



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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February — April 2021

CUNNINGHAM SELECTED INCOMING DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

As indicated in the accompanying report of the Department Adjutant Ad Hoc Selection Committee, Duane Cunningham, a US Navy Persian Gulf veteran has been selected to become the next Department Adjutant starting April 1, 2021.

Duane Cunningham was born in Waterloo, Iowa July 10, 1966. Raised by an amazing single mom and farming grandparents; Duane graduated from Oelwein High School in 1984 in Oelwein, Iowa. He joined the United States Navy through the delayed entry program the beginning of his senior year of high school and upon graduation, headed to Great Lakes NTC for bootcamp.

Having somehow survived bootcamp, he was assigned as a A-6 Intruder plane captain aboard the USS Midway (CV-41), homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. A change in rating to the Personnelman field, brought change of station orders to the World's Finest Battleship, the USS New Jersey (BB-62); where if given a choice, he would have spent the rest of his Naval career. Enjoying career stops up and down the west coast culminating in a deployment to Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Djibouti in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Duane retired from the United States Navy in 2007 after a successful 23-year career.

Upon retirement, Duane took a job with the Montana Department of Health and Human Services as a Field



Duane Cunningham
Incoming Department Adjutant

Inspector for the Weatherization and LIEAP Programs. After six years at the State; he returned to what he truly enjoyed; assisting Veterans; landing a job as the My HealthVet Coordinator for VA Montana where he continues to assist Veterans with healthcare and VA benefits.

Duane is a five-year member of The American Legion with Lewis & Clark Post 2 in Helena. He has held the following Post positions; 2nd Vice Commander; 1st Vice Commander, Trustee and Post Adjutant. He has held numerous committee positions at the Post level. Duane is also a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron #2; and the La Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of Forty and Eight); Voiture 718.

Duane is very active in his community; he is a member of the Helena Football Official Association; the Helena Basketball Officials Association and a former Frontier Conference football official. He has also officiated high school lacrosse the last few years.

Duane has three beautiful daughters; and five grandchildren living in Helena and Missoula; as well as Santa Rosa, California. They continue to bring joy to his life, along with his three dachshunds that maintain and run the household.

NEIL "POOCH" NEARY, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER 2005-06 PASSES



Neil "Pooch" Neary, Department Commander 2005-06 of Butte a 64-year Paid Up For Life member of Silver Bow Post 1 of Butte passed away on November 6, 2020, at home. Neil served in the US Army during the Korean War and was discharged as a Corporal in 1954.

Neil served as Post 1 Commander from 1962 to 1963 and again in 1980 to 1981. Neil served as District 6

Commander and the Western Zone Commander prior to being elected as Department Commander in 2005. Served as District 3 Commander as well as the Chairman of the Americanism

Committee prior to his election to Department Commander at the Calgary Department Convention.

Neil was employed with the Anaconda Company before he enlisted and when he returned to civilian life. Neil retired in 1983 as a Carpenter.

Neil was married to Iris Hibbs and they had three wonderful children, a daughter Debbie Duffy, son Neil Jr., and Leo, they divorced when the children were in their teens. He later married Linda Bunker and they were married 46 years, before her passing in September of 2018. Linda served as The American Legion of Montana Auxiliary president 2004-05. She had a son Johnny, and he left them a granddaughter Daelyn Joy of Pendleton, Oregon.

He leaves behind his daughter Debbie, grandson Jason, son Neil and daughters Jodi and Sarah, son Leo and grandson Christian Neary, and his two sisters, Mary Berg, of Walker-ville and Helen Denton of Butte, brother Dean and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Neil's last honor was given to him last year, by Congressman Gianforte, he was recognized for his many years of dedication and devotion to his State and Community

Important Upcoming Dates	
Some dates subject to change based on COVID Restrictions.	
Feb 10	85% Target
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 15	President's Day
Feb 28-Mar 3 ..	Washington Conference
Mar 1	Eagle Scout of the Year Nomination Due to Department Headquarters
Mar 6	Department Oratory – Helena
Mar 7	First District Meeting – District 6 Townsend
Mar 10	90% Target Date
Mar 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 15	Constitutional Essay due to Education Chairman
Mar 15-17	The AL Birthday
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 19-22	National Commander Bill Oxford Visit; Districts 9 & 8
Mar 28	Palm Sunday
Mar 28-Apr 4	Passover
Apr 1	MT Legionnaire May / Jun / July issue cutoff date
Apr 1 ...	Dept. Adjutant White's last day / Dept. Adjutant Cunningham first day
Apr 2	Good Friday
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 9-11 ...	84th Annual National Oratory Finals – Indianapolis, IN
Apr 14	Post Data Forms due to Department Headquarters
Apr 14	95% Target Date, Renewal Cutoff Date
Apr 15	Government Survey due to Education Chairman
Apr 15	990N due to IRS for Posts using calendar year for fiscal year
Apr 25 ..	Last District Meeting – District 3 Conrad
May 1	Certification of Post Officers due to Department Headquarters
May 1-2 ..	SAL National Spring Meetings
May 3-6	National Spring Meetings – Indianapolis, IN
May 12	100% Target Date
May 19	Mother's Day
May 14	Peace Officers' Memorial Day
May 15	Consolidated Post Report (CPR) Due to Dept. HQ
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 30	Memorial Day
May 31	Memorial Day observed

BIG K WINNERS

The Big K \$200 Early Bird Drawing for 2021 was won by Unit 137, Kalispell, Unit 137's number was drawn by Natalie Rennerfeldt of Lewis & Clark Post 2 Helena.

The Big K \$400 winner for January 2020 was Harold Crowley of Silver Bow Post 1 Butte. Harold's number was drawn by Terry Biesemeyer of Lewis & Clark Post 2 Helena.

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

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

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

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COMMANDER NELSON

Like many out there I am continuing to have to write things down to remember all the things I am supposed to do from day-to-day. Perhaps there are more than a few of you who know what I am talking about. So, as the new year comes around, I get caught in that same old scenario of what projects am I supposed to tackle this next year around the house. If you are wondering what this has to do with the American Legion, it is time to get your Post checklist out and go over what you need to tackle for the year coming up.

The first thing to check at the beginning of the year: where is your Post regarding membership? How many members have not renewed, and does your Post need to make some phone calls, write some letters, or maybe just take a drive and see how that member is doing and find out why they have not renewed for the year. My experience is they have not heard from anyone in the Post this past year and would just appreciate someone stopping by and saying hi.

Are you working the American Legion programs? Granted not every Post participates in every program. The ones that your Post does participate in need to be looked at and planned out. Especially children and youth programs whether Oratorical, American Legion Boys State, and Baseball for the winter and spring months. You should have contacted your high schools about the oratorical contest by now and set up a Post contest by the middle of February. You should be contacting your high schools about Boys State delegates, disseminating information to



Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

junior class boys. I have found the best and brightest generally make great delegates, but those students that are never given an opportunity to attend an event as this, sometimes become the leaders of our communities later in life. So just because a student has a C average, do not overlook other qualities that student has that might just change his life later on.

Your highway fatality chairman needs to get a list from the highway department in their area and find out if there have been any fatalities over this past winter. Set up a date or a weekend that would be a good weekend to refurbish old markers. Check paint supplies and inventory of markers.

Does your Post support an area for roadside trash pickup along a highway or road? Get the date that you are obligated to pick up trash and a crew that will volunteer.

Do you have a collection site for worn and retired flags that will be disposed of on Flag Day? Do you need to contact other organizations about receiving and storing these flags until June 14th and having a crew to perform the retirement ceremony?

Do you have guest speaker for Memorial Day ceremonies; are the crosses and flags all in good order; if having a parade are the city permits in order and the city police notified?

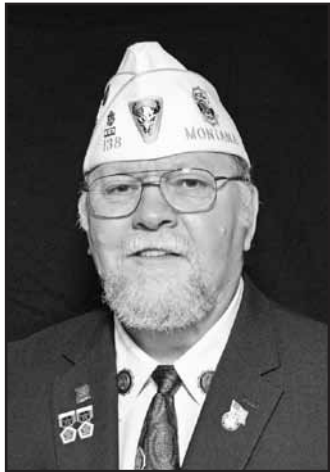
Now that I you and I have our checklist, it appears all items have been checked, committees and volunteers are ready to start working. I have no doubt I forgot something. I should have written it down. ●

VICE COMMANDER SHARBONO

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas! And here is hoping for a better new year!

Recently in the middle of December we the Department had our first ever “Social Hour” via Zoom.

I alternated as the host with the Department Commander taking the North-Central and South-Central Zones and he took the Western and Eastern Zones. Our goal was not to press Commanders or members about membership but to just have a casual visit among fellow Comrades, a hello to each other and perhaps an exchange of ideas. giving us a better chance to get to know one another outside the formal confines of Fall Conferences and Department Conventions. There is no better chance for most to have the ear, face to face with the Department Commander. We are looking to make this a regular event, as well as a “Meet and Greet” with the new Department Adjutant, along with a Chaplains session, District Commanders sessions to name a few, with the hopes of reaching a larger group participation. This virus has gotten a lot of us feeling depressed and disassociated. It is not a fix-all for I feel we still need the face-to-face human interaction that is only afforded by in person meetings. To that we are planning to go full steam ahead with our programs as they should and would normally be held, in person and live, not Memorex, a necessity for the High School Ora-



Glen Sharbono
Dept. Vice Commander

torical Scholarship contest, American Legion Boys State, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, Junior Shooting Sports and American Legion Baseball. None of which can be done properly while trying to attempt social distancing. During the Zoom sessions I came up with the concept of a “Secret Santa” to help our fellow brothers and sisters, for any reason, as it would not be a charity but a way for someone willing to help a fellow comrade. By donating \$40.00 to either the Post, District or Department earmarked “Secret Santa” for anyone in general or you may anonymously even single out someone you know. Then around the first part of December or sooner, the Adjutants at those respective

levels can draw from a list of names who would have their memberships renewed. This does not mean you should wait to see if your name is drawn before you renew, If you are like me, I can by all the tickets but one in a raffle and still lose! This is just a way to give for those who can. Along with the membership card they would receive a “Secret Santa” card or letter explaining how they were renewed.

I would like to remind everyone reading this about the “Training Tuesdays” that are held online the last Tuesday of each month by National. If you cannot, make the time they are available at [Legion.org/training](https://legion.org/training). I also encourage every single member to take the time and complete the “Basic Training” course available at the same link. A prerequisite to attend the Montana Legion College and the National American Legion College. Remember you are not only training for the job you want but the one you have! Learn what this Organization that you have been investing in is all about. Understand why you joined in the first place and better to encourage our future brothers, sisters, and their families. It's time for us all to invest more than our money, we should invest our time and skills in Post, District and Department operations. Be involved as best as you can! And with that, I will soon begin the process of making my appointments as your Department Commander for the year 2021-2022 (assuming of course I'll be elected) These appointments will require that you attend the Department Convention in Helena in June 2021 and Fall Conference in Helena in October 2021. There are over 30 positions available such as Department Sergeant-At-Arms, Americanism, Dean of the Montana Legion College, a VA Rep for Billings area just to name a few. If you are interested

ADJUTANT continued on page 5

From the Desk of Retiring Adjutant

Gary White's Final Article

After writing about 90 of these Department Adjutant articles for the Montana Legionnaire you would think this final one would be easy but it's not. I want to thank the many wonderful Legionnaires and Legion Family members that I have had the honor and pleasure of working with over the years. I would like to be able to name them individually but I'm afraid a would miss someone, besides there just isn't enough space to do so properly. I must note however without the support and assistance of my late wife Andrea and my current wife Rose, there is absolutely no way that I could have ever done this, thank you all so very much.



Several years ago, in a magazine article Marilyn Vos Savant responded to a reader question as to why Americans, as an overall society, are the biggest complainers when compared to other countries / societies that are not as wealthy or well off as we are? She responded that she felt a lot of the problem is due to our upbringing; “spoiled kids and later, teens who have been excessively funded by their parents grow up to become demanding adults whose wishes cannot be satisfied unless society produces more than it consumes.” She later noted “This is one reason our federal government has so much debt. We want more than we can provide in return.” Perhaps this provides some insight to the problems we as an organization have. Far too often we are faced with individuals who “demand” far more of others than they have ever

ADJUTANT continued on page 4

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Replacement of the Department of Montana Adjutant

The committee met with the applicant in Helena on 12 October 2020. The interview lasted nearly two hours and covered every facet of adjutant duties. There is valid concern that the applicant cannot at present give the Legion full time as he is a VA employee. However, his work is related to Legion activities and he has extensive Legion experience. It is the unanimous opinion of the committee that the applicant can make it work when supported by a dedicated, capable clerk.

The applicant is Legionnaire Duane Cunningham a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer residing in Helena Mt.

The committee consisted of the following legionnaires:

- Past Department Cmdr. Larry Dobb, Chairman, excused due to illness
- Past Department Cmdr. Edward Sperry, acting Chairman
- Past Department Cmdr. Richard Klose, also, acting Department Past Commander
- Past Department Cmdr. Hal Rice
- Past Department Cmdr. Roger Hancock

The selection committee recommended the acceptance of Comrade Duane Cunningham's application pending resolution of several issues. These have been resolved since the interview meeting described above. Issues were as follows:

There were concerns about possible conflicts of interest between his present employer (VA) duties as Department Adjutant. This issue has been favorably resolved.

Apparently, there is a requirement for a formal contract between the Department Adjutant and the Department. This is being arranged by the Department JAG and is no longer an issue.

The committee kept in close contact with the Finance Committee. There is agreement on this issue.

Therefore, it is believed that this committee has carried out its mission. The committee recommends that Comrade Duane Cunningham be installed as the replacement Department Adjutant upon the retirement of Comrade Gary White.

SUBMITTED 8 JANUARY 2021
ED SPERRY, ACTING CHAIRMAN

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VICE COMMANDER - GEORGE BLACKARD
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

Chaplain's Corner

The Story of The Four Chaplains

CHAYA SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



With many thanks to the Chapel of the Four Chaplains for the following historical narrative.

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

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

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

An enemy submarine stalking the ship undetected fired a torpedo toward the ship’s aging flank. The missile exploded in the boiler room, destroying the electric supply and releasing suffocating clouds of steam and ammonia gas. Many on board died instantly; some were trapped below deck. Others, jolted from their bunks, groped and stumbled their way to the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard.

Because security reasons prevented the use of distress flares, escort vessels still close enough to assist, pushed on

into the darkness completely unaware the DORCHESTER was sinking.

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

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

When last seen, they were standing together on the deck leading the men in prayer. With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed, they sank beneath the waves. Two of those chaplains were Protestant, one was a Catholic, and one was a Jew.

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

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

It is our charge to see that this brief, but significant, portion of American history is not lost, and that the lessons of cooperation and selfless service are proclaimed.

If your Post is holding a Four Chaplains Service, please send me an email about it with a copy of the program, any pictures, and how you felt it went. I can be reached at: chaplainsemples@gmail.com (or by phone at (406) 465-0163 if you’d like to call.)

May you be well.

Bellows receives Custer Post 5 AL Baseball Scholarship

American Legion Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prah! presented Jess Bellows of the American Legion Miles City Mavericks team with the \$1,000 American Legion Baseball Scholarship Award.

DEADLINE

April 1, 2021

May - July issue

Submit all articles by above date.

Send copy to : lmtprpub@gmail.com, or AL Dept. of Montana

Armed Forces Reserve Cntr

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PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL, CUSTER POST 5

Department of Montana		
2021 Spring District Meetings		
6 Mar.	Dept. Oratory	Helena
7 Mar.	Dist. 6	Helena
13 Mar.	Dist. 11	Billings
14 Mar.	Dist. 7	Big Timber
20 Mar.	Dist. 9*	Roy
21 Mar.	Dist. 8*	Geraldine
10 Apr.	Dist. 5	Florence
11 Apr.	Dist. 4	Charlo
17 Apr.	Dist. 10	Miles City
18 Apr.	Dist. 1	Opheim
24 Apr.	Dist. 2	Havre
25 Apr.	Dist. 3	Conrad
*National Commander Visit		
Monday, April 26 will be the Pre-Department Convention Meeting in Helena for the Officers and Personnel concerned.		

Post Everlasting

AMERICAN LEGION

Oct/Nov/Dec 2020

ANGWIN, JOHN, 10/23/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 21-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

ARTHUR, ALAN, 12/20/2020 – Korea – US Army – 31-year member of Post 10, Deer Lodge, Interred with Military Honors

BIBLER, TIMOTHY W, 12/17/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 3-year member of Post 13, St. Regis, Interred with Military Honors

BOSSEN, JIM, 11/5/2020 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 14-year member of Post 100, Park City, Interred with Military Honors

DAVIES, SAMUEL, 10/19/2020 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 27-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

DURKIN, MARK, 8/2020 – Panama – US Army – 29-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

DUTTON, WILLIAM, 10/6/2020 – Vietnam – US Marine – 9-year member of Post 87, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors

FOOTE, JOHN, 10/26/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 25-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

FORD, THOMAS, 11/21/2020 – WWII – US Air Force – 4-year member of Post 47, Hamilton, Interred with Military Honors

FOSTER, STEPHEN, 10/10/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 19-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

GLEASON, BRIAN, 10/31/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 130, Vaugh, Interred with Military Honors

HARRIS, HENRY, 7/20/2020 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 93, Three Forks, Interred with Military Honors

HAYDEN, PATRICK, 10/17/2020 – Korea – US Army – 28-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

HIGGINS, VIRGIL, 11/10/2020 – WWII – US Air Force – 29-year member of Post 60, Ekalaka, Interred with Military Honors

HOCKETT, ROY, 12/15/2020 – Korea – US Air Force – 3-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

HODGE, RUSSELL, 12/4/2020 – WWII – US Army – 14-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors

HULL, W.C., 2020 – WWII – US Army – 35-year member of Post 105, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

IMLAY, WESLEY, 11/3/2020 – Korea – US Army – 15-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge, Interred with Military Honors

JUSTICE, DELBERT, 4/10/2020 – Korea – US Army – 19-year member of Post 60, Ekalaka, Interred with Military Honors

KEELE, DONALD, 11/30/2020 – Korea – US Army – 39-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

KNOX, JANNET, 10/24/2020 – Korea – US Army – 29-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors

KRUMM, JACK, 12/6/2020 – Korea – US Army – 28-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

LAPPE, LARRY, 10/4/2020 – Vietnam – US Army - 30-year member of Post 88, Chester, Interred with Military Honors

LEE, JOHN, 11/6/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 10-year member of Post 113, Arlee, Interred with Military Honors

LUNDWALL, LESLIE, 10/19/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 69-year member of Post 89, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors

MARTIN, WAYNE A, 7/2/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 3-year member of Post 73, Sweet Grass, Interred with Military Honors

MCCLELLAN, ALBERT, 12/25/2020 – Korea – US Army – 15-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

MILTON, HOWARD, 12/1/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 42-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

NEARY, NEIL J., 11/6/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 64-year member of Post 1, Butte, Interred with Military Honors

NILSON, EDWARD, 12/1/2020 – Korea – US Air Force – 28-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

OLAFSON, MARVIN, 6/6/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 9-year member of Post 123, Laurel, Interred with Military Honors

PURPURO, JOHN, 12/2/2020 – Global War on Terrorism – US Army – 30-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

RACE, GARY, 11/29/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 11-year member of Post 17, Red Lodge, Interred with Military Honors

RICHARD, JEROME, 12/19/2020 – Persian Gulf – US Army – 9-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

SCHAEFER, LEO, 11/28/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 14-year member of Post 137, Kalispell, Interred with Military Honors

SCHNECKLOTH, RAY D., 10/28/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 117, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

SHARPLES, FRANK, 12/31/2020 – US Navy – 73 -year member of Post 48, Chinook, Interred with Military Honors

SIMMONS, JAMES, 11/22/2020 – WWII – US Army – 9-year member of Post 47, Hamilton, Interred with Military Honors

SIMPSON, JAMES, 11/7/2020 – WWII – US Marines – 15-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors

SMITH, PERRY, 11/27/2020 – WWII – US Marines – 46-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors

SPAGELLO, GREG, 9/2/2020 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 2-year member of Post 48, Chinook, Interred with Military Honors

STOLTZ, FRANK, 11/2020 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors

Continued from page 3 Honors

POST EVERLASTING continued on page 4

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.

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Service Officer Kate Hahn

The M21-1 Adjudication Procedures Manual is an internal manual used to convey guidance for the policies, procedures, and regulations for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and its staff who develop, process, and adjudicate US Veteran's Disability Benefits Claims, Non-Service Connected Pension Claims, Death Pension Claims (Widow's Pension), and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Claims.

Like the VBA staff, accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) follow the same guidance for the policies, procedures, and regulations of the M21-1 to ensure claims submitted to the VA meet the requirements outlined in the procedural manual. This helps prevent unsubstantiated and frivolous claims from being submitted or appealed.

Throughout the year I will discuss different topics from the M21-1. My hope is to help individuals develop a basic understanding of the nature of claims. I will discuss topics like what is the representative organization form, what does an Intent to File do, what information is required to submit a fully developed

claim, what does the standard process mean, what are the different types of claims, what evidence is needed for a claim, what is a nexus letter and where can I get one, will I need a disability benefits questionnaire, where do I attend a compensation and pension examination, what is a proposal to reduce, what are routine future examinations, what does recoupment of payments mean, what do I do if I incur a debt, how do precedent setting cases help me, and many more.

My aim is to prepare you for when you sit down with your VSO, that you will have some understanding of the expectations of the VA regarding your claim, and what it will take to file it.

Please remember your local VSO has received extensive training to assist you with the claims process from start to finish. Please contact a VSO at the location nearest you for an appointment.

Happy New Year and Thank You for Your Service To Our Great Country!

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

VA Received First Shipment of Moderna Vaccine

[12/24/20] The Fort Harrison VA Medical Center received its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine just before Christmas. The MTVAHCS began distributing the Moderna vaccine then.

"Montana VA Health Care System is excited to have our first shipment of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for our health care personnel and our Miles City community living center residents and staff," said Executive Director, Dr. Judy Hayman. "For over nine months, our healthcare teams and Veterans have adapted time and time again to meet every new challenge during the pandemic. That said, we must remain vigilant—the pandemic is not over. Starting today though, we are going to celebrate that the arrival of the vaccines marks the next phase towards ending the pandemic. As our vaccine supplies increase, our ultimate goal is to offer COVID-19 vaccination to all Veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated."

Fort Harrison VA Medical Center is one of 113 VA Medical Centers across the country to receive the first limited supply of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Sites were identified based on need for the vaccine according to CDC's 1A prioritization and capacity to store the vaccine at -20°C.

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was 94 percent effective in clinical trials in preventing COVID-19 disease. The vaccine is administered in two doses, 28 days apart. The side effects appear similar to those of other vaccines and are short-lived.

Thirty-seven medical centers began offering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to health care personnel and Veterans Dec. 14. Fifteen additional VA facilities will receive an allocation of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine the week of December 21.

Even after receiving COVID-19 vaccination, employees and Veterans should continue wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing, and washing hands often.

As vaccines become available for more groups of Veterans, MTVAHCS care teams will reach out to eligible Veterans to schedule vaccinations. There is no need to preregister or come to a facility to sign up. Veterans can get up-to-date information on VA's VA COVID-19 vaccine webpage, which launched on December 11, 2020, and sign up to receive regular updates on the vaccine on the VA's Stay Informed page.

MTVAHCS's overall trust scores—which derive from Veteran rankings of their health care experiences—are at a historic high. MTVAHCS provides healthcare to Veterans across Montana through a series of community-based clinics, the Miles City Community Living Center (Montana VA's only nursing home), an acute care medical center, a nationally acclaimed sleep center, and robust telehealth services.

The MTVAHCS serves over 47,000 enrolled Veterans across Montana—an area roughly 147,000 square miles in size. Veterans are cared for by a staff of 1,400 at 17 sites of care across the state. One third of Montana VA employees are Veterans.

Post Everlasting

continued from pg. 3

- ☆ TAYLOR, BERNARD, 11/12/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 2-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ TOWES, LARRY, 10/17/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 6-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ VANDERSLOOT, JOHN F, 11/14/2020 – Korea – US Army – 46-year member of Post 34, Columbus, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ VANDYKE, CLARENCE, 12/15/2020 – Korea – US Army – 13-year member of Post 87, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WAITE, WALTER, DOD – WWII – US Army – 38-year member of Post 76, Conrad, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WILCOX, DEAN, 11/13/2020 – Korea – US Army – 16-year member of Post 135, Lolo, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WIND, SVEND, 10/12/2020 – WWII – US Army – 26-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WULF, ROBERT, 10/18/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 10-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ZAHARKO, RICHARD, 10/15/2020 – Korea – US Army – 61-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ ZUELKE, MERTON, 11/5/2020 – WWII – US Army – 70-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

ADJUTANT continued from pg. 2 provided. When we as individuals do not participate in self-governance or the activities of our organization, we create an environment for less scrupulous individuals to take advantage of.

Involvement or participation does not necessarily mean rolling up your sleeves and getting your hands dirty. Sometimes simply being present to bear witness is all that is needed. It allows those who are actively involved to know that what we are doing is important and they are being observed. Members need to attend Post meetings whenever possible. Posts need to provide their new members with a proper orientation to The American Legion by holding official Post initiation programs at least annually. Posts need to ensure that their Post is represented at each District meeting and have authorized delegates attend the Department Convention. Districts need to find a way to ensure that their District Officers, especially their Vice Commanders, attend Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings to back up their District Commanders. All members need to know that they are encouraged to attend DEC meetings whenever possible to observe and learn.

The lack of personal participation in the programs of The American Legion, allows far too many

members to lose sight of the goals and principals of this great organization. The forget that they are part of a much larger ideal when they

become embroiled in petty bickering and boorish behavior of "leechanaires" interested in their own self-satisfaction. Legionnaires know that when all generations of veterans work together towards a common goal, we are an awesome sight to behold.

Most Post and some District election of officers for the coming year have now been completed or soon will be. For well-organized Posts and Districts who follow the prescribed rituals in the Manual of Ceremonies the transition of officers is a relatively smooth process. For the most part, the new officers are familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the various offices they are now assuming. They have observed others who held their offices previously and know where to seek advice from. On the other hand, if your Post resembles a third world country with dictatorships, chaos, rebellion, apathy and constant turmoil, the transition probably is not going to be smooth.

A large percentage of our new officers will find themselves somewhere between those two types of Posts.

You can quite often identify them by the "deer in the headlights" look on their faces. Not sure where to turn but knowing they need to go one way or another. If you have found yourself in this position or if you haven't been elected to an office but would like to become familiar with the rituals and protocols of The American Legion but do not know where to begin; I offer this advice from personal experience: Locate a copy of the Officer's Guide & Manual of Ceremonies that you can use. Each Post receives a current copy with their Post membership supplies each year. Your Post Adjutant or Commander should be able to assist you in securing a copy. Or, if you have the ability, go to National's website www.legion.org where you will find it listed on one of the menus. As there are normally few changes made to the manual each year, an older copy will still provide you with pertinent information.

Another document that every officer and member should be aware of is the Post Constitution and By-Laws. This will provide guidance for the proper administration of your Post.

As you peruse these documents you will become aware of the potential and possibilities of a well-organized Post of The American Legion. By adopting the prescribed rituals, your Post can instill the pride of membership and sense of belonging to a wartime veterans' organization that encompasses all generations of veterans, working together "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

As a close to this final article, I wish to again "Thank You" for the opportunity to serve you and our great organization for the past 19 years. I leave you with two thoughts, the first for our current and future leadership – remember the seven "Ps" - Proper Prior Planning Prevents Piss Poor Performance; and finally, I ask that all of you remain constantly vigilant in adhering to the Constitution and By-Laws, whether they be Post, District, Department or National. ●

The American Legion 2020 NEC Fall Meeting Highlights

NEC DAVID, GREAT FALLS POST 3

The American Legion National Executive Committee held its 2020 Fall Meeting via the internet on October 14 -15, 2020. National Commander Oxford led the meetings which included reports from all commission and committee chairpersons, verification of National Officer eligibility, approval of the FY 2021 Budget, action on 38 resolutions, approval of The American Legion Legislative Program for the 117th US Congress and the appointment of Legionnaires to National standing or special commissions, committees, and councils. Some of the highlights include the following:

- The American Legion Vision and Mission statements have been implemented.
- Minor changes to the DMS Program have been implemented.
- Departments and Posts will be required to name The American Legion (National Organization) as an additional insured to their liability insurance policies. (see page 17)
- An American Legion Mission Blue Post Assistance Program which is intended to

assist Posts whose revenue has been negatively impacted from the effects of the COVID-19 health crisis within the community, as well as any government-mandated restrictions.

- Minor changes to the Eagle Scout of the Year award eligibility were adopted.
- All Legion youth programs now require risk management training as well as background checks for all adult advisors, coaches, and other volunteers.
- The American Legion supports the construction of a memorial dedicated to the Global War on Terrorism.
- The American Legion supports legislation to facilitate consideration of military awards to minority veterans.
- New guidelines for The American Legion Riders (ALR) National Program have been adopted.
- These are just a few of the items addressed at the NEC Fall meeting. You can check out all resolutions at legion.org/resolutions.

VICE CMDR continued from pg. 2

here is your opportunity to make a difference! If you need further information you can contact me or the Department Adjutant. My phone number is 406-210-2607 or e-mail GASharbono@gmail.com

Membership is of great importance in preserving the four Pillars of our founding. Without a strong membership we cease to be an Organization, and many of our programs would disappear. At this point I would like everyone to consider not referring to it as membership dues, and instead call it an investment. Your investment does more than get you a subscription to a monthly magazine, or a quarterly Newsletter. It's your strength not only on Capitol Hill but to help our fellow Veterans in times of need with programs like Veterans & Children's Foundation and the National Emergency Fund, which are being heavily taxed from previous disasters including the Covid-19 epidemic. Allowing your investment in The American Legion to expire prevents you from receiving much needed benefits. Benefits you as a Veteran have earned! But even at that it is not enough just to renew. I encourage you to participate in the Department address label program, Department raffles, and donate when you can to the aforementioned charities. Some day you may find yourself on the receiving end of the deal and doing so you in a sense would be paying it forward in advance.

Thank you, stay safe and stay healthy.

For contact information go to www.mtlegion.org Department Directory.

Corvallis Post 91 sponsors Radio Club

SUBMITTED BY GREGORY A. MAROSE, SR., DIST. 5 CMDR |KA7NAW



Doug Mason of Corvallis Post 91 briefs members of The American Legion Ham Radio Club KG75PL of Corvallis Post 91. Mason was elected President at this meeting.

The turnout was great. Mason did an excellent job as moderator and was voted in as President until May. He passed out By-Laws for the Club as passed by Post 91 and discussed upcoming planned Events.

EMERGENCY NEC MEETING

NEC DAVID, GREAT FALLS POST 3

On November 17, 2020, The American Legion National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Oxford for the purpose of reviewing a resolution, Resolution #1, #48 IndyCar Team Sponsorship. It passed with only two no votes. The American Legion has the opportunity to leverage the highly visible IndyCar marketing platform through a sponsorship initiative with Chip Ganassi Racing and Jimmie Johnson. This sponsorship platform has the dynamic ability to impact all facets of the TAL organization both from a public awareness perspective and the ability to drive incremental revenue; new members; and new donors. It also serves as an extremely efficient media buy when compared to what it would cost to generate the type of exposure and brand relevance the sponsorship will deliver.

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) has been a fixture in the auto racing industry for over 30 years and is considered one of the most successful as well as innovative owners in all of motorsports. Currently, Ganassi Racing and his teams include multiple entries in the NASCAR Cup Series and three (3) cars in the NTT IndyCar Series. In 2021 and 2022, the CGR will add seven-time NASCAR Champion Jimmie Johnson to its impressive roster in the NTT IndyCar Series.

Jimmie Johnson, who retired from NASCAR this year, leaves behind a legacy that includes a record-tying seven Cup titles and 83 victories in NASCAR's premier series, tied with Cale Yarborough for sixth on the all-time list. The Jimmie Johnson Foundation is dedicated to assisting children, families, and communities in need throughout the United States. To date, more than \$11.5 million has been contributed to various organizations. The Foundation currently focuses on K-12 public education. On Tuesday, December 1, 2020, Jimmie officially announced his joining The American Legion Family and with his help The American Legion gained \$118,500.00 in one day donations, a record for The American Legion, towards assisting veterans, children, military families, and others. Oh, by the way, Jimmie is a member of the Sons of The American Legion.

The reason for the emergency meeting and not waiting until the National Convention was because of two things. One, the offer to join the Ganassi Racing team at a lower sponsorship rate was now, and that the 2021 IndyCar Series Schedule starts on 1 March and there would only be two races left of the 17 races in 2021 season after the National Convention. This is for a two year, 2021 and 2022, agreement with the option to renew for three additional years if deemed desirable by the NEC.

Post 133 Cascade dedicates Gold Star Families Byway Marker

A dedication of the Gold Star Families byway marker was held September 27, 2020, at The Hood-Mortag, Post 133, Memorial Wall in



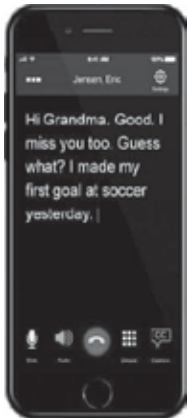
Cascade. The Dearborn Garden Club, along with Legion Post 133 and Auxiliary Unit 133 were instrumental in bringing

this to fruition. Distinguished speaker/guests included: Pastor Mark Nelson from the Canyon Life Church; Kathy Austin, Montana Federation of Blue Star and Gold Star Families Marker Chairman; Lt. Col. Mike Milburn, U.S.A.F. (Ret); and former State Rep. Jo Lee Burman; Dearborn Garden Club President, Lewis Thoenes; American Legion Post 133 Commander, and Post 133 Auxiliary President Pam Marquis. Leslie Stafford, a Gold Star Daughter, unveiled the Marker. The marker was dedicated by JoLee Burman president of the Garden Club and a wreath from the Garden Club was placed at the base of the Marker.

The Ceremony concluded with Father Cory Sticha, Priest at the Sacred Heart Church, giving the Benediction and taps played by Mr. Jeff Stogley, Cascade High School Music Teacher. The approximately 50 who attended the Dedication Ceremony welcomed the warm weather.

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DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2021

	Year end Goal 2021	Year To Date Total	Year End 2020	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22 WOLF POINT	33	27	33	81.82%
41 GLASGOW	96	84	100	87.50%
45 HINSDALE	48	38	45	79.17%
49 HOMESTEAD	10	7	8	70.00%
55 POPLAR	27	21	28	77.78%
56 SCOBAY	47	23	38	48.94%
☆ 58 PLENTYWOOD	58	66	63	113.79%
61 BROCKTON	33	24	25	72.73%
81 CULBERTSON	92	59	89	64.13%
85 BAINVILLE	24	22	23	91.67%
☆ 122 OPHEIM	27	29	28	107.41%
☆ 140 FORT PECK TRIBES	17	17	17	100.00%
229 WESTBY	14	12	13	85.71%
TOTAL	526	429	510	81.56%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE	121	84	93	69.42%
☆ 48 CHINOOK	46	52	55	113.04%
50 BIG SANDY	24	21	24	87.50%
☆ 57 MALTA	92	92	106	100.00%
67 ROCKY BOY	25	15	22	60.00%
☆ 79 SACO	11	12	24	109.09%
88 CHESTER	34	26	32	76.47%
109 TURNER	25	13	18	52.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP	10	6	9	60.00%
TOTAL	388	321	383	82.73%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER	51	49	53	96.08%
37 CONRAD	51	38	45	74.51%
40 CUT BANK	58	33	49	56.90%
43 SHELBY	49	26	38	53.06%
69 GALATA	29	19	22	65.52%
73 SWEETGRASS	73	64	70	87.67%
127 BROWNING	26	17	26	65.38%
CN20 CALGARY	45	41	47	91.11%
TOTAL	382	287	350	75.13%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS	59	52	67	88.14%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS	107	97	112	90.65%
74 EUREKA	50	39	53	78.00%
86 BIG FORK	60	48	60	80.00%
97 LIBBY	185	177	217	95.68%
106 ST IGNATIUS	50	40	55	80.00%
108 WHITEFISH	66	57	66	86.36%
112 POLSON	132	122	145	92.42%
☆ 113 ARLEE	25	27	28	108.00%
☆ 126 CHARLO	19	21	24	110.53%
129 PARADISE	72	57	84	79.17%
137 KALISPELL	233	179	235	76.82%
☆ 138 RONAN	64	67	72	104.69%
TOTAL	1122	983	1218	87.61%

DISTRICT #5				
13 ST REGIS	61	54	64	88.52%
27 MISSOULA	356	265	358	74.44%
47 HAMILTON	126	112	135	88.89%
63 CONDON	45	33	43	73.33%
68 MISSOULA	46	40	49	86.96%
83 CLINTON	15	14	13	93.33%
91 CORVALLIS	166	157	181	94.58%
94 STEVENSVILLE	202	174	203	86.14%
101 MISSOULA	36	15	26	41.67%
124 FRENCHTOWN	69	54	69	78.26%
☆ 125 DRUMMOND	52	54	62	103.85%
134 FLORENCE	63	49	64	77.78%
135 LOLO	157	138	162	87.90%
TOTAL	1394	1,159	1,429	83.14%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE	195	141	211	72.31%
2 HELENA	796	686	864	86.18%
☆ 9 LINCOLN	57	58	61	101.75%
10 DEER LODGE	65	52	63	80.00%
20 DILLON	175	125	159	71.43%
21 ANACONDA	235	185	223	78.72%
24 WHITEHALL	85	74	94	87.06%
31 TWIN BRIDGES	40	35	36	87.50%
42 TOWNSEND	115	100	118	86.96%
☆ 46 BOULDER	23	25	31	108.70%
☆ 89 SHERIDAN	82	93	102	113.41%
115 BUTTE	95	68	92	71.58%
TOTAL	1963	1642	2054	83.65%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA	168	55	80	0.33%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN	360	305	384	84.72%
19 BIG TIMBER	178	137	164	76.97%
23 LIVINGSTON	170	141	171	82.94%
25 WHITE SULPHUR	63	59	65	93.65%
30 BELGRADE	247	165	216	66.80%
☆ 65 ENNIS	60	71	67	118.33%
78 W YELLOWSTONE	29	19	28	65.52%
87 MANHATTAN	165	110	161	66.67%
93 THREE FORKS	42	29	36	69.05%
99 BIG SKY	55	44	52	80.00%
118 GARDINER	35	32	38	91.43%
TOTAL	1404	1112	1382	79.20%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS	259	194	241	74.90%
6 CHOTEAU	104	85	105	81.73%
26 FORT BENTON	34	29	36	85.29%
☆ 51 AUGUSTA	36	39	46	108.33%
64 DUTTON	46	38	47	82.61%
80 FAIRFIELD	31	19	32	61.29%
102 GERALDINE	112	88	129	78.57%
103 POWER	28	25	31	89.29%
130 VAUGHN	40	34	42	85.00%
☆ 133 CASCADE	31	32	29	103.23%
341 MALMSTROM	160	90	142	56.25%
TOTAL	881	673	880	76.39%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON	104	84	99	80.77%
16 LEWISTOWN	409	265	355	64.79%
18 ROUNDUP	67	40	56	59.70%
53 STANFORD	26	20	23	76.92%
62 DENTON	26	25	27	96.15%
70 JUDITH GAP	69	55	77	79.71%
76 HOBSON	37	35	39	94.59%
☆ 96 ROY	22	24	23	109.09%
120 WINIFRED	31	27	29	87.10%
TOTAL	791	575	728	72.69%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY	79	72	93	91.14%
12 SIDNEY	40	30	46	75.00%
28 GLENDIVE	105	83	97	79.05%
29 CIRCLE	16	11	15	68.75%
32 TERRY	99	76	93	76.77%
35 BAKER	109	83	100	76.15%
39 FORSYTH	93	77	87	82.80%
44 COLSTRIP	30	25	35	83.33%
60 EKALAKA	15	9	17	60.00%
114 FAIRVIEW	37	30	37	81.08%
TOTAL	623	496	620	79.61%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS	473	382	441	80.76%
8 HARDIN	47	39	49	82.98%
17 RED LODGE	57	51	63	89.47%
☆ 34 COLUMBUS	62	63	66	101.61%
☆ 71 FROMBERG	21	26	29	123.81%
84 BELFRY	39	33	35	84.62%
92 HYSHAM	26	21	21	80.77%
100 PARK CITY	59	54	63	91.53%
117 BILLINGS	236	104	142	44.07%
119 BILLINGS HGTS	174	163	197	93.68%
123 LAUREL	114	102	123	89.47%
TOTAL	1308	1038	1229	79.36%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2021 INCENTIVE GOAL	10,950
2021 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE	8770
2020 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	10,863
TOTAL PERCENTAGE	80.09%



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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post	2	HELENA	684 MEMBERS
Post	4	BILLINGS	379 MEMBERS
Post	14	BOZEMAN	305 MEMBERS
Post	16	LEWISTOWN	265 MEMBERS
Post	27	MISSOULA	264 MEMBERS
Post	3	GREAT FALLS	192 MEMBERS
Post	21	ANACONDA	185 MEMBERS
Post ...	137	KALISPELL	180 MEMBERS
Post	97	LIBBY	177 MEMBERS
Post	94	STEVENSVILLE	174 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT	PERCENTAGE	COMMANDER
4	87.52%	Dorothy Goodwin
6	83.04%	Pat Sweeney
5	82.93%	Greg Marose
2	81.96%	Vincent Schmoeckle
1	80.99%	Joe Yeoman
10	79.79%	David Ofalt
7	79.13%	Bill Cummins
11	76.83%	Larry Tipton
8	76.05%	Larry Otis
3	75.13%	Dusty Bailey
9	72.19%	Bruce Luhrsen

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
Jan. 4, 2021

SQUADRON	GOAL 2021	TO DATE
GLASGOW #41	46	37
☆ PLENTYWOOD #58	18	26
CULBERTSON #81	21	17
HAVRE #11	18	14
☆ CHINOOK #48	23	25
☆ MALTA #57	18	20
☆ SACO #79	13	14
GALATA #69	27	23
☆ LIBBY #97	18	19
☆ POLSON #112	15	16
MISSOULA #27	18	4
HAMILTON #47	10	2
CONDON #63	10	3
CORVALLIS #91	15	8
STEVENSVILLE #94	48	26
☆ LOLO #135	32	40
BUTTE #1	28	13
HELENA #2	129	97
ANACONDA #21	20	14
TOWNSEND #42	22	21
BUTTE #115	10	0
BOZEMAN #14	81	65
BIG TIMBER #19	15	8
LIVINGSTON #23	46	40
BELGRADE #30	46	14
MANHATTAN #87	35	23
☆ BIG SKY #99	23	27
GREAT FALLS #3	23	20
☆ CHOTEAU #6	27	34
DUTTON #64	0	10
GERALDINE #102	59	36
VAUGHN #130	23	19
HARLOWTON #15	27	20
LEWISTOWN #16	149	62
MILES CITY #5	14	10
BAKER #35	30	18
FORSYTH #39	52	48
BILLINGS #4	14	7
☆ BILLINGS #117	12	17
LAUREL #123	13	1
HQS POST #9999	0	0
TOTALS	1248	904
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Southworth shines a light on the past

Wins Heritage Keeper Award

SUBMITTED BY KATHLEEN GILLULY, EDITOR, MT LEGIONNAIRE



Jim Southworth
Heritage Keeper

Super storyteller, walking history-book, preservationist and a member of Laurel's American Legion Post 123, Jim Southworth, is one of three Montanans who received the Montana Historical Society's Heritage Keeper Award during the

MHS Board of Trustee Zoom meeting in October [2020].

Southworth has been collecting stories of the land he knows around the state, in particular the south-central corridor along the Yellowstone River where he grew up, as long as he's been able to listen.

"I've always enjoyed hearing my friends and families' stories," he said in a recent interview. "Then later, I would read about it and back up their tales with a little truth."

As such, Southworth can tell the tale of a young Chief Plenty Coups teaming up with a few Park City pioneers to rescue stolen horses. The details he has memorized, along his own research from walking the trail, bring the story to life as if it happened last weekend.

Southworth, in addition to being an amazing storyteller, is a musician, life-long union supporter and an advocate for the state.

Women Veterans Coordinator

KIM KAY C. MC CARTY-MARTIN

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. With 2020 being so different due to COVID-19 with social distancing and canceled events, Christmas has been hard for some of us this year. Hopefully, with the vaccine now being distributed, we can return to some normalcy.

As The American Legion Women Veterans Coordinator, part of what I do is help women veterans with answers to their questions, provide resources and information related to their health and overall welfare. Some of the events held in the past were Women recognition luncheons where we had guest speakers, recognized our female WWII Heroes and some Korean War Heroes whom live in Montana. We have joined together for events such as yoga, Sweat Lodge, and hikes just for women vets. Dream Adaptive, Feathered Nest, Montana Vet Program (MVP) have all been kind enough to help.

I do not have computer access to anyone's information nor do I obtain any information from the Department. I have been trying over the years to gather a data base of women veterans in the MT American Legion. I hope though that over the years you have understood that the only way I can communicate with women veterans is by either obtaining an address, phone number, or email address. Montana is a big state and there is a lot of land to cover so I have relied heavily in the past on District and Post Commanders and individuals in providing me with contact information so I may be able to reach out to women veterans and assist them in any way I can.

I may be in Great Falls but I travel to as many District meetings as possible. I would like to meet all the women veterans in each area just to talk and have some camaraderie. Plus, I want to be able to pass on the resources and information I have that may be helpful to you. I am planning on attending in person every Spring District Meeting coming up. I would like to meet all the women veterans in that area, weather you attend the meeting or not, at 3 pm. I'll be the one with the Cougar RV and white SUV.

Eureka Post 74 Raffle

SUBMITTED BY DAN STEWART, POST 74



Well, it is not news to anyone, the year 2020 was one for the books and hopefully 2021 will not be a repeat. The Eureka Montana Post 74, a strong supporter of its Kootenai Valley Rangers, their Legion Baseball Team. Due to no fault of their own, the Rangers were unable to compete this year. However, the Rangers, along with several other small-town teams formed their own "league" and the game went on! While their games were not official Legion games, they still were Post 74's kids and the Post will never forsake youth.

As with years past, Post 74 conducted a fundraising raffle. This year's prize was a fine AR-15 M-4 Carbine with a Vortex Red Dot sight and the raffle was a success as usual.

The winner this year was Daryl Smith, a recent "immigrant" from Kentucky to the great State of Montana. Smith, a US Navy Veteran himself (1969 – 1975) proudly accepted the rifle.

While no one can predict the future, Post 74 is already preparing for the 2021 season and continued support of our Kootenai Valley Rangers.

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YOUR TEAM:



MARK DELORME
Branch Manager
NMLS# 96766



KRIS HILL
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 262695



MARK DELORME, JR
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1027436



KYLE LEDUC
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1575253

Post 14 honors Marchwick

SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP, POST 14

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 celebrated Veterans Day by gathering and presenting a 65-year continuous membership pin and cer-



tificate to James L. Marchwick, a Korean War Navy Veteran. James is from Culbertson, MT. Upon the completion of his service in the Navy he moved to Bozeman and attended Montana State College where he studied and received a degree in accounting. Upon completion of college, he opened his own accounting firm in Bozeman. He also joined The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 and became an active member. He has always been a part of the Honor Guard up to and including this Veterans Day ceremony 2020. James served as finance officer for several years and could always be counted on whenever Post 14 needed help. Not only did he work cooking and serving breakfast on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but he alone holds the secret recipe for corned beef that is served on St. Patrick's Day. He has been cooking this corned beef for over 40 years. Congratulations to James and wishing him many more years of faithful service.



Resulting from Stars & Stripes Initiative, St. Andrews School, Helena, Montana, receives a new flag from Post 2, November 16, 2020.

Fromberg Post 71 Veterans Display

TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK | SCOTT MILLER

Post 71 Legion members Jim Weatherford, Scott Miller, Rich Pierce, Mike Kilwine, Christine Miller, John Miller, Keith McElhane, Wayne Vargas, Chris Campbell, joined by Melody Kilwine, Tammy Taylor, Karen Wetstein Ulrickson, Debbie Pierce, Lee Campbell, and Chris Metzger came together to put Fromberg's salute to Veterans display out. From a little idea this project has grown into an impressive display, built throughout the year we continue to get interested families adding their loved ones.

The display is out in a way that starts with living veterans and active duty on dogtags, standing guard

over those who have passed on to fiddlers green displayed on crosses, followed by the rest of the living on dogtags. Take note of the dogtags V for veteran, and A for current active duty.

AL Clark Fork Post is very proud of the support the community has showed for this. The support from folks passing by was wonderful the waves and honks, a fellow veteran from Wyoming stopped just to see what the deal was. This is what America is about, generations of those who chose to serve, continuing to serve together in their community. People coming together to make their community better and being Americans.



Helena Post 2 presents new flag to St. Andrew's School for Stars & Stripes Initiative

SUBMITTED BY RAY READ

In early October 2020 Billings Post 117 and the Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen started an initiative to place American Flags in every classroom in Montana, called the *Stars and Stripes Initiative*; per Montana Code Annotated, which states *every classroom in Montana will display an American Flag as long as it is donated*. Many Posts across Montana have accepted the challenge and have provided US Flags to classrooms in their communities. For more information contact Posts 117 or Department Headquarters.



Stevensville Unit 94 and Post 94 take a trip to Fort Harrison

SUBMITTED BY UNIT 94

Members of the American Legion Fort Owen Auxiliary, escorted by members of the Legion, delivered a number of items to the Fort Harrison Hospital and Homeless Veterans organization in Helena, Montana on December 11, 2020.

Christmas cards created by Stevensville students were presented for distribution to veterans during the Christmas season. Two-hundred rolls of toilet paper donated by Stevensville Super 1 Foods along with books and magazines and a number of warm clothing and food items were given to the Homeless Veterans program. A number of knitted items for veterans was also provided by Vickie Crawford.

Honorary Air Assault Badges for Vietnam Veterans



The Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) has authorized the award of an Honorary Assault Badge to qualified Vietnam Veterans who served in the 101st Airborne Division or the 101st Air Mobile

Division from 1965 to 1972. Download the form at www.screamingeagles.org and follow the instructions. Submit the completed form to the Screaming Eagle Association Office at:

101st Airborne Division Association, PO Box 929, Fort Campbell, KY 42223.

The Rakkasan Association would like to make sure these awards are presented at the Rakkasan/52nd Hamburger Hill/30th Desert Shield Storm reunion June 21 to 25 at Clarksville and Ft Campbell. Follow updates about the schedule and register to attend on the EVENTS tab of this website. See below for an excerpt from the SCREAMING EAGLE NEWSLETTER.

Attention Vietnam Screaming Eagle Veterans:

In honor of our veterans this Veteran’s Day, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is planning on recognizing our Vietnam veterans during the Week of the Eagles (June 21 -25, 2021). We would like to personally recognize the men and women that served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division

(Air Assault) with the Honorary Air Assault Badge due to their contributions and execution of air assault missions during the campaign. This is an Honorarium Award. Veterans who have provided the required criteria and who have been certified by the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) will be officially authorized to purchase and wear (or display) the Air Assault Badge. The Air Assault Badge may then be worn on civilian caps/clothing but is not authorized for wear on a uniform. It is also important to understand that this honorary recognition does not entitle the veteran to have the Air Assault Badge added to his official military personnel record.

If you, or a veteran you know, meets all of the following qualifications, please reach out to the 101st Airborne Division Veteran’s Association 101exec@screamingeagle.org or call 931-431-0199

Qualifications:

- Was in direct combat while assigned or attached to a combat unit in the 101st Airborne Division, 101st Air Cavalry Division or 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) in Vietnam during the period from 1965 – 1972
- Was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Badge, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, or Medal of Honor
- Conducted 25 or more Combat Helicopter Assaults or a lesser number of “hot” Landing Zones
- Graduated from Infantry AIT, NCOCC, OCS, IOBC, SERTS, CLC or RECONDO during the Vietnam war”

NATIONAL AL AWARDS AT FALL CONFERENCE



Department Culture of Growth Award



Department 100 percent Reporting award



Consolidated Post Reporting



One Hundred Percent Membership Award

Department Commander Jeff Nelson received Commander of the Year award from Nat'l Vice Commander Rob Liebenow



“My husband stepped out for some fresh air, then I heard a loud thud ...

We were rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a broken bones and two spinal obstructions.”

Fortunately, we had purchased the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+) plan for our travels!

We were in London, and after 2 hospitals and 39 days in a rehab facility, Michael was released to travel and EA+ coordinated our return. They provided a nurse escort to monitor Michael on the trip home, an ambulance to the airport, then to the rehabilitation facility so Michael could continue his recovery. Thank you, EA+ ! You gave me the freedom to focus on Michael and the relief of not having to make all the arrangements myself.

– Julie & Michael
North Carolina

Don't travel another mile without learning more about how EA+ can help you. Call 1-888-293-4008 today!

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Department of Montana Officers



District 7

Department of Montana Fall District Meetings

District 6



Bozeman Post 14 Patriot Day



Laurel Post 123 Cmdr Ray Southworth MCs 09/11 ceremony



41st National POW-MIA Recognition Day Commemorated September 18, 2020

MONTANA HAS 53 PERSONNEL LISTED AS PRISONERS OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION FROM WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN WAR, THE VIETNAM WAR AND THE COLD WAR

Veterans, military personnel, and the general public were invited to participate in the 41st annual National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day at the Lewis and Clark County Veterans Memorial, Memorial Park in Helena September 18, 2020. Volunteers read the 53 names of Montana POW-MIAs.

This event was supported by the Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum, The American Legion Post 2 (Lewis & Clark) Voiture 718, 40 & 8 Society, Lewis & Clark County Veterans Memorial Foundation, and veterans at large.

Have questions or want to volunteer call Ray Read at 458-9847 / 406-235-0290 or e-mail: myfun51@msn.com



Missing man table

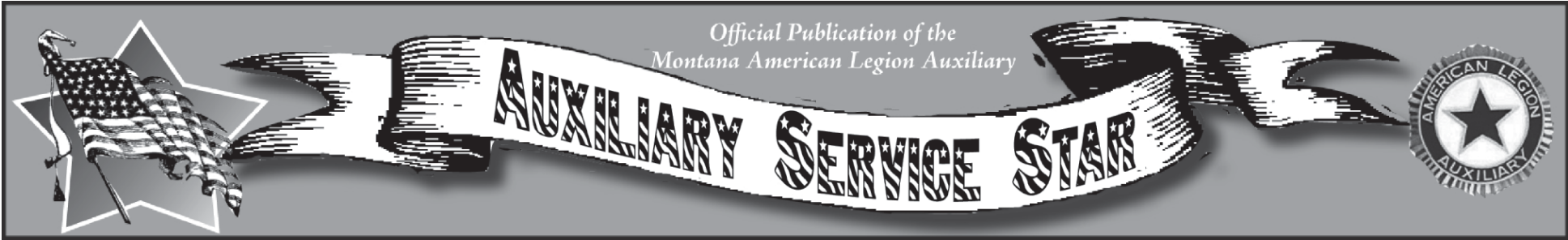
Laurel Post 123 hosted a missing man table ceremony Friday, Sept. 18. Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Mike Waters was the speaker. Chaplain Sue Davidson performed the missing man ceremony to a audience of school children.

Honor and Remember Medallion

A family member of an eligible service member may apply for the honor and remember medallion by submitting Honor and Remember Medallion Application providing the supporting documentation. An eligible service member is a member of the United States armed forces who: was killed in action or classified by the United States as missing in action on or after September 8, 1939, was serving on federal military active duty orders, and was a legal resident of Montana at the time.

Per state of Montana statutes, the first Honor and Remember Medallion issued to a deceased service-member's authorized family member is at no cost, subsequent issuing of the Medallion will entail a \$20 fee. The fee covers the cost of the Medallion, its presentation box, inscription, and shipping and handling. In addition, it allows the Honor and Remember program to be financially self-sustaining in perpetuity.

Please call the Montana Veteran Affairs Division at 406-324-3742 to obtain the application or visit <http://montanadma.org/montana-veterans-affairs>. Any questions can be directed to MVAD Administrative Office at 406-324-3742.



President

SUE DAVIDSON

Happy New Year of 2021! As I have heard from so many people, they are glad for the New Year to start so we can say good-bye to 2020. Now we can look forward to life getting back to a little bit of normal if the Covid vaccine gets distributed as promised. I am so sorry for the loss of so many friends, family members and spouses we have had. We need to keep praying for each other and for good things this year. This year was hard to help our veterans for Christmas, but I must send a big THANK YOU! to everyone who made it the best as possible with all the restrictions they were given. I know our Veterans appreciated everything. Our teams at all our Veterans' homes work very hard. Our Unit was not able to go to the Miles City VA Community Living Center, but we had a lot of fun getting the items they requested and wrapping all the items to send there. A big thank you to Mary Haydal for taking each Veteran individually shopping and wrapped, packed, and mailed all the gifts. She has been fantastic at serving our Veterans! January is full of getting ready for this first quarter of the year. I know I just finished transferring



President Sue Davidson, Billings

Secretary

JAIMIE DeBATES

I have flipped the page on my calendar and admittedly happy to be able to look forward with renewed anticipation and hope. Your Department Officers are beginning the search for a new secretary, effective August 1, 2021. My contract ends on July 31 and upon separation of the duties of Treasurer and Secretary we will welcome a new Secretary with the start of the new membership year. This is foreign territory for our organization, so we ask your patience and flexibility as we make these necessary changes. In a simple explanation, the Secretary will perform all the membership processing duties and travel to your Districts. The easiest way to remember this is if you're sending a check, it goes to the Secretary regardless of whether it's membership, donations, bonding or poppy money. The Treasurer will prepare all the financial statements for the officers and work with the CPA for the 990 filing. A hiring committee was formed at Fall Conference. Your letter of application and resume should be sent to Chris Nelson. No deadline was set yet but please do not delay if you are interested. The general duties require 15-20 hours a week. An annual visit to each District is required. I have no idea what to expect from the national office going forward as far as conferences and meetings. Zoom seems to be the new norm. There's that flexibility issue I was mentioning. We just don't know yet. Always here for you! ☆



Jamie DeBates

over all the birthdays, anniversaries of family and friends and all the meetings and appointments coming up. I don't know how you get ready for the next year, but everyone must have a plan. Now is the time to relook at your Program Action Plan and make sure you plan for everything you can do, not think of what you cannot. Get your schools involved in the Americanism Essay Contest are due by April 1st so start now. Start planning for Girls State. These months go by so quickly we will wonder where the time went. February of course has many patriotic dates: February 1st marks the start of Black History Month, Lincoln's Birthday the 12th, and President's Day on the 15th, and don't forget Valentine's Day on the 14th. Work with your grade schools and get cards made for your Veterans. Let them know how much we love them. Maybe bake some cookies and send them to your Legion Post at their meeting. My Post will conduct the Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 3rd at our local church. If your Post conducts one maybe your will be able to attend if it can be done safely. Show your support while staying safe and keeping others safe. Again, plan ahead. March 1st is the beginning of Women's History Month which is a good time to honor our women veterans. Daylight Savings Time starts on the 14th, so we need to remember to set our clocks back an hour. Then we have St. Patrick's Day on the 17th. We can always look up information on the special days and report on it at your meeting. March is also the start of our Spring District Meetings. There are great ideas at the alaforveterans.org to help find your way to let veterans know the ALA cares about them. Whatever you do does not have to be expensive or elaborate. Any small, kind gesture that shows our love for veterans would mean a lot to them! See you soon at the District meetings.

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

Deceased Members		
OCT. 1, 2020 - DEC. 31, 2020		
Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 1	Butte	Harriet E Gerry
Unit 11	Havre	Lenora Roemmich
Unit 37	Conrad	Sandra Becker
Unit 41	Glasgow	Delores Etchart
		Bonnie Hansen
		Marlene Zinner
Unit 42	Townsend	Kathy Turney
Unit 56	Scobey	Rebecca Hanson
		Patti Lantz
		Shirley Hinton
		Greta Stentoft
Unit 76	Hobson	Ila M Reighard
Unit 92	Hysham	Margaret Kuntz
		Katherine Olson
Unit 100	Park City	Dolores A Simons
Unit 103	Power	Ann L Stewart
Unit 123	Laurel	Arlean J Atwood
Unit 133	Cascade	Roberta Ogden

Department Auxiliary Secretary Position Open

The position of Department Secretary is open for application. Start date no later than August 1, 2021. Contract will be issued for a three-year term after probationary period. Job requirements include ability to travel both by car and air. Candidate must possess a valid Montana Driver's License, airline approved identification, and pass a background check. Job skills required include a basic knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary per the Constitution and By-Laws and Unit Guidebook. Applicant must be fluent in communication skills, both in writing and public speaking. Applicant must possess their own computer and printer. Programming and printing supplies will be provided by Department. The home office must be secure for storage and of adequate size to accommodate Department copier. Secretary agrees to maintain homeowner's insurance to protect properties. Secretary must be able to perform duties in a timely manner, often on a daily basis as necessary. This position is part-time, at 15-20 hours per week. Experience with Microsoft Office, primarily Word and Excel are required. Familiarity with Quick Books is favorable. Secretary will work directly with Treasurer and is accountable to the Department Executive Committee. Travel expense account is provided and is separate from employee salary. Electronic payroll transfer is processed to Secretary twice monthly. Salary is set by the Department Executive Committee and will be commensurate with experience of applicant. Résumé should be mailed to: Chris Nelson 36407 Orchard Lane Polson, MT 59860 Application period remains open until filled.

Generosity to our Veterans

SUBMITTED BY SUE DAVIDSON, DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA PRESIDENT

The members of District 3 and Department President Sue Davidson holding up some of the beautiful lap robes that Ila Prellwitz made for our veterans. These were donated to us at the District 3 meeting on September 25 in Shelby. Ila is so generous with her time and skill.



Auxiliary active at Wreaths Across America

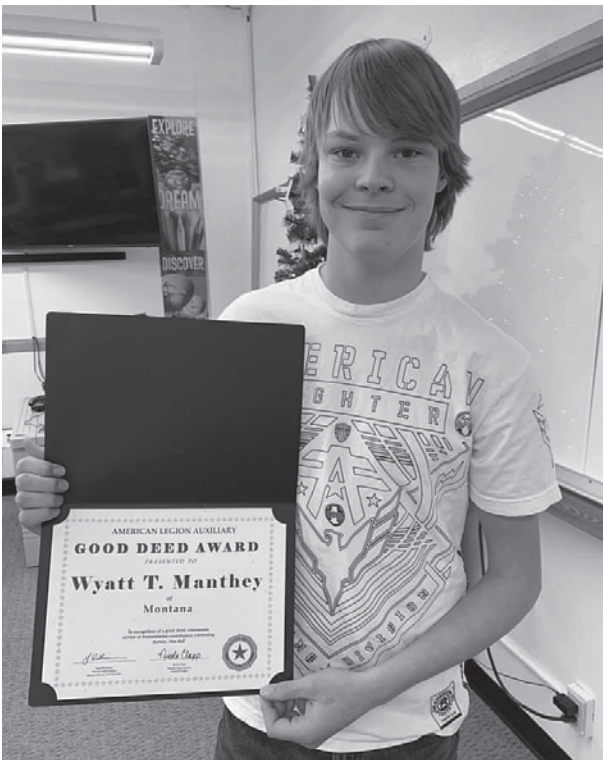
SUBMITTED BY JEN DALRYMPLE, BROADWATER POST 42 COMMANDER AND DUEL MEMBER



Karen Susag, District 6 President and Jen Dalrymple, Post 42 Commander and dual member spent Saturday, December 19 helping hang 1,060 wreaths at Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Helena for the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony hosted by the POW/MIA Awareness Association of Montana.

Good Deed Award

SUBMITTED BY NANCY LINNELL, SWEET GRASS BORDER, UNIT 73 PRESIDENT



Wyatt Manthey, currently a junior at North Toole County High School, has been playing taps on a bugle since 7th grade for military funerals in Sweetgrass, Sunburst, Shelby and Galata - all in Toole county, as well as some county-wide events where he played a duet with another bugler. He shows up dressed in a suit and tie at funerals, showing proper respect in all kinds of weather. He is also very active in school activities, including sports, FCCLA, and NHS.



STACY BEAR

“This little light of mine; I’m going to let it shine!” How can you let the light of Americanism shine?

There are many things you can do:

- Respect the flag in your community at parades, sports events, assemblies; fly the flag in your yard...
 - Remember there are things you can do from home that can promote Americanism. You can collect cancelled stamps, collect Box Tops for Education, collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House and used glasses for the Lions Club program. You can write cards to veterans, elderly members, schoolteachers...
 - Support your veterans by visiting with them, helping them with chores, driving them to appointments and shopping, remembering them at holidays with cards, meals, cookies and by supporting our Veteran’s Hospitals
 - Support the Legion’s programs, clean the Legion Hall, attend their events (baseball, Bingo, Oratorical Contest, Flag Retirement, Veteran’s Day and Legion Birthday, Memorial Day Services...)
 - Be involved in your community by helping at blood drives, voter registration, church events, youth programs, food pantries, Sr. Center...
 - Support your youth by presenting the Girls State program to Junior girls
 - Let your Seniors in high school know about the ALA scholarship that are available
 - Sign up Junior and Senior members to join the ALA
 - Make the Poppy Poster contest available
 - Present flag programs and give out flags, ALA patriotic comic books, rulers
 - Get the ALA Americanism Essay contest to the youth in your communities either via the schools or organizations. Remember your Junior members can participate. Remember to follow all the guidelines. This year’s theme is *“How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military and their families.”* Your first-place winning essays for each Class are due to me (Stacy Bear) April 1; I must have the Department (State) first place winners to the ALA NW Division Americanism Chair by April 15, so punctuality is critical. Please make sure that the ALA cover sheet for each student is filled out completely; this includes being signed by your Unit chairman and teacher!
- Please contact me if you have questions.
- In the meantime, SHINE ON!

Presenting Quilt of Valor

SUBMITTED BY SWEETGRASS BORDER UNIT 73 PRESIDENT, NANCY LINNELL



Charlie Darling is the recipient of a Quilt of Valor. He served in Afghanistan in the US Army, and was injured in paratrooper training. His son, Hunter is holding one side of the quilt closest to Charlie. Joyce Auer, a member of the group who makes the Quilts Of Valor, is holding the other side. Nancy submitted the request for his quilt, and Joyce asked QOV if she could be the person to make it as he is a good friend of both Nancy and

Joyce. It was a privilege for them both to do this for him. A small reception with just his family, Joyce and Nancy’s son, as this was during Covid.

Diggity Dogs open at Bozeman Post 14

SUBMITTED BY TERRY KEMP, PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Diggity Dogs is now open at The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 in Bozeman, MT. Cresta Mosby is doing a great job. Some of you may know her from Stacy’s where she cooked for a long time. The restaurant is open from 4:30PM to 8:00PM Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 4:30PM to 9:00PM Friday and Saturday, and 11:00AM to 3:00PM Sunday. She is serving many styles of hot dogs ranging from Chicago to sauerkraut, hamburgers with a choice of additional items, Philly cheese steak sandwich, steak strips, several flavors of chicken wings, and many other items. You can have homemade potato salad as a choice for your side item. She is also doing homemade soups. One of my favorites is her clam chowder. It is the best that I have tasted in years. She does a wide variety of daily specials. On Friday nights she does a steak special. On Sundays she does a brunch special. Everything that my husband I have tried has been great. If you live in Bozeman or are just traveling here, please give Diggity Dogs a try. You will not be disappointed.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Montana Fundraiser





“Dimes and Time”



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

This is to take place November 2019—May 2021 in honor of our
American Legion Auxiliary 100th Birthday celebration.

Thank you for your donation!

Bozeman Post 14 Veterans Day



SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP, GALLATIN POST 5

On Veterans Day 2020 the American Legion Gallatin Post 14 honored and recognized veterans in several ways. They started at 6:00 A.M. by putting up 90 U.S. flags along Main Street. The Post was assisted by the U.S. Air Force ROTC from Montana State University. After all the flags were put up, the Post provided breakfast for all of those who helped. The students seemed to really enjoy the camaraderie with the veterans from the Post. After the breakfast, the veterans then gathered at the Sunset Hills Cemetery for the memorial service at 11:00 A.M. Despite the cold and the snow several people came to observe the ceremony. At 4:00 P.M. the cadets returned to the Post to assist the veterans in taking down the flags and storing them for the next time. It was so great to see the young cadets taking part in the activities. Although the pandemic has changed some of the things that are normally done on Veterans Day, veterans were still honored, as they should always be.

Custer Post 5 Veterans Day

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL OF POST 5



PHOTO BY SHARON MOORE

Veterans Day 2020—American Legion Custer Post 5 and volunteers raised the large flags at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery on Veterans Day November 11th. On the right is Post 5 Legionnaire Joe Dalbec with volunteer Chris Bermis on the left.

Butte Post 1 Veterans Day

SUBMITTED BY POST 1

On Veterans Day 2020, The following Organizations: Post 1, Post 115, Marine Corp League, United Veterans Council and the Civil Air Patrol held a Flag ceremony at the Highlands View Christian School, Butte Montana, to retire the old Flag and raise a new one.

The Flag was retired with reverence and patriotism to honor our fellow Veterans on this special day. A new Flag was presented and raised to replace the old one.

Pictured from the left are the following saluting the new Flag: Dean Neary, Post 1 Past Commander; Jesica Chever, Teacher Highlands View Christian School; Dr. Diane Haulman, Principal/Teacher Highlands View Christian School; Cadet TSgt Brianna Yount, Cadet 2nd Lt. Heather Hood, Civil Air Patrol; Tom Goyette, Post 115 Adjutant, UVC Chaplain and Honor Guard. School Students and Montana Standard Reporter in the background: Mike Lawson, Marine Corp League, Post 1 2nd Vice, UVC Honor Guard; Kerri Bruha, Post 1 member and daughter Kaylee; Harold Fox, Post 1 Commander; Pastor Mike Hope; Dave Haulman, Post 1, District 6, UVC adjutant; and Pat Sweeney, District 6 Commander, SAL Adjutant, and wife Martha.



Post 14-rings bells for Red Kettle

SUBMITTED BY RANDY KEMP

The American Legion Gallatin Post 14 volunteers to help raise money for the Salvation Army Red Kettle by ringing the bell outside of Smith’s grocery store. This is the 5th year that Post 14 has volunteered. The Salvation Army tracks how much money is collected by The American Legion Post 14. Traditionally, Post 14 collects more money than any of the other groups that volunteer. The members who volunteer to ring the bell are dressed in American Legion uniforms. They show up with an incredibly positive friendly attitude and outgoing personalities when they come to ring the bell. People generously donate money by placing it in the Red Kettle.



Shown from the left are the four members of the American Legion Gallatin Post 14: Greg Harbach, Bud Sievert, Randy Kemp, and Len Albright.



Custer Post 5 active on Veterans Day & in Wreaths Across America activities

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL OF POST 5



PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL OF POST 5
Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl placing a wreath on one of our two Medal Of Honor Recipients graves at the Custer County Cemetery.



PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL OF POST 5

Over 50 people came out to place close to 600 wreaths on veterans graves at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery for Wreaths Across America on December 19, 2020.



PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL OF POST 5
Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Prahl was helping place the wreaths on veterans graves at the Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery December 19th.

How do I communicate with my Legislators?

SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN ROGER HAGAN

Military/Veteran Organizations, below is a great ‘how to’ communicate with your legislators and committees. Kudos and thanks to Mr. Bob Walker, Chairman of the Montana Trails Coalition.

Recently several have requested information about working with our Legislature. Following, please find information about the primary processes put as simply as possible! The common web location for Legislature activities is leg.mt.gov.

To track a bill, click on Bill Search in top left corner of the webpage. Enter the type of bill (SB, HB,HJ, SJ,HR,SR) and enter the bill number. You can also find bills by clicking on *Subject, Legislator, or Primary Sponsor*. If you wish to track specific bills during the session, near the bottom click on *Establish a Preference Account* that will allow you to list bills you wish to track and receive emails announcing status of those bills.

The public is allowed to attend hearings at the capitol, but because of social distancing, you may only be allowed in the room when it is your time to testify and may not be able to stay in the room. It is recommended that you wear a mask or face covering in the Capitol Building and in hearing rooms.

You can watch or listen to committee hearings. All committee meetings will have a video-stream link and an audio-stream link so you can observe a committee meeting live or watch the archive of the hearing.

There are a few methods of **providing input to legislators and providing testimony** to committees.

The most efficient way of contacting members of a committee is to go on the Montana State Legislature webpage, scroll down in the middle column and click on “*Send a message to a legislator/committee*,” enter your personal information, name the bill and committee, and type away!

Due to the CORONA virus, some may wish to **testify remotely**. Go to the Legislature web page, in the middle column click on *request to Testify Remotely*, select bill for which you wish to testify, select committee, provide your personal information to identify who you are, and upload your documents and if you wish to testify via ZOOM click yes. This must be completed by Noon the day before the hearing. Written comments you provide will be distributed to committee members.

This should be an “interesting session” so please pay attention to Legislature activities, those bills that affect your interests, and take part. This is your state Legislature, and their actions will affect us all and our way of life. Let’s be certain the results are positive!

If you do not have access to a computer or do not use a computer, you may give input through the **Legislative Hotline at 444-4800**. This is a very easy way to communicate with your State Senators and Representatives.

Anaconda Post 21

SUBMITTED BY POST 21

Anaconda Unit 21. Shown is Post 21 Commander Pat Tracy placing the American Flag at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial at the Kennedy Common in Anaconda on Dec. 19, 2020.



PHOTO BY MAUREEN WATT

Starting a veteran-owned business

SUBMITTED BY GARY WHITE

Working for the military does many things to a person—it fosters resilience, persistence in the face of constant challenges, a mind-set geared towards flexible problem-solving, and an aptitude to adapt to virtually any situation and manage to come out on top.

The only downside to all of this? When a service member gets out, they’re often so skilled and ambitious that they never want to work for another person again!

This isn’t really a downside, if the Veteran is able to find a way to channel all of those skills into their own business. And that’s exactly what many Vets do after they separate. Armed with an entrepreneurial spirit and a solid business plan, the only thing lacking is usually seed money. That’s why we thought we’d share a few tips on where to get funding for your Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB)!

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Small Business Administration should be one of your first stops when researching financing options. Similar to how a VA Home Loan works, the SBA itself isn’t lending you the money, they just make it easier to obtain. From \$500 to \$5.5 million, SBA guarantees a percentage of a commercial loan (typically 50% – 85%), with the caveat that the funds be used for set business purposes, naturally. This guarantee reduces risk to the lender, who might otherwise be either unwilling to offer the loan or they’d offer much higher rates.

Whether shopping for fixed assets (buildings, furnishings, equipment) or working capital, the SBA can help Vetrepreneurs find the funding they need. The process takes time, and in some cases, collateral. But lenders love the protection that the SBA provides, and some lenders will even match whatever amount the SBA is willing to

guarantee. Their Lender Match tool can connect you to lending partners.

Apart from loans, SBA is also a resource for securing grants. Many are related to helping organizations which are, in turn, helping VOSBs. So if your business is going to be helping other Vets, you may want to investigate further!

SBA OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Specific to Veterans, SBA has an entire department dedicated strictly to you—the aptly-titled Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD). OVBD exists to facilitate a gamut of Veteran-centered programs which offer aid to all Vets, transitioning service members, and dependents and survivors, too.

One of the first perks Veterans can benefit from is the Veterans Entrepreneurship Act of 2015. This Act offers “fee relief” by waiving costly upfront loan guaranty fees on Express Loans. The policy seems to come up for annual renewal, so keep an eye out to ensure it’s in effect for the fiscal year you’re interested in.

OVBD also features a wide variety of entrepreneurship training, including tailored curriculums for unique business situations, and also classes (both in-person and online) covering business ownership basics. They explain other SBA resources in greater detail, to ensure Vets can maximize their benefits. These programs may not directly impact your funding, but can help you understand how to get it while strengthening your overall knowledge of the business world.

One interesting program is their Boots to Business, which SBA provides directly at various bases during local Transition Assistance Programs. For those who didn’t get to

attend such a class or who want to learn more, there’s a “Reboot” version which goes into greater depth and is open to all Veterans (not just those recently transitioned out).

VETERAN AFFAIRS

The VA’s Veteran Entrepreneur Portal (VEP) is a fast way to find financing for your VOSB. The site is linked to the SBA’s, but this user-friendly portal helps with navigation. A few of the options on the home page include:

- Start a Business
- Access Financing
- Grow Your Business
- Resources for Veterans
- How to do Business with Federal Agencies
- Corporate Connections
- Franchising Opportunities

Aside from SBA links, the site offers exclusive information on doing business with the VA itself. The VA is a major national client with a range of contracting and procurement needs for hospitals, regional offices, data centers and cemeteries. So depending on what type of business you’re planning to start up, this could be a potential customer to look into.

Also check out their Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization page. Their 9th Annual National Veterans Small Business Engagement gathering is taking place in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 10th and 11th, 2019. It’s advertised as one of the “largest business-networking events for Veteran-Owned Small Business suppliers and firms.”

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TO UNDERSTAND A MILITARY VETERAN YOU MUST KNOW...

We left home as teenagers or in our early twenties for an unknown adventure.

We loved our country enough to defend it and protect it with our own lives.

We said goodbye to friends and family and everything we knew.

We learned the basics and then we scattered in the wind to the far corners of the Earth.

We found new friends and new family.

We became brothers and sisters regardless of color, race or creed.

We had plenty of good times, and plenty of bad times.

We didn't get enough sleep.

We smoked and drank too much.

We picked up both good and bad habits.

We worked hard and played harder.

We didn't earn a great wage.

We experienced the happiness of mail call and the sadness of missing important events.

We didn't know when, or even if, we were ever going to see home again.

We grew up fast, and yet somehow, we never grew up at all.

We fought for our freedom, as well as the freedom of others.

Some of us saw actual combat, and some of us didn't.

Some of us saw the world, and some of us didn't.

Some of us dealt with physical warfare, most of us dealt with psychological warfare.

We have seen and experienced and dealt with things that we can't fully describe or explain, as not all of our sacrifices were physical.

We participated in time honored ceremonies and rituals with each other, strengthening our bonds and camaraderie.

We counted on each other to get our job done and sometimes to survive it at all.

We have dealt with victory and tragedy.

We have celebrated and mourned.

We lost a few along the way.

When our adventure was over, some of us went back home, some of us started somewhere new and some of us never came home at all.

We have told amazing and hilarious stories of our exploits and adventures.

We share an unspoken bond with each other, that most people don't experience, and few will understand.

We speak highly of our own branch of service, and poke fun at the other branches.

We know however, that, if needed, we will be there for our brothers and sisters and stand together as one, in a heartbeat.

Being a Veteran is something that had to be earned, and it can never be taken away.

It has no monetary value, but at the same time it is a priceless gift.

People see a Veteran and they thank them for their service.

When we see each other, we give that little upwards head nod, or a slight smile, knowing that we have shared and experienced things that most people have not.

So, from myself to the rest of the veterans out there, I commend and thank you for all that you have done and sacrificed for our country.

Try to remember the good times and make peace with the bad times.

Share your stories.

But most importantly, stand tall and proud, for you have earned the right to be called a VETERAN.

I'M PROUD TO BE A VETERAN!

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

RESOLUTION
THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

RESOLUTION NO. FC20-03
SUBJECT: Trade names and Insurance
SUBMITTED BY: Finance Committee

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s charter is codified in 36 USC 21701 et seq and under this statutory code The American Legion may: (a) establish and maintain offices to conduct tis activities, (b) sue and be sued, (c) establish state, territorial and post organizations, and (d) have exclusive right to use, manufacture and control the adopted organization emblems, and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, its state, territorial and post organizations have the exclu-sive to use the name “The American Legion” or “American Legion” (collectively “Trademarks”); and

WHEREAS, The names, emblems trade-marks and copyrights of The American Legion compromise The American Legion’s intellectual property (collectively “Tradenames”); and

WHEREAS, The American Legion’s Trade-names consist of assets requiring legal and finan-cial protection through insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, It is recommended that The American Legion’s state, territorial and post organizations have their own protective insur-ance coverage, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Montana in executive session at the Fall Conference assembled October 23-25, 2020 in Helena, Montana That because The American Legion owns, controls protects and defends The American Legion Trade Names, this resolution is necessary to dictate protec-tive standards over the Tradenames; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion of Montana, via insurance policies, has so protected itself, and the tradenames of The American Legion from liability and strongly urges all districts and posts to do the same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the need to protect The American Legion’s Tradenames from liability it will be required forthwith that when that when any American Legion department-char-tered intermediate body, post or organization use The American Legion Name or Trade-names and an insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall specify in the insurance policy The American Legion and The American Legion of Montana harmless and named as an additional insured on any, and all, insurance policies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion’s National Adjutant and The American Legion of Montana’s Department Adjutant, or their designee, has complete authority to indepen-dently investigate, confirm and/or report that any, and all, insurance policy(ies) purchased by an American Legion Department, inter-mediate department-chartered body, Post or organization shall specify that The American Legion and/or The American Legion of Montana is held harmless and named as an insured on any, and all, insurance policies.

The
American
Legion

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ PO BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★
(317) 630-1200 ★ FAX (317) 630-1223 ★



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

To: American Legion Leadership
From: National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett
Re: Resolution 35 – American Legion Insurance Requirements
Date: 2 November 2020
Issue: How Departments and Posts comply with Resolution 35, Fall 2020

The American Legion National Organization (“The American Legion”) is the owner, protector and the organization that may grant the use of the names, emblems, trademarks and copyrights (“Tradenames”) of The American Legion. As owner and protector of the Tradenames, The American Legion utilizes a number of different protective insurance coverages. As owner, protector and grantor of the Tradenames, The American Legion, like all owners of trademarks or copyrights, is allowed to place restrictions upon the use of its Tradenames, including similar insurance requirements, reviewing Tradename usage prior to use, etc.

Resolution No. 35 (passed at the 2020 Fall Meetings of The American Legion National Executive Committee) places restrictions on the use of the Tradenames -namely that, if any organization would like to use the Tradenames of The American Legion and the Tradename-using organization has a situation whereby there is a need for liability insurance protection, then the Tradename-using organization will specify that The American Legion (and, if needed, the respective Department of The American Legion) is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability policies.

In other words, any organization using the Tradenames of The American Legion, and needing liability insurance coverage, is required to specify that The American Legion (and, if needed, the respective Department of The American Legion) is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability poli-cies. This Tradename protection is a standard business practice and not viewed as a control of the insurance-purchasing organization.

This requirement brings up two areas for clarification: (1) what is liability insur-ance? and (2) what is an additional insured?

First, liability insurance is an insurance product that provides an insured party with protection against claims resulting from injuries and damage to other people or property. Liability insurance policies protect both the insured and third parties who may be injured as a result of the policyholder’s unintentional negligence and therefore the liability insurance covers legal costs and payouts for which an insured party is responsible, if the insured party is found legally liable. Liability insurance policies pay these damaged parties and not the policyholders.

The different types of liability insurance include directors and officers insurance (D&O); commercial liability; general liability insurance; dram shop liability; special events insurance; employment practices liability (EPL); and criminal acts insurance.

Second, an “additional insured” is a type of insurance status associated with liability insurance policies that provides coverage to another group that is not initially named in the liability policy. With an additional insured endorsement, the additional insured is then protected under the named insurer’s liability policy.

Therefore, the Tradename-using group may obtain this additional insured endorse-ment coverage for The American Legion, and the respective Department of The American Legion as needed, by simply calling their insurance agent and requesting the addition of The American Legion, and the respective Department of The American Legion as needed, to their liability insurance coverage(s) as an additional insured endorsement. The majority of insurance agencies do not charge for this endorsement; therefore, if presented with an additional charge one should inquire why such addi-tional fee.

Enforcement of this Tradename business requirement is also covered in Resolu-tion No. 35. The American Legion’s national adjutant, or designee, has been given authority to independently investigate, confirm and determine that organizations using the Tradenames are also naming The American Legion, and respected Department of The American Legion as needed, as additional insured on their respective liability insurance policies. Once a national adjutant’s designee is determined and authorized, this designee’s information will be made public.

FALL CONFERENCE 2020 RESOLUTION TRACKER					
#	RESOLUTION NAME	SUBMITTED BY	PASS	FAIL	ASSIGNED TO CMT
FC20-01	Legislative Liaisons	District 6	x		
FC20-02	Stars and Stripes	District 11	x		
FC20-03	Trade Names and Insurance	Finance	x		
FC20-04	Modification of the Montana Code Annotated 20-3-324 (24)	Western Zone	x		
FC20-05	Risk Management Mandates for Department of Montana Youth Programs	Scouts BSA	x		As Amended

Historian

Ninety-Nine Years Ago...Our legacy is challenged again: The Cbet Shore-Governor Nutter Room in the MT Historical Society & Montana Heritage Center

BY RAYMOND K. READ, HISTORIAN, MONTANA DEPARTMENT, THE AMERICAN LEGION 2020-2021

[PART TWO] 99 years continued ...

The enabling act by which Montana was created provided that certain income from lands given to the state by the U.S. government should be used for erecting public buildings at the State Capital. This income went into the Capital Building Land Grant Fund. It was from this fund that greater part of the principle and interest for a new building was paid.

The first legislative act approving the erection of a Pioneer building was in 1923. It was hoped that persons would voluntarily donate money to erect the building; however, this hope failed to materialize. The act finally passed by the Montana Legislative Assembly was the one that really set into motion the program for the erection of the building.

Many veterans' and pioneers' groups worked towards the promulgation of such a building, among whom were Miss Mary Evans of Anaconda, President of the Montana Pioneers in 1941; Lester H. Loble of Helena, President of the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers; H.R. Hampton of Lewistown, Chairman for the Veterans Memorial Commission; and W.G. Ferguson of Helena, secretary of the Commission. Mr. Hampton was the chairman for the Spanish-American War Veterans. Robert J. Merrill represented the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and John J. Byrne, the Disabled American Veterans. W. G. Ferguson, The American Legion of Montana; and J. Ward Crosby was the fifth member of the Commission.

The chief problem was how to build, and where to get the funds for Pioneer building. It was finally decided to earmark certain funds in the Capital Building Land Grant Fund for the building. However, none of this money could be used for any other purpose except building. After several meetings among the interested groups, the Montana Pioneers, Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers, and the various veterans' groups decided to combine forces and erect a building to be known as the Montana Veterans and Pioneers Building. Into the building was to go not only the monies earmarked from the Capital building Land Grant Building fund, but also the amount the veterans had on deposit in the State Treasury from the boxing tax, the latter to be used for items which could not be purchased from the Land Grant Fund. To decide whether these funds could be co-mingled, a test case was taken to the Montana Supreme court. The decision the high Courts that the funds could be co-mingled was a major contribution towards achievement of desired objective.

To most effectively present the building problem, Pioneers, accompanied by Veterans, went from desk to desk in the Legislature in 1941 and finally House Bill 112 was drafted and ultimately passed into law by the Legislative Assembly. This enacted law combined the activities of the above-mentioned groups for a building to be known as "Montana Veterans and Pioneers Building." The Act also provided for bonds to be issued in the amounts of \$250,000, and that there be available for the payment of bonds all money in the Veterans Memorial funds from the proceeds of boxing and sparring matches, and the remainder of the money for the prepayment of the principal of the bonds of the Capital Building Landing grant Funds. The validity of this legislation was determined because of the same test case in which the Supreme Court rendered a decision approving co-mingling of funds.

As provided for in the Act, plans were immediately made to issue bonds in the sum of \$250,000. However, when World War II began it was decided it be temporarily stopped. Building costs began to increase and efforts were subsequently made to also increase the amount of the proposed bond issues. Finally, in 1945, the Legislature passed and act increasing the amount earmarked for the Building from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

In 1946, the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers acquired as tax sale deed on 63 lots immediately east of the Capital Building. The deeds were gratuitously to State of Montana by this group as their contribution towards the erection of the new building and provision of a site.

The architect approved by the Board of Examiners in 1948, and likewise by the Veterans and Pioneers was A.V. McIver of Great Falls, Montana.

Governor John K. Bonner, in his message to the 31st Legislative Assembly, in 1949, endorsed the Montana Veterans and Pioneers Building, and recommended that there be set aside for the building and that an additional \$350,000, bringing the total to \$750,000. This message was adopted.

Competitive bids were called upon by the Board of Examiners, and the contract for the erection of the Building was awarded to the Carson Construction Company, in 1950.

The building was normally dedicated on August 21, 1951. Members of Helena Veterans' organizations paraded the colors to the speakers stand to open the ceremonies and municipal band played the National Anthem. Lester H. Loble, principal speaker, called the building the dream of a quarter century come true. In his dedication address, Governor John W. Bonner cited the Veterans and Pioneer Building as symbolic of Montana's appreciation and great pride in its Pioneers and Veterans. Other speakers, too, had nothing but the highest praise for those who worked with unswerving zeal towards the attainment of such an expedient objective; and cited the building as a shrine

to preserve the record of the sacrifices and courage of our pioneers and defenders of freedom.

There are four floors in the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building. The ground floor consisted of the Museum workshops, collections storage and archives. The main floor is the formal museum, the Charles M. Russell Room, and art gallery and offices, the Library and Stack area are on the second floor; and the top floor was originally given over to veterans' offices, meeting rooms and a trophy hall. The first three rooms are occupied by the Montana Historical Society.

Chapter 22-3-301 of Montana Code Annotated identifies a Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building be in Helena, Montana. Title 22-Chapter 3-Paragraph 302 indicates the use of the Building stated, " the veteran and pioneers memorial building shall constitute a perpetual memorial to the war veterans and pioneers of Montana and the said building shall be devoted to the use of the united Spanish Veterans of Montana, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion of Montana, the Disabled American Veterans of Montana, the World War I veterans of Montana, the Montana Historical Society, the Society of Montana Pioneers, and the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers and for the housing of books, records, documents and other property of such veterans organizations [Noted the World War I veterans transferred their area to the World War II veterans and subsequently this area is transferred to the Post World War II generation]; and there shall be provided in such building appropriate office quarters for the State headquarters and officer and employees of the such veterans and organizations and for the librarian and other employees of the MHS.



National Vice CDR Liebenow visits Military Museum

National Vice Commander Robert Liebenow visited the Montana Merci Car at the Montana Military Museum while attending the Department Fall Convention in Helena, MT.



PHOTO BY RAY READ, DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN.

Attention Nutter Shore Museum

- ☞ If you have loaned, or believe to have loaned, any items to the *Nutter - Shore American Legion Room* of the Montana Historical Society Museum in Helena please contact Department Headquarters at 406-324-3989 or toll free at 866-793-1257, or by email at amlegmt29@mtlegion.org.
- ☞ If you know of someone who has loaned items and you know the whereabouts of that individual contact Department Headquarters.
- ☞ If you are the heir of someone you believe to have loaned items, then also contact Department Headquarters.

2021 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
AUGUST 27 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
PHOENIX SHERATON DOWNTOWN
340 N THIRD ST.
NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM FOR LEGION, SAL & AUXILIARY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

Please reserve the following accommodations for _____ person(s). I will be sharing a room with _____

Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

_____ King (1 or 2 persons) \$140.71 (this includes tax of 12.57%)	\$ _____
_____ Double (1 or 2 persons) \$140.71 (this includes tax of 12.57%)	\$ _____
_____ Commanders Banquet @ \$52.00 each	\$ _____
_____ Parking Rate – Self \$26.00 / Valet \$36.00 per day	\$ _____
_____ Hospitality Room - \$16.00	\$ _____
_____ Registration (non-delegates only; delegates are paid) \$25.00 ea	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____	

(Note: ALL Convention attendees must be registered and have a Convention badge to ride busses, attend convention functions and enter the convention hall) If you are attending Commander’s Banquet please advise Department by 25 February 2021

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

LEGION ONLY – I would like to be a delegate and would serve on the following Committee, (official delegates must be nominated and elected at the Department Convention in Helena June 25 – 27, 2021).
1st Choice _____
2nd Choice _____

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: JULY 1, 2021, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Please send this form to the Department headquarters payable to *The American Legion of Montana Convention Fund*:

Department Adjutant
PO Box 6075
Helena MT 59604-6075

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
CONVENTION 2021
JUNE 24-27, 2021
Hosted by Lewis & Clark Post 2 Family



Name(s) _____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL
_____ ☐ Legion ☐ ALA ☐ SAL

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Registration	\$20 X _____	= \$ _____
40 & 8 BBQ.....	\$16 X _____	= \$ _____
Past Dept. Commander’s Breakfast	\$17 X _____	= \$ _____
Americanism Luncheon	\$17 X _____	= \$ _____
Auxiliary Banquet	\$29 X _____	= \$ _____
Past Dept. President’s Luncheon	\$18 X _____	= \$ _____
Incoming President’s Luncheon	\$18 X _____	= \$ _____
Joint Banquet	\$32 X _____	= \$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Convention Hotel

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial
2301 Colonial Dr.
Helena MT 59601
406-883-3636

Questions
Bill White
C# 406-431-9310
whitewj@bresnan.net



Send Registration Form & Payment To

Post 2 Convention
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Everyone who rents a room at the Convention Hotel will be entered into a drawing for
\$350 CASH
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**BIG 1,000 CLUB**

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$500 and one to win \$1,800? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age.
This is a fundraiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts, and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State, as well as membership programs.
If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2020 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2021, \$500 on the Legion Birthday and \$1,800 at Department Convention.

**BIG 1,000 CLUB**

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

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

How to Submit Articles & Photos?

Deadline: APR. 1, 2021
(always include Post & City in Email Subject Line)

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

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

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

- **JPG format, as an attachment**
- Default setting on a **digital camera** is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
- **Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo & get them focused.**
If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- **Captions should be noted in the e-mail:**
Photo# caption which includes Post/ Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.
- **Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE**
Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail **attachment**.
- **Do Not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attach)**
See above (if embedded in the body of an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail **attachment**.

News articles

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

Corrections to previously-sent articles

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

Byline... remember... **always include the submitters name for articles.**
Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to: lmtpub@gmail.com
Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!

American Legion 4-H Shooting Sports Lewis and Clark County

SUBMITTED BY BUCK BUCKMASTER, HELENA POST 2 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS LIAISON

On January 12, 2021, L&C 4-H Shooting Sports held an introduction to Air Rifle class for all first-year shooters enrolled in the 4-H Air Rifle Project. In February these first-year participants will get an opportunity to practice their new skills along with more experienced shooters during Tuesday / Thursday shooting practice sessions.

Due to current Covid restrictions, shooting sessions must be limited to groups of only 25 during each practice. Additionally, new shooters must be age 9 or older as of October 1, 2020. To sign up for air pistol youth must have been in air rifle for one year. To sign up for small bore, youth must be 12 years old and been in air rifle for at least one year and have approval of the Air Rifle Superintendent. To shoot small bore pistol, youth must have been in air rifle and air pistol. This means two years of air rifle and air pistol, as well as approval of the Superintendent.

The American Legion Support for the Lewis & Clark 4-H Shooting Sports program typically includes providing all coordination and funding needed to run the American Legion Air Rifle Postal Shoot each year, as well as providing funding to be used where needed for ammunition, replacement rifles and other air rifle / pistol equipment.



4-H Air Rifle during Shooting Sports practice (in safe mode)

Buddies in Business



2 inch ads: \$75 per year
3 1/2 inch ads: \$85 per year

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

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

Americanism

Youth

American Legion Gallatin Post #14

Striving for Legiontown USA

225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715

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

Defense

Veterans

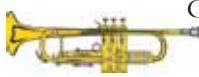
406-586-8400

Jerome's

Band & Violin Repair


Jerome Faith
Owner

Located at Quality Piano
617 Central
Great Falls, MT 59401
c: 406.564.5617
h: 406.965.3176



American Legion Post #2

3095 Villard Ave.
Helena, MT
*Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week*


Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday



American Legion Post #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



Big Timber American Legion Post #19

Drop in to see us!

110 E 3RD AVENUE, BIG TIMBER, MT
Post Meetings - 1st Wed. 7 p.m.
Open 7 days a week
M-F 1 p.m. to close
S-S 10 a.m. to close
Pizza Every Day – Friday Night Burgers & Sandwiches

Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary

AMERICAN LEGION OF MONTANA



Welcome


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

This Space Available

This Space Available

This Space Available

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



This Space Available

AMERICAN LEGION POST #4


OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM
HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN
1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT

VETERAN OWNED



WILLIE'S DISTILLERY
ENNIS, MONTANA

WWW.WILLIESDISTILLERY.COM

THE NEW MONTANA LICENSE PLATE AVAILABLE AT THE DMV.

For more information please contact: al@veteransmonument.org



MONTANA AAA000
DUTY • HONOR • COUNTRY

Sons Of The American Legion

DETACHMENT OF MONTANA

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

