



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA SELECTS 2019-2020 LEADERSHIP

Department Commander Jeff Nelson

served with the 172nd Light Arctic Infantry Brigade at Fort Richardson Alaska from October 1973 to May 1976. He was part of a combat support company that specialized in Redeye air defense missiles. Jeff attained the rank of Sergeant at the time of his discharge. It was in Anchorage Alaska that Jeff joined Spenard Post #1 of The Alaska American Legion while still on active duty.



After being discharged Jeff moved back to his home state of Wisconsin and pursued an associate degree in livestock management from Blackhawk Technical institute. He then joined a local Legion Post at Barneveld, Wisconsin and maintained his membership there until moving to Montana in 1983.

Jeff is a 43-year member of The American Legion and has held all Post positions at his home Post, Polson Hardwick #112, including Post Commander twice. He has been District 4 Commander, Western Zone Commander, Department Sargent at Arms and Department Vice Commander. He has traveled to many of the leadership workshops when they were held throughout the northwest region of the United States. Jeff chaired the Department Oratorical Committee for three years, the Department Finance Committee for three years, and served as a member of the Americanism Committee at National for four years. He has been serving on the board of directors for the Mission Valley Mariners Legion Baseball team since its beginning in 1989. He has been a part of the Montana American Legion delegation at the National Conventions seven times.

Jeff's community involvement includes being past Grand Knight of the Polson Knights of Columbus, Chairman of the Friends of the NRA banquet and fundraiser for three years, the Veterans Honor Guard, and volunteering with the 4-H Shooting Sports for several years as an instructor.

He started his own business in 1990 and has been running Nelson Dairy Service since then. The business supplies and sells dairy equipment to dairy farmers in three states.

Jeff is married to Christine Nelson and they reside in Polson. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Department Vice Commander George Blackard

spent his high school years in Rossville Kansas, a small farming community in the North-east part of the state. Working on the farm is where George first learned to appreciate hard work, dedication, and the satisfaction one gets watching something go from seed to market.



After high school graduation in 1987, George shipped off to Navy Basic Training at RTC Chicago. While in basic training George served as a squad leader and was a member of the rifle drill team. Though it meant two extra weeks of basic training, performing at graduation ceremonies and at different events in the city made the extra time worth it. After basic George went to Apprentice Training School and studied to be an engineer. While there he served as Apprentice Company Commander and upon graduation received the Leading Fireman award.

Once in the fleet George served as a Boiler Technician aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga CV-60 home ported in Mayport, Florida. He quickly rose through the watch stations and served the majority of his time as an upper-level man responsible for feeding the boilers water and air, creating steam and sending that steam on to everything from the laundry to the catapults.

After leaving active duty, George attended college at Kansas State University and served in the active U.S. Navy Reserve with a unit in Topeka, Kansas. While in the reserves his assigned mobilization site was the SIMA San Diego boiler repair shop where he enjoyed attending training as often as possible until receiving an honorable discharge in 1994.

It wasn't until 2000 when someone from Post 400 in Topeka, KS asked him to join, that George found out he was eligible for membership in The American Legion. He signed up as a member in 2001 and he transferred his membership to Yellowstone Post 4 in Billings, MT where for the first few years he was just a card-carrying member. Once becoming an active member, George served as Finance Officer 2008 and Adjutant 2009-2010 at the post and caught the attention of National when he created the Deployment Communication Center that family members of those deployed could use to contact their loved ones via e-mail and video conferencing free of charge.

More **BLACKARD BIO** page 2



The American Legion Department of Montana Officers 2019-2020

Important Upcoming Dates

- Aug 15 – 20 93rd American Legion Baseball World Series broadcast on ESPN 3
- Aug 24 – 29 National Convention Indianapolis, IN
- Sep 2 Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 11 Patriot Day
- Sep 11 Renewal Notice Cutoff Date
- Sep 11 .. 50% Membership Target Date
- Sep 14 First District Meeting, District 11 Billings, Post 4
- Sep 20 – 22 National Children & Youth Conference, Indianapolis
- Sep 27 - 29 National Americanism Conference
- Oct 14-17 National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
- Oct 12 ... Last District Meeting, Districts 3/8 Sweetgrass
- Oct 24-27 Fall Conference, Fort Harrison HAFRC

Department of Montana 2019 Fall District Meetings

- 14 Sep..... Dist 11*Billings
- 15 Sep..... Dist 9*Denton
- 21 Sep..... Dist 1 Hinsdale
- 22 Sep..... Dist 10 Forsyth
- 28 Sep..... Dist 4**Eureka
- 29 Sep..... Dist 5**Missoula
- 5 Oct..... Dist 7Livingston
- 6 Oct..... Dist 6Anaconda
- 11 Oct..... Dist 2Chester
- 12 Oct..... Dist(s) 3/8..... Sweetgrass
- 12-17 Oct ... Fall NEC/CDR/ADJ Mtg Indianapolis
- 24-27 Oct..... Fall Conference...Helena

*Proposed Natl Commander visit dates

**Leading candidate for National Commander visit

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COMMANDER NELSON



Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

With the Convention just getting over, it is time to start lining up and reviewing the programs for next year. But before I get into programs, I want to take a moment to let our last years' commander know that I will never fit into his size 15 triple EEE shoes that he left me to wear. Richard Klose put more miles on than anyone that I can remember. He put his heart and soul into our organization and deserves the honor of a job well done.

The Department Convention had a little bit of everything you would expect of a convention. There were training sessions, history displays, boat ride, parade, the National Commander, special guests, Tribal drummers, and so much more. If you attended you know what I am talking about, for those of you that didn't attend, there is always next year in Billings. I think everyone will agree that the time visiting with old friends and making new friends is a part of a convention that resonates the longest in our memory banks. I want to thank everyone that attended this years' convention and made it a success.

Now getting back to programs, it is never too early to start looking over the guidelines of these programs and deciding which works with your Post. Develop a plan of action and write it down. It has almost always reinforced the goal when it is written down instead of telling yourself, "I'll get to it later."

It seems like we just got over the big push for membership from 2019 and now it starts all over again. I just opened the post office box this morning and it was full of renewals. I hope everybody else's mailboxes are full as well. The sooner we get them processed the sooner we can get onto other projects.

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your commander for the next year. It is truly an honor to represent Montana around the state and back in Indianapolis at meetings. I will try and make Montana proud and get us back in the front row at the National Convention next year. May God bless you and your families and for those Posts that made 100 percent in membership this past year; I will deliver your gift at the Fall District Meetings.

VICE COMMANDER BLACKARD



George Blackard
Dept. Vice Commander

This short column is less about getting numbers and more about showing your friends and fellow Post members that they matter so please take a few minutes and indulge me. The new membership year is here and its time to start working on getting those renewals and new memberships. Of course, our current members will be getting notices in the mail reminding them it is time to pay their dues but have you given them a reason to stick around? We must let our fellow Legionnaires know that they matter to us and we care about them.

For those members who come to meetings, they know and see what your Post is doing so retaining them shouldn't be too difficult. It's the members who do not come to meetings and do not know what you are doing who are more difficult to retain. There are a couple of easy ways to help retention and they do not take a whole lot of time, experience, or money. Make quarterly calls to members who do not regularly come to meetings. This call is a "buddy check" and is intended to let them know that the Post is thinking about them and cares about them as a member and not just a number. Don't ask them to renew. Ask them how they are doing and if there is anything the Post can do for them. You may create some work for your Service Officer and you may find a little project your Post members can work on or you may just get a thank you for simply checking in. When your members get their renewal notice, thinking about those four phone calls they received throughout the year will make the decision to renew easier.

In addition to the calls and in late July, send a letter to every member that lists the accomplishments the Post enjoyed throughout the previous year. The letter will arrive after the first renewal notices go out and seeing that the Post has been active and working programs or working in the community can help reinforce the importance of their membership. It may be the thing they need to see that gets them involved in something the Post is doing. For instance, if a former teacher sees that their fellow Post members are visiting schools, their

love of teaching may be the thing that motivates them to join you on those school visits. You never know what might be the motivating factor that makes them want to get involved.

Our members are what keeps our organization alive and who gives our Posts character. We should be taking every opportunity to let them know they are an important part of our Post family, that we want to see them, and that we are here to assist them if they need help or want to get involved. Let's make this year, the year we practice mutual helpfulness rather than just quoting it.

BLACKARD BIO

continued from pg. 1

George was a founding member of Andrew Pearson Post 117 of Billings and in September of 2011 was there to accept the Post 117 temporary charter from then National Commander Fang Wong. George completed the American Legion Extension Institute and later attended American Legion College in October 2012. He served as the first Commander of Post 117 in 2011 and 2012 subsequently the Finance Officer, Adjutant, Historian, and Public Relations Officer. He was the Chairperson for the 2017 Department Convention, The Post 117 Annual Banquet and the Post 117 Montana Warrior Run.

George has served our Department in many different capacities including District 11 Commander 2013 and 2014, Department Parliamentarian 2016 to present, Liaison to Senator Steve Daines 2015 to present, and Department Americanism Chairman 2016 to present.

He has held two National Appointments serving on the National Legislative Committee 2015 to present and the National Conventional Armed Forces Committee 2017 to present. In June 2018 George was featured in the Legion Magazine "I Am The Legion" feature. George Attended the 2014 and 2018 National Conventions and became a member of ANAVICUS at the 2018 convention.

Outside of The American Legion, George was awarded the Distinguished Patriot award in 2014 by Montana Adjutant General Matthew Quinn. He served on the Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery Board and the Big Sky Honor Flight Committee as well as serving as Commander of the Yellowstone County United Veterans Council. He currently holds a presidential appointment to the Yellowstone County Selective Service Board.

George and his wife Amy have two children Emma 15 and Abby 12.

DEADLINE

October 1, 2019
Nov 2019 - Jan 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.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

The 2019 Convention has come to a close and with it the start of a new year with new officers and new opportunities to contribute to the success of our Posts, Districts and the Department. I hope to see all return to the Convention in Billings June 26-28, 2020.



Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Department, whether they be at the Post, District or Department level they will have a busy year before them and they will need every member's support as they go about doing the American Legion's business and representing our members. To the outgoing officers I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to The American Legion. I know it isn't always an easy thing to carry out the duty you swore to uphold but I trust that you know you did the best you could and you had a positive effect on all you encountered during your tour of duty.

At the convention I was asked to stay on one more year, I agreed, and the Preconvention Executive Committee approved the revocation of my retirement until April 1, 2021. The application period for Department Adjutant has been extended to September 1, 2020.

With the start of the new membership year it is time to get to work on new members and renewals. The longer we wait in the membership year the harder it will be to make membership targets and goals. Our first target is the 50% target for September 11. All Post packets with the 2020 membership cards and rosters have been distributed either to the Post Adjutants or Commanders or to the new District Commander. If your Post has not yet received your packet contact your new District Commander and make arrangements for delivery. Remember Adjutants you may now submit your transmittals online through the MyLegion website. If you need assistance for the first-time call Department Headquarters and we can walk you through it.

Of course, with the new membership year comes new membership goals for Posts and Districts. The earlier you make your membership targets and goals, the easier it becomes to focus on programs and building strength in your Posts. Good programs and publicity about what your Post is doing in your community will build membership. Don't be afraid to brag about your accomplishments within your community to your community.

The first District Meeting is District 11 Billings, September 14 and we hope to have our new National Commander join us. Also, at the District 4 & 5 meeting we will have the leading candidate for National Commander for 2020-21 Paul Dillard from Texas in attendance. I hope to see many of you at the District Meetings and if you have never attended one, let this year be a first for you. Remember any member may attend; the District Meetings are not just for officers.

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

New Mission Act rolls out from VA

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 Empowers Veterans and Enhances Care Options

Veterans’ access to health care is expanding under a new law effective June 6, 2019. The goal is to provide better care, customer service and communication.

One part of the Veteran Affairs Mission Act of 2018 creates a Community Care Network (CCN) that will give veterans access to civilian providers and services if the VA cannot meet their healthcare needs. The VA is currently working to award contracts with Third Party Administrators (TPAs, civilian facilities already in or joining the VA network) to establish CCN nationwide so that veterans can use their VA coverage.

Under the new law, the CNN replaces the Veterans Choice Program. Veterans still must first go through the VA system to schedule medical appointments and receive approval for medical services. What is changing is the procedure to access civilian care facilities if initial and ongoing VA care is not available or reasonably accessible.

Veteran Community Care - General Information

When a veteran calls the VA for a medical appointment, a VA staff member schedules an appointment with a VA provider. If the staff member determines that VA provider is too far away or does not have appointments within a certain time frame, the VA staff member assists the veteran with scheduling the medical appointment or the veteran schedules the appointment with a CCN provider within the VA network.

A veteran may have a copayment for the appointment and the provider will also send a claim to the VA for payment. Generally, the VA will pay the Medicare rate, but there are several proposed exceptions to this rate that may apply, to be established through a contract or agreement.

A new benefit will provide eligible veterans with access to non-emergency care for certain conditions in the VA network of community providers. Once the VA has determined that the medical condition fits the criteria, the veteran can go to any urgent care or walk-in care provider in VA’s network without prior authorization from VA. There may be copayments associated with this benefit depending on a veteran’s assigned priority group and the number of times the benefit is used.

Some of the criteria used to determine if a Montana veteran is eligible include:

- * Veteran was eligible under the distance criteria under the Veterans Choice Program on the day before the VA MISSION Act was enacted into law (June 6, 2018), lives in one of the five states with the lowest population (**MT included**) or continues to meet the distance criteria, received care between June 6, 2017, and June 6, 2018, and requires care before June 6, 2020.
- * The veteran meets specific access standards for average drive time

or appointment wait-times. Important: access standards are not yet final).

Average drive time to a specific VA medical facility:

- 30-minute average drive time for primary care, mental health, and noninstitutional extended care services (including adult day health care).
- 60-minute average drive time for specialty care.

Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility:

- 20 days for primary care, mental health care, and non-institutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with their VA health care provider.
- 28 days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with their VA health care provider.
- * The veteran and the referring clinician agree that it is in the Veteran’s best medical interest to be referred to a community provider.
- * The veteran needs care from a VA medical service provider that VA determines is not giving care that complies with VA’s quality standards.
- * Community care generally must be authorized in advance by VA before a veteran can receive care from a community provider. The VA has proposed an exception to this when a veteran receives emergency care from an in-network entity or provider and VA is notified within 72 hours, if certain additional conditions are met. The requirement for care to be authorized in advance by VA does not apply to the urgent care/walk-in care benefit that VA is establishing.
- * The process for receiving prescription medication does **NOT** change. As part of an authorized visit with a community provider, veterans will be able to get a short-term, urgent prescription medication in their community. The provider must call the VA to arrange for long-term medication prescriptions to be filled by VA.
- * Travel benefit eligibility will **NOT** change. Beneficiary travel is paid the same way whether the care is provided at a VA medical facility or through a community provider.
- * Generally, VA will pay Medicare rates, but there are several proposed exceptions to this rate that may apply, to be established through a contract or agreement.

To learn more about the Mission Act visit: <https://www.va.gov/oei/missionAct/index.asp>

For general Mission Act health care inquiries, contact VA311 (1-844-698-2311).

To read the entire Mission Act go to <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/s2372/BILLS-115s2372enr.pdf> 

Post Everlasting

Apr/May/June 2019

- ☆ BLAIR, CLIFFORD, 5/21/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 61-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CHRISTENSEN, JENS, 4/26/2019 – Korea – US Army – 3-year member of Post 65, Ennis, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ DONALD, JOHN, 10/20/2018 – Korea – US Navy – 63-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FRANZEN, CHARLES, 4/15/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 1-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GREEN, THOMAS, 2/21/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 71-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GRUNA, JOHN “JACK”, 3/29/2019 – Vietnam – US Marine Corps – 5-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HANKS, RALPH, 3/13/2019 – WWII – US Army – 3-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HARTNETT, DAVID, 5/18/2019 – Korea – US Army – 45-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HUTCHISON, DAVID, 4/14/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 38-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ JOHNSON, REIDAR, 3/21/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 45-year member of Post 25, White Sulphur Springs, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ JOINER, TOM E., 4/12/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KILLHAM, MARTIN J, 2/8/2019 – WWII – US Army – 12-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KNUTSON, WILBURN C, 3/13/2019 – Korea – US Army – 17-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LARANGO, GEORGE, 3/29/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 16-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MILLER, KENNETH, 4/26/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 3-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MITTAL, WILLIAM, 11/26/2018 – Vietnam – US Marines – 2-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NOBLE, CHARLES, 1/3/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 71-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PERRY, CHARLES “CHUCK”, 1/31/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 1-year member of Post 97, Libby, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PERRY, PHILLIP H., 8/3/2019 – Vietnam – US Marine – 8-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PETERSCHICK, JEROME B., unknown – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PHILLIPS, ROBERT, 5/19/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 61-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ RAY, LARRY, 5/14/2019 – Vietnam – US Marine – 2-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ REDISKE, HAROLD, 3/2/2019 – WWII – US Marine Corps – 42-year member of Post 23 Livingston, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ VANDERBURG, ENEAS, 3/20/2019 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 113, Arlee, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WOODS, CHARLES F, 1/24/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 33-year member of Post 97, Libby, 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.



The Leading Candidate for National Commander Bill Oxford of North Carolina (L) and NEC David Driver visit the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Nation veterans monument in Pablo.



2019 CONVENTION ANNUAL AWARDS

POLSON, MONTANA

MERV GUNDERSON AWARD – for the highest percentage of membership for Fall Conference and Department Convention:
Fall Conference District 9
Department Convention District 4

JUNEAU MEMORIAL AWARD – best percentage increase over year before Posts 75 and under:
Charlo Post 126, 150% of goal and 150% over last year
Runner up: Missoula Post 68 with 134.29% over last year

FUHRINGER MEMORIAL AWARD – best percentage increase over year before Posts 76 to 175:
Corvallis Post 91, 118.52% of goal and 114.29% over last year
Runner up: Polson Post 112 with 110.83% over last year

ANGELL MEMORIAL AWARD – best percentage increase over year before Posts 176 and over:
KalisPELL Post 137, 98.22% of goal and 106.25% over last year
Runner up: Bozeman Post 14 with 99.46% over last year

TOP NEW MEMBER GETTERS:

1. Bill White, Helena Post 2: 28
2. Don Bost, Lewistown Post 16: 17
3. Lee Sargent, Ennis Post 65: 14

MOST NEW MEMBERS EACH DISTRICT:

1. Steve Simon, Glasgow Post 41: 7
4. Jeff Nelson, Polson Post 112: 9
5. Elmer Palmer, Lolo Post 135: 11
6. Bill White, Helena Post 2: 28
7. Lee Sargent, Ennis Post 65: 14
8. Hal Rice, Geraldine Post 102: 10
9. Don Bost, Lewistown Post 16:17
10. Bill Dolatta, Terry Post 32: 8

Honorable mentions – Glen Sharbono, Ronan Post 138: 7, Ray Stolp, Helena Post 2: 13, Karen Semple, Helena Post 2: 13

BEST AMERICANISM REPORT:
Large Post: Helena Post 2
Medium Post: Hamilton Post 47
Small Post: Twin Bridges Post 31

BEST CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT
Large Post: Helena Post 2
Medium Post: Hamilton Post 47
Small Post: Twin Bridges Post 31

BOY SCOUT PLAQUE – Post which contributed the most to the Scout-ing program for the year 2019:
Helena Post 2

LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Jered Guisinger, Ravalli County Sheriff's Office; submitted by Corvallis Post 91.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
David Gambill, Helena Fire Department; submitted by Helena Post 2

BEST NEWSLETTER
Large Post – Helena Post 2
Medium Post – Butte Post 1
Small Post – Ronan Post 138

SPECIAL AWARDS

Silver Brigade Award (25 or more new members)
Bill White, Helena Post 2

Department Membership Recruiter of the Year
Bill White, Helena Post 2

Equaling or Surpassing Previous All Time High
Ennis Post 65
Ronan Post 138

District Commander Achievement Award
District 4 – Glen Sharbono

National Achievement Award for 100% District Commander:
District 4 – Glen Sharbono
District 5 – Greg Marose

Post Excellence Award:
Lewis & Clark Post 2, Helena
Chief Joseph Post 135, Lolo
Ronan Post 138
Gallatin Post 14, Bozeman

Zone Commanders Award:
highest percentage of goal within their Zone
Western Zone Commander Elmer Palmer 102.57%.

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Many thanks to the Auxiliary/Post/ District chaplains who attended the 2019 Chaplains Conference in Polson: you made the event a SUCCESS! Thanks also, to Past Department Chaplain Ed Sperry, for inspiration to hold the event. While much information was covered, here are some specifics:

Although time was very tight, we covered a lot of ground. After introductions all around, we had an in-depth discussion of the fact Christianity is not the only religion practiced by members of our Legion Family. We discussed at length how to minister to those outside our own faith. First among the many pertinent contributions made that day to the discussions, Rev. Paul Armstrong, District 5 Chaplain, shared that the U.S. Military now recognizes over 120 faiths! Ideas and hands-on resources were shared. VA policies regarding proselytizing were also discussed.

We then dug into the unique opportunities chaplains have to assist veterans and their families seeking VA benefits. That led us into the many different cemetery benefits available. Many were surprised to learn that not only is there a memorial marker available (including the kit to permanently mount it to a civilian headstone) there is also the option to instead request a footstone for the grave of a beloved veteran who has a civilian headstone. Additionally, family of a deceased veteran can request a condolence certificate from the President of the United States with the option to order additional copies for children or siblings of the veteran.

The Four Chaplains Ceremony was discussed, with the offer by the Department Chaplain to e-mail a ceremony script to any Legion Family chaplain who wishes to hold one. (karensem1@gmail.com) Preferably, arrangements to hold a Four Chaplains Ceremony are made at least a couple months in advance of February 3rd to guarantee good participation and attendance. A printed program was also distributed as an example.



Bill White receives Top New Member-Getter award from Commander Jeff Nelson

2019 Chaplains Conference in Polson



Veteran burial services and funerals inspired more discussion and sharing by those who conduct them. A sample burial service was also given to attendees.

Moral injury and suicide prevention were topics with lots of questions. Resources were shared and all present were in favor of a four-hour training in moral injury for chaplains and others working with veterans with moral injury being scheduled in Billings at the 2020 Convention. I'm happy to report this training is now arranged with the Conference Director, George Blackard, and the instructor. Tentatively, it will be held 9-1 pm at the Bighorn Resort near the Billings VA the day before the convention begins. Watch your Legionnaire in February 2020 for registration information.

Additionally, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training (2 hrs.) will be scheduled prior to the Fall Conference in Helena. This training has been implemented in Northwest Montana and used successfully to save veteran lives. Please contact me at the e-mail above for more information. No fee, just travel to/from Helena on your own. ANY member of the Legion Family will be welcome to take this training! Or, contact me at (406) 465-0163 if you don't have e-mail.

Again, many thanks to all the Legion Family chaplains who encouraged and inspired us with your attendance and participation in this year's Department Chaplains Conference. May it be God's will we meet again at the 2020 Chaplains Conference! May you be well.

2019 DEPT. CONVENTION RAFFLES & DRAWINGS

Department Raffle:

First Place – M1911 100th Anniversary Colt 45 ACP – **Kim Kilbourne**, Missoula sold by American Legion Post 68, Missoula

Second Place – \$500 Cash – **Scott Hilpert**, Loon Lake, WA, sold by American Legion Post 135, Lolo

Third Place - \$150 Cash – **Fredricka Thompson**, Missoula, sold by American Legion Post 68, Missoula

Membership Drawing:

\$50 to **Bill White**, Helena Post 2, name drawn by Ken Simon, Post 58, Plentywood

\$50 to **Bill White**, Helena Post 2, name drawn by Dick Ellwein, Post 2, Helena

\$50 to, **Ralph Villa, Jr** Anaconda Post 21, name drawn by Ashley Carpenter, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2, Helena

2019 Big K Grand Prize \$1800 to **Patty Capps** Auxiliary Unit 130 Vaughn drawn by Ken Simon, Post 58 Plentywood

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: _____

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K winner for June was Dan Smart of Post 19 Big Timber for \$400, drawn by Ken Simon of Plentywood Post 58 and the grand prize of \$1,800 for the year presented at Department Convention went to Patty Capps of Vaughn Auxiliary Unit 130 drawn by Doug Vulcan of Lincoln Post 9.

The Districts received over \$387, American Legion Auxiliary \$126, Sons of the American Legion \$24, Posts \$2,193, Units \$697 and the Squadrons \$178.50 in Big K disbursements.

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 first drawing for \$200 will be an Early Bird Drawing at Fall Conference in October.

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Dept. Service Officer

TIMOTHY R INGRAHAM
Department Service Officer

Secretary Wilkie recommended that the Dept. of Justice not challenge the court case Procopio vs. Wilkie. The DOJ followed Wilkie’s lead and now Procopio is the “Law of the Land.”

House Resolution 299, the ‘Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019’ was signed into law June 25, 2019 by President Trump. This Act extends Agent Orange disability compensation to personnel who served off-shore of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 within twelve nautical miles off the Coast of Vietnam and Cambodia which must be validated by ship/deck logs. The act also includes redefined compensation eligibility dates for Korean War veterans that served in the DMZ to September 1, 1967 through August 31, 1971 and benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with Spina Bifida. Two more presumptive clauses will be added to the Agent Orange list and Congress is asking for a 90-day extension for the following; bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, hypertension, and Parkinson’s like condition. The Veterans Benefits Administration will be given more guidance on deceased Veterans and Surviving Spouses benefits soon.

In conclusion, please stay in touch with your Service Organizations or your friendly Veteran Service Officers in your area for more up to date information.

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

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

*Thank you for your service
to our great Country!*

Townsend Post 42 Retires Flags with a Little Help from Brownies

Submitted by Sharon Doig, Post Historian

This year’s Post 42 Flag Retirement ceremony was done at Memorial Park in Townsend with two Brownies from Troop 3205.

Pictured are: Bill Garwood, Bob Lund, Roland Heaton assisted by Shannon and Kay.

Park City Post 100 pays tribute on Memorial Day at Park City Cemetery



Guest Speaker Col Russ Dowell



Post 5 Flag Day Ceremony Weather Challenged at Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL, PUBLICITY AND FLAG CHAIRMAN

On Flag Day, June 14th, Custer Post 5, the Marine Corps League and community volunteers raised the 55 large flags at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Miles City. Unfortunately, Post 5 was going to do our yearly flag retirement ceremony on that same day at 6:30pm. Due to extreme wind we canceled the ceremony and



Center of the photo shows the damaged pole supported by a nearby tree.

rapidly took the 55 large flags down. Fortunately only one pole was bent over by the extreme wind. The poles consist of three sections and thankfully, only the bottom section of that one broke. Next year, in my Miles City Star article, I’ll be sure to mention, besides severe weather, that extreme wind also cancels the ceremony!



PHOTO BY CASEY JONES

Post 5 Sergeant at Arms Mark Ahner, and volunteer Karen Murray attaching a flag to a pole.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Highway



Pearl Harbor Memorial Highway established by the Montana Legislature on April 25, 2019 located by the National Cemetery at Laurel, Montana. (see Signing page 18)

Pictured at left are: Sue Davidson, Sue Gillespie, Max Long, Richard Klose and James Mariska

Great Falls Post 341 Participates in Fourth of July Parade



For the past 8 years Post 341 Malmstrom has entered the Gt. Falls 4th of July Parade, decorating and having a BBQ the day before the Parade.



Turner Post 109 Conducts Memorial Day Services at Local Cemeteries

Max & Kirsti Cederber, Post 109 Members

Turner Post 109 conducted Memorial Day services at Silverbow, Wing and Turner Cemeteries on the Big Flat.



Color Guard includes Koreanne King, Ted Olszewski, Dan Liese and Amy Egbert.



Koreanne King (youngest serving military person from our community) and Ted Olszewski (one of our older veterans), proudly serving and having served their country.

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.....	41	2	35	4.88%
41 GLASGOW.....	87	1	91	1.15%
45 HINSDALE.....	57	0	49	0.00%
49 HOMESTEAD.....	10	0	12	0.00%
55 POPLAR.....	33	0	34	0.00%
56 SCOBAY.....	60	1	48	1.67%
58 PLENTYWOOD.....	56	8	49	14.29%
61 BROCKTON.....	44	0	28	0.00%
81 CULBERTSON.....	95	1	105	1.05%
85 BAINVILLE.....	30	0	24	0.00%
104 NASHUA.....	13	0	15	0.00%
122 OPHEIM.....	34	0	29	0.00%
229 WESTBY.....	15	0	16	0.00%
TOTAL.....	575	13	535	2.26%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE.....	127	0	98	0.00%
48 CHINOOK.....	47	1	47	2.13%
50 BIG SANDY.....	26	0	27	0.00%
57 MALTA.....	93	1	102	1.08%
67 ROCKY BOY.....	33	0	14	0.00%
79 SACO.....	12	0	17	0.00%
88 CHESTER.....	38	1	35	2.63%
109 TURNER.....	28	0	22	0.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP.....	12	0	12	0.00%
TOTAL.....	416	3	374	0.72%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER.....	55	0	56	0.00%
37 CONRAD.....	56	2	53	3.57%
40 CUT BANK.....	63	0	50	0.00%
43 SHELBY.....	55	0	55	0.00%
69 GALATA.....	36	0	27	0.00%
73 SWEETGRASS.....	76	0	74	0.00%
127 BROWNING.....	30	2	27	6.67%
CN20 CALGARY.....	48	3	49	6.25%
TOTAL.....	419	7	391	1.67%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS.....	58	2	59	3.45%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS.....	108	3	117	2.78%
74 EUREKA.....	50	1	53	2.00%
86 BIG FORK.....	60	1	56	1.67%
97 LIBBY.....	185	2	189	1.08%
106 ST IGNATIUS.....	50	0	54	0.00%
108 WHITEFISH.....	66	2	66	3.03%
112 POLSON.....	130	29	120	22.31%
113 ARLEE.....	25	0	25	0.00%
126 CHARLO.....	18	0	14	0.00%
129 PARADISE.....	72	3	60	4.17%
137 KALISPELL.....	234	1	208	0.43%
138 RONAN.....	65	8	68	12.31%
TOTAL.....	1121	52	1089	4.64%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS.....	57	1	54	1.75%
27 MISSOULA.....	361	3	378	0.83%
47 HAMILTON.....	122	1	120	0.82%
63 CONDON.....	47	0	48	0.00%
68 MISSOULA.....	41	1	35	2.44%
83 CLINTON.....	16	0	15	0.00%
91 CORVALLIS.....	166	0	168	0.00%
94 STEVENSVILLE.....	212	1	220	0.47%
101 MISSOULA.....	54	1	58	1.85%
124 FRENCHTOWN.....	69	1	70	1.45%
125 DRUMMOND.....	51	0	50	0.00%
134 FLORENCE.....	61	1	64	1.64%
135 LOLO.....	138	3	139	2.17%
TOTAL.....	1,395	13	1,419	0.93%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE.....	196	0	194	0.00%
2 HELENA.....	753	118	804	15.67%
9 LINCOLN.....	56	0	61	0.00%
10 DEER LODGE.....	72	0	63	0.00%
20 DILLON.....	185	34	167	18.38%
21 ANACONDA.....	245	2	237	0.82%
24 WHITEHALL.....	91	0	92	0.00%
31 TWIN BRIDGES.....	43	0	37	0.00%
33 PHILIPSBURG.....	10	0	10	0.00%
42 TOWNSEND.....	117	1	119	0.85%
46 BOULDER.....	23	0	25	0.00%
89 SHERIDAN.....	73	3	78	4.11%
115 BUTTE.....	104	0	105	0.00%
TOTAL.....	1968	158	1992	8.03%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA.....	189	4	101	2%

	Year end Goal 2020	Year To Date Total	Year End 2019	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN	350.....	5	371	1.43%
19 BIG TIMBER	189.....	2	173	1.06%
23 LIVINGSTON	170.....	0	179	0.00%
25 WHITE SULPHUR	63.....	0	68	0.00%
30 BELGRADE	251.....	5	254	1.99%
65 ENNIS 56	1.....	52	1.79%	
78 W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	0	30	0.00%
87 MANHATTAN	166.....	0	157	0.00%
93 THREE FORKS	42.....	0	44	0.00%
99 BIG SKY	56.....	0	59	0.00%
118 GARDINER	35.....	0	34	0.00%
TOTAL	1407.....	13	1421	0.92%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS.....	263	38	261	14.45%
6 CHOTEAU.....	107	1	106	0.93%
26 FORT BENTON.....	38	0	39	0.00%
51 AUGUSTA.....	40	1	40	2.50%
64 DUTTON.....	49	1	49	2.04%
80 FAIRFIELD.....	35	0	35	0.00%
102 GERALDINE.....	115	10	115	8.70%
103 POWER.....	32	0	32	0.00%
130 VAUGHN.....	44	0	43	0.00%
133 CASCADE.....	34	0	33	0.00%
341 MALMSTROM.....	164	0	162	0.00%
TOTAL.....	921	51	915	5.54%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON.....	106.....	18.....	105.....	16.98%
16 LEWISTOWN.....	409.....	2.....	467.....	0.49%
18 ROUNDUP.....	72.....	0.....	64.....	0.00%
53 STANFORD.....	26.....	0.....	21.....	0.00%
62 DENTON.....	23.....	0.....	24.....	0.00%
70 JUDITH GAP.....	68.....	0.....	65.....	0.00%
76 HOBSON.....	47.....	0.....	43.....	0.00%
96 ROY 21.....	0.....	23.....	0.....	0.00%
120 WINIFRED.....	31.....	0.....	32.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	803.....	20.....	844.....	2.49%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY	81	3	74	3.70%
12 SIDNEY	40	0	36	0.00%
28 GLENDIVE	123	0	101	0.00%
29 CIRCLE	18	0	17	0.00%
32 TERRY 101	0	101		0.00%
35 BAKER 136	0	111		0.00%
39 FORSYTH	97	1	89	1.03%
44 COLSTRIP	30	0	40	0.00%
60 EKALAKA	15	0	17	0.00%
77 LAME DEER	11	1	6	9.09%
114 FAIRVIEW	37	0	37	0.00%
128 BROADUS	16	1	14	6.25%
TOTAL	705	6	643	0.85%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS	485	16	459	3.30%
8 HARDIN 47	1	54	2	1.13%
17 RED LODGE	58	0	63	0.00%
34 COLUMBUS	60	1	65	1.67%
71 FROMBERG	20	0	19	0.00%
84 BELFRY	40	1	34	2.50%
92 HYSHAM	27	1	18	3.70%
100 PARK CITY	58	0	58	0.00%
111 CUSTER	60	0	66	0.00%
117 BILLINGS	193	2	198	1.04%
119 BILLINGS HGTS	176	1	183	0.57%
123 LAUREL	115	9	115	7.83%
TOTAL	11339	32	1332	2.39%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2020 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	11,258
2020 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	372
2019 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	11056
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	3.30%

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TEN LARGEST POSTS - 2019 FINAL

Post..... 2.....	HELENA.....	818 MEMBERS
Post..... 4.....	BILLINGS.....	406 MEMBERS
Post..... 16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	397 MEMBERS
Post ... 14.....	BOZEMAN.....	374 MEMBERS
Post..... 27.....	MISSOULA.....	335 MEMBERS
Post..... 21.....	ANACONDA.....	231 MEMBERS
Post..... 3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	223 MEMBERS
Post..... 30.....	BELGRADE.....	231 MEMBERS
Post... 137.....	KALISPELL.....	227 MEMBERS
Post..... 91.....	CORVALLIS.....	205 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS - 2019 FINAL

DISTRICT.....	PERCENTAGE.....	COMMANDER.....
4.....	106.15%.....	Glen Sharbono
5.....	102.61%.....	Greg Marose
7.....	99.71%.....	Jim Howe
6.....	99.59%.....	Pat Sweeney
9.....	96.10%.....	Richard Hackett
11.....	92.95%.....	Gil Floyd
2.....	91.75%.....	Vincent Schmoেকে
8.....	89.72%.....	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
1.....	87.65%.....	Joe Yeoman
3.....	87.23%.....	Randy Flammond
10.....	85.96%.....	David Ofalt

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
July 10, 2019

SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2020.....	TO DATE.....
GLASGOW #41.....	36.....	23
PLENTYWOOD #58.....	11.....	0
CULBERTSON #81.....	24.....	0
NASHUA #104.....	10.....	5
HAVRE #11.....	14.....	0
CHINOOK #48.....	21.....	7
MALTA #57.....	21.....	0
SACO #79.....	10.....	0
GALATA #69.....	39.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	13.....	0
POLSON #112.....	17.....	0
MISSOULA #27.....	18.....	0
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	0
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	17.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	42.....	0
LOLO #135.....	27.....	0
BUTTE #1.....	15.....	0
HELENA #2.....	102.....	5
ANACONDA #21.....	19.....	0
TOWNSEND #42.....	21.....	0
BUTTE #115.....	10.....	0
BOZEMAN #14.....	69.....	0
BIG TIMBER #19.....	15.....	0
LIVINGSTON #23.....	29.....	0
BELGRADE #30.....	45.....	0
MANHATTAN #87.....	35.....	0
BIG SKY #99.....	21.....	0
GREAT FALLS #3.....	19.....	0
CHOTEAU #6.....	26.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	63.....	0
VAUGHN #130.....	19.....	0
HARLOWTON #15.....	23.....	0
LEWISTOWN #16.....	141.....	0
MILES CITY #5.....	10.....	0
BAKER #35.....	38.....	0
FORSYTH #39.....	60.....	0
BILLINGS #4.....	23.....	1
BELFRY #84.....	17.....	0
BILLINGS #117.....	12.....	10
LAUREL #123.....	12.....	0
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1153.....	51
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Ready

 DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE
Are You a “Good Samaritan?”

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed. KAREN SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

We all know the story of “The Good Samaritan” who stops to assist an injured man alongside the road. The phrase, “Good Samaritan,” took on a life of its own when it entered the English language referring to a charitable or helpful person. According to Merriam Webster: “a person who helps other people, especially strangers, when they have trouble.”

All fifty United States have laws protecting “good samaritans” – those who stop to help another in need. The legal definition is “one who voluntarily renders aid to another in distress although under no duty to do so.”

There are many ways we Legion Family members can be “Good Samaritans.” Getting first aid and CPR training and donating blood are high on the list of ways we give. Donating hard-earned cash to the National Emergency Fund (NEF) is another, very important way we can “help other people, especially strangers, when they have trouble.”

With all the disasters last year, (floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.) culminating in the horrific losses through devastating wildfires in California last fall, the NEF was hit pretty hard and is in great need of replenishing. Flooding was again seen on a grand

scale this spring while wildfires are already burning in other states.

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

On June 21st, the roof of a Centennial Post in Jackson, Missouri, was ripped off during a severe storm. If this was your post, wouldn’t you want funds to be available for an NEF grant to help your post to get back on its feet?

Grants are not possible without your help! You can make a difference! You can be a “Good Samaritan.”

Natural disasters often come with little warning. You never know when you or your post may need assistance. Please donate to the NEF today. You can go online to legion.org/nef or donate through your post or squadron. The sooner, the better! Thank you. May you be well!

Women Veterans Coordinator

KIM KAY C. MC CARTY-MARTIN

We had our last Women’s Forum in Missoula on the 8th of May where we had six guest speakers talk with us about holistic approaches to better our overall health. Ladies from Quilts of Valor were present to give Elsie Rieger (WWII) and Joan Ordman (Korean) handmade patriotic quilts. Heather McDonald from Lolo has started a clothing line specifically for women vets and was able to show us samples. We were supposed to have another Forum in Billings on the 11th of June, but I ended up cancelling it because only four women were going to attend, and it would not have been cost effective to do so. In the four years we have had Women Recognition Luncheons/ Forums, we have had wonderful volunteers and those attending had a great time. Through the years we were able to locate and honor 14 WWII Women Veterans in Montana. Each of these courageous and pioneering women were presented their WWII Service Medal. We were also able to recognize some of our Korean and Vietnam women veterans. We have had the support of the majority of our Department Officers, some of the Districts and Posts including Auxiliary Units but sad to say, there had also been opposition to what we were trying to accomplish. We wanted to share with women veterans in MT the vision and service community of The American Legion, let them know what VA resources they could access and their entitlements as veterans and build a support network among ourselves here in MT where we can share ideas, opportunities, and programs. I have fallen short of these goals but will keep forging forward. If anyone has ideas or needs/wants information please e-mail me at IDIDinND@hotmail.com or contact me at 701-260-2833...Have a great summer!



Twin Bridges Post 31 Scholarship Award

Twin Bridges Senior Ayden Anderson was awarded the Dan Brockman Post 31 \$500 Scholarship on 13 May 2019. Eligible applicants are those children, natural born or adoptive, of Members in good standing of The American Legion Dan Brockman Post 31 or United Veterans of Twin Bridges and who have graduated from Twin Bridges High School or have equivalent GED qualifications. With great pleasure the Veterans of Twin Bridges presented Ayden with the \$500 scholarship. He has distinguished himself while advancing through school and his leadership skills have developed into something to be proud of.





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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

Fatality Marker Program Changes

BY JIM KELLY, HIGHWAY FATALITY MARKER PROGRAM CHAIR | JULY 16, 2019

GUIDE TO STANDARDIZED MARKER HARDWARE

(Changes or Points of Emphasis in Specifications are in BOLD print)

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has a written policy for designing roadsides that incorporates wide clear zones, and breakaway sign and support structures in new construction and reconstruction. Montana Department of The American Legion operates the Fatality Marker Program under these established policies.

Readers are cautioned that roadside safety policy, criteria, and technology is a rapidly changing field of study. Changes in the roadside safety field are on-going and subject to change. This article reflects several on-going changes to be followed.

GENERAL

The white markers, together with the upright supporting post, are to be furnished by the local American Legion Posts and installed by them. American Legion Posts may make the markers themselves. There should be no decorating or writing of any kind on the markers. It is recommended any decorations attached to the highway fatality markers be removed during regular maintenance.

A small American Legion emblem, small label, etching or “dog tag” may be placed on the back of the marker to let people know who erected it. It shall be the duty of the Legion Post most closely situated to the scene of the crash to furnish the marker and see that it is properly placed, and maintained as long as it is in that Post’s area of responsibility.

Marker Specifications:

1. They should be made of 1/8 or 3/16-inch-thick band steel or aluminum
2. The recommended width of the metal is four inches (4”).
3. The crossbar should be twelve inches (12”) across and the upright portion of the marker should be sixteen inches (16”) inches. If less than 4” wide metal is used the dimensions of the marker may be reduced accordingly to a minimum of 9” x 12”.
4. The markers should be seam welded to prevent rusting but may be riveted or bolted together.
5. Front and back of markers are to be painted with bright white exterior metal paint. They shall NOT be constructed of or painted with reflective material.

Support Specifications:

1. Supporting upright post **shall be steel “U” delineator post** rated at 1.12 ppf (minimum) to 2.0 ppf (maximum), six foot in length.
2. Supporting post **should be pounded into the ground** a minimum of 18”. **NOTE: Be very aware of unground utilities – look for underground pipe or cable markers in all directions. Montana one-call (800-424-5555) should be contacted a week before installation to confirm absence of utility conflicts.**
3. Top of supporting post and markers should not exceed 54” above the ground. **NOTE: MDT recommends using 6’ posts as it will provide a uniform mounting height of 54” and a uniform depth of 18”.**
4. **Supporting posts mounted in concrete require a breakaway joint.**
5. Supporting posts are to be painted bright red with exterior metal paint. They shall NOT be constructed of or painted with reflective material.

Installation:

1. Fatality Markers shall be placed in the right-of-way in the direction of travel prior to accident (i.e. westbound travel = westbound right-of-way, northbound travel = northbound right-of-way)
2. Fatality Markers shall be placed perpendicular (not parallel) to the highway. (Note position of Marker attached to “U” shaped post.)
3. Fatality Markers shall not present a vertical or horizontal obstacle for pedestrians along bike or pedestrian pathways.
4. **Fatality Markers shall be outside of CLEAR ZONE**
 - a. **State & local highways (6’ behind a guardrail or 30’ from edge of roadway)**
 - b. **Four lane roadways (6’ behind a guardrail or 50’ from edge of roadway)**
 - c. **OR Outside edge of “MOW” areas (whichever is greater)**
5. Only one support post per fatality location is allowed. In the event of multiple fatalities at same accident scene, multiple markers may be used on a single post
6. **DO NOT install markers in median and DO NOT attach marker to guard rail support.**
7. **Fatality Markers currently in place are “Grandfathered” and do not need to be removed or corrected to conform to these standards.**

Maintenance:

1. Fatality Markers placed on the highways of Montana are to be maintained annually by the respective Legion Posts. This can be as simple as replacing a supporting post / marker that has been refurbished. This work should be done in the Spring, prior to Memorial Day.
2. Signs will be removed under three circumstances:
 - a. If a family requests the removal of a sign, it will be expeditiously removed
 - b. **If a sign is no longer in satisfactory condition due to wear and/or appearance**
 - c. When a section of highway is reconstructed to new standards, all markers that involve the old roadway shall be taken down regardless of condition.
3. Removed markers will not be replaced unless requested by a family member.
4. When Fatality Markers are required to be removed and reset for any reason, the Legion Post responsible is to re-erect the marker at the appropriate location with breakaway, lateral clearances and mounting heights as required by this document.
5. **Legion workers on or near the roadway shall wear high-visibility safety clothing.**

New or Re-Construction:

1. In the event a section of highway is undergoing **design changes**, all fatality markers should be removed by the local Legion Post and not be replaced.
2. If the highway is only being re-surfaced or having the shoulders improved, all markers should be replaced **using these updated requirements** upon completion of the re-construction.
3. Installing guardrails, installation of underground cables, or moving the tree line back may require the fatality markers to be removed and be replaced.

Dept. Firefighter of The Year

David Gambill of the Helena Fire Department receives the Department of MT award at the 2019 Convention in Polson. David was submitted by Helena Post 2



Dept. Law Officer of The Year

Jered Guisinger of the Ravalli county Sheriff's Office receives the Department of MT award at the 2019 Convention in Polson. Jered was submitted by Corvallis Post 91.



Twin Bridges American Legion Post 31 Essay Contest Winners Announced

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MARTIN

On May 13th, Twin Bridges Post 31 awarded many students for their participation in this year’s Constitutional Essay and Government Survey contests. The high school awards were presented in front of the Falcons mural while the 7th and 8th grade awards were presented during an ice cream social hosted by the local Veterans and the Shack restaurant, which had donated all the ice cream.



Ice cream social for the 7th and 8th grade winners Essay winners.



Trista Redfield

For this year’s contests each student was required to, “Write an essay discussing the importance of the President of the United States having the power to nominate Judges of the Supreme Court, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and that Congress may by Law vest the appointment of such Officers” (Article II, Section 2, Paragraph 2). Only one high school student submitted an essay so Trista Redfield was announced the winner and awarded a certificate and \$50. After the Senior Government Surveys were scored Anna Kaiser came out on top with Ayden Anderson in second and Nora Humbert third;



Anna Kaiser



Ayden Anderson and Nora Humbert

each winner received Participation Certificates and cash prizes. The 7th and 8th grade competitions were a great success with all students competing. Each winner received a Certificate of Participation and a cash prize. Seventh grade essay contest winners were Emily LaYacona in 1st, Allie Dale in 2nd, and Emma Konen in 3rd. Eighth grade essay winners were Zeke Redfield in 1st, McKenzie Stack 2nd, and Wiley Stockett in 3rd. The survey contest results were as follows: 7th grade Ayla Janzen 1st, Allie Dale 2nd, and Kyle Pancost in 3rd and 8th grade Reid Johnson 1st, Zeke Redfield 2nd, and Callie Kaizer 3rd. The 1st place winners’ submissions were sent on to Department competitions to compete for further prizes. Emily LaYacona won 2nd place at the Department competition for her Constitutional Essay and was awarded an additional \$250 scholarship. All the Veterans in Twin Bridges want to thank these students for taking the time to express their opinions in these wonderful essays and for completing the surveys.



Emily LaYacona

Post 47 hosts Eagle Scout Court of Honor

On March 2, 2019, Adjutant Gregory A. Marose, Sr., Ravalli Post 47, awarded The Legion Good Citizenship Award to Scout Andrew Evan Mowat and Scout James Michael D’Amato upon each attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Both scouts started along their Eagle Scout Trail on June 5, 2012 joining Scout Troop 1962 sponsored by Ravalli American Legion Post 47. Both passed their Eagle Scout Board of Review on January 9, 2019. Andrew and James each presented Mentor Pins to Scoutmaster Greg Raymond and to their mothers.



Gregory A. Marose, Sr., James Michael D’Amato, Andrew Evan Mowat

Bozeman Post 14 Memorial Day Activities

Community Parade & Breakfast

Ceremony at Sunset Gardens

The American Legion Post 14 1933 Chevy Hack Bus followed the Gold Star Families riding in their four deuce and a halves. Driver Sherm Veltkamp (Post 14 F.O.), shotgun was Len Albright (CMMD Post 14), behind Sherm sat Terry Kemp (Dept. Aux. President), and in the rear was father and son Sailors Paul Robitaille.



1933 Chevy Hack Bus

Post 14 Honor Guard firing 3-round volley at Memorial Day Service Monday May 27th at Sunset Memorial Hill Cemetery at 11:am. Randy Kemp was the caller for our Honor Guard made of four Post 14 members and three Marine Corp League members and Post 14 member Melissa Smith played taps. Services included, Chaplain, Singer, Bag piper, and a special Gold Star Family tribute. Local media and about 300 community Patriots were in attendance.



PHOTOS BY DALLAS THOMPSON

Memorial Day Breakfast packed the Post 14 Legion Hall from 7 to 9am. Local Boy Scouts helped busing tables that were decorated and set by members of the Auxiliary Unit 14.



Post 14-Bozeman High & Belgrade High bands



Beginning at 10 AM on May 23, 2019, 2,472 flags were placed on all Veteran's head stones in Sunset Hills Cemetery. Fifth and Sixth graders from Longfellow Elementary School helped place flags after their "Veteran's Salute" program in the school at 9 AM. Members of the Marine Corp League, VVA, Veterans Court volunteers, and Post 14 all assisted. Post 14 Historian, Dallas Thompson (who generates the maps that make it easy to locate all Veterans in each section) along with Post Sgt. at Arms, Steve Holland, and Len Albright organized the volunteer groups for a smooth operation. Notice the Vietnam Memorial Wall in the background with the three flags. Post 14 retrieved the flags Tuesday, May 28

Making progress

on new Veterans

Cemetery in Bozeman



On May 28, 2019, (listed l-r) Len Albright, Katy Mozingo (VA Executive Assistant from DC), Carl Bartman (Post 87), Randy Reeves (VA Wash. DC), Ed Saunders (US Dept. of VET Affairs-ACCM), Kelly Ackerman (past Dept. SO) not shown, met at Post 14 Legion Hall to discuss and answer questions regarding construction of the new Veterans Cemetery located at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman.

Members from other Posts in our District, VFW, VVA, and MSU Veteran Services were also in attendance.

Post 14 at new cemetery site

Discussions regarding access and expansion at the sight of the new Veterans Cemetery located at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman (l-r) Hank Adams (Post 30), Len Albright (Post 14), Randy Reeves (VA Under Secretary for Memorials), Chuck Renevier (VVA 788), Jim Korth (SO Post 14), and George Morales (VVA 788). May 29, 2019 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM



Libby Post 97 Rededication of Lady

Remembrance WWI Monument

BY JIM WARDENSKY, POST 97 MEMBER

On May 26, 2019 Post 97 rededicated a refurbished "Lady Remembrance", a WWI statue erected by the Post on May 30, 1922. The memorial statue commemorated the loss of five boys from Libby whom died in service to their country. Among them were Private Austin Reedy, KIA, namesake of Post 97 and the first Libby boy killed in WWI. Also on the list was Sergeant Harper Erdman, KIA, namesake of VFW Post 1548 in Libby.

The service was led by Mayor Brent Teske, Post 97 Commander Larry King and Post 1548 Commander Rod Beal. They were assisted by Post 97 and Post 1548 Honor Guards and the Ladies Auxiliaries from both Posts.

A special thanks to Idaho Granite Works for cleaning, refurbishing and resetting the monument, Riley Concrete, Flathead Electric and the City of Libby workers for completing the project. A very special thanks to the Lincoln County Monuments Committee for soliciting funds, coordinating the project and paying the bills.

Thanks to all who donated money or time to this very important project.





DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA 2019 CONVENTION POLSON MT



Change of Command - Richard Klose to Jeff Nelson



Chris Nelson pins her husband, Commander Jeff Nelson



Children & Youth luncheon - ALA Girls State Director Jen Dalrymple, ALA Girls State Governor Magdalena McKeon, ALA Girls State Lt Gov Brooke Mehloff and Dept Children and Youth Chair Sharon Doig on the resort dock.

Dept Children & Youth Luncheon

SUBMITTED BY SHARON DOIG, CHAIR

This year's Department Convention Children & Youth Luncheon was held on the beautiful north lawn of the convention hotel by the lake. As the Department Chair of Children & Youth, Sharon Doig of American Legion Post 42, Townsend was the host and MC for the event. Sharon has been Department Chair since July 1, 2014. Dept. Chaplain Karen Semple gave a stirring opening prayer and Sharon introduced the head table, which consisted of Chairs for the various Legion Family C&Y programs. Special guests Girls State Governor Maggie McKeon from West Glacier and Lt Governor Brooke Mehloff from Twin Bridges thanked the attendees for their wonderful support of the Girls State program and talked a little about what they experienced during their session. They were the only youths available to attend this year's luncheon but were well received. After the youths spoke and before and after the meal, each Chair was given a chance to talk about what their programs accomplished for the year and the event concluded with a heartfelt closing prayer by Auxiliary Chaplain Yvonne Kosteletzky. Thank you to all the Legion Family members who supported all the Department Children and Youth programs throughout the year and thank you for a successful luncheon!



CDR Klose addresses Delegates of AL Boys State



SAL Squadron 2 Color Guard opens AL Boys State



National Commander Brett Reistad



MT Adjutant General Major General Matthew Quinn gives status of the MT National Guard



Banquet Entertainment "Giddy Up and Bow" with Sylvie, Angelin, & Jackie. Enjoyed Bluegrass, Oldtime, Irish and more.



Our Canadian Guests Provincial Director Chad Wagner (l), Provincial President Lorne Varga (c) and Past Dominion and Provincial President Pat Varga (r) all of the Saskatchewan Royal Canadian Legion.



Parade float



Legion Riders 'float' by



Commander Klose poses with a "bug" gun. A 1968 1/2-ton Cargo Truck, M274-A5 (MULE) 4x4 with deactivated 106mm recoilless rifle w/50 cal spotting rifle and infrared night scope



Go-Getters Club



Past Dept CC Breakfast



Thursday night's Dinner Cruise



Parade HELLO from Lori Perkio and Buck Buckmaster



Armoured Track Vehicle rolls down the route



40 & 8 Tour train ready for the parade



Grande Du Montana Voitures Achieving 100% Membership Goals

SUBMITTED BY RAY REED, DEPT HISTORIAN
Receiving 2019 100% Membership Recognition pins (l-r): Jed Damson, Correspondant, Voiture 922; Chef De Gare, Linda Cousineau, Voiture 718; John Pelligrini, Correspondant, Voiture 262; Presented by Jim Grosset, Grande Chef De Gare 2019.



Parade participant

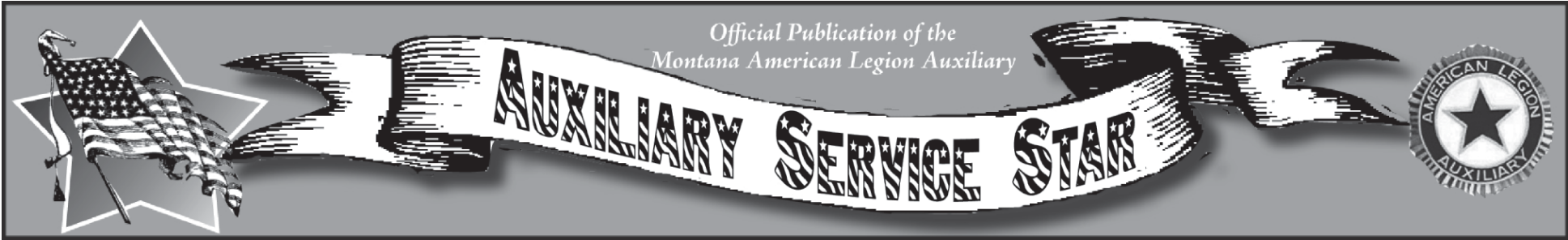


Convention Banquet Cake

Thank You!

A hearty **THANK YOU** to Polson Post 112 Legion Family for a wonderful Department Convention in late June. The activities were as varied and exciting as the uncontrollable weather. Approximately 200 guests descended upon KwaTaqNuk Resort for the festivities, activities and comradery of the weekend. A tremendous effort by Post 112 Family members to make the 100th Department Convention a terrific success starting off with Legion College Wednesday, BBQ dinner cruise, Auxiliary banquet, Children and Youth luncheon, Main Street Parade, Joint Legion Banquet with musicians and culminating in the final induction of new officers on Sunday. Thank you for the Hospitality room which was enjoyed by many over the few days and an informative historical display throughout the halls. These photos capture just a snapshot of the events' gaiety. A well-deserved round of applause for your success!

See everyone in Billings next year.



President

SUE DAVIDSON

Hello, everyone! Hope you all had a safe trip home from Convention. Thanks, so much for all the hard work everyone did to make it a successful convention. Chris and Jeff, your hospitality and all your hard work was very much appreciated!

Thank you again for putting your trust in me to be your new Department President. I will do my best to make this a great year. As you know, I am going to need everyone’s help making it so. Coming and participating in the meetings and training is a great start. The more you come, the more information and knowledge you will gain, and the more you will make new friends and renew friendships of those you have met before.

I am looking forward to National Convention in Indianapolis and learning new information to bring back to all of you. Hope to see so many of you at Fall Convention in Helena on October 24 – 27th at Jorgenson’s Inn. Taking care of the business of our veterans and our members. ⬤

Secretary

JAMIE DeBATES

Conventions continue to amaze me. Both for what I learn and what I see. So much work goes into the preparation that convention committees get really caught up in the details of the process rather than the content of the delivery. I have a greatest admiration and a new respect for any convention planning committee. Thank you especially to Jeff and Christine Nelson for their hard work in Polson. Thank you to all who made the trip here, it was an amazing weekend.

Those of you who attended hopefully got home with bags of valuable information as well as your membership material. That big brown envelope has everything you’ll need at the unit level for a successful 2019 – 2020 membership year.



Jamie DeBates

Membership

1ST VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTINE NELSON

Our Department Convention was a great time and I was so happy to see so many of you there. While we were wrapping up on Saturday a young lady came by and asked about our displays. She had just gotten out of the Air Force and was looking for some support for herself and daughter. Polson will soon have a new “dual” member from our conversation and the Post will be able to provide some emergency fund assistance. The kitchen staff also asked about who can join. Our enthusiasm was enough to generate another new member. I would have missed this opportunity if a member hadn’t pointed it out to me. When we work together it can be amazing!

Kudos to Mechelle Holmes and Harlowton Unit 15 for their outstanding recruiting efforts. And, 20 Units achieved their 100% goal or higher. Membership as always is in

the forefront and for most of our Units increasing their size is a concern. I think you will be relieved when you learn of new lower goals at fall convention. Those members who can only send an annual check are still worth having and they appreciate receiving the paper and magazine.

Junior possibilities are sometimes forgotten too but are our future leaders. We can start encouraging and educating them now about all the good the Auxiliary does on a regular basis. You can mention to people you meet that, National and Department (State) portions of the membership fee is waived the first year for women Legionnaires who also join the Auxiliary. Units can choose to wave their Unit fee as well for that first year.

I’m reminding myself to wear those Legion family shirts hanging in the back of the closet not just to meetings but also in my daily shopping trips. Here’s wishing you an enjoyable summer and that you stay in touch with your Legion family. ⬤

Deceased Members

JANUARY 1, 2019 - JULY 4, 2019

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 1	Butte	Shirley Rand
Unit 3	Great Falls	Diana Reilly
Unit 23	Livingston	Alice Sarrazin
Unit 25	White Sulphur	Patricia A. Pallas
Unit 27	Missoula	Evelyn L Cox
Unit 36	Valier	Donita Johnson
Unit 39	Forsyth	Mrs. Charles Higginbotham
Unit 42	Townsend	Eleanor Holling Betty J Whittmyer
Unit 48	Chinook	Freda L Bryson
Unit 50	Big Sandy	Barbara Dixon
Unit 51	Augusta	Audrey VanDeRiet
Unit 73	Sweetgrass	Eva Campanian
Unit 81	Culbertson	Louise Cooper
Unit 91	Corvallis	Ruth M. Bascetta
Unit 94	Stevensville	Pat Sokolowski
Unit 97	Libby	Marjory A. Moe
Unit 103	Power	Julia C. Allen Shirley Fitzgerald Dorothy Mangold
Unit 117	Billings	Lavina L Rembold
Unit 123	Laurel	Cal V. Feuerbacher
Unit 126	Charlo	Doris S. Nordyke

In His Care...

Diana Reilly

REPORTED BY JAMIE DeBATES, DEPARTMENT SECRETARY-TREASURER:



Our beloved Diana Reilly went home to be with Ruddy at 1:50 in the morning of the 4th of July." Diana joined the ALA in 1984 and was part of the Great Falls Unit 3. She was our Department President for the year 1995-1996, her motto: "This is my Country - Stars of the West". She stepped up to lead once more in the 2014-2015 year, her motto then: "Living the Life of Reilly - In the Spirit of Goodwill."

At the time of publishing, there are no services planned at this time.

In His Care...

Shirley Rand



Shirley Marie Rand, 90 Auxiliary Dept. President 1980-81 passed away on April 2, 2019 at The Springs in Butte, Montana.

Shirley chose “Peace” as her theme for her year of Service as the leader of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana. Her chosen song “Let there be Peace on earth.” Project: Butte Sheltered Workshop.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE

JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR ALA GIRLS STATE MT

Department of Montana, American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you, thank you - another wonderful event concluded!! 2019 ALA Girls State was held at Carroll College, Helena on June 9-15th and this year the premier government immersion activity for young women going into their Senior year of high school included; noted speakers, making poppies, Aikido, Taekwondo, Sexual Harassment Training, Suicide Prevention Training, two days at the Capitol for Mock Legislation in both the House and Senate Chambers, a Supreme Court Moot Trial and a District Court fatality trial, a Capitol Flag Day Ceremony with the Knights



ALA GS MT 2019 Capitol Group

Shirley loved The American Legion Auxiliary and worked hard at every task that she was assigned. She was a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State staff for many years and loved to be with the delegates. She was a member of the Butte Silver Bow Unit 1. She always had a quick wit and smiles and prayers for everyone.

She attended grade school, high school and business school in Butte and was employed by Westinghouse upon completion of business school. In 1942 she was one for 34 youths that was issued a Butte Victory Garden.

She married Ray Rand on August 9, 1952, raised two children and lived in Butte all their married lives.

Convention Memories

PHOTOS BY JAMIE DeBATES - UNIT 138 RONAN, MEHELLE HOLMS - UNIT 15 HARLOWTON, & MICHELLE KANDEL - UNIT 14 BOZEMAN



2018-2019 Dept. Officers at Polson Convention



District 9 parade participants



All Units of The Dept MT ALA

Junior Auxiliary Members enjoying the parade in downtown Polson



Cassie Johnson, Auxiliary District 1 President and Dept. Secretary Jamie DeBates



Jamie & Ron DeBates



District 9



Ron DeBates Modeling Suprise Bag

Unit 23 Livingston

SUBMITTED BY CAROL WOODLEY

The American Legion Park 23 Post & Auxiliary Unit has spent several years gathering the names of anyone from Park County that has served our country and

placing crosses at Sacajawea Park for Memorial Day weekend. This year they displayed about 600 but ran out of space for the 800 the Unit had made.



Display of crosses at Sacajawea Park in Livingston, MT



Unit 23 President Jacki Gangstad with Unit members Annicka Bristol, and Dolores Davis who is holding a set of crosses. Legionnaires helping are Roy Davis, Dave Bristol, Jim Cassidy.

Department Raffle Winners

- \$500 Prize... Jere Skaalure - Billings
- \$500 Prize... Jo Ann Piazzola - Butte

Thanks to all who participated. Our Department budget depends on at least one big fundraiser every year. We'll be back again soon with the next one!

Veterans have opportunity to grow with USDA and farming resources

In 2018, USDA's Farm Service Agency provided \$64.5 million in direct and guaranteed farm operating loans to Veterans—and Veterans have preference.

USDA's Veteran website serves as a one-stop navigator for Veterans looking to learn more and support the critical mission of preparedness and defense of America's food and agriculture sectors.

Veteran farmers and ranchers receive certain preferences under most USDA farm credit and farmland conservation programs. They are eligible for increased cost share assistance, additional financial incentives, and funding preferences for engaging in conservation efforts.

For Veterans living in rural America, USDA has additional resources to strengthen and empower skilled Veteran leaders to support the communities they know and love.

USDA's Rural Development has more than 40 loan, grant, and technical assistance programs including support to:

- Purchase and develop land and facilities
- Purchase equipment and supplies
- Refinance for job expansion
- Finance for energy efficiency improvements

Veterans in urban areas also have resources available. Whether its backyard or rooftop farming or cutting-edge technologies in intensive indoor hydroponic

or aquaculture farms, USDA can help urban Veterans explore opportunities in agriculture.

USDA's Urban Agriculture Toolkit is a great place to start.

USDA ensures that Veterans looking to return home or start a new career on a farm or in a rural community have the tools and opportunities needed for success. Resources are available in every aspect of the agricultural industry, including Entrepreneurship, Education and Employment.

USDA's Veteran website serves as a one-stop navigator for Veterans looking to learn more and support the critical mission of preparedness and defense of America's food and agriculture sectors.

Visit the following website for more information <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/61200/usda-vets-farming-agriculture>



Twin Bridges Post 31 100-Year Celebration Poster Contest Winner Announced

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MARTIN

American Legion Dan Brockman Post 31 of Twin Bridges will reach its 100-year centennial anniversary on August 2nd of this year. As part of the upcoming celebration, the Post has been conducting a banner contest with local high school student artists. After careful consideration and thorough judging Brooke Mehlhoff was announced as the winner. This beautiful banner consists of The American Legion Emblem in the center flanked on both sides by fluttering American Flags. Below there are stocks of barley and 13 arrows and a streaming banner that reads, "Happy 100th Anniversary Post 31." This very patriotic piece of artwork will be displayed at Post 31's upcoming celebration and will then be retired to the Twin Bridges Museum in the Veterans rooms upstairs. There has also been a request that the banner be displayed at The American Legion of Montana Department Convention being held in Polson in June. On May 14th Brooke was awarded with a Certificate of Participation and a check for \$100. Thank you, Brooke, for all your hard work; your talents will be enjoyed by many for years to come.



100 Year Celebration Poster Contest Winner Brooke Mehlhoff and Doug Martin of Post 31.

played at Post 31's upcoming celebration and will then be retired to the Twin Bridges Museum in the Veterans rooms upstairs. There has also been a request that the banner be displayed at The American Legion of Montana Department Convention being held in Polson in June. On May 14th Brooke was awarded with a Certificate of Participation and a check for \$100. Thank you, Brooke, for all your hard work; your talents will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

come.

Editor's Note: Brooke was also elected as the 2019 Girls State Lt Governor as well. Congrats, Brooke!

Twin Bridges Shop Class Receives Veterans Award

The Twin Bridges High School Welding Class received a \$50 gift certificate to The Shack restaurant on 13 May 2019, for their work in making Highway Fatality Markers. The Highway Fatality Markers are part of a statewide safety program that is meant to bring awareness to traffic fatalities on Montana highways.

The Veterans of Twin rely on these young students to accomplish this solemn task and they always rise to the challenge. The Veterans are very thankful and proud of what these students have accomplished and wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your work.



Butte Post 1 Celebrates Birthday & New Location

SUBMITTED BY ROGER KNOELL, ADJUTANT

Post 1 celebrated The American Legion and Silver Bow Post 1's 100th Birthday on 13 April. The Post also had a grand opening of their new Post building. About 300 people attended the event including representatives from Senator Tester's and Senator Daines' office. Congressman Gianforte was also present. The key speaker was Butte's Chief Executive Dave Palmer (a Veteran). Also present were six Post 1 past commanders.



Broadwater County Museum Celebrates Post 42 Townsend Centennial Anniversary

SUBMITTED BY SHARON DOIG, POST HISTORIAN

On May 19th the Broadwater County Museum held their open house and the guest speaker was American Legion Broadwater Post 42 Commander Jen Dalrymple. The Post posted the Colors. In the lobby of the museum there is always a featured theme and this year it is The American Legion Centennial Celebration for Veterans.



Museum Curator Linda Huth and keynote speaker Commander Jen Dalrymple.



Color Guard Bill Garwood, Bill Gillespie and Bob Lund

Linda Huth has put together a wonderful display of past and present Veterans of Broadwater County and historical artifacts from the first 100 years



**Montana
POW/MIA
Ride to Remember
August 17, 2019
Route: Helena to
West Yellowstone**

Grab your Flag, a neighbor, head to the Hwy 287 & cheer the riders on!

A Fantasy Trip

BY DEAN GILBERT, POST 23 HISTORIAN
MARCH 5 – 10, 2019

As with all fantasies, it starts with something bad happening. In my case, my son Judson had a heart attack. He had scheduled a trip to Washington D.C. with his son to visit with the Senators of Wyoming as a school project. I was enlisted to accompany my grandson in his stead. The appointments had been made and schedule established. I flew from Bozeman to Washington D.C. to meet with my grandson, Addison Gilbert, a high school senior and an Air Force ROTC student from Cheyenne Wyoming.

The meeting with the Wyoming Senator Michael Enzi and Senator John Barrasso was a school project regarding a letter written by Addison, and the Senators in turn invited him to come to speak with them at their D.C. Capitol Senate office. Our meeting was at 9:00am EST at Senator Enzi's office.

The Senators' Aide took us to their conference room to conduct business. Their interest with my grandson went beyond his immediate concerns to the future expectation of Addison. His graduation from South High School in Cheyenne will be June 1, 2019, whereupon he will report for active duty with the Marine Corps on July 1 with boot camp in San Diego, California. I think Addison has the ability of achieving his potential and the Wyoming Senators did as well. They encouraged him to consider a career with Marine Aviation with expectations of space research.

After the meeting, Senator Enzi arranged for one of his Aides to go with us on a tour of the Senate, House of Representatives and the Capitol of the United States. We bypassed some of the general public routes and took the underground shuttles as that is a lot of walking and stairs. The next event on our agenda was to locate the offices of our Montana Senators. We did not have an appointment so we checked for their office locations, walked the corridors to their office, opened the door and entered. An Aide informed us that Senator Jon Tester was in a meeting with the VFW from around the USA and as soon as the hearing was over, he would come out and speak with us. We were invited to sit down and watch the hearings on a monitor in Tester's office. The camera picked up the veteran's participating in the hearing with their American Legion caps. I was also wearing my Legion cap so I fit right in with the moment and proceedings. I was able to make comments to those in the office about experiences I had observed. The hearing was about the Veterans Administration, the misuse of drugs, finding work and living places,



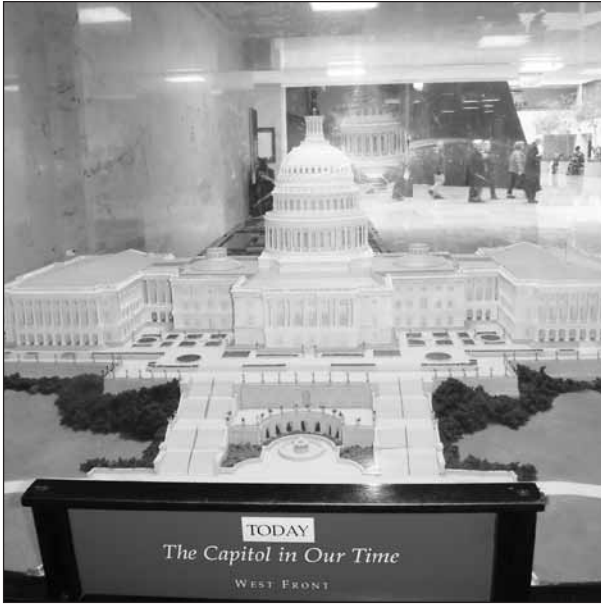
Top of the Capital Dome Replica

and other matters particular to the military. It was a lengthy hearing.

Addison and I left to find Senator Daines' office. Steve Daines was also conducting a finance hearing and would be wrapping up in the next half hour and we could again watch the monitor. That sounded great so an Aide took us down to a subcommittee meeting room to observe and wait. In time Senator Daines completed the hearing and we could hear the gavel hit. A couple minutes later the Senator came through the door and straight over to where Addison and I waited. We visited about the naming of the B-47 Ridge and the Monument that is coming in Paradise Valley, and the wind energy plans at Hunters Hot Springs. I wanted to speak of the lack of cell phone service in the Shields River and Paradise Valley but didn't have time. Senator Daines visited with Addison about his projects and future with the Marine Corps and future following graduation. Senator Daines' father had a career with the Marines. Others were waiting for the Senators time, so we went back to Senator Tester's office and watched the proceedings until it terminated. Shortly thereafter Senator Tester came through the door and straight to where we waited. His schedule was crowded so we introduced ourselves and visited for a short time.

Walking the corridors, in offices, and on the street, people were shaking my hand and saying "Thank you for your service to the country". Also, one lady left her group, came over to where I was standing and said, "Thank you for helping sponsor Boys State, Girls State and the Oratory program. They are very good programs". Evidently she had kids that had participated. I still had my American Legion cap and coat on so she asked me to thank all the Legion members for sponsoring these programs.

Our next priority was to find Montana House of Representative's office and Representative Greg Gianforte. Again, you walk in the door, introduce yourself to the Aide, state that you wish to speak with the Montana Representative. Rep. Gianforte came out immediately. We discussed the B-47 Ridge project and the forthcoming monument on the Ridge in Paradise Valley near Chico Hot Springs. His Aide was Bryan Wells' granddaughter but she was not there as her term had ended. Greg Gianforte also spoke with my grandson Addison on his school achievements and future. Then before we left he invited Addison and me to come back at 8pm and meet outside the Capitol to tour the Capitol, Senate and Congress. Rep. Gianforte graciously took us into the areas that were closed earlier because of senate activities and onto Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi's balcony, where we could look down Pennsylvania Avenue at night. We were able to sit in some of the hearing chairs, sit in the balcony and look down at the layout of the House



Capitol Mock-up

Floor and then he showed us the difference between the Old Capitol structure and the later construction and many fascinating details on the workings of the government.

I also learned that Congress has just created a new military branch that will be called "Space" and could this be that my grandson would be in line to eventually be headed in that direction?

I later found out that my grandson's teacher at South High School, Cheyenne, Wyoming is the daughter of Senator Michael Enzi.

My only regret was that my son, Judson could not accompany his son on this event.

Three Forks Legionnaire One of Several Montanans Featured in Unique Veteran History and Art Project

BY AUGUST UHL, MEMBER OF BOZEMAN POST 14

Originally from Pony, Ray Lau was a longtime member of Three Forks Post 93. He was drafted into the Navy and served throughout the Pacific as a gun tub crew member and in the ship's store on the USS Tazewell during WWII.

In July 2017, Lau was interviewed for a unique veteran history project. Lau's story, from his teens in Pony, to his account of the Battle of Okinawa, is one of nine veteran stories presented in Full Mag: Veteran Stories Illustrated, Vol. 2. The team of veterans, authors, and historians behind this project seek to obtain stories that may otherwise be lost and to honor veterans through art. They interview veterans and present their stories, in their words, along with illustrations, in the style popularized in serialized strips such as Steve Canyon. These stories are then compiled into the graphic novel and military history magazine created by Full Magazine Publishing and printed in Great Falls.

At one point in his story, presented as a full-page written prologue, followed by a six-page black and white art treatment, Lau tells readers "I think we visited every island out there in the Pacific." He goes on to recount his many nights "on the guns"



defending against attacks by Japanese aircraft.

An active member of the Three Forks community, Lau was always there to lend a helping hand to neighbors and was critical in Legion efforts to help others, such as raising funds to purchase a defibrillator for the fire department.

Ray Lau's story is presented in the second volume of this veteran history project. Across the first two volumes, a total of 13 illustrated veteran stories are presented. Seven of those

stories are Montana veterans with further written contributions from Montana veteran authors. However, the team has interviewed veterans from across the nation. Together, these veteran stories include first-person accounts ranging from the Doolittle Raid, Operation Market Garden, and the Luzon campaign, to stories from Vietnam, such as Plain of Reeds and Seafoat, up to accounts from the modern era with veterans' stories from OEF/OIF.

Unfortunately, Ray Lau did not have the opportunity to see his story in art. Ray passed away in August 2018. His story, along with others, from WW II to the modern era, can be found in the pages of this unique veteran history and art project, available at www.fullmagazinepublishing.com.

ShopVCS.com Offers New Online Shopping Program

Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) is excited to announce a new benefit. On November 13, 2018, VCS launched **Shop-VCS.com**, an online shopping site exclusively available to Veterans and their families.

Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare are able to shop VCS online at **ShopVCS.com**. This new exclusive shopping experience offers deals on thousands of products from hundreds of top brands with the ability to easily and securely shop from any device. The site features an expanded catalog of products to include: Veteran-Owned brands, Made-in-USA items, military items, sportswear, jewelry, health and beauty, home goods, electronics, outdoor gear, travel options, event tickets, and much more.

Registration is free and Veterans enrolled in VA and their family members eligible to register at **ShopVCS.com** as authorized customers. Proceeds from your purchases are given back to the Veteran community in support of VA programs such as: National Rehabilitation Adaptive Sports Games, Vets Crisis Suicide Prevention, Fisher House, Women Veteran Programs, National Disaster Relief, Homeless Veterans programs, and much more.



National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29

BY RAYMOND READ, DEPT. HISTORIAN

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. There are five objectives with Vietnam Commemoration being the main theme and the other four being:

- Highlight the service of our Armed Forces and various support organizations during the war
- Pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens
- Highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war
- Recognize contributions by our Allies

Who does Vietnam War Commemoration Honor?

U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location of service which includes:

- 9 million Americans who were in uniformed service during that time
- 7 million Americans still living today
- 2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam
- 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's capital
- 304,000 who were wounded
- 1,253 Missing in Action (MIA) heroes who have not yet returned to American soil
- 2,500 Prisoners of War (POWs)

The commemoration makes no distinction between veterans who served in-county, in-theater or were

stationed elsewhere during those 20 years.

Origins of National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration

- 2007: Congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986 authorizing a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War
- 2008: H.R. 4986 was signed into law on January 28, 2008
- 2012: The Vietnam War Commemoration began with the Presidential inaugural event at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012
- 2017: The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 established The National Vietnam War Veterans Day to be celebrate each year on March 29
- Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will continue through Veterans Day, 2025

Presidential Proclamation Regarding Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017

"To ensure the sacrifices of the 9 million heroes who served during this difficult chapter of our country's history are remembered for generations to come, I signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating March 29 of each year



as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Throughout this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, and every March 29 thereafter, we will honor all those who answered our Nation's call to duty." President Trump

Observing National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Over 11,000 local, state and national organizations, businesses, sports franchises and governmental agencies have committed to be commemorative partners to hosting ceremonies, programs, events and activities that commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Activities Include:

- Wreath laying ceremony at The Vietnam War Memorial "The Wall"
- Ceremonies and activities at VA Medical facilities across the country
- The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) will recognize, honor and thank Vietnam era veterans and their families with commemorative ceremonies

Visit the official DoD site VietnamWar50th.com for a full schedule of local events, resources and history. Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day>

Miles City Post 5 Honors Vietnam Veterans

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL, MEMBER

On March 29th, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Custer Post 5, Miles City, conducted a ceremony honoring the VA CLC Vietnam Veterans.



Eastern Montana Zone Commander Clancee Collins addressed the VA CLC audience, in Miles City, about the Vietnam conflict. Photo by Dixie Hofer

Twin Bridges Post 31 presents Legion School Awards

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MARTIN

On 23 May 2019, Post 31 Twin Bridges awarded two 8th grade students with the Legion School Awards Medal. Ruby Waller and Reid Johnson were honored as the 2018/2019 class leaders, voted by their classmates. This award recognizes them for their possession of those high qualities of

Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service. Each student was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation, a medal and a \$25 gift certificate to the Shack. The Veterans of Post 31 wish to congratulate them for outstanding achievement and class leadership.



8th Grader Reid Johnson receives Legion School Award



8th Grader Ruby Waller Receives Legion School Award



Bozeman Post 14 attends Army ROTC Commissioning

SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 attended Montana State University Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony at 16:30 hours on 4 May 2019 where nine new second lieutenants were commissioned. Pictured are Post 14 Commander Len Albright and Adjutant Randy Kemp presenting a membership card to August Green from Belt Montana making him officially a member of Post 14. Post 14 presented membership cards and their first year membership in the American Legion as a graduation gift to all nine new lieutenants to commemorate their accomplishment and hopefully inspire them to become life-long members of The American Legion.



Back row is the VFW Color Guard with Eastern Montana Zone Commander Clancee Collins on the right. Emcee is Carol Prahl, Post 5. Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl seated on the right.

Lolo Post 135 Memorial

SUBMITTED BY ELMER PALMER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR POST 135

About seven years ago Chief Joseph Post 135 was asked to do the flag raising ceremony for the kick-off of Lolo Little League season. The field is adjacent to the Lolo Community Center, the Post's meeting place. As the flag was going up, it reached the mid-point and would go no higher on the 12-foot pole. This was an embarrassing situation.

The Post started raising money for the replacement flagpole. The results were a 30-foot pole flying a 6x10 flag and lighting that allows flying the flag at night. The granite plaque on the stone behind the flagpole dedicates this monument and flagpole to Lolo's Veterans, Fire Fighters and Law Enforcement Officers.



2019 Montana Legislature

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

INTRODUCED BY W. MCKAMEY, R. SHAW

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTANA’S RECEIPT IN 1949 OF GRATITUDE GIFTS FROM THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE DELIVERED IN A BOXCAR KNOWN AS THE 40 & 8 MONTANA MERCI CAR.

WHEREAS, in 1947 the people of France and Italy were still struggling to recover from the devastation of World War II and, after seeing this firsthand, noted columnist and journalist Drew Pearson spearheaded a fundraising campaign to provide them with food, clothing, and other necessities; and

WHEREAS, Americans contributed generously to this purely grassroots effort, filling train cars with an estimated \$40 million in relief supplies and sending the American Friendship Train of 1947 to France; and

WHEREAS, touched by this response to their needs, the French people answered with a program of their own, the French Merci Train of 1949, the idea originating with Andre Picard, a veteran and railroad employee, who suggested that a boxcar be filled with gifts from every part of France and sent to the United States as a gesture of gratitude; and

WHEREAS, it soon became obvious that a single boxcar, known as a “40 et 8” because it could hold 40 men or 8 horses and was the type of boxcar used to transport thousands of American GIs during both World Wars, would not be enough for the tens of thousands of gratitude gifts from French citizens; and

WHEREAS, the French War Veterans’ Association assumed control of the project and filled 49 of the boxcars, one for each state then in the Union, and one boxcar to be shared by the District of Columbia and the territory of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, in all, 52,000 gifts weighing 250 tons were collected during 1948, and the 49 Merci Cars were then shipped aboard the freighter Magellan; and

WHEREAS, the ship, with “MERCİ AMERICA” adorning its sides, received a royal welcome in New York Harbor on February 3, 1949; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 1949, Montana’s Merci Car was presented to Governor Robert Bonner, representing the people of Montana, by Paul Lenier, French vice counsel on behalf of the French people, at a ceremony in the State Capitol’s House of Representatives in front of a joint session of the legislative assembly; and

WHEREAS, after the ceremony and ultimate distribution of the boxcar’s contents to Montana’s various counties as well as to the Montana Historical Society library, Montana’s Merci Car sat unceremoniously in the Northern Pacific Railway yards for nearly 10 years largely forgotten and rusting away; and

WHEREAS, Montana’s La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (the Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses, also known as the 40 & 8 Society),

which was established in 1922, became the advocate for Montana’s Merci Car in the early 1950s; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, the 40 & 8 Society’s leadership approached then Governor J. Hugo Aronson and asked to have Montana’s Merci Car donated to the state’s 40 & 8 Society and displayed in the State Capitol area as a tribute to the veterans and people of Montana; and

WHEREAS, in 1957 a verbal contract was struck with Governor Aronson turning the boxcar over to the 40& 8 Society and the car was to be set behind the Veterans and Pioneers building in a park for all to see; and

WHEREAS, after necessary repairs, Montana’s Merci Car was placed in a much smaller area behind the Veterans and Pioneers building that in 1976 was redesignated as the Veterans’ Plaza and flags and symbols of the Lewis and Clark expedition were added to the area by the veterans of Montana; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Montana’s Merci Car was moved to its present site at the Montana Military Museum and is now a premier exhibit at the museum’s outdoors Veterans’ Plaza; and

WHEREAS, Montana’s Merci Car continues to be a resolute symbol of the patriotism, dedication, and sacrifice of many Montana veterans of World War I and World War II and has withstood the ultimate test of surviving and being relevant to their memory.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the 66th Montana Legislature commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the presentation on February 16, 1949, of Montana’s Merci Car from the people of France to Governor Robert Bonner in front of a joint session of Montana’s legislative assembly representing the people of Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montana’s Merci Car be recognized as a grand salute from the people of France to thank the people of Montana for their efforts in providing relief supplies carried by the American Friendship Train of 1947 and as an expression of gratitude to Montana veterans who helped free the people of France in World War I and World War II from the chains of tyranny and with whom we still stand today in recognition of our common bonds of freedom and liberty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Montana Military Museum.

2019 Montana Legislature

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

INTRODUCED BY W. MCKAMEY, J. FULLER

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDING OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AND RECOGNIZING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN OUR STATE.

WHEREAS, on Veterans’ Day, 2018, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the world commemorated the 100th anniversary of the armistice ending the fighting in World War I; and

WHEREAS, World War I veterans registering concern over the care of those returning from the battlefields delineated plans for the development of a veterans’ association, resulting in the Paris Caucus held on March 15, 1919, and the birth of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Caucus resulted in a declaration of basic tenets that ultimately became the preamble of the constitution for The American Legion, which declares that The American Legion is “a patriotic organization dedicated to serve God and country”; and

WHEREAS, as a primary catalyst for the Paris Caucus, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. became known as the father of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, we also acknowledge that there was one Montanan in attendance at the Paris Caucus, Walter L. Verge of Choteau; and

WHEREAS, a call by local Montana veterans’ associations for a state organizational meeting resulted in the convening of the Helena Caucus on March 4, 1919, with delegates from across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Helena Caucus urged that the governor appoint a Veterans’ Welfare Commission to be headquartered in Helena, which is now known as the state Board of Veterans’ Affairs,

which oversees the Montana Veterans’ Affairs Division; and

WHEREAS, Malta was chosen as the location for the first annual state convention of the World War Veterans of Montana, which was held on June 30 and July 1, 1919; and

WHEREAS, convention business based on the four pillars of supporting veterans, Americanism, national defense, and children and youth included choosing to rename the World War Veterans of Montana to The American Legion of Montana;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of The American Legion has for the past 100 years been a positive force in communities throughout the state by promoting citizenship among our youth and continuing to serve Montana veterans and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA:

That the years 2019 and 2020 be recognized as the Centennial of the Montana Department of The American Legion and that communities across Montana be encouraged to recognize and celebrate the service and many contributions of the more than 12,000 members of The American Legion in Montana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the headquarters of The American Legion, Department of Montana, for distribution to American Legion posts throughout the state.



There has been some confusion and misinformation on what can be worn with the Scout BSA uniforms. Since The American Legion and Scout BSA Emblems are protected by copyright law they cannot be worn together except as listed below. The following are deemed acceptable means of representing The American Legion in a Scout uniform; while operating as:

1) Department Scouting Chairmen - wear the BSA Area Committee badge on the left sleeve, gold shoulder loops and The American Legion/Boy Scout patch (item 720.415) on or suspended from the right pocket as a temporary patch.

2) District Scouting Chairmen - wear the BSA Council Committee badge or the District Committee badge on the left sleeve, silver shoulder loops, and The American Legion/Boy Scout patch (item 720.415) on or suspended from the right pocket as a temporary patch.

3) Post Scouting Chairmen - wear the Chartered Organization Representative badge on the left sleeve, Blue/Forest Green/Orange/Green (unit level) shoulder loops, The American Legion/Boy Scout patch (item 720.415) on or suspended from the right pocket as a temporary patch.

Scouters who fill multiple roles should not mix and match but wear the uniform for the position they are representing at the time; matching position patch, shoulder loops, and temporary patch. Meaning if operating as a Scoutmaster, then wear the proper patch and unit headgear with neckerchief for your unit. However, if you are attending an event as a representative of your department/district/post then use the above guidelines.

The American Legion cap is not authorized to be worn with the Scouting BSA uniform. The above guidelines are per Scouting BSA and The American Legion National directives.

Montana Coffee

SUBMITTED BY ROGER HAGAN, DEPT. LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

March 4, 2019, fellow Montanan American Legion members joined their Delegation on the Hill for the weekly Montana Coffee event. Fine looking bunch.



U.S. SENATE PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO; JEFF McEVOY Senator Jon Tester; Bill White, Dept. Volunteer Services Coordinator; Roger Hagan, Dept. Legislative Chairman; Congressman Gianforte; Cliff Larsen, Dept. Legislative Liaison; Senator Steve Daines.

Congressman Gianforte recognizes a great team effort between EANGMT (Enlisted Assoc. of the Nat'l Guard of MT) and The American Legion



Congressman Gianforte, three unidentified men, Roger Hagan, Dept. Legislative Chairman; Bill White, Dept. Volunteer Services Coordinator; Cliff Larsen, Dept. Legislative Liaison.

American Legion Department of Montana Celebrates Bill Signings

HB 285 Representative Ricci's bill to *Establish the Pearl Harbor Memorial Highway* by the National Cemetery at Laurel, Montana. (see photo on page 5)



Back row Roger Hagan, Gary White, Sue Gillespie, Cliff Slater, Richard Klose; Front: Representative Ricci, Governor Bullock. April 25, 2019

HB 422 Representative Buttrey, *Increase Amount Available for Montana Veteran Home Loans*



Department Commander Richard Klose, Governor Bullock, Department Adjutant Gary White, and Department Legislative Liaison Roger Hagan., April 25, 2019.

Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana



• On June 20th, I spoke on the Senate floor to mark the one year anniversary of the *VA Mission Act*. This new law brought us one step closer to ensuring veterans in Montana and across our nation receive the care they earned.

RECENTLY INTRODUCED VETERANS' LEGISLATION
• To recognize the sacrifice of all *Gold Star Families*, I joined Senator Richard Blumenthal's (CT) SB.1715 to award the families a Congressional Gold Medal.

• Memorial Day has special significance in Big Sky Country, which has one of the highest rates of military service per capita in the nation. I was honored to share this special occasion with veterans across the state.

Over breakfast, I met with Legionnaires at *Post 14* to hear concerns from veterans in Bozeman, update them on efforts to improve our VA health care system and provide them with more options through the VA MISSION Act which recently took effect.



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Montana in Polson.

Congressman Gianforte Recognizes Don Bost for Contributions to "country and community"

BY CHARLIE DENISON | LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS REPORTER

Veterans, public officials, law enforcement and other members of the community packed American Legion Fergus Post 16 Thursday [April 25, 2019] to see Commander Don Bost recognized with a Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation by Congressman Greg Gianforte.

"Don was nominated by you," Gianforte told the crowd. "We put the word out to veterans around the state, asking them who has served their country and then come back to serve sacrificially in the community. We take their recommendations, pick the best of the best, read their bio into the Congressional record and fly a flag over the U.S. capital in their honor."

Gianforte presented Bost with the flag that was flown in his honor.

Bost stood out as a candidate, Gianforte said, as his efforts have made Lewistown's Legion one of the largest in the state.

"Hearing stories about what Don has done for the post and in the community is amazing," Gianforte said.

During his time as a U.S. Navy Seabee in 1968 and 1969, Bost went to Vietnam, where he received a National Defense Ribbon and Vietnam Service Medal. When he came back home to Lewistown, he became a "steadfast contributor to numerous community and veteran projects," Gianforte said, donating "countless hours working on the Veterans Memorial Park and various events."

Gianforte shared that Bost has been an active member of the Chamber of Commerce for 34 years and has "helped boost the area's economy by working to establish the Nexus Treatment Center and Western Transportation Institute facilities in Lewistown."

"He readily participates in more than a dozen local businesses, civic and veteran organizations, and his involvement with local historic attractions helps keep the area's tourism industry vibrant," Gianforte added.

Considering Bost is known for his relentless recruiting, Gianforte couldn't help but tell a little joke before presenting the award.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE DENISON
Congressman Greg Gianforte, right, presents American Legion Post 16 Commander Don Bost with a Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to "country and community" at the Legion Thursday morning. Many local veterans attended the commemoration.

"Don has doubled the membership by following veterans home," said Gianforte. Laughter ensued.

Bost thanked those in attendance for the nomination.

"I know who you are. You kept asking me questions and asking me for newspaper articles...it's not like it was a big secret," he said.

Legion representative Dave McClure – one of those who led the charge for Bost's recognition – thanked Bost for his dedication to "freedom, country, community and family."

"You've always had a desire to make a positive difference," McClure said.

Following the commemoration, American Legion member and fellow Vietnam vet Bob Barber said Bost's recognition was "well deserved."

"It's nice to see he's getting this acknowledgment," Barber said. "He does an awful lot."

Gianforte also congratulated the American Legion on its 100th birthday.

"Happy birthday," he said. "That's really an accomplishment."

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER



(U.S. SENATE) – President Donald Trump has signed U.S. Senator Jon Tester's bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act into law.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Tester has fought tirelessly for years to extend VA benefits to these Vietnam veterans. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act guarantees that veterans who served off the shores of Vietnam and were exposed to toxins such as Agent Orange, can access treatment and receive benefits from the VA.

President Trump Signs Senator Tester's Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act into Law

Senator's bipartisan bill expands care and benefits to veterans exposed to toxic substances in the line of duty

"Today's victory was hard fought and hard won by brave servicemembers who returned home only to be denied the benefits and care they earned," Tester said. "This bill is long overdue for so many veterans and their families in Montana and across the country, living with the effects of exposure to Agent Orange. We are finally delivering on our government's commitment to the Blue Water Navy veterans who sacrificed so much to keep us safe and free."

Tester's bill is supported by The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, Fleet Reserve Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

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How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: October 1, 2019

Preferences: (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.**
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 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!

Go Ahead – Relax...

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

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

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM

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

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

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

ENDORSED PLANS

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



Send your completed coupon to:
Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program
P.O. Box 26720, Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720

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2019 RESOLUTION TRACKER				
#	RESOLUTION NAME	SUBMITTED BY	PASS	FAIL
19-01	Accumulated Membership Years in The American Legion.....	District 8		x
19-02	Uniformity in the Wearing of the Uniform Cap.....	District 8		x
19-03	Comrade Driver for National Vice Commander	District 5	x	
19-04	Legionnaires Need a Winter Uniform Cap	District 5		x
19-05	Social Media Membership Potential.....	District 5		x
19-06	The “Legion Family” is incomplete (<i>Received & Recorded</i>).....	District 5		
19-07	Remove Names of Legionnaires From Post Roster..... for Members Without Forwarding Address	District 5		x
19-08	Addressing the Existential Threat of Electromagnetic Pulse	District 5	x	
19-09	Change Award for Top District Recruiter.....	Finance	x	
19-10	Change Award for Best Newsletter	Finance	x	
19-11	Montana Dept. American Legion 2nd Century Post..... Superior Performance Trophy	Historian (<i>Pulled by Author</i>)		
19-12	Name Change of the District Membership Award	Membership	x	
	to Mervin “Merv” G. Gunderson Award			

Time to Renew your American Legion Membership!



RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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

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



Owners

Chuck & Kim Ballard

Veteran-Owned & Operated

8:00AM to 5:30PM Mon - Fri
8:00AM to 4PM Sat
610 Custer Ave • Helena

442-9589

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• Planters • Welding Jobs

Doug 406.252.8659
Skip 406.672.4188

**Silver Bow Post #1
and Auxiliary**

AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

Welcome

MEETINGS:
FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH @ 7:00 P.M.
DINNER: THIRD WEDNESDAY @ 6:00 P.M.
NEW LEGION HALL – 3201 WYNNE AVENUE
BUTTE MT

**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



**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**

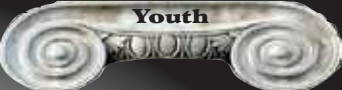


3095 Villard Ave.
Helena, MT

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

Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday

Americanism



**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

Defense



We Salute Our Servicemen & Women

**Welcome To
American Legion
Club 30**

**We invite all veterans to stop
in and support YOUR club.**



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h: 406-965-3176

**AMERICAN LEGION
POST #4**



OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM

HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN

1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, 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

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