



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
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November 2020— January 2021

RAYMOND J NYDEGGER DEPARTMENT COMMANDER 1975-76

Raymond J Nydegger, Department Commander 1975-76 of Melstone, a 65-year member of Townsend Post 42 passed away on August 18, 2020. Ray served in the US Navy aboard the AE4 USS MT Baker, an ammunition ship, during the Korean War.

Ray held all elected offices of the Post and District; additionally, he held many of the appointed offices in both the Post and District. At the Department level he served as the Membership Chairman and Department Vice Commander prior to being elected Department Commander. After serving as Department Commander Ray served as the SAL Advisor from 1979 – 1985.



Ray was very civic minded, he belonged to the Masons, Eastern Star and Shrine; he was also a former Dad Advisor for the DeMolay and a former Mayor of Townsend.

Ray is survived by his wife Jeanne of Melstone, who served as the Department Auxiliary President the same year Ray was Commander; and his daughters, Jennifer Bergin and Jody Haagland; and son John.

Ray was buried in the Deep Creek Cemetery in Townsend with military honors provided by Townsend Post 42 and members of the US Navy Reserve.

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 9	75% Target Date – Renewal Cut Off Date
Dec 11	Hanukkah
Dec 15	All Employer Awards due to Department
Dec 25	Christmas
Dec 26	All 2021 Cash Calendars due back to Department
Jan 1	New Year's Day 2021
Jan 2	First 2021 Big K Drawings First 2021 Cash Calendar drawings
Jan 5	MT Legionnaire Feb / Mar / Apr issue cutoff date
Jan 10	American Legion Boys State letters mailed to Posts / Schools
Jan 10	JSSP Target Sets Order Form must be postmarked by this date
Jan 15	Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards due to Department.
Jan 18	MLK Day
Jan 21	80% Target Date
Feb 1	Returned JSSP fired postal targets must be postmarked by this date
Feb 10	85% Target Date
Feb 15	Washington's Birthday
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 21	Dept. Oratory Finals, Helena

Montana Guardsmen Earn the Title of Best Warrior

FORT HARRISON, MONT. 9/24/20 – Specialist Jeffrey Lohman and Sgt. Ciera Balch won the Montana Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition (BWC) this past weekend. Lohman won Soldier of the Year and Balch won Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year.

Lohman, a Knoxville, Texas, native, joined the Montana Army National Guard in 2019. He is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist with the 631st Chemical Company based in Missoula, Montana. Lohman received special recognition for being the first in the state to earn the maximum 600 points on the new Army Combat Fitness Test.

“It was an honor and a privilege to get to be the first 600,” Lohman said. “But anyone can do it. A 600, in my head, it’s not special from the perspective of its unachievable. I think anyone can, if you train properly for one to two months; I think it’s very achievable.”

Balch, a Philipsburg, Montana native, joined the Montana Army National Guard in 2015. She is a CBRN non-commissioned officer with the 1-189th Headquarters, Headquarters Company Aviation Battalion based in Helena, Montana. Balch has the distinction of being the first female to win the Best Warrior Competition in Montana.

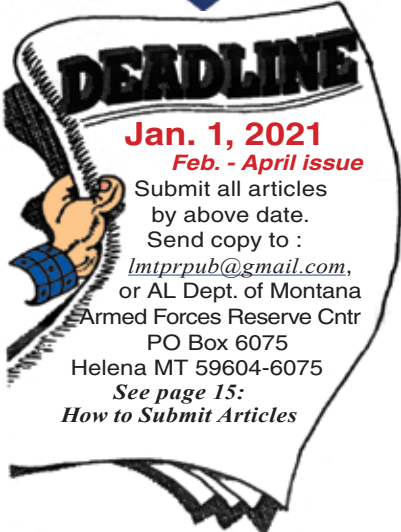


“It is a tremendous honor to have won the Montana Best Warrior Competition and to be the first female to represent the Montana Army National Guard [at regionals],” Balch said. “The Best Warrior Competition was one of the best events I’ve had the privilege to be a part of during my time in the Army. While preparing for the competition, I have matured into a better NCO and have met some amazing and knowledgeable people to help me along the way.”

Seven Soldiers from units across Montana competed in the annual four-day competition held at Fort Harrison for the title of Best Warrior. The competition included the ACFT, an interview board, a stress shoot, hand grenade course and other events meant to test a Soldier’s physical endurance and mental capability.

“I believe that every unit, every platoon, every single Soldier should engage themselves in a competition like the Best Warrior Competition,” Balch said.

Lohman and Balch will go on to compete in the Regional Best Warrior Competition in spring of 2021 at a location yet to be determined. The winner of the regional competition will go onto the national competition.



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COMMANDER NELSON

We are just finishing up our Fall District Meetings and the participation was a lot better than expected. We had Posts that showed up at meetings that had been absent in prior years and the zoom meetings were well attended also. With Murphy's Law, anything that can go wrong will probably go wrong, and I know that some of you tried to get on-line to participate in the zoom calls but were not able to. The District Commanders have much of the information that was disseminated, if there are questions out there that you would like answered, our headquarters staff and service officers can certainly help you.

There are continuously new members joining The American Legion through direct solicitation. I recommend every adjutant or commander check the mylegion.org website each week to see if someone has joined in your area. Too many times we see that someone has been sitting in the 105 holding Post and never been transferred. If there is no phone number or email, just send a letter asking them about transferring to your Post. Where their dues help support the programs in your community? If you have never attempted to use



Jeff Nelson
Department Commander

the mylegion.org website, ask your District Commander or call our headquarters staff and they will assist you in getting started. It is a great way to get those new members involved in your Post. In the last couple of years, we have transferred at least 20 new members into our Post. And be sure when they are transferred that every attempt is made to welcome them to your Post.

As we enter into the holiday season, start planning those activities to include visits to the local nursing homes and assisted living centers to spend some time with veterans that are residents there. I am sure a box of cookies or even a new pair of socks would mean an awful lot to them. If you have an Auxiliary Unit, SAL squadron, or Legion Riders, do something as a Legion family in these projects rather than separately. The rewards spent visiting with home bound veterans cannot be counted. The stories and memories are priceless.

I just want to wish everyone all the best during the Christmas season and into the New Year. We can all pray that the cure for the Corona virus is just around the corner and we can put 2020 behind us. 🍷

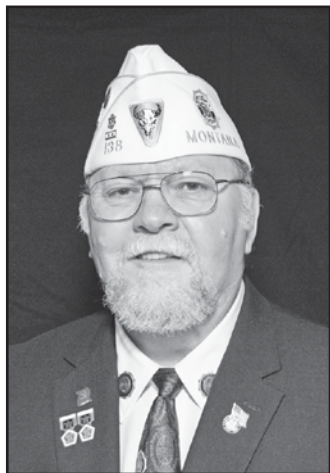
VICE COMMANDER SHARBONO

I was told my last article was rather long-winded. I will do my best to make this one longer!

Just kidding.

Inspire, Train, Learn, I am asking this of every single Legionnaire out there. Be inspirational with your message of The American Legion, whether you are talking to a recruit or addressing the membership at a meeting. Spark the interest it takes to promote good attendance, be it a meeting or organizing programs. Leadership needs to be attentive, knowledgeable, and available. Training is always important. There is an old saying "you need to train for the job you want" in this ever-changing organization we need to "Train for the job we have." I encourage every single member to register at MyLegion.org and take The American Legion Basic Training Course, it is a wealth of information, its free to all Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion members, its constantly updated and a good refresher for those who have already taken the course. At next year's Department Convention, I am asking all 11 District Commanders and anyone else who is interested to attend the Montana Legion College held the day prior to convention. And don't forget the National American Legion College that takes place in Indianapolis, Indiana each year. Always be willing to learn, and then share that knowledge with your fellow Legionnaires. The last two words of our preamble are *mutual helpfulness* for a reason. No matter how much training you have there is always the ability to learn from each other. Please do not be afraid to volunteer for Post leadership positions and higher. Everyone should attempt a turn at the helm. You do not have to be better than the one before you, just be the best you can, it may surprise you!

Now on to Membership. We as the Department operate on not only membership goals, but on



Glen Sharbono
Dept. Vice Commander

"Target Dates" as well. What are target dates you ask? They are the dates that National sets as time to renew or receive another renewal notice. Adjutants, if you are holding renewals after the target date you may have some upset members wondering why they are getting another renewal notice. Members, renewing with the first notice helps prevent further notices and saves money that could be put to better use. Recruiting and Retention, the job of recruiting is that of every single Legionnaire out there! When recruiting be able to answer basic questions, this is where "Basic Training" helps, also on the back of your membership card is our preamble which

describes the principles of the organization. Retention is every bit as important; you spent the time to ask them to join now take the time to keep them. Nobody likes to be forgotten or ignored. Officers, as in Post Commanders and Adjutants need to set the example to their membership to renew immediately as the Post packets are delivered, as they are the first with access to the membership cards. You cannot expect anyone to renew after the first notice if you are holding out until nearly June. Remember you are expired on December 31st of the current year on your membership card, delinquent on January 1st and membership is suspended on February 1st. If you have not renewed by June 30th you are dropped from the rolls. Please do not let this happen to you! We want you to be a part of our family.

And finally speaking of family! We The American Legion need our American Legion Auxiliary, our Sons of The American Legion, and our Legion Riders all working in tandem as an American Legion Family to be our most successful. Thank you, stay safe and stay healthy.

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

From the Desk of the Adjutant

Gary White

There are consistently three major requests for assistance received by my office – membership, issues involving Post Constitution and By-Laws and IRS issues. I will not address membership because that is normally covered by the Commander and Vice Commander's articles.

The two remaining issues are very frustrating because most of the issues could be resolved if Post Adjutants were following National and Department guidelines and attending District Meetings to stay up to date. Many times, the problems arise because a previous Adjutant has not kept good records or was never given the proper records when they assumed the position.

The most common problem with the Post Constitution is the Post no longer has any record of their Constitution and By-Laws. The Department Headquarters has very few Posts Constitutions on file despite repeated requests for them. The first thing a Post (and District) does when they run into problems is to call Department looking for a copy so they can resolve an issue within their Post. If the Post has a copy and they regularly review and distribute to Post officers and members, 95% of Post problems could be resolved. Many times, the Department Judge Advocate has been asked for assistance in resolving conflicts in a Post, conflicts which the Post Constitution would resolve if followed, only to be told there is no Constitution. Please check with your Post Adjutant and Commander and see if your Post Constitution is available. Post Adjutants please contact Department Headquarters and see if your Post's Constitution is on file, if not, and no one in the Post can find one, it is time to write a new one for your Post, and have it adopted by the Post. The Department Headquarters has electronic copies available to use as a template if needed, additionally The American Legion Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies has a printed copy available on page 98 of the 2020 copy or online at www.legion.org.

The IRS issues are the easiest to prevent, but the hardest to repair. If the Post files your annual form 990 (in most cases the 990n) on time and consistently, your Post will not have problems with the IRS. Where the problems begin is when a Post uses the wrong EIN number, does not file timely 990 reports or changes officers, and do not conduct proper training and hand over of materials to new Adjutants and other officers. There is little the Department can do to assist with IRS problems. Any problems involving the IRS will have to be resolved with the IRS, and everyone all knows the time and frustration involved with that. Other factors which may be involved is the failure to annually complete your annual incorporation report to the Secretary of State's office or the failure to submit your EIN number to the National Judge Advocate for inclusion on the National list to the IRS. Please make it a habit in Post meetings to have the Finance Officer or Post Adjutant report on the completion of these reports and have it recorded in Post minutes.

By December, Posts should have already started working many of Legion youth programs – Shooting Sports targets should be ordered, Post and District Oratory contests should be planned and dates set

forth; the Department contest is in Helena March 6, 2021. The Constitutional Essay Programs should be under way (essays are due to Department by March 15). American Legion Boys State Post Chairman should already be selected, and Department notified of their contact information and the schools contacted. Posts should already be submitting nominations for Economic, Law Enforcement and Firefighter Awards. This is the year we should be making an extra effort to recognize first responders; it would be wonderful if every Post nominates a Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter for recognition. As you can see there is a lot more to be working besides membership.

Remember time is running out on participating in the Big K drawing for the 2021-member year. The January early bird drawing of \$200 will take place on January 4, 2021, and the first monthly \$400 drawing will take place on January 11, 2021.

I wish all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas; have a Happy Holiday season. 🍷



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**COMMANDER - JEFF NELSON
VICE COMMANDER - GLEN SHARBONO
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE**

Chaplain's Corner

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

CHAYA SEMPLE, DEPT. CHAPLAIN

December 7, 1941 – “A day that shall live in infamy.” We may see it marked on the calendar and pause to reflect on what terrible things happened that day when Japan attacked our forces stationed at Pearl Harbor. How did it happen?

Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto conceived the Pearl Harbor attack and Captain Minoru Genda planned it. Two things inspired Yamamoto’s Pearl Harbor idea: a prophetic book of fiction and an historic attack. The book was The Great Pacific War, written in 1925 by Hector Bywater, a British naval authority. It was a Tom Clancy-style realistic account of a clash between the United States and Japan that begins with the Japanese destruction of the U.S. fleet and proceeds to a Japanese attack on Guam and the Philippines. When Britain’s Royal Air Force successfully attacked the Italian fleet at Taranto on November 11, 1940, Yamamoto was convinced that Bywater’s fiction could become reality.

On December 6, 1941, the U.S. intercepted a Japanese message that inquired about ship movements and berthing positions at Pearl Harbor. The cryptologist gave the message to her superior who said he would get back to her on Monday, December 8. On Sunday, December 7, a radar operator on Oahu saw a large group of airplanes on his screen heading toward the island. He called his superior who told him it was probably a group of U.S. B-17 bombers and not to worry about it.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 that morning. The entire attack took only one hour and 15 minutes. Captain Mitsuo Fuchida sent the code message, “Tora, Tora, Tora,” to the Japanese fleet after flying over Oahu to indicate the Americans had been caught by surprise. The Japanese planned to give the U.S. a declaration of war before the attack began so they would not violate the first article of the Hague Convention of 1907, but the message was delayed and not relayed to U.S. officials in Washington until the attack was already in progress.

The Japanese strike force consisted of 353 aircraft launched from four heavy carriers. These included 40 torpedo planes, 103 level bombers, 131 dive-bombers, and 79 fighters. The attack also consisted of two heavy cruisers, 35 submarines, two light cruisers, nine oilers, two battleships, and 11 destroyers. The attack killed 2,403 U.S. personnel, including 68 civilians, and destroyed or damaged 19 U.S. Navy ships, including 8 battleships. The three aircraft carriers of



the U.S. Pacific Fleet were out to sea on maneuvers. The Japanese were unable to locate them and were forced to return home with the U.S. carrier fleet intact.

The battleship USS Arizona remains sunken in Pearl Harbor with its crew onboard. Half of the dead at Pearl Harbor were on the Arizona. A United States flag flies above the sunken battleship, which serves as

a memorial to all Americans who died in the attack.

When Admiral Yamamoto learned that his forces had not destroyed the U.S. aircraft carriers or completely destroyed the U.S. fleet, he feared that the United States, with its enormous industrial potential, would soon recover and fight back. The United States did recover—and quicker than Yamamoto could have imagined. After only six months, the U.S. carrier fleet dealt a decisive blow to Yamamoto’s navy in June 1942 at the Battle of Midway, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers. After this U.S. victory came the start of the U.S. island-hopping campaign and the eventual defeat of the Japanese Empire in August 1945. (Many thanks to the National WWII Museum for these facts.)

How do we Legionnaires in Montana mark that day in our communities? Does your Post do anything?

Last year our National Chaplain, Ed Harris, Jr., issued a challenge to Department Chaplains to hold a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony. Working with American Legion Riders Chapter 2, local Boy Scout Troops, Lewis and Clark Post No. 2, the Lewis and Clark Veterans Council, Resurrection Cemetery, and the US Naval Reserve at Fort Harrison, a public ceremony was held outdoors in Helena last year. We got great local media coverage, too!

With COVID restrictions looming over us, an indoor ceremony of any kind will most likely preclude having an audience attend. May I suggest you work with a local cemetery that has a US Flag flying to organize a ceremony for your community? I encourage you to collaborate with other veteran service organizations if possible, to bring your community together to remember Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Please email me at chaplains-emple@gmail.com if you’d like a copy of the ceremony script we used last year so you can modify it or use it to get ideas to create your own ceremony.

Fifteen Montanans lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. Many were declared Missing in Action. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice.

May you be well.

Post Everlasting



July / August / September 2020

- ☆ APPELEY, ROBERT, 8/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 18-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BENNETT, RONALD, 4/19/2020 – Korea – US Air Force – 6-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ BROOKS, RICHARD, 01/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 18-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ COOPER, SYLVESTER “BUTCH” A., 7/30/2020 – Vietnam – Unknown – 5-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ CRONHOLM, JOHN, 8/30/2020 – Korea – US Army – 34-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FERREL, DAVID, 6/5/2020 – Vietnam – Unknown – 55-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FOLEY, CARLTON, 3/4/2020 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 11-year member of Post 341, Malmstrom, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ FRIEZ, BERNARD, 9/21/2020 – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ GURTNER, JOHN R, 05/2020 – WWII – US Army – 18-year member of Post 47, Corvallis, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ KENDALL, JOHN, 11/15/2019 – Global War on Terror – US Air Force – 2-year member of Post 88, Chester, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LOHMAN, THOMAS, 7/5/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 40-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ LUCAS, JAMES, 05/2020 – WWII – Unknown – 69-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MATTESON, LEONARD, 5/2020 – Korea – US Army – 67-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MILLER, DOUGLAS, 12/05/2019 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 9-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ MURPHY, JOHN, 7/2020 – WWII – US Air Force – 16-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NELSON, ORVIS B, 5/18/2020 – Korea – US Army – 65-year member of Post 49, Homestead, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ NEWBURY, FRANK, 08/10/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 18-year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ PETERSEN, JOHN, 7/23/2020 – Korea – US Marines – 20-year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ RAINEY, ALAN, 9/18/2020 – Vietnam – US Navy – 1-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SHOCKLEY, JIM, 9/14/2020 – Vietnam – US Marine – 40-year member of Post 47, Hamilton, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SMITH, RONALD E., 9/21/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 15-year member of Post 135, location, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ SOUTH, PHILIP R., 6/17/2020 – WWII – US Marines – 2-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ STACEY, HAROLD, 05/06/2020 – WWII – US Army – 59-year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ TETESIN, MARY, 6/28/2020 – Korea – US Army – 39-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ TILLO, RICHARD, 6/26/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 53-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- ☆ WILCOX, RALPH, 7/14/2020 – WWII – US Army – 60-year member of Post 93, location, Interred with Military Honors

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh
Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright.
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night
Thanks and praise
For our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh.



Thank You...

As commander for the Department of Montana, I and my family would like to thank all of you that have sent letters and condolences on the passing of my father. We were just overwhelmed with the showing of your thoughtfulness and prayers during his death. Thanks does not begin to say the words that we all felt. Montana Legion Family is truly a family and not just a phrase we talk about. My father was a proud Legionnaire that flew to Washington on the honor flight, travelled with me to district meetings, and was a big mentor to so many. Our family will miss him dearly. Thank you everyone for thinking of our family.

Jeff & Chris Nelson

Memorials

Donor	Fund	In Memory of:
Joyce Babcock.....	National Emergency Fund.....	Leroy Nelson
Gary White.....	National Emergency Fund.....	Leroy Nelson

Department of Montana Service Officer

KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Service Officer Kate Hahn

The Non-Service Connected Pension and Death (Widow's) Pension programs are for Veterans or the Surviving Spouse/Helpless Child of a Veteran, who served during a time of war and who may meet the criteria, based on income and net worth, to receive this award. Individuals may qualify for an increased rate of NSC pension when their disabilities leave them housebound or in need of Aid & Attendance,

- To qualify for NSC pension you may be eligible if:
- You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- You served at least 90 days of active duty* with at least one day during a time of war, AND
- Your countable, annual household, income is below the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR), AND
- You meet the net worth limitations, AND
 - * You are age 65 and older.
 - * You have a permanent and total NSC disability.

- * You are a patient in a nursing care facility due to mental or physical incapacity.
- * You are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

If your annual household income is greater than the MAPR, VA will determine your eligibility for NSC/WP by reducing your income using out of pocket medical expenses, which include: Medicare Part B, supplemental insurance, Prescription Drug Plan, Nursing Care Facility Expenses, Assisted Living expenses, etc.

The application process is complex for these claims. To file a claim for Non-Service Connected Pension or Death (Widow's) Pension, please contact your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to schedule an appointment. Your local VSO has received extensive training to assist you with your claims and the claims process.

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:

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

Belfry Post 84

Post 84 of Belfry, MT dedicated a flagpole for Belfry schools in memory of Past District 11 and South Central Zone Commander Dale Webb.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOREN DRIVDAHL

Hobson Post 76 welcomes Ember Drivdahl

The Hobson American Legion Post 76 recognized Ember Drivdahl for the completion of her two degrees from Carroll College and welcomed her to Post 76. Drivdahl graduated cum laude with Bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry in May 2020. Ember was accepted by the University of Minnesota and is now working toward her post graduate degree in Dentistry. Ember received the Health Professions Scholarship and has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of dental school she will begin active duty as Captain Drivdahl. Her parents are very proud of her accomplishments so far and those to come.

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Branch Manager
NMLS# 96766



KRIS HILL
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 262695



MARK DELORME, JR
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1027436



KYLE LEDUC
Mortgage Consultant
NMLS# 1575253

Ready *Candle Safety*

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



Each year, as the days shorten and the dark hours of night increases, families across Montana experience a very preventable disaster: a house fire caused by improperly burning candles as they celebrate the holiday season. This year, please keep these *10 Commandments of Candle Safety* in mind when you are thinking of lighting a wick or two (or more, depending upon your customs).

1. Thou shalt not leave thy candle unattended. This may seem obvious; however, don't be tempted to ignore it. Research by the National Fire Protection Association shows that 11 percent of home candle fires happen when no one is keeping an eye on the candle.
2. Thou shalt keep candles away from small children and pets. Keep your candle well out of reach of little hands and pets – and never let a child fall asleep beside a candle.

3. Thou shalt not place candles on any unstable surface. Instead, place your candle on a sturdy piece of heat-resistant furniture.
4. Thou shalt keep thy candle far, far away from other flammable materials. This one is huge when you consider that 58 percent of home candle fires happen when some form of combustible material is too close to the candle's flame.
5. Thou shalt trim the wick so it is ¼-inch at all times. Long or warped wicks are more likely to burn unevenly, drip or flare up. You can purchase candle wick trimmers specifically designed to promote cleaner, safer candle burning.
6. Thou shalt read the manufacturer's recommendations on burn time and proper use. Each candle is unique, so read the sticker instructions on yours. No sticker? Then seriously reconsider purchasing or using that candle. If it doesn't meet labeling standards, it probably doesn't meet other important fire safety standards.
7. Thou shalt not burn a candle to the very end of its life. Burning your candle all the way down is a fire hazard. Instead, toss it when there are two

- inches of wax left in a freestanding candle or ½inch in a container candle.
 8. Thou shalt use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle. In addition to adding an element of hearkening back to the days of yesteryear to your candle burning, a snuffer prevents hot wax from splattering.
 9. Thou shalt place thy candle in a proper candleholder. Is your candleholder heat-resistant, sturdy, and able to catch drips? If not, it is time to invest in something new before you light it.
 10. Thou shalt extinguish a candle with a high or flickering flame. This is a definite fire hazard! Extinguish the flame, let the candle cool, trim the wick and inspect your home for any drafts before relighting.
- If all this makes you wary of burning candles, consider flameless candles. Today's models look surprisingly real. Plus, some let you control the flicker speed with a remote control and have timers that you can set for daily use
- Whether you opt for a real candle or not, make sure you and your family take the proper precautions when lighting candles for your holiday festivities. May you have a joyous and safe holiday season!
- May you be well.*

Auxiliary youth member part of first female class to earn Eagle Scout

THE AMERICAN LEGION | OCT. 1, 2020

Hailey Carpenter's younger sister, Ashley, handed her a flyer that set in motion a goal and challenge. And it had to be completed in about 18 months before Hailey turned 18.

The Capital High School senior met the challenge and is now part of the inaugural class of females nationwide and in the history of Montana Boy Scouts to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout rank.

Through this journey to Eagle Scout rank "I've learned that I'm capable of doing a whole lot more than I thought I could before," said Hailey, an American Legion Auxiliary member of Unit 2 in Helena. "When I started this I thought it would be almost impossible to achieve my Eagle in a year and a half. I've learned that I can do anything I want as long as I'm willing to sit down and give it the commitment necessary."

Boy Scouts of America, now called Scouts BSA, opened Scouting to girls ages 11 to 17 as of Feb. 1, 2019. Hailey read articles about this never-before opportunity prior to the February date and joined a Venturing Crew "to prepare going into Boy Scouts." She knew achieving Eagle Scout rank by accruing 21 merit badges and completing a community service project in a condensed timeline would be a difficult task. But, "I knew I just had to sit down and do whatever I could whenever I could and essentially work constantly on completing different merit badges and making sure I had all of my rank requirements done."

Her father, Justin Carpenter, a member and past commander of American Legion Post 2, said he wasn't surprised with his daughter's decision she laid out ahead of herself. "She's very tenacious in her abilities and when she sets her sights on something she goes after it."

Instead of joining a Scouting troop, Hailey chose to be a Lone Scout. As the name implies, she had to look to leaders in her life for guidance and mentorship in fulfilling the requirements of Eagle rank. Those leaders included her father along with other Post 2 and Sons of The American Legion members who signed up to be merit badge counselors to help Hailey on her Eagle Scout journey.

"I learned so much more about all of The American Legion members that had been a part of Scouts when they were younger, or had children in Scouts, or they just supported the Scouting program," Hailey said. "I really loved bonding with the veterans throughout my time as a Scout."

Volunteers of Legion Family members, parents Justin and Erin, and 12-year-old sister Ashley helped Hailey complete her Eagle Scout community service

project. They built a 12-by-12 sports shed for the East Helena High School girls softball team.

"It's been awesome to know that not only the veterans, but the Sons and the Auxiliary members as well have all been right there behind her 100 percent," Justin said.



Hailey, left, and Ashley Carpenter of Helena, Mont.

Justin added that it hasn't just been the route of earning Eagle Scout rank that has both Hailey and Ashley involved with American Legion Post 2. The two sisters have helped Post 2 with Memorial Day ceremonies, highway cleanup and "just other events that we hold these girls are always right in the thick of things." Hailey too has spent hundreds of hours volunteering at the local VA hospital prior to joining Scouts. However, it has "been great to watch my two girls bond and grow closer together as they work their way through the (Scout) ranks" as Ashley too is in the process of meeting Eagle Scout requirements.

Erin, the officer manager at the American Legion Department of Montana headquarters, agrees that through Scouting "it's been rewarding to see their bond and awareness of their own abilities and their leadership grow." She shared that Ashley used to be "shy and timid but now she is the first one to stand up and lead the way." And that while Hailey has "always been outspoken now has a bigger confidence about her when she needs to lead."

With both of his daughters in Scouting, Justin said he hopes that "it shows girls who may be a little timid that they can do it, to go ahead and jump into it and to start to challenge themselves and to learn as much as they can through those merit badges. What I like about (Scouting) is the specific merit badges that the girls get to earn about your own community, state and nation which is right there in line with The American Legion and its Americanism pillar."

Hailey exceeded the 21 merit badge requirement – earning 36 – and was approved for the rank of Eagle Scout by the Scouts board of review on Sept. 13. Now, her plans are to continue helping her sister achieve Eagle rank and get a girls Scout troop started. "I would be taking on a mentoring position with the girls and teaching them leadership skills and different things that would have been helpful to me and my sister when we started," Hailey said. Then following high school graduation in May 2021, Hailey plans to attend college and pursue a career in nursing. "Through my time in Scouts and the different first aid badges, it's shown me my passion for helping others."



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.....	18.....	33.....	54.55%
41 GLASGOW.....	86.....	58.....	93.....	67.44%
45 HINSDALE.....	48.....	32.....	45.....	66.67%
49 HOMESTEAD.....	10.....	6.....	8.....	60.00%
55 POPLAR.....	27.....	7.....	28.....	25.93%
56 SCOBAY.....	47.....	9.....	38.....	19.15%
58 PLENTYWOOD.....	58.....	43.....	63.....	74.14%
61 BROCKTON.....	33.....	20.....	25.....	60.61%
81 CULBERTSON.....	92.....	42.....	89.....	45.65%
85 BAINVILLE.....	24.....	22.....	23.....	91.67%
104 NASHUA.....	10.....	0.....	7.....	0.00%
122 OPHEIM.....	27.....	25.....	28.....	92.59%
140 FORT PECK TRIBES.....	17.....	0.....	17.....	0.00%
229 WESTBY.....	14.....	12.....	13.....	85.71%
TOTAL.....	526.....	294.....	510.....	55.89%

DISTRICT #2				
11 HAVRE.....	121.....	67.....	93.....	55.37%
★48 CHINOOK.....	46.....	46.....	55.....	100.00%
50 BIG SANDY.....	24.....	21.....	23.....	87.50%
57 MALTA.....	92.....	67.....	104.....	72.83%
67 ROCKY BOY.....	25.....	0.....	22.....	0.00%
79 SACO.....	11.....	2.....	24.....	18.18%
88 CHESTER.....	34.....	21.....	32.....	61.76%
109 TURNER.....	25.....	9.....	18.....	36.00%
110 FORT BELKNAP.....	10.....	5.....	9.....	50.00%
TOTAL.....	388.....	238.....	380.....	61.34%

DISTRICT #3				
36 VALIER.....	51.....	41.....	53.....	80.39%
37 CONRAD.....	51.....	28.....	45.....	54.90%
40 CUT BANK.....	58.....	27.....	48.....	46.55%
43 SHELBY.....	49.....	20.....	38.....	40.82%
69 GALATA.....	29.....	18.....	21.....	62.07%
73 SWEETGRASS.....	73.....	55.....	70.....	75.34%
127 BROWNING.....	26.....	13.....	26.....	50.00%
CN20 CALGARY.....	45.....	28.....	47.....	62.22%
TOTAL.....	382.....	230.....	348.....	60.21%

DISTRICT #4				
52 THOMPSON FALLS.....	59.....	45.....	67.....	76.27%
72 COLUMBIA FALLS.....	107.....	64.....	110.....	59.81%
74 EUREKA.....	50.....	30.....	53.....	60.00%
86 BIG FORK.....	60.....	34.....	60.....	56.67%
97 LIBBY.....	185.....	133.....	216.....	71.89%
106 ST IGNATIUS.....	50.....	33.....	55.....	66.00%
108 WHITEFISH.....	66.....	46.....	66.....	69.70%
112 POLSON.....	132.....	93.....	145.....	70.45%
★113 ARLEE.....	25.....	27.....	28.....	108.00%
126 CHARLO.....	19.....	17.....	24.....	89.47%
129 PARADISE.....	72.....	14.....	84.....	19.44%
137 KALISPELL.....	233.....	133.....	235.....	57.08%
138 RONAN.....	64.....	52.....	72.....	81.25%
TOTAL.....	1122.....	721.....	1215.....	64.26%

DISTRICT #5				
113 ST REGIS.....	61.....	37.....	63.....	60.66%
27 MISSOULA.....	356.....	222.....	358.....	62.36%
47 HAMILTON.....	126.....	88.....	135.....	69.84%
63 CONDON.....	45.....	28.....	43.....	62.22%
68 MISSOULA.....	46.....	29.....	49.....	63.04%
83 CLINTON.....	15.....	10.....	13.....	66.67%
91 CORVALLIS.....	166.....	121.....	181.....	72.89%
94 STEVENSVILLE.....	202.....	130.....	202.....	64.36%
101 MISSOULA.....	36.....	9.....	26.....	25.00%
124 FRENCHTOWN.....	69.....	45.....	69.....	65.22%
★125 DRUMMOND.....	52.....	53.....	52.....	101.92%
134 FLORENCE.....	63.....	36.....	64.....	57.14%
135 LOLO.....	157.....	96.....	162.....	61.15%
TOTAL.....	1,394.....	904.....	1,417.....	64.85%

DISTRICT #6				
1 BUTTE.....	195.....	111.....	211.....	56.92%
2 HELENA.....	796.....	516.....	864.....	64.82%
9 LINCOLN.....	57.....	47.....	61.....	82.46%
10 DEER LODGE.....	65.....	40.....	63.....	61.54%
20 DILLON.....	175.....	97.....	159.....	55.43%
21 ANACONDA.....	235.....	150.....	222.....	63.83%
24 WHITEHALL.....	85.....	57.....	94.....	67.06%
31 TWIN BRIDGES.....	40.....	28.....	36.....	70.00%
33 PHILIPSBURG.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.00%
42 TOWNSEND.....	115.....	74.....	118.....	64.35%
46 BOULDER.....	23.....	18.....	31.....	78.26%
89 SHERIDAN.....	82.....	78.....	102.....	95.12%
115 BUTTE.....	95.....	52.....	92.....	54.74%
TOTAL.....	1963.....	1268.....	2063.....	64.60%

AT LARGE				
105 HELENA.....	168.....	46.....	80.....	0.27%

DISTRICT #7				
14 BOZEMAN.....	360.....	4.....	374.....	1.11%
14 BOZEMAN.....	360.....	231.....	383.....	64.17%
19 BIG TIMBER.....	178.....	108.....	163.....	60.67%
23 LIVINGSTON.....	170.....	104.....	171.....	61.18%
25 WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....	39.....	65.....	61.90%
30 BELGRADE.....	247.....	123.....	216.....	49.80%
★65 ENNIS.....	60.....	63.....	67.....	105.00%
78 W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	18.....	28.....	62.07%
87 MANHATTAN.....	165.....	87.....	161.....	52.73%
93 THREE FORKS.....	42.....	20.....	36.....	47.62%
99 BIG SKY.....	55.....	38.....	52.....	69.09%
118 GARDINER.....	35.....	24.....	38.....	68.57%
TOTAL.....	1404.....	855.....	1380.....	60.90%

DISTRICT #8				
3 GREAT FALLS.....	259.....	151.....	241.....	58.30%
6 CHOTEAU.....	104.....	63.....	105.....	60.58%
26 FORT BENTON.....	34.....	22.....	36.....	64.71%
51 AUGUSTA.....	36.....	33.....	46.....	91.67%
64 DUTTON.....	46.....	29.....	47.....	63.04%
80 FAIRFIELD.....	31.....	17.....	32.....	54.84%
102 GERALDINE.....	112.....	54.....	129.....	48.21%
103 POWER.....	28.....	17.....	31.....	60.71%
130 VAUGHN.....	40.....	27.....	42.....	67.50%
133 CASCADE.....	31.....	21.....	29.....	67.74%
341 MALMSTROM.....	160.....	68.....	142.....	42.50%
TOTAL.....	881.....	502.....	880.....	56.98%

DISTRICT #9				
15 HARLOWTON.....	104.....	65.....	99.....	62.50%
16 LEWISTOWN.....	409.....	213.....	355.....	52.08%
18 ROUNDUP.....	67.....	28.....	56.....	41.79%
53 STANFORD.....	26.....	14.....	23.....	53.85%
62 DENTON.....	26.....	20.....	27.....	76.92%
70 JUDITH GAP.....	69.....	45.....	77.....	65.22%
76 HOBSON.....	37.....	29.....	39.....	78.38%
96 ROY.....	22.....	20.....	23.....	90.91%
120 WINIFRED.....	31.....	26.....	29.....	83.87%
TOTAL.....	791.....	460.....	728.....	58.15%

DISTRICT #10				
5 MILES CITY.....	79.....	61.....	78.....	77.22%
12 SIDNEY.....	40.....	22.....	45.....	55.00%
28 GLENDIVE.....	105.....	66.....	97.....	62.86%
29 CIRCLE.....	16.....	11.....	15.....	68.75%
32 TERRY.....	99.....	58.....	92.....	58.59%
35 BAKER 1.....	09.....	53.....	100.....	48.62%
39 FORSYTH.....	93.....	57.....	87.....	61.29%
44 COLSTRIP.....	30.....	20.....	35.....	66.67%
60 EKALAKA.....	15.....	3.....	16.....	20.00%
114 FAIRVIEW.....	37.....	24.....	37.....	64.86%
128 BROADUS.....	0.....	0.....	15.....	0.00%
TOTAL.....	623.....	375.....	617.....	60.19%

DISTRICT #11				
4 BILLINGS.....	473.....	276.....	440.....	58.35%
8 HARDIN.....	47.....	8.....	49.....	17.02%
17 RED LODGE.....	57.....	43.....	63.....	75.44%
34 COLUMBUS.....	62.....	48.....	66.....	77.42%
71 FROMBERG.....	21.....	19.....	29.....	90.48%
84 BELFRY.....	39.....	24.....	35.....	61.54%
92 HYSHAM.....	26.....	14.....	21.....	53.85%
100 PARK CITY.....	59.....	42.....	63.....	71.19%
117 BILLINGS.....	236.....	75.....	139.....	31.78%
119 BILLINGS HGTS.....	174.....	131.....	196.....	75.29%
123 LAUREL.....	114.....	81.....	123.....	71.05%
TOTAL.....	1308.....	761.....	1224.....	58.18%

★ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2021 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	10,950
2021 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	6654
2020 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	10,842
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	60.77%



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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post..... 2.....	HELENA.....	516 MEMBERS
Post..... 4.....	BILLINGS.....	274 MEMBERS
Post..... 14.....	BOZEMAN.....	227 MEMBERS
Post..... 27.....	MISSOULA.....	216 MEMBERS
Post..... 16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	211 MEMBERS
Post..... 3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	151 MEMBERS
Post..... 21.....	ANACONDA.....	151 MEMBERS
Post..... 97.....	LIBBY.....	133 MEMBERS
Post..... 94.....	STEVENSVILLE.....	130 MEMBERS
Post... 119.....	BILLINGS.....	130 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT.....	PERCENTAGE.....	COMMANDER.....
5.....	64.20%.....	Greg Marose
6.....	63.88%.....	Pat Sweeney
4.....	63.46%.....	Dorothy Goodwin
7.....	60.47%.....	Bill Cummins
3.....	59.69%.....	Dusty Bailey
10.....	59.39%.....	David Ofalt
11.....	57.80%.....	Larry Tipton
9.....	57.77%.....	Bruce Luhrsen
8.....	56.75%.....	Larry Otis
2.....	56.70%.....	Vincent Schmoেকে
1.....	55.70%.....	Joe Yeoman

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION July 7, 2021

SQUADRON..... GOAL 2021..... TO DATE

GLASGOW #41.....	46.....	28
★PLENTYWOOD #58.....	18.....	26
CULBERTSON #81.....	21.....	17
HAVRE #11.....	18.....	11
★CHINOOK #48.....	23.....	25
★MALTA #57.....	18.....	19
SACO #79.....	13.....	0
GALATA #69.....	27.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	18.....	14
POLSON #112.....	15.....	12
MISSOULA #27.....	18.....	0
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	0
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	15.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	48.....	1
★LOLO #135.....	32.....	34
BUTTE #1.....	28.....	0
HELENA #2.....	129.....	42
ANACONDA #21.....	20.....	14
TOWNSEND #42.....	22.....	6
BUTTE #115.....	10.....	0
BOZEMAN #14.....	81.....	53
BIG TIMBER #19.....	15.....	8
LIVINGSTON #23.....	46.....	16
BELGRADE #30.....	46.....	12
MANHATTAN #87.....	35.....	20
★BIG SKY #99.....	23.....	27
GREAT FALLS #3.....	23.....	20
CHOTEAU #6.....	27.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	59.....	21
VAUGHN #130.....	23.....	14
HARLOWTON #15.....	27.....	20
LEWISTOWN #16.....	149.....	19
MILES CITY #5.....	14.....	9
BAKER #35.....	30.....	5
FORSYTH #39.....	52.....	47
BILLINGS #4.....	14.....	3
★BILLINGS #117.....	12.....	17
LAUREL #123.....	13.....	1
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1248.....	561

★ SQUADRON GOAL MET



Father Son team tour America Legionnaire Sidney Walton visits every state

SUBMITTED BY JEFF NELSON, COMMANDER DEPT. OF MONTANA

How does a person describe an important event in their lives that only they can relate to? I want to tell you about a father-son relationship that goes beyond



Vice Commander Glen Sharbono, Sidney Walton, and Commander Jeff Nelson.

anything that I could describe. His name is Sidney Walton and he is a 101 year-old WWII veteran. What Sidney has done and is currently accomplishing is what novels are written about. With his son Paul, Sidney has been on a tour across the country promoting their NO REGRETS TOUR. So far, they have travelled to 31 states and will continue until they have visited all 50 and the District of Columbia. Along their journey they have met every governor and countless veterans along the way. They have had a meeting with President Trump in the Oval Office and at the Normandy Memorial Service in France this past year. Sidney was asked to toss the coin at last year's Super Bowl between San Francisco and Kansas City.

When asked about his military service during WWII, Sidney related a story about going through training to be sent to Europe. During his training he broke an ankle and was held back; the remainder of his unit was shipped off and became part of the Battle of the Bulge. He never heard from any of them again.

He said it was a lucky break. He was eventually sent to India to serve his country there during the war.

Vice Commander Glen Sharbono and I met Sidney and his son Paul in the lobby of the Marriot Hotel in downtown Missoula. It was the scene of continuous greetings from people wishing him well on his journey. Glen and I then joined Paul and Sidney for breakfast at the Catalyst Café across the street where we were treated to a complimentary meal on the house by the Café. Being 101 years old and in a wheelchair requires certain maneuvering and we ate outside at a table in the fresh air. Sidney's son, Paul, has basically put his life on hold to take care of his father for the past several years. Paul is as an assistant caretaker 24 hours a day 365 days a year taking care of his father. Their journey has taken them to almost all corners of the country. Their next stop was Idaho.

One final note that I might add: In all his travels around the country and visiting many Legionnaires along the way, no one ever asked Sidney about joining the American Legion. He has found a home with the state of Montana as our newest honorary member.

We wish Sidney and Paul all the best in their journey to visit all 50 states and hope to see them return to Montana someday soon.



Touring car for Sidney Walton provided by Buick

Malta Post 57 hosts RadioThon for Memorial Monument



A radiothon was held on KMMR-FM Malta on July 23, 2020, to raise funds to purchase the last Memorial Monument to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park, 1st St. Malta. Monuments already in place are World War I, World War II, Korean War, Viet Nam War and Desert Storm. The radiothon was hosted by American Legion

Post 57 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 57. Commander Vincent Schmoeckle, Post 57 and Commander Charlie Stevens, Squadron 57 were in attendance. Answering the telephones were: Ken Wiederrick, Jay Southwick, Ken Ruzicka, (American Legion) and Michelle Stevens and Carolyn Schmoeckle, (American Legion Auxiliary). Pledges received totaled over \$7,000. The final monument will address "Global War on Terrorism." A formal dedication is hopefully going to happen on Veteran's Day, 2020.

No Charge for Fatality Markers

JIM KELLY, CHAIRMAN

American Legion Fatality Marker Program

Apparently someone, not necessarily in the Legion, indicated the Legion was charging for Fatality Markers. WRONG!

In the event you get such an inquiry the correct answer is, "I do not charge Posts for delineator support posts or for the White Markers; nor do we charge individuals or families for installing a Fatality Marker."

If a family inquires as to the acceptance of a "donation," my practice is to clarify, "There is no charge for the placement of a Marker." If they continue, my response is, "It must be a free-will donation on your part, made out to The American Legion."

REQUEST FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

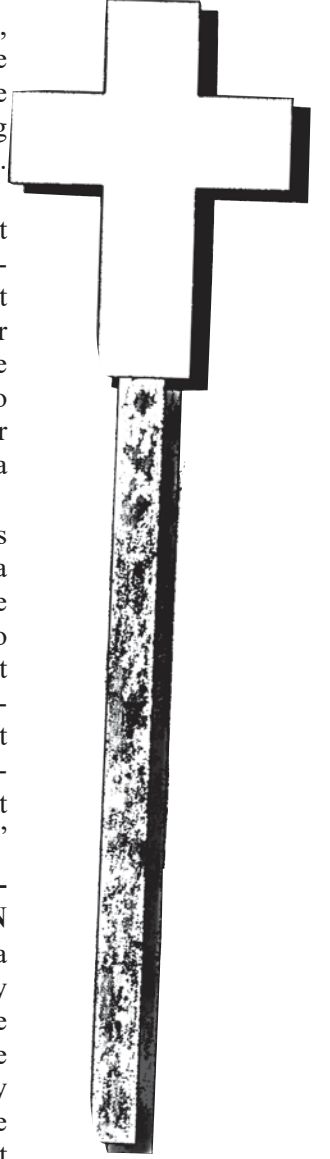
With the change in a few leaderships, we may encounter a change in the individuals who handle American Legion Fatality Markers for your Post. We request each Post submit contact information (name, address, phone, email) as to who we should contact regarding Fatality Markers.

While assumption is the mother of all mistakes, if you provide an email address, we assume you receive and will read/answer regular email messages. I extensively use email due to my hearing impairment... I have some trouble hearing on the phone.

This request serves several purposes: (1) we avoid sending a mailing through your District Commanders (2) we avoid sending mailings to 3-5 person in each Post; and (2) I know which Posts are actively participating in the program.

We have been plenty busy this week with multiple fatalities and finishing up the season with a couple of late installations and a little routine maintenance.

I wish to thank each of you for your continued service to your communities and to the Fatality Marker Program. You are a GREAT crew to work with!



Hope receives Nursing Scholarship Award from Custer Post 5

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRAHL, POST 5

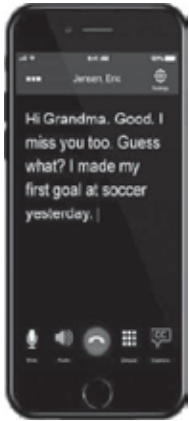
American Legion Custer Post 5 Commander Bob Pahl presented Lanae Hope with the Post 5 \$1,500 Miles Community College Nursing Scholarship Award on September 9, 2020.



PHOTO BY CAROL PRAHL, POST 5

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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.





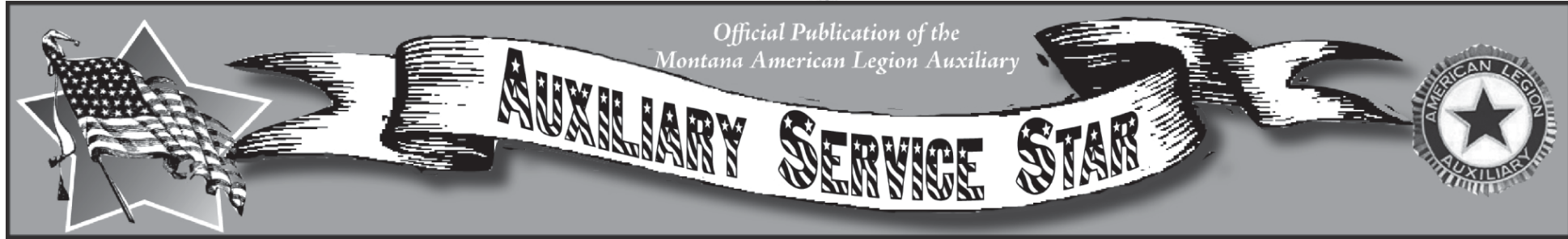
Honor and Remember Medallion

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

Hello Auxiliary Members! Fall is here and we are moving into the holiday season already.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all your family! This is a time for remembering all we are blessed with. I know I am blessed for having you all as members of our Legion Family and friends. I have been to all the District meetings and was so blessed to see many of you. I was also blessed



President Sue Davidson,
Billings

to see all of those who did our Zoom meetings with. Great to see you and talk to you even if it was not in person. I want to thank all the Districts that worked so hard to hold their meetings and make sure we were Covid compliant. I know it took extra time and work and I thank you. I was also blessed by the gifts from your Units and Districts. Thank you so much!

As I write this, we are planning on the Fall Conference in Helena. With all the rising numbers of Covid they are threatening to put some restrictions back in place so I truly hope we will be able to have the conference as planned. I certainly do not want to put anyone in danger, but I hope after all the planning we will still be allowed to have it. By the time you read this we will all know whether it happened or not.

I was just told this past week that the official opening of the SW Veterans Home in Butte is being pushed further out. The only good thing is that we will have more time to complete the Quilts of Valor for our precious veterans. I will keep you informed as soon as I am notified what is happening.

As I have written about in a couple of my monthly letters the Dimes and Times fundraiser for Department is still on for this year (see below). One of the great ideas was to put a jar out in your meetings and empty your change into it every

meeting. Along those lines, when the Legion has their meeting, put the collection jar out for them to put in their change also. It quickly adds up, I am being told.

November is also Veteran's Day. I know we cannot go all out like we usually do for celebrating our Veterans, but there are still things we can do. How about collecting cards made by your grade school children and do a home delivery with a card and commercially wrapped cookie or some type of goodie. That way even if they do not go out because of Covid, they are still remembered. Take special care to wear your mask and put on some gloves when you deliver them. Find out at your local nursing home how many veterans there are and take something to them and the staff can hand them out. Just a couple ideas.

November is Membership month. It is a great time to ask your Unit members to pay their dues, so you don't have to worry about them over the holidays. The first of the reminders from National has been sent and received and the second one should be coming out a little delayed to February, I believe. VP Chris Nelson has more on that (see next page). December is VA&R month (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation). This month we celebrate out veterans and their families by having the Christmas Store. Because of the Covid, we know that the Columbia Falls has had some that tested positive for Covid, so they are asking for monetary donations only. The money goes to Jamie at Department and she can transfer it directly to the Columbia Falls account. They will be purchasing the gifts and make sure they are held in quarantine for a while to make sure they are safe for the veterans to have. I am sure all our sites would appreciate the same thing. Christmas is the season for giving – safe giving.

For those that are helping to sew our Quilts of Valor, I thank you so much. If you did not receive the instructions on how to make them, each of your Unit Presidents received them so ask them to send it to you. We have to make 60 for the year. We have been blessed with so many quilt shops giving a great discount on material, or making a quilt to donate to us, or offering to quilt them for us. Throughout my travels during September and October, there are not too many quilt shops I have not been in and greatly reduced their inventory of patriotic material. When I told them what we were doing with all the material, I also asked if they would help us. I was not turned down at a

single one I asked. In case I missed the quilt shop in your town, please go there and talk to them. Making a purchase wouldn't hurt. You never know until you ask.

Blessings to each one of you and your families. This year we might not get to celebrate the way we usually do with our friends and family, but when you do get together please, please be safe. Wear your masks, wash your hands often keep a safe distance as best as possible. We love every one of you and do not want any of you to become infected. We already have some of our members sick and we ask you to keep them in prayers. I will always pray for you and your families, and our American Legion Family every day. Looking forward to 2021.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! Remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

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

Deceased Members

JULY 1, 2020 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Unit	Unit City	Name
Unit 2	Helena	A.I. Waling
Unit 3	Great Falls	Kathy M Fiedler
Unit 14	Bozeman	Vivian Duntsch
Unit 36	Valier	Claudette Vandenbos
Unit 58	Plentywood	Joyce E Frederick; Margaret Tompt
Unit 70	Judith Gap	Barbara L Grove
Unit 81	Culbertson	Lois M Olson
Unit 84	Belfry	Louise Black; Mary Riley
Unit 93	Three Forks	Darlene Ansley
Unit 105	Department	Judy Ames; Lucille Andersen

Secretary

JAMIE DeBATES

Hasn't this been a year to remember? Beyond the obvious inconvenience of social distancing I am hearing great things about the works our units continue to do. Our beloved veterans' needs certainly were not reduced by the pandemic, and if anything, they increased. Tipping my hat to those units going above and beyond to meet the needs.

As you enter the holiday season, I am asking the donations to be sent as early as possible. There are some new restrictions in some of our VA facilities so in to ensure our Christmas stores are still held it would be most helpful if you vote on your donation in your October meetings. Money sent through Department is still the most effective option and the staff at the various facilities are stepping up to shop, sanitize and quarantine the gift items. I know we can make these important events continue uninterrupted. After all, isn't that really who we are?

Action Plans were sent out via email. Yes, there are 91 pages so print what you need. The Department Roster will not be completed until more units step up and get their officer information to me. The form serves several purposes besides just naming the top officers. I know you can do better because you have in the past.

As of this writing plans are still on for Fall Conference. We all need to have patience and be flexible about the unknown. So much is out of our hands. Some of our members have been affected by the Covid virus. Join me in prayer for full recovery for everyone. As always, I am here for you and those important veterans in your lives. ☺



Jamie DeBates



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Montana Fundraiser



"Dimes and Time"



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

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

Thank you for your donation!

Butte Post 1 & Auxiliary Unit 1 hosts District 6 Fall Meeting



On September 12, The American Legion Post 1 and Auxiliary hosted the District 6 Fall Meeting at the Post hall in Butte. Pictured are Auxiliary members from Butte getting ready to serve cake at the luncheon.
Left to right: Helen Denton, Jeanette Knoell, Margie Schenk and Anne Newton.
SUBMITTED BY MARGIE SCHENK, MEMBER UNIT 1 BUTTE



Duane Cunningham, Coordinator of the Veterans Administration at Fort Harrison, spoke to the District 6 Auxiliary members explaining new policies and procedures that have been adopted.
Left to right: Karen Susag, Duane Cunningham and Maureen Watt.



Chris Nelson and Sue Davidson toured the new SW Montana Veterans Home care facility being built in Butte. Auxiliary is supplying quilts for the rooms.
SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON MEMBER UNIT 112 POLSON

Membership 1st Vice President

CHRISTINE NELSON

Our National Auxiliary Executive Committee held a conference call with Division VPs recently and announced the following changes to 2021 Membership Awards:

1. Recruit/Rejoin 5: 1ST deadline has been moved from February to December 14, 2020.
2. 10 X10 Award: Valid for recruiting NEW SENIOR members only. Reward for recruiting 10 will be a special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman
3. There will be no drawing for a chance to win \$1,000 to travel to National Convention. The winner of the 2020 Recruit 10 drawing will receive her reward to attend the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix.
4. Caring & Sharing Award: Reward of \$25 cash has been changed to a \$25 gift certificate to Emblem Sales.
5. All other awards have had dates changed to reflect the 2021 calendar year.

The NEC voted to change the date of the second membership renewal notice. It will be February 1, 2021. So many members renew in December, the national organization will save money by mailing fewer renewals and have fewer upset members calling National or our Department secretary.

We have had in place a first-year free membership for new Female Veteran members. At the National level it has been discontinued starting with the 2021 membership year. Whether the Department of Montana will offer a fee waiver will be decided soon.

Other reminders...

- **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS:** if any of the following is missing on the application form, it will need to be sent back to the Unit to complete and will slow down that person becoming registered at Department and National as a member.
 1. Signature of new member
 2. Legion membership card number of eligible veteran
 3. Legion member name – post & city & state (middle initials really help for very common names)
 4. Relationship to veteran’s box checked
 5. Deceased or living checked
 6. Birthdates are mandatory for Junior members and highly recommended for Senior members
 7. Signature of verification of eligibility from AMERICAN LEGION POST OFFICER, not an ALA officer
- Units should keep in touch with new members by a call, email or card to let them know how much their membership means to the Unit and veterans.
- I encourage members to take the ALA Academy Courses on the website. There is a lot of great material there to help us work all our programs including membership.
- Do you go on the Member website? You can share ALA ideas and information. Just don’t put anything POLITICAL on there.
- When a member is transferring to another Unit, she can pay her dues to either Unit.
- Chapter 8 of the Department Operations Guide has been updated. We are awaiting National Headquarters to release it.🌟

ALA Girls State Update

JEN DALRYMPLE, DIRECTOR, ALA MT GIRLS STATE



Happy Fall, I think?! Our ALA Girls State session is planning for June 13-19, 2021, at Carroll College, Helena MT and we are hoping to be able to accommodate those juniors (now seniors) who could not go last summer. We will be discussing this option at the Fall Conference in Helena and I will

certainly let you know the outcome since this article was submitted before the meeting.

At a minimum, please begin discussing the ALA Girls State session with your current community High School juniors. Application materials will be available after the Fall Conference discussions.

Thank you for supporting this important growth opportunity for our Montana girls.

~Blessings to You All~

Helena Unit 2 helps Ft. Harrison food service

CHAYA SEMPLE, LEWIS AND CLARK UNIT 2

VA employee, (and Lewis and Clark Unit 2 member) Amy Claridge, accepts 40 meal tickets from Unit 2 for veterans in need. In April, the VA stopped providing meals to veterans in need who travel to Fort Harrison on VTS (Veterans Transportation Service) vans from other cities in Montana. VA Volunteer Services appealed to VSOs (Veteran Service Organizations) in March to help fill the need.

Unit 2 is the first VSO to provide meals. The funds were raised through donations in memory of USAF Veteran Dallas Hiatt, who loved eating at the canteen at Fort Harrison.



Montana Shooting Sports Teams bring home Awards

Department Vice Commander Glen Sharbono, on the left, presents the St Regis Post 13 Shooting Sports Team their awards for finishing **2nd Place in the National Shooting Sports Team competition for 2020.**



The Gallatin Valley Sharpshooters Shooting Sports Team sponsored by Manhattan Post 87 receives their award for finishing **2nd Place in the National Shooting Sports Competition in the Precision Category** from Department Shooting Sports Chairman Larry Dobb, with Department Commander Jeff Nelson looking on.



2020 Class A American Legion Baseball Champs



Congratulations to the 2020 Class A Baseball Champions, the Billings Bluejays and the runners up, the Lewistown Redbirds (pictured below).



Montana National Guard to Conduct Purple Heart Hunt on Fort Harrison



The Montana National Guard will again this year be providing an opportunity for up to five Purple Heart recipients to hunt mule deer on the training area at Fort William Henry Harrison. The hunt is in accordance with regulations associated with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Hunting District 388. Being a Purple Heart recipient is the only requirement to be eligible for this program.

The available dates for the 2020 hunt will be conducted from November 9-15. One hunter will be allowed each day. No party hunting will be permitted. This year hunters are not required to possess a permit to hunt from a vehicle.

“Reservations are on a first come basis and open on October 1. Reservations can be made by phone to Fort Harrison Range Control at 406-324-3694,” said Capt. Shawn Madsen, Fort Harrison’s range control officer.

Hunters must follow all FWP deer hunting regulations for hunting district 388, a weapon restricted area. The only firearms that may be used are muzzleloaders, handguns with a barrel shorter than 10 ½ inches, and shotguns. Archery is also allowed in the weapons restricted area.

“The Montana Purple Heart Deer Hunt is a way for us to thank those veterans who have given so much to our state and nation,” said Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn, the Adjutant General for Montana. “I encourage everyone who is eligible to make a reservation to participate.”



Polson Post 112 gets a new home

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS NELSON, MEMBER UNIT 112 POLSON

Post 112 Commander and Auxiliary member Dorothy Goodwin, joined by fellow Legionnaires at the signing of the purchase of the new Post 112 building.



Superintendent Arntzen and Billings American Legion Honor Patriot Day by Supporting ‘Stars and Stripes in Every Classroom’

SUBMITTED BY GEORGE BLACKARD

HELENA | SEP 9, 2020 — Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen joined the Billings American Legion Post 117 for their annual Patriot Day ceremony on the Yellowstone County Courthouse lawn beginning at noon on Friday, September 11th. Following the annual ceremony at around 12:15 p.m., Superintendent Arntzen and Americanism Chairman for Post 117 George Blackard unveiled the ‘Stars and Stripes in Every Classroom’ initiative. The initiative is a partnership between the Office of Public Instruction and Post 117 to raise funds for American flags in schools.

“As we look ahead to this coming Patriot Day, I want to thank the men and women who have served our country,” Superintendent Arntzen said. “We must honor our veterans by having strong civics education programs in schools to educate the next generation about the rights and responsibilities that we enjoy as Americans thanks to our servicemen and women. One way to encourage this is by proudly displaying the stars and stripes in every classroom.”

State law requires flags in every school classroom, but only if schools can afford them or have them donated.

“American Legion Post 117 is proud to join our State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, in getting U.S. Flags back in classrooms all across Montana. On June 14th, 1923 The American Legion brought over 60 civic organizations together to write the U.S. Flag Code and now, nearly one hundred years later, we are excited to rededicate ourselves to honoring the symbol of our Nation and sharing our respect for our Flag with the children of Montana. This is a project that Legion Posts across the state can join in on and together we can promote Americanism and support the children and youth of Montana,” said Chairman Blackard.

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day): “I Deem this reply a full acceptance of the unconditional surrender of Japan.” President Truman

MONTANA MILITARY MUSEUM – (FORT HARRISON, MONT. AUGUST 17, 2020)

Victory over Japan Day (also known as V-J Day) was announced by President Harry S. Truman-D in the following statement: "I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message forwarded to that government by the secretary of state on Aug. 11. I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration which specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan—.”

A little after noon Japan Standard Time on August 15, 1945, Emperor Hiro-hito’s announcement of Japan’s acceptance of the terms of Potsdam Declaration was broadcast to the Japanese people over the radio. Earlier the same day, the Japanese government had broadcast over Radio Tokyo that the “acceptance of the Potsdam Proclamation [would be] coming soon,” and had been advised that the Allies of the surrender by sending a cable to U.S. President Harry S. Truman via the Swiss diplomatic mission in Washington D.C. A nationwide broadcast by Truman was aired at seven p.m. (daylight savings time in Washington, D.C.) on Tuesday, August 14 announcing the communication and that the formal event was scheduled for September 2. In his announcement of Japan’s surrender on

Proclamation in Recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II (1941-1945) and Montana’s Veterans of that War

September 2, 2020

WHEREAS, Montana’s 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, the Jung leers, was called to active duty on September 16, 1940 for one year of training , and

WHEREAS, on the same day the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 introduced the first peacetime conscription (for men between 21 and 35) in United States history, and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 1941: United States President Roosevelt established the Lend Lease Act allowing Britain, China, and other allied nations to purchase military equipment and to defer payment until after the war, and

WHEREAS, August 1941, President Roosevelt signed an extension of service of 6 months for those Americans who been called up in 1940, and

WHEREAS, December 7, 1941 the United States came under attack by Japanese Forces at Pearl Harbor and locations throughout the Pacific, and

WHEREAS, December 8, 1941, the United States declared War on Japan, and

WHEREAS on December 11th Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. The United States reciprocated and declared war on Germany and Italy.

WHEREAS, the largest ever mobilization American manpower continued, ultimately calling up over 15 million U.S. men and women to serve from 1941 to the end of hostilities in 1945, and

WHEREAS, over 75,000 Montanans were a part of that force, and

Whereas the 163rd Infantry Regiment served with distinction at Fort Lewis and various locations on the West coast of the united States until its departure to Australia in April 1942 as a part of the Southwest Pacific Command going on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and

WHEREAS, Montana’s the 163rd Infantry Regiment was recognized at the first U.S. Unit to defeat Imperial Japanese Forces in the Battle of Sanananda, Papua, New Guinea in January 1943; Subsequently being recognized by the 28th Montana Legislative Assembly by resolution and famous painting by Irwin ‘Shorty’ Shope in April 1943, and

Whereas, the 163rd Infantry Regiment served in the Pacific Theater in Three major campaigns, the Papuan Campaign 1943, winning the battles at Sananada, Gona, and Kumsi River; the New Guinea Campaign

1944, winning the battles of Aitape, Wadke and ‘Bloody’ Biak; the Southern Philippines Campaign 1945, wining battles at Zamoanga, Sanga Sanga Island, and the Battle of Jolo and the key village of Calinan against seasoned Japanese Land forces, stopping only because of the cessation of hostilities due to the dropping of the Atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and finally becoming a n occupation force on the Japanese mainland, and

WHEREAS the 163rd was demobilized in Japan, January 1, 1946, sent home after over five years of active duty, and

WHEREAS, the First Special Service force a joint US-Canadian special operations force was secretly formed at William Henry Harrison near Helena, Montana in April -July 1942, to organize and train for conduct mission known as Operation Plough, going on the serve in both the Pacific theater and the European theater, with battle credits of the Aleutians, Naples –Foggia, Rome –Arno, Southern France , the Rhineland and Southern France, being inactivated December 1944 without losing a battle and with battle casualties equivalent to 137% of its strength, and

WHEREAS, Camp Rimini War Dog Reception and Training Center was established in late 1942. west of Helena where it trained as a part of the effort to disrupt the Axis power, unit members going on to acquit themselves in places along Great Circle military air routes as search and rescue, providing specialized transport in remote area of the Northern Hemisphere such as New Found land and in Europe during winter operations as providing transport of war materiel to our American forces, and

WHEREAS, the Army Air Force organized and trained bomber forces throughout Montana at such locations as Great Falls, Lewistown, and Cutbank from 1941-1945, and

WHEREAS, the 7th Ferrying Command, Air Transport Command was formed at Great Falls (Gore Hill) Great Falls International Airport and at East Base (now Malmstrom AFB), Montana to carry out the mission of providing aircraft and critical supplies to our allies over the Great Circle Route, a critical part of Global War Air Operations of World War II, and

WHEREAS, Fort Missoula became an World War Italian detention camp, housing Italian sailors who had been caught up in the War 1942-43 with the result being a well disciplined and trustworthy population some of who went on to emigrate to the United States, and

WHEREAS specialized units such the all Black , segregated 555th Parachute Battalion, known as the Triple Nickels trained in Montana at Missoula and fought forest fires throughout Montana and the Northwest, and

WHEREAS, the people of Montana supported the World War II efforts in many ways on the Home Front, providing food, and other strategic supplies and minerals, meeting or exceeding the quotas for the eight War Bond Drives, and

WHEREAS, Montanans support, fought, died and or wounded in all theaters of World War II, as Joseph Howard Kinsey wrote, of the more than 15 million men and women in the US Armed forces during, “ World War II, Montana furnished 75,000” to the effort. “Proportionately this was near the top of all states. In World War II, as in World War I, Montanans were quick to enlist and they were healthy; the proportion rejected because of physical defect was smaller than the national average. Montana death rate in World War II was only exceeded b y that of New Mexico in proportion to population. Montana had the record of oversubscribing first in eight World War II saving bond drives.”

THEREFORE, I James W. Duffy, President of Montana Military Museum located at Fort William Henry Harrison Montana, do hereby recognized our Montana World War II generation, veterans and families, and all those who supported our Nation’s efforts to right a wrong and restore peace through strength from 1940-1945, expending time, talent and sacrifice in support of freedom and

Furthermore, on this date September 2, 2020, I support the Spirit of 45’originally declared July 2010 by an act of the U.S. Congress and , the recognition of year 2020 as the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II with Victory Europe occurring on May 7th 1945 and Victory Japan Day occurring on august 15, 1945 with the surrender Japanese Forces and the signing of surrender documents on September 2, 1945 on the USS Missouri. and

Furthermore this date epitomizes the establishment and sustainment of the Montana’s most viable military veterans groups now identified by Tom Brokaw as the Greatest Generation, therefore I declare this year a special recognition of the sacrifices of Montanans in the World War II.

Given under my hand at Fort Harrison Sep 2, 2020,
JAMES W. DUFFY,
Major General (Ret) USA, President,
Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation

THESE POEMS NEED HOMES: HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS
“NONE LEFT BEHIND...

Drafted at eighteen,
I was still wet behind the ears.
Foreign land, far from home,
killing, dying were my fears.

I shook my dad’s hand
and gave a goodbye kiss to mom,
and went to fight a war
in a place called Vietnam.
I went to basic training

and learned to shoot a gun.
I met some boys there
who had never even shot one.

We found much in common,
though all from different places.
We laughed at issued razors
for our hairless faces.

We griped about the chow
but welcomed each meal break
and bragged about telling Sarge
that no more would we take.

We graduated Basic
right to jungle patrol.
It wasn’t long before
death’s bell made its eerie toll.

Named for the Lunar New Year,
the Tet Offensive struck.
“Big Country” and “Jonesy”
died in the mud and the muck.

So began the register
of our unit’s losses.
Arlington headstones stacked up
as did hometown crosses.

The war waged on
as the Viet Cong were well-supplied,
while each day new and old members
of our unit died.

On the first day of Basic,
I met “Stuttering John”.
A year to the day later
and my brother was gone.

“Chili”, “Pedi”, “Shep” and “Biff”
all died on the same day.
We carried them out.
“None left behind” is what we’d say.

I eventually came home
and the war finally stopped
but not before
over fifty thousand lives were chopped.

We tried to move on
at times felt unwelcomed and used.
Many of us had bodies and minds,
broken and bruised.

Some of us never told
the war stories held inside.
Many of us proud veterans
asked why we hadn’t died.

In 1982
D.C. unveiled “The Wall”.
The Vietnam Vets Memorial
that named them all.

Last week a letter came,
my unit was meeting there.
There were about twenty of us
who gathered to share.

We touched our brother’s names
amidst a sea of others,
young men and women
who’d never be fathers or mothers.

Our troop leader formed us
and called for a hand salute.
My reflection in their names
showed me as a new “boot”.

I listened to Chaplain
as he concluded with prayer.
Emotions welled inside me
some asking if it’s fair.

We stand at the wall
with tears welling until we’re blind.
They’re wrapped in heaven’s arms
now we’re the ones...left behind.

DOMINIC "FLOMINC" FARRENKOPF



Historian

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

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

[PART ONE] As we begin our second Century of Service to Montana’s Veterans there is a challenge being raised as to the future of the Chester Shore (Department Adjutant and World War II War Correspondent) and Donald G. Nutter World War II veteran (Governor of Montana who died in an airplane crash in January 1962). The official name was rededicated as “The Donald G. Nutter Memorial Trophy Hall. Today we know it as the Nutter- Shore Room.

The Nutter-Shore Room occupies a space on fourth floor of the Veterans and Pioneers Building located just east of the Montana Capital at the corner of 6th Avenue and Roberts Street. And it has been there for over fifty years.

This is the story of the Legacy Challenged. The question raised is what will become of the iconic veterans’ collection of the military history of Montana that has been assembled by and continues to be under the stewardship of the Montana Department of The American Legion (TAL). The area will go under renovation in 2022 as a part of the remodel and expansion of the Montana Historical Society into The New Montana Heritage Center: Home of the Montana Historical Society.

In a recent meeting with the Director and Staff of MHS, Montana Department, TAL has been asked to remove the uniquely important collections of Veterans memorabilia representing our State’s heritage in peace and war since the beginning of Montana territory and subsequent Statehood as the 41st State of the United States of America.

The problem is that after the remodel, the Nutter-Shore Trophy Room is not planned to be reconstituted as it is currently configured although a display of military history will reappear, but most likely not as extensive as the current display. That discussion must continue, but I will attempt to give you the historical perspective.

Under the current plan for creating the Montana Heritage Center, the impacts on the current Montana Veterans and Pioneers building are far reaching. It is important for the American Legion and other veterans service organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and other military associations such as the 163rd Infantry Association, now serving the post-World War II veterans, veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to understand the background.

The following is taken from The American Legion in Montana 1919-1963, compiled by Geraldine Lowery, a past Department Historian (1956-1961). The book was published by the authority of The American Legion, Department of Montana, Copyright 1965. The History is out of print but has been put online on the Department’s website, www.mtlegion.org. It should be available through your local library and at each American Legion Post.

Also referenced is “Montana in the Wars,” compiled by Chester K. Shore, Department Adjutant (1956-1977). The Book was published in 1977 as a part of the Bicentennial of the United States of America. It is out of print but can found at various American Legion Posts and public libraries.

I hope that I have kept the original passion and commitment of the authors. Some of the laws and acts are discounted or no longer being enforced. In the early 20th Century the sport of boxing was considered an illegal sport in Montana. In 1914 Montanans voted down a statewide referendum to legalize boxing. However, by 1919 the times were changing and the Montana Legislative Assembly did legalize boxing and passed the Boxing Bill that provided a certain portion of the net proceeds of each boxing match would go for the benefit soldiers, sailors and marines. Through the following years \$48,000 accumulated in the State Treasury from these activities—a good portion of it coming from Silver Bow Post No. 1 at Butte. This fund was to be ultimately thrown into the general fund pot of the State of Montana for the construction of a memorial building.

As result of the Boxing Bill, the fund was started with a landfall from the Dempsey-Gibbons world championship fight staged at Shelby, Montana on July 4, 1923. From that day forward, the fund received a percentage of admissions paid for boxing and wrestling matches held in the State. The nationally televised Fulmer-Giardello championship fight held in Bozeman, Montana in 1960, added another \$5,000 to the Boxing Bill fund.

To be continued ...

Postmortem Memoir from Beloved Helena Teacher Reflects on the Nature of War

“Bleeding Spirits: A Combat Soldier’s Memoir of the Vietnam War, 1968-1969”

Helena, MT: Sweetgrass Books and the family of Robert E. Jewell, particularly his daughters Holly and Sheri, and life long friend Tom Gannon are honored to announce the release of Bleeding Spirits: A Combat Soldier’s Memoir of the Vietnam War, 1968-1969. Compiled at the end of Jewell’s life in 2017 and 2018, Bleeding Spirits is a clear-eyed recounting of his experience during the deadliest year of armed conflict in Vietnam and a rumination on how PTSD shaped and reshaped his life after his discharge from the Army. Bob began the writings that would eventually become Bleeding Spirits during in-patient treatment for PTSD—a courageous effort to help himself come to terms with how Vietnam changed him. The book is a window into the workings of war and its warriors and an inspirational story of the struggle and beauty involved in the search for a sense of peace.

“With Bleeding Spirits, Bob has given us an invaluable look into the realities of war and an on-the-ground perspective of what our military soldiers were asked to endure by our country. To list a few: the terror of fatal combat danger (not only witnessing, but also participating in them), survival of physical wounds, and perhaps worst of all, living the rest of his life with extremely brutal memories,” says Tom Gannon—Bob’s neighbor during their childhoods in Great Falls, Mont. and again in Montana City, Mont., over 50 years later. He became a passionate champion for seeing his friend’s memoir published after reading part of an early draft.

“Our country cannot say thanks enough for Robert Jewell’s sacrifice. For his story to remain untold would be a travesty and a further waste of our need to understand and make sense of human conflict. I know that Bob agonized over writing these memories of Vietnam. He put his heart and soul into it and sacrificed even more of his life at the end to finish the editing. A soldier and educator to the time of his death, I think Bob would be gratified to know that his efforts were not in vain.”

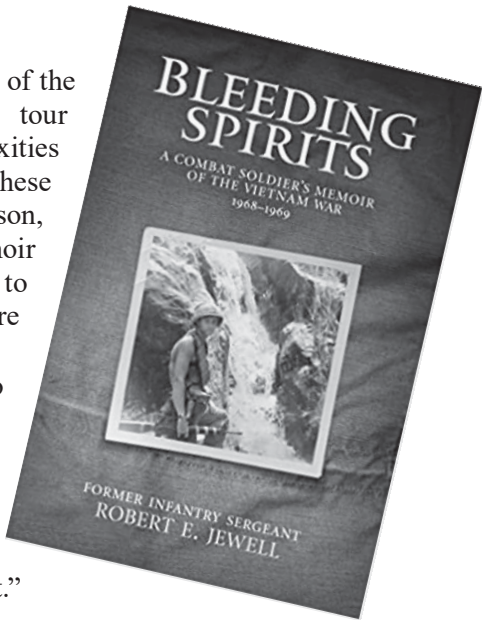
While working a summer road crew job in Glacier National Park in 1967, Robert Jewell was handed papers drafting him into the Army. Soon he found himself in

Vietnam, carrying an M-16 at the start of the Tet Offensive. Jewell’s fourteen-month tour exposed him to the horrors and complexities of war. He later struggled to reconcile these experiences with his civilian life as a son, husband, father, and educator. His memoir is an honest, raw, and moving testament to Jewell’s belief that the events of life “are our teachers.”

Says Gannon, “I want this book to honor and reflect the hard work Bob put in reliving and uncovering his memories, and sharing those with the world, as well as the hard work he put in across his lifetime to overcome, learn from, and heal his bleeding spirit.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert “Bob” Ellsworth Jewell was a true Montana man who valued family, friends, the arts, education, precision, hard work, philosophy, and having fun. Aside from his time serving in the United States Army, he lived his entire life in Montana. He was born in Great Falls and spent most of his life in Helena. The Montana mountains and rivers were his sanctuary and he passionately lived his life trying to preserve mother nature. The roles Bob played in his life were what he cherished most. He was a beloved father to Sheri Erhardt and Holly Pozzi, a “boppa” (grand- pa) to five grandchildren, a brother to four siblings, a cousin, an uncle, a friend, a teacher, a counselor, and a squad leader. Bob was truly treasured and respected for his gracious kindness, witty sense of humor, passionate storytelling, intelligence, and loving spirit.



In memory of Alan Rainey

SUBMITTED BY CHAPLAIN CHAYA SEMPLE

I recently had the honor and privilege of conducting the commitment service for one of our members, Alan Rainey. Alan was a Navy veteran and took up writing “cowboy poetry” to express his deepest feelings in his later years. As we Legionnaires continue working to serve veterans, I felt with Alan’s recent passing, this is a fitting time to give you the preface to his poem and the poem itself from his book, “Scary Words and Other Poems.” (Alan had lost an arm and typed the entire 100+ page manuscript with one finger!)

“Over the years I’ve known many veterans that have brought back some emotional baggage from their duty in a war zone, even if they received no physical injuries at all,” he wrote. “The atrocities that they witnessed, during combat, had severe consequences. Many will be fighting emotional battles for the rest of their lives.

I wrote this poem to make people aware that veterans with physical deficiencies may have serious, emotional issues, too, and often need help overcoming both varieties.

Consequences

As they went forth
Their minds were clear, their bodies whole
When they came back, some had,
Searing anguish, deep, within their soul.

Even though, lives were in peril,
Events still haunt their core.
Even though, they had orders,
Many have misgivings galore.

With memories, rank and vivid,
They go through life, with dark thoughts
Of the costs for absolution, at their finale,
For what, their actions, may have wrought.

Remember, consequences are not always seen
To some, breaking any divine command,
Can never be justified or sanctified
Even, when, perpetrated in some foreign land.

So when you see a Veteran
With extremities missing or blind,
Behind torn attributes and blank eyes
There just may be a war, waging, in their mind.

To meet our foes was their charge.
They went forth, of their own volition.
Now, they entrust, to us, their being
And we must not shirk our mission

To solace their spirit.
Yes, they are true heroes
And to this calling we all must go.✝

ALAN RAINEY, 1938-2020
MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING
FOREVER.
CHAPLAIN CHAYA SEMPLE

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