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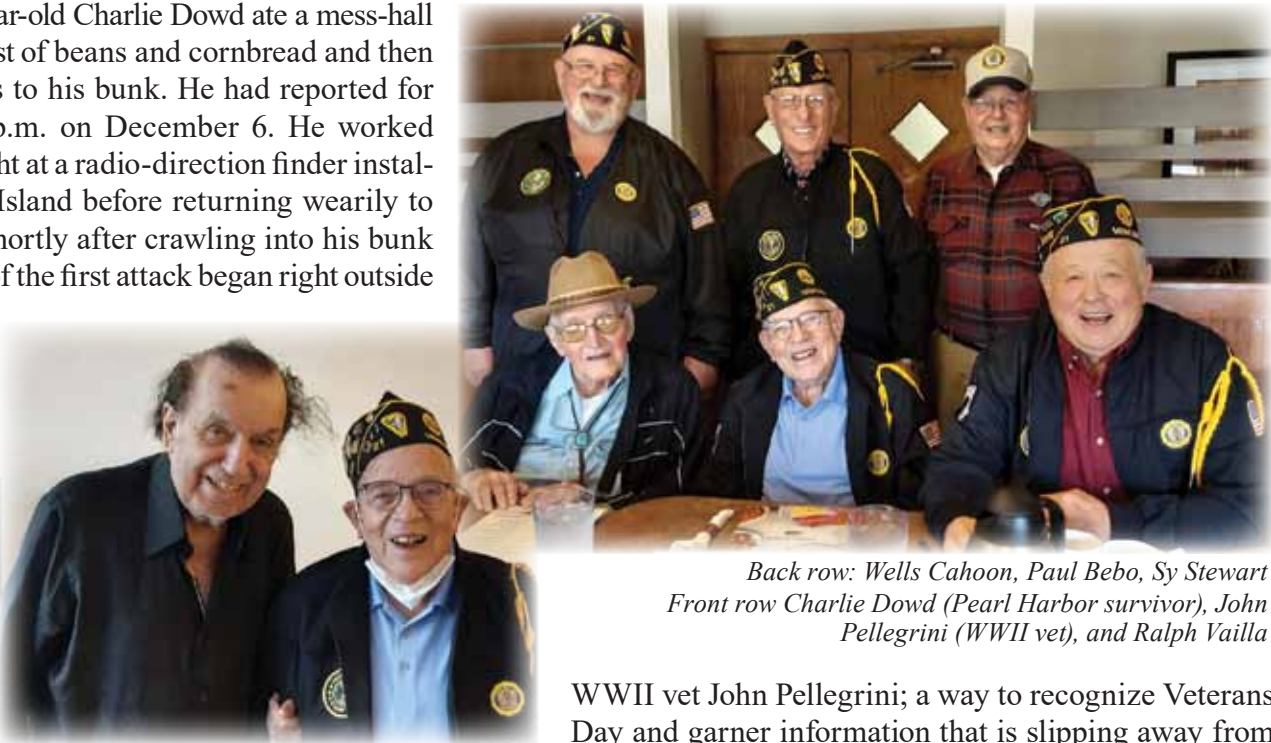
Volume 99, No. 3

February - April 2022

Post 21 Anaconda remembering those who served

BY MAUREEN WATT, UNIT 21 ALA

Seventeen-year-old Charlie Dowd ate a mess-hall Sunday breakfast of beans and cornbread and then headed upstairs to his bunk. He had reported for duty at 11:30 p.m. on December 6. He worked through the night at a radio-direction finder installation on Ford Island before returning wearily to his barracks. Shortly after crawling into his bunk the explosions of the first attack began right outside his window up and down battleship row. Recently members of Post 21 visited one of the newest residents in the Butte Veterans home. Charlie retired to Anaconda, a lifelong dream to hunt and fish, but unable to live alone at 97 he has moved to the Veterans home. The guys made a point to visit with Wade Dahood, a Korean war veteran, and



Veterans Wade Dahood (Korean war), & John Pellegrini (WWII)

WWII vet John Pellegrini; a way to recognize Veterans Day and garner information that is slipping away from us everyday.

I'm not sure who enjoyed the visits more, those being visited or those doing the visiting; seems anytime old warriors get together good times are had.

Family and The American Legion

Too often family and friends take a back seat as we go about our daily lives. Unintentionally though it may be, as we take it for granted things will remain the same regardless of how we interact. It's not until one is faced with their own mortality that they begin to reflect on the importance of friends and family. Always we hear the term "American Legion Family" as it is reiterated until it becomes mundane. It never ever should! The American Legion Family truly is just that, Family! Its as intertwined in our daily lives in as much as our own flesh and blood. And it is for that matter in more ways than one. For "The American Legion Family" it is grown from our parents, our siblings, our children and grandchildren. When we are faced with small personal health issues or disasters such as the recent fires near Denton and tornados in the Mid-West, and the call for help is given, remember, we are probably a lot



*Glen Sharbono
Department Commander*

closer connected to each other than just a mere membership.

It is however our memberships that tie the binds these organizations. You really can't have one without the other.

They are vital to each other. Without membership, your investment, you fade away from the family that you once helped to build. We can no longer continue to help as needed, facilitate the programs of our youth that help to develop them as future leaders. Nor are we able to continue to advocate on behalf of our fellow brothers and sisters to maintain and grow the benefits that they earned as Veterans. Anyone who has not yet renewed is greatly facing that

possibility. And nobody wants to lose a family member. With that I would like to wish everyone continued health and success.

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan 20	80% Target
Feb 9	85% Target
Feb 21	Presidents Day
Feb 27-Mar 2.....	WA Conf. Digital
Mar 2-4.....	Dept. Service Officer School Digital
Mar 5	District 7 Three Forks
Mar 6	District 6 Anaconda
Mar 9	90% Target
Mar 12	Dept. Oratory Great Falls
Mar 13	District 8 Great Falls
Mar 15-17	The American Legion Birthday
Mar 19	District 4 Ronan
Mar 20	District 5 St. Regis
Mar 26	District 3 Valier
Mar 27	District 11 Laurel
Apr 2.....	District 2 Big Sandy
Apr 3.....	District 9 Lewistown
Apr 13.....	95% Target
Apr 23.....	District 10 Terry
Apr 24.....	District 1 Culbertson
May 11	100% Target
Jun 15-19.....	Dept. Convention Missoula

BIG K WINNERS

2022 Drawings

Early Bird \$200 drawing won by **Post 135, Lolo**
New Year's \$100 drawing **Rose White Helena Unit 2**

January 2022 \$400 winner **Penny Crandall Lincoln Post 9**

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

Disbursements of the Big K Dividends to the Districts, Posts, Units and Squadrons will be sent by mail.

Department of Montana 2022 Spring District Meetings

Mar. 5	Dist. 7	Three Forks
Mar. 6	Dist. 6	Anaconda
Mar. 12.....	Dept. Oratory Gt Falls	
Mar. 13.....	Dist. 8 Gt Falls	
Mar. 19....	Dist. 4	Ronan
Mar. 20 ...	Dist. 5	St. Regis
Mar. 26 ...	Dist. 3	Valier
Mar. 27 ...	Dist. 11	Laurel
Apr. 2	Dist. 2	Big Sandy
Apr. 3	Dist. 9	Lewistown
Apr. 23	Dist. 10.....	Terry
Apr. 24	Dist. 1	Culbertson

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VICE COMMANDER LONG

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a joyous Christmas Season and that your New Year will be happy and prosperous. At this time of the year, we pause and reflect on the past year and set goals for the new year. Membership is our current focus as we are approaching January and the harder targets. As we set goals for the new year, let's remember to set goals for our American Legion Family as well.

Thank you to every Post Adjutant and Commander that worked hard to encourage your members to renew their membership and help the Department reach the 75% target in December. Your efforts are not going unnoticed by the leadership in the Department. Without all of you, we would not be where we are. As of this writing, we are at a little over 77% and the 80% target is quickly approaching us. By the time you read this, we will have passed this target and be working on the 85% target. We are hoping that each of you will help us to continue to make the targets.

With this in mind, let's not forget recruiting new members to the Legion. We all know someone that is a veteran that is eligible for membership. It usually takes just asking to get them to join. Please take



Lowell Long
Dept. Vice Commander

the time to ask. You may be surprised that they say yes and most say they had never been asked before.

My goal this year is to give Commander Glen Sharbono a gift of over 90% retention and 103% of our membership goal. With your help, we will be able to do this and keep Montana in the lead in our region. By attaining our targets, we are helping our department in many ways. Let's keep up the good work.

I want to take a few minutes to explain my membership incentive to you. When I was elected as the Department Vice Commander, I put out that I would be giving a membership challenge coin and certificate to each Post that made their goal by December 31st. I have since changed the date to allow for more to make it. For every Post that makes their goal by The American Legion Birthday on March 17, 2022, will receive a coin and a certificate. Please take time to reach out to your members to get them to renew as early as possible. I would like to have to present every Post with a coin and certificate. I hope to begin passing them out at the upcoming Spring District Meetings.

While working membership, let's not forget to work our programs. The American Legion has

VICE CDR continued on page 4

Department of Montana Adjutant

Duane Cunningham

Season's greetings and a Happy New Year to all!

With the help of so many of you, your American Legion accomplished many great things in 2021—the new year promises to bring both opportunity and success in whatever venture we partake in as an organization.

Most recently, your American Legion stepped forward when the devastating December fires severely impacted Denton MT, the Gibson Flats area near Great Falls MT, and the Browning MT area and activated the Montana Department of The American Legion to action in support of veterans and their families as well as the communities.

The American Legion of Montana challenged all 122 of its Posts and Veterans at-large to participate in the rebuilding of the community infrastructure in the affected areas as seven Veterans from those areas suffered some form of loss. Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons, and individual Legionnaires donated monies, services, and moral support to this effort, personifying the word "Legionnaire."

In October I attended Fall Conference in Indianapolis where there was much discussion on the Membership Software Program *Personify*; the program has gotten better, specifically, at the Post level, the Department level remains a work in progress. COVID-19 has created many obstacles with respect to in-person meetings, trainings, and conferences, the National Convention being held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin will be one of the first attempts at normalcy. The dates are **August 26 – September 1, 2022**; we have a skeleton of the tentative schedule:

Friday, August 26, 2022 – Color Guard Competition at 4:00 PM.

***Saturday, August 27, 2022** – Competitive Concert Band Contest and Exhibition Concert Band performance. Contests will start at 1:00 PM.

***Sunday, August 28, 2022** – Patriotic Memorial Service starting at 11:00 AM.

There will be NO outdoor parade in 2022; however, the Department of Wisconsin is working on a possible community event.

***Tuesday, August 30, 2022** – National Commander's Banquet. Banquet Entertainment has not been finalized but the current plan is for a tribute band playing all genres.

*The Brewers will be in town the week of the Convention, American Legion Family Night at American Family Field will be Monday, August 29th. Discounted tickets and more information will be forthcoming.

If you have never attended a National Convention, now is the time to start planning and scheduling. Airfare to Milwaukee is not going to drop the closer it gets so secure a flight now. You can check the National Convention website often for updated information at www.legion.org/convention.

In November of 2021, I attended American Legion College in Indianapolis. I highly recommend you consider applying for American Legion College. Regardless of your experience and knowledge of The American Legion and its family of programs, you are guaranteed to learn something. A common misconception is that it is all about membership—yes, they touch on it but the instructors are first rate and do a good job of weaving all the programs into membership and the importance of recruiting, retaining, and recognizing our Legionnaires.

The two biggest pieces that I took from Legion College was a better understanding and ability



Duane Cunningham
Department Adjutant

SUPPORT POSTS – NOT A NEW REGULATION

JIM KELLY, CHAIRMAN

Fatality Marker Program

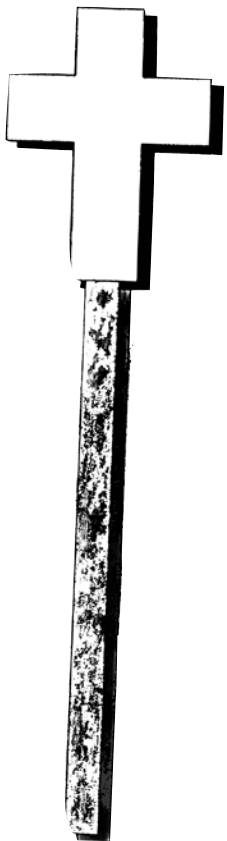
We are receiving several comments which indicate Posts are having a difficult time meeting the regulation for bendable support posts. Let me be clear, this is NOT A NEW REGULATION!

This specification was recommended by the Director of Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), David A. Galt, as far back as November 5, 2001.

One of my primary duties as Chairman of the Fatality Marker Program was to review existing rule, regulations, and guidelines for the program. Correspondence between MDT and the American Legion have clearly stated our support posts needed to conform to the bendable, or as I call it, the "delineator" standard.

In 2018, we were able to insert a "grandfather" clause into the Guide to Standardized Marker Hardware which protected existing non-conforming support posts. However, it was stated "new Fatality Markers, and those removed and replaced for any reason, must conform to the newer standards effective July 16, 2019". You see, even I have referred to them as a "new" standard.

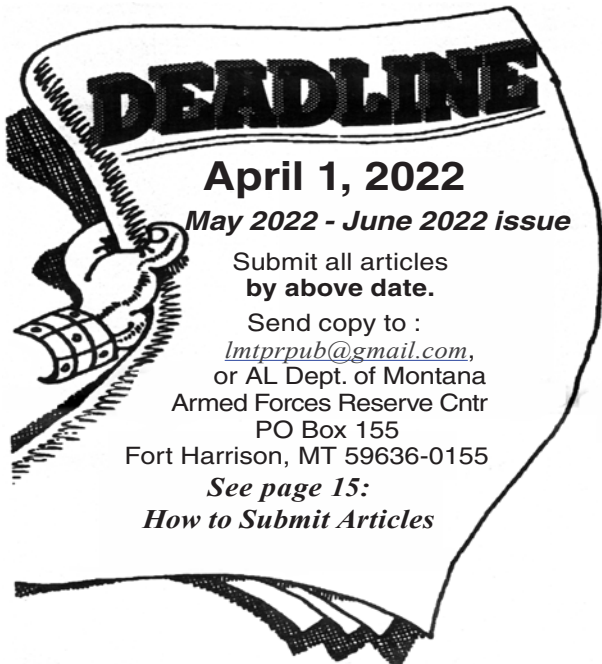
When our Guide to Standardized Marker Hardware was sent to MDT this year, the "grandfather" clause was stricken. Hence, those of us in the Fatality Marker Program have had 20 some years to come into compliance.



That said, we must move forward. Over the past couple of years, in our Guides and newsletters, the issue of "delineator" posts has been a constant topic. First, it came as a suggestion, "We have been successful in contacting highway construction companies and having them donate "used" delineator posts which cannot be reused on other road projects." We know of a few Posts which acted on the suggestion; another Post chose to buy new delineator support posts. Legion Posts who secured more support posts than they needed, began sharing with neighboring Posts.

We then put together a list of regional construction companies who may be willing to provide their "surplus" delineator posts, FREE of charge. Contacts were listed for Billings, Butte, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Helena. (Missoula has a contractor who has provided us with surplus posts for several years). This list was provided to each District Coordinator with the intent they contact the contractor closest to them and secure the posts they need on an annual basis. Each District Coordinator will serve as a single point of contact with contractors, to avoid overwhelming businesses, and distribute items to Legion Posts within their own District. This isn't a treasure hunt, should not cost anything, and should not cause you any anxiety. Stay Safe Out There!

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VICE COMMANDER - LOWELL LONG
ADJUTANT - DUANE CUNNINGHAM



ADJUTANT continued on page 4

Chaplain's Corner

The Story of the Four Chaplains

CHAYA "HIYA" SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

(INFORMATION GLEANED FROM THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION WEBSITE.)



On the evening of February 2, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. Once a luxury coastal liner, the ship had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters, escorted by Coast Guard Cutters (CGC) Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Earlier in the day, the CGC Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. German U-boats were constantly prowling the sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk. The Dorchester was only 150 miles from its destination; however, the captain ordered all men on board to sleep in their clothing and to keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat, while others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a German U-223 submarine approached the convoy on the surface, and fired a fan of three torpedoes. The Dorchester was struck by one on the starboard side amid ship, far below the water line. When the ship's Captain was alerted that the ship was taking water rapidly and sinking, he gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester slipped beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the torpedo hit also knocked out power in addition to radio contact with the three escort ships. Fortunately, CGC Comanche saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba also circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

The blast immediately killed dozens of men and seriously wounded many more. Others, stunned by the explosion were left groping in the darkness. According to eyewitnesses, men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing. Rafts tossed into the Atlantic drifted away before soldiers could get into them.

Also, according to eyewitnesses, four Army chaplains were lights in the darkness – who brought hope amid chaos and despair. Those chaplains were: Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers where they worked to calm the frightened, guide the disoriented toward safety and tend the wounded.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," said Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalls. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves. "Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pair." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized Rabbi Goode wasn't conveniently carrying two pair of gloves, and that the rabbi had already decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, where the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life jackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act. When giving away their life jackets, Rabbi Goode didn't call out for a Jew; Father Washington didn't call out for a Catholic; nor did Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. As the ship sank, survivors in

Post Everlasting



Oct/Nov/Dec 2021

- ☆ CORKISH, GARY, Vietnam – US Army – 42- year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ DUKART, RALPH, Vietnam – US Army – 18- year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FEENAN, JOHN PAUL "JACK", Korea – US Army – 30- year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FEENAN, ROBERT, WWII – US Army – 29- year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ HARTLE, ROY M, Korea – US Army – 38-year member Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MACK, ROBERT, Vietnam – US Army – 9-year member Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PETERSON, RAYMOND, Korea – US Navy – 4- year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PRESHINGER, IRA, Vietnam – US Navy – 1- year member of Post 71, Fromberg, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ RAVVE, DUANE, Vietnam – US Navy – 4- year member of Post 85, Bainville, 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.

nearby rafts saw the four chaplains with arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving only 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains. That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington became an enduring example of extraordinary courage, faith and selflessness.

On December 19, 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the Four Chaplains' next of kin.

A one-time-only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded to next of kin by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

In 1988, February 3 was established by a unanimous act of Congress as an annual "Four Chaplains Day." February 3, 2018 marks the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of the Dorchester.

From the Four Chaplains website: "We may never be asked to give up our own life jacket to save another person, but the story of the Four Chaplains can inspire us to reach out a helping hand in a time of need."

American Legion Posts throughout the nation hold memorial services the first weekend of February or on February 3rd to remember the Four Chaplains. To date I am aware of the Department Four Chaplains Ceremony which will be held Thursday, February 3rd, 1300 hrs. at the Montana Military Museum at Fort Harrison and another hosted by Post 123 in Laurel. Contact Past Department Commander Richard Klose for more information on the Laurel Ceremony

May you be well.

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

Evidence Collection and Submission, continued.



Service Officer Kate Hahn

You, as the veteran, are your best historian. Along with the medical records you collect showing a diagnosis and / or treatment of a condition that may be related to service, including secondarily related conditions, you will be asked to provide a personal statement detailing what you did when you were in service, how the injury occurred, where you sought treatment then and today, and if the condition continues to the present day. You should keep a log of the condition, if it worsens, is it incapacitating, does it happen more than once a month, do you need assistance, how do you treat it, how long does it last, do you need assistance, and where it is on a pain scale from 1 – 10. This logbook can help the compensation and pension examiner understand more clearly your situation and it can assist the Rating Veteran Service Representative in determining the percentage of service connection, or special monthly compensation to be awarded (if the condition is primarily or secondarily service connected). For example:

You were seen for a lower back injury in the service and were treated by pain medication, physical therapy, surgery, or a combination thereof, this shows an in-service incident/injury. You filed a claim and are service connected at 20 percent for a Lumbosacral spine condition. Now you have been out of the service for 10 years your condition has progressed, you start a logbook showing that you experience, several times a month, shooting pains down into your legs that leave your feet tingling and numb. Several days a month you are unable get out of bed due to flares and the persistent pain at

a steady 7 on the pain scale. You have seen a chiropractor that states you are experiencing sciatica down both legs, due to your lower back; you see your primary care physician who refers you to a neurologist that confirms you are experiencing radiculopathy due to your lower back condition. You collect your Non-Government Medical records, the neurologist's records, your Lumbosacral logbook, and visit your local VSO to file an increase in the primary Lumbosacral spine condition, and secondary radiculopathy in the left and right lower extremities.

Your spouse, coworkers, or supervisor can provide a lay statement to support your claim. This statement may provide supporting evidence to corroborate your claim and what your current situation looks like.

Please reach out to your local accredited Veteran Service Officer should you have any questions or concerns about your claim. Listed below are the Montana Veterans Affairs Division American Legion accredited offices throughout the state:

MVAD/AL accredited 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
Miles City	(406) 232-1203
Missoula.....	(406) 542-2501

Thank You for Your Service To Our Great Country!

Gallatin Post 14 giving back

BY RANDY KEMP | PHOTOS BY DALLAS THOMPSON

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 conducted an award ceremony on November 8, 2021, for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 636. They presented a Certificate of Appreciation for all the help the Troop gave Post 14 during the Memorial Day Parade in 2021. The Troop helped put up flags on Main Street, helped with breakfast, handed out American Flags on Main Street during the parade, and helped clean up after breakfast. Along with the certificate, Post 14 donated \$500 to the Troop to help them with their programs.



(L-R) Randy Kemp; John Board, Troop 636 Scout Master; Len Albright, Post 14 Commander, and Bud Sievert.



(L-R) Major Gail Harper, Flight Officer Rodney Aloise, Commander Captain Austin Troth, and Post Commander Len Albright.

Additionally, Gallatin Post 14 presented a Certificate of Appreciation along with a check for \$500 to the local Civil Air Patrol unit for their assistance during the Memorial Day Parade 2021. P The presentation took place on November 18, 2021.

Gallatin Post 14 also showed their support for the Salvation Army by volunteering to “Ring the Bell” for Red Kettle donations. Post 14 started showing their support on Friday, November 26, 2021, and continued



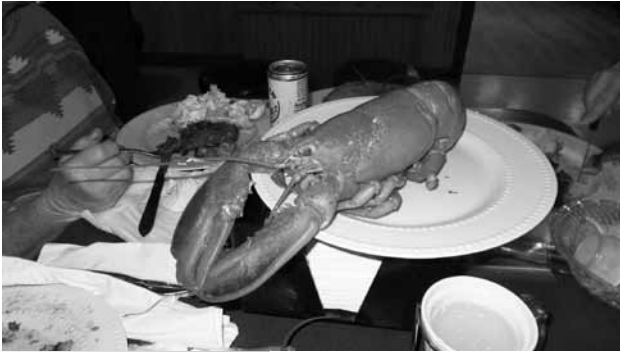
(L-R) Post 14 member Dan Ritter, SAL member Jake Harriman, and Post 14 member Jake Harriman.

to ring the bell outside of Smith’s Grocery Store thru Friday, December 17, 2021. Squadron 14 assisted Post 14 with the Red Kettle operation every Friday during the season.

Townsend Post 42 10th Annual Surf and Turf

RUBERT LUND, POST 42 HISTORIAN

On November 6, 2021, The American Legion Family of Post 42, Townsend, served 98 people in the newly remodeled hall and kitchen. Needless to say, those in attendance were amazed at the transformation, the comments were nothing but positive. The menu consisted of a 3 lb. Maine lobster, and 10 oz. steak with all the trimmings, finished up with ice cream and coffee, a no-host bar was also available.



Post 42 Legionnaire Johnny Kougioulis, provided the entertainment for the evening. There are so many folks to thank, but a huge thank you goes out to the members of Post 42, Unit 42 Auxiliary, and the SAL for the long hours and dedicated hard work. All proceeds from the meal will be used by the Auxiliary for the items in the kitchen and the hall that were lost to the ice damage.

Ravalli Post 47 Christmas is for giving

NANCY DOZEN, CHAPLAIN AND 2ND VICE

1st Vice Commander/Service Officer Ruth Cook (Ravalli Post 47 Hamilton MT) presented 120 stuffed animals to Bitterroot Salvation Army Director Fidelis Temukum and Wendy for their Toys for Tots Christmas Program



ADJUTANT continued from pg. 2

to write and edit Resolutions. First, we all have great ideas on how to make this great organization better, but putting ideas to paper and having them run the gauntlet of the resolution process is a whole different story. During the week of Legion College, you are divided into Districts, in order to prepare and move a resolution through the process. It really opens your eyes to not only how a resolution is written, but also, to how you must look at the big picture and make sure that you are dotting all the ‘i’s’ and crossing all the ‘t’s.’ I can say I walked away with a better understanding of what’s required. The second and probably most important piece I took from Legion College was that simple 2-minute speech, and how it relates to membership, and being ready when someone asks why they should join the Legion. How it can result in a new member or someone who walks away, and it can be challenging for sure to constantly be ready to tell your story. The reality is, think back to the reason you joined The American Legion; what is your why?

The ‘why’ is a need for the military comradery, a need to belong, the desire to give back to the community. Military members are notoriously selfless and want to give back because of how they feel about their community and country. Sometimes when you self-reflect on your why, it can be a much more personal or sensitive reason. Myself, I fall into the comradery and giving back reasons for joining. Quite frankly, making friends that do not have a military background, rucked in the same boots as you have, can be difficult. Making comradery a big factor to ‘my why.’ The ability to rib and joke with my brothers and sisters from other branches of service often keeps me grounded and happy. So, I challenge each of you to ask yourself that simple question: “What is my Why?” Because if you can answer that question, your recruiting and retention speech for membership is already written for you. To wrap this up please crack a good joke on your Marine, Sailor, Soldier, or Airmen brethren; it’s one of our ‘Whys.’ Godspeed and God Bless.🙏

VICE CDR continued from pg. 2

many wonderful programs that take little effort to work. You should be finding students for the Oratory Program, American Legion Boys State, and the essay and government survey programs. As the weather begins to improve this spring, there will be Fatality Markers to take care of. Please take the time to do these programs and let your community know what it is that you are doing. An active Post is easier to attract members to and keep members in. I have also indicated that I would be available to come to participate in any event that you may have that you would like me to be at. I love to get out and see what is happening in our local Posts and the great things that are happening around the state. If your Post is planning an event that you would like me to join you on, contact me and I will try to make it. I have already attended one event in Geraldine in December, and they did a great job making me feel welcome. Finally, thank you to all for what you do for The American Legion in your community. We would not be the organization we are without all of you working to promote our great organization in your communities. You are truly appreciated for your dedication to The American Legion Family in Montana.🙏



Columbus Post 34 getting creative with what it has

BY POST 71 CHRISTINE MILLER, & POST 34 LARRY TIPTON 406.322.8699.

In the world we live in seems more and more Posts are struggling, and we need to invent more ways to work with what we have. Hidden back out of town just a bit is just one such property. Post 34, in Columbus has a beautiful property right on the banks of the Stillwater River, the Post has worked to develop it enough to make it work for them. Campground and Building rental are now available for the summer. Daily and weekly dates available. Camp right next to the Stillwater River with a group. Rent the cabin for weddings, memorials, graduation, family picnics or any activity where you need a building to meet in. Camp on the East Side Campground and enjoy peace and quiet you won't get at a State or City Park.



Chief Joseph Post 135 Helps Local Food Bank

SUBMITTED BY DEBORAH HANCOCK

The Lolo Food Bank asked Post 135 to assist with their food bank distribution for both Thanksgiving and Christmas 2021. It began with purchasing specific food items, then assisting with bagging grocery items, traffic control and handing out the bags on the day of distribution.



Tami and Ryan McMillon standing at table loaded with full bags along with a food bank volunteer.

The Post purchased \$419.95 worth of food which amounted to 528 pounds for Thanksgiving, and the Christmas purchase amount was \$331.98 equaling 346 pounds. Members of Chief Joseph Unit 135 also assisted both times with purchasing food items, bagging and on the day of distribution. The food bank staff were impressed with the organizational skills and getting the job done efficiently and timely. The Post is definitely on their radar to assist further as 2022 progresses.

Gallatin Post 14 Remembers

SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 had an extremely busy Veterans Day this year. The day started out at 6 A.M. with putting up 90 U.S. flags on the Main Street of Bozeman. Members of the Sons of the American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary were busy preparing breakfast at The American Legion Hall for any and all who chose to come.



At 11 A.M. Post 14 conducted a memorial service which included flag presentation, honor guard, and a rifle salute. A member of the Marine Corps League, Robert E. Alleud, assisted with the honor guard.

Veterans celebrating Veterans Day in Stevensville

BY CHERYL BURGMEIER, POST 94

On Veteran's Day Post 94 members placed this sign welcoming everyone into the town of Stevensville. The sign was the idea and purchased by member Jerry Esmay and wife Mickey from his niece who made the sign.



Meagher County Post 25 wrapping up a busy year

WILLIAM CUMMINS, POST 25

Meagher County Post 25 had a busy Fall with impact in the Community.

August of 2021, Legionnaires purchased backpacks for all the First Graders. They were delivered to the students on the second day of school full of the supplies the teachers had requested.

The Legionnaires Honor Guard presented the flags for the opening of the game with a student singing the Star-Spangled Banner for two football playoff games held at White Sulphur Springs School.



November, is a Potluck Dinner at the local Community Center for all Veterans to attend. At this dinner, the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State attendees were asked to speak to the crowd about their experiences at the Summer events.

On December 14, the Post 25 Commander, Bill Cummins, presented Legion Members, Ron Burns with a commendation for 20 years membership, and Ed Celander with a commendation for 30 years of membership.



On Veterans Day, a few of the Legionnaires spent a couple of hours each greeting customers at the Branding Iron Cafe, where the local Cattle Women sponsor a free meal for all Veterans.

The annual meeting for

REMEMBER...

Nominations for

***2022 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**

***2022 Firefighter of the Year**

Dept. level deadline Feb. 1

Forms can be found online at mtlegion.org/cerificates_forms.html

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2022

	Year end Goal 2022	Year To Date Total	Year End 2021	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT.....	33.....	18.....	32.....	54.55%
41 GLASGOW.....	96.....	78.....	93.....	81.25%
45 HINSDALE.....	47.....	39.....	41.....	82.98%
49 HOMESTEAD.....	10.....	7.....	7.....	70.00%
55 POPLAR.....	27.....	25.....	23.....	92.59%
56 SCOBAY.....	45.....	40.....	24.....	88.89%
☆58 PLENTYWOOD.....	58.....	69.....	68.....	118.97%
61 BROCKTON.....	35.....	20.....	24.....	57.14%
81 CULBERTSON.....	92.....	64.....	78.....	69.57%
85 BAINVILLE.....	23.....	21.....	22.....	91.30%
☆122 OPHEIM.....	27.....	29.....	30.....	107.41%
☆140 FORT PECK TRIBES.....	17.....	20.....	17.....	117.65%
☆229 WESTBY.....	12.....	14.....	12.....	116.67%
TOTAL.....	522.....	444.....	471.....	85.06%
DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE.....	120.....	64.....	85.....	53.33%
48 CHINOOK.....	50.....	46.....	53.....	92.00%
50 BIG SANDY.....	24.....	20.....	24.....	83.33%
☆57 MALTA.....	95.....	101.....	98.....	106.32%
67 ROCKY BOY.....	25.....	13.....	21.....	52.00%
☆79 SACO.....	11.....	22.....	22.....	200.00%
88 CHESTER.....	28.....	27.....	30.....	96.43%
109 TURNER.....	25.....	18.....	16.....	72.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP.....	10.....	6.....	6.....	60.00%
TOTAL.....	388.....	317.....	355.....	81.70%
DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER.....	50.....	44.....	51.....	88.00%
37 CONRAD.....	50.....	31.....	41.....	62.00%
40 CUT BANK.....	56.....	34.....	39.....	60.71%
43 SHELBY.....	49.....	27.....	33.....	55.10%
69 GALATA.....	29.....	13.....	19.....	44.83%
73 SWEETGRASS.....	73.....	60.....	69.....	82.19%
☆127 BROWNING.....	26.....	26.....	23.....	100.00%
CN20 CALGARY.....	45.....	38.....	46.....	84.44%
TOTAL.....	378.....	273.....	321.....	72.22%
DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS.....	59.....	51.....	58.....	86.44%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS.....	110.....	89.....	124.....	80.91%
74 EUREKA.....	50.....	40.....	43.....	80.00%
86 BIG FORK.....	60.....	44.....	53.....	73.33%
97 LIBBY.....	187.....	146.....	187.....	78.07%
106 ST IGNATIUS.....	50.....	41.....	41.....	82.00%
108 WHITEFISH.....	66.....	51.....	62.....	77.27%
112 POLSON.....	134.....	113.....	137.....	84.33%
☆113 ARLEE.....	25.....	27.....	26.....	108.00%
126 CHARLO.....	19.....	18.....	24.....	94.74%
129 PARADISE.....	70.....	52.....	57.....	74.29%
137 KALISPELL.....	233.....	179.....	189.....	76.82%
☆138 RONAN.....	65.....	67.....	70.....	103.08%
TOTAL.....	1128.....	918.....	1071.....	81.38%
DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS.....	61.....	49.....	58.....	80.33%
27 MISSOULA.....	355.....	230.....	301.....	64.79%
47 HAMILTON.....	136.....	112.....	125.....	82.35%
63 CONDON.....	45.....	23.....	36.....	51.11%
68 MISSOULA.....	47.....	38.....	45.....	80.85%
83 CLINTON.....	16.....	14.....	15.....	87.50%
91 CORVALLIS.....	185.....	159.....	197.....	85.95%
94 STEVENSVILLE.....	203.....	177.....	192.....	87.19%
124 FRENCHTOWN.....	66.....	50.....	61.....	75.76%
☆125 DRUMMOND.....	62.....	75.....	54.....	120.97%
134 FLORENCE.....	63.....	54.....	55.....	85.71%
135 LOLO.....	158.....	123.....	150.....	77.85%
TOTAL.....	1397.....	1104.....	1289.....	79.03%
DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE.....	290.....	150.....	234.....	51.72%
2 HELENA.....	812.....	662.....	792.....	81.53%
9 LINCOLN.....	60.....	55.....	57.....	91.67%
10 DEER LODGE.....	63.....	50.....	55.....	79.37%
20 DILLON.....	159.....	114.....	149.....	71.70%
21 ANACONDA.....	219.....	167.....	207.....	76.26%
24 WHITEHALL.....	86.....	74.....	83.....	86.05%
31 TWIN BRIDGES.....	40.....	37.....	40.....	92.50%
42 TOWNSEND.....	119.....	95.....	112.....	79.83%
☆46 BOULDER.....	25.....	26.....	28.....	104.00%
☆89 SHERIDAN.....	94.....	98.....	97.....	104.26%
TOTAL.....	1967.....	1528.....	1927.....	77.68%
AT LARGE				
105 HELENA.....	158.....	43.....	65.....	27%

	Year end Goal 2022	Year To Date Total	Year End 2021	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN.....	360.....	268.....	371.....	74.44%
19 BIG TIMBER.....	178.....	140.....	158.....	78.65%
23 LIVINGSTON.....	170.....	136.....	167.....	80.00%
☆25 WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....	65.....	64.....	103.17%
30 BELGRADE.....	245.....	148.....	207.....	60.41%
☆65 ENNIS.....	60.....	77.....	76.....	128.33%
78 W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	22.....	19.....	75.86%
87 MANHATTAN.....	165.....	116.....	146.....	70.30%
93 THREE FORKS.....	42.....	23.....	34.....	54.76%
99 BIG SKY.....	55.....	47.....	54.....	85.45%
118 GARDINER.....	35.....	33.....	37.....	94.29%
TOTAL.....	1402.....	1075.....	1333.....	76.68%
DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS.....	258.....	182.....	204.....	70.54%
6 CHOTEAU.....	104.....	81.....	95.....	77.88%
26 FORT BENTON.....	34.....	24.....	32.....	70.59%
51 AUGUSTA.....	36.....	34.....	42.....	94.44%
64 DUTTON.....	46.....	26.....	42.....	56.52%
80 FAIRFIELD.....	31.....	14.....	24.....	45.16%
102 GERALDINE.....	112.....	91.....	118.....	81.25%
103 POWER.....	28.....	26.....	26.....	92.86%
130 VAUGHN.....	40.....	35.....	40.....	87.50%
133 CASCADE.....	31.....	20.....	36.....	64.52%
341 MALMSTROM.....	159.....	85.....	110.....	53.46%
TOTAL.....	879.....	618.....	769.....	70.31%
DISTRICT #9				
115 HARLOWTON.....	100.....	81.....	93.....	81.00%
16 LEWISTOWN.....	409.....	224.....	302.....	54.77%
18 ROUNDUP.....	60.....	37.....	52.....	61.67%
53 STANFORD.....	26.....	17.....	25.....	65.38%
☆62 DENTON.....	26.....	29.....	27.....	111.54%
70 JUDITH GAP.....	69.....	54.....	63.....	78.26%
76 HOBSON.....	37.....	34.....	35.....	91.89%
☆96 ROY.....	22.....	26.....	26.....	118.18%
120 WINIFRED.....	31.....	28.....	26.....	90.32%
TOTAL.....	780.....	530.....	649.....	67.95%
DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY.....	79.....	60.....	77.....	75.95%
12 SIDNEY.....	40.....	26.....	31.....	65.00%
28 GLENDIVE.....	105.....	69.....	88.....	65.71%
29 CIRCLE.....	16.....	14.....	13.....	87.50%
32 TERRY.....	99.....	62.....	88.....	62.63%
35 BAKER.....	109.....	66.....	90.....	60.55%
39 FORSYTH.....	93.....	70.....	83.....	75.27%
44 COLSTRIP.....	30.....	18.....	26.....	60.00%
60 EKALAKA.....	15.....	8.....	13.....	53.33%
114 FAIRVIEW.....	37.....	28.....	31.....	75.68%
TOTAL.....	623.....	421.....	540.....	67.58%
DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS.....	473.....	349.....	401.....	73.78%
8 HARDIN.....	46.....	25.....	44.....	54.35%
17 RED LODGE.....	56.....	54.....	57.....	96.43%
34 COLUMBUS.....	62.....	58.....	65.....	93.55%
☆71 FROMBERG.....	40.....	60.....	55.....	150.00%
84 BELFRY.....	36.....	32.....	34.....	88.89%
☆92 HYSHAM.....	22.....	22.....	22.....	100.00%
100 PARK CITY.....	59.....	54.....	57.....	91.53%
117 BILLINGS.....	211.....	86.....	118.....	40.76%
119 BILLINGS HGTS.....	180.....	161.....	177.....	89.44%
123 LAUREL.....	115.....	94.....	118.....	81.74%
TOTAL.....	1300.....	995.....	1148.....	76.54%
☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal				
2022 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	10,922			
2022 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	8266			
2021 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	9938			
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	75.68%			
Time is running out... Renew Today!				
 http://www.legion.org/renew				

Go Ahead – Relax...

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

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM
Fill in your name, address, phone number and date of birth. Then check off the plans that interest you, and we will do the rest!
☒ Yes! Please send me complete details about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program.
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
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☐ Dental	☐ Hospital Help	☐ Travel Accident Protection
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BEST PERCENTAGE POST

Post...79.....	BIG SANDY.....	200.00%
Post...71.....	FROMBERG.....	150.00%
Post...65.....	ENNIS.....	128.33%
Post...125.....	DRUMMOND.....	120.97%
Post...58.....	FORT PECK TRIBES.....	118.97%
Post...96.....	DENTON.....	118.18%
Post..113.....	CHARLO.....	108.00%
Post...89.....	SHERIDAN.....	104.26%
Post...127.....	VALIER.....	100.00%
Post...51.....	AUGUSTA.....	94.44%
Post...29.....	FAIRVIEW.....	87.50%

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
1.....	85.06%	Ken Simon
2.....	81.70%	Vincent Schmoeckle
4.....	81.38%	Dave Bennett
5.....	79.03%	Terry Wahl
6.....	77.68%	Linda Cousineau
7.....	76.68%	Bill Cummins
11.....	76.54%	Larry Tipton
3.....	72.22%	Dusty Bailey
8.....	70.31%	Larry Otis
9.....	67.95%	Bruce Luhrsens
10.....	67.58%	David Ofalt

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
January 3, 2022

SQUADRON.....	GOAL 2022.....	TO DATE
GLASGOW #41.....	46.....	38
☆PLENTYWOOD #58.....	18.....	29
CULBERTSON #81.....	21.....	0
HAVRE #11.....	18.....	2
CHINOOK #48.....	23.....	18
☆MALTA #57.....	18.....	23
SACO #79.....	13.....	0
GALATA #69.....	27.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	18.....	14
POLSON #112.....	15.....	14
MISSOULA #27.....	18.....	0
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	4
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	15.....	1
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	48.....	14
☆LOLO #135.....	32.....	35
BUTTE #1.....	38.....	12
HELENA #2.....	129.....	42
☆ANACONDA #21.....	20.....	20
TOWNSEND #42.....	22.....	15
BUTTE #115.....	0.....	0
BOZEMAN #14.....	81.....	54
BIG TIMBER #19.....	15.....	9
LIVINGSTON #23.....	46.....	23
BELGRADE #30.....	46.....	10
MANHATTAN #87.....	35.....	21
☆BIG SKY #99.....	23.....	32
GREAT FALLS #3.....	23.....	15
☆CHOTEAU #6.....	27.....	42
DUTTON #64.....	10.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	59.....	10
☆VAUGHN #130.....	23.....	23
☆HARLOWTON #15.....	27.....	27
LEWISTOWN #16.....	149.....	96
MILES CITY #5.....	14.....	5
BAKER #35.....	30.....	0
FORSYTH #39.....	52.....	45
BILLINGS #4.....	14.....	11
BILLINGS #117.....	12.....	0
LAUREL #123.....	13.....	0
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1258.....	704
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Twenty and Four Honor Society for Women Legionnaires | Montana Echelon 9

CHAYA SEMPLE, DIRECTOR

There is an organization you may not realize is operating in the shadow of The American Legion: the *Twenty and Four Honor Society for Women Legionnaires*. Our members earnestly strive to support and uphold The American Legion’s Four Pillars: Veterans, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth.

The Name

There were twenty women present at the first meeting of Echelon No. 1 shortly after WWII and that number could be seated comfortably in four jeeps. Hence, the organization became the Twenty (women) and Four (jeeps). The famous World War II Jeep became our emblem since it was universally known and used by all services at that time.

A woman member of The American Legion who has, in the judgment of the Echelon, rendered outstanding service through active leadership as a Post officer, a committee chairman or other service in the programs of The American Legion is eligible for an invitation to join. She must be in good standing for a continuous period of at least twelve months immediately prior to the date of her application with current Legion dues.

What We Do

Our charter gave us the mission to aid women veterans wherever they may be and in whatever way they need. Since our members are all Legionnaires, we also work to support the activities and programs of the Legion. These good works are ongoing and conducted by our



members nationwide through service to God and Country.

The National Society offers a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a Twenty & Four member or to a current member who wishes to return to the workplace and needs further education to do so. The application is need-based.

The Top Hats are the Auxiliary of the Twenty & Four. Legionnaires, members of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are eligible to join as Top Hats through their qualifying Legionnaire who is a Twenty and Four member. Top Hats receive a membership card and pin; joining us in our good works supporting our communities and The American Legion.

After two years of COVID restrictions, Montana Echelon 9 is now actively revitalizing. If you are approached by a Twenty and Four member with an invitation to join us, please do!



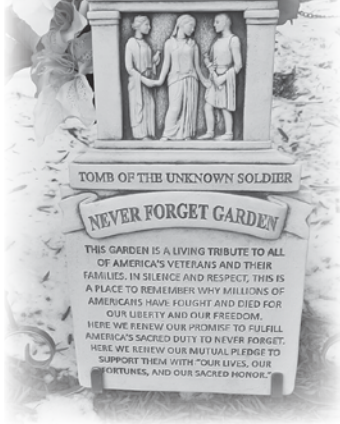
80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Recognized

BY CHAYA SEMPLE, LEGION DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

The memorial garden in Helena has a new sign that was dedicated on the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 2021.



It was the Eagle Scout project of Zach Heller, Troop 214, in Helena. Included in the day were 16 wreaths, each with photos and brief biographies of Montanans that were attached to Pearl Harbor. The 16th was added this year after those remains were identified this year. Gone but never forgotten, many lie where they have fallen but we will never cease to return them home.



Post 71 Keep on Remodeling

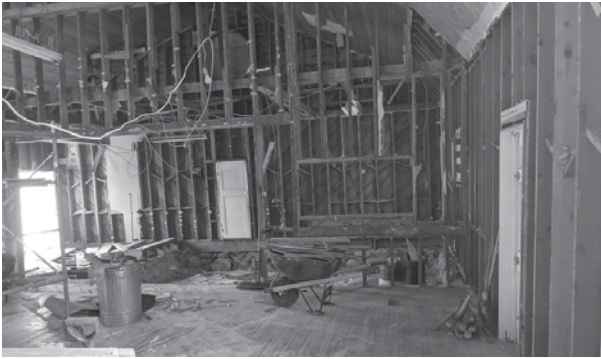
BY CHRISTINE MILLER, RESTORATION COMMITTEE

When your Post resides in a building built long before the 1st World War, there is a lot to be done to make it last another 100 years. This is no small feat to say the least, but hats-off to some dedicated Legionnaires. Our Post Commander Chuck Miller has really become the great organizer, he has a way with people and a way of getting things done.

We were able to put a full metal roof on the whole building this summer at such a good price we could entertain the thought of going further.

The old lathe and plaster had zero insulation and more than one HVAC guy told us anything else we would do was a waste if we didn’t insulate.

Chuck Miller built another committee—a construction committee—enter Earnest King.



These two have twisted arms and asked favors. Legionnaires have come in on Saturdays; Chuck has brought friends and family, his church, you name it. Lathe and plaster tear-out is no joke, but to be able to insulate the whole building and run new electricity is something we never thought we would be able to do.

When we get to next summer and have a grand opening, we are going to have way too many people to thank. The building herself will be a whole new thing ready to serve her community for another 100 years.

Grande Voiture Du Montana 1922-2022

What is the 40 & 8

SUBMITTED BY RAYMOND K. READ, DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



Ray Read
Dept. Historian

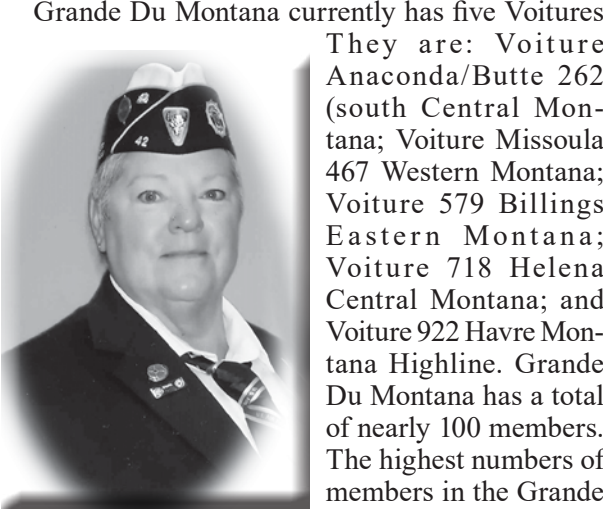
La Societe Des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is an independent, by invitation, honorable organization of male and female U.S. veterans, commonly known as the Forty & Eight.

The Forty & Eight is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. The titles and symbols of the Forty & Eight reflect its First World War origins. Americans were transported to the battle front on French trains within boxcars stenciled with a “40/8”, denoting its capacity to hold either forty men or eight horses. This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who fought in the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found “40/8” a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that bind all who have borne the battle.

The Forty & Eight was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion, the Forty & Eight became an independent and separately incorporated veteran s organization in 1960. Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

MONTANA JOINED THE 40 & 8 IN 1922: The Call for the organization of the Grande Voiture Du Montana was sent out by B. J. Conrad, Correspondant of Voiture Local 119 of Winnett, Montana in Spring 1922 to all Locale Voitures in Montana. Locale Voitures were present in Winnett, Lewistown, Billings, Glendive, Miles City, Helena, Butte,

Deer Lodge, Glasgow, Havre, Kalispell, Great Falls, Bozeman, Anaconda, Livingston, Red Lodge, Hamilton, Chinook, and Libby. 2022 will be the Centennial of Grand Voiture of Du Montana, La Society des Quarante Hommes et Huit chevaux (Montana Grand Voiture of 40 & 8 Society).



Linda Cousineau
Grand Chef De Gare

over the past four decades due to death, age, or other factors. Linda Cousineau, Townsend, Montana, is serving at the Grand Chef De Gare.

Grande Du Montana participates in at least six recognized programs of the Nationale:

Public Relations in the form of Le Clarion, currently a section in the Montana Legionnaire; Children and Youth; the Nurses Training Club Program; the Box Car Association; Youth Sports; and Carville Star.

If you’re interested in this, take the lead and become active, you may be invited.





DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA FALL CONFERENCE 2021 & CONVENTION 2022



National Vice Commander James Higuera, Hal Rice, Glen Sharbono, and Larry Dobb



Hal Rice & National Vice CDR James Higuera



Karen Susag



Sue Davidson



Ken Simon
Ed Sperry



Scott Miller
Richard Klose



Mr. & Mrs.
Dave Bennett



Jen Dalrymple
Linda Cousineau



Ray Read
Kim Kay
McCarty Martin

2022 Department Convention

by Roger Hancock

Greetings, from the 2022 Convention Committee.

Plans are well underway as we have now survived the holidays and are starting to see that the big freeze won't last forever and are looking forward to June when we all gather as Legionnaires in Missoula.

The 40 et 8, have put together an excellent evening to start the convention off and are extending to all Legionnaires an amazing catered BBQ at the Museum of Mountain Flying. Look for it in your convention selections and know that you don't have to be a member of the 40 et 8 to attend.

During the meal we will have a presentation on the Miss Montana's plane resurrection and participation in the 75th Anniversary of the Normandy invasion. The C47 was also the plane that dropped the smoke jumpers at Mann Gulch. Transportation will be provided, so please plan to attend.

Reservations: [Registration form on page 15]

We encourage you to reserve your room at the Hilton, as soon as possible. This does two things: First, it helps the sponsoring Post with fees for renting the Convention spaces—and we have locked in a very reasonable room rate for Missoula. Second, it will provide you a better convention



experience. The Hilton plans to make both the 5th and 6th floors strictly Legion Family, so the sooner you book the better you can be on one of those floors.

Call the Hilton Garden Inn on North Reserve directly at 406-532-5300. Dates are June 17th through the 19th.

It is our recommendation to book early as well to assure you get the negotiated rate; it is just about half (\$131) of what the advertised rate is, as of June 1 tourist rates take effect (\$265).

2022 Chaplain Conference is for ALL Legion Family Chaplains

CHAYA "HIYA" SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

This may come as a surprise to many: the Department Chaplain Conference to be held on June 18th prior to the Department Convention in Missoula is for ALL Legion Family Chaplains!

Like the National Chaplain Conference, is an opportunity to gather, meet other Legion Family Chaplains – to learn and share best practices with each other.

Additionally, those who haven't already received one will go home with a 150 page+ "Chaplains How-To Manual" packed with ideas and resources! And, there will be additional information to add this year!

If you are an Auxiliary, District, Post or Squadron Chaplain – or, if you aspire to become a chaplain, this conference is for you!

Chaplains are not ministers, pastors or priests, although they can be when not acting as a Legion Family chaplain.

Chaplains reach across faith tradition lines to assist and help every Legion Family member: like military chaplains, they are inclusive in their ceremonies and prayers and do not advocate or push their own particular faith agenda when acting as a Legion Family Chaplain. Also, like military chaplains, Legion Family chaplains can separately offer specific spiritual services to members of their faith group or tradition. If you struggle with the issue of inclusivity, information provided at this conference will help you!

This is a great opportunity to expand your chaplain education to advance the Legion Family's "God and Country" focus. Among the many topics to be covered: how to "be there" for others outside your faith comfort zone, visiting the dying and those who are ill, understanding the VA's Administrative Rules pertaining to faith that apply to chaplains (or any visitor) who visits Legion members in VA

facilities and much more will be crammed into the three short hours given to us.

You do not have to register for Department Convention to attend this informative and spiritually inclusive training opportunity.

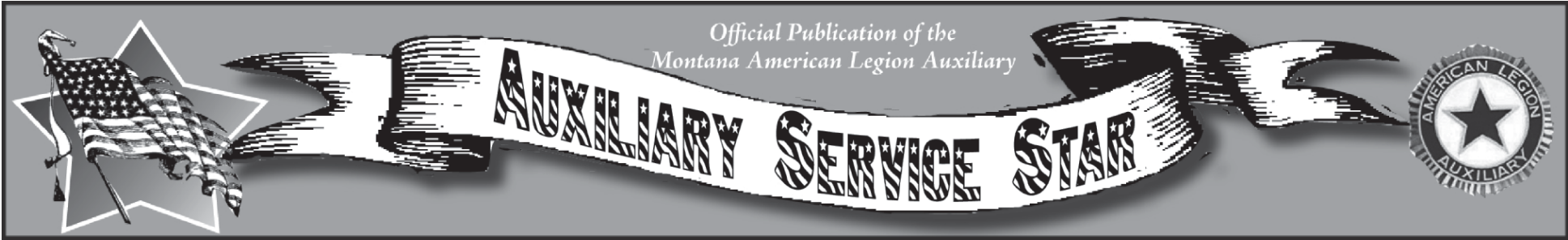
You are not required to be currently appointed or ordained as a chaplain to attend; however, you must register by May 16th so there will be enough materials and seating for everyone.

A check for \$10 will hold your seat. Please register soon! Just send your check made out to: American Legion of Montana to my address below. Please include your address, email and phone number so I may confirmed I have received it!

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Missoula!

May you be well.

Chaya "Hiya" Semple
Department Chaplain
34 Mergenthaler Rd
Montana City, MT 59634



President

CHRIS NELSON

We have rolled into another busy time of the year! Grade school essays, Poppy Poster Contests, Scholarship applications, and Legion oratorical contest are some of the ways we can get youngsters involved in Auxiliary and American Legion programs.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State will be held at Carroll College again this year and we are looking forward to hosting about 100 young women June 12-18. Girls who were accepted but didn't get to go due to the cancellation of the program last year, are eligible to attend this year along with the future incoming senior class. If your Unit does not expect to send a girl, you might consider sponsoring one from another Unit which has more applicants. We are also seeking counselors for the week. This has always been a successful program with great feedback from attendees.

Our **RAFFLE** is still in effect and tickets are for sale, **\$5 each** or **5 for \$25**. 1ST PRIZE is a Gas Griddle Cooking Station; 2ND PRIZE, a \$250 Check from ALA; and 3RD PRIZE, a Wal-Mart \$150 Gift Certificate

If you need tickets please contact your District President, Unit President or me and we will send



Dept. President Chris Nelson

them. [see next page]

We are still urging each member to do one bit of service for a veteran's family who may need advice about services available to veterans. Service Officers and Centers are in Missoula, Miles City, Lewistown, Kalispell, Havre, Great Falls, Fort Harrison, Butte, Billings, and Belgrade. Phone numbers, addresses and contact people can be found on the mtlegion.org website [page 3 of this publication] or call Duane Cunningham, Dept. of Montana Adjutant, 406-324-3994.

It may still be cold outside so let's reach out and give a call to someone we know who is homebound or in a care center. A short 15-minute visit on the phone is an easy and great way to bring cheer to all.

"... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles..."

Thank you, members, for all you do. ⬤

Membership

1st Vice President

YVONNE KOSTELECKY



Happy New Year to our wonderful Auxiliary Members!

Hope you all are staying healthy and had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

As we begin our new year, we still have unfinished business that we need to try and take care of!! As of 29 December 2021, Montana is sitting at 76% of our goal for membership. We have 2227 paid of our 2929 goal; as I have stated before I would love to see if we could make 100%. I know we are all struggling in some way these days. If it isn't Covid, it is some other illness, maybe our power bills are out of the roof, kids needing something new, car payment or repair, any of these things can blow the budget.

When you are in your meetings your secretary/treasurer gives, or should give a report. Maybe as a Unit you could pay a struggling members membership this year. Is it possible that you could help pay for a fellow Auxiliary member? This is what we do, help each other. This could be just what they need to get back on their feet and continue with their membership.

Let 2022 be the year that we as Auxiliary members can show some extra kindness. If you have not heard from some of your members, please give them a call or send them an email to make sure they are doing okay? Holidays can be hard on anyone and everyone. They may be alone, and you could make a huge difference in their lives. My wonderful Auxiliary Members you are always in my prayers asking God to watch over you and to always send his very special angels to protect you when you are struggling or need extra guidance.

I am so very proud of all of you, and I look forward to 2022 being an amazing year for all of us God Bless our Veterans & God Bless America. ⬤

Unit 123 pitches in when it counts

BY STACY BEAR, AMERICANISM CHAIR

Every year we gather the American Legion family to pay respect to those who have gone before us. While walking through the markers you see many names of those we have served with and occasionally even a name or two of someone who was just here a couple years ago. It is a quick reminder that life is short and how lucky we are to live in a county where we are free to make choices and volunteer where we feel we can do the most good.

Seems like a small sacrifice of a morning to remember those who were willing to give it all—this Veteran's Day 5 members of Unit 123, joined Post 123 Commander Ray Southworth and one other Legion member in flag placement at the National Veterans Cemetery in Laurel.



Unit 123 Auxiliary members Julianne Lore, Roxy Roberts, Donna Williams, and Nancy Conter

Judith Gap Unit 70 Receives National Presidents Award for Excellence

BY FRAN ALLEN, UNIT 70, JUDITH GAP

When you come from a small town in Montana, 100 people is nothing out of the ordinary, but on a national scale 100 people may live in someone's building.

Judith Gaps Unit 70 gathered to celebrate receiving "The National Presidents Award for Excellence"

The award is based on ALA committee/programs achievements. It is no small feat to be even considered, but to be selected took the work of everyone in this Unit and their dedication to the Auxiliary's service before self is evident.



This award was presented to only ten Units in the nation, and was presented at the National Convention in Phoenix, Az this summer.

The award was presented to Unit 70 at the Fall District 9 meeting by past Department President Sue Davidson.

Billings Unit 117 Quilts for Vets

BY CHRISTINE MILLER



Richard Klose and Ellen Carbajal.

work and love provides smiles to faces and extra warmth in these frigid winter days of Montana.

Legionnaire Richard Klose traveled to Glendive to the Veterans home to present quilts made by Billings Andrew Pearson Auxiliary Unit 117.

Deceased Members		
OCTOBER 11 - DECEMBER 31, 2021		
Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 23.....	Miles City	Lila M. Matson
Unit 92.....	Hysham	Joan Cunningham
Unit 122...	Opheim	Sylvia Redfield
Unit 32.....	Terry	Lucille Revell
Unit 36.....	Dupuyer	Mary A Sullivan
Unit 70.....	Laurel.....	Clara Allen
Unit 102...	Cascade	Bernadine Fairbanks
Unit 102...	Geraldine	Joan Quigley
Unit 76.....	Hobson, MT	Mae E Rosman
Unit 73.....	Lewistown.....	Betty Montgomery
Unit 36.....	Great Falls	Dorothy Curry
Unit 36.....	Valier	Judith King
Unit 20.....	Dillon	Ann Mitchell

ALA MT Girls State stays at Carroll College for 12-18 June 2022

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Girls STATE
JEN DALRYMPLE, ALA MT GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR/ REGISTRAR
Negotiations with Carroll College representatives were successful enough for us to remain there for the 2022 ALAMTGS session without raising the Delegate fee of \$325 per applicant. This is great news as it is a wonderful central location giving us easy access to our State Capitol for a more realistic environment for the girls and allowing us to keep costs reasonable for our Units and applicants.

Erin has posted this year's application, draft agenda and Letter to Schools on the Legion Auxiliary website for your use. PLEASE send all application materials and fees to me as I will be Registrar as well as Director.

Information will be mailed and emailed out to every public and private school, as well as, Unit President and Post Commander to try to garner more support for encouraging applicants for this year's session. We would like to have 100 Delegates or more for a better inclusive learning experience.

The session will remain very similar to the last few years with plenty of activities, campaigns, trials, classes and fun. We are looking for more positive, motivated women who want to be a part of our team helping to grow the next generation of leaders. Consider being a day mentor, office staff assistant or evening activity guide. If you know a woman who might be willing to help as a full-time counselor for the week, by all means put us in touch. Many college students have a community service requirement for their course of study, and they can garner an entire semester of hours in one week as a counselor for our ALA MT Girls State session. For any of you who are Alumnae from any ALA Girls State program, consider giving back as a session volunteer or Delegate sponsor.

If you would like a full informational packet mailed to you, please feel free to contact me at 406-949-3660 and leave a message.

I am looking forward to working with all of you to make this year's session a memorable and successful event!

Chief Joseph Unit 135 Assists Local Food Bank and Local Family

BY DEBORAH HANCOCK, SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Lolo Food Bank asked Unit 135 to assist with their food bank distribution for both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. Tami McMillon and Deborah Hancock went shopping for the specific list of items provided by food bank staff. Each helped fill the bags and were available for the day of distribution. The Thanksgiving donation amounted to 528 pounds of food while Christmas netted a little less at 346. We know we'll be getting further calls to assist, and are happy to be able to help our community in this way.

A second call to serve came to Unit 135 as we applied and received a \$500 grant through the Town Pump's Adopt-a-Family program. Tami McMillon and Deborah Hancock had a blast shopping for two Lolo School children and a family of four.

Items purchased included coats, robe, nativity, gloves, earmuffs, pants, shirts, family games, and various gift cards including some for groceries and gas. Unit 135 has been blessed over the years to assist our community members during this time of year.

Military Friends

submitted by Chris Nelson, Auxiliary Dept. President

Recently, as President of the Department of Montana Auxiliary, I had the pleasure to present a check from the Poppy Fund to the wife of a serviceman currently enlisted, and serving in Idaho.

This lady is a veteran as well and is currently working two part-time jobs, and they have four children she is managing at home. We, the Auxiliary, were able to help get this dad home for Christmas, and again sometime soon.

Chris Miller recently shared with me a short insight about our service families, and we often concentrate on service members, and veterans and the job they do, but in this we have got to remember those who serve and live alongside them...

There hasn't been much said about the military friend, yet no wars could ever have been won without her. She will never see the front lines, but is invaluable to the country.

Who is this person that we speak of? She is the one standing on the curb, next door at your new assignment completely excited to see a complete stranger.

She is a teacher. She will teach you where the commissary and the Exchange are, the school, and the clinic, and where the best hair-stylist is.

She will help you figure out how to relight the hot water heater, mend a gate, and fix the lawn mower. She will help you shop for a gown, learn how to recognize rank, and all the military customs that come with this life. She will be the one who has the secret code book to the many military acronyms your husband will come home rambling on about. Most of all she will teach you about yourself.

She will have the best sense of humor and can make any house a home. She is a woman of quiet strength who holds the heart of one of our nations bravest. She will soon be more like a sister than a friend. She is kind, and generous,

and gives of herself. She will relax on your patio, share recipes, a bottle of wine, a cup of sugar, babysitting, and carpooling. She will hold you when you need it and pull you up by your bootstraps when you need that. Mostly, she will make you know how strong you are, when you believe you can't.

The military friend has an unshakable love for her country. That is how she smiles when the time comes for you both to stand on a different curb and let those soldiers go off to places unknown. She will slip her hand in yours as you wave to them ever smiling; you can cry when you get home, leave him always with a smile.

And, the waiting begins.

There will be endless days of normal family life while you both wait for the boys to come home. The bond of military friends can only be experienced, never explained. Days pass, deployments, training, workdays and fabulous weekends go by.

Now it is you who stands on the curb with tears in your eyes and a smile on your face as you hug your dear friend. The orders have come, it is time to move on to the next assignment. Take comfort in the fact she will pull up to a new curb, and find another military wife waiting to meet her, just as in the coming week a new wife will pull up to this curb looking for a friendly face in you. The military life is hard on a military wife.

That is why you have Military Friends...

We are all a little bit older, we have a few more miles on us for sure, but we also need to recognize that we all can use that "military friend." Sometimes we need to stop and smell the roses and borrow that cup of sugar we don't even really need, but the hour chat is just what someone else may need. We must support one another, the smallest favor even that friendly smile can make all the difference.

THE MILITARY FRIEND
BY CHRISTINE MILLER
DEDICATED TO ALL THE WOMEN THAT THIS IS ABOUT, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE..

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA 2021-2022 Raffle \$5 each or 5 for \$20

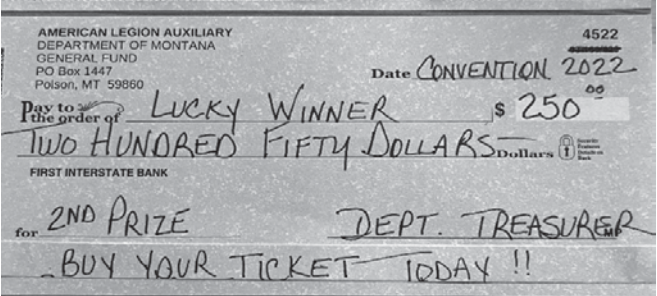


1st Prize
Blackstone 519 sq.in.
Griddle Cooking Station with
Hood, Cover, & Accessories

2nd Prize
\$250 Cash



3rd Prize
\$150 Walmart Card



****For tickets, contact your District President, Unit President, or Dept. President Chris Nelson.**

Drawing to be held June 18, 2022 — Need not be Present to Win



JOSHUA CLEMENT, CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE COMMITTEE/
2022 PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Americanism Corner

Each month the Department will highlight one of the outstanding youth programs that ties to The American Legion’s Americanism pillar. This quarter we will spotlight Montana’s American Legion Boys State. Future editions will include Government Survey and Essay contests, Oratory Contest, and American Legion Baseball.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected educational programs of government instruction for high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county, and state government. Operated by students elected to various offices, American Legion Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, and recreational programs.

America Legion Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Illinois now hosts Premier Boys State, as with tradition in The American Legion, inaugural programs are titled “Premier.”

Montana is one of the 49 American Legion Boys State programs, with Hawaii being the only one without. There are, however, 50 Boys State programs, with a national program held each July in the District of Columbia. Each year, Montana sends two participants to Boys Nation at no cost to them. Last year, based on the pandemic, Montana was able to send four delegates, as we were given the delegate slots from another department that did not conduct their program.

At American Legion Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizens. Informed citizenship will strengthen

American Legion Boys State

our Country and our way of life. Our program has a heavy focus on education through our “learn by doing” approach. Throughout the week, citizens will participate in classroom seminars, group discussions, interactive experiences, and other immersive learning methods as they participate in the program. This year most of the instruction will be held on Fort William Henry Harrison (just outside of Helena); with the standard visit, tour, and legislative session at the Capital.

The program will continue the high-quality instruction with outstanding keynote speakers from government, military, and private sectors. In addition to the location change from Carroll College to Fort Harrison, the date changed to start the Sunday before Memorial Day (29 May through 3 June 2022). We are hoping to see more participation and future recruiting with moving the program a week earlier. Since American Legion Boys State is starting on the Memorial Day Weekend, we will be paying homage to the World War II servicemembers who contributed to the enormous advancements our Country saw after the second Great War. This year’s curriculum will be built around the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill. We will be supported by The American Legion national media office with one or both G.I. Bill displays seen at past national conventions.

American Legion Boys State is a program every Post can participate in. The price will remain at \$300 for this year and will be reassessed after this year’s program. Any District Commander that has 100 percent participation (participant or \$300 donation from each Post) will receive Department Convention Banquet dinner ticket. I want to thank all the volunteers for have made this program successful in the past. Our program is always in need of support, fiscal or labor. Please reach out to me if you desire to contribute in anyway this year. Post packets will be distributed in the month of January and registration will open 1 February through 30 April. Late registration will be taken through 25th of May with a \$50 late fee.

Please do not forget the Samsung Scholarship application. In 1996, worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea’s aid during its struggle

against communist forces in the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program established a series of scholarships derived from interest and other income from the principal amount. To date, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship has awarded over \$5.5 million to more than 2000 applicants.

In closing, I am honored to serve as Chairman of American Legion Boys State committee and Director of the 2022 program. It is important we remember that it is American Legion Boys State. As you noticed in this article, we refer to the program as American Legion Boys State, not just Boys State. We are “fining” Legionnaires \$2 (for 2022) for not using American Legion Boys State when referring to the program and adding those fines to American Legion Boys State operation’s fund. This a program has left its mark on thousands of Montanans and will continue to leave its mark on future generations.

Fires devastate but bring out the best the Legion is

Taken from the Cascade newspaper, DEC. 10, 2021

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PROVIDED BY ROBERT MILLER, POST COMMANDER, AMERICAN LEGION POST 62, DENTON.

“The fire that ripped through Denton on Dec 2nd destroying or damaging approximately 25 homes and buildings. Six of the homes that were destroyed or damaged belong to American Legion Post 62 members. Two of the homes that were destroyed belonged to Posts last surviving WWII veteran and a disabled Vietnam Veteran. The other four homes were damaged by smoke, flames and water and may or may not be a total loss. Most of Post 62’s Veterans are on fixed incomes. Insurance claims can take a little time and Christmas is almost here I would like to challenge Montana’s Legion Posts and Legionnaires to donate to the caus.” A Denton Fire Relief Fund has been opened; checks can be made payable to the Denton Fire Relief Fund and mailed to Farmers State Bank, a division of Opportunity Bank of Montana, at P.O. Box 1047, Denton, MT 59430. Checks and donations may also be made to any of the 24 Opportunity Bank branches across Montana. All donations received will be managed locally and are fully tax deductible. Questions may be directed to Brandi Schweigert, Opportunity Bank vice president/regional retail manager, at 406-932-5317 or to Austin Mapston, Denton High School alum, at 406-350-0463.

In Great Falls: Gibson Flats Fire Great Falls – Legionnaire Barney Cooper; Post 3 and District 8 Sergeant at Arms; lost his home in the fire and did not have insurance. He is currently working with the Red Cross and other agencies for assistance; but Barney lost everything. Community members have started a “Go Fund Me” account for Barney to help rebuild his home; if you would like to contribute to the cause please visit the following website: [Fundraiser by Beth Waters: Help Barney Cooper rebuild his home! \(gofundme.com\)](#)

In Browning: The Browning fire was contained to around 500 acres and does not appear to have impacted homes or buildings; but if you here of a fellow Legionnaire or Veteran directly impacted by the fire; please contact The Department of Montana American Legion.

Veterans Strengthening America. The American Legion is built on a promise from men and women who swore with their lives to defend and protect the United States through military service. The promise begins at enlistment, grows through training and discipline in the U.S. Armed Forces and continues after discharge, as veterans in service to community, state and nation.

Posts Combine to install Fatality Marker

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 received a request from the Commander of Ennis Post 65, Lee Sargent, to help install a Highway Fatality Marker on the highway north of Ennis on the

Norris Hill. The Posts were assisted by two Madison County Sheriff Officers who requested to help. Sergeant Wes Heavrin was the first officer to respond to the accident on July 27, 2018.



PHOTO BY GREG HARBAC, POST 14 FATALITY MARKER LEADER

L-R: Madison County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Doug Young, Sergeant Wes Heavrin, Ennis American Legion Post 65 Commander Lee Sargent, Fatality Marker Coordinator Howard Goltz, Fatality Team Member Steve Bartlett, and Bozeman Post 14 Fatality Marker Team Member Steve Bartlett.

BILL WHITE FOR DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER

I am a candidate for The American Legion Department of Montana Vice Commander and would appreciate your vote at the Department convention in June.

Most people see me at District meetings talking about the VAVS program at the VA and I also attend the Fall Conferences, all Department, and National Conventions. I have been involved in this for over ten years. In addition, I am on the National VA&R commission and have attended all those meetings for the last nine years; both the winter meetings in Washington DC and all National Conventions. Presently I am the Department's representative to Governor Greg Gianforte. I have been the Post 2 Commander and currently the District 6 Finance Officer. In my spare time I help with the Post and District Oratory Contest.

The Department Vice Commander has a heavy hand in membership. Like you, I have heard all the speeches on what we need to do to retain members and get new ones. I don't have a solution to solve that problem, BUT I believe that you do and, if elected, I will be asking for ideas



and possible solutions from you. This is not just for the leadership to fix; it is all our problem to fix.

Over the years I have seen people get elected to high positions in the Department who seem to have lost contact with the BLUE HATS. As Vice Commander, and possibly Department Commander, my goal is to talk and LISTEN to you.

I know Posts need to work with other Posts, not just on paper but face-to-face. We cannot grow unless we do. There are old ideas out there that need to be reexamined to see if they are even viable in today's Legion. Whoever you elect as Vice Commander will need to discuss this with leadership and come up with a game plan that will enhance the whole Department. This means talking to and getting input from the BLUE CAPS.

Thank you for your consideration!

Post 89 Conducts Flag Etiquette for Girl Scouts

Sheridan Post 89 bugler Greg Granken (Past Vice Commander) provided Sheridan's Girl Scout Troop 3535 with Flag Etiquette training in preparation for the Troop to conduct the opening flag ceremony prior to the start of Sheridan's Basketball game on 20 December 2021. This is the second year that Greg has provided training on the care and use of the American Flag to the girls. The Troop's Girl Scouts did an outstanding job of presenting the flags as part of the opening ceremony.



Sheridan Post 89

BY MICHAEL MORGAN

Sheridan Christmas Stroll Post 89 Float & Santa

Sheridan Post 89 participated in the annual Sheridan Christmas Stroll, 3 December 2021. Beginning with a parade of vehicles that drove down Sheridan's Main Street before proceeding to parade past the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center (Nursing Home) and the Home Park Assisted Living facility. The Post provided a truck float for Post members, along with Santa Claus, riding in the back waving to the Community along the parade route. After the parade, Santa set up shop in front of the Post building to greet all kids who wanted to talk to Santa. Over a hundred children sat on Santa's lap.



to meet with the kids in the audience and after hearing what the kids wanted for Christmas, they were provided with a bag containing fruit and

candy. Other Post members were stationed at the school entrance to hand out oranges to the departing families. Over 90 children visited Santa and received their treats. Leftover bags of goodies were taken to the Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center (Nursing Home) and the local Assisted Living Facility (Home Park) for distribution to their residents.

2021 Sheridan Elementary Pre-K to 3rd Grade Christmas Concert Post 89

On 15 December 2021, the Sheridan Elementary School conducted its Pre-K to 3rd Grade Christmas Concert featuring individual class musical programs for family and friends. At the end of the concert Post 89 provided a Santa Claus

Ken Simon for Department Vice Commander

I was born in Glasgow, and am a Retired Veteran with 26 years of service in the Army. I served in various units stateside, did a tour in Korea, and in Germany in Nuremberg and was a member of the 1st Squadron 163rd Armored Cavalry Regiment here in Montana. I am a candidate for Vice Commander for the Montana Department of the American Legion. I would appreciate your confidence and vote at the Department Convention in June in Missoula.

I have been in The American Legion for almost 33 years and a Life Member and a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 58. I was Post Commander of Post 58 for three years, I have been the American Legion Boys State Committee person for Eastern Montana for the past four years, held the position of the Department Parliamentarian for two years, elected as the Vice Commander for District 1 almost four years ago and have been the District 1 Commander since April of last year. I am also the National Security Chairman for the Department of Montana, and at the Phoenix American Legion National Convention I was selected to be the National Security Chairman representing the Department of Montana at the National Convention this year in Wisconsin. I am presently a member of the Finance Committee of the Department of Montana American Legion.

Being the Department of Montana Vice Commander is a position filled with responsibility to assist the Department Commander, the Zone, and District Commanders in their respective positions regarding Membership and American Legion functions, to be a representative of the Department of Montana American Legion. Membership is nothing new to Commanders at Department level but also the Zone, District, and Post. My job as the



Department Vice Commander is to assist you in any way possible to Retain, Recruit, and Recognize your members. In regard to membership, I believe that it is a Team effort to Retain and Recruit new members. Realizing that it has been discussed and been a major topic over the past few years, I will be willing to sit down as the Department Vice Commander and listen to what you as Commanders, Adjutants, and members have to say about American Legion Membership. We must remember as Legionnaires that this is our Montana American Legion, we are a Team, and that there are veterans and former American Legion Members who have NOT been asked to join or to stay on board. You have ideas, comments, and concerns about membership and I will be willing to sit down and listen to all of those as Vice Commander.

Remember, this is your Montana American Legion, and we are ALL a Member of Team Montana and together we can do anything we put our hearts and minds to. We should strive to work together to make our Montana American Legion the strongest possible team it can be. That means working with each other as an important link in the chain all across the State of Montana, we can accomplish the task of membership. If we attempt to tackle or solve any situation alone, we will not succeed but together we can tackle and solve any situation.

I would appreciate your vote for Department Vice Commander.

Thank You for your time.

Lending Santa a hand—both warriors & Santa in the business of caring

By DUANNE CUNNINGHAM

Tis the season for feel good Christmas Stories. The American Legion was honored to be able to participate in one.



Our story begins with a phone call from the VFW of Montana Adjutant and the offer to participate in this year's Toys for Tots Program. There was a surplus of toys and presents this year and the VFW was looking for help getting out some Christmas cheer. A few phone calls later, the Commander of American Legion Post 40 in Cut Bank; Travis Shook, took us up on our offer of being Santa Claus and a heartwarming Christmas Story was born.

Commander Shook started making phone calls and the community responded in a way that would warm the Grinch's heart. Community members from The American Legion, Moose Lodge, Elks Club, employees from the CHS, and Front Range Pipeline



LLC came together and made Christmas for families in need of Christmas Cheer. It was a major task that took all these organizations and wonderful community members working together to accomplish.



While the elves went to work finding families in need of toys, Santa needed a sleigh to deliver them, Pat Hall from Front Range Pipeline made sure that was not a problem. Volunteering not only the time and efforts of its employees, Pat personally, drove to Helena, borrowed a sleigh trailer from top toy maker Tim Sowa and drove 25 bicycles and over 50 presents to the Cut Bank community. The many volunteers who played a part in the wrapping, assembling, coordinating, finding those who were in need were all a huge part of bringing Christmas cheer to those who needed it most.

A heartfelt thanks to all who made this little Christmas miracle happen. We can all agree that making kids happy Christmas morning is always the goal but it only takes a small gesture such as this to remind us what we can do when we all come together for a single purpose.



LIHEAP & Energy Share Can Help

Cold weather is here, and heating bills can pile up fast. Do you know someone who is worried about how they're going to pay those bills? If so, call one of the numbers below to see what's available for help, either for your friend or for you. In Montana, it's about neighbors helping neighbors. That can be as simple as going with a friend to complete an application. Call now to find the office nearest you that handles both LIHEAP and Energy Share applications:

Montana LIHEAP office at
1-833-317-1080

Energy Share of Montana:
1-888-779-7589

You can also find information at:
<https://www.energysharemt.com/how-to-apply>
and <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/energyassistance>

Sheridan County Patriots Day

By RUSS D. SAMUELSON, Post 58



Members of Plentywood Post 58 joined together with other members of the community to pay salute to those who lost their lives on 9-11, and those who charged ahead to defend our nation against an enemy bent on destroying our way of life. Other groups participating in the ceremony held above Bolster Dam Reservoir on September 11 were VFW Post 4018, SAL Post 58, Plentywood Fire Dept, Montana Highway Patrol, Sheridan County Ambulance and EMT Assoc., US Customs and Immigration. Also participating with vehicles and personnel were the Sheridan County Sheriff's Department, and rural fire Departments from Medicine Lake, Redstone Rural, and Westby.

Wreaths & the Holiday

CAROL PRAHL, Post 5

Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl spent the better part of the day helping place wreaths on Veteran's graves at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Miles City on December 18th. The Post helps to maintain the cemetery for the holidays, this one though reminds everyone just what Eastern Montana is really like, you can see the snow drifts and on this day; it was a toasty 2° with a light breeze. Brrr!!

One can always question someone from this side of our great state about "light breeze." Does that mean you don't have to tie off to make it to the barn without blowing away?



Wreaths Across America

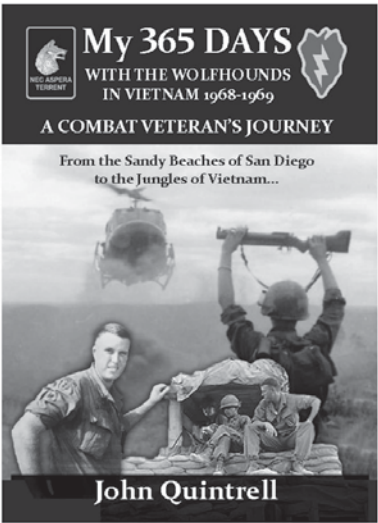
NANCY DEZELL, Post 47

Laying wreaths at the cemetery has become a tradition for Post 47, these veterans are missed at holiday gatherings across the state. Some didn't come home at all and never experienced another Montana Christmas, but others served right alongside us as Legionnaires and as you walk the grounds you see many names that bring back memories and their faces. Post 47 rallied around the task of laying wreaths at each cemetery in Hamilton, Darby, and Grantsdale to honor our Veterans thru out the holiday season.



A few participants of the day: Ruth Cook, Paul Rosenberg, Deb Strickland, Greg Marose, and visiting friend David 'Ozzie' Osborn of Post 5 Seward, Alaska. Photographer Nancy Dezell, always a participant but is also chief recorder of events and seems to always be on the operating side of the camera.

New Book Release My 365 Days By John Quintrell



"John Quintrell writes a devastatingly personal memoir. His recalling the chilling nature of guerrilla and helicopter warfare and its effect on the men who fight in it chronicles their cold fear. Ground with precision, John evokes the foot soldier's daily life. Its raw language brings a shocking and gritty portrait of horror and pain with its immediate emotional impact of shame and guilt – recalled even 50 years after his one heartrending year in Vietnam. Not all soldiers were honorable. Judging by his clarity in the narrative he has yet to forget those years and its moral confusion. With intense sketches of fellow soldiers, hedgerows and villages, bloodied bodies and land scarred by bullets and napalm the author never lets up with the gore and agony and loss of yet another brother-in-arms, enemy, child or innocent civilian. As an Army Nurse in South Vietnam, I saw the results of war every day. Soldiers like John handed his men off to our hospitals or to the angels. Read this book to grasp that profound bravery, self-sacrifice and heroism in the Vietnam generation is undeniable. John lived to tell his story and he tells it well."

— Diane Carlson Evans, Captain,
Army Nurse Corps, Vietnam 1968-69.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ISBN 9781649703293
Pages: 360
Size 6 x 9
Publication Date: Nov, 2020
Printed in the United States of America

Available in
Paper Back or Audio Book.

Go to www.my365daysvetbook.com to order online!

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AMERICAN LEGION
District 2
Havre
Post #11

Meetings 2nd Monday
each month, 7pm
at Havre
Eagles Club 
202 1st Street
Havre, Montana

AL AUXILIARY 
as well!

Montana Legionnaires...
Visit the
Montana Military Museum

At Historic Fort Harrison
just West of Helena

Fort William Henry Harrison Museum
Foundation & Montana Military Museum

For more information write to:
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator
PO Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

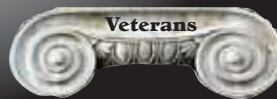


**American Legion
Gallatin Post #14**
Striving for Legiontown USA

225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

Open daily
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to Midnight





406-586-8400



**American Legion
Post #2**

3095 Villard Ave.
Helena, MT

Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week

Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday

*Silver Bow Post #1
and Auxiliary*
AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA

*Welcome* 

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



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OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM

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1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT

**This Space
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**Liberty County
American Legion
Post #88**

Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Liberty Co. Community
& Senior Center
618 East Adams
Chester, Montana



**American Legion
Post #3**



Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM
September thru May
at the Elks Lodge
500 1st Ave South
Great Falls MT
(406) 453-8822

**This Space
Available**

We Salute Our Servicemen & Women

**Welcome To
American Legion
Club 30**

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





31 W. Main • Belgrade • 388-3430

Broadwater Post 42 Family
Welcomes You



211 Broadway
Townsend MT

Bar open daily at 3:00p
Legion meets 1st Mon 6:30p
(except holidays)
Auxiliary meets 2nd Mon 6:30p
(Sep – May)
Meeting Hall/kitchen available for
special event rental.
(406) 266-3611



*Big Timber
American Legion
Post #19*

**DROP IN
& VISIT US!**

110 E 3RD AVENUE, BIG TIMBER, MT

Post Meetings - 1st Wed. 7 p.m.
Open 7 days a week
M-F 1 p.m. to close
S-S 10 a.m. to close
Pizza Every Day – Friday Night Burgers & Sandwiches