



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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November 11th
VETERANS DAY
November 2018 — January 2019

Brett P. Reistad, National Commander The American Legion 2018-2019

Brett P. Reistad (pronounced rye STAD) was elected national commander of the nearly 2 million-member American Legion on August 30, 2018 in Minneapolis, during the organization's 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1981.

A resident of Manassas, Virginia, Reistad is a life member and past commander of Post 270 in McLean. The Department of Virginia reached an all-time high in membership, while he served as department (state) commander from 2005 to 2006. He retired as a lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department after twenty-six years of service and began a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, a congressionally funded law enforcement investigative assistance program of the U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia's Bluefield College.

Reistad's Legion membership eligibility is through his honorable Vietnam War-era service (1974-78) as an active-duty U.S. Army infantryman, where he served with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at historic Fort Myer, Va. He



participated in the Inaugural ceremony for President Carter and other high-profile ceremonies. He has since been honored as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Commander Reistad has served at every level of The American Legion. He is a past president and honorary life member of the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA). He recently completed a six-year appointment as chairman of the Department Legislative Committee and two three-year terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, where he helped coordinate the input of 23 VSOs in crafting veteran friendly legislation and advocating the proposed legislation before the governor and

General Assembly. He is also a tenured past department historian and was recently bestowed an honorary life membership by the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion (NADHAL).

He is a past Legionnaire of the Year from Post 270 and a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10 in Manassas. His wife, Jessica, and his family, are proud members of The American Legion Family. His theme as national commander is "Celebrating Our Legacy," with special emphasis on the organization's centennial.

Important Upcoming Dates	
Nov 4	Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 6	Election Day (Remember to Vote)
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 15	65% Target Date
Nov 22	Thanksgiving
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 12	75% Target Date
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Jan 1	New Years Day
Jan 1	Cut off for articles for Feb/Apr issue of Montana Legionnaire
Jan 2	Big K Drawing
Jan 5 ..	Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards due to Department.
Jan 5	Firefighter of the Year Awards due to Department.
Jan 17	80% Target Date

DEADLINE

Jan. 1, 2019
Feb - Apr issue

Submit all articles
by above date.
Send copy to :
lmtpub@gmail.com,
or AL Dept. of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Cntr
PO Box 6075
Helena MT 59604-6075

See page 15:
How to Submit Articles

Meagher County American Legion Post & Unit 25 participate in White Sulphur Springs 4th of July parade



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COMMANDER KLOSE

First, a BIG thank you to our immediate Past Department Commander Larry Dobb and the other 11,000 plus American Legion members for achieving 100 percent membership for the 2017-2018 membership year. Great job all.

At the National American Legion Convention, the Department of Montana received four awards. One for 100 percent mem-



Richard Klose
Dept. Commander



Commander Dobb Accepts Consolidated Post Reporting Award from National Commander Rohan and Internal Affairs Chair Bob Newman

bership, one for the Lenker Award for reporting our volunteer work to benefit veterans, one for 100 percent Consolidated Post Reporting, and one for culture of growth for increasing membership.

As Vice Commander last year and Department Commander this year it has been a joy traveling around the state and visiting with so many great Legionnaires. As I write this we are in the middle of our District meetings. Some have had good turnout, others not so good. These District meetings are a good way for members to meet members from other Posts. This could make for some great friendships. These District meetings are a good way for members to hear from Department officers on the latest Legion information. Most members choose not to attend Department and National conventions so going to District meetings is a good way to receive some mentoring.

Mentoring at all levels: Post, Department, and National is important in retaining membership. The more information members have about the Legion the easier it is to get them to become officers in the Legion. People need to be trained in the responsibilities and duties so that they feel comfortable as good leaders.

I know that our members don't like to hear membership, membership, membership, but if we are to continue to be able to lobby Congress to get the services for our veterans and equipment needed to our service members, we need

to maintain a strong membership. This brings up another point. At the start of 2019, our Montana Legislature will be in session, and our membership will matter for getting funding for our veterans' state cemetery and state veterans' homes. There is just so much taxpayer money to go around and we need to make sure that the veterans services are funded.

The best way to avoid the membership conversation is to ask members to pay their membership renewal as soon as they receive their notice, just like when they pay their other bills.

Don't forget to work on contestants for your local oratorical contests.

Our Post 112 Department Convention people are putting together a great 2019 Department Convention including a parade, so plan to attend and have a great time in Polson. 🍂

VICE COMMANDER NELSON

After travelling to all the District Meetings this fall, I think a trip around the world would have been shorter. For those that attended the District Meetings, it was great to meet so many old faces and new faces each weekend. Hospitality and meals were exceptional and always makes the



Jeff Nelson Dept. Vice Commander

trip worthwhile.

Membership always seems like it is one of those subjects that never has an end. We are a little behind this year compared to last year at this same time, but we can get those 105 members transferred and we will be ahead of last year. I really urge the membership chairmen to just take an evening and start calling names, and if there is only an address to follow up on, write a letter and let that person in Post 105 know that you are going to transfer them to the nearest Post unless they respond and give you notice otherwise.

One other item I mentioned at District meeting was the Centennial Charter for your Post. Create the next 100-year charter and have everyone in your Post that is a member for 2019 printed on a nice Poster and have it framed for future generations to look back upon. The charter to the left is an example of a charter that you can format to what your Post would like. 🍂

The American Legion 2019 Centennial Charter Membership

Hardwick Post 112 Polson
Department of Montana



Jack Mitchell	Richard Beauchamp	Larry Blades
Jeff Nelson	Orville Wjorge	Robert Blakely
Ralph Barnes	Neil Boyd	Terry Brown
Larry Bartels	Mike Broyles	Ramon Bual
Frank Burnie	Earnest Butt	Richard Champion
Gene Cogar	Howard Corey	Earl Coriell
Don Davis	Melissa Carly	Gary Erb
Dorothy Goodwin	John Hackethorn	Charles Hahn
James Hayes	Hugh Henderson	Boyd Henneman
Dean Hermes	Gene Johnson	Jim Jones
Richard Kintz	Erwin Koetting	Matt Lee
Don Lilley	Lori Lucas	Gil Mangels

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that the membership take an active part in the selection process of our awards.

Our Economic Commission Awards consist of nine different awards:

1. Employer of Veterans Award
 - a. Small sized employer
 - b. Medium sized employer
 - c. Large sized employer
4. Enhance the lives of the Disabled Award
5. Employer of Older workers Award
6. Homeless Veteran Outreach Award
7. Employment Services Award
 - a. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
 - b. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)



c. Employment Service Local Office

Please contact Department Headquarters for more information or nomination forms.

Other awards that need attention now are the *Law Enforcement Officer of the Year*, *Firefighter of the Year* and *Eagle Scout of Year*; nomination forms are available from Department Headquarters.

For Posts that have Junior Shooting Sports Programs (JSSP) you should be ordering your target sets now for the National Contest, all requests for targets must be postmarked by January 15th, and all targets must be shot and mailed to National with a postmark no later than 1 February 2019.

The *Department Oratory finals* will be in Belgrade March 9, the District contests should be completed the week prior and notification to Department is due immediately upon completion of the District contests.

We have many deserving people and institutions of these awards; however, unless you, the member, nominate someone for them they cannot be recognized and awarded.

I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. The Department Headquarters will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov 22 – 25 and for Christmas December 24 – 26. 🍂

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VICE COMMANDER - JEFF NELSON
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

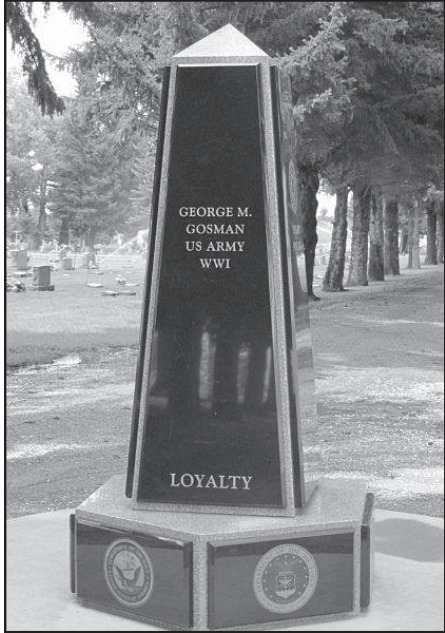
Post 20 Replaces Veteran's Memorial

BY DALE MCKNIGHT

On July 19, Post 20 assisted contractors to install a new Veteran's Memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon. The original memorial was a statue of George M. Gosman, a veteran of World War I, a past Montana American Legion Department Commander and a past Montana Lieutenant Governor. It was installed in 1940, but destroyed during a windstorm in 2016. The new memorial recognizes not only Commander Gosman but all veterans of all of the Armed Services. Funds for the memorial came from the generous



Post 20 designed and sponsored New Veterans Memorial at Mountain View Cemetery in Dillon (l-r) Dick Stephan-Hassard, Lois Volkening (Post Commander), and Jim Watkins (Post Adjutant)



support of a Great Harvest Bread Company bake sale, the Hagenbarth Charity Pheasant Shoot, Bill Carroll Post 9040 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the United Way and the World War I Centennial Commission 100 Cities/100 Memorials program. Butte Granite Works assisted in the design of the new memorial and helped Hunter Brothers Construction during the installation process. Post 20 plans to formally dedicate the new memorial on November 11, 2018, the Centennial anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end World War I.

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

PRAYER

It matters not to which religion you practice or subscribe. Prayer in some form plays a prominent role in virtually all faiths. What is prayer? Prayer at its most basic level is simply a method or way of connecting spiritually to the Divine, also known as the Almighty, Father, God, Higher Power, The Great Spirit and by many other names depending upon the faith tradition. For the purpose of simplicity in this article, I'll refer to that transcendent being as God, a Being or Power greater than ourselves.

There are many ways to pray. Some walk in the forest, while others prefer to be inside a building and even others feel closest in their "house of prayer" – whether it be a church, gathering in a public space, home, meeting house, synagogue or temple. Some sit, while others stand. Some pray alone while others find value in praying communally, with like-minded others. Some pray aloud while others pray in silence. Some chant and others sing their prayers. Some use words that are thousands of years old, while others use words written in more recent days gone by that drew hearts near when they were written. Others prefer to emulate those written prayers, while still others prefer to pray extemporaneously – using the words that come to their heart and mind.

It matters not how one prays; however, it matters that one does pray!

Countless scientific studies have demonstrated the amazing power of prayer in a variety of ways. Test subjects in many medical studies were directed to pray for hospitalized patients with a variety of illnesses.

Most surprising to researchers was that while the subjects of prayer and those praying for them had no acquaintance whatsoever, the subjects of the test group healed, recovered, or were relieved of anxiety or had a noticeable reduction in pain sooner than subjects of the control group, where no one prayed for them.

Why this topic? Because we have many in our Legion Family who need prayer. They are downcast; they are ill; they are sick; they have a crisis in their life. Many are struggling in a variety of ways that we don't know because they don't tell us. If your heart moves you to pray because you sense something's not right, kindly ask them. They may say all is okay, but somehow you sense it's not. Pray for them anyway. Many older Legion Family members are widows or widowers – all alone with very few in their circle because of their age and physical limitations.

Please pray for them.

Won't you please look around at your Post, Squadron or Unit membership? Who needs prayer? Sometimes we don't know because those who desperately need prayer the most say nothing out of embarrassment because of their situation or feel unworthy to "bother" anyone so they suffer in silence.

Pray for them anyway. God knows what's going on.

As we approach Thanksgiving and the "holiday season" may we always remember to feel gratitude and give thanks for our many blessings. May you pray for and then reach out tangibly to others who are in need during this special time.

May each of you be abundantly blessed for praying!

May you be well.

May you be well.

Post Everlasting

July/August/September 2018

- ☆ ANDERSON, SANFORD E., 9/6/18 – Korea – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 88, Chester, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ARTHUR, DONALD, 11/14/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 11-year member of Post 120, Winifred, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BENNETT, ROBERT, 8/23/18 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 39-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BRAATEN, CRAIG, 7/19/18 – Korean – US Airforce – 6-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BUCKNER, ROBERT A., 4/8/18 – Korea – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BURKER, RICHARD S, JR, 7/29/18 – Korea – US Army – 35-year member of Post 88, Chester, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ELLIOT, DONALD, 8/19/18 – WWII – US Navy – 70-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GREEN, TIM, 8/4/18 – Vietnam – US Marine – 21-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HERTZ, FLOYD, 6/24/18 – Korea – US Army – 34-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HUKILL, HENRY J, 9/16/18 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 74-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HULL, FRANK EUGENE, 6/29/18 – Korea – US Army – 51-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LAU, RAYMOND, 8/15/18 – WWII – US Navy – 51-year member of Post 93, Three Forks, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LOKKEN, DENNIS, 7/13/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 33-year member of Post 12, Sidney, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MATTESON, H.N. "BUD", 8/20/18 – WWII – US Army – 31-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MONGEON, LEE A., 4/2018 – Vietnam – US Airforce – 9-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ OLSON, JOHN K, 5/7/18 – Korea – US Army – 34-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PERRY, PHILLIP H, 8/3/18 – WWII – US Army – 28-year member of Post 16, Lewiston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PETERSON, NEIL, 7/19/18 – Korea – US Army – 13-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PICARD, PHYLLIS, 9/21/2018 – WWII – US Marine – 42-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SECHENA, JOHN W., DOD – WWII – US Army – 33-year member of Post 3, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SMART, GAILAND "ROY", 8/3/18 – WWII – US Army – 28-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WHITEHORSE, MOSES, 8/27/18 – Korea – US Army – 2-year member of Post 22, Wolf Point, Interred with Military Honors

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh
Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright.
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night
Thanks and praise
For our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh.



Baeth Funeral Honors

SUBMITTED BY KEN RUZICKA

Squadron 57 Commander Charlie Stevens gave a short speech at Charter Member John Rothie's Funeral on May 25, 2018, and presented a SAL flag to John's family. Many other Post and SAL members were in attendance. On August 27th 22 members of Malta Post 57, VFW 4067 and SAL 57 participated in WWII Veteran Roy Baeth's Funeral. Roy was 91 years old.



Roy Baeth's descendants serve in the Honor Guard at his funeral. Nephew Ken Wiederrick, great-nephews Charlie and Kevin Stevens and their sons Mike and Jacquoya Stevens were among the 22 members in attendance.

Post 14 Awards Certificates of Appreciation

SUBMITTED BY LEN ALBRIGHT



(l-r), Randy Kemp, Dana Aughney, Scott Levandowski, Len Albright, and Carl Craft.

Randy Kemp (District 7 CC), Dallas Thompson (Post 14 Historian and picture-taker), and Post 14-member Carl Craft met with officers of 1st Interstate Bank to present them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their generous contribution towards the Bozeman Memorial Day Parade. Carl Craft was then surprised with a Certificate for his outstanding assistance with the Bozeman Cemetery on Memorial Day. Carl helped with placing and removing flags, organizing over 2400 flags for next year, assisting at the Kiosk, and performing maintenance of the Wall.

CONSTITUTION DAY AT STATE CAPITOL

District 6 Commander, Josh Clement addresses the crowd during the Constitution Day Celebration at the State Capitol in Helena Mont. The Montana Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution organize the patriotic remembrance each year on September 9 to remind the public about their rights as citizens of this great country.



Red Lodge Post 17 gets new Commander

SUBMITTED BY KIM MARTENS



Sgt. Delany Hedrick is the new Commander Carbon Post 17. Delany served in Afghanistan 2010-2011 and is currently serving in the 572d Army Reserve, Billings. Delany is the first female commander of the Post and we hope she inspires younger veterans to join.

Bozeman Post 14 Patriots Day Remembrance

SUBMITTED BY LEN ALBRIGHT

'Terrifying and Heartbreaking'

Ceremony marks 17th anniversary of 9/11 attacks BY WHITNEY BERMES, BOZEMAN CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

With kind words and silence, songs and echoes of a gun salute, a group gathered in downtown Bozeman to remember those lost 17 years ago in the 9/11 attacks, and to honor the



Post 14 member Dan Ritter (emcee) and Jim Korth our Service officer and behind them to the left is singer (National Anthem) Beth Atchison, Capt. Brian Dahm (NG) was our chaplain.

first responders, military members and Veterans who continue to serve our community.

"I know a lot of us remember where we were on 9/11, 17 years ago," said Dan Ritter, assistant national vice commandant of the northwest division of the Marine Corps League.

Ritter, who led a short ceremony in front of the American Legion in downtown Bozeman on Tuesday morning, recalled the 'terrifying and heartbreaking' news footage on September 11,



PHOTOS BY TERRY KEMP

Post 14 Honor Guard included member Melissa Smith who played Taps.

2001, that showed wreckage from planes terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center buildings in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day, including more than 400 first responders.

A couple dozen officers, firefighters, Veterans and others attended Tuesday's ceremony, which also included a singing of the natural anthem by Beth Addison, an invocation by Major Brian Daum and the playing of Taps.



WSS Post/ Unit 25 opens Red Ants Pants

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE CUMMINS

On July 28, 2018, the Meagher County American Legion Post 25 and Unit 25 opened the Red Ants Pants Festival in White Sulphur Springs, MT, with a flag presentation and local ladies singing the National Anthem.

Ronan Post 138 Initiates New Officers for 2018-2019

SUBMITTED BY GLEN SHARBONO

During the regular meeting of July 10, 2018 Department Vice-Commander Jeff Nelson of Polson Post 112 conducted the swearing in ceremony of the new Post Officers. They were as follows, Glen Sharbono Commander, Tom Lefty Vice Commander, Ed Cornelius Chaplain and Penrod Davis as Sergeant-At-Arms. Glen Sharbono and Tom Lefty were elected to office in April of 2018 and assumed the duties of office immediately after the initiation.

Commander Sharbono then appointed the remaining new Officers and Committeemen. Their terms of office will be from 2018-2020. In the



PHOTO BY: LORIE NOBLE, PRESIDENT RONAN AUXILIARY UNIT 138

(l-r) Post members Dale Morgan, Service Officer Penrod Davis, Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Melvin Quakenbush, Finance Officer Hank Dolezal, Commander Glen Sharbono, Chaplain Ed Cornelius, Past Commander Jack Fay, Vice Commander Tom Lefty, visiting Department Vice Commander Jeff Nelson and Highway Fatality Marker Chairman Jerry Fisher.

Photo Past Commander Jack Fay passes the gavel and Post Flag to new Commander Glen Sharbono.

Service Officer, Department of Montana

As most of you may already know, I have been selected as the new Administrator for Montana Veterans Affairs Division effective October 13, 2018, which means I will be stepping down as your Department Service Officer. It was an honor to serve as your DSO for 7½ years, allowing for some great memories! I will continue fulfilling my national role as Vice-Chairman, VA&R commission and member of the Executive Committee for VA&R. I am pleased to announce Tim Ingraham as the new DSO, also effective October 13, 2018.

Kelly Ackerman, Department Service Officer

TIMOTHY R. INGRAHAM

Department Service Officer (select)

As the newly appointed American Legion Department Service Officer effective October 13, 2018, I would like to share a little about myself. I started my military service with the 1/163rd ACR in Plentywood, Montana, as an 19D Cavalry Scout from 1982 to 1988. I enlisted into the USAF and ANG Components for the next 21 years until I retired January 9, 2010. I enjoyed my time on the blue side as I held such jobs as Command and Control, Alert Force Controller and Recruiting. I separated from the USAF in 1992 as Strategic Air Command (SAC) was deactivating. I am married to Kaye E Ingraham, who retired after 21 years in the USAF. We have two children, Haley (14) and

Skyler (12) who attends Helena Christian School in Helena, MT. I have been a Veteran Service Officer at Ft. Harrison, MT for the last 3 years. In the VSO capacity, MVAD is so diverse in helping Veterans, Spouses and Dependents with benefits to include but not limited to Disability and Pension claims, Burial inquiries as well as Veterans Designation on Driver's License. I am looking forward to meeting each and every one of you.

The goal of our nine Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

Listed below are the MVAD/ AL offices throughout the state:

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:	
Belgrade	(406) 388-4601
Billings	(406) 248-8579
Butte	(406) 533-0910
Great Falls	(406) 452-2265
Havre	(406) 265-4225
Helena	(406) 495-2080/2081/2082
Kalispell	(406) 755-3795
Lewistown	(406) 538-3174
Miles City	(406) 232-1203
Missoula	(406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service
to our great Country!

TOWNSEND POST 42 FAMILY'S 2ND FIRST RESPONDER'S BENEFIT A HUGE SUCCESS!

BY DEE GANNON, UNIT 42 AUXILIARY AND BROADWATER REPORTER WRITER

September 9 marked the date for the second annual Patriots Day Benefit for First Responders and oh, what a good time was had. Over 100 dinners were savored, 110 silent auction items bid on and a hometown favorite of the crowd, the dunk tank drew cheers and laughter during the entire event. Activities also included a jail manned by Broadwater County's finest law enforcement, a fun-run, kid's games, Montana National Guard bounce house and toys, and even the REACH Air Medical Services helicopter making a beautiful landing at the football field for all to view and enjoy meeting the crew. Musical entertainment was provided by a Vietnam Veteran, Robert Perry who serenaded the crowd indoors with lively tunes as he's done all over the U.S. He performs regularly at the Helena VA and Ft. Harrison as well.

This year's event netted about \$6,000 which was donated to the Broadwater Sheriff's Office for Stinger



BROADWATER REPORTER PHOTO



Spike Strips, the Townsend City Fire Department towards a Thermal Imaging Device and the Broadwater Rural Fire Department for needed supplies. Many thanks to the American Legion Post 42 Family, the Townsend Rotary Club, the Lions Club, Missouri Valley Marketing, Townsend Tire, Magpie Printing, Town Pump, the Montana National Guard, REACH Air Medical Service, Broadwater Sheriff's Office, Townsend School District #1 and the many, many individuals who made sure we had everything we needed to make this event a success. We are grateful to ALL who participated and attended and we look forward to an even better event next year.

\$58,000 granted to City of Bozeman for new Veterans' Columbarium

SUBMITTED BY LEN ALBRIGHT

Legion members from Posts 14, 23, 25, 30, 65, 87, 93, and 99 along with members of VFW's, VVA, Marine Corp. League, Auxiliary Unit 14,



(R-L) Post 30 CDR Hank Adams, Post 87 & VFW 7621 Reese Haley, Post 14 and VVA Chuck Renevere, Bozeman City Major Cindy Andreas.

Submariners of Montana, Legion Riders and Montana Military Vehicles Club (about 60 total) were in attendance for the presentation of a \$58,000 check from the Veterans in Gallatin County to the City of Bozeman. The check is for construction of the Veterans Cemetery/Columbarium and is to accompany the \$88,000 the City is providing. Construction will start in the near future on a parcel of land east of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman. There are over a dozen Veteran's families waiting for project completion to place their beloveds to rest in the new structure.

REMEMBERING OUR LEGACY: Montana's Experience in World War

BY RAYMOND K. READ, MUSEUM CURATOR/DIRECTOR

The following is taken from "Montana in the Wars" compiled by Chester K. Shore. This history was published for The American Legion and The American Legion of Montana as a part of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution in 1976 and 1977. Copyright by The American Legion in 1977.

—"We have come to kill or be killed so, let's go ahead," declared General Pershing and General Bliss when, on March 28, 1918 they gallantly offered to lead their troops into battle. And it's a fact that the men did "go ahead" with fine contempt for death (Shore, P.68).

Our division that arrived in France were just bunches of soldiers in a strange world. —Cannon fodder, children of unpreparedness, who might by thrown into a breach—. So the allies saw them (Ibid p.68).

"Give us more troops, more money, more munitions"—"But from our allies' fighting men: Give us Yanks in Battle test. Let's see if they are too proud to fight, and if they are not, how they fight." They were soon accommodated. But as great as the material results, the moral results were still more important. —The American soldier had shown an unrivaled fortitude of enduring incessant efforts and all the hardships due to constant bad weather and never-ceasing battle. (ibid) The Army had developed into a powerful and smooth running machine and everyone from the Commander-in-chief to the last arrival was supremely confident of the ability of the American soldier to carry through any task. (ibid).

MONTANA IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

"Wild and wooly, full of fleas, fight or frolic, as we please; Powder River — Let her buck! Wade across it, you're in luck."

They shouted it out loud and clear on the drill grounds of big Camp Lewis in Washington State in 1917; the brawny lumberjacks, cowpunchers and miners of Montana of the 362nd Regiment and other regiments of the "Wild West" 91st Division [the Pine Tree Division], National Army of the U.S. It was the outfit's battle cry over there in 1918, at bloody Mont-faucon, one of the toughest salients to attack in the Argonne Forest and later on Scheld River in gallant Belgium. These and many more western citizen soldiers proved themselves victorious against the German Empire's best troops in that "great war."

The year 1917 was a year which no one willed but all inherited: the year America walked forth from Main Street into an orbit which turned out to be as incomprehensible as it was vast. The spring of that year, when well-fed, lethargic America finally awoke and plunged into the "Great War". A war which was erroneously labeled "a war to make the world safe for democracy" and ironically "the war to end all wars."

In 1917 and 1918, patriotic young men of Montana [also young women] responded to their nation's call beyond the greatest expectations and the Big Sky State furnished one-fourth more men proportionately

HISTORIAN continued 12

Eureka Post 74

SUBMITTED BY CDR STONEY FUGATE

On July 21, 2018, Eureka Post 74 awarded Honorary Life Memberships to two of our members. Commander Stoney Fugate presented an Honorary Life Membership Certificate to James Dale (20 years) and Chaplain Ernie Croteau presented an Honorary Life Membership Certificate to Francis "Lee" Utter (27 years).



CDR Stoney Fugate presented an Honorary Life Membership Certificate to James Dale (20 years)

Chaplain Ernie Croteau presented Honorary Life Membership Certificate to Lee Utter (27 years).





DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2019



	Year end Goal 2019	Year To Date Total	Year End 2018	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22	WOLF POINT.....	43.....13.....	35.....	30.23%
41	GLASGOW.....	82.....60.....	90.....	73.17%
45	HINSDALE.....	58.....34.....	49.....	58.62%
49	HOMESTEAD.....	10.....7.....	12.....	70.00%
55	POPLAR.....	35.....4.....	34.....	11.43%
56	SCOBAY.....	60.....35.....	48.....	58.33%
58	PLENTYWOOD.....	50.....29.....	44.....	58.00%
61	BROCKTON.....	49.....18.....	28.....	36.73%
81	CULBERTSON.....	95.....53.....	105.....	55.79%
85	BAINVILLE.....	30.....17.....	24.....	56.67%
104	NASHUA.....	14.....6.....	15.....	42.86%
122	OPHEIM.....	34.....27.....	29.....	79.41%
229	WESTBY.....	15.....10.....	16.....	66.67%
	TOTAL.....	575.....313.....	529.....	54.43%

11	HAVRE.....	127.....46.....	98.....	36.22%
48	CHINOOK.....	46.....31.....	47.....	67.39%
50	BIG SANDY.....	26.....15.....	27.....	57.69%
57	MALTA.....	91.....67.....	102.....	73.63%
67	ROCKY BOY.....	33.....15.....	14.....	45.45%
79	SACO.....	11.....6.....	17.....	54.55%
88	CHESTER.....	38.....25.....	35.....	65.79%
109	TURNER.....	28.....22.....	22.....	78.57%
110	FORT BELKNAP.....	12.....6.....	12.....	50.00%
	TOTAL.....	412.....233.....	374.....	56.55%

36	VALIER.....	55.....29.....	56.....	52.73%
37	CONRAD.....	56.....40.....	53.....	71.43%
40	CUT BANK.....	62.....28.....	50.....	45.16%
43	SHELBY.....	55.....24.....	55.....	43.64%
69	GALATA.....	36.....22.....	27.....	61.11%
73	SWEETGRASS.....	74.....52.....	74.....	70.27%
127	BROWNING.....	30.....16.....	27.....	53.33%
CN20	CALGARY.....	47.....26.....	47.....	55.32%
	TOTAL.....	415.....237.....	389.....	57.11%

52	THOMPSON FALLS.....	61.....35.....	59.....	57.38%
72	COLUMBIA FALLS.....	98.....59.....	112.....	60.20%
74	EUREKA.....	47.....32.....	53.....	68.09%
86	BIG FORK.....	57.....44.....	55.....	77.19%
97	LIBBY.....	198.....113.....	174.....	57.07%
106	ST IGNATIUS.....	58.....31.....	54.....	53.45%
108	WHITEFISH.....	66.....44.....	66.....	66.67%
112	POLSON.....	125.....89.....	120.....	71.20%
113	ARLEE.....	32.....16.....	25.....	50.00%
126	CHARLO.....	14.....11.....	14.....	78.57%
129	PARADISE.....	67.....50.....	60.....	74.63%
137	KALISPELL.....	225.....122.....	208.....	54.22%
138	RONAN.....	57.....37.....	68.....	64.91%
	TOTAL.....	1105.....683.....	1068.....	61.81%

13	ST REGIS.....	53.....31.....	54.....	58.49%
27	MISSOULA.....	361.....221.....	376.....	61.22%
47	HAMILTON.....	121.....78.....	120.....	64.46%
63	CONDON.....	46.....32.....	48.....	69.57%
68	MISSOULA.....	37.....24.....	35.....	64.86%
83	CLINTON.....	16.....10.....	15.....	62.50%
91	CORVALLIS.....	162.....99.....	168.....	61.11%
94	STEVENSVILLE.....	216.....126.....	220.....	58.33%
101	MISSOULA.....	54.....20.....	58.....	37.04%
124	FRENCHTOWN.....	67.....41.....	36.....	61.19%
125	DRUMMOND.....	51.....50.....	50.....	98.04%
134	FLORENCE.....	61.....31.....	64.....	50.82%
135	LOLO.....	136.....77.....	138.....	56.62%
	TOTAL.....	1381.....840.....	1382.....	60.83%

1	BUTTE.....	193.....100.....	194.....	51.81%
2	HELENA.....	748.....487.....	804.....	65.11%
9	LINCOLN.....	54.....36.....	61.....	66.67%
10	DEER LODGE.....	72.....44.....	62.....	61.11%
20	DILLON.....	185.....96.....	166.....	51.89%
21	ANACONDA.....	245.....146.....	237.....	59.59%
24	WHITEHALL.....	91.....44.....	92.....	48.35%
31	TWIN BRIDGES.....	43.....18.....	37.....	41.86%
33	PHILIPSBURG.....	10.....6.....	10.....	60.00%
42	TOWNSEND.....	117.....64.....	119.....	54.70%
46	BOULDER.....	23.....19.....	25.....	82.61%
89	SHERIDAN.....	68.....64.....	78.....	94.12%
115	BUTTE.....	104.....51.....	103.....	49.04%
	TOTAL.....	1953.....1175.....	1988.....	60.16%

AT LARGE				
105	HELENA.....	199.....71.....	101.....	36%

14	BOZEMAN.....	350.....227.....	371.....	64.86%
19	BIG TIMBER.....	189.....100.....	173.....	52.91%
23	LIVINGSTON.....	169.....117.....	179.....	69.23%
25	WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....35.....	67.....	55.56%
30	BELGRADE.....	254.....111.....	253.....	43.70%
65 ☆	ENNIS.....	40.....62.....	52.....	155.00%
78	W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....20.....	30.....	68.97%
87	MANHATTAN.....	169.....78.....	157.....	46.15%
93	THREE FORKS.....	42.....24.....	44.....	57.14%
99	BIG SKY.....	56.....22.....	59.....	39.29%
118	GARDINER.....	35.....27.....	34.....	77.14%
	TOTAL.....	1396.....823.....	1419.....	58.95%

3	GREAT FALLS.....	259.....141.....	261.....	54.44%
6	CHOTEAU.....	102.....63.....	106.....	61.76%
26	FORT BENTON.....	49.....27.....	39.....	55.10%
51	AUGUSTA.....	49.....31.....	40.....	63.27%
64	DUTTON.....	61.....35.....	49.....	57.38%
80	FAIRFIELD.....	33.....15.....	34.....	45.45%
102	GERALDINE.....	114.....52.....	115.....	45.61%
103	POWER.....	32.....19.....	32.....	59.38%
130	VAUGHN.....	48.....29.....	43.....	60.42%
133	CASCADE.....	31.....15.....	33.....	48.39%
341	MALMSTROM.....	156.....57.....	162.....	36.54%
	TOTAL.....	934.....484.....	914.....	51.82%

15	HARLOWTON.....	103.....76.....	104.....	73.79%
16	LEWISTOWN.....	398.....306.....	467.....	76.88%
18	ROUNDUP.....	66.....34.....	64.....	51.52%
53	STANFORD.....	26.....14.....	21.....	53.85%
62	DENTON.....	23.....13.....	24.....	56.52%
70	JUDITH GAP.....	67.....38.....	65.....	56.72%
76	HOBSON.....	47.....23.....	43.....	48.94%
96	ROY.....	20.....12.....	23.....	60.00%
120	WINIFRED.....	31.....1.....	32.....	3.23%
	TOTAL.....	7781.....517.....	843.....	66.20%

5	MILES CITY.....	81.....48.....	74.....	59.26%
12	SIDNEY.....	43.....23.....	36.....	53.49%
28	GLENDIVE.....	123.....66.....	101.....	53.66%
29	CIRCLE.....	18.....2.....	17.....	11.11%
32	TERRY.....	101.....65.....	101.....	64.36%
35	BAKER.....	136.....80.....	110.....	58.82%
39	FORSYTH.....	97.....51.....	89.....	52.58%
44	COLSTRIP.....	30.....17.....	40.....	56.67%
60	EKALAKA.....	15.....3.....	15.....	20.00%
77	LAME DEER.....	11.....3.....	6.....	27.27%
114	FAIRVIEW.....	37.....29.....	37.....	78.38%
128	BROADUS.....	13.....9.....	14.....	69.23%
	TOTAL.....	705.....396.....	640.....	56.17%

4	BILLINGS.....	484.....268.....	459.....	55.37%
8	HARDIN.....	46.....35.....	54.....	76.09%
17	RED LODGE.....	56.....35.....	63.....	62.50%
34	COLUMBUS.....	58.....38.....	65.....	65.52%
71	FROMBERG.....	18.....14.....	19.....	77.78%
84	BELFRY.....	39.....32.....	34.....	82.05%
92	HYSHAM.....	26.....13.....	18.....	50.00%
100	PARK CITY.....	56.....48.....	58.....	85.71%
111	CUSTER.....	59.....34.....	66.....	57.63%
117	BILLINGS.....	180.....68.....	198.....	37.78%
119	BILLINGS HGTS.....	174.....122.....	182.....	70.11%
123	LAUREL.....	113.....93.....	115.....	82.30%
	TOTAL.....	1309.....800.....	1331.....	61.12%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2019 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	11,165
2019 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	6572
2018 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	10978
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	58.86%

The American Legion needs you!

<http://www.legion.org/renew>

HQs POST 105 MEMBERS

At the concluded Department Convention in Great Falls Resolution #18-09 passed raising the dues amount for HQs Post 105 in Helena (*not to be confused with Post 2 in Helena*). This resolution calls for annual dues for Post 105 members to be raised to \$47 effective 1 January 2019.

For those who pay their 2019 dues prior to January 1, 2019 — their 2019 dues are still \$40.

Remember, HQs Post 105 members may transfer into a local Post at its dues rate. For more information on transferring to a local Post contact Department HQs at amlegmt29@mtlegion.org or call toll free 866-793-1257.

TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post.....2.....	HELENA.....	480 MEMBERS
Post.....16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	306 MEMBERS
Post.....4.....	BILLINGS.....	268 MEMBERS
Post...14.....	BOZEMAN.....	225 MEMBERS
Post.....27.....	MISSOULA.....	217 MEMBERS
Post.....21.....	ANACONDA.....	142 MEMBERS
Post.....3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	138 MEMBERS
Post.....94.....	STEVENSVILLE.....	122 MEMBERS
Post...137.....	KALISPELL.....	122 MEMBERS
Post...119.....	BILLINGS HEIGHTS.....	121 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT.....	PERCENTAGE.....	COMMANDER
9.....	65.56%.....	Brad Marking
4.....	60.72%.....	Glen Sharbono
11.....	60.43%.....	Jim Lish
5.....	60.10%.....	Greg Marose
6.....	59.35%.....	Josh Clement
7.....	58.31%.....	Jim Howe
3.....	56.87%.....	Randy Flammond
2.....	55.83%.....	Vincent Schmoeckle
10.....	55.32%.....	David Ofalt
1.....	54.26%.....	Joe Yeoman
8.....	49.46%.....	Kim Kay McCarty Martin

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION July 6, 2018

SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2019.....	TO DATE
WOLF POINT #22.....	10.....	0
☆ GLASGOW #41.....	10.....	30
☆ PLENTYWOOD #58.....	10.....	14
CULBERTSON #81.....	23.....	0
NASHUA #104.....	10.....	0
HAVRE #11.....	16.....	0
CHINOOK #48.....	19.....	11
MALTA #57.....	10.....	0
☆ SACO #79.....	10.....	10
GALATA #69.....	42.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	10.....	0
POLSON #112.....	10.....	8
MISSOULA #27.....	17.....	3
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	0
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	10.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	21.....	0
LOLO #135.....	34.....	0
BUTTE #1.....	29.....	0
HELENA #2.....	76.....	74
ANACONDA #21.....	33.....	0
TOWNSEND #42.....	18.....	12
BUTTE #115.....	19.....	2
☆ BOZEMAN #14.....	51.....	54
BIG TIMBER #19.....	22.....	0
☆ LIVINGSTON #23.....	10.....	16
BELGRADE #30.....	64.....	27
MANHATTAN #87.....	27.....	18
BIG SKY #99.....	12.....	0
☆ GREAT FALLS #3.....	16.....	18
CHOTEAU #6.....	16.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	53.....	5
☆ VAUGHN #130.....	17.....	19
HARLOWTON #15.....	22.....	19
LEWISTOWN #16.....	128.....	26
MILES CITY #5.....	11.....	10
BAKER #35.....	34.....	15
FORSYTH #39.....	45.....	39
BILLINGS #4.....	27.....	0
BELFRY #84.....	23.....	0
CUSTER #111.....	11.....	9
BILLINGS #117.....	10.....	0
LAUREL #123.....	10.....	2
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1046.....	431
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		





Ready

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

KAREN SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Disaster Emergency Response

Let's Beef Up the National Emergency Fund!

As you drive around Montana, you see lots and LOTS of cattle. Beef is a big industry here. Because those steers are strong, the word, “beef” has also entered our lexicon meaning solid strength.

With disaster after disaster this year – floods, wild-fires, and now hurricanes, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided grants to many Legion members and Sons of The American Legion members, whose homes are no longer habitable due to natural disaster. While the NEF is not depleted, it could use some serious ‘beefing up!’

If you shop at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) at all, you can log in through [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com) and one half of one percent of the cost of all your purchases can be diverted to the NEF by Amazon without any cost to you!

From their website: “AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.”

I just logged in and in the box where you can search for a charity, typed in American Legion National... and up popped American Legion National Emergency Fund – if you choose to donate to the NEF, **American Legion National Emergency Fund** will be listed under the Amazon search bar at the top of their webpage every time you sign in – so you will know Amazon will be donating to the NEF on your behalf when you complete your transaction with them. How easy is that?

You can also donate to the NEF directly by going to legion.org and clicking the ‘Donate to NEF’ button.

Every little bit helps. Won’t you please donate today? *May you be well!*

CUSTER POST 5 FLAG DAY

SUBMITTED BY CAROL A. PRAHL, POST 5 PUBLICITY & FLAG CHAIRMAN

Custer Post 5 held a Flag Retirement ceremony on Flag Day, June 14, 2018, at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery.

Joe Dalbeck in foreground, Clancee Collins (Dist 10 CDR) in background.



SUBMITTED BY JOANNE CUMMINS

Meagher County American Legion Post 25 presented backpacks to all the first grade students at White Sulphur Springs elementary school on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. It was the student's first day of school for the new year and the Legionnaires gave each student their personalized backpack which contained various school supplies and had a name tag with the student's name and an American Legion emblem stitched on it. Each student was also given a picture of themselves receiving the backpack from the respective Legionnaire.



WSS Post 25

Post 25 White Sulphur Springs Commander Bill Cummins presents Reidar Johnson with his 45-year American Legion Appreciation Certificate and pin.



Sheridan Post 89 Flag Raising at Ruby Valley Medical Center Grand Opening

Sheridan's American Legion Post 89 participated in the Grand Opening of the new Ruby Valley Medical Center in Sheridan on August 18 2018, by raising our Nation's Flag during the National Anthem as part of the Medical Center's Dedication Ceremony.



Post 89 Members honor new Medical Center with flag raising ceremony. (l-r) Cliff Morgan Post 89 Commander, and Greg Granken Post 89 Vice Commander.



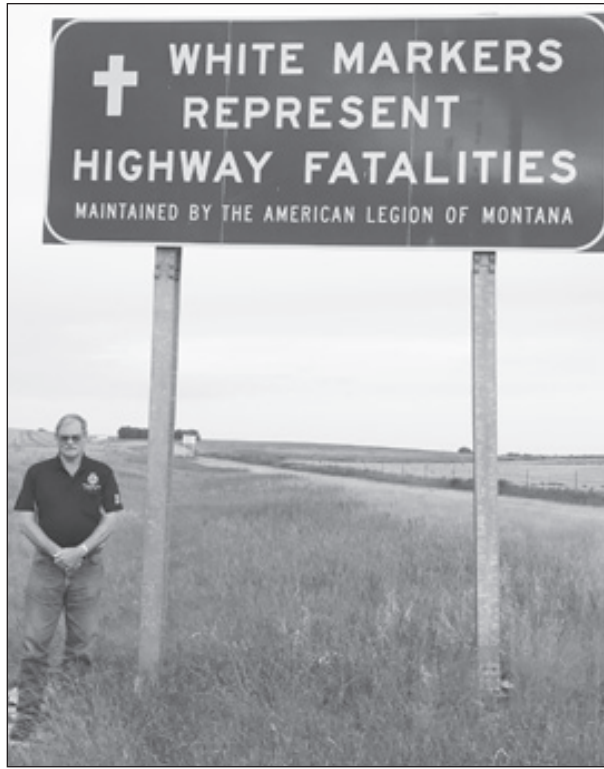
Post 25 Presents Backpacks for First-Graders

Highway Fatality Markers: Property of The American Legion

BY KARON KOUGIOULIS, AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT FATALITY MARKER CHAIRMAN

The markers stand beside the road in the location of a fatality as a safety reminder, not as a memorial. They are placed and maintained by members of The American Legion to remind motorists that driving can be dangerous; people need to be aware of their surroundings and drive cautiously, maintaining safe speeds.

According to <http://www.mtlegion.org> the program was started in 1952 with an agreement with the Montana Department of Transportation and intended as a highway safety program; a sobering reminder of a fatal accident and a place where a human being lost their life.



In the last few years The American Legion Department Highway Fatality Marker Chairman has been cracking down on items being placed on and around the fatality markers. Each Post in Montana is responsible for putting up markers and maintaining them in their area. The website goes on to say “when a highway is reconstructed and corrects what may have been a problem all highway fatality markers are removed.” Therefore, people may notice those markers are gone.

On the back of the marker should be a sticker that says, “Property of The American Legion. Please do not decorate, write on, or place names on the face of the marker or post.”

When entering Montana, there are blue signs that the MT Department of Transportation has put up stating the white markers represent highway fatalities; maintained by The American Legion of Montana.

The MT Department of Transportation set the policy and rules for the program and The American Legion follows these as the only agency responsible for the markers. This means that each American Legion Post is responsible for enforcing the rules governing the program in their area.

GO AHEAD – RELAX...

LET THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM HANDLE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS.

Don't waste your time shopping for insurance – the best deals are right here. Thanks to the group buying power of millions of Legionnaires like you, we have negotiated with leading insurance companies to bring you the best rates and coverage. Get the insurance you need at a price you can afford. Even if you are over age 65, you can protect yourself and your family from today's soaring premium costs and increasing risks. It's easy. Just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust's full range of plans endorsed by Your Department and tailored to the needs of Legionnaires and their families.

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM

Fill in your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Then check off the plans that interest you, and we will do the rest!

☒ Yes! Please send me complete details about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program.

Name Address
City State Zip
Phone () Evening () Date of Birth / /

ENDORSED PLANS

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ Dental | ☐ Hospital Help | ☐ Travel Accident Protection |
| ☐ Auto | ☐ No Cost Accident Protection | ☐ Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) |
| ☐ Homeowners | ☐ Accident Protection | ☐ Identity Theft Protection |
| ☐ Cancer Care | ☐ Medicare Supplement | ☐ Accident Disability |
| ☐ Discount Card | | |

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100th National Convention 2018



Commander Dobb accepts the 100% Membership



US Vice President Michael Pence addresses Convention



Incoming Department of Montana Commander Klose



Unexpected but very welcomed Hospitality guest China Post 1 member Scott poses with the 3 amigos - Klose, Rice and Dobb



Cdr Dobb-Joyce Babcock make their entry to the ANAVICUS breakfast



Commander Larry Dobb accepts Culture of Growth Award



The Montana Team accepts the National William F. Lenker Award for Exemplary Service to Veterans



Volunteer Coordinators Joyce Babcock and Bill White



Richard Klose and Larry Dobb hamming it up at ANAVICUS Breakfast



Parade Banner



Past Department Commanders Luncheon



Montana's officers prepping strategy for the Convention



stealing away for a quick bite



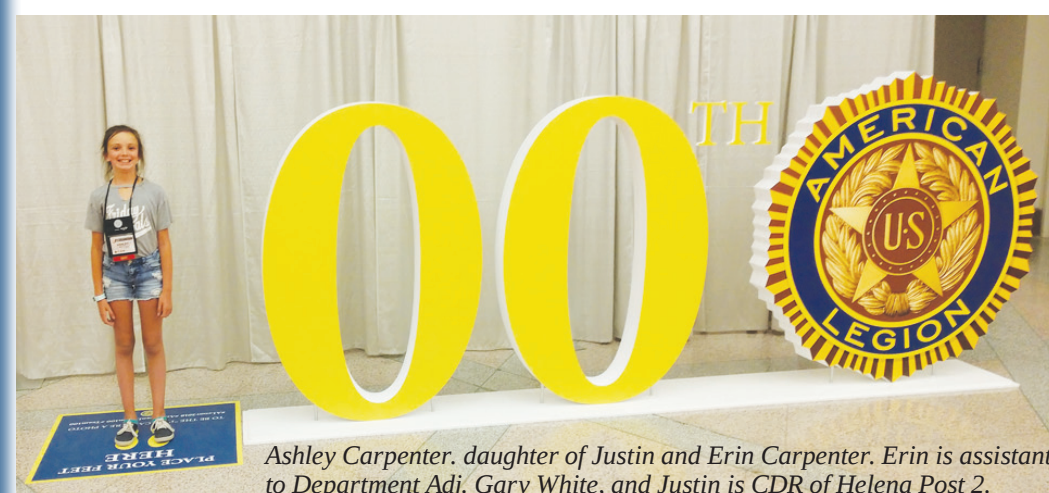
2018 ANAVICUS Inductees



Sue Davidson and Montana guests at the AL Banquet



John Pellegrini and his Gals in the Montana Hospitality suite



Ashley Carpenter, daughter of Justin and Erin Carpenter. Erin is assistant to Department Adj. Gary White, and Justin is CDR of Helena Post 2.



MT ladies at Nat'l Auxiliary President's Banquet



George Blackard, Michelle Harada and Jim Lish ready for the parade



Montana Legionnaires sharing camaraderie at a local restaurant after the parade

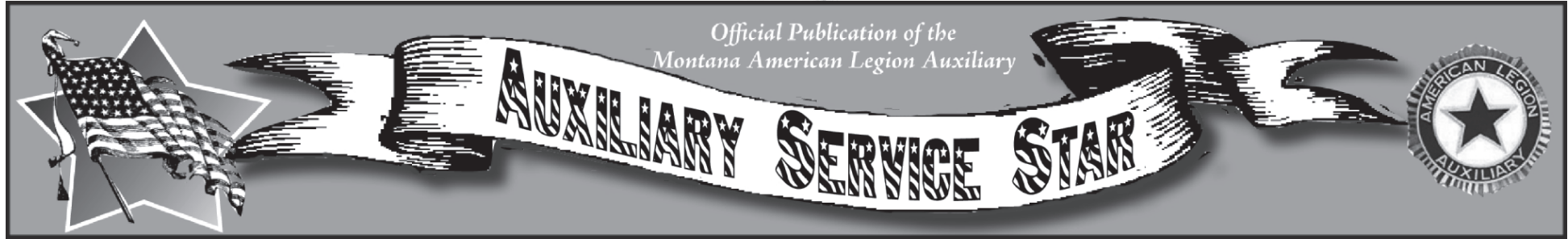
100th National Convention in Minneapolis: Montana's Legionnaires bode well on the stage

Though the weather in Minneapolis during The American Legion's 100th National Convention was bleak and mostly overcast for late August, it did not dampen the enthusiasm and spirit of the 49 Montanans who made their way by plane, train and automobile to take part in the historic meeting. Some arrived more than a week prior to the convention to begin prepping for what would be a wonderful meeting of colleagues, friends and Legion Family. The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion held concurrent and sometimes combined events with the main Legion caucus.

Over what seemed like endless commitments to dine the days away, Montana members renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances as they worked through legislative issues, proposed charter changes, and other business to come before the Legion masses. Speaking of masses, the Sunday non-denominational service was made all the more special with the Minneapolis Boys Choir and an impassioned speech, 'Who's your hero?' given by the National Chaplain, Robert Allen Vick.

Montana Legionnaires came away with four National Awards: 100% Membership, 100% Consolidated Reports, William F. Lenker Veterans Service Award and Culture of Growth. Our accomplishments on the national level afforded our attendees a place of honor seating up front nearest to the stage directly behind the Distinguished Visitors. We had unhindered views of the stage and all those who passed upon it to include our very own Commander Dobb, frequently, as he stepped up to accept the many awards.

Congratulations to the entire Montana Team! With hard work, laughter and a few good eats, we headed home to begin a new year but continue the legacy of our American Legion. Welcome home!



President

TERRY KEMP

Secretary

JAIMIE DeBATES

1st Vice President

SUE DAVIDSON

Dear Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary, Well it looks like summer is gone and fall has moved in. I have been busy traveling to Fall District meetings. I must say that although it makes for a long weekend on the road, the meetings have been great. I have met so many wonderful ladies and I have been treated like a queen.



Terry Kemp

I have been passing out flag etiquette brochures and comic books about bullying at each District meeting. I have asked the ladies to take them to the schools and possibly see if they could present a short program. So many young people have no idea about flag etiquette. The bigger issue is bullying in our schools. Maybe we can help with both issues.

In each location, I have been given the opportunity to speak at the American Legion meeting and explain to them what my theme is for the year. For anyone who does not know what my theme is, it's "Above and Beyond". This stands for above past differences and beyond to serving our veterans. That is what we are all about. Our Department Commander Richard Klose, and I seem to be on the same page. We need to remember that we are a family. He in turn has addressed each Auxiliary meeting.

As we move into the holiday season, I'm asking all of you to look into seeing what you can do for the veteran's in your area. It might be giving them a ride to the Veteran's Day celebration at the Post, taking them a plate at Thanksgiving or Christmas, or any other way that you come up with. Also, as you are out in the community if you see a veteran take a minute to stop and shake their hand and thank them for their service. You will be amazed at the smile that it will put on most of their faces.

This year National is promoting Goodwill and what better way to show that than a kind gesture. As we move forward in our membership drive, let's keep that spirit of Goodwill in mind. We must take care of our current members and seek new members. When we get them, we need to mentor them.

I hope this finds all of you doing well. Keep up all the good work that you do for The American Legion Auxiliary. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you, no matter where you live. Remember, we are one big happy family.

☺ May you have a blessed holiday season. ☺

The Fall District meetings are in the books. Many thanks to those to braved gorgeous weekend weather to join us. We travel great distances to bring you information. It humbles us to see responses like yours. The *Programs Action Plans* are all delivered. If you don't have yours, check with your District President. A few Units failed to have representation, therefore those actions plans were left with your District leaders. I've spoken frequently about handwriting issues. Consider subscribing to the ALAMIS system at your Unit level. You can enter new members, access your reports and make any corrections on your own. A small annual fee might be money well spent.



Jamie DeBates

Fall Conference is a few short weeks away. It's shaping up to be another amazing event. Madam President has filled an agenda with exciting workshops, a special luncheon and of course, another Baby Shower to benefit women veterans across the state. We thank Fort Harrison for their help and support of our newest little soldiers.

I will have a few handbooks with me, however I can't order more for the short term. They're finally being reprinted. There is **NOTHING** wrong with yours; our National office is simply adding some policy information into the next print. As you know, *Fostering a Culture of Good Will* is critical to the future of this organization. The National office decided to include it in the handbooks. We've already given you copies of the policy so don't feel you need to update an already perfect handbook. ☺

Why I'm not a member?



No one asked!

This is going to be an exciting year! This was The American Legion Auxiliary 98th year. Starting with 2019 we are heading into our 100th Anniversary. Our role is to be attracting and retaining a diverse, active membership and to establish new Units. This is necessary to ensure the future for our organization. More members mean we can carry out our mission to assist veterans, military personnel and their families. There is power in numbers!

Where do we start? One of the first items is to enhance our members experience in our Units and Departments. We need to be involved. Find out what they like and are good at doing or interested in doing and put them to work.

Make sure everyone knows all the benefits of being a member of Auxiliary are and why our mission of supporting our veterans and military families is important. By the factor of being an Auxiliary member, you, being a dual member in your own right, or, coming in under your husband, father, or other veteran relative, understands how important working for the rights and benefits of veterans is important for each one of us.

Retaining all our current members and bringing in more senior members and junior members, as families grow, makes it easy to make at least our member plus one individual goals. Reaching out to former and expired members has gotten easier with the #105 listing. Call them and ask. Make sure you welcome new members and find a mentor for her. Have new member packets they can read and start to understand, with your help, what we are all about. Volunteering is seeing firsthand the difference we make in the lives of our veterans.

☺ You make the difference! ☺

Deceased Members

JUNE - DECEMBER 2018

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 21	Anaconda	Dorothy M. Hogg
Unit 42	Townsend	Peggy M. Haley
Unit 48	Chinook	Virida Klindworth
Unit 56	Scobey	Marjory Shiell
Unit 70	Judith Gap	Opal A. Rung
		Eleanor D. Miller
Unit 73	Sweetgrass	Gladys V. Roark
Unit 81	Culbertson	Elaine Jensen
Unit 93	Three Forks	Jeanette Hetu
		Katie Wilcox

Montana representing at ALA National Convention in Minneapolis, MN



PHOTO BY CHRIS NELSON, DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Front row (L-R): Jennifer Herman, Jamie DeBates, Chris Nelsen, Ann Sharbono, Maureen Watt, Susan Davidson, Kathy Long; Back row: Jennifer Dalrymple and Karen Susag

Convention Reminder!

~Current Membership Card Needed~

When attending Department Convention you must have your Current Membership card.

This shows you are in good standing. Credential will be checked at the start of each morning session.

Without a current card, you will not be allowed into the convention floor.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE

BY JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

Fall is upon us already and letters to the Units and schools will be coming out soon. I am excited and as always a bit anxious as the days tick away all too quickly. I want to thank all of you upfront for your assistance in preparing for **Montana's 71st ALA Girls State Session** to be held **Sunday June 9 thru Saturday June 15, 2019**, at Carroll College in Helena. Last year's session we had 130 delegates and with your help hope to have 150 this year.

I have some great news! The Finance board approved my request for two more scholarship opportunities, \$500 for each Senator, in addition to the \$500 for Governor and \$300 for Lt Governor. The best part - the delegate fee will remain **\$300 per delegate**.

The 2019 application will be available at mtlegion.org and mailed to each Unit and school so that copies may be made as needed. On the mtlegion.org website hover over the Auxiliary label up on top and click Girls State on the drop down menu.

Merry Christmas

Gearing up for another successful ALA Girls State!

The application will be just below my Welcome letter and should be filled out on the computer, printed and handed to the person(s) making the selections. The webpage also includes additional Girls State resources and information.

A note of caution: we had 42 applications for the **Samsung Scholarship**, but many were not completed correctly or timely. National American Legion requires the Samsung Scholarship Application be completed online at <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung>. **Paper applications will not be accepted by National**; however, a hard copy of the application needs to be brought to the session for judging so scholarship applications **must be completed before coming to Girls State**. This is another excellent scholarship opportunity so please let your delegates know as soon as possible in order to give them time to compile the required documentation.

Ladies and fellow Legionnaires, I thank you for your time and commitment for Girls State and I look forward to working with each of you to present another fulfilling and enjoyable event for our Montana girls. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mail: 113 Ravenwood Ridge, Townsend, MT 59644, email: dymples43@gmail.com, cell: 406-949-3660.

Chaplain

YVONNE KOSTELECKY

Happy Fall Department of Montana! When our President Terry Kemp first asked me to be her Chaplain I first thought to myself, what can I offer to this position, and then I thought what a privilege I have been blessed with. So, I would like to offer a few of my personal thoughts that I hope will give you strength, courage, and hopefully warm your heart as they have done for me:

1. The most wonderful places to be in the world are...in someone's thoughts, someone's prayers and in someone's heart.
2. Leadership is not about being the best; Leadership is about making everyone else better.
3. The Devil whispered in my ear, "You're not strong enough to withstand the Storm." TODAY I whispered in the Devil's ear, "I am a child of God, A Woman of Faith, A WARRIOR OF CHRIST I am the Storm."
And my final one is...
4. Morning is God's way of saying one more time; Go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day.

I had to go with my husband to the VA today for his 6-month checkup with his doctor. Every time I go to the VA and see our veterans waiting to see their doctor, waiting for medication, or coming in for the first time hoping to get in to see someone who will help them it still makes me feel sad to look at how so many are struggling, but I do try to go shake their hand and thank them for their service. Sometimes I do get a thank you, but I think my favorite happened today was a veteran grabbed my hand and said thank you for taking the time to come to me. I told him that without his dedicated service maybe a lot of us would not be here, his response was it was my honor to serve my country.

So, with that, maybe hopefully the snow stays away for a while longer. I am not ready for the cold snow, wind and ice!! May you be blessed each day with a smile, a hello, a thank you, and at least one I LOVE YOU.

★ *Thank you all for what you do!* ★

BABY SHOWER AT FALL CONFERENCE

We get to do it again!! Please help us celebrate the newest little warriors and their mothers! Bring the baby gear with you when you attend Fall Conference in Helena on October 27, 2018. Here is a what is on the wish-list from the representative at Fort Harrison - Sandy Runkel, and she reminds us to include a list of your donation's value. We report that too. Following is the list of baby items needed:

- ☞ Clothing boys and girls any size between 0-12months
- ☞ Diapers
- ☞ Wipes
- ☞ Pacifiers
- ☞ Bottles
- ☞ Lotions
- ☞ Diaper rash cream
- ☞ Baby wash
- ☞ Knitted blankets and hats are always welcome, although they still have quite a few of these items. The knitted sweaters are also very cute.

Items for mom are also always greatly appreciated, for example:

- ☛ comfy socks
- ☛ lotions
- ☛ candles
- ☛ lip balms



Wreaths Across America Fort Harrison



Your donation will help us honor our American military
One Wreath at a Time

Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Post Chapel Ceremony, Fort Harrison
(Adults must present a valid driver's license at the gate)

Following the chapel ceremony, wreaths will be placed at
Montana State Veterans Cemetery, 3550 Heroes Road, Fort Harrison, MT

Wreaths Across America™ is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and thanking our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Their mission is to "Remember, Honor, and Teach."

With your help, we fulfill that mission by placing a live Maine remembrance wreath for our fallen heroes. The annual wreath laying ceremony that started at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 is now performed around the country, including the center circle at MTSVC, Fort Harrison. The cost for each wreath is \$15 – there is NO COST to attend or participate in a Wreaths Across America™ event.

Wreaths Across America™ (Tax ID 20-8362270) will return \$5 of every wreath sponsorship we raise, to support our organizations ongoing work. Your check payable to **Wreaths Across America** may be mailed to:

Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association · P.O. Box 7693 · Helena, MT 59604

Or please visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org for a secure online transaction.

If making your sponsorship online, please use:

Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison **Location ID: MTSVCH**

Sponsoring Group ID: MT0010P

Thank you!

Questions? Please call Linda 406.442.0493 or Mark 406.458.8967

www.mtridetoremember.org

Helena Post 2 receives recognition by Wreathes Across America

SUBMITTED BY MARK COLTON

Linda Juvik of the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association, presents American Legion 2 Post Commander Justin Carpenter with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Post's generous participation in Wreaths Across America. Other members of the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association in the pictures are Dick Juvik, Past Commander of Post 2, David Gould, Jim Greaney and Vickey Greaney.



Historian continued from pg. 5
than any other state in the union. They came by the thousands from the farms, ranches, logging camps, villages and cities of this sparsely populated western commonwealth. At the same time the citizens of the state cooperated in every way with the war effort and also made some records for Montana. It will be necessary to quote some figures in order to give the amazing facts of Montana's part in the greatest of all wars to that time.

Joseph Kinsey Howard, Montana's widely read author said in his book, "High, Wide, and Handsome": "In World War I, more Montana boys marched away, in proportion to population, than any other state; and more than any other state, proportionately, would never march anywhere again: More than 40,000 men or 25 percent more than any other state called upon." (Howard, Page 25)

Montana stood at the head of all states in the Union in proportion of volunteers with 100.4 percent above the national average; a total of 11,700 men or 236 per 10,000 population, according to the State Adjutant General's report. Among Montana volunteers was 14-year old Mike Mansfield of Butte, who enlisted in the Navy on February 23, 1918, and later served as Montana's Senior Senator and Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. In addition to these volunteers the state had 27,567 accepted for service through the draft.

On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act and on June 5, all men between the ages of 21 & 35 were required to register. It was feared there might be trouble on this day but with the exception of an anti-draft parade in Butte, which promptly disbanded upon the appearance of Montana's federalized National Guard troops then stationed there, there was no disturbance in the state.

Due to a mistake in the government estimate, Montana raised troops through the draft law on the basis of population twice as great as it actually had. Of the 29,638 Montana men called in the draft, 29,446 were inducted and 27,567 were accepted for service, which was one of the highest ratios in the country. Montana furnished 996 men out of every 10,000 population compared to 296 for Georgia, which stood at the base of the list.

Montana lives lost in World War I battle action was ahead of any state in proportion to population. The loss was about 26 percent greater than the nearest state. A total 681 Montanans were killed in action or died of wounds, 253 from disease or other causes, a total of 934 dead, 2,469 wounded and one missing. In essence, a total of 3,433 casualties in the war zone. There were also 618 Montana men in service outside the war zone who died of diseases and other causes, making a total of 4,061 World War I casualties for Montana. Many of the battle wounded died later of their war injuries.

Montana citizens did more than their share in supporting Liberty Bond drives during World War I. They oversubscribed in all the drives. In the third bond drive they went 195.9 percent over their quota while in the last "Victory" drive in 1918, they exceeded their quota by 111.88 percent with the state ranking sixth out of the 48 in percentage over quota.

This great record of patriotism shown by Montana's citizens was in contrast with the stand of the first woman to sit in Congress, Miss Jeanette Rankin. She was Montana's freshmen woman representative who joined 55 men in voting against going to war against Germany April 6, 1917. — (Shore, Page 69)

Every state was proud of the record of its fighting men and military units in World War I. Montana was identified with two regiments in the war that were outstanding in deed and glory. They were the 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Division (National Guard) and the 362nd Regiment, 91st Division (National Army).

At the start of the Great War, Montana furnished a war-strength National Guard regiment, the Second Montana Regiment, which had just been designated as the 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, on August 5, 1917. The regiment had only recently returned from Mexican border service where it was federally mobilized from June 18 to November 3, 1916, for protection of American citizens and property from Mexican bandit raids. The regiment was stationed at Douglas, Arizona.---

On March 25, 1917, the 163rd Infantry Regiment of Montana was again ordered to active duty by President Wilson when war with Germany seemed imminent. It was among the first National Guard organizations to be federalized. The Regiment was recruited to war strength and assembled at Fort Harrison near Helena on April 5, 1917 with 1,539 officers and men who were subsequently sworn into Federal service on April 7, the day after war was declared on Germany.

The necessity of keeping the transcontinental railway lines open during the period of mobilization was apparent. With this view, the greater part of the 163rd was assigned the duty of guarding bridges, tunnels and other elements that might be easily damaged and could disrupt traffic over the sprawling state of Montana. Two companies were stationed at Butte during the greater part of the summer while two or three [companies] remained at Fort Harrison.

When called into service the 163rd Infantry Regiment, Montana National Guard, was made of units in the following towns: Company A, Bozeman; Company B, Roundup; Company C, Shelby; Company D, Valier; Company E, Miles city; Company F, Kalispell; Company G, Glasgow; Company H, Kalispell; Company I, Baker; Company K, Billings; Company L, Sidney; Company M, Chouteau. The Regiment also had a Headquarters Company, Supply Company, Machine Gun Company, and Medical Detachment and Band. These were made up of men transferred from companies of the Regiment. Colonel John J. McGuinness, Helena, commanded the Regiment.

Early in the fall of 1917, one battalion of the Regiment was ordered to Camp Greene, South Carolina, where the 41st Division was mobilizing. The other two battalions remained on duty in Montana until the first week in October, when they were sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, N. Y., where they were joined by the battalion from Camp Greene. On December 1, 1917, the Regiment was sent to Camp Merritt, N.J. where the 41st Division was fully equipped for overseas service. On December 14, 1917, the Regiment was marched aboard the USS Leviathan, formerly the huge and fast German passenger liner "Vaterland."

In addition to the 3,000 member 163rd National Guard Regiment from Montana, the USS Leviathan held the 164th Regiment, 82nd Infantry Brigade and a detachment of medical troops and 50 nurses – in all about 10,000 persons plus the crew. The great ship needed no escort across the Atlantic since it was the fastest ship on the ocean and could elude enemy submarines.

The Montana National Guard Regiment landed at Liverpool, England, December 24, 1917 after an uneventful trip, immediately disembarked and marched to waiting trains. They were rushed across England to the great Camp at Winchester, where all spent Christmas Day before departing on the last leg of the journey the following day.

After a stormy trip across the English Channel, the Regiment landed at Le Havre, France and proceeded to British Rest Camp No. 2. On December 29, 1917, it began its first 40 and 8 boxcar journey to the French Garrison town of La Courtine. The French boxcars were small four wheeled affairs labeled to haul a maximum of 40 men or 8 horses. Many other similar trips in the small and crowded French boxcars were to be the experience of the Montana men in days to come. (Note: One of the small 40 & 8 box cars used in World War I by the French is currently located at the Montana Military Museum, Fort Harrison. The box car was given to the State of Montana in 1949 by a grateful French government at that time. The State of Montana eventually transferred

the Montana MERCI Boxcar to the 40 and 8 veterans' organization, [honor society associated with The American Legion of Montana] who maintains it.

Montana Regiment Broken Up For Replacements

This was last time the Montana Regiment would be together, one battalion was sent to Bordeaux, one to Langes, and the other to Saint Aignan. About this time it was learned with heavy hearts that the 41st Division was to be broken and most of its personnel used as replacements. [Its new name was the 1st Depot Division.] In February 1918, the scattering began. Nearly 3,000 men were transferred from the 163rd Regiment to the 1st Infantry Division, the 26th Infantry Division, the 32nd Infantry Division and the 42nd (Rainbow) Division and other U.S. Divisions leaving what was known as a training cadre if some 50 non-commissioned officers in each company. The Montana replacements went on to their new units to take

part in the coming major battles which would bring defeat to Germany.

Due to the cannibalization of the 41st Division, one officer of the 163rd Regiment had the honor of commanding the elite Provisional Infantry Company for duty at the U.S. General Headquarters at Chaumont, France, during World War I. The first rate company was used as ceremonial and guard troops. Captain Joseph Sternhagen, Glasgow, Montana, who commanded Company G, 163rd Regiment, was detailed by General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), to organize this special company from the three [line] regiments, the 161st, the 162nd, and the 163rd and to select seven officer and 250 enlisted men for this duty. According to General Pershing in a speech he made on March 11, 1919 to all his headquarters units, they were the best in the U.S. Army [known as Pershing's Finest]. General Pershing served at Fort Assiniboine, near Havre, Montana, as a young Lieutenant after graduating from West Point [This is where he received his nick-name "Black Jack"].

Although the 163rd [Infantry] did not meet the enemy as one organization, the individual soldiers who went with other units displayed a historical record that Montana is proud of to this day. Battle casualties included three officers and 88 enlisted killed in action, 35 men died of wounds, 28 men died of disease and 19 officers and 289 men were wounded.

In our next issue: "The famous Montana "Powder River" Regiment"

Custer Post 5 – Memorial Day



SUBMITTED BY CAROL A. PRAHL,
PUBLICITY & FLAG CHAIRMAN

Custer Post 5, the Marine Corp League, and many volunteers raised the 55 large Flags at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 28, 2018.

Pictured: Joe Dalbeck (l), Post 5 Legionnaire; right is Leonard Rodell, Marine Corp League member.

PHOTO BY SHARON MOORE

Tour of Duty

**The Founders' Gallery, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary AB T2T 5J4
September 27, 2018 – January 13, 2019
Canadians and the Vietnam War**

This personality-based exhibit will relate a range of soldiers' perspectives on the Vietnam War. Artifacts and oral histories from Canadians who were there will be presented. The central narrative will cover the estimated 40,000 Canadian citizens who enlisted in the U.S. military and fought overseas in the war. Other stories will be presented, including U.S. and South Vietnamese veterans who later moved to Canada.

Importantly, Canada's official connection with the war will also be presented – the story of the International Commission of Control and Supervision. This little-known peacekeeping mission was responsible for overseeing the American withdrawal, and enabling the repatriation of hundreds of American POWs. The veterans associated with the Vietnam War have received very little recognition in Canada and we hope to help correct this oversight.

An exhibition of 20 posters from the Whitney Museum of American Art selected from the recently acquired Daniel Wolf Collection of Protest Posters will give shape to social forces and cultural history in the United States from the early 1960's through 1972. As well, a sample of Vietnamese block prints from the village of Dong Ho exemplify a traditional New Year art form that declined during the war and is now being revived.

I'M THE GUY

The guy who asked to join your organization. I'm the guy who paid his dues to join. I'm the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful, and loyal the organization.

I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid attention to me.

I'm the guy who tried several times to be a friend, but they had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to.

I'm the guy who came several times, but no one paid any attention to me. I'm the guy who was left out when I volunteered to help on projects and membership recruitment.

I'm the guy who missed a few meetings because I was sick, but at the meeting, no one asked where I have been. I guess it didn't matter very much to others whether I was there or not.

I'm the guy who decided to stay home and watch TV one meeting night. The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I had been.

You might say that I'm a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his family, community, and country.

You want to know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!

It amuses me how the officers of the Organization and other members discuss why the organization was losing members.

It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time, all they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted, and welcome.

Calgary CN20 sponsors Tour of Duty Historical Display

SUBMITTED BY JIM GROSSET

Calgary Post CN20 of The American Legion and the Military Museums of Calgary are proud to bring the TOUR OF DUTY - Canadians in the Vietnam War from September 27th to January 13th. This exhibit (see page 12) shows the history of the Vietnam War through the eyes and artifacts of Vietnam Veterans. It shows events from the early days of the War when Canadian Forces were there and through the stories of both Canadian and American and Vietnamese Veterans. Many artifacts and pictures and stories are on display. A great big thank you for Department Commander Richard Klose, Adjutant Gary White, Post 14 Adjutant Randy Kemp, and Past Post 2 Commander Ray Stolp for their help manning the Moving Vietnam Wall while it was in Calgary at the Military Museum.



Post 23 Continues Patriotic and Community Support throughout Park County

SUBMITTED BY DEAN GILBERT, PARK POST 23 HISTORIAN

The Color Guard and Honor Guard were very active during the summer activities in Park County beginning with the Livingston Roundup Parade on July 2nd. The new parade route turned at the corner of The American Legion Post where it was convenient to cook brats and hamburgers to serve to the gathered tourists and locals attending the parade. The Color Guard including 8-year-old Bryce Townsend, led the parade followed by the Boy Scout Troop 516 and the Bozeman Satellite Horse Drill team all carrying the American Flags for the Fourth of July celebration. District 7 Commander, Jim Howe drove a bus honoring WWII veterans early in the parade; aboard were Ralph Hanks, Wesley Bull, Earl Stermitz, Henry Counts and George Beagle, all from Park County. A special honor in the parade was a horse-drawn buggy built in 1916 and a team driven by a member of the Algeria Shrine Temple of Helena. Among the honored cargo of the buggy, Dean Gilbert, Park Post 23 historian and Carol Woodley, Auxiliary historian.

The Livingston Roundup Rodeo Association also utilized the Color Guard to start the rodeo on

each night of July 2-4. In addition, Post members were on hand at daybreak to place poles and flags in Sacajawea Park on July 2nd for Fourth of July festival picnickers that gather at the park.



During the summer months, military honors were accorded to Delbert Hudson, member of the Park Post 23 and past Honor Guard, Capt. Harold R Myrstol, Morgan B Mann, David McGee and Roger Allen Polillo.

Post 23 Color Guard closed up the summer leading the parade at the Shields Valley "Old Settlers Days" at Clyde Park on August 25th and conducted highway cleanup activities for a 2-mile stretch of Hwy 89 South in September.

Miles City Post 5 Awards Nursing Scholarships



PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL, CUSTER POST 5

Custer Post 5 awarded two \$1,500 nursing scholarships on September 5, 2018, to two students attending Miles Community College. L-R are second-year student Cody Schock, Post 5 Adjutant Clancee Collins, second-year student Matison Hjelvik, and Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl.

Ronan Post 138 Family does it again with 100% membership!

BY GLEN SHARBONO

Ronan American Legion Post 138 and Auxiliary Unit 138 received 100% American Legion Family Ribbons at the District 4 meeting in Paradise on September 29th. The AL Family Ribbon is only awarded when two or more Legion Families obtain 100% membership in the same year. An American Legion Family is The American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, or The Legion Riders Chapter. This is the 4th year in a row that Ronan Post 138 and its Auxiliary Unit have received the award. They were the second Post and Unit in the Department of Montana to both make 100% goal for 2018 and at the time only 1300 Posts and Units out of 14,000 Nation-wide had earned the award. Thanks to the membership that renewed their investment in this organization. As we head into 2019, our Centennial year of service to Veterans and Community, we would like to remind our members and all Veterans yet to join that now is the time to become and remain a part of history with The American Legion and its Auxiliaries preserving our rights as Veterans, service to our Community and maintaining the Four Pillars of our founding.

Ronan Post 138 also received an Americanism Citation from The American Legion Americanism Commission signed by National Commander

Denise Rohan for "Outstanding Service to Your Community".



Lorie Noble President of Ronan Unit 138 and Glen Sharbono Commander of Ronan Post 138.

Post 5 AL Baseball

Post 5 Commander Bob Prah (center), and Post 5 Adjutant Clancee Collins (right) greet Clay Prell of the Miles City Mavericks at the 2019 American Legion Season opening game on May 25, 2018. The Mavericks hosted the Gillette, WY Rustlers at Connor's Stadium in Miles City. The Mavs won both games, 9-6 and 104 for a great start to their 2018 season.



PHOTO BY CAROL A. PRAHL, POST 5 PUBLICITY

Tricare Retiree Dental Plan Changes Coming for 2019

What is happening?

On December 31, 2018, the Defense Health Agency's TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP), administered by Delta Dental, will end.

However, individuals currently enrolled in or eligible for TRDP will have the opportunity to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)* during the Federal Benefits Open Season from November 12 through December 10, 2018.

What is FEDVIP?

FEDVIP is a voluntary, enrollee-pays-all dental and vision program that offers eligible participants a choice between 10 dental and four vision carriers (with most plans offering both high and standard options).

In general, retired uniformed service members and their families who were eligible for the TRDP in 2018 are eligible for FEDVIP dental coverage and, if enrolled in a TRICARE health plan, are also eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage, begin-

Steve Daines United States Senator for Montana



Meeting with Lieutenant General Jack Weinstein.

On Wednesday, September 26th, I met with Lieutenant General Jack Weinstein, the Air Force's senior officer for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration—including the Minuteman III missiles currently dispersed across Montana, and the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent that will replace them in the mid-2020s. We also had a chance to discuss the new MH-139 helicopter that will replace the Vietnam-era UH-1N Huey. As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I was pleased to see these, and other key Montana priorities included in the DoD Appropriations Bill signed into law by President Trump on September 28th.

SUPPORTING THE MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

On Labor Day, September 3rd, Colonel Karen Lloyd, USA (ret.), Director of the Veterans History

ning in 2019. In addition, family members of active duty uniformed service members who are enrolled in a TRICARE health plan are eligible for FEDVIP vision coverage.

How to prepare for the transition

1. Encourage retirees to use the eligibility tool to determine if they are eligible for FEDVIP.
2. View 2018 FEDVIP plans and premiums** to become familiar with the new program, and compare the 2018 plan year benefits and rates (FEDVIP premiums are based on retiree's residential zip code):
**The current 2018 plans and premiums are for reference only. Plan details and premium rates for the 2019 plan year will be available in October of 2018.

Tricare Retiree Dental Program Transition to FEDVIP Information

tricare.benefeds.com

Project attended the Crow Fair's 100th celebration at Crow Agency to meet with Native American veterans and listen to their stories. Over the past four years, I've worked with Colonel Lloyd to preserve and make available personal interviews of Montana's veterans in the Library of Congress. As Colonel Lloyd aptly notes, Native Americans are one of the few groups in American who welcomed Vietnam Veterans home with dignity and respect; and yet are underrepresented in the Library's collection. I was pleased to invite Colonel Lloyd for this important endeavor.

Assembling care packages for spouses of deployed service members.



Assembling care packages for spouses of deployed service members.

On Wednesday, September 5th, I was honored to join representatives from the United Service Organizations (USO) on Capitol Hill to assemble care packages for the spouses of deployed service members. In May, the USO kicked off The Salute to Military Spouses, a six-month spotlight on military spouse contributions and challenges. Thank you spouses for your service to our country!

3. Encourage retirees to register for a live webinar, which provides an overview of the TRDP-to-FEDVIP transition.
4. Tell retirees they can stay informed by signing up to receive updates from the Defense Health Agency.

Don't let retirees miss the opportunity to enroll!

The opportunity to enroll in FEDVIP will be during the next **Federal Benefits Open Season**, which runs from **November 12 through December 10, 2018**, with coverage effective January 1, 2019.

If retirees are currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, they will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. They must enroll during open season.

Still have questions?

To learn more about the transition, go to the FAQ section of tricare.benefeds.com.

*As directed in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017

Montana Tree Care Industry Honors Veterans at Ft. Harrison

ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PLANTENBERG, SITE LEADER, MT DIRECTOR
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER OF ISA

On Wednesday, September 19, 43 arborists and other volunteers from Helena, Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman, and Livingston gathered in Helena at the Ft. Harrison State Veterans' Cemetery and VA Health Care System Facility as part of the second annual Helena Saluting Branches event.



Large dead tree removal as part of this year's Saluting Branches cleanup work at VA Helena.

Millions of Americans pay their respects each year at national and state veterans' cemeteries and other veterans' properties. Saluting Branches brings together arborist experts to improve the beauty and safety of the trees located in these hallowed sites. Saluting Branches: Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance is an opportunity for tree care professionals throughout the country to unite and do what we do best – provide exceptional tree care – to keep our veterans cemeteries and other facilities safe, beautiful places for all those who visit. For more information or to volunteer for next year's event visit <https://salutingbranches.org> or contact Patrick Plantenberg (406-431-4615, m2andp2@mt.net)



An impressive array of arborist tree care machinery showed up for the event including three bucket trucks, three chippers, a mechanized grapple saw tree removal system, a grapple truck, a grapple loader, and a stump grinder. In addition, several tree climbers from around Montana showed up with all their gear to climb and prune trees.

Work accomplished included pruning all small trees and over 20 large trees, removing four large trees and grinding 14 stumps. Breakfast, lunch, safety gear and other supplies needed for the event were donated by local MT sponsors and over 300 hours of volunteer services were donated by the arborists and friends.



Volunteers from American Legion Post 42 Jen Dalrymple, Commander and Linda Cousineau, Finance Officer pose for thank you photos after a day of cleanup at the VA Helena Saluting Branches event.

What is the Big K and New Changes to the Program

Often, I am asked what the **Big K** is, and since the new Ways & Means Committee has made changes to the Big K it is time to refamiliarize our members with the Big K. The Big K (or **Big 1000**) is a fundraising mechanism for the Department, Districts, and Posts of the Department of Montana. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion 18 years and older may join the Big K for \$25 annually.

Membership is limited to 1000 members.

Posts, Units, or Squadron will receive an \$8.50 payment for each Big K member who belongs to their Post, Unit, or Squadron. Districts will receive a payment for each Big K member who belongs to their District.

What are the benefits of membership?

- Early Bird Drawing at the Fall Conference Banquet for \$200 (this is a change)
- Early bird Drawing in January for \$100 (this is a change)
- \$400 per month drawing for six months – first drawing in January, last at Department Convention in June
- \$500 drawing on Legion Birthday in March. (this is a change)
- \$1800 drawing at Department Convention Banquet in June. (this is a change)
- First chance at renewal for subsequent year

Posts, Units, and Squadrons may also purchase a Big K membership. Dividends from the Posts, Units and Squadrons are paid at the Spring District Meetings.

To sign up for the Big K, complete the form below and mail with check to The American Legion of Montana at PO Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604-6075.

Buddies in Business



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2 inch ads: \$55 per year
3 1/2 inch ads: \$85 per year

 Big Timber American Legion Post #19 Drop in to see us! 110 E 3RD AVENUE, BIG TIMBER, MT Post Meetings - 1st Wed. 7 p.m. Open 7 days a week M-F 1 p.m. to close S-S 10 a.m. to close Pizza Every Day – Friday Night Burgers & Sandwiches		 <i>Owners</i> Chuck & Kim Ballard <i>Veteran-Owned & Operated</i> 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Mon - Fri 8:00 am to 4 pm Sat 610 Custer Ave • Helena 442-9589  MEMBER POST #2		Wolf Creek Knives Wolf Creek, Montana Tom Bennett Owner/Designer/Maker www.wolfcreekknives.com P.O. Box 287 wolfcreekknives@yahoo.com Wolf Creek, MT 59648			
Liberty County American Legion Post #88 Welcome to our Post Meeting Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m. Liberty Co. Community & Senior Center 618 East Adams Chester, Montana 		AMERICAN LEGION POST #4 OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN 1540 BROADWATER AVE. BILLINGS, MT		AmericanismYouth American Legion Gallatin Post #14 Striving for Legiontown USA 225 East Main Street Bozeman, MT 59715 Open daily Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to Midnight  406-586-8400 DefenseVeterans			
American Legion Post #3 Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM September thru May at the Elks Lodge 500 1st Ave South Great Falls MT (406) 453-8822 		American Legion Post #2 3095 Villard Ave. Helena, MT Monday thru Saturday Open at 10 a.m. Sunday - Open at Noon all meetings 2nd Thursday each month 		Montana Legionnaires! Visit the Montana Military Museum At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum For more information write to: ATTN: Museum Director/Curator P.O. Box 125 Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125 myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550		This Space Available	
We Salute Our Servicemen & Women Welcome To American Legion Club 30 We invite all veterans to stop in and support YOUR club.  31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430				This Space Available		Sons Of The American Legion Detachment Of Montana FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERSHIP CALL: (406) 324-3989 or (406) 324-3990 Or Write to P.O. Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604. 	
		Jerome's Band & Violin Repair Jerome Faith Owner Located at Quality Piano 617 Central Great Falls, MT 59401 w: 406-761-5507 h: 406-965-3176 					