort. There is a \$5 admission.

The St. Croix Valley Civil War Roundtable will feature "Hollywood's Civil War: How Films Shape Memory," with speaker Prof. Kurt Leichtle. The program will be on Monday Oct. 24, preceded by dinner at the Lowell Inn in Stillwater. For more information contact Steve at 715-386-1268.

Omelet Breakfast

Rosetown Post 542 in Roseville will have an omelet breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 16, from nine to noon. Choose your own from nine fixings plus hash browns, toast and beverage. Adults: \$10. Kids: \$5. The post is at 700 West County Road C.

Homeless Speaker

Ellen McKinnon, a case manager for homeless veterans in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota will talk about her work with homeless veterans. The event will be Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Crookston Post 20. There will be no admission fee, but donations are accepted. The donation will be divided between Supportive Services for Veterans Families and Commander Denise Milton's project supporting MACV to end veteran homelessness. For more information, call Margee at 218-349-4566.

Vets Day Dinner

Rosemount Beyond the Yellow Ribbon invites veterans

and active duty service members to a free Veterans Day Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 13, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 13900 Bicyane Ave. W., in Rosemount. There will be a speaker and a band. To RSVP or get more information, call Elaine at 651-402-7385. The event will be at 4:30 p.m.

Pheasant Hunt

A "Welcome Home the Troops" pheasant hunt will be held at the Wild Wings of Onkeka on Oct. 15. It will include a guided pheasant hunt, bird cleaning, sporting clays, shells, and a delicious wild game dinner. Sponsors are needed. Contact Chuck Haas at 651-247-0454.

Fall Craft and Bake Sale

The annual Fall Craft and Bake Sale will be held at Apple Valley Post 1776 on Oct. 29, Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be barbecues, chips and pop. For more information, call Marlene at 651-423-2493.

Bowling Committee

The Bowling Committee will meet at the Fall Conference at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28, to pick the site for the 2018 Bowling Tournament. Bids will be taken for the event. The 2017 event will be sponsored by Osseo-Maple Grove Post and be held in Dayton. Applications are now being taken for that tourney. Call John Torma, 612-749-3704.

Appreciation Ride

The Veterans Appreciation Snowmobile Ride will be held in Hutchinson on Saturday, Jan. 14, beginning with breakfast followed by a ride on area trails. Veterans and active duty personnel are invited. There will be 25 snowmobiles and some gear available for those who would like to try riding. It's sponsored by the Minnesota United Snowmobilers and Minnesota Snowmobile Education. To register, go to: mnsnowmobiler.org.

Veterans Still Eligible

Over 2,400 service members are still eligible for the 2012 military tax credit, but it will expire on Oct. 15. The credit is \$120 a month for those who served in a combat zone, was a Minnesota resident, and received combat pay. Those interested can fill out Form M99. For more information, go to www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Willmar Vets Day

Veterans in the Willmar are invited to the annual Veterans Day Dinner at the Willmar Post home featuring turkey and wild game. It will be served from 11:30 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. For more information call Dennis at 320-235-0342.

MACV events

A series of StandDowns and Legal Clinics will be offered through the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

StandDowns welcome veterans and provide meals, information on VA benefits, clothing, housing, haircuts, ID cards, chaplaincy, employment assistance and legal assistance. Upcoming StandDowns include:

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Marshall YMCA. For more information call 507-345-8655.

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mankato Armory. For more information call 507-345-8655.

Free Drop-In Legal Clinics offer veterans legal advice on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement and family law. For more information, call 651-200-4750. Upcoming clinics will be held at:

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fillmore County Office Building, Preston.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2-6 p.m., Albert Lea American Legion Post.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rochester Post 92, 315 1st Ave. NW.

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone
Department Director



Greetings American Legion Family. September has been a very busy month. The MNALR held their annual Romp once again at Legionville. Most of the districts were represented. Needless to say all in attendance had a great time. Although the weather wasn't the greatest on Thursday and Friday, when most of us traveled to Legionville, Saturday and Sunday presented plenty of sunshine for the Riders.

One of the Riders had a little tussle with a turkey on their ride up, both Rider and motorcycle are unharmed. The turkey on the other hand didn't come out as well.

On Saturday afternoon, Wayne from Brainard Post 225 took us out for a short ride. Along the way there was one of the largest snapping turtles I have ever seen. It was by the side of the road with intentions unknown. Also seen were turkeys, deer and a bald eagle. Wayne steered clear of bugs as no one had a bug on their dots for the bug splat contest.

One is never to old to learn. A few years back I took a course in motorcycle safety, after I had been riding for over 30 years. Saturday afternoon on the ride I had a rear tire blowout, kept the bike upright and brought it safely to a stop without harm to myself, passenger or other riders around me.

I also must give credit to my passenger for staying calm and to those around me who recognized something was wrong and gave me the space I needed.

Due to work requirements, outgoing Department Director Scuffy was unable to attend. Dennis Lewison stepped up to install the new officers for the Department of Minnesota American Legion Riders. A big thank you to Dennis. I will be announcing my Directors Challenge to the Riders at Fall Conference in Marshall. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Keep the chrome side up and the rubber side down.

AFCS appoints officers

The Armed Forces Service Center at the airport held its annual shareholders' meeting. Terry Branham was named president, and Joe Jansen, was named vice president. Jansen is the Legion liaison to the AFCS.

Homeless Summit charts progress

Continued from Page 1
housing, has created 58 units of veterans housing at Fort Snelling by rehabbing five historic buildings in the Upper Post. They were full by Thanksgiving of last year.

Sara Riegler, representing CommonBond, said there have been some growing pains including the fact that the housing is not in a residential area, and because a wood chipping operation has leased space near the housing.

She said recently a partnership has been formed with the International Airport, only two light rail stops away, to provide residents with employment.

Catholic Charities reported that its renovation of the Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul will result in 193 units of housing, all with veterans preference. Tracy Berglund said the project is on time and on budget.

And Grumdahl said that 37 units of new veterans housing has recently opened in the St. Cloud area.

Another key, though, for homeless veterans, he said, is finding more landlords who are willing to rent to veterans. "We are deepening our relationship with private partner renters," Grumdahl said.

The state has a Keys for Heroes program that provides incentives and sup-

port for landlords who are willing to take a chance. Landlords can call 1-888-LinkVet to find out more about the program.

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans has been a key agency through the years in helping homeless vets. Nathaniel Saltz, MACV's interim director, said the non-profit provides 77 beds across the state for homeless vets, and has a staff of 33 to support veterans.

MACV also provides "StandDowns" across the state where homeless veterans can go and obtain free services, clothing, legal advice, haircuts and more.

The StandDowns are critical in finding homeless veterans. The agency also offers free legal clinics for veterans across the state.

A combo effort called HUD-VASH between the federal VA and Housing and Urban Development provides vouchers to homeless veterans. In Minnesota, the agency has given out 651 vouchers to this point.

Bridget Gil said HUD-VASH uses a new method. In prior programs, veterans went into a transitional housing or shelter phase, but in the new theory, veterans are immediately put into permanent housing. She said a challenge is find-

ing landlords. Helping homeless veterans is the project for Department Commander Denise Milton this year. Items, including socks and personal items, are being collected at each membership rally, and donations can be made to support homeless vets by sending them to Minnesota American Legion Foundation, Fund 82.

The project will work in partnership with MACV who can distribute donated items at their StandDowns and in their housing for veterans

Membership Chart					
As of September 28, 2016					
District	2017 Goal	Total 2016	Total 2017	Percent of Goal	Same Date '15
1	9,380	9,322	5,972	63.67	6,463
2	7,572	7,488	5,074	67.01	5,069
3	11,977	11,912	8,087	67.52	8,307
4	2,592	2,572	1,617	62.38	1,728
5	2,679	2,657	1,622	60.54	1,879
6	12,109	12,038	7,906	65.29	8,258
7	6,695	6,619	4,401	65.74	4,514
8	4,417	4,377	2,785	63.05	2,841
9	7,015	6,950	4,427	63.11	4,623
10	10,611	10,557	6,719	63.32	7,081
At-large	1,953	2,710	1,444	73.94	1,730
Totals	77,000	77,202	50,054	65.01	52,493

Sons of The American Legion

By
Gene Olsword



Hello Sons of the American Legion Family.

I can give you my report on the National Convention held in Cincinnati at the end of August which I attended. It was two and one-half days filled with committee meetings and general assembly ending Sunday afternoon with the Legion Family Parade. Our Minnesota Detachment was presented with two ribbons; one for All-Time High Membership (second year in a row) with membership at 11,509 members. The other ribbon was for 100% Detachment. Minnesota ranked 25th in the Nation at 100.498%.

These are great ribbons to have on our Detachment Flag and I am very proud to have them. It is all you squadrons from around the state reaching or exceeding your goals along with many new members that made this happen. In addition to these ribbons came an award which I had to go on stage to receive. It was the Membership Renewal Award 2016 for achieving the highest renewal percentage in the Central Region in which we are one of 8 states. Two other awards we received were the National Lawrence Hartline Memorial Trophy for chartering the most new Squadrons for the 2015-2016 membership year (six new squadrons were started). Last, but definitely not least, is the Arthur D.

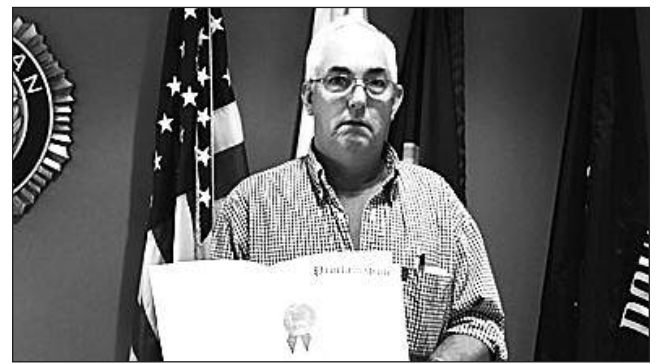
Houghton Award. In this award, membership is divided into membership categories and in our Category IV we were the winner. To all the squadrons in this wonderful state of Minnesota, I want to thank each and every one of your squadron members personally for all you do in support and dedication to this great organization we belong to. Again, thank you for a job well done.

Now to "Toot My Own Horn" for a second. At the convention, I received the "Blue Brigade Membership Award" and "Blue Brigade" jacket. In recognition and appreciation of outstanding achievement in recruiting 30 or more new members for the Sons of the American Legion. It's a jacket I will be proud to wear. I would love to see other members from this great state earn this same jacket this coming year. How you ask? Just ask me how and then just ask.

Our National Vice Commander for the Central Region is asking all SAL members to sign up 3 Legionnaires as new members. By doing so, opens up the door for possibly many new SAL members. This makes darn good sense to me so it is well worth to go for it. As the saying goes, "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained" so lets us all honor his request and help the growth of the American Legion Family.

National sent out renewal notices the end of September. If you have renewed your dues for 2017 you may disregard this notice. It only means your renewal has not reached National yet, however, if you have not renewed your membership, please get with your squadron and renew your membership now. Your membership is important to the strength of our fine organization.

Keep in your prayers, all service personnel now serving our great country and thank them for their service when you see them.



LEGION DAY -- Joe Bayer, representing the Fifth District, shows off a proclamation designating Sept. 16 as Legion Day in Minneapolis, signed by Mayor Betsy Hodges. The Legion's first convention was in the city in 1919.



LEGIONVILLE -- Commander Denise Milton makes a point during the annual Legionville meeting

Taps

Bey, John, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 4, 2016. He was a past Department Vice Commander (2010-11) and a Past District Six Commander (2006-07). He had been chairman of the Citizen's Flag Alliance in Minnesota. He was a member of Baudette Post 217.

Amundson, Richard A., 83, veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 31, 2016. He was a 10th District commander 2002-03 and held many other district offices. He was the manager of the Delano Legion baseball team for many years. He served as chairman of the Operation Post Home Committee. He was a past commander of Delano Post 377.

Vogelgesang, Marvin, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 16, 2016. He served in Guam, Japan and Korea. He was a member of Parkers Prairie Post 219.

Jirmasek, George Jerry, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 27, 2016. He was a field wireman with the Headquarters Battery of the 291st Field Artillery Battalion. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

Peters, Virgil "Pete," 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Sept. 3, 2016. He was a communication chief who served both in Europe and the western Pacific in the 86th Division. He earned a Bronze Star. He was a member of Bigelow Post 496.

Burmeister, Robert D., 81, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 12, 2016. He was a member of Round Lake Post 461.

Wilson, Donald LeRoy, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 20, 2016. He was a Seabee. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Conrad, David, 69, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 21, 2016. He was a past commander and head of the color guard at St. Paul Park Post 98.

Beito, Arne Rolland, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 21, 2016. He was a quartermaster who served in Korea. He was a member of Roseau Post 24.

Galchutt, Ralph Eugene, 89, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 14, 2016. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Bredemeier, Virgil "Brad," 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 11, 2016. He served in Naval Air. He was a member of Motley Post 124.

Shermer, Frankie Albin, 68, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 14, 2016. He served at Guantanamo Bay. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Stahlke, Wallace W., 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 5, 2016. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Zakula, Godfrey, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 24, 2016. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers and was stationed at the Suez Canal. He served as a translator working with the Russian Army. He was a member of Chisholm Post 247.

Miller, Jeffrey M., 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 9, 2016. He served 14 months in Vietnam. He was a member of Maple Lake Post 131.

Evans, Thomas, 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 8, 2016. He was a member of Flensburg Post 136.

Parise, William, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 16, 2016. He was a hospital corpsman. He was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Dittes, Herbert K., 90, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 20, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Hinderaker, Harris P., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 25, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Swenson, Roland E., 76, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 25, 2016. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

DuPay, Joseph J., 66, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 16, 2016. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

Vikla, Elmer E., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 19, 2016. He was a member of Lonsdale Post 586.

Scheffer, John W., Air Force veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died Aug. 18, 2016. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Reckow, Alvin, 79, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 10, 2016. He served in Korea as an engineer. He was a member of Hector Post 135.

Doeden, Donald W., 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 5, 2016. He was a member of Round Lake Post 461.

Hellie, Theodore R., 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 3, 2016. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Heegaard, Dr. William G., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2016. He was a member of Alexandria Post 87.

Barron, John R., 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 9, 2016. He was a member of Waite Park Post 428.

Ebnet, Elmer F., 87, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 19, 2016. He was a member of Holdingford Post 211.

Willner, Herbert M., 70, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 5, 2016. He served in the 4th Infantry Division Engineer Battalion in Vietnam. He was a member of Eden Valley Post 381.

Stensrud, Stanton Duane, 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 10, 2016. He served as a navigator on the USS Chenango, an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. His ship rescued POWs at the end of the war from Japan. He was a member of Wayzata Post 118.

Means, James B., 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 22, 2016. He was a sergeant in the 301st Air Materials Handler Unit. He was a member of Rice Post 473.

Solheid, Wally R., 93, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2016. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Grassmann, Robert E., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 31, 2016. He was a member of New Prague Post 45.

Carlson, Kenneth James, 84, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 25, 2016. He served as an aviation structural mechanic first class. He was a member of Staples Post 70.

Lundquist, Ruby, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 28, 2016. She was a member of Cloquet Post 262.

Person, Alan G., 86, Air Force veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 31, 2016. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Mauch, Marvin M., 99, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 18, 2016. He served in the 164th Infantry Regiment in Guadalcanal and the South Pacific. He was a member of Benson Post 62.

Hanson, David A., Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War,

died Aug. 11, 2016. He was a member of St. Paul Park Post 98.

Anderson, Lars, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 23, 2016. He was stationed in Germany. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Manhart, Francis A., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died Aug. 16, 2016. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Watkins, John R., 80, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 12, 2016. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Hewitt, Edward A., 67, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 19, 2016. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Wehage, Vernon C., 61, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died Aug. 20, 2016. He was chaplain of Deerwood Post 557.

Nadeau, Clement C., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2016. He served as a paratrooper. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Blumenshein, Harold "Howie," 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Aug. 26, 2016. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Kreft, Arden E., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Aug. 26, 2016. He was a past commander of Arlington Post 250.

Skaden, John Wesley "Wes," 90, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Aug. 6, 2016. He served in the 243rd. He was a member of the Legion Honor Guard for Blue Earth Post 89.

DeVlioger, David, 68, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died Sept. 5, 2016. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

Berube, Harry J., 81, Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, died Aug. 18, 2016. He was a member of Sandstone Post 151.

Zenk, Rev. Donald William, 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 10, 2016. He was a member of Austin Post 91.

Anderson, J. Lindy, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Sept. 29, 2016. He was a member of Red Wing Post 54.

Barnum, Orrin E. "Bud," 90, Navy veteran of World War II, died Sept. 26, 2016. He served on the attack transport USS McCracken and the minesweeper USS Pivot. He was a member of Park Rapids Post 212.

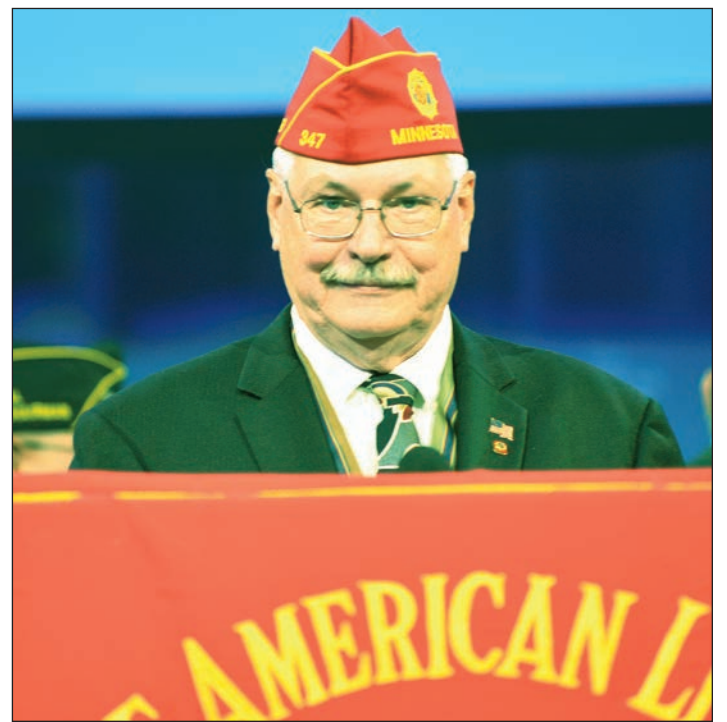
Wahlberg, Bruce E. 91, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died Sept. 22, 2016. He served in the 11th Marine 155mm Gun Battalion and was part of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. He was a member of the honor guard of Sandstone Post 151.

Holien, Michael, 58, Air Force veteran of War on Terrorism, died Aug. 19, 2016. He served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard and the Coast Guard between 1989-2007. He retired as a Lt. Colonel. Originally from Minnesota, he belonged to a post in Maryland.



The Minnesota contingent of Legion Riders and Department leadership posed with National Commander Dale Barnett after presenting a check for the Legacy Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$148,367.70. It was the largest presentation at the National Convention. The Riders did two motorcycle trips in Minnesota to raise the money.

NATIONAL CONVENTION CINCINNATI



National Vice Commander Al Davis of Minnesota took over the podium during the membership awards.



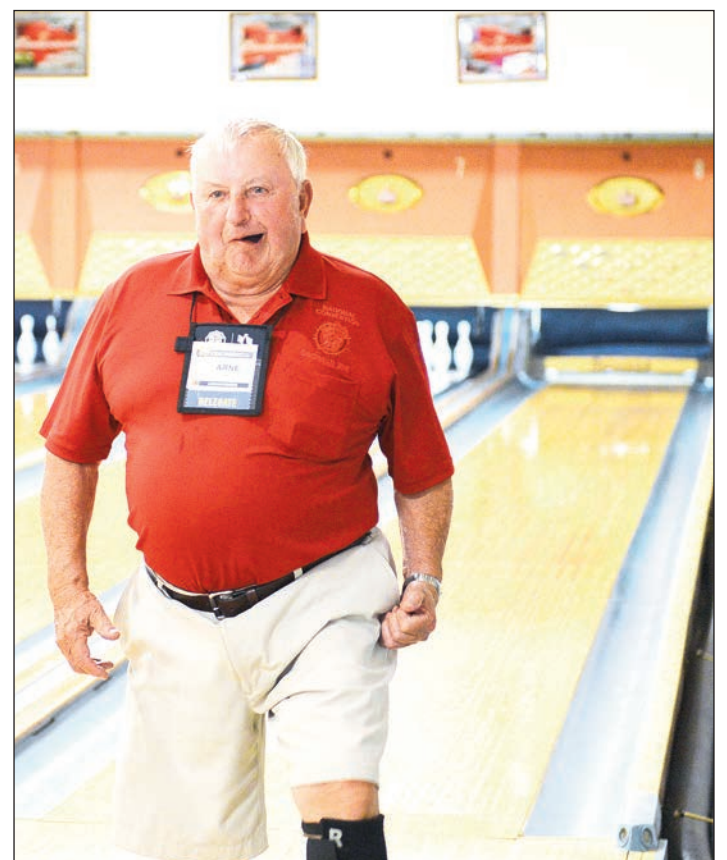
The traditional Minnesota massing of the flags took place during National Parade in downtown Cincinnati.



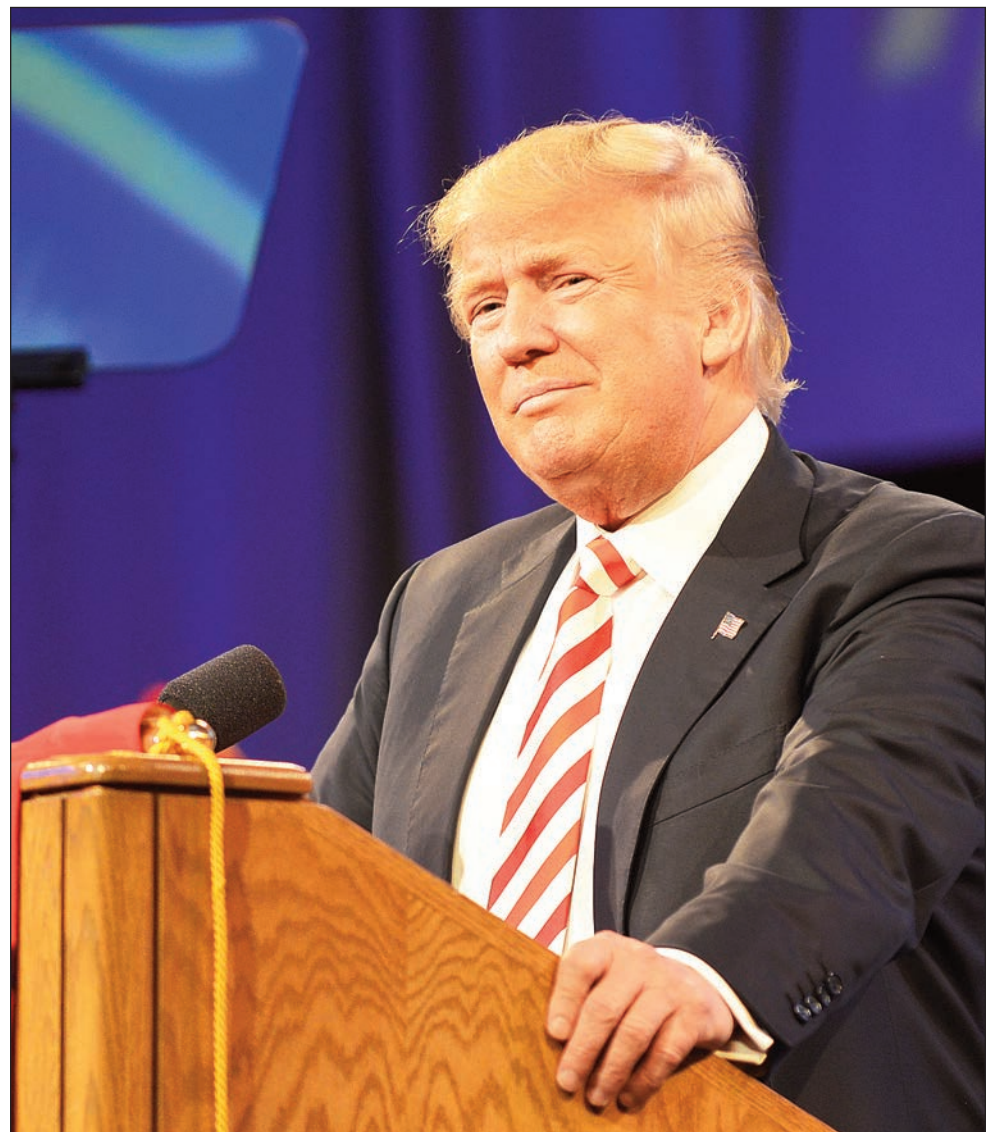
Past Department Commander and Delegation Chairman Jim Kellogg did the ceremonial passing of the gavel to Commander Denise Milton during the Minnesota Caucus in Cincinnati.



Minnesotan Nina Schaffer went up on the stage at the National Commander's Banquet to help entertainer Larry Gatlin put on a pin.



Arne Troe celebrated after knocking them all down during the Minnesota Party, held across the river in Kentucky. The party featured a bowling alley.



Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump addressed the National Convention on different days.



Minnesota presented a check for Operation Comfort Warriors at the convention.



The Department also presented a check for the National Emergency Fund.



Bill Goede, Plainview, and NECman Marland Ronning, Maple Grove, sampled the food at the Minnesota Party.



Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs told the Legionnaires the VA is doing better.



Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Red Wing, and Mary Ludwig enjoyed the Commander's Banquet.



Bill Goede, Plainview, was on display all over the convention hall as he gave the report on the National Guard and Reserve Forces, part of the National Security report.



Chuck Kruger reported on the Conventional Armed Forces Committee.