



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
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Montanans Honor Veterans Across Montana



Hundreds of Legionnaires, Veterans and Montanans throughout the State gathered to honor and lay wreaths at the entrances and graves of many, many veterans in cemeteries around the state. Pictured here are wreaths at Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena. See page 8 and 9 for more tributes from across the State.

Montana Legionnaires Join Canadians to Celebrate Remembrance Day



Wayne Shaw Bellevue Branch #19; Larry Dobb Harlowton Post #15, Janice Dobb Harlowton Post #15 Gary White Helena Post #2, Richard Klose Laurel Post #123, Roger Hagan Helena Post #2, Elmer Palmer Lolo Post #135, Jeff Nelson Polson Post #112, Colter Landt Helena SAL Squadron #2, Gary Littlewood Coleman Branch #9, Ray Stolp Helena Post #2.

A record nine members of the American Legion Department of Montana traveled to Crows Nest Pass, Alberta to participate with the Royal Canadian Legion in their Remembrance Day (Veterans Day) activities on 11 Nov 2019. The Dept. of MT has sent a delegation every year for the past seventeen years.

Remembrance Day is a big production with a ceremony in Crow Nest Pass High School gym attended by 800-1200

people with speeches by local politicians, the MT Rep etc., march in of veterans with a formal posting of everyone's flags followed by wreath laying ceremonies at two local Branches (Posts), followed by free food, beer, music and dancing. Everyone is involved from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), local police, fire department (the firing details are all made up of fire department personnel), cadets, school kids, Girl Guides (scouts) and many other guests.

Headstone Found in Rubble Pile in Missoula

The Department of Montana is looking for any and all help in locating next of kin for Montana Veteran World War I Army Sgt Ralph G. Griswold, May 17, 1893 - Sept 22, 1953, who served with the 20 Engineers. His headstone was recovered from a rubble pile in Missoula, Montana early this year. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Historian Ray Read at myfun51@msn.com or the Department Headquarters at amlegmt29@mtlegion.org.



The American Legion of Montana 2020 Spring District Meetings

- MAR 14..DIST. 3/8..... CASCADE
- MAR 15..DIST. 9..... JUDITH GAP
- MAR 21..DEPT. ORATORYHLN
- MAR 22..DIST. 6..... WHITEHALL
- MAR 28..DIST. 2..... TURNER
- MAR 29..DIST. 1..... PLENTYWOOD
- APR 4....DIST. 7.... WHITE SULPHUR
- APR 18..DIST. 5..... HAMILTON
- APR 19..DIST. 4..... CHARLO
- APR 25..DIST. 10..... COLSTRIP
- APR 26..DIST. 11..... BILLINGS
- MONDAY APRIL 27 WILL BE THE PRE-DEPARTMENT CONVENTION MEETING IN BILLINGS FOR THE OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL CONCERNED.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Feb 12 85% Target
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 17 President's Day
- Mar 1 ..**Eagle Scout OTY** Nomination Due to Dept. HQ
- Mar 8 .. Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 11.....90% Target Date
- Mar 8-11 Washington Conference
- Mar 11-13..... Dept. Service Officer's School – Washington DC
- Mar 14 ...1st District Meeting – District 3/8 Cascade
- Mar 15 ..**Constitutional Essay** due to Education Chairman
- Mar 15-17 The AL Birthday
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 21 Dept. Oratory – Helena
- Apr 1 MT Legionnaire May/Jun/July issue cutoff date
- Apr 5 Palm Sunday
- Apr 8.....95% Target Date, Renewal Cutoff Date
- Apr 10..... Good Friday
- Apr 12..... Easter
- Apr 14 **Post Data Forms** due to Dept. Headquarters
- Apr 15.... **Government Survey** due to Education Chairman
- Apr 15.....**990N due to IRS** for Posts using calendar year for fiscal year
- Apr 17-19 83rd Annual National Oratory Finals – Indianapolis, IN
- Apr 26.. Last District Meeting–Dist. 11 Billings (Nat'l Vice Commander)
- May 1 .**Certification of Post Officers** due to Department Headquarters
- May 2-3 SAL National Spring Meetings
- May 4-7.... National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
- May 13..... 100%Target Date
- May 10..... Mother's Day
- May 15Peace Officers' Memorial Day
- May 15.... **Consolidated Post Report (CPR)** Due to Dept. HQ
- May 16..... Armed Forces Day
- May 25..... Memorial Day observed
- May 30 Memorial Day

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COMMANDER NELSON



Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

I want to congratulate all the Posts that made 100 percent. It gives the rest of us something to strive for. I have no doubt in my mind if we put our minds to achieving our goals, we can have a 100 percent for the Department this next year.

I hope everyone was able to have some special time with their families during the Christmas season. Whether you had to travel or had family visiting it is always a blessing to come together to celebrate during this time of year.

One thing that has always been on my mind is, why do we belong to The American Legion? Is it the comradery, is it the benefits, or maybe just the pride in belonging to The American Legion? In any case, everyone has a reason for joining our ranks. As I can attest myself, it was belonging to an organization that stood for God and Country and helping those veterans and their families in need at times.

And this brings up the question of who is going to replace us when we are unable to do the flag ceremonies on Flag Day, or march in the Memorial Day parade, or maintain the white fatality markers, or do the hundreds of other programs that you take responsibility for at your Post? My point is to get the younger members involved in the activities without scaring them off. Without their help, many programs will be in jeopardy of falling by the wayside. This passing the torch to the next generation of members has really taken on a personal mission. I remember when the WWII and Korean members did everything at our Post and made it fun and accomplished so much in our communities. Then my generation

came along from the Viet Nam era and we tried to follow in their footsteps with new programs and activities. My hope and prayer are that the next generation that takes over the helm will continue the traditions of our great organization. I know we all have a sense of pride in our organization, the next time you talk to a prospective member, remember the feeling you had about joining The American Legion for the first time and convey that enthusiasm to whoever you talk to. The next person you talk to about joining may be the next commander of your Post someday.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible this Spring at District meetings and continue the programs at your Post that makes your Post a place that attracts new members. These new members are our replacements someday. God Bless and take care. 🍀

VICE COMMANDER BLACKARD

What's your role? A common problem in many Posts is that the people serving as Post officers do not know or possibly understand what their role as a Post officer actually is. Don't get me wrong, it's not limited to the officers, in all actuality NOBODY knows what the true role is of a Post officer.



George Blackard
Dept. Vice Commander

It isn't enough to step up and assume the very important role of a Post officer, you must know what that role is, what you are expected to do and have at least an idea of how to do it. The National organization prints new officer guides every year and Department has been distributing them at district meetings and other events for years. Now it is even easier to get your hands on the information because you can download it in PDF format from legion.org/publications by scrolling down to the area labeled Internal Affairs and clicking on the picture of the latest version of the 2019 Officer's Guide.

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From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE



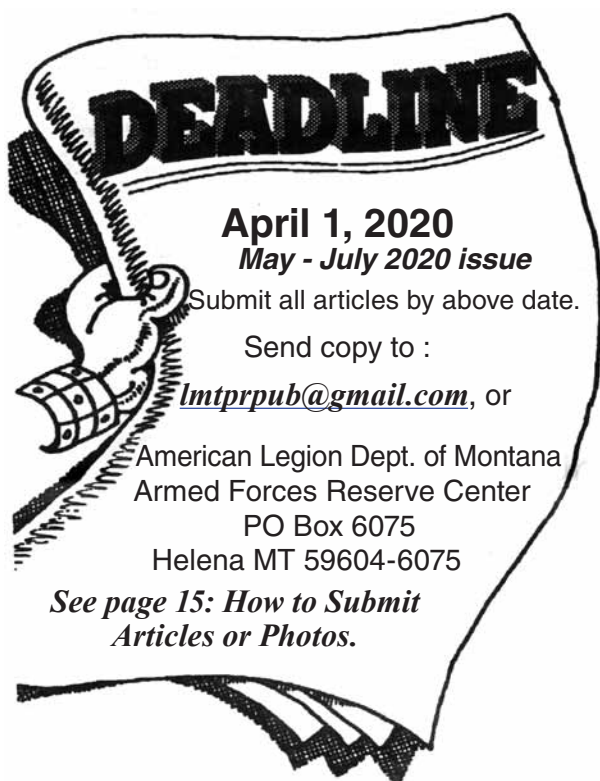
Okay, let's try this again, last January I announced my retirement for April 1, 2020, however at the Department Convention in Polson last June I was asked to stay one more year. Therefore, my retirement date is now April 1, 2021. If there are any members interested in applying for the Department Adjutant position, there is more information below in this issue of the Journal for submitting applications. If you have questions please contact me at my quarters or Past Department Adjutant, Bob Dobb, who is the Chair of the Nominations committee.

The Department website is just about ready to launch in its new configuration, perhaps as of the Legionnaire publication date it has already done so. If not, please bear with us. The URL for our website will remain the same - www.mtlegion.org.

The next four months are when the Post Adjutants will need to get very busy, not just with membership, which is always their concern, but with all the reports and award nominations that will be coming due. Please give them all the assistance you can and be responsive to any request for information they may ask of you.

Each Post will soon be receiving its Consolidated Post Report (CPR); now is the time for the Commanders, Adjutants, Finance Officers and Post members to start gathering the information required, remember you Post can submit their CPR on line if the Post is using [MyLegion.org](https://mylegion.org). Additionally, you'll soon be receiving the Post Data Form which is used to report your Post's dues amount and the address where renewals for the 2021 membership year are to be sent.

The Adjutants will also have to be working on reports to submit the elections of new officers,
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VICE COMMANDER - GEORGE BLACKARD
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE**

*American Legion Department of Montana Seeks to fill
the Position of:
Department Adjutant*

The Department Adjutant is a term hire position for 3 years and serves as the Chief Administrator for The American Legion of Montana of approximately 11,000 members. The Adjutant supervises one paid person at Department Headquarters in Helena, Montana and is responsible for the efficient performance of their duties. Applicants will be considered by the Department of Montana Adjutant search committee and advanced to the Department Commander for approval by the Department Executive Committee.

The Adjutant reports directly to and through the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee. The Adjutant is subject to the policies, rules and regulations/guidelines contained in the Employee Handbook, The American Legion manuals and guides, the National Constitution/By-Laws, the Department Constitution/By-Laws, and the Department Executive Committee.

Applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- Honorably discharged United States Military Veteran, copy of DD214 required
- Must be a United States Citizen
- Must be a member of The American Legion in good standing
- Undergraduate degree from an accredited University/College, work experience could be substituted
- Proficient in Microsoft Office

- Working knowledge in QuickBooks or related financial software
- Good oral and written skills
- Excellent personnel and stress handling skills
- Supervisory and Management experience required
- Possess professional work interaction with American Legion members/Officers and Politicians at Local/State/National levels
- Must live in Helena 90 days after job acceptance
- Possess valid Montana driver's license
- Applicant must submit copy of driving record prior to use of The American Legion Vehicle
- Air and Vehicle travel required
- Must pass background check, credit check, and drug screening
- Must have a passport
- Must be able to travel to all District meetings (Spring and Fall approximately 10 week-ends a year) attend Fall Conference (end of October), Department Convention (end of June), National Convention (end of August) and any other meeting that may come up

Send résumé and contact information by September 1, 2020 to The American Legion Department of Montana, PO Box 6075, Helena MT, 59604 or amlegmt29@mtlegion.org. Also provide a short essay explaining your interest in the position and a brief salary history.

Chaplain's Corner

KAREN SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

2020 Chaplain Training

Are you currently serving or soon-to-be serving as a Legion Family Chaplain? (This includes American Legion Auxiliary, America Legion Riders, Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion.) Do you have an interest in becoming a chaplain in the future? Do you actively serve by personally helping our veterans and Legion Family Members?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, this training is for you!

One aspect of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that often goes misdiagnosed or unacknowledged is moral injury. This is especially true for many of our older veterans and also affects many of our newest veterans. Many suffering with moral injury do not always have PTSD.

What is moral injury? In a nutshell, it's when a person's deeply held moral values are violated which can happen in a variety of ways: they participated in something that violated their values, they were compelled to participate in something that violated their values, they were unable to stop something they witnessed that violated their moral values, or someone else violated their own deeply-held moral values. Moral injury creates a painful wound to one's soul that in today's culture is seldom addressed let alone recognized as such. Combat actions can result in moral injury. Abuse, assault and sexual

trauma can result in moral injury. So can losing an acquaintance, close friend or family member to suicide. The list is quite long.

This year at Department Convention in Billings on June 27th from 1-5 pm we are privileged to have Mike Keller, Northern Rockies Moral Injury Coordinator with Volunteers of America, who will introduce us to moral injury, opening our hearts and minds in the process, as well as providing some concrete ways we can come alongside and be of true assistance to a Legion Family member struggling with a wound to their soul.

To attend, **please register NLT MAY 30th** by sending the form below with a check for \$10 **made out to American Legion of Montana**. The money will cover materials and any excess will go into the Chaplain's Fund.

Mail registration and payment to:
Chaplain Karen Semple,
34 Mergenthaler Rd., Montana City,
Montana 59634

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE CHAPLAIN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION WITH DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION. **Auxiliary members:** PLEASE DO NOT SEND TO AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT. (Last year several attendees did those things and even though there were extra we were still short on both materials and seats because we were completely unaware they were coming.)

2020 Chaplain Training Registration

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: POST/SQDN/UN

Currently Actively Serving as a Chaplain (Circle one) YES NO

ADDRESS:

EMAIL: BEST PHONE #

Mail registration and \$10 fee to:

Chaplain Karen Semple, 34 Mergenthaler Rd., Montana City, Montana 59634

VICE COMMANDER

Once you have read through the Officer's Guide you will want to take a look at the Trophies, Awards and Ceremonies Manual as it has a lot of very useful information that when followed, will make you look like a rock star within your Post. The information is out there, all you have to do is get it and read it.

In a nutshell, as a Post officer, you are a leader not a ruler. Your job is to help see to it that meetings run smoothly and that the Post can conduct business. It's to ensure that the Post is working programs and that everyone has the tools and resources available to them to make them and the Post as a whole, a success. Your job is to share your knowledge with other Post members and help them be the best Legionnaires that they

can be. It is important to know that this doesn't just apply to the Post level, it applies to officers at every level all the way up to National. If you are a success, your Post will be a success, if your Post is your District will be and then Department and then National.

There are no rulers within our organization and if you are using your gavel or your title or your "time in grade" to push people to do what YOU want, you should probably go back and reflect on the preamble for a while. Be helpful, be kind, be courteous, give the Master of Might his due, and treat all of your comrades as equals and you will be as successful as you want or need to be.

Work membership!

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In Memory of

Past Department Chaplain
Ronald Dean Moccasin

age 83, of Frazer, MT
April 5, 1936 – October 13, 2019

The Department of Montana has lost a good Comrade in Rev. Ronald Dean "Ronn" Moccasin Sr. Wintga I'cage (Growing Egg). A man of many hats, deep loving heart, true wisdom, endless patience, tireless quest for knowledge and a true warrior who served others with everything he had. Rest in peace Comrade Ronn, until we meet again.



Post Everlasting



October/November/December 2019

- ☆ ALLEN, CHARLES, 12/19/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 38-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BEGGS, KENNETH, 11/14/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 2-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BERNARD, ELMER, 12/8/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 7-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BLACKWELL, KURT, 10/24/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 22-year member of Post 97, Libby, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BOYD, JONATHAN E. SR, 10/28/2019 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 17-year member of Post 61, Brockton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CARROLL, FRANCIS, 12/21/2019 – WWII – US Army – 15-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CLINTON, LARRY E, 10/17/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FLANAGAN, DEAN W., 11/19/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 20-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FORTNEY, FRANK, 10/16/19 – Vietnam – US Marine – 2-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GRAHAM, GARY, 12/5/19 – Korea – US Army – 9-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GUNDLACH, LELAND, 10/20/2019 – WWII – US Army – 69-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LINDBERG, CHARLES, 11/4/2019 – Korea – US Navy – 13-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MADLER, ALVIN, 10/20/2019 – Vietnam – US Army – 13-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MAEHL, JUANITA, 7/11/2019 – Korea – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MOCCASIN, RONALD, 10/13/2019 – Korea – US Navy/Army – 15-year member of Post 61, Brockton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MOEN, WILLIAM F, JR, 10/16/2019 – Korea – US Army – 66-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NORDHAGEN, DARRELL, 8/21/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 52-year member of Post 122, Opheim, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ REYNOLDS, HUGH, 10/05/2019 – WWII – US Army – 21-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ROSMAN, ALBERT JR, 9/27/2019 – WWII – US Army – 29-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SCHWARZBACH, EVELYN, 11/28/2019 – WWII – US Navy – 23-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ THOMAS, JOE, 10/8/2019 – Korea – US Army – 3-year member of Post 20, Dillon, 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.



ADJUTANT

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reporting of top recruiters, nominations for awards for supporting Scouting, best newsletters, etc. You don't have to wait for the forms to be sent to you; in most cases the forms and the due dates are found at the Department website, www.mtlegion.org.

As you can see the Adjutants will be very busy with numerous other endeavors besides taking minutes at meetings and processing membership, please give your Adjutants all the assistance you can, so they will be able to make all the reporting deadlines.

I would like to thank all the Legionnaires who have generously donated to the address label program in the past. As you no doubt know by now, it is that time of the year again where the Department sends out address labels to solicit donations for American Legion programs. Although, I am sure there are members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail, this program is the second largest source of revenue for the American Legion of Montana, without these funds it would be next to impossible to do what we do around the state. This program is also a great tool to keep our members addresses current; we probably receive more address changes through the label program than we do

through Post Adjutants or individuals. We also receive numerous notices of members who are deceased. Without this program we would have additional mailing costs to those who are deceased or who have moved. When you receive your address labels please send the top portion with your address and member number back to Department, whether you donate or not. If you do not send this portion back and you don't donate, you'll receive a second mailing, so please send it back so we don't have to pay for additional mailings. Additionally, if you do not want to receive certain kinds of mail, notify Department Headquarters (toll free 866-793-1257) and we can stop the mail you don't want.

American Legion Boys State packets will be mailed this month to the Post Chairman that the Department has on file. If your Post does not receive an American Legion Boys State packet it was sent to the high school in your community. The fee for this year remains the same at \$300.00 and the registrations and fees are due by 15 May. Please advise any interested boys to obtain a copy of their parent's or grandparent's discharge so they will have time to compete for the Samsung Scholarship. They must have a copy of the discharge document to apply.

The Story of The Four Chaplains

SUBMITTED BY KAREN SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



It was known as Torpedo Junction, the U-Boat-infested icy waters of the North Atlantic during World War II. On February 3, 1943, the USAT DORCHESTER, an old coastal steamer quickly pressed into military service, was slowly making her way with other ships through those waters bound for Greenland carrying 902 military, merchants and civilian workers aboard.

Most of the men were seasick, and green with nausea. Because they were in submarine waters, the captain directed the men to keep outer gear and life jackets on at all times. Due to the extreme heat below decks, that order was ignored by many.

Moving among the troops were four Army Chaplains: George Fox (Methodist), Alexander Goode (Jewish), Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), and John Washington (Roman Catholic). The Chaplains spoke with and listened to the men – soothing apprehensions, offering encouragement, or sharing a joke. By their concern, their camaraderie with the men – and one another – and by their very presence, they brought comfort.

An enemy submarine stalking the ship undetected fired a torpedo toward the ship's aging flank. The missile exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly; some were trapped below deck. Others, jolted from their bunks, groped and stumbled their way to the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard. (For readers not familiar with maritime terminology, that is the right side of the ship when looking forward.)

Because security reasons prevented the use of distress flares, escort vessels still close enough to assist, pushed on into the darkness completely unaware the DORCHESTER was sinking.

Overcrowded lifeboats capsized; rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them. Men clung to the rails, frozen with fear, unable to let go and plunge into the icy, dark, churning water far below.

The Four Chaplains calmed frightened men, got them spare life jackets, and urged them over the side. The supply of extra jackets ran out with men still waiting. Having decided to remain with the sinking ship, the Four Chaplains either gave to or forced upon frightened servicemen their own life jackets. Much too quickly, no more lifeboats could be launched and many men were left aboard, yet there was more for the Chaplains to do.

When last seen, the Four Chaplains were standing together on the deck leading the men with

them in prayer. With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed, they sank beneath the waves. Two of those chaplains were Protestant, one was a Catholic, and one was a Jew.

Monsignor John McNamara, former Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy, said at a Four Chaplains Award Service, "No casting director in Hollywood could have selected a better cast of characters than these four to portray the basic unity of the American people."

The self-sacrifice of the Four Chaplains was a heroic act. It was not the only heroic act aboard the DORCHESTER that night; however, it was the identity of these four young men, representing three great faiths of the American people that magnifies the symbolism of their sacrifice.

It is our charge and our duty to ensure that this brief, yet very significant portion of American history is not lost, and that the lessons of cooperation and selfless service are proclaimed in our communities throughout Montana.

Four Chaplains Sunday this year, February 2nd, falls on the day before the sinking; however, it is now also Super Bowl Sunday. Because of that conflict, the Department of Montana will be holding a Four Chaplains Service on Monday, February 3rd at 2 pm at Touchmark in Helena.

If your Post held a Four Chaplains Service, please send me an email about it with a copy of the program and how you felt it went. I can be reached at: chaplainsemp@gmail.com (or (406) 465-0163, if you'd rather call.)

If you'd like a script and ideas on how to hold a Four Chaplains Service next year, please get in touch!

How to conduct a Four Chaplains Service was just one of the many items we covered during the Chaplains Conference last year in Polson.

To see registration information for this year's Chaplains Conference in Billings, please look elsewhere in this Legionnaire.

May you be well.

Forming Montana Department American Legion Riders

SUBMITTED BY GIL FLOYD, MTALR DIRECTOR



On October 12, 2019, a group of 18 American Legion Riders (ALR) from across Montana representing eight different Posts (listed below) had the first formal meeting hosted by Butte Post 1 to organize a Department level ALR. They established a constitution and elected officers to begin the Department of Montana American Legion Riders (MTALR). The official status is pending final approval and reporting of The American Legion of Montana committee constituted at Fall Conference. As a group of motorcycle enthusiasts, their goal is to help new ALR programs across the state as they grow in their Post level programs.

Two Legion members in Michigan started the first American Legion Riders program in 1993 because they desired an environment where Legion members could come together to share a common love for motorcycles. The ALR was voted in as a national Legion program in 2011 and there are currently over 110,000 members representing over 2,000 Posts in every domestic Department and in three foreign countries. Many

Riders organize annual Legacy Runs to support the American Legion scholarship programs of Operation Comfort Warriors, supporting wounded soldiers across the nation; they ride to raise money to support their local American Legion Posts; they ride to raise money for VA hospitals, women and children centers, schools, and numerous charities; they ride to honor our fallen military and protect the sanctity of their funerals; they escort military units overseas departures and welcome them home upon their return.

Each ALR Chapter manages its own programs from the Post level. ALR groups are not motorcycle or biker "clubs" and strive to maintain the image of The American Legion at all times. To become a Rider, one must be a current member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion.



If you desire a presentation about the ALR at your Post or District meeting, please contact the Department for your nearest ALR membership chairman.

American Legion Posts Represented By This Article: Belgrade, Post 30; Billings, Post 4; Butte, Post 1; Corvallis, Post 91; Glendive, Post 28; Havre, Post 11; Helena, Post 2; and Livingston, Post 23



Columbia Falls Freedom Post 72 gives veterans new TVs

Pictured with his Christmas western hat, Past Commander Michael Shepard of Columbia Falls Freedom Post 72, along with Past Adjutant Ric Huston and member Jeff Harker, present to Bonnie Stutsman, 24 new televisions. Shepard negotiated with Best Buy and was able to

purchase 22 new 32-inch and two new 60-inch TVs, replacing 20-inch TVs in the rooms, and two new 60-inch. The televisions were sorely needed by the Veterans' Home.

Funds were raised by the local Post's Spaghetti Feed and Car Show BBQ.

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



SERVICE OFFICER KATE HAHN

Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019, extends benefits for eligible veterans.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019 was signed into law on June 25, 2019 and took effect January 1, 2020. The law extends a presumption of herbicide exposure to Blue Water Navy Veterans who served in the Republic of

Vietnam and its offshore waters or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), may be entitled to disability compensation for conditions that are considered presumptive to herbicide exposure. To qualify for disability compensation, the veteran must have served between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 and have one or more of the following conditions: Amyloid Light-Chain (AL) Amyloidosis, Chloracne, or other acne-form disease consistent with chloracne, Chronic B-cell Leukemia, Diabetes Mellitus, Type II, Ischemic Heart Disease, Hodgkin's Lymphoma (formerly Hodgkin's Disease), Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma,

Multiple Myeloma, Parkinson's Disease, peripheral neuropathy (early onset), Porphyria cutanea tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea), Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

To file a claim for disability compensation or, for surviving spouses, Dependency Indemnity Compensation, please contact your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to schedule an appointment. Your local VSO has received extensive training to assist you with your claims and the claims process.

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

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

Thank you for your service
to our great Country!



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

Disaster Emergency Response

A new decade is upon us and as we near spring 2020, depending upon where you are in this great state, the weather in Montana can be anything from arctic storms that plunge our temperatures well below zero, blizzards with feet of heavy, wet snow, ice jams, massive flooding, power outages, or violent thunderstorms that leave much damage in their wake.

What's a Legion Family member to do? Get ready!

Is your Post, Squadron or Unit prepared for a disaster or emergency? Who is looking out for your most vulnerable members? Do you have a plan?

First, get YOURSELF ready – do you have an emergency supply kit in your home? How about your car? Do you have a communication plan to contact or meet with family members if separated? Do you keep your car's gas tank at least ½ full or more? Montana is a big place and a prolonged power outage will knock out gas stations' ability to supply fuel. What if cell phone towers and power are out? Do you have a land line phone? Back-up heat? Do you know how to determine if your refrigerated or frozen food will be safe?

Once you have yourself ready, then you will be more capable of helping others.

These are just a few things to think about to be ready for whatever Mother Nature may throw at us. Find more information at <https://www.ready.gov/> or your local library.

I'm available if you have questions on how to get started. Please contact me at karenseml1@gmail.com or call me at (406)465-0163. I'm more than happy to help you! *May you be well.*



Buck Richardson Helena Post 2 (L) and other attendees from New York and Colorado.

Three Montana Legionnaires Attend Conference on Supporting Native American Veterans

On November 19, 2019, the White House hosted the White House Conference on Supporting Contemporary Native American Veterans, representing The American Legion of Montana was Buck Richardson, Helena Post 2, Ryan Beston Fort Peck Tribes Post 140 and Chauncey Parker, Rocky Boy Veterans Post 67. There were also Native American American Legion representatives from Colorado, New York and Virginia.

The conference was attended by Vice President Mike Pence, Senior Administration Officials – including Secretary Robert Wilkie (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs), Secretary David Bernhardt (U.S. Department of the Interior), Secretary Eugene Scalia (U.S. Department of Labor), Administrator Chris Pilgerton (U.S. Small Business Administration), and Assistant to the President Joe Grogan.

Montana National Guard and Prickly Pear Land Trust Receive Recognition From Department Of The Army

Helena, Mont. – Members of the Prickly Pear Land Trust and the Montana National Guard were in Washington D.C. in Dec. to receive the Army Community Partnership Award for their work in executing a land acquisition in excess of 600 acres around Fort Harrison and the creation of the Ten Mile Creek Community Park. Major General Matthew Quinn, Adjutant General for Montana, and Ms. Mary Hollow, Executive Director for PPLT, received the award at the Pentagon during the 4th Annual Army Community Partnerships Program Awards Banquet hosted by the Army Secretariat. Montana is one of only two states to be honored with a partnership award this year.

"I am proud to receive this award on the behalf of the state of Montana and the Montana National Guard," said Quinn. "It is a direct reflection of the professionalism and dedication of the Guard's Environmental Office and the PPLT. Working together we have protected valuable training lands and added additional recreational value for all Montanans.

Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT) is a conservation and trails non-profit organization operating in the west-central region of Montana. PPLT is committed to the belief that open space is essential to the well-being of all communities



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL WOODLEY

Livingston Post 23 meets with High School Seniors

DEAN GILBERT, POST HISTORIAN

Eleven members of Park Post 23 gathered at Park County High School with the senior students and instructor Sarah Dahl on November 12, to discuss military training and experiences. A follow up was arranged on December 17th with the students to review their interpretation of the prior discussions. The visit was received well as always.

Veterans in Picture are L-R: Dean Gilbert, Darren Bergsing, Ken Handl, Ed Gilbert, Ron Decorah, Bob Meacham, Tom Gilbert, Scott Kautzman, Bob Seely. Not present for picture: Dave Palmer and Leroy Mittelstedter.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2020



	Year end Goal 2020	Year To Date Total	Year End 2019	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT	35.....	25.....	31.....	71.43%
41 GLASGOW	87.....	81.....	91.....	93.10%
45 HINSDALE	51.....	45.....	46.....	88.24%
49 HOMESTEAD	10.....	8.....	10.....	80.00%
55 POPLAR ☆	27.....	27.....	25.....	100.00%
56 SCOBAY	54.....	26.....	49.....	48.15%
58 PLENTYWOOD ☆	56.....	56.....	57.....	100.00%
61 BROCKTON	38.....	25.....	28.....	65.79%
81 CULBERTSON	95.....	70.....	94.....	73.68%
85 BAINVILLE	25.....	23.....	23.....	92.00%
104 NASHUA	13.....	7.....	9.....	53.85%
122 OPHEIM ☆	27.....	28.....	27.....	103.70%
140 FORT PECK TRIBES ☆	12.....	17.....	0.....	141.67%
229 WESTBY	15.....	11.....	14.....	73.33%
TOTAL	545.....	449.....	504.....	82.39%

DISTRICT #2				
111 HAVRE	122.....	77.....	94.....	63.11%
48 CHINOOK ☆	46.....	49.....	48.....	106.52%
50 BIG SANDY	25.....	23.....	23.....	92.00%
57 MALTA ☆	92.....	96.....	106.....	104.35%
67 ROCKY BOY	26.....	22.....	19.....	84.62%
79 SACO ☆	11.....	24.....	18.....	218.18%
88 CHESTER	37.....	31.....	35.....	83.78%
109 TURNER	26.....	17.....	23.....	65.38%
110 FORT BELKNAP	11.....	6.....	12.....	54.55%
TOTAL	396.....	345.....	378.....	87.12%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER	52.....	46.....	52.....	88.46%
37 CONRAD	53.....	40.....	52.....	75.47%
40 CUT BANK	60.....	39.....	46.....	65.00%
43 SHELBY	51.....	31.....	44.....	60.78%
69 GALATA	33.....	17.....	25.....	51.52%
73 SWEETGRASS	73.....	68.....	68.....	93.15%
127 BROWNING	27.....	20.....	25.....	74.07%
CN20 CALGARY	45.....	37.....	50.....	82.22%
TOTAL	394.....	298.....	362.....	75.63%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS ☆	58.....	61.....	62.....	105.17%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS	106.....	87.....	115.....	82.08%
74 EUREKA	50.....	44.....	56.....	88.00%
86 BIG FORK	60.....	51.....	63.....	85.00%
97 LIBBY	185.....	172.....	187.....	92.97%
106 ST IGNATIUS	50.....	43.....	51.....	86.00%
108 WHITEFISH	66.....	55.....	71.....	83.33%
112 POLSON	130.....	116.....	136.....	89.23%
113 ARLEE ☆	25.....	28.....	27.....	112.00%
126 CHARLO	18.....	17.....	21.....	94.44%
129 PARADISE	72.....	67.....	86.....	93.06%
137 KALISPELL	231.....	189.....	228.....	81.82%
138 RONAN	63.....	53.....	71.....	84.13%
TOTAL	1114.....	983.....	1174.....	88.24%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS	57.....	51.....	67.....	89.47%
27 MISSOULA	361.....	289.....	335.....	80.06%
47 HAMILTON	124.....	113.....	128.....	91.13%
63 CONDON	47.....	37.....	50.....	78.72%
68 MISSOULA	43.....	42.....	53.....	97.67%
83 CLINTON	16.....	13.....	17.....	81.25%
91 CORVALLIS	168.....	140.....	203.....	83.33%
94 STEVENSVILLE	211.....	161.....	193.....	76.30%
101 MISSOULA	40.....	24.....	43.....	60.00%
124 FRENCHTOWN	68.....	54.....	69.....	79.41%
125 DRUMMOND ☆	51.....	52.....	52.....	101.96%
134 FLORENCE	62.....	55.....	59.....	88.71%
135 LOLO	140.....	138.....	146.....	98.57%
TOTAL	1,388.....	1,169.....	1,415.....	84.22%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE	196.....	152.....	194.....	77.55%
2 HELENA ☆	753.....	768.....	818.....	101.99%
9 LINCOLN ☆	56.....	57.....	57.....	101.79%
10 DEER LODGE	67.....	53.....	65.....	79.10%
20 DILLON	185.....	133.....	156.....	71.89%
21 ANACONDA	241.....	182.....	231.....	75.52%
24 WHITEHALL	89.....	63.....	68.....	70.79%
31 TWIN BRIDGES	43.....	35.....	35.....	81.40%
33 PHILIPSBURG	10.....	9.....	10.....	90.00%
42 TOWNSEND	117.....	97.....	108.....	82.91%
46 BOULDER ☆	23.....	24.....	27.....	104.35%
89 SHERIDAN ☆	73.....	94.....	88.....	128.77%
115 BUTTE	104.....	72.....	88.....	69.23%
TOTAL	11957.....	1739.....	1945.....	88.86%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA	154.....	76.....	101.....	49%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN	350.....	326.....	374.....	93.14%
19 BIG TIMBER	188.....	133.....	166.....	70.74%
23 LIVINGSTON	170.....	140.....	173.....	82.35%
25 WHITE SULPHUR ☆	63.....	63.....	68.....	100.00%
30 BELGRADE	251.....	169.....	231.....	67.33%
65 ENNIS ☆	56.....	61.....	68.....	108.93%
78 W YELLOWSTONE	29.....	25.....	27.....	86.21%
87 MANHATTAN	165.....	129.....	163.....	78.18%
93 THREE FORKS	42.....	32.....	42.....	76.19%
99 BIG SKY	55.....	48.....	48.....	87.27%
118 GARDINER	35.....	33.....	32.....	94.29%
TOTAL	1404.....	1159.....	1392.....	82.55%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS	261.....	186.....	223.....	71.26%
6 CHOTEAU	104.....	96.....	102.....	92.31%
26 FORT BENTON	34.....	29.....	34.....	85.29%
51 AUGUSTA ☆	36.....	42.....	39.....	116.67%
64 DUTTON	46.....	34.....	52.....	73.91%
80 FAIRFIELD	31.....	18.....	28.....	58.06%
102 GERALDINE	112.....	99.....	116.....	88.39%
103 POWER ☆	28.....	28.....	30.....	100.00%
130 VAUGHN	40.....	36.....	43.....	90.00%
133 CASCADE	32.....	24.....	36.....	75.00%
341 MALMSTROM	162.....	109.....	137.....	67.28%
TOTAL	886.....	701.....	840.....	79.12%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON	104.....	85.....	100.....	81.73%
16 LEWISTOWN	409.....	322.....	398.....	78.73%
18 ROUNDUP	67.....	48.....	60.....	71.64%
53 STANFORD	26.....	21.....	22.....	80.77%
62 DENTON ☆	26.....	26.....	27.....	100.00%
70 JUDITH GAP	69.....	63.....	69.....	91.30%
76 HOBSON	37.....	34.....	36.....	91.89%
96 ROY ☆	22.....	22.....	22.....	100.00%
120 WINIFRED	31.....	28.....	31.....	90.32%
TOTAL	791.....	649.....	765.....	82.05%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY	81.....	58.....	75.....	71.60%
12 SIDNEY	40.....	37.....	35.....	92.50%
28 GLENDIVE	109.....	79.....	95.....	72.48%
29 CIRCLE	18.....	14.....	13.....	77.78%
32 TERRY	101.....	87.....	97.....	86.14%
35 BAKER	121.....	92.....	102.....	76.03%
39 FORSYTH	97.....	78.....	85.....	80.41%
44 COLSTRIP ☆	30.....	35.....	38.....	116.67%
60 EKALAKA ☆	15.....	16.....	17.....	106.67%
114 FAIRVIEW	37.....	30.....	35.....	81.08%
128 BROADUS	16.....	12.....	17.....	75.00%
TOTAL	665.....	538.....	609.....	80.90%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS	473.....	354.....	406.....	74.84%
8 HARDIN ☆	46.....	49.....	49.....	106.52%
17 RED LODGE ☆	57.....	59.....	59.....	103.51%
34 COLUMBUS	59.....	56.....	60.....	94.92%
71 FROMBERG ☆	19.....	20.....	22.....	105.26%
84 BELFRY	39.....	31.....	34.....	79.49%
92 HYSHAM	26.....	19.....	18.....	73.08%
100 PARK CITY ☆	57.....	61.....	60.....	107.02%
117 BILLINGS	246.....	114.....	161.....	46.34%
119 BILLINGS HGTS	172.....	158.....	177.....	91.86%
123 LAUREL	112.....	100.....	124.....	89.29%
TOTAL	1306.....	1021.....	1170.....	78.18%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2020 INCENTIVE GOAL	11,000
2020 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	9127
2019 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	10653
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	82.97%



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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

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TEN LARGEST POSTS

POST	2.....	HELENA	768 MEMBERS
POST	4.....	BILLINGS	354 MEMBERS
POST	14.....	BOZEMAN	325 MEMBERS
POST ...	16.....	LEWISTOWN	322 MEMBERS
POST	27.....	MISSOULA	289 MEMBERS
POST ...	137.....	KALISPELL	187 MEMBERS
POST	3.....	GREAT FALLS	184 MEMBERS
POST	21.....	ANACONDA	182 MEMBERS
POST	97.....	LIBBY	171 MEMBERS
POST	30.....	BELGRADE	169 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
6.....	88.76%	Pat Sweeney
4.....	87.97%	Glen Sharbono
2.....	86.87%	Vincent Schmoackle
5.....	84.01%	Greg Marose
7.....	82.48%	Jim Howe
1.....	82.20%	Joe Yeoman
9.....	82.05%	Richard Hackett
10.....	80.90%	David Ofalt
8.....	78.89%	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
11.....	78.18%	Gil Floyd
3.....	75.63%	Randy Flammond

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION January 7, 2020

SQUADRON	GOAL 2020	TO DATE
GLASGOW #41 ☆	44.....	53
PLENTYWOOD #58 ☆	17.....	20
CULBERTSON #81	20.....	14
NASHUA #104	10.....	5
HAVRE #11	18.....	1
CHINOOK #48 ☆	22.....	25
MALTA #57 ☆	17.....	23
SACO #79 ☆	12.....	13
GALATA #69	27.....	24
LIBBY #97	18.....	15
POLSON #112 ☆	14.....	14
MISSOULA #27	18.....	4
HAMILTON #47	10.....	2
CONDON #63	10.....	3
CORVALLIS #91	14.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94	48.....	5
LOLO #135 ☆	31.....	32
BUTTE #1	27.....	0
HELENA #2.....	126.....	90
ANACONDA #21 ☆	19.....	20
TOWNSEND #42 ☆	21.....	25
BUTTE #115.....	10.....	3
BOZEMAN #14	81.....	59
BIG TIMBER #19 ☆	14.....	14
LIVINGSTON #23	45.....	33
BELGRADE #30	46.....	17
MANHATTAN #87	35.....	22
BIG SKY #99 ☆	22.....	24
GREAT FALLS #3	23.....	20
CHOTEAU #6 ☆	26.....	31
GERALDINE #102	58.....	38
VAUGHN #130 ☆	22.....	23
HARLOWTON #15.....	27.....	25
LEWISTOWN #16	149.....	87
MILES CITY #5.....	14.....	9
BAKER #35.....	30.....	17
FORSYTH #39.....	52.....	47
BILLINGS #4.....	14.....	8
BELFRY #84.....	10.....	0
BILLINGS #117	11.....	10
LAUREL #123	13.....	3
HQS POST #9999	0.....	0
TOTALS	1216.....	865
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Miles City Post 5 awards veterans



Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl pinning medals on VA CLC resident Payton J. Shumaker III, US Army (l) & “Babe” McDonald, US Navy (r), at the Miles City VA CVC on Nov. 11, 2019.

Ronan Post 138 gifted flags from Auxiliary Unit 138

BY GLEN SHARBONO

The American Legion Ronan Auxiliary Unit 138 hosted a joint Legion Family Christmas dinner held in lieu of their meeting on December 18, 2019. With the Post having paid the Ronan Auxiliary’s rent for several years until they were able to get back on their feet, the Unit as a gesture of gratitude, gifted the remainder of the flags needed to finish the Post’s flag set that had been started back in 2015. The gift included the Army, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard flags, poles, toppers and cords. A rather surprised looking Commander Sharbono gratefully accepted the flag set on behalf of Ronan Post 138.



(left to right): Morgan Davis, Historian; Raquel Davis, Sgt-at-Arms; (hiding) Teresa Quakenbush; Glen Sharbono, Post Commander; Stephanie Hart, Secretary; Lorraine Morton, Chaplain; Jessie Merwin, Vice President; Marilyn Dolezal; (hiding) Joanne Shaw; Lorie Noble, President; Jamie Debates, Unit Treasurer and Department Secretary/Treasurer.



Department Centennial Committee

BY RAY READ, DEPT. HISTORIAN

The Department of Montana Executive Committee authorized the establishment of a Department Centennial Committee for the period 2016-2019 in accordance with the request of the 100th The American Legion Anniversary Observance Committee. As the Department Historian, I was designated the Department Centennial Chairman. The Centennial Committee reached its sunset at the end of the Department Convention in Polson, Montana. I want to thank the members of the Montana Department’s Centennial Committee: Joyce Babcock (Custer Post 5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls) and Lowell Long (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee’s task was to engage the Montana American Legion Posts in meaningful participation concerning The American Legion Centennial. Job well done!

Corvallis Post 91 get AL Training

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MASON

Post 91 members participate in American Legion Basic Training at December meeting.





As members of The American Legion we know that membership in this great association brings not only personal gratification that we help Veterans throughout the United States but also fulfilling our commitment to serving our community. We all know this to be true and now it’s time to spread the word to every Montana Veteran who is not a member; our pride in being a member of The American Legion.

How do we attain this goal? I say by showing everyone that we encounter that we are proud Veterans ourselves and members of an organization that has been in existence since 1919. When you meet someone in your everyday life that might be a possible member, ask them if they are a Veteran, find out what branch they served in, their family, hobbies and occupation. You will be surprised on what you learn from them that quite possibly are the same ideals. We are all aware that you will not get everyone to sign up on the spot but give them an application that has your name and phone number on the back and make sure you get theirs so you can follow up in several weeks.

We have the Veterans on our front porch, and we need to open the door and invite them into our Posts. Many are knocking and we need to answer their inquiry. Show them our organizations positive attributes and make them feel at home.

Together we can attain goals that cannot be achieved individually. Together we can build The American Legion into a strong voice in Government affairs at the State Capitol. Together we can build our Post memberships and together we can become a leading example to our community and State.

Always remember to always be a good member and be a good member always,

LARRY TIPTON, COMMANDER
COLUMBUS STILLWATER POST 34

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K \$250 Early Bird Drawing for 2020 was won by Elmer Palmer, Lolo Post 135, Elmer’s number was drawn by Ashley Carpenter of Lewis & Clark Unit 2, Helena.

The Big K \$400 winner for January 2020 was George Schlosser of Helena Post 2. George’s number was drawn by Hailey Carpenter of Lewis & Clark Unit 2 Helena.

The February \$400 drawing was not yet conducted at the time of publication.

The next \$400 drawings will be in February and March, as well as the \$500 Legion Birthday drawing.

Disbursements to the Districts, Posts, Units and Squadrons will be done at the Spring District Meetings.

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: _____



GLEN SHARBONO

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER
2020-2021

“INSPIRE, TRAIN, LEARN”
★★★★ VOTE ★★★★★



- ★ Post Adjutant 2014-2020 100% 7x
- ★ Post Vice Commander 2015-2017
- ★ Post Commander 2018-2020 100% 2x
- ★ American Legion Family Ribbon 6x
- ★ Post Excellence Award 2x
- ★ Post and District Oratory Chairman
- ★ District Vice Commander/Adjutant 2015-2017
- ★ Merv Gunderson Award Convention 2019, Fall Conference 2019
- ★ District Commander 2017-2020 100%
- ★ 2014 Graduate of ALEI, 2017 Graduate Basic Training
- ★ 2017 Graduate of Montana Legion College
- ★ 2017 Graduate of The National American Legion College
- ★ Dean of The Montana Legion College 2019, 2020
- ★ Commander of The Veterans Honor Guard Polson, Ronan



VETERANS DAY & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE STATE



Bozeman Post 14

SUBMITTED BY LEN ALBRIGHT



Melissa Smith on Taps, and 5-plane Flyover provided by Everett Wierda and his flying group

DALLAS THOMPSON PHOTOS



Post 14 with partners from our local Marine Corp League Chapter 1050 presented our Colors and provided an Honor Guard with Post 14 Adjutant Randy Kemp in command.



Special Olympian Larry Kiff sang the National Anthem at Bozeman Post 14 Veterans Day ceremony



Yellowstone National Cemetery Wreaths Across America



Cub Scout lays wreath

Jr USMC cadets render salute

Polson Hardwick Post 112



Polson Post 112 Commander Dorothy Goodwin and Department Commander Jeff Nelson lead off the Polson Parade of Lights Parade with the posts' jeep carrying the colors.



Post Cdr Ray Southworth and Past Department Cdr Richard Klose

Park City Post 100 Veterans Day



Park City Post 100—Dr. Dan Edelman, Chancellor of Montana State University Billings, was the guest speaker at Park City High School Veterans Day tribute. Many local Legion Family members were in attendance as well.



Stevensville Fort Owen Post 94 Honor Guard along with members of our Boy Scout Troop and the Stevensville Assistant Fire Chief who helped place the wreath at the Stevensville Riverside Cemetery. It should be noted that the Honor Guard included Auxiliary Flag carried by Candy Zier and the SAL Flag carried by Chris Zier. (story on page 12)

Post 47 Hamilton Veterans Day Observance



Custer Post 5

Custer Post 5 Chaplain, Russ Mann, placing flags on veterans graves at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery in honor of Veterans Day, on November 7th.



Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prael and Foxy visiting the Miles City VA Community Living Center residents on Christmas Day.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAROL PRAHL



PHOTO BY ROMAN UNIT 138 PRESIDENT LORI Noble
Polson Hardwick Post 112 visits the Columbia Falls Veterans Home every year. On December 13 they took additional AL members for a first visit. Attendees were Dept. Commander Jeff Nelson, Scott Clark, District 4 Commander Glen Sharbono, Roger Rasmussen, SAL Commander Mike Schendel, Post Commander Dorothy Goodwin, Hugh Henderson and Wes Torgenson.



(left) Volunteers helping Custer Post 5 and the Marine Corp League in setting up the 55 large flags for Veterans Day at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery.



Miles City Post 5 VA Christmas Store

Esther Helmila, Post 5 Miles City works the VA Christmas Store (left), and Veterans shop at the Christmas Store (right)





President

SUE DAVIDSON

Happy New Year to you all! Hope you all had a wonderful and meaningful Christmas and New Year. I am so excited about our membership I must put it first. We are now #2 in the Nation! That is fantastic and thank you, thank you to everyone for all your hard work. We have three more States that are right behind us so even one or two more new memberships will make a difference to keep us there. We did make our goal, and even exceeded it for our Pearl Harbor Day deadline of 75 percent, Department received the \$250. Again, thank you and Membership Chairman Chris Nelson for all the hard work. Keep it up! The Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service is January 20. This is a great opportunity for ALA members to serve in their communities. If you don't know what service project to do, read National's blog for ideas. Make sure you wear your ALA branded clothing so you can easily be identified as ALA members. Take pictures, do write-ups and put on social media and share.



President Sue Davidson, Billings

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



BY JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

Applications Open Now for June 14-20, 2020 Session

Hello, Ladies and Happy New Year! The application period for our next ALA Girls State session is open and our Registrar Colleen Chlapowski is anxiously waiting for packets to arrive from your High School juniors. Let's have a wonderful turnout this year; our goal is 140 attendees. Keep in mind this year's fee was raised to \$325. The school packets were mailed the first week of January and you should all have your Unit packets from your District Presidents who picked them up at Fall Conference. The Legion Department website has our Girls State page and resources up and running so you can also direct your students to the on-line materials.

As always, we have a need for more counselors to stay with the girls at the college and we could use daytime activity escorts to give the full-time counselors a break. Activities include the mock trial, moot court, legislative events, taekwondo and aikido self-defense classes, suicide awareness seminars, making poppies and much more. If you would like to volunteer your time during the day as an activity escort or if you are up to living in the dorm with us, please call me at 406-949-3660 and we will gladly welcome you for whatever time you can give us.

I hope you are all working on getting ALA 72nd Montana's Girl's State under way in your schools. We need to make sure we have more delegates this year. If we do not have at least 120 we may have to cancel Girls State. The dates are Sunday, June 14 thru Saturday, June 20, 2020, at Carroll College in Helena. PLEASE NOTE, the delegate fee is now \$325. Make sure you read the mtlegion.org information about all the new changes and scholarships.

A new slogan from National is "A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families." That doesn't change our regular ALA Mission Statement of in the spirit of Service Not Self, just adds a little more to what we do. Happy Valentine's Day to all of you and remember to do some loving on our veterans and our members and families. Also, keep our Past Department President Terry Kemp in your prayers for continued healing. Prayer works wonders and Terry's recovery is a testament to that.

Don't forget to be sending in your "Dime and Time" Department fundraising money to Jamie every quarter. There will be a prize for the top Unit during the State Convention. Your Department really needs your help in raising these funds.

Taking care of the business of our Veterans and our members. ☺

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY POSITION OPEN

The position of Department Secretary is open for application. Duties will begin on August 1, 2020. Contract will be issued for a three-year term after probationary period.

Job requirements include ability to travel both by car and air. Candidate must possess a valid Montana Driver's License, airline approved identification, and pass a background check.

Job skills required include a basic knowledge of The American Legion Auxiliary per the Constitution and By-Laws and Unit Guidebook. Applicant must be fluent in communication skills, both in writing and public speaking. Applicant must possess their own computer and printer. Programming and printing supplies will be provided by Department.

The home office must be secure for storage and of adequate size to accommodate Department copier. Secretary agrees to maintain homeowner's insurance to protect properties.

Secretary must be able to perform duties in a timely manner, often on a daily basis as necessary. Experience with Microsoft Office, primarily Word and Excel are required. Familiarity with Quick Books is favorable.

Secretary will work directly with Treasurer and is accountable to the Department Executive Committee.

Travel expense account is provided and is separate from employee salary.

Electronic payroll transfer is processed to Secretary twice monthly.

Salary is set by the Department Executive Committee and will be commensurate with experience of applicant.

Résumé should be mailed to Department President Sue Davidson, at 3138 Aviemore Ct., Billings, MT 59101. Deadline for application is May 15, 2020. Position starts on August 1, 2020

Secretary

JAMIE DeBATES

A Glorious New Year Blessing to you! The Department of Montana ended 2019 in a good place with membership, but where are you in your community? Are you truly serving the veterans? Are you involved in veteran-based events? Have you tried anything new lately? Are you stuck in a rut of doing the same dinners at the same time with the same people in attendance? Is that serving the mission to your satisfaction? My point is NEVER to demean the hard work you do. But if you're finding yourself exhausting yourself and your volunteers on projects that aren't growing, it's time to re-evaluate where you're using all your resources and if they're effective. Rather than doing a dinner every week, maybe once a month with a new menu would help. My point is that we can't be afraid to try something new or eliminate the things that are tapping us out if they're not successful just because you've always done it that way. As we adventure into our second century of service, we need to be willing to change the approaches that aren't working. The Spring district meetings will be starting soon and as your fellow unit leaders make their reports, please listen carefully. They might be reporting something that would be a better fit in your community and help us all serve the mission more efficiently. As our vision becomes clearer (yes, 20/20) in the new year please be open to the new sights and sounds. And most importantly, review those bank accounts. Is that nice nest egg doing anybody any good? There are a host of giving opportunities contained on your donation list. Make sure you're helping in every way possible. ☺



Jamie DeBates

In Memory of

Linda M. Martinez



Linda M. Martinez has been a long-time member of American Legion Auxiliary Sun River Valley Unit 130. During her time in the Unit she held the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other positions when they needed to be filled.

Linda was the first to jump in, to help out a veteran who needed help. She made them feel like their lives mattered. There was no such thing as: the Unit doesn't have the time, or the Unit doesn't have the money—she made it happen. That is just how she was. She touched many veterans and they knew her face and name.

The American Legion Auxiliary was not her only passion. Linda was involved with her husband's, Marty Martinez, business. Together they made a great pair. Linda also enjoyed making quilts and teaching others how to make them. She was an active member of the VFW also. There she would help more veterans.

Tragically Linda was taken from us too soon. Our Unit is sure she is in that big American Legion Auxiliary in the sky still making it happen. We miss you Linda Martinez.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 130

Dept. Fall Conference Memories



Hats On Parade



PHOTO BY JAMIE DEBATES

Department Commander Jeff Nelson and Department President Sue Davidson.



PHOTO BY JEN DALRYMPLE

Celebrating 100 at Fall Conference Banquet



PHOTO BY JAMIE DEBATES

Stacy & Barbara - Stacy Bear (Left), Department Americanism Chairman and her mom, two-time Past Department President Barbara Monroe (Right)



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JEN DALRYMPLE

Sue Davidson presents a special gift to the American Legion National Commander, Bill Oxford at the 2019 Fall Conference Joint Banquet.



PHOTO BY JAMIE DEBATES

The Trio - Jamie DeBates Department Auxiliary Secretary/Treasurer (far right) with Terry Kemp Department Auxiliary NEC (far left) and (center) Sue Davidson Department Auxiliary President.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMIE DEBATES, RONAN UNIT 138



Ronan AL Auxiliary Unit 138 donates to local food pantry

The Ronan Auxiliary Unit 138 collected food items from members to donate to the Ronan Breadbasket. Their goal was to donate at least 100 pounds of food to celebrate the 100th Birthday of The American Legion Auxiliary. They were quite surprised to find after weighing everything it all came to 160 pounds. The Ronan Breadbasket is also an outlet for Senior commodities, and often donates unwanted cookies and desserts to the Veterans to enjoy with their coffee.



(left to right) Unit President Lorie Noble, employees of the Breadbasket, and Stephanie Hart, Unit Secretary.

Ronan American Legion Auxiliary Celebrates One Hundred Years!

SUBMITTED BY GLEN SHARBONO

Ronan AL Auxiliary Unit 138 was surprised by Ronan Post 138 with cake and ice cream just prior to holding there meeting. Although it was supposed to be a surprise but somehow it got out that the Post was up to something, but they didn't quite know what!



(pictured left to right) Marilyn Dolezal, Jeannie Hayes, Donna Bennett, Tammy Dolezal, Stephanie Hart -Secretary, Jessie Merwin -Vice President, Lorie Noble -President Teresa Quakenbush, Raquel Davis, and Jamie DeBates -Treasurer.

Townsend Unit 42 Surf & Turf Dinner

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, POLSON UNIT 112



Townsend Unit 42 member Reba Johnson and Townsends Unit 42 Treasurer, Connie Shindoll.

Just a few of the many that came to dinner!



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Montana Fundraiser



“Dimes and Time”



Our goal is to raise enough dimes to stretch 100 miles for our programs to help veterans, and for each Auxiliary Unit to spend 100 hours in personal time to better the lives of our veterans and their families.

This is to take place November 2019—May 2020 in honor of our American Legion Auxiliary 100th Birthday celebration.

Thank you for your donation!

American Legion Post 42's 9th Annual Surf n Turf and 100th Birthday dinner a resounding success!

JEN DALRYMPLE, COMMANDER, POST 42

American Legion Family of Post 42 served up Maine lobsters, local steaks, Centennial cake and the works for over 110 diners at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds, November 9th. The weather cooperated nicely to help make the evening a smashing success. Our Department Commander, Jeff Nelson and his wife, Department Auxiliary First-Vice Chris Nelson honored us with their presence. Vivian Boaz did a beautiful job decorating the Exhibit Hall for us. Two musical groups provided the entertainment for the evening; Ferg and Friends (Legionnaires Gary Ferguson, John Larson, Dave Cogley and Bill Gillespie) and the Helena Handbasket (Teri and Jim Gunderson of Goose Bay Glass and two friends) kept the crowd humming and happy. Speaking of happy - our outstanding chefs Bruce Oldham on steaks and Linda Cousineau and Karen Horne on Lobsters were true crowd pleasers. Legionnaires Bill Garwood, Roland Heaton, Johnny Kougioulis, Craig Hems-worth and Auxiliary Unit President Reba Johnson brought in the Colors for posting. Veteran Pasha Oldham sang a rousing National Anthem and Legion-



naire Johnny Kougioulis presented the P O W / M I A table ceremony. Legion Historian Bob Lund set up a terrific historical display of albums

and items from the past. Our bartenders, Lexi and Cassidy kept the fluids flowing to top off the evening.

Thank you to all the attendees for their wonderful support and to all of the Legion Post 42 Family for their hard work in making the event a great evening for all. Happy 100th Birthday Post 42! May your next 100 years be as impactful as your first century and may God shine his blessings on all those who have served and those that continue to serve, in whatever capacity that service brings.

Post 47 Open House celebrates Centennial

BY GREG MAROSE, POST ADJUTANT

Ravalli American Legion Post 47, Hamilton Montana, opened their hall doors to the public for an Open House on Saturday, October 26, 2019, to commemorate their charter and National's Centennial Celebration. The Post displayed their history, their work in the community and the four pillars of The American Legion.

Even with a snowstorm in the afternoon, over 100 visitors and members showed up. Distinguished Guests consisted of representative of Senator Daines, Senator Tester, Representative Gianforte, and Hamilton Mayor Dominic Farrenkopf. Mayor Farrenkopf read his Proclamation calling the citizens of Hamilton to honor and celebrate Ravalli Post 47's 100 years of proud history of community service.

Commander Ruth Cook appointed Dan Rothlis-berger the chairperson in charge of the celebration. Nancy Dezell oversaw the refreshments and silent auction. They both did a wonderful job!



FORT OWEN POST 94 CONDUCTS SOLEMN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

BY JERRY ESMAY, MEMBER

In previous years, Fort Owen Post 94 successfully placed wreaths on all veteran graves in three cemeteries in the Stevensville area, but this is no longer feasible. So this year we accomplished a scaled-down version by formally placing a single wreath at three Stevensville cemeteries and the Victor cemetery. We also expanded the meaning of this ceremony to acknowledge the sacrifices that have been made by our first responders.

Additionally, we also remember military service members and first responders sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms. This day cannot and will not replace Veterans Day or Memorial Day but during the holidays in many homes, some families leave an empty seat for one who's serving or one who's made the ultimate sacrifice. So there is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. (see photo page 9).

Park City Post 100 Veterans Day tribute

SUBMITTED BY JEAN BOSSEN

Dr. Dan Edelman, Chancellor of Montana State University Billings, was the guest speaker at Park City High School Veterans Day tribute. Dr Edelman is also a disabled Veteran. Many local Legion Family members were in attendance as well. (see additional photo page 8)



2020 Department Legion College in Billings

BY GLEN SHARBONO, DEAN OF DEPARTMENT COLLEGE

In 2017, the Department of Montana conducted our initial Department Legion College at the Convention in Billings. We are excited to have this opportunity again for Legionnaires of all levels to grow in their abilities and knowledge of our great organization. Our primary focus remains the same as we look to provide core knowledge of The American Legion beyond the American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) now known as the new Basic Training. Our curriculum for this year will focus on Post and District assessments, leadership via team building, program generation, resolution writing, parliamentary procedures and meeting execution. In addition to developing ourselves to be better Legionnaires, this will be an excellent venue to network and collaborate on successes various Posts or Districts are having.

Registration is a simple email sent to: GASharbono@gmail.com with your contact information, Post number, current position, desired future positions, number of years with The American Legion and completion of the new American Legion Basic Training. This is a requirement for all attendees.

Check-in will begin at 9:30am on Thursday, June 25 with class starting at 10am. Training will conclude by 8pm with breaks for lunch and dinner (see schedule at right). This course is open to any Legion Family member with the desire to understand The American Legion based on four pillars and other key aspects of our great organization. This training is ideal for any Post level officers and those aspiring to serve above the Post level. The only prerequisite is the completion of the new Basic Training Course which takes about 3 hours.

This training is at no cost to the participants beyond the one additional hotel night prior to the start of Department Convention. The Department has not authorized any compensation for attending this training. Students will receive a Certificate of Completion and be part of the Montana Legion College Alumni. Finally, this training will assist Department Leaders in the selection of future committee assignments or other positions within the Legion.

Post 14 Bozeman Hosts 9/11 Tribute

BY LEN ALBRIGHT, COMMANDER

Post 14 hosted their annual 9/11 tribute (Wed. Sept. 11, 2019) starting with a free breakfast at 7:30 am and then Services starting at 9:03 am. First Responders from the Gallatin Valley were invited as well as the public and our Veterans. It rained all morning so we held them inside. At the finale Honor Guard went outside for the three-round volley followed by Melissa Smith playing Taps. Randy Kemp was the caller for the Honor Guard. Our speakers were Steve Crawford (Chief of the BPD), Brian Gootkin (Gallatin Co. Sheriff), and Josh Waldo (Fire Chief BFD) and the Chaplain was Gallatin



County Chaplain Randy Jones. Auxiliary Unit 14 set the tables and our local scouts helped with the breakfast. We honored all of our First Responders, both locally and Nationwide, our Military, our Veterans, the fallen from 9/11 and our victims from Benghazi. God Bless them all and the USA.



Our Department College is not a substitute for The National American Legion College, merely a bridge that is open to all Legion members. Along with my fellow National American Legion College graduates, I strongly encourage anyone to apply for attendance to the National American Legion College conducted annually the last week of October in Indianapolis with all expenses paid. These applications are due to Department prior to the summer Convention. For more information about the application process contact Dept. Adjutant, Gary White.

Montana has made a name for itself as a Department driven to share and develop our Legionnaires. Let's continue that legacy. See you in Billings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me or call me at 406-210-2607. 📧

MONTANA LEGION COLLEGE SCHEDULE

- Salute The Flag
- Prayer
- Preamble
- Drawing of Officers: Adjutant, Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Chaplain, Historian, Sgt-At-Arms
- 1000-1020:Resolution Writing
- 1020-1100: District Organization and District Commander
- 1100-1120:Discipline Of Members
- 1120-1200:Public Relations / CPR
- 1200-1300: Lunch
- 1300-1320:..... Manual Of Ceremonies Protocol at Dept. Convention
- 1320-1340:..... Membership
- 1340-1400:..... Reactivating Struggling Posts
- 1400-1420:..... Legislative Priorities
- 1420-1440:.....Americanism (Children & Youth)
- 1440-1500:Break
- 1500-1600: Leadership
- 1600-1610:.....Break
- 1610-1700: Parliamentary Procedures
- 1700-1800:.....Dinner
- 1800-1830:Preamble By PNC John Brieden
- 1830-1900: How To Conduct A District Meeting
- 1900-1930:After Action Review (AAR)
- 1930-2000: Graduation

Fort Harrison Historical Housing Renovated for ‘New’ Veterans Homes

BY RAYMOND K. READ, AMERICAN LEGION HOMELESS VETERANS COORDINATOR



Communities for Veterans is proud to announce the opening of newest addition to the Freedom’s Path project located at Fort William Henry Harrison just west of the capital city of Helena. The Fort Harrison Apartments are being readied for veteran occupancy utilizing the original historic buildings of the Post. Ultimately there is programmed to be 42 apartments dedicated to helping end Veterans’ homelessness.

Freedom’s Path at Fort Harrison is proud to work with the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) Program that was developed to help homeless veterans and their families with housing needs.

Each one or two bedroom apartment includes electric, water, trash, heat, AC and pest control. Apartment amenities are a fully operational kitchen (electric range, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal and microwave). The Apartment floor plans are in compliance with the Uniform Facility Accessibility Standards (UFAS) as required by federal law and regulations. Program and income restrictions do apply.

Freedom’s Path offers Community amenities which include Club Room, Cyber Cafe’, Fitness Center, Laundry, On-Site Maintenance and a smoke-free Community. Furnishings are the responsibility of the tenants but local veteran and



Original Officers Quarters at Fort William Henry Harrison now the new Freedom’s Path Apartments

community groups are assisting in locating and donating furniture and associated items as needed: Fort Harrison Volunteer Program and veterans organizations such The American Legion of Montana, Montana National Guard Thrift Shop, the local Volunteers of America and Joining Forces program are available for assistance.

Access and applications for this new program are achieved by identification and qualification through the Homeless Veterans program located at Fort Harrison, the Montana Veterans Affairs Division offices, American Legion Montana Department and Posts, Veteran Service Officers and other various related programs that are in support of veterans. For more Freedom Path information please contact Community Team: Melanie Carlin, Property Manager, or Greg Eason PM Assistant. Office hours are Monday Thru Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Main Office: 406-422-4303 Office Fax: 406-422-4309.

MT Legionnaires Honor Fallen WWII Medic Private Charles C. Meyers

BY JEN DALRYMPLE, EDITOR



In late December I had the privilege and honor to be asked to present a flag, medals and citation to the surviving sister of a fallen WWII hero: Private Charles C. Meyers. The ceremony was organized by fellow Legionnaire and Charles’ nephew, CMSgt Larry Steele, in Phoenix Arizona, a gift for his 90+ years young mother Reta, who is the surviving sister.

Charles’ story is not atypical from many of that Great War - enlisted in the Army at 17, followed his older brother into the medical corps and shipped out to the Pacific. The difference for Charles was that he never came home; listed as ‘missing in action’ but whose location was unknown. His older brother searched for the lost younger brother, Charles, for 45 years and died before finding resolution. The nephew, Larry, picked up the torch and finally located the remains of his uncle. It took another nine years, seven reburials and a Senators involvement, to secure the remains and have them buried back in Charles’ hometown - a final resting place after a long convoluted journey from the Pacific.

The ceremony was attended by many of Charles’ family and Veterans from Reta’s church and community. The outpouring of love and gratefulness was palpable throughout the event and more than a few tears were shed. Welcome home, Charles’ and thank you for your ultimate sacrifice!



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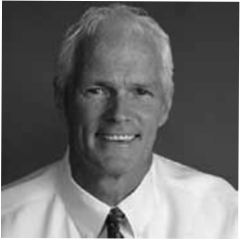
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Branch Manager
NMLS# 96766



KRIS HILL
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 262695



MARK DELORME, JR
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1027436



KYLE LEDUC
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1575253

Post 14 Bozeman Revitalizes Highway Fatality Markers

BY GREG HARBAC, FATALITY MARKER COORDINATOR | 5 NOVEMBER 2019

What has 8 legs, carries a weed eater and takes over 280 hours to cover 2500 miles? That would be the American Legion Post 14 Fatality Marker Team. Between March and November of 2019, the Post 14 Team put in the aforementioned hours and miles to install 40 new markers in the Gallatin Valley representing fatalities that had been either overlooked at the time of the fatality or simply disappeared. To re-instill a local sense of pride and esprit de corps in the Legion's 'Born in Montana' Fatality Marker Program, an additional 40 markers, some of which had been in place for over 50 years, were completely replaced. Replacements came to some because of less than presentable condition, non-compliant dimensions, coatings not within regulations or simply necessary relocation further from the roadway; to be clear of what is known as the 'Recovery Zone' where unfortunate drivers having left the road for reasons often beyond their control have the opportunity to re-enter the roadway without impacting a foreign object. The majority of our 'new' markers were laser engraved on the back with language asking for cooperation in not decorating the marker or post. The reconditioned/repainted markers received a fresh laminated tag asking the same. Finally, each of the 125 markers received a 'dog tag', indicating Post 14 ownership with a phone number contact. The Post 14 area of responsibility contains 125 verified markers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARISSA FRYE, BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE.

Members of American Legion Post 14, Bozeman, MT Fatality Marker Team (L-R) Laura Alley, Greg Harbac, Dave Hanley erect a Fatality Marker along US 191 near Bozeman.

Each marker received a visit from a team member wielding a weed eater a minimum of twice during the summer. A few sites warranted the use of a lopper and even for some a saw to handle the woody vegetation. The second visit was made with the weed eater to clear a clean line of sight to the roadway enhancing its safety function and also where practical, linking the trimmed area with what is defined in the regulation as the 'Mow Zone'. In some cases the team picked litter for up to 50' in each direction to allow the sole focus of the marker to be on 'Safety'. Administrative recordkeeping was updated and reported to the State

Fatality Marker Coordinator to reflect known fatality locations where families and loved ones requested no marker be erected as well as annotating markers effectively disowned and abandoned by the Fatality Marker Team because of excess decoration, embellishment or enshrinement so that when liaising with the Montana Department of Transportation those markers would be clearly defined as not part of the American Legion of Montana Fatality Marker Program. Finally, if you are another member of Montana American Legion District 7, the Post 14 Fatality Marker Team would entertain overtures to assist you in your efforts to refurbish and revitalize your Fatality Markers. Feel free to contact Greg Harbac, gmcfixit@msn.com, 406-581-4364 for information.

2019-2020 Grand Du Montana Le Clarion News

BY RAYMOND K. READ, GRAND CORRESPONDANT AND HISTORIAN

The Journey Begins: In March of 1920 Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken American Legion Post 297, met in Philadelphia with 15 other prominent Legionnaires where they originated the idea of The Forty and Eight. They envisioned a new and different level of elite membership and camaraderie for leaders of the American Legion. The box car of the French railways, so familiar to American ground troops of World War I, was chosen as the symbolic heart of the new organization. The French railroad theme was applied to officer titles and organizational functions.

The organization was named **La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux** (The Society of Forty Men and (or) Eight Horses). Its members were called Voyageurs Militaire (military travelers) and candidates for membership were called Prisonniers de Guerre (Prisoners of War). The cargo capacity sign "40 Hommes/8 Chevaux" emblazoned on each French Box Car that carried American doughboys to the front and "French horizon blue" color, became symbols of the new society. An initiation ceremony was developed based on the common wartime experiences of American soldiers, sailors and marines, incorporating fun-making with patriotic bonding. The first statewide 40 & 8 Promenade (meeting) was held in June 1920, following the 2nd Annual Convention of the American Legion's Department of Pennsylvania. Several prominent Legionnaires were wrecked (initiated) and Joseph W. Breen was unanimously elected Chef de Chemin de Fer (Chief of the Railroad).

The new 40 & 8 organization agreed to send a delegation to the Legion's national convention in Cleveland, Ohio, with as much fanfare as possible in order to introduce the 40 & 8 to the nation and to other Legionnaires. A railroad box car was rented and in it the 40 & 8 delegation rode the rails to the Cleveland American Legion convention. This publicity stunt gained substantial news coverage for the energetic new elite organization. In Cleveland more than 700 Legionnaires became members of the 40 & 8. (derived from the on-line History of the 40 & 8).

Formation of Montana's 40 & 8: The 40 & 8 in Montana began with the establishment of local voitures (posts) in 1920. By 1922 the call by the local voitures was to establish a Grand Voiture in



Montana. The call went out by B.J. Conrad, Correspondant of Voiture Local No. 119, Winnett, Montana, to all the Locale Voitures in Montana. The organizational meeting of the Grande Voiture Du Montana of "La Societe des Quartante Hommes et Huit Chevaux" was held in Lewistown, Montana on April 1, 1922, at the American Post [Post 16]. Homer E. Geis, Winnett American Legion Post 95 and a member of Locale No. 19 was chosen as the temporary chairman of the meeting and B.J. Conrad, temporary secretary.

A committee on credentials was appointed and they found that all present were members in good standing in The American Legion and La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Cevaux. This refers to the French Box Car we know as the 40 & 8 Box Car. A motion that a constitution be drawn up [based on the 40 & 8 Nationale Constitution] was adopted and a copy was placed in the minutes. Thus started the organization we have today. Extracted from pp.218-233, The American Legion of Montana 1919-1963, by Geraldine Lowery, Past Department Historian 1965.

Grand Du Montana Record of Officers 2019-2020

Grande Officers Elected:

Grand Chef De Gare:Eddy White Voiture 718
Grand Chef De Train: Linda Cousineau 718
Grand Commissaire Intendant Don Jones (579)
Cheminot Nationale Jim Grosset (922)
Alternate Cheminot Nationale ... Lowell Long (922)
Grand Conductor..... Larry Steele (718)
Grand Cheminot V-262.....John Pelligrini?
Grand Cheminot V-467 Keith Siebbert?
Grand Cheminot V-579..... Don Jones
Grand Cheminot V-718 Richard Ellwein
Grand Cheminot V-922Jed Damson

Grand Chef Appointed Officers

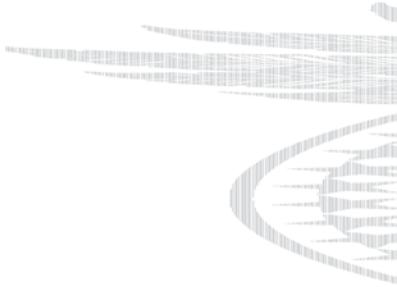
Grand Correspondant Raymond Read (718)
Grand Garde DeLaporte Jed Damson (922)
Grand Drapeau..... Vacant
Grand Amonier Karen Semple (718)
Grand Medicin Vacant
Grand Advocat Vacant
Grand Publico..... Larry Westfall (718)
Grand Comis Voyager Gary White (718)
Grand Lampiste William Stotts (718)

Next time: Some of the significant events of Montana's 40 & 8 Society (1922 to date)

If you are interested in joining the 40 & 8 check with one of the above elected or appointed officers.

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Tester, Hawley Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Ensure VA Infrastructure Better Serves Veterans

Bipartisan BUILD for Veterans Act would cut red tape, provide tools to facilitate construction, leasing and refurbishing of new VA medical facilities, delivering modern and quality care for veterans across the country.



(U.S. SENATE)—U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) introduced a bipartisan bill to ensure U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) infrastructure is better suited to provide timely and quality health care to veterans across the country.

The Build, Utilize, Invest, Lease, and Deliver (BUILD) for Veterans Act of 2019 would cut red tape, expedite Congress' approval process of VA medical leases and provide the Department with more flexibility to lease unused VA property and facilities for veteran-focused services and operations. Among the bill's many provisions, it would also increase accountability of taxpayer dollars by requiring VA to employ qualified staff in each state, whose sole responsibility would be facility planning and management of all VA construction projects.

This bill includes the following provisions:

- Shortens the process Congress uses to approve VA medical leases so that new major VA lease facilities open more quickly, allowing veterans to be served in more modern facilities and improve access to health care.
- Expands VA's authority to lease unused VA property or land to third parties to help serve veterans, such as community resource centers, non-profit service providers, community/town centers for gatherings, and veteran assistance centers.
- Ensures each major VA medical facility has dedicated staff to plan for and effectively deliver construction projects.
- Requires that VA regularly collect the views of veterans and VA employees, and use that information to plan for how to improve or build new local VA infrastructure to serve veterans.
- Requires VA to conduct a review of its facilities to understand those that may be at risk to extreme weather events, such as fires or flooding, and report to Congress on efforts VA will take to mitigate these issues now and in the future.
- Requires VA to review all the relevant facilities across the country to understand VA's space and other infrastructure needs related to VA's deployment of its new electronic health record and report to Congress on the cost and timeline to complete all the needed work so VA facilities are sufficiently prepared.

2020 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION
LOUISVILLE KY
AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
GALT HOUSE HOTEL
140 NORTH FOURTH STREET
NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM FOR LEGION, SAL & AUXILIARY

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Please reserve the following accommodations for _____ persons. I will be sharing a room with _____.
Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

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TOTAL \$ _____	

(Note: ALL Convention attendees must be registered and have a Convention badge to ride busses, attend convention functions and enter the convention hall). If you are attending the Commander’s Banquet, please advise Department by 25 February 2020.

I / We will arrive (DATE) _____ (TIME) _____ Do not leave blank
I / We will depart (DATE) _____ (TIME) _____ Do not leave blank

LEGION ONLY – I would like to be a delegate and would serve on the following Committee, (official delegates must be nominated and elected at the Department Convention in Billings June 26 – 28, 2020).
1st Choice _____
2nd Choice _____

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JULY 1, 2020, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Please send check payable to *The American Legion of Montana Convention Fund* and this form to the Department:
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PO Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604-6075



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June 25th – 28th
Hosted by Andrew Pearson Post 117



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Americanism Luncheon\$20 X _____ = \$ _____
Auxiliary Banquet\$24 X _____ = \$ _____
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Questions
George Blackard
C#406-855-6781
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Everyone who rents a room at the convention hotel will be entered into a drawing for \$500 CASH!

Register before April 30th to be entered into a drawing for \$200 CASH!



Annual One Year Narrative and One Year Yearbook (pictorial) History Contests

BY RAY READ, DEPT HISTORIAN

By utilizing the National Program of Post One-Year Narrative and Yearbooks (Pictorial) History, the efforts to produce a Post web-based Legacy History will support the collection of Post history and the Centennial program. For your information, there are four (4) annual contests conducted on the national level. The contests involve the Post “First Place” winners in the Montana Department for a one-year Post narrative and yearbook contest as well as entries for a one-year Department Narrative and Yearbook. Post 23, Livingston won the State Contest and represented Montana at the 2019 Fall Historian Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is the fourth year that they have participated and won the Department level.

The American Legion Officer’s guide and Manual of Ceremonies contain much information about the history contest. Also in that section of the Guide are, “Capsule History of the American Legion” and “Helpful Hints for District/County Historians.” Please notify your Posts in your District of this readily available material. This information will also be sent out through electronic means via the Montana American Legion website www.mtleion.org or by mail as necessary. All entries will be judged, the first place winners in either category (narrative or yearbook) will be certified and I will forward them to the National Historian for entry in the announced contest for that category. Keep in mind the requirements that have to be met for the National Contest. I refer you to the most current edition of the Officer’s Guide (March 2019) pp. 140-149, as the official rules of the 2019-2020 Legion year, or at the legion website www.legion.org but you may use older versions of this manual as the rules have not changed!

Of special note, two American Legion Centennial Bookazines have been published and are for sale. They are *Century of Service: An Illustrated History of the American Legion* and *Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag*. Each is \$9.95 and available through my office or through American Legion emblem sales. They are an excellent way to reach out, especially if you donate them to schools and local libraries. Contact me if interested!

Raymond K. Read, Department Historian,470 Ronda Road, Helena, MT 59602, Myfun51@msn.com, 406-458-9847

BY RAY REED, DEPT. HISTORIAN

The establishment of the Sons of the American Legion as a non-political, non-sectarian civilian organization was authorized by action of the 14th National Convention of the American Legion in Portland, Oregon September 12–15, 1932.

Some of what lead to this action happened in the Montana Department of The American Legion prior to the National Convention of 1932. In the first published history of the Montana Department on page 251 the following is quoted,

“The Sons of the American Legion was also originated by the Butte Post [Butte-Silver Bow Post 1] in 1930. The Butte S.A.L. Squadron was so successful and led the way for others [Squadrons] in Montana that it became a National Program in 1927,” although the correct date for National is

The American Legion teams up with Stars and Stripes Century-old allies renew vow to connect deployed troops with nation’s largest veterans service organization.

JOHN B. RAUGHTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MEDIA RELATIONS | THE AMERICAN LEGION

A relationship that began over a century ago between The American Legion and Stars and Stripes is refreshed this year through a new media-sharing agreement.

Members of The American Legion can receive 50 percent discounts on annual subscriptions to the Stars and Stripes digital platform of exclusive military news, topics of interest to veterans, special features, photos and other content, including the daily e-newspaper, job listings and history. American Legion members can subscribe for \$19.99 a year by visiting legion.strikes.com and using the coupon code LEGIONSTRONG when filling out the online form.

The American Legion, in return, will be able to publish stories, social media messages and provide information about programs and services in Stars and Stripes throughout the next year in editorial, social media and advertising spaces. Stars and Stripes has a daily audience of over of 1 million worldwide.

On March 7, 1919, Stars and Stripes announced in its Europe editions plans for a “Liberty League” meeting in Paris among veterans of the American

Sons of the American Legion had one of its earliest beginnings in Montana

1932 as mentioned above. (The American Legion of Montana 1919-1963 by Geraldine Lowery, published 1965.)

Another item of interest is that one of the first Sons of American Legion caps designed was credited to Butte Post 1. The above photo of this cap was provided by the current Post 1 Squadron Commander, Roger Knoell (Butte).

The effort to establish the Sons of the American Legion occurred in many ways throughout the various state departments. Not surprisingly, the ground swell continues today with a current National membership of 366,000+ and Montana Detachment of the S.A.L. membership of nearly 1,200 associated with 42 squadrons throughout this state. Want more information go to www.mtleion.org

Expeditionary Forces still stationed there after World War I. The meeting, March 15-17 that year, would become known as the Paris Caucus, which created The American Legion. Assigned to cover the gathering for Stars and Stripes was Pvt. Harold W. Ross, who would find himself serving on the Legion’s original Committee on Constitution. Ross later worked as an editor for The American Legion Magazine before co-founding The New Yorker magazine in 1925, where he was editor-in-chief for the rest of his life.

“The American Legion has had a long and historic relationship with Stars and Stripes over the years,” American Legion Media & Communications Commission Chairman Walter Ivie said. “This renewed relationship represents a confluence of long-trusted brands that offer much for each other’s media audiences. We look forward to sharing our stories of service with foreign-deployed troops. We also certainly look forward to having the kind of top-quality journalism Stars and Stripes has been producing since the Civil War in our digital and social media platforms. Stars and Stripes is, and always has been, the gold standard of fair and accurate military coverage.”

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Sons Of The American Legion

DETACHMENT OF MONTANA

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or (406) 324-3990
or write to P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604

Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary

AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

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