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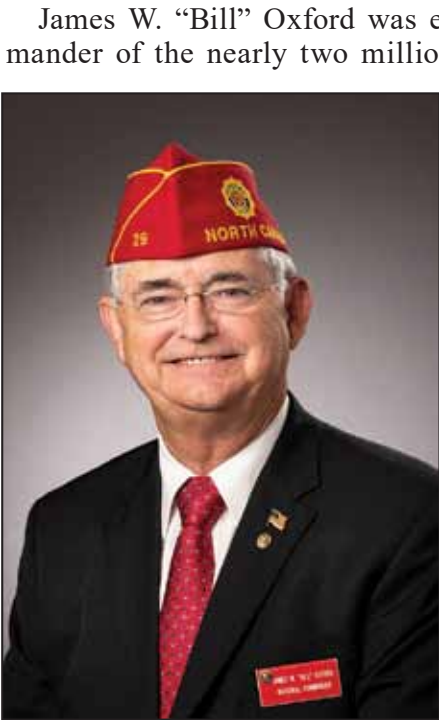
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Volume 97, No. 2

November 2019 — January 2020

James W. “Bill” Oxford National Commander of The American Legion 2019-2020



James W. “Bill” Oxford was elected national commander of the nearly two million-member American Legion on August 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization’s 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of The North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the

U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer’s candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cahah’s Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is “a foundation for the future,” as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid) , and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

[The Commander visited Helena for the Fall Conference Oct 24-27. He visited the VA at Fort Harrison to include the hospital, Healing Grounds, Liberty House and Freedoms Path homeless veterans housing. He also visited with the Adjutant General of the MTARNG MG Matthew Quinn and the Naval Reserve Center.]

ANAVICUS Fr. Harrington 2019-2020 Scholarship Recipient

Carroll Senior Nursing major **Amelia Schuver** of Portland, OR has received a **\$1,500 Reverend Frank Lawrence Harrington (ANAVICUS) Scholarship** for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The award is in recognition of academic achievement, leadership potential and spiritual conduct in keeping with the best traditions of The American Legion and Carroll College.

The Reverend Frank L. Harrington Scholarship was established in 1987 by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States Unit, to honor Father Harrington, National Chaplain of The American Legion in 1947-48. Father Harrington was a spiritual leader, teacher and patriot, as shown by his service to Mount St. Charles College (later renamed Carroll College) as dean of men and professor of mathematics. His spiritual leadership and close liaison with Canadian



Scholarship recipient *Amelia Schuver* flanked by ANAVICUS members, (l-r): *Dick Ellwein, Bill White, Ray Stolp, NEC David Driver, Gary White, Linda Cousineau, Roger Hagan, and Jen Dalrymple.*

veterans, as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, helped develop a close relationship which led to the awarding of honorary life membership in the Canadian group’s United States Unit to members of The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.

MT Legion Family at Indianapolis 101st Nat’l Convention Parade



Prepping for the National Legionnaire’s parade are: front row L to R: Chelle Harada, National Executive Committeeman David Driver, Dept. Chaplain Karen Semple, Dept. Commander Jeff Nelson, Past Dept. Commander Richard Klose, Dept. Adjutant Gary White, and Alternate NEC Hal Rice.

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 3	Daylight Saving Time Ends	Jan. 10.....	American Legion Boys State letters mailed to Posts / Schools
Nov. 11.....	Veterans Day	Jan. 10.....	JSSP Target Sets Order Form must be postmarked by this date
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	Jan. 15	Law Enforcement OTY Awards due to Department
Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day	Jan. 15.....	80% Target Date
Dec. 11	75% Target Date – Renewal Cut Off Date	Jan. 20.....	MLK Day
Dec. 15	All Employer Awards due to Department	Feb. 1	Returned JSSP fired postal targets must be postmarked by this date
Dec. 23	Hanukkah	Feb. 12	85% Target Date
Dec. 25	Christmas	Feb. 17.....	Washington’s Birthday
Dec. 26	All 2017 Cash Calendars due back to Department	Mar. 17.....	St. Patrick’s Day
Jan. 2....	1 st 2020 Big K Drawings/1 st drawings for the 2020 Cash Calendar	Mar. 21	Department Oratory Finals, Helena
Jan. 2...	MT Legionnaire Feb / Mar / Apr issue cutoff date		

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COMMANDER NELSON



Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

Now that the fall schedule of district meetings are over and it is nearing the end of the year, it's time to start planning for next year. What are some of the goals your Post wants to establish, some of the programs that might just work in your Post, or maybe, just maybe contacting a new member. I have found that writing down a goal is halfway there to realization of that goal.

Just like our Vice commander addressed in his talk, this fall start up a new program if that is what it takes to get a new member excited about The American Legion. For example, one of my Post's members passed away about a year ago and he loved sailing on Flathead Lake. The Post had our fall youth appreciation dinner the other evening and his wife announced that she would like to donate their 26' sailing boat to the Legion. It can accommodate six people overnight and is a beautiful sailboat. The problem is, how many people know how to sail. So, the Post is looking for that new member that could start up a sailing program within our Legion Post, or possibly in the state. I will keep you posted on how successful this endeavor turns out. The point is, don't stop looking outside the box just because it is not an established program that The American Legion already has in place. When we offer something unique that might attract new members it creates fun and as we all know fun can be contagious. So, whether you are in Denton, Plentywood, Thompson Falls or places in between, think about an event your Post can start up or a new program that would be an asset to your community.

I really want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year before the next publication. I know with all the holidays and hunting season going on we become very busy. But don't forget the buddy-check program. If you haven't seen someone from your Post in a long time, give them a call or make a point to swing by and see how they are doing. As some of us get older we tend to slow down and retreat to our comfort homes. I think they would really appreciate hearing from a member or an offer to give a ride or helping hand with those last chores that need to be done before the heart of winter really sets in. You never know you might just hear a story told about a little history of the Post or community that was hidden away in the archives of an older veteran.

It is a privilege to serve as your commander and may God Bless each one during this holiday season. 🍀

VICE COMMANDER BLACKARD

Passion, Purpose, Praise & Support, those are the three keys to recruiting and retention. If your Post has grown stagnant or you are having a hard time getting people to participate or even join, try changing up your methods. Try something new.



George Blackard
Dept. Vice Commander

It doesn't matter if we are talking about long time members or Newest Generation members, first you must find their passion. Find out what matters to them and what they like to do. If they like doing something, it isn't work, it's FUN. When people are passionate about something, they will put more time and effort into it, netting them and your Post better results. If you are a Post member and you are reading this, you may be thinking of something you'd like to do within the Post. Stop sitting on the idea and go pitch it to your fellow Post members. Show them your passion and tell them you want to get to work.

Once you have found their passion, give them a purpose based on their passion. If a program doesn't already exist to feed that passion, start one and let THEM run it, let them run with it! Let them make it their program, don't micro-manage them to death. Sometimes being stagnant is a sign that your Post isn't doing anything that interests your members. Nobody says you can only do the programs you find in the book or that National promotes. Every one of those programs began with a person just like you that had an idea and a passion. Your idea could be the next Legion wide program but even if it doesn't turn into that, if you like it, and it makes a difference to you or gets people to participate, it's a good program.

To keep people around and contributing, you have to pat them on the back and give them an attaboy every now and then. Praise and Support goes a long way in keeping people engaged and will net you greater performance and results. Let them know that you support what they are doing. Offer to help if they need it. Promote them and what they are doing, to other people. If a person knows their work is noticed and appreciated, they will give you their all.

The phrase "We don't do that here" should never be uttered within our organization. Ideally, we will replace that with "What can I do to help?" or something equally supportive. Your Post belongs to you and your fellow Post members, create your own programs that fit you and your community. Make it yours! 🍀

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

Membership is doing well, as of this writing we are 8th in the nation at 58.27 percent, but that number changes weekly and by the time you are reading this we could be at 20th so we can't rest on our laurels. There is still a long way to go before we reach our membership goal, but I feel very



confident we can reach our next two targets. December is the time we start to struggle to make the rest of our targets so please renew now, continue to recruit new members and encourage involvement and attendance at Post meetings. Our next targets are November 14 for 65 percent, and December 11 for 75 percent.

Where do our Department officers and committee members come from? The answer of course is from our membership, but how can you become an officer or committee member? The Commander, Vice Commander, Historian, National Executive Committeeman (NEC) and the Alternate NEC are all elected while the remainder of the officers and committee members are appointed by the Department Commander. Any member in good standing can run for any elected office and all elections take place at the Department Convention. If you would like to be an appointed officer or committee member you must make your wishes known to the candidates for Commander and Vice Commander. How do you do that? The most obvious answer is to become active in your Post and District and through your good work be noticed by the current officers, or just ask them.

If we don't balance the need for continuity with the need for fresh people and ideas on our committees and with our elected officers, we will become stagnant and cease to become effective advocates for our veterans, their families and their communities. I would encourage all interested members to check out the American Legion Basic Training Course, which is an online course found at www.legion.org/alei, and perhaps also look into applying for attendance at the American Legion College, which is a one week in-residence course in Indianapolis at no cost to the attendee.

By December you should already be working many of our youth programs – Shooting Sports targets should be ordered, Post and District Oratory contests should be planned, and dates sent forth (the Department contest is in Helena March 21). Constitutional Essay Programs should be underway (essays are due to Department by March 15). American Legion Boys State Post Chairman should already be selected, Department notified of their contact information and the schools contacted. Posts should be submitting nominations for Economic, Law Enforcement and Firefighter Awards. As you can see there is a lot more to be working besides membership.

Remember time is running out on participating in the Big K drawing for the 2020 member year. The last day you may join to be eligible for all drawings is December 31, 2019. The second early-bird drawing of \$200 and the first \$400 drawing will take place on January 2, 2020.

The Department Headquarters will be closed for Veterans Day November 11, Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 28 – 29, and Christmas December 23 – 25. I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season! 🍀

DEADLINE

January 2, 2020
Feb - Apr 2020 issue

Submit all articles by above date.

Send copy to :
lmtprepub@gmail.com, or

American Legion Dept. of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
PO Box 6075
Helena MT 59604-6075

See page 15: How to Submit Articles or Photos.

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PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

COMMANDER - JEFF NELSON
VICE COMMANDER - GEORGE BLACKARD
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

Many of us in the Legion Family remember Mr. Rogers – and those who didn't grow up with him or had your children watching his show, may have seen the movie released last year about him and his phenomenal insight into the minds of children. He spoke to their hearts with caring and encouragement. Growing up isn't easy!

Well, our bodies may have grown; however, inside is the eternal youth. I was fortunate to approach aging with wisdom I gleaned from my grandmother as she approached her 75th birthday. I asked her what it felt like to be turning 75. She shared how the body slows down, things sag and there are aches and pains, BUT, she also told me she was still 17 inside. That's right! Still 17! What a revelation! The more I looked into it, the more I found that yes, we all have that spark of youth inside. (Those who danced at the National Commander's Banquet this year know what I'm talking about!)

Why am I telling you this? Think back to when you were 17...you wanted purpose, you wanted friends – you wanted someone outside your immediate family to care about you. You needed to know that you mattered to somebody.

Well, that's exactly what our members still need. We may get distracted by their age or even their relative youth; however, they still need someone outside their family to care about them – they need to know they matter to someone.

Last spring, Past National Commander Brett Reistad encouraged us to conduct "Buddy Checks" on our members. NOT to get them to pay dues if they were behind, rather, to check and make sure they are ok. We say we're here for the veterans – are we really?

All our Posts have members who never come to meetings for various reasons and then there are those who come for awhile, maybe even years and then disappear. Has anyone called to see if they are all ok? Do they need help? Have they been ill? Maybe all they need is someone to listen. We say we care about our members – do we really?

Actions speak louder than words.

As Veterans Day approaches, I'm encouraging you to get with your Post leadership, get some member phone numbers and make some Buddy Check calls. You'll be glad you did!

May you be well!

ALTERNATIVES TO PRIVATE MEMORIAL ON HIGHWAYS

BY JIM KELLY, HIGHWAY FATALITY MARKER PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Loss of life from a vehicle crash has a devastating impact on families and friends of the victim. A loved one is suddenly no longer with us.

It has become a practice for people who have lost loved ones due to a fatal crash to express their grief by placing a memorial within the highway right of way near the crash site. While both The American Legion and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) acknowledge the need some people feel to express themselves in this way, the placement of private memorials within a roadway's right-of-way is not allowed under state statutes.

There are a few allowable uses of roadways and rights-of-way. Some uses require prior approval through permits; others are allowed by statute or by agreement with MDT.

Two acceptable alternatives to a private memorial are the Adopt-A-Highway program and The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker program.

Under the Adopt-A-Highway Program, MDT allows friends and family to adopt a two-mile-long highway segment with signage that notes the highway has been adopted in memory of a loved one. The sign is installed by the state in compliance with federal and state standards. Those who adopt a highway are required to clean their adopted roadway at least two times a

year. MDT will loan you safety vests and give you large trash bags for your cleanup efforts.

Another acceptable alternative is The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker program. This is an approved highway safety program whereupon a marker is placed at the site of a fatal crash, again in compliance with state and federal standards. An agreement between MDT and The American Legion allows these red and white painted but otherwise undecorated markers and identifies the rules for their installation and annual maintenance.

No one wants to see a subsequent tragedy result from a previous incident. For safety's sake, statutes require only items which perform a specific highway function to be allowed within a highway right-of-way.

The American Legion strongly encourages grieving parties who wish to place a marker near the site of the fatal crash, work through their local American Legion Post to have it placed correctly. Such markers must remain undecorated.



Linda Cousineau
Vice Commander, Dist. 6

National Legion College Selectees



Lonnie Johnson
Adjutant, Dist. 1

Post Everlasting



July/August/September 2019

- ☆ BACON, GARNET H., 9/1/19 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BEIL, BARBARA, 8/23/2019 – WWII – US Army – 52-year member of Post 45, Hinsdale, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BIZJAK, FRANK, 8/12/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 48-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BRADLEY, ALLEN, 9/13/2019 – WWII – US Army – 26-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BRAMLETTE, DON, 5/18/2019 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 26, Fort Benton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CAIN, SAMUEL, 8/23/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 30-year member of Post 100, Park City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ DUNEMAN, ARNOLD, 8/12/2019 – Korea – Unknown – 53-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ELMORE, DAVID, 6/6/2019 – Vietnam – Unknown – 5-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FRIZZELL, DARLEY, DOD – Vietnam – US Air Force – 26-year member of Post CN20, Calgary, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GIES, JACK, 8/3/19 – Vietnam – US Marine – 23-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GREEN, THOMAS, 2/21/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 72-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GUNS, JACK, 8/23/2019 – WWII – US Army – 8-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HARGREAVES, RICHARD, 9/21/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 3-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KEEFE, JOHN J, 9/18/2019 – Korea – US Marine – 21-year member of Post 101, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KLANECKY, GENE, 8/19/2019 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 8-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LASATER, ALBEERT, 6/28/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 26-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LORENZ, HAROLD, 6/10/2019 – WWII – US Air Force – 39-year member of Post 12, Sidney, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LYONS, WALTER, 9/11/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 34-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MADSEN, DAN, 8/26/2019 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MAGER, LEONARD, 8/20/2019 – WWII – US Army – 53-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MARCHESSEAU, JAMES, 9/2/19 – Vietnam – US Army – 24-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MCGHEE, ROBERT, 8/6/2019 – Vietnam – US Marine – 14-year member of Post 97, Libby, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NORDMEYER, HOWARD, 9/7/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 43-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ OVERCAST, HENRY LEE, 8/18/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 14-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ REISS, KENNETH, 9/15/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ REYNOLDS, HUGH, 9/4/19 – WWII – US Army – 21-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SEIDLITZ, JOHN, 8/3/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 56-year member of Post 88, Chester, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STERRETT, ROBIN, 9/24/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 22-year member of Post 44, Colstrip, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STOPPLER, JOHN, 8/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 9-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STROMMEN, ANDY, 7/20/2019 – WWII – US Army – 51-year member of Post 41, Glasgow, 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.



Montana State Veterans Cemetery Appreciates Your Support

BY TARYN PHILLIPS, MONTANA VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Donations were made to the Montana State Veterans Cemeteries in memory of veterans **Ruddy Reilly**, **Steve Stolp** and **Kenneth Tritz** in the months of August and September 2019. It is through kind gestures like these that our veterans and their families are afforded a memorable and dignified resting place; one they justly deserve.

If you would like to donate in memory of a veteran you can find donation envelopes at The American Legion Post 2, the Montana State Veterans Cemeteries or the Montana Veterans Affairs Division.

You can also mail donations in memory of a veterans to:

Montana Veterans Affairs Division
PO Box 5715
Helena, MT 59604

Please contact (406) 324-3742
with any questions you may have about donations.

National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report 2019

The following excerpt is from the recently released **2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report** from the US Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

45,390 American adults died from suicide in 2017, including 6,139 U.S. Veterans. Our nation is understandably grieving with each suicide, prompting our collective and tireless pursuit of evidence-based clinical interventions and expansion of community prevention strategies to reach each Veteran. VA offers through this report a renewed and determined call to unrelentingly address suicide in our Veteran population and our society, as suicide has no single cause and the tragedy of suicide affects all Americans. Findings in this report reflect the most current national data (available through 2017) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Death Index.

Veteran Status

It is important to consider Veteran suicide in the context of suicide mortality among all U.S. adults. Also, in reporting on Veteran suicide, we focus on former service members who most closely meet the official definition of Veteran status that is used by VA and other federal agencies (see endnote regarding Title 38). For this report, a Veteran is defined as someone who had been activated for federal military service and was not currently serving at the time of death.

- Key results include the following:
- The number of Veteran suicides exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008 to 2017.
 - Among U.S. adults, the average number of suicides per day rose from 86.6 in 2005 to 124.4 in 2017. These numbers included 15.9 Veteran suicides per day in 2005 and 16.8 in 2017.
 - In 2017, the suicide rate for Veterans was 1.5 times the rate for non-Veteran adults, after adjusting for population differences in age and sex.

- Firearms were the method of suicide in 70.7% of male Veteran suicide deaths and 43.2% of female Veteran suicide deaths in 2017.
- In addition to the aforementioned Veteran suicides, there were 919 suicides among never federally activated former National Guard and Reserve members in 2017, an average 2.5 suicide deaths per day.

Suicide prevention is a national priority and VA is dedicated to this mission. While the data in this report extends only through 2017, since that time VA has continued to work actively in partnership with the White House, Congress, Veterans Health Administration networks, and federal and community partners to address the issue of Veteran suicide. The most recent and notable manifestation of this comprehensive approach to Veteran suicide prevention is the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), mandated by an executive order signed by the President in March 2019. A cabinet-level task force has been launched to develop a national roadmap for suicide prevention, which will include proposals and plans addressing integration and collaboration across sectors, a national research strategy, and a cohesive implementation strategy.

Together, we can all make a difference.

If you would like more information contact <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov> or to read the full report go to https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2019/2019_National_Veteran_Suicide_Prevention_Annual_Report_508.pdf

[Section 101(2) of Title 38, United States Code defines “Veteran” for purposes of the title to mean “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.” https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/comp2/D-USC-38.html. For purpose of this report, Veterans were defined as persons who had been activated for federal military service and were not currently serving at the time of death.]

Dalbey receives Legion Baseball Scholarship

American Legion \$1000 Class A baseball scholarship winner for the State is Keyan Dalbey from Polson (cntr). State Commander Jeff Nelson presented the award. Coach for the Mission Valley Mariners Tim Rausch is on the left. There was only one scholarship given out to the Class A teams in the State of Montana. Keyan exemplified his leadership on and off the field and was instrumental in the Mariners successful season this year.



Saco MT Small Community Big Impact

BY GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPT VICE COMMANDER

On August 31, 2019, Saco MT held a parade during their annual Saco Fun Days which runs for three consecutive fun-filled days. People from Saco and all around the region showed up for the event and The American Legion had great representation with members from Saco, Hinsdale, Malta, Billings, Glasgow, and Chinoook including, Zone Commander Lowell Long and Dept. Vice Commander George Blackard.



St. Ignatius Post 106 & Unit 106 Legion birthday parade float

SUBMITTED BY NINA MILTON

The James R. W. McCarthy Post 106 and Auxiliary Unit 106 of St. Ignatius celebrated The American Legion 100th Birthday with a float in the Good Old Days Parade in St. Ignatius on July 20, 2019.



Pictured with the float - front L to R: Donna Durglo, Ronda Courville and Evelyn Jeannotte, in back are Nina Milton and President Karen Courville.

Park City Post 100 Leads homecoming parade



Boone Alexander, Gary Shanks, Jim Bossen and Dan Koch. In the pickup are commander Mike Alexander and his wife Kathy.

Post & Unit 25 Opens Red Ants Pants



The three girls in front sang the National Anthem.



After the parade, which featured Veterans and family members carrying flags and pictures of their Veteran loved ones, a free lunch was served followed by a talent competition during which people showed off their talents through song and dance all to patriotic themed music. This year’s theme “Celebrating Heroes of The Highline” and the fundraising aspect were thought of and organized by the hard-working ladies from the Saco Chamber of Commerce with the majority of their fundraisers benefitting The American Legion. This event was a great show of small-town pride, cooperation, patriotism and hard work. The people of Saco and the surrounding areas should take great pride in what they accomplished and their great example of love for community, state and nation.

Department of Montana Service Officer, KATE HAHN,

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SERVICE OFFICER KATE HAHN

By way of a short introduction, I recently replaced Tim Ingraham as the State of Montana American Legion Service Officer. I am humbled and honored to continue my service to my fellow veterans. Originally from Connecticut, I was a resident of Vermont when I enlisted in the USAF. My career field was in Law Enforcement as a Bomb Dog Handler and I served two tours in Saudi Arabia and 10 years in the Air Force. I moved to Montana two years after separating from the service, met my husband (5th generation Montanan) in June 2000, and started working for the Montana Veterans Affairs Division in November 2014, where I continue to serve my Brothers and Sisters in Arms as a Veteran Service Officer.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is processing claims for eligible Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1965. Claims decisions, based on Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, will go into effect January 1, 2020. Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit their claims with a Veteran Service

Officer (VSO) for conditions which are considered presumptive to the exposure of herbicides while serving in the coastal waterways of Vietnam. Records submitted to a VSO must contain evidence of their exposure to herbicides, including: service on a Navy ship during the dates shown above, deck logs showing the location of their ship within the 12 nautical miles seaward of the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, a current diagnosis of a presumptive condition, medical records (government or non-government) showing treatment for a presumptive condition, and/or any residuals of the condition that may be diagnosed secondarily to the diagnosed presumptive condition. Surviving spouses are also encouraged to file claims for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by submitting records addressed above and a death certificate showing the veteran's death attributed to a presumptive condition from exposure to herbicides. Contact your Service Organizations or a VSO by phone (see numbers below), or to make an appointment to answer your questions or file a claim.

- 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!

District 11 at Billings Montana Fair

BY GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER



The Breakfast Exchange Club in Billings sponsors one day every year at Montana Fair at which Veterans and a guest receive free entry to the fair and the rodeo. This year, District 11 Commander Gil Floyd organized an American Legion booth just inside the main gate which was staffed by he and members of Post 4, Post 117 and Post 123 including Commander Christina Bochy, Jim Lish,

April Lish, Sue Davidson and Department Vice Commander George Blackard. They met hundreds of Veterans and encouraged them to register to win a free television donated by Post 117 that was given away at the end of the day. While everyone registered, the Legion team spoke to them about The American Legion, Legion programs and VA benefits and claims. Also at the booth was a representative of Volunteers of America who was on hand to discuss their programs dealing with Veteran homelessness and employment search assistance.



In all, two hundred Veterans registered for the drawing, two current members renewed, four new members were signed up on the spot including one veteran who had not been eligible for membership but was made eligible under the new Legion Act approved recently by Congress and signed by the President. The team now has close to two hundred eligible Veterans to follow up with. Congratulations to District 11 Commander Floyd for putting on a great event!

Carrying on Old Traditions & Creating New Ones

BY GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPT. VICE COMMANDER

When Andrew Pearson Post 117 of Billings and A.C. Buckner Post 111 of Custer recently merged, the members of Post 117 recognized how much the Post 111 members loved their Post. In an effort to make the new members feel welcome and to recognize their many years of hard work and dedication to American Legion programs and their community, it was decided that Post 117 would continue some of the things Post 111 has been doing for many years. The combined Post will continue the annual Memorial Day service in Custer and continue to provide scholarships to students at Huntly Project School.

While carrying on those traditions will benefit everyone involved, it still seemed like there was something left to be done. Post 117 Commander Christina Bochy pointed out that it would be nice if they could somehow continue to recognize the A.C. Buckner name even though the Post bearing his name had been merged with another. It was soon decided to create a new annual award to be presented at the annual Patriot Day ceremony co-sponsored by Post 117 on September 11th, thus was born the A.C. Buckner Patriot Award. The award will be presented every year to a person or group who exhibits devotion to and support of, our great nation or to someone who has served in defense of our country. Alfred C. Buckner was a Second Lieutenant from Custer, MT who served as a glider pilot in Europe during WWII. A memorial stands at Greenham Commons in central London, England and every December 12th the Royal British Legion performs a ceremony in memory of Lt. Buckner and the 34 American Airmen who died there while on a training exercise December 12, 1944.



Post 135 Legionnaire of the Year Award



Post Commander, Alex Vogel of Chief Joseph Post 135 proudly presented Heather McDonald, Post Adjutant, with a Legionnaire of the Year Award glass plaque on September 17. "Your commitment to adjutant duties has been exemplary. You continue to bring fresh, new ideas to the Post which has breathed life back into our mission. You're always available when needed. We are very fortunate to have you as a member of our Post, District and Department of Montana." Heather received the plaque along with a gift certificate to Lolo Steak House.



DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2020



	Year end Goal 2020	Year To Date Total	Year End 2019	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT	35	18	31	51.43%
41 GLASGOW	87	65	91	74.71%
45 HINSDALE	51	34	46	66.67%
49 HOMESTEAD	10	7	10	70.00%
55 POPLAR	27	15	25	55.56%
56 SCOBAY	54	24	49	44.44%
58 PLENTYWOOD	56	42	57	75.00%
61 BROCKTON	38	16	28	42.11%
81 CULBERTSON	95	36	94	37.89%
85 BAINVILLE	25	17	23	68.00%
104 NASHUA	13	7	9	53.85%
122 OPHEIM	27	25	27	92.59%
140 FORT PECK TRIBES ☆	12	17	0	141.67%
229 WESTBY	15	7	14	46.67%
TOTAL	545	330	504	60.55%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE 122	51	94	41.80%	
48 CHINOOK	46	40	48	86.96%
50 BIG SANDY	25	12	23	48.00%
57 MALTA	92	61	106	66.30%
67 ROCKY BOY	26	21	19	80.77%
79 SACO	11	8	18	72.73%
88 CHESTER	37	25	35	67.57%
109 TURNER	26	9	23	34.62%
110 FORT BELKNAP	11	5	12	45.45%
TOTAL	396	232	378	58.59%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER52	27	52	51.92%	
37 CONRAD	53	31	52	58.49%
40 CUT BANK	60	29	46	48.33%
43 SHELBY	51	28	44	54.90%
69 GALATA	33	17	25	51.52%
73 SWEETGRASS	73	57	68	78.08%
127 BROWNING	27	14	25	51.85%
CN20 CALGARY	45	26	50	57.78%
TOTAL	394	229	362	58.12%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS	58	45	62	77.59%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS	106	67	115	63.21%
74 EUREKA	50	27	56	54.00%
86 BIG FORK	60	45	63	75.00%
97 LIBBY	185	129	187	69.73%
106 ST IGNATIUS	50	34	51	68.00%
108 WHITEFISH	66	44	71	66.67%
112 POLSON	130	90	136	69.23%
113 ARLEE ☆	25	25	27	100.00%
126 CHARLO	18	9	21	50.00%
129 PARADISE	72	51	86	70.83%
137 KALISPELL	231	128	228	55.41%
138 RONAN	63	38	71	60.32%
TOTAL	1114	732	1174	65.71%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS	57	44	67	77.19%
27 MISSOULA	361	223	335	61.77%
47 HAMILTON	122	83	128	68.03%
63 CONDON	47	36	50	76.60%
68 MISSOULA	41	23	53	56.10%
83 CLINTON	16	9	17	56.25%
91 CORVALLIS	166	102	203	61.45%
94 STEVENSVILLE	211	116	193	54.98%
101 MISSOULA	50	12	43	24.00%
124 FRENCHTOWN	68	41	69	60.29%
125 DRUMMOND	51	36	52	70.59%
134 FLORENCE	60	31	59	51.67%
135 LOLO	138	87	146	63.04%
TOTAL	1388	843	1,415	60.73%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE	196	110	194	56.12%
2 HELENA	753	502	818	66.67%
9 LINCOLN	56	41	57	73.21%
10 DEER LODGE	67	37	65	55.22%
20 DILLON	185	103	156	55.68%
21 ANACONDA	241	127	231	52.70%
24 WHITEHALL	89	44	68	49.44%
31 TWIN BRIDGES	43	28	35	65.12%
33 PHILIPSBURG	10	3	10	30.00%
42 TOWNSEND	117	75	108	64.10%
46 BOULDER	23	16	27	69.57%
89 SHERIDAN ☆	73	77	88	105.48%
115 BUTTE	104	60	88	57.69%
TOTAL	1957	1223	1945	62.49%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA	154	52	101	34%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN	350	218	374	62.29%
19 BIG TIMBER	188	88	166	46.81%
23 LIVINGSTON	170	115	173	67.65%
25 WHITE SULPHUR	63	31	68	49.21%
30 BELGRADE	251	118	231	47.01%
65 ENNIS	56	50	68	89.29%
78 W YELLOWSTONE	29	21	27	72.41%
87 MANHATTAN	165	82	163	49.70%
93 THREE FORKS	42	22	42	52.38%
99 BIG SKY	55	32	48	58.18%
118 GARDINER	35	26	32	74.29%
TOTAL	1404	803	1392	57.19%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS	261	128	223	49.04%
6 CHOTEAU	104	71	102	68.27%
26 FORT BENTON	34	24	34	70.59%
51 AUGUSTA	36	31	39	86.11%
64 DUTTON	46	10	51	21.74%
80 FAIRFIELD	31	5	28	16.13%
102 GERALDINE	112	48	116	42.86%
103 POWER	28	20	30	71.43%
130 VAUGHN	40	28	43	70.00%
133 CASCADE	32	7	36	21.88%
341 MALMSTROM	162	69	137	42.59%
TOTAL	886	441	839	49.77%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON	104	66	100	63.46%
16 LEWISTOWN	409	257	398	62.84%
18 ROUNDUP	67	32	60	47.76%
53 STANFORD	26	15	22	57.69%
62 DENTON	26	20	27	76.92%
70 JUDITH GAP	69	40	69	57.97%
76 HOBSON	37	27	36	72.97%
96 ROY	22	16	22	72.73%
120 WINIFRED	31	9	31	29.03%
TOTAL	791	482	765	60.94%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY	81	43	75	53.09%
12 SIDNEY	40	29	35	72.50%
28 GLENDIVE	109	67	95	61.47%
29 CIRCLE	18	8	13	44.44%
32 TERRY	101	64	97	63.37%
35 BAKER	121	64	102	52.89%
39 FORSYTH	97	56	85	57.73%
44 COLSTRIP	30	21	38	70.00%
60 EKALAKA	15	4	17	26.67%
114 FAIRVIEW	37	29	35	78.38%
128 BROADUS	16	9	17	56.25%
TOTAL	665	394	609	59.25%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS	473	271	406	57.29%
8 HARDIN	46	40	48	86.96%
17 RED LODGE	57	46	59	80.70%
34 COLUMBUS	59	42	60	71.19%
71 FROMBERG	19	11	22	57.89%
84 BELFRY	39	24	34	61.54%
92 HYSHAM	26	12	18	46.15%
100 PARK CITY	57	56	60	98.25%
117 BILLINGS	246	84	161	34.15%
119 BILLINGS HGTS	172	116	177	67.44%
123 LAUREL	112	84	124	75.00%
TOTAL	1306	786	1169	60.18%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2020 INCENTIVE GOAL	11,000
2020 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	6547
2019 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	10653
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	59.52%

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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post	2	HELENA	495 MEMBERS
Post	4	BILLINGS	269 MEMBERS
Post	16	LEWISTOWN	256 MEMBERS
Post	27	MISSOULA	218 MEMBERS
Post	14	BOZEMAN	213 MEMBERS
Post	97	LIBBY	126 MEMBERS
Post ...	137	KALISPELL	126 MEMBERS
Post	3	GREAT FALLS	124 MEMBERS
Post	21	ANACONDA	119 MEMBERS
Post	30	BELGRADE	117 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
4	64.90%	Glen Sharbono
6	61.17%	Pat Sweeney
9	60.43%	Richard Hackett
11	59.42%	Gil Floyd
5	59.37%	Greg Marose
10	59.10%	David Ofalt
7	56.34%	Jim Howe
1	56.33%	Joe Yeoman
2	56.06%	Vincent Schmoেকে
3	54.57%	Randy Flammond
8	48.53%	Kim Kay McCarty Martin

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION September 12, 2019

SQUADRON	GOAL 2020	TO DATE
GLASGOW #41 ☆	44	47
PLENTYWOOD #58 ☆	17	18
CULBERTSON #81	20	14
NASHUA #104	10	5
HAVRE #11	18	1
CHINOOK #48 ☆	22	24
MALTA #57	17	0
SACO #79	12	0
GALATA #69	27	0
LIBBY #97	18	0
POLSON #112	14	11
MISSOULA #27	18	0
HAMILTON #47	10	0
CONDON #63	10	3
CORVALLIS #91	14	0
STEVENSVILLE #94	48	0
LOLO #135	31	25
BUTTE #1	27	0
HELENA #2	126	79
ANACONDA #21	19	13
TOWNSEND #42	21	15
BUTTE #115	10	0
BOZEMAN #14	81	35
BIG TIMBER #19 ☆	14	14
LIVINGSTON #23	45	24
BELGRADE #30	46	13
MANHATTAN #87	35	19
BIG SKY #99 ☆	22	24
GREAT FALLS #3	23	18
CHOTEAU #6 ☆	26	27
GERALDINE #102	58	19
VAUGHN #130	22	20
HARLOWTON #15	27	17
LEWISTOWN #16	149	24
MILES CITY #5	14	9
BAKER #35	30	0
FORSYTH #39	52	36
BILLINGS #4	14	2
BELFRY #84	10	0
BILLINGS #117	11	10
LAUREL #123	13	3
HQS POST #9999	0	0
TOTALS	1216	569
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Fatality Markers – Motorists Warning

BY ED MORETH

Normally American Legion Post 52 in Thompson Falls works on the white fatality markers along the roads and highways once a year and that was mid-May. However, Jim Kelly, the man in charge of The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker Program said that a handful of the markers along Highway 200 in Sanders County were not the right specifications and asked the Thompson Falls Post 52 members to replace them. Last week, Post 52 Commander Bill Beck of Plains spent nearly two hours on the road for a 10-minute job of replacing one of the markers and replaced two more a week later. While at the job sites, Beck also gave the new markers a fresh coat of white paint. He has been involved in the program with Post 52 for about four years.

Post 52 is responsible for about 55 markers from Panorama Road northwest of Plains to the Idaho border along Highway 200, about 50 miles, and up Prospect Creek, Highway 471, to the Idaho border, just over 20 miles. The marker at White Pine that Beck replaced was the correct height and overall size, but the individual white metal marker slabs were only 2½ inches wide and are supposed to be 4 inches. In addition, the red post was a metal fence post and not as sturdy as the post that is supposed to hold the marker, said Beck, who last week also



PHOTO BY ED MORETH
Post 52 Commander Bill Beck attaches a cross to a post marking the site of a highway fatality at White Pine.

replaced two markers about six miles west of Plains that are typically under the jurisdiction of Post 129 in Paradise. The Paradise Post and Post 106 in St. Ignatius normally cover an additional 40 markers in Sanders County.

The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker Program started in 1953 by a Missoula Legion Post and is a volunteer program of which most of the Legion Posts in Montana participate. According to Kelly there are more than 2,500 markers throughout Montana with the majority erected following a highway fatality at or near the spot of the crash. But two years ago Kelly placed a marker west of Thompson Falls for a father and son who both perished in the mid-1960s and had been overlooked until the family notified the Legion.

“The markers are not meant to be a memorial to the person who died there; they are supposed to show where a person or persons died at that site to remind drivers to be safe,” said Beck, who said they periodically remove flowers and other paraphernalia from the markers. “The idea is for the markers to be highly visible from the highway to motorists and if it is covered with materials, it defeats the purpose of being a safety reminder,” said Kelly.

Post 138 Family Ribbons and Post Excellence Awards

BY GLEN SHARBONO, COMMANDER



Department Commander Jeff Nelson presented Ronan Post 138 Commander Glen Sharbono and Ronan, Auxiliary Unit 138 President Lorie Noble with their 5th in a row American Legion Family Ribbon. To receive this ribbon both the Post and Unit had to make 100 percent membership in the same year. Ronan Post 138 also received a Post Excellence Banner. This is the second in a row for Post 138. To earn this award the Post had to excel in four different categories. There will be new and extra criteria the Post will have to meet in 2020 of which two are the Post must have 90 percent renewal of current members and pass 103 percent in membership for 2020.

Townsend Post 42 embarks on ambitious fundraiser to repair Legion Hall

BY JEN DALRYMPLE, COMMANDER

Last year’s winter was no friend to our late 1880’s Legion Hall building - 18 inches of snow in one day in Townsend has not happened in forever. Ice dams and severe leakage on the rear of the Hall caused significant damage to the stage, walls, kitchen, wood subflooring, original movie theater sound board and drop ceiling tiles. The Post had been saving money for the last ten years to tear down and rebuild the rear additions which include the kitchen, drink storage area and equipment shed, two of which had flat roofs contributing to the snow melt episode. Well, Mother Nature just helped us along faster than we had planned. Finding ourselves in a conundrum, the members decided that we might as well mitigate the water to prevent molding and proceed with the rebuild now with whatever leftover



insurance money we had, our savings and initiated fundraisers. This required all hands on deck to raise the almost \$60,000 more that was needed as rapidly as possible through local foundation grants, charitable contributions, Post raffles, personal donations, appeals through the media and anywhere else we could think of. The response has been very positive and we are a bit over halfway to our minimum construction goal. A BIG THANK YOU to all those organizations, Posts, Legion Family members and others who have stepped up to send us what they could. We had donations from as far away as Maryland - how grateful we are!! Hopefully the demolition and construction of the rear of the building will begin this month and we look forward to working through the winter to refurbish the interior and welcome spring with a newly renovated, climate sealed community Legion Hall.

Our **8th Annual Surf n Turf fundraiser dinner** will be held at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 4- 7:30pm on Saturday, Nov. 9. Come on down and celebrate our Happy 100th Birthday for Post 42 - chartered November 1919!

Fatality Marker Ceremony

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL PERKIO

Butte Post 115 Fatality Marker Chair Art Childs addresses a group of mourners following the placement of a fatality marker. The SAL member standing to his left is Mike Metcalf (Art’s grandson).



Miles City Post 5 Nursing Scholarship Presentation

Carl D. Freeman (left) was presented the Custer Post 5 \$1,500 Nursing Scholarship by Post Commander Bob Prah on September 4th, at Miles Community College.



Post 2 Legion Family Ribbons

SUBMITTED BY KAREN SEMPLE

Family ribbons were presented at Anaconda Post 21 by Department Commander Jeff Nelson at District 6 meeting to Lewis & Clark Legion Family representatives: SAL Squadron 2, Eddy White; Post 2 Past Commander Justin Carpenter; ALA Unit 2 Secretary-Treasurer Leah Ellwein.



Ronan Post 138 and Auxiliary Unit 138

SUBMITTED BY G SHARBONO

Post & Unit 138 sent four to The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State



Left to right are Kinsley Barney, Brooklyn Kenelty, James Normandeau and d’Artagnan Dominquez. The ALA Girls State citizens were sponsored by the Ronan Booster Club, Ronan Power Products and the Ronan Women’s Club. The AL Boys State citizens were sponsored by Glacier Bank of Ronan and Ronan Post 138. All four spoke highly of the programs, their fellow citizens and were very appreciative for the opportunities to attend.



101st National Convention 2019



Montanans descend upon 101st National Convention in Indianapolis

The weather was delightful during The American Legion's 101st National Convention August 23-29 and 56 Montanans travelled in for the celebration. Bands, motorcycles, floats and marching delegates filled the streets of downtown Indianapolis as The American Legion kicked off the Convention with the annual parade. The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion held concurrent and sometimes combined events with the main Legion caucus. There were plenty of activities for all to enjoy at both the Convention and throughout the city, from baseball and football games to the "Brickyard" motor speedway, monuments and motorcycle rallies.

Notable speakers included Vice President of the United State Michael Pence, Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs - Robert Wilkie, Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee - Theodore Roosevelt IV, Chairwoman of the Women in Military Service Memorial Founda-

tion - Major General Jan Edmunds and of course The American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad, Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan and Past National Sons Commander Greg Gibbs.

Many Montana members renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances as they worked through legislative issues, proposed charter changes, elected new officers and conducted other business to come before the Legion Family masses. Speaking of masses, the Sunday non-denominational Patriotic Memorial Service was made all the more special with the Indianapolis Women's Chorus and the Meek Sisters belting out songs of praise and patriotism.

Though we did not come away with as many awards as last year, Montana's Legion Family still continues to uphold the legacy of our American Legion every day out in our communities taking care of Veterans - a Foundation for the Future 100 years. Welcome home and Happy Holidays!



Montanans attendance brings renewed friendship from Vietnam



Jen Dalrymple at Brickyard motor speedway



Dual Members Jen Dalrymple and Linda Cousineau at the National AL headquarters



MT Legion legends: Ed Sperry (l) and WWII veteran John Pellegrini(r).



Lonnie Johnson & Karen Susag



Past Dept. Cdr Jim Grosset, Past National Cdr Dale Barnett, Georgia, and Past North Central Zone Cdr Jed Damson at the MT Department hospitality room.



Kathy & Lowell Long



Shirley & NEC David Driver



Nat'l AL Commander and Nat'l ALA President steppin' out for the team



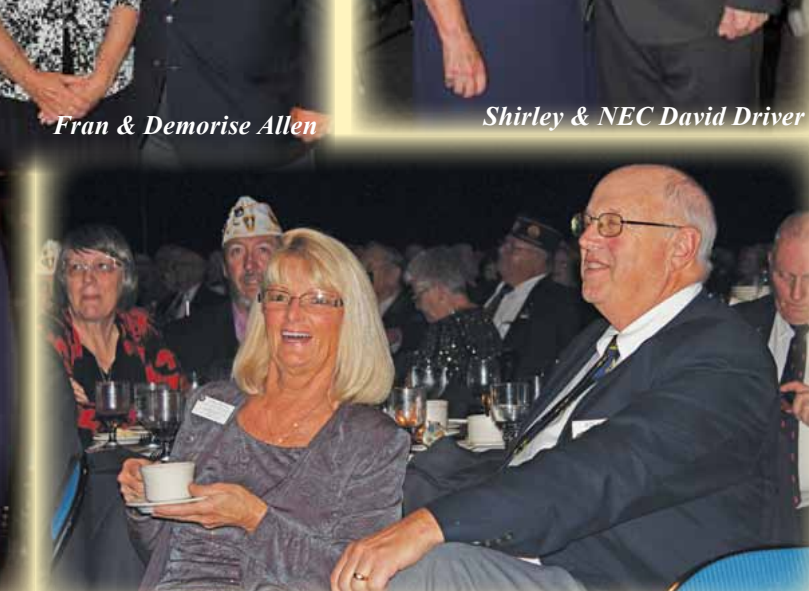
Cassie & Lonnie Johnson



Karen Semple, Dept. Chaplain



Jan & Larry Dobb



Dept. ALA Vice President-Elect Chris Nelson & Dept. Cdr Jeff Nelson



Banquet dessert & Entertainment



The Fab Four



President

SUE DAVIDSON

Hello Everyone! I would say Ladies, but we now have at least two gentlemen that have joined the ranks of our Auxiliary. Congratulations and welcome! Gary White is our first male member and Larry Dobb is our second. There may be a third in the works. National Convention changed the rules and now the spouse of a female veteran can join the Auxiliary, and she does not need to join the Legion for this to happen. There were new changes from the Legion Act, and you will learn all about them at Fall Conference.



President Sue Davidson, Billings

Fall Conference! It was held at the Jorgenson Inn in Helena on October 24-27. We had activities planned for Friday night through Saturday. Friday night we had a fun get together to make pillowcases for veterans, or you could make poppies. I asked that everyone be sure and wear RED shirts: RED – Remember Everyone Deployed. As well to bring a snack to share and your own beverage.

Jamie, Chris and I brought our machines and tools, or others brought their own along also to make things go faster. Again, the main goal was to be together, be constructive and do it for our veterans, and have fun.

If you want to work on this on your own here is some information for a pillowcase, or a pair even better, it would take a total of 5/8 yard for the header; 2 strips of 1 1/4 "x 40" for accent strip; 1- 5/8 yards of main pillowcase material. Remember that is for a pair, so half it for one. Main body for one is 26 x 40".

Saturday we were visited by the National Commander during our morning meeting and for the Commander's Banquet Saturday night. As a surprise, we dressed up and wore *Fascinators* (small English style hats) for the dinner. We

Unit 123 receives AL Nat'l Family award

The American Legion National Family 100% award for Laurel Post, Unit and Squadron 123 all making 100% membership. Betty Saxbury, ALA member.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, UNIT 112 POLSON

also celebrated the Auxiliary's 100th Birthday that night. Everyone was asked to bring their Constitution and Bylaws to the meeting because of all the changes to be made and Jennifer Herman walked us all through the changes and so changes could be taken care of. Now, don't forget to vote in the changes at your Unit.

Celebrate the Auxiliary and its 100th birthday, celebrate our veterans, and celebrate each other! Auxiliary's actual birthday is November 10th. Celebrate and make sure to document it for history.

This month is Veterans Day, so plan something to honor our veterans. It is also Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for each one of you, and all of our Legion Family.

December is the Christmas holidays and I hope you will have a fantastic and blessed Christmas. Share the love and the season.

Taking care of the business of our veterans and our members. ⚙

Why I'm not a member?



No one asked!

ALA Blue Star Flags available to families with someone in military service

BY STACY BEAR, AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN



ALA member from Ronan, Jessie Merwin, is making Blue Star Flags to give to those who have or know of someone who has a family member serving in the military. She also makes Gold Star Flags for those who have lost a member who was serving in the military. If you are looking to have a Blue or Gold Star Flag made Jessie can be reached at:

Jessie Merwin, 51186 Chiff Lane, Ronan, MT 59864 — 406.644.2805 / 406.546.1742

[EDITOR'S NOTE - THANK YOU, JESSIE, FOR THIS GENEROUS SERVICE!]

Post / Unit 70 receives Family Flag Ribbon

100 Percent Family Flag Ribbon presented to Post and Unit 70 Judith Gap. Commander Jeff Nelson presents to Demorise and Fran Allen.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMIE DEBATES, UNIT 138 RONAN

Secretary

JAMIE DEBATES

As promised in the last issue, your goals were released in early August. I still feel it's like putting a band-aid on a breached levy, but whatever it takes to motivate is worth a try. In short, it's where your Unit ended (paid totals) plus one. Some Units received a couple more because of their history of continually making goal combined with the fact we surrendered two Unit charters and those members still need to count. You complained loudly and our national leaders listened. Now it's time to show them what we can do in Montana.



Jamie DeBates

I delivered the Programs Action Plans to each District during the meetings. Please share that information with your Units. Everybody does something that can be counted and REPORTED. The forms are in the action plan along with hordes of extra information. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS need to be given to the schools. Find that person in your Unit that has a connection with your local high schools and knock on that open door. Fall Conference information will be in the next issue. Our new President Sue lined up her workshops. In response to the complaints about nothing to do on Friday night, we hosted a couple special workshops. We sewed pillowcases for Fort Harrison, and had a group making poppies. President Sue and I supplied kits; If you wanted to sew you had to bring your sewing machine. They provided everything else.

Monetary donations are being taken for the homeless veteran housing project. They are overloaded with items requiring storage – for which they have none. Until further notice, please just send donations to me so you get credit, and I'll forward to the project's fund on your behalf.

Bond payments are due; poppy orders should be placed. ⚙

District 4 celebrates Children & Youth

District 4 Children and Youth Banquet is held the first Monday in October to honor the youths who participate in the Legion Family programs throughout the year. The cake was hosted by Legion District 4 to honor the 100 years of The American Legion Auxiliary.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMIE DEBATES, UNIT 138 RONAN

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



BY JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

Gearing up for next session
June 14-20, 2020

Hello, Ladies and Happy early winter?! Our executive committee has set the budget for next session and we're rapidly gearing up for the June session; grant applications, sponsorships, guest speakers, activities and more are in the works.

First spouse joins ALA

Congratulations Lewis & Clark Auxiliary Unit 2 on signing up the first MALE member of The American Legion Auxiliary!

Gary is eligible through his (deceased) first wife. As you all know, Gary has served The American Legion for many years as the Department Adjutant and will soon be retiring. His wife, Rose, is also a member of Unit 2, along with their granddaughter Lyla Kent.

That my friends - is **THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY** front and center.

Join me in welcoming Gary to our ranks.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, UNIT 112 POLSON
Jamie Debates gave a gift of a poppy mug, to Gary White, Dept. Adjutant who became the first spouse to join the Department of Montana American Legion Auxiliary.



Letter from
the editor

From The Service Star Editor's Desk
Greetings to the Membership of The American Legion Auxiliary,

It has come time to do some housekeeping when it comes to submitting photos for publication. We want the photos; however, I need your help with giving information with your photo submissions. Please when emailing photos **send as e-mail attachments** – PLEASE, in JPG format. When you are shooting with your cell phone please check your resolution. Set the resolution higher as it helps with the quality when it comes to printing.

- Please, when you send your photos do captions to your photos as follows:
- Submitted by <name>, Unit # <City>
- Photo# - caption, etc.
- I do not know what is going on in your photo, but you do, and the more details the better.
- Don't spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document, each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity
- Do Not embed (*insert*) photos in the body of an e-mail See above (*if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor*)
- By just attaching your photos to the email with captions and submitter information makes the job of your editor slightly easier.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Thank you, Michelle Kandel

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN, SERVICE STAR EDITOR

Please put **June 14-20** on your calendars and save the date to come on down to Helena to see what we're all about. Along with the need for more counselors to stay with the girls at the college, we could use daytime activity escorts to give the full-time counselors a break. There's the mock trial, moot court, legislative events, trips to visit veterans at the VA hospital, military museum excursions, taekwondo and aikido self-defense classes, suicide awareness seminars, making poppies activity and much more. If you would like to volunteer your time during the day as an activity escort please call me at **406.949.3660** and we will gladly welcome you for whatever time you can give us.

In addition, you should be receiving your ALA Girls State packets from your District Presidents as I handed them out at the Fall Conference and again, if you have any questions, concerns or time to share with the girls, please feel free to give me a call.



MT Aux President Davidson at the Nat'l Banquet

Unit 15's Mainwaring
awarded National Unit
Member of the Year

District 9 President Mechelle Holms (right) presenting to Billeta Mainwaring (left) of Unit 15 Harlowton. Billeta was awarded by National Unit Member of the Year.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JAMIE DeBATES, UNIT 138 RONAN



District 9 President Mechelle Holms reading an essay before presenting the Unit Member of the Year award to Billeta Mainwaring



Nicole Clapp of Gladbrook, Iowa, (left) Newly Elected National President of The American Legion Auxiliary. She is pictured with Montana's new ALA Dept. of MT President, Sue Davidson (right).

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER DALRYMPLE UNIT 42 TOWNSEND

National Parade



Montana American Legion Auxiliary in National Parade in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Montana Hospitality



Enjoying the MT hospitality room at National Convention in Indianapolis.

40 & 20 at National
Convention

4&20 Women Veterans Dinner attendees (l to r) Larry Dobb, Chelle Harada, Karen Susag, unidentified veteran, and Ann Sharbono.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, UNIT 112 POLSON

Columbia Falls Post72 Centennial History

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL SHEPARD

As we approach our 100th, Department Historian Ray Read asked me to do this write up. Not many Posts have direct connections with the group that formed The American Legion, but I personally do. Being a native Pennsylvanian, my family was involved via my maternal grandfather with WW1 and the 28th Division. One of its Captains was a man, named J. Frank Graff, a very well to do farmer near my hometown in Western Pa. He was very instrumental in Company K, of the 112th Regiment of the 28th, and Company K was made up of volunteers from Armstrong County. This same Co K had a pivotal role at Gettysburg in the Civil War, so carried that legacy into WW1. In a key battle in the Argonne Forest in Oct 1918, future Judge J. Frank Graff, then a Captain, took command of the entire regiment during a German counter offensive. His direct actions turned the tide of that battle, and a clear victory was had. Because of this, he made friends with our Teddy Roosevelt. Promoted to Major, Graff was invited to Paris with more than 100 other officers to write our organization's constitution in the first caucus held in Paris. On March 13, 1969, Major Graff was the Master of Ceremonies when the Post he organized wrote the Charter for, Post 122 of Kittanning, Pa on their 50th Anniversary. Post 122 showed 208 members, of which 20 were Vietnam Vets. Judge Graff was personally known to me as he hosted talks about Americanism, law and Service to our Country. A huge turnout was had upon his death, after he served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Pictured is my maternal grandfather, Hyatt Lafayette Hawk, recovering from a gas attack, in Paris.



Hyatt Lafayette Hawk

Twin Bridges Post 31—Special Color Guard

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MARTIN, ADJUTANT

Madison County had its annual fair August 7-11, 2019. This year's event included a special group of individuals, the "United States National Commanding Generals Mounted Color Guard," from Fort Riley, Kansas. This active duty Army color guard consisted of 12 team members, horses and a mule-drawn wagon. Each team member dressed in period uniforms from



the 1800's cavalry when performing and demonstrating their skills of horsemanship wielding a saber and revolver while mounted and at the gallop. Over the three days, they performed three cavalry demonstrations and presented the colors at the rodeo, led the parade as the Mounted Color Guard and combined with local Veterans for the fair closing ceremony. The crowd was in awe during all of the teams' performances and would enjoy hosting them in the future.

The local Veterans, with great pleasure, helped support the team in any way necessary as we know what it means to be on the road and away from family for periods of time. It amazes me still how quickly the comradery develops between military members past and present. There is a strong sense of pride that comes with working with such outstanding individuals as the Color Guard. These men and woman, in the military they are all simply soldiers, were always ready to talk to anyone and tell their story or to simply listen to yours. To me it felt natural to sit down with the senior enlisted member, 1st Sergeant Dale Siebert, or "Top"

as his soldiers know him, short for Top Soldier, and shoot the breeze about things going on in the current military ranks and to also drift back and talk about our experiences while in the service. There is an instant feel of "esprit de corps" and yes, even a feeling of being part of a family when military units mesh together to accomplish any mission.

On August 11th, the last day of the fair, with sabers drawn and the American Flag fluttering in the wind, the National Color Guard honored our community by leading the Madison County Fair Parade. It was a beautiful sight to behold, their show of precision as cavalry and their horses as they guided us up Twin Bridges main street and back. Then at 1pm we combined the National Color Guard and our local American Legion Post 31 Color Guard and performed a fair closing ceremony. Army Major (Ret) Jerry Redfield commanded this joint unit formation to retire the fairgrounds flag while taps were played. Upon securing the flag, with dignity and military bearing, two members of the national team performed the "Thirteen Folds of The Flag" ceremony. This ceremony is extremely touching as it explains why each fold is performed and when complete the flag is presented to the Commander of the formation with a slow salute retiring the flag. Again, while being part of this formation I felt that sense of family and every individual taking part, young or old, gave their best to ensure the mission was accomplished in a professional manner.



The local Veterans would like to thank you, the National Color Guard, for attending our county fair and look forward to a repeat performance in the future. Thanks for providing us with new memories and something else to talk about as some of our stories are getting pretty old.

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YOUR TEAM:



MARK DELORME
Branch Manager
NMLS# 96766



KRIS HILL
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 262695



MARK DELORME, JR
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1027436



KYLE LEDUC
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1575253

11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act

BY THE AMERICAN LEGION

With President Trump's signature on the LEGION Act, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all The American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion:

Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and Dec. 7, 1941 to present day. No other eligibility criteria are changed.

Question: What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and President's signature changed that.

Question: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "war-time." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Answer: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join SAL.

Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans. (Recently opened to male members - Fall 2019)

Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

Question: The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials have been developed and distributed as quickly as possible. If you do not have the new materials, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates.

Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

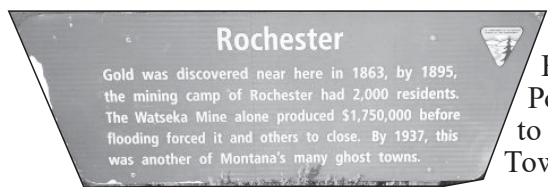
Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Contact the National Membership Division. Visit the below web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>

Post 31 cleans up Historic Cemetery



On numerous occasions, members from Dan Brockman American Legion Post 31 of Twin Bridges went to the historic Rochester Ghost Town Cemetery and cleared sagebrush/tall grass from all the graves. It has been a long-term project of Bill and Marsha Gibson also Susan Ren of Ennis to research and identify individuals interned within all the surrounding Twin Bridges cemeteries. They also made it a priority to identify all Veterans within our local cemeteries. So, the Rochester project came to life. First, Bill inspired several Post 31 members to locate and clear the graves of the five Veterans identified as being interned at Rochester cemetery. Next, placement of white posts at the head of each Veteran's graves along with war service medallions and American Flags on each post. Finally, clearing the remaining Rochester Cemetery graves of sagebrush and weeds, many graves were entirely overgrown with sagebrush.



On 13 August, while the finishing touches were being accomplished around the cemetery a plaque naming and identifying each interned Veteran's war service was dedicated. Rochester Veterans include one



Mexican American War and four Civil War Veterans (2 Grand Army of the Republic and 2 Confederate States Army). Present for the dedication were Shannon Gilbert from the Dillon BLM office, along with another associate from the BLM and five members from the local Veterans

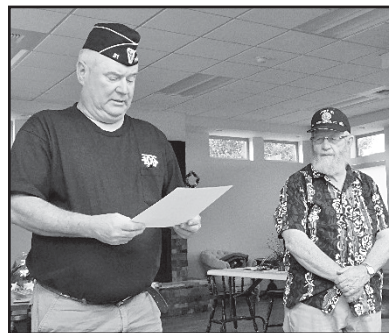
including our team leader Bill Gibson, Commander Jerry Bud Redfield, and three other members. The cemetery's Veterans had not been receiving military honors on Memorial Day for many years, but because of Bill and Marsha Gibson's efforts, this will change in the years to come.

On the day of the plaque dedication, the local Veterans and the BLM offices agreed this historic cemetery would stay clear of sagebrush and the interned Veterans will always receive military honors on Memorial Day. Sadly, Marsha did not see this project come to fruition as she passed away last year. Bill, thank you for inspiring this project and your dedicated efforts to identify and recognize the Veterans of Rochester Cemetery.



Twin Bridges Post 31—Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Post 31 of Twin Bridges celebrated its 100th anniversary on August 2, 2019, with a banquet, cake and awards presented to three deserving members. The banquet and cake were provided by Twins' "Women for Veterans" organization, great job. Commander Jerry Redfield, on the right, and Adjutant Doug Martin as they show off the cake with the 100-year banner displayed in the background.



Jim Paull was awarded a Legion Meritorious Service Award

and maintaining Post finances. And lastly, Bill Gibson was given a 25 Year Continuous Membership Certificate honoring his long service to the Post and our community.

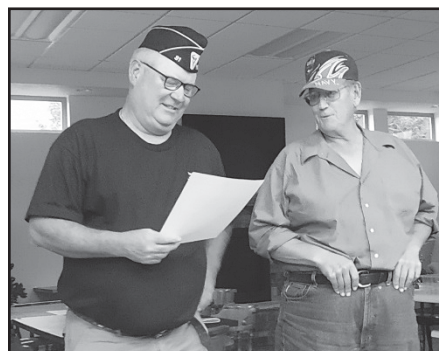
Many members of our small Post deserve honoring for their efforts ensuring mission success of the Post, but these individuals stand out for their continual unselfish volunteering. Post 31 has had a distinguished initial 100 years

Several Post members and their families attended the event ensuring many great conversations. Later while eating cake, Commander Redfield presented some awards. Jim Paull was awarded a Legion Meritorious Service Award and giving a gift certificate to a local restaurant honoring his contribution as the Past Adjutant.

Ed Hayes was awarded a Legion Commendation Certificate and gift certificate for his efforts volunteering for different events



Ed Hayes awarded a Legion Commendation Certificate



Bill Gibson was given a 25-Year Continuous Membership Certificate

and is looking forward to creating a 2nd outstanding 100-year legacy. Thank you "Women for Veterans" for all your hard work and thank you local Veterans for all your countless hours of community volunteerism.

Ronan Post 138 Awards Honorary Life Membership

At the August meeting Ronan Post 138 voted to award Larry Toews with an Honorary Life Membership. Larry is a resident of St. Luke’s Extended Care in Ronan and one of the Posts original charter members since the establishment of Post 138 in 2002. Congratulations Larry.



Pictured at right are: Post Commander Glen Sharbono, Larry Toews (seated) and Chaplain Ed Cornelius.

Red Lodge Post 17 Veterans Celebrate 100th birthday



ELEANOR GURRERRO, CARBON COUNTY NEWS, SENIOR REPORTER

Members of Red Lodge American Legion Post 17 and the Beartooth Elks Lodge 534 celebrate the Post's 100th year and toast all Legion members past and present, Aug. 29, at the Elks Lodge.

Seated are: Harold Jenkins (Boys State Chairman), Roger Ferguson (Former Adjutant), Bill Wilson (Former Post Commander) .

Standing: Priscilla Neff (Service Office), Dan Nardinger (Legion Adjutant), Robert Larson (VFW member), Ken Beggs (Legion Commander)

Various speakers lauded the work of the Legion and the Elks.; Caring for veterans and their families over the decades to the present day.

Historic command: Schlosser becomes ERDC’s first female commander

BY JOHN SURRETT | THE VICKSBURG POST | 09/06/2019

History was made Friday at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center with the installation of ERDC’s 11th and first female commander, Col. Teresa Schlosser, during a change of command ceremony. [Schlosser is a member of Helena Post 2]



COURTLAND WELLS/THE VICKSBURG POST

Col. Teresa Schlosser takes part in the Change of Command Ceremony Friday [Sept. 6, 2019] at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). Schlosser took command from Col. Ivan Beckman, who is retiring from the Army after 30 years of service. Schlosser is the 11th and first female commander of ERDC.

Schlosser replaces Col. Ivan Beckman, who is retiring from the Army after 30 years and pursuing a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Mississippi State University.

Maj. Gen. Richard Kaiser, former commander of the Corps’ Mississippi Valley Division and deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general for the Corps, told Beckman, “You were the right commander for ERDC at the right time. What a great opportunity you had. Your leadership has been tremendous.”

In Schlosser, Kaiser said ERDC was getting a strong leader.

Referring to her last command as district engineer for the Corps’ Far East District, Kaiser said she was responsible for overseeing a \$10 billion construction project.

“Under Teresa’s leadership, she turned it around. The hospital we were building was missing milestones, delays, all sorts of problems, but under her skilled leadership she turned it around; what a difference she made,” he said.

Kaiser said Schlosser was the best choice as ERDC’s next commanding officer.

“You are bringing on an excellent commander, and I guarantee this — Teresa will do everything she can to provide excellent leadership that you deserve and allow the director to focus his efforts on where they need to be,” he said. “And because of that, this

organization will continue to do wonderful things for this nation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

Schlosser called ERDC “the Willie Wonka Chocolate Factory for engineers,” adding ERDC director Dr. David Pittman called ERDC “Disneyland for engineers, so somewhere between the two is the right description for what ERDC does.”

The more she learns about ERDC, she said, “The more I am amazed. You just do so much, and it is my honor to be a part of this organization.”

After the ceremony, Schlosser said she was excited to be taking command of ERDC. And while she believes there is some pressure being the center’s first female commander.

“I think the Army gives women more opportunities than any other profession,” she said. “I’m often the only woman in the room and I’m very used to being the first woman in the room.”

Schlosser wants to keep ERDC’s involvement in the Vicksburg Warren School District science, technology, engineering and math programs, and hopes she can serve as a role model for girls to get involved in STEM.

“To be one, you’ve got to see one,” she said. “If little girls get to see a female senior engineer, they can look up and say, ‘I get to do that.’” She also wants to improve base infrastructure.

She said has worked with ERDC in the past with disaster response for a tsunami in Thailand, a typhoon in the Philippines, and for Hurricane Katrina in the area between Biloxi and Louisiana coast.

“We called back to ERDC when I had structural questions or questions I couldn’t answer in the field, so I had the exposure,” she said.

Schlosser shares something with Beckman and former ERDC commander Col. Bryan Green — all three served engineering assignments in Korea before coming to ERDC.

“I think it’s a bit coincidental,” she said of the similarity, adding, “Part of it, though, is Korea is the only 06 (colonel level) command in the Corps that is staffed (for) two years. Other district commands are three years, and so we come out of command a little early, so we have the opportunity to command again.”

And there is the opportunity to be part of the relationship between ERDC and the Republic of Korea military engineers; the relationship between the U.S. and Korean military, she said, “are tight.

“They have challenges there that ERDC is already helping with,” she said.

Schlosser said she was somewhat surprised to be offered the command.

“Last spring, I got the call and asked if I was interested in coming to ERDC when I left Korea. I came to visit ERDC and said, ‘Oh, yeah!’ and I jumped at the chance.”

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Steve Daines

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR MONTANA

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SCAMS TARGETING VETERANS

Recently, the Government Accountability Office released a report on protecting veterans from financial exploitation. GAO discussed several scams targeting veterans, including pension poaching and charging veterans unreasonable fees. The report makes four recommendations for additional action that the VA should take to protect veterans.



The nonpartisan GAO report reaffirms the need for my bill, the FREE Veteran Act. Consistent with the report’s finding, my bill calls for the reinstatement of a penalty and the collection of data about bad actors who exploit veterans. The GAO report only furthered my resolve to pass my bill to protect veterans from financial scams.

SUPPORTING THE MILITARY,
VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER

Senator urges Seaman Apprentice William Fields & 73 others to be added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall

(U.S. SENATE) – U.S. Senator Jon Tester is continuing his push to honor a Great Falls Vietnam veteran who died during the sinking of the USS Frank E. Evans 50 years ago.



Tester joined a bipartisan, bicameral group of members urging the Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee to include the USS Frank E. Evans Act in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“Young sailors like William Fields made the ultimate sacrifice 50 years ago protecting the freedoms we enjoy today,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. “Now, it is time to honor these sailors on behalf of an eternally grateful nation. We must properly commemorate Seaman Apprentice Fields and other Vietnam War heroes like him, by ensuring their names are never forgotten.”

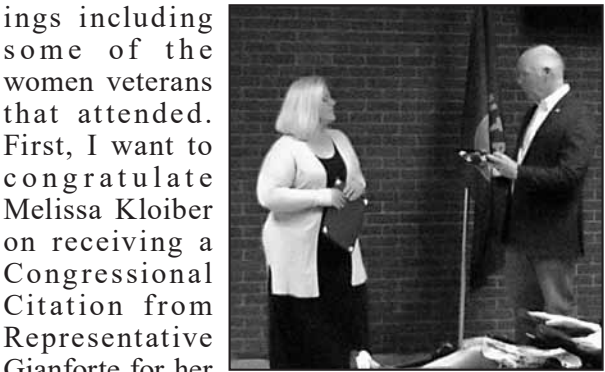
Seaman Apprentice William Fields died when the USS Frank E. Evans sank during the Vietnam War in the South China Sea on June 3, 1969. Because the ship was just outside the conflict boundary zone, Fields and his 73 crewmates were not initially included on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The bipartisan bill would add the names of these sailors, also known as the “Lost 74,” to the Vietnam Memorial wall.

Fields was born in Great Falls, where his father served in the U.S. Air Force. He reported aboard the USS Frank E. Evans just 17 days before the ship sank. He was 19 years old.

Gianforte recognizes Melissa Kloiber for Angel Arms

BY KIM KAY MCCARTY MARTIN, WOMEN VETERANS COORD.

Hi everyone, I hope you are all having a good day. I went to most of the Fall District Meetings this year and had a wonderful time talking with those at the meet-



ings including some of the women veterans that attended. First, I want to congratulate Melissa Kloiber on receiving a Congressional Citation from Representative Gianforte for her support of the community after her Air Force service at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT. She has a developed a device called Angel Arms that helps her daughter and other handi-

capped children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).
Second, I want to reiterate what I was talking about at the District meetings. This last May was the last of the Women Veteran Luncheons/ Forums that will be taking place. Due to the lack of participation of women veterans, it was neither cost- or time-efficient to host these, though there was good information being shared and friendly camaraderie among us. In the future, something like this may take place again if the conditions are better. I do have information to give to women vets and I find/learn more information I would like to continue getting to the veterans. In this aspect, I do have a Facebook page set up for sharing. It is...Women Vets in MT American Legion. I post information and sometimes encouraging messages on the Facebook page. Anyone who wants more information or needs assistance in any way, I would be more than happy to help. Just message me on the Facebook page and I will respond back. I want to thank those already liking/following the Facebook page for supporting my efforts. I will also be handing each District Commander at the Fall Conference, information to take back to each of their Posts. Feel free to contact me at phone/text 701-260-2833 or email IDIDinND@hotmail.com

Boys State Citizen Samuel Fullbright Receives runners- up 2019 National Samsung Scholarship of \$5,000

AS ANNOUNCED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION | OCT 17, 2019



PHOTO PROVIDED BY GREG POHLE

Don Jones awarding the Dept. of Montana AL SAMSUNG to Samuel Fullbright.

More than 4,660 rising high school seniors who participated in a 2019 American Legion Boys State and Auxiliary Girls State program applied for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship to receive up to \$10,000 for higher education. The 98 scholarship recipients were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education Oct. 14 during the Legion's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 78 department finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State and being a direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership. There were 156 applicants who earned an extra bonus point for being a member of or related to someone in the American Legion Family.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship supports undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition and books), and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, visit www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung

Broadwater Post 42 Family Hosts First Responders Fundraiser

BY JEN DALRYMPLE, POST 42 COMMANDER

9/11 is a day few of us will ever forget and to honor the first responders who were some of the many heroes that day, American Legion Broadwater Post 42 Family hosted its 3rd Annual Patriot's



Day (renamed First Responders) Fundraiser celebration to support our very own Broadwater County first responders. On Sunday, September 8th from noon to 3pm, the Townsend Community came out in force to enjoy the festivities, food, music, fun and comradery. We had silent auction items, 50/50 raffle, a jail staffed

by the Sheriffs and former Judge Olsen, climbing wall, Virtual Reality game trailer, several First Responder vehicles on display and a variety of other games. This year's event was once again a tremendous success and we topped our previous years' efforts with a total of over \$8,000 raised for the Emergency Response agencies in the County. Thank you to our sponsors, the Lions and Rotary Clubs of Townsend and Missouri Valley Marketing, all the wonderful businesses and individuals who donated auction items, the First Responders Fundraiser committee, the terrific musicians and the myriad of volunteers that came to set up, work the event and clean up. We are so very fortunate to live in such a giving community!!



BIG K WINNERS

The Big K for next year (2020) is now open for membership until December 31, 2019. You may purchase as many memberships as you desire until 1,000 are sold throughout the Department. Posts, Units and Squadrons may also purchase memberships in the Big K.

The second early bird drawing of \$200 and the first \$400 drawing will take place on 2 January 2020.



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$500 and one to win \$1,800? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age.

This is a fundraiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State, as well as membership programs.

If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2019 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2020, \$500 on the Legion Birthday and \$1,800 at Department Convention.



BIG 1,000 CLUB

Submit completed form with \$25 Membership Fee!
American Legion Dept of Montana
Armed Forces Reserve Center
P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604-6075

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: January 2, 2020

(always include Post & City in Email Subject Line)

Text – No formatting such as, **multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text**

- Set **one** tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as *All formatting has to be removed before placing into paper.*
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide *Post City* as well as Post/Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you're talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any "we did this" or "I/we think that" written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
- **Acronyms.** Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS).* The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is **plagiarizing** which has **serious legal repercussions.**
- **DO NOT** submit articles in **PDF** format.
- If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.

Photos – send as e-mail **attachments** – **PLEASE!!**

JPG format, as an attachment

- Default setting on a **digital camera** is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
- **Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo & get them focused.**

If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.

Captions should be noted in the e-mail:

Photo# caption which includes Post/ Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.

Don't spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE

*Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail **attachment.***

Do Not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use **attach)**

*See above (if embedded in the body of an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail **attachment.***

News articles

- Sending a **hyperlink** to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
Helps ensure article can be found (sometimes older articles are archived and cannot be found) and also to give proper credit to the author and newspaper to avoid plagiarizing.

Corrections to previously-sent articles

- Send an e-mail with the corrections only

*Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing. **Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.***

ByLine... remember... always include the submitters name for articles.

Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to: lmtpub@gmail.com

Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!

Buddies in Business



PAID ADS ARE NOT AN ENDORSEMENT
OF PERSON, PRODUCT OR BUSINESS

2 inch ads: \$75 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

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MONTANA
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**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



**Sons Of The
American Legion
DETACHMENT OF MONTANA**

*For More Information About
Membership Call:*
(406) 324-3989
or (406) 324-3990
or write to P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604



**Silver Bow Post #1
and Auxiliary**

AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

Welcome

MEETINGS:

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH-7:00 P.M.
DINNER: 3RD WEDNESDAY-6:00 P.M.
NEW LEGION HALL – 3201 WYNNE AVENUE
BUTTE MT



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
PO Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

**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

*Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week*

Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday



**AMERICAN LEGION
POST #4**

OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM

HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN

1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT





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Chuck & Kim Ballard

Veteran-Owned & Operated

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610 Custer Ave • Helena

 **442-9589**

MEMBER POST #2

**Jerome's
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**Jerome Faith
Owner**

Located at Quality Piano
617 Central
Great Falls, MT 59401
w: 406-761-5507
h: 406-965-3176





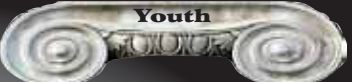
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Americanism



Youth



**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

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