

Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway



On January 31, Governor Pete Ricketts signed the proclamation officially naming Highway 20 through Nebraska the “Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway”. This signing took place during the Legislative Day at the capital and over 107 veterans and veteran advocates were in attendance for the monumental event.

Highway 20 stretches 3,365 miles from Newport, Oregon to Boston, Massachusetts and passes through twelve states in all. Nebraska is the fifth state to adopt the renaming of the stretch of highway to the Medal of Honor name, which was started by Legion members in Oregon.

Nebraska American Legion members Gene Twiford, Daryl Harrison, and Ken Hanel worked diligently together to apply to the Nebraska Highway Commission for the renaming of the highway. They also made sure there were lots of advocates for the highway renaming in the room the day of the renaming hearing. The three gentlemen above have continued on their plight and created the Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation and have begun fundraising for the highway signage and for any future signs that may be needed.

The foundation has also planned to walk the 432 miles of Highway 20 from the Wyoming line near Harrison to Veterans Freedom Park in South Sioux City. The walk will take place May 11-22, 2020. If you are interested in walking, contact Department Headquarters. The National Commander of The American Legion, Bill Oxford, will be in attendance at Veterans Freedom Park for the end of the walk.

Nebraska has 73 residents that have been awarded the Medal of Honor. To earn the Medal of Honor, a member of the U.S. Armed Forces must act above and beyond the call of duty during combat at the risk of one’s life against an enemy of the United States.

A big thank you to Gene Twiford, Daryl Harrison, and Ken Hanel for their hard work in renaming Highway 20 the “Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway”.

Nebraska American Legion 2019-2020 Lottery Winners

Thank you to all that participated in this year’s lottery. The drawing was held during the Sunday Joint Session of the Mid-Year Conference in Kearney.

Grand Prize, \$2,500 Russell Rasmussen, Ponca
2nd Place, \$1,000 Albert Frerichs, Superior
3rd Place, \$500 Terry Noyd, Stromsburg
4th Place, \$200, Raymond Arehart, Mason City
5th Place, \$200, Dan Peck, Tilden
6th Place, \$200, Raymond Streeter, Hayes Center
7th Place, \$200, Wayne Luber, South Sioux City
8th Place, \$200, Dean Abels, Papillion

Special drawing for tickets purchased at the Conference.

\$100, Donald Nelson, Clay Center
\$100, David Salak, Lincoln
\$100, Eveline Thompson, Wayne
\$100, Gary Wooten, Wilber
\$100, Don Suchy, Valparaiso

Legislative Day

On Friday, January 31, 107 people attended the annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol hosted by the Nebraska Veterans Council (NVC). Those in attendance represented The American Legion and Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Marine Corp League, the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, and others.

NVC Chairman Jamie Jakub, DAV, opened Legislative Day with the Pledge of Allegiance and turned the floor over to NDVA Director John Hilgert to introduce Governor Pete Ricketts. Governor Ricketts spoke about his hopes of LB 153 passing this legislative session and helping to keep more military retirees in Nebraska. Governor Ricketts also signed the document naming Highway 20 across Nebraska “The Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway”.

State Senators Tom Brewer, Carol Blood, Tim Gragert, and Sue Crawford spoke to the group and informed them on the different bills that they have proposed for the legislative session. The day served as an avenue for the Veteran Service Organization members to talk to their State Senators and see how he or she is planning to vote.


The Nebraska Legionnaire

P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

BLASTING OFF TO 100%

2020 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 27,689 FEBRUARY 12TH TOTAL: 24,815- 89.62%

DISTRICT 7—92.64%	DISTRICT 12—91.11%	DISTRICT 15—90.85%	DISTRICT 8—90.74%	DISTRICT 11—90.60%
DISTRICT 2—89.80%	DISTRICT 13—89.16%	DISTRICT 6—88.92%	DISTRICT 1—88.12%	DISTRICT 3—87.82%
DISTRICT 4—87.72%	DISTRICT 9—87.39%	DISTRICT 10—87.04%	DISTRICT 5—86.34%	



Commander's Corner

Gary Wooten
Department Commander



March is Community Service Month

I hope you are giving priority to Boys’ State and Junior Law Cadet selections this month. Have you seen the GREAT new Boys’ State posters, designed so that interested students can use their phone to start the application process? If not, contact your District Commander or the Department. I encourage all of you to talk to local students who are juniors to tell them about these two really great American Legion programs. Remember, all Posts can submit more than one applicant for both of these programs. I also hope all of you are planning or have held BIG celebrations for the American Legion birthday, which is March 15-17. Use your birthday party to brag about what you do in your community, your programs, and all the services you all provide. Contact your local news outlets and ask them to join you! By the way, I also hope all of you celebrated Americanism month at your post in February.

I want to thank everyone who attended and participated in our Nebraska Department Mid-Year Conference. We had several different training sessions, which everyone seemed to enjoy. Our Department Executive Committee (DEC) met and handled several issues as well as received reports from standing committees. We also handed out many awards and prizes that I am sure will be covered in depth elsewhere. I do want to personally thank the DEC members as well as Committees and the Department staff for all their hard work. Of course, my thanks also go out to our National Vice-Commander Bruce Feuerbach and South Dakota Department Commander Fred Nelson for helping make our Mid-Year a success. We are always searching for ways to make these meetings better, so if you have suggestions, comments, or concerns, please send them to Adjutant Dave or me.



Thanks to all of you, we have met all our Nebraska membership target dates so far this year. Currently, we stand at about 87% of our goal this year, and the 90% target date is March 11. It appears that we have about 3,100 that were American Legion members last year who have not renewed for 2020. I am asking all of you to help get all delinquent members signed up for this


year. I also ask that each member help your Post Adjutant or membership chair visit with eligible veterans and ask them to join the largest veterans’ organization in the US. If your Post is not using “MyLegion” then work with the Adjutant to get hooked up. Yes, I know, that requires the use of a computer. I’m sure at least one member in each Post or your American Legion Family can help with that and knows how to use a computer. Remember, our Department is in the running for a nice cash award from National if we can continue to meet the membership number deadlines!

I’m hoping every member is keeping track of bills as our Unicameral meets this year. There are already several bills that have been introduced that effect veterans or veterans’ organizations. We at the Department will be tracking these bills and providing information on how they might affect each of you. Once again this year the American Legion joined with other Veterans’ organizations to have a Legislative Day at the capitol. Thanks to the over 100 American Legion Family members who joined in our day at the capitol. If you have not participated in our day, I suggest you plan on joining us next year.

In closing this month let me tell you that I am fully enjoying my year as Commander of this great Department. I know every Post is out there doing good things for Veterans and their families, their community, their youth, and our country. Keep up the good work and have fun while you are doing it.


During Department Mid-Year Conference Commander Wooten was presented with his Christmas gift from the Department Headquarters staff. Pictured (L to R) Commander Gary Wooten and Adjutant Dave Salak.

“2019 and Beyond”



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



The VA is currently working on Blue Water Navy claims, and we are seeing some movement in some of these claims. Please be patient with them as they have a large task at hand, and from what I can see so far, is that they are doing a great job. If you have a claim for Blue Water Agent Orange exposure get as many details that you can prior to submitting your claim. Start off by getting the dates that you were aboard the ship and then look to see if it is on the list of those that were found to be within the 12-mile distance that has been set.

As the VA is working on that, they also have released a list of areas within the US and outside of the US where Agent Orange and other Herbicides were stored or used. The list is long so please do your research by going to <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/tests-storage/usa.asp>

I know it is a long address but it should help you out by providing sound information. Remember the survivors of our brothers and sisters that have passed, if they have served in an area that these herbicides were used, and the veteran passed from a presumptive condition, let them know to check with a service officer to see if there may be a claim made for the surviving spouse.

Again, if you have any questions please contact your local service officer and work with them.

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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Dist. 4.....	John Sanna, Dalton
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Dist. 7.....	Dan Benes, Valparaiso
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Dist. 10.....	James Doyen, Hastings
Dist. 11.....	Glenn Schwab, Beatrice
Dist. 12.....	David Glantz, Denton
Dist. 13.....	Ken Mandl, Tecumseh
Dist. 15.....	Gerald Wolf, Lincoln



The NEBRASKA Legionnaire

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If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.

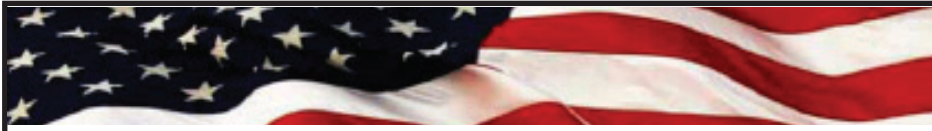
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Name: _____

Email Address: _____

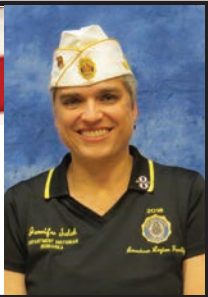
Member ID: _____

Mail this form to The American Legion, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505 or you can email the information to afwashburn@windstream.net



It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Donald E. Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

R D N O S R E T T A P G H K H
Y O E X Q F E P R N Z O L A S
J Y B T R E Y B H X U V S F I
I N H R S E I A A E K E E F M
C X N Q A I H D S P B R R M M
O O N M Q A L T R R S N O I O
H C R B Q O O N O J S M M P N
A M E N W W S O E E O E L K S
A B X S E Q K C X C B N L R J
E Z I L R R A U H P N T I O S
K R L Z A H S H L U K H F N Y
G N E M R A C T Y X Y E H O A
O F F I C E R S O N D L I H H
R X R M R O X L D N K Z E U O
K F A B X D N H H S E Z O R V

Directions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the bolded, underlined words described below.

March 1950 (70 years ago)

- Robert **HASEBROOK**, West Point High School Senior, won the American Legion’s annual State Oratorical Contest. In winning the state contest, he received a \$75 U.S. Savings Bond and first place medal. He will represent the state in the four-state regional contest.
- An interesting fact was discovered at Department Headquarters by Department Adjutant R.C. **PATTERSON**. All Department officers on the rolls for 1950, who served in World War I, served as **ENLISTED** men during the war. Those Department Officers who served during World War II, served as **OFFICERS** during the war.
- Six thousand Nebraska high school students took part last year in the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary boys’ and girls’ county **GOVERNMENT**. This information was reported by Chief Justice Robert **SIMMONS** who has spearheaded the program since its inception.

March 1940 (80 years ago)

- McLeod Post No. 47 of **SCHUYLER** furnished a guard of **HONOR** and active pallbearers for Schuyler’s last Civil War veteran, James **CARMEN**, who died March 7 at the age of 98. The post firing squad presented arms as the casket was placed on the train for Princeville, IL where funeral services were held.
- Franklin Post 193 and its Auxiliary Unit celebrated the Legion’s birthday with a covered dish dinner at the club rooms on March 18. An honored guest was Ralph **STOWELL**, last **FILLMORE** County Civil War Veteran.
- Nebraska Department of the American Legion, with cooperation of various other interested groups, is again sponsoring an **ARBOR** Day tree planting program.

March 1930 (90 years ago)

- Dedication of the veterans’ hospital east of Lincoln will be held on Sunday, May 4th at 2:30pm at which time the **CORNERSTONE** will be officially laid by the American Legion Department of Nebraska.
- The annual radio program of the American Legion and Auxiliary was broadcast from station KFAB in the evening of March 19. Department Commander Dwight **GRISWOLD** and Department President Mrs. O.W. **HAHN** were the principal speakers.

The following is a small list of notable POWs’ not only from the US but from other countries too. You can find this list under List of POW's at Wikipedia, along with many others. These are the ones that interested me.

Winston Churchill from Great Britan who was captured during the Second Boer War, who then escaped. What a difference he made in our world. Charles de Gaulle, the French general and political leader who was captured at Verdun and held as a POW from 1916 to 1918.

Everett Alvarez Jr. a Navy Commander who was the first American pilot who had been shot down and then held as a POW in North Vietnam for over eight years. He was the second longest held POW in American History.

Jeramiah Denton, who was awarded the Navy Cross for resistance in captivity during the Vietnam War.

John McCain spent over 5 years as a POW in Vietnam. He was a noted political leader, served as a US Senator and was the republican nominee for President in the 2008 election.

Floyd James Thompson is America's longest held POW. He spent over 9 years in POW camps in North Vietnam from 1964 to 1973.

Andrew Jackson, our seventh president, who was captured in the American Revolutionary Wars at age thirteen, while serving as a courier.

We end this section with our first President of the United States George Washington. He was captured in 1754 by the French during the French and Indian War. We can only wonder what our world would be like if George Washington had been killed by his captors at that time.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. As of the latest update on January 31, 2020, there are more than 81,900 Americans missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf War and other conflicts. Included in this figure are over 41,000 of the missing who are presumed, but not known for sure, lost at sea from ship losses, from aircraft water losses and others.

While researching information for these articles, I am reminded of the strength and courage we all possess but have not realized. Many of our former POW's came home and went on to be great leaders not only in our country, but in other countries. Though I have not listed any women on my list of POWs’, history has shown throughout the years they have the same tenacity as men.

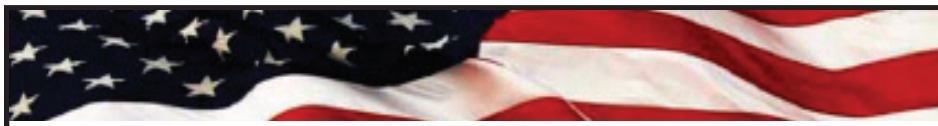

We as a country must remain working together as the old saying goes, “United we stand, divided we fall.” We must continue to do all we can to make this a better world in which to live.



We're
HERE TO SERVE
You

Speak with a State Service Officer: (402) 420-4021
Visit our website: veterans.nebraska.gov



Chaplain's Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain

(What's Next?)

The “season to be jolly” is past. What comes now depends upon the one seeking, unless... you’re on the other side of the “veil” (i.e., the divide between life in our corruptible flesh versus eternity with Jesus).

Curious about that veil thing, huh? Well, a lot of people are, especially if they could find something to work for their advantage. But, you ask, why a veil?

Let’s go back to the distant past...say...in the Book of Exodus 26:1, where Moses gets his marching orders for God’s initial holy place on earth, His Tabernacle. Note that those curtains, designed by God Himself, could not be torn by human hands.

This Tabernacle was God’s way of introducing His holiness—separateness—from all of creation, by way of Abraham’s seed—Israel--in the desert until they had their kingdom and a temple to worship God in. As an aside here, holy simply means following God’s way to live a gracious life apart from the world governed by Satan. As said in Holy Scripture, we who are believers in Jesus, live in the world, not of its philosophies (1 Peter 1:15).

That was the first, genuine, Theocracy, or God-governing rule, where God directly worked with His greatest creation, humankind (Leviticus 26:12). But man, even Israel, had to have things their way by wanting to imitate their neighbors after settling in the Promised Land. And guess where that lead to (1 Samuel 8:7, 22)???

So...what’s all this got to do with a veil, a tabernacle, and holiness? A lot. Jesus, even as the Lord Jehovah of the Bible’s Old Testament, was preparing His people, Israel, to receive the ultimate gift from an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-aware God: Himself. The veiled tabernacle was humankind’s visible evidence of God’s omnipotence on earth, as elsewhere in the galaxy. If God were to save humankind from their sins, He’d have to do something not otherwise available; i.e., do it Himself. That same salvation, of course, applies to Jesus’ seed, us Gentiles (Romans 3:29).

Being a disciple of God means you comprehend your sinful life, and that you believe unto Jesus’ sacrifice and resurrection for your holiness and eternal life with the Lord, awaiting the Parousia, better known as the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:17). We who believe have been grafted into the vine, Jesus said, to be equal family members with our Hebrew brethren, as two branches of Abraham’s seed (John 15:15).

Holiness is not a thing to attain or covet. It is the state of personal living that sets you apart from the rest of the world as you follow Christ. It started with our Hebrew brethren’s’ rescue and settlement into the Promised Land of Canaan by Jehovah. It continues with us Gentiles through Jesus, Lord God Jehovah revealed in His incarnation. The physical Tabernacle taught us that God IS holy, and that He CANNOT be comprehended and treated like His creation. But Jesus became the go-between—no veil—whereby Gentiles and Hebrews may worship God by being holy, too (Romans 12:1).

Nothing separates us from God, except our own will. That veil is torn asunder. Jesus is now known as Jehovah of the Bible’s Old Testament. That Tabernacle is Jesus Himself. No sacrifices except your former sinful lifestyle. So...what are you waiting for? Embrace Jesus, and be whole (I Thessalonians 5:23).

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

By Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

Hopefully, we have made it through the worst of winter. The snow geese are coming north. Spring is just around the corner, and we still need more Legionnaires!

I was a little disappointed that we didn’t have a larger membership turn-in at the Mid-Year Conference, but we got some and we easily surpassed our 80% Target Date goal --- by almost 1,100 members. At this writing in early February we have already surpassed the February 12th 85% Target Date goal by about 500 members (you can observe, however, that the surplus has begun to dwindle).

The 90% Target Date goal on March 11th will be an important goal for us. It can keep us on track and offers the possibility of winning some very valuable awards from National for winning the “Big 12” competition. Let’s not let Commander Gary down. We need to exceed his pledges. That would be good for him and really good for the Department.

While we have been achieving the incremental goals established by National, we have NOT been exceeding our membership on the same date a year ago. I can’t stress enough how important it is to work with the renewals of existing members and the recruitment of new members with equal enthusiasm. There are veterans out there amongst us who will join if asked.

The national membership report prepared for the January 15th target date showed that more than 400 **NEW** 2020 Nebraska members have joined Post 500 online or through the direct mail solicitation program since the membership year started. Post officers with myLegion.org credentials can identify them **right now** and start working to contact them and explain to them the benefits of transferring into your local Posts.



Also available on myLegion.org are the names and contact information for Post 500 members who belonged in 2019 but have not renewed for 2020. They need to be contacted right now with an invitation to “transfer and renew” into your local Posts. The Posts who have worked that Post 500 list this year have been met with success!

Needless to say, now is also the time to be contacting the delinquent members of your own Post.

Links to the Membership Impact Reports and Training Newsletters prepared by National can be found on the Department website under the Membership tab. There is good information in those publications --- information that can be used in recruiting. And every Legionnaire needs to be a recruiter.

Thank you for all you do in the effort to maintain and **GROW** our American Legion.

Have a nice March!

S.A.L. Notes

Robert Neel
Detachment Commander

Greetings Fellow Sons Members.

The Detachment made the January target date and looks like we are going to make the February 12 target date as of this writing. Thank you to all the Squadrons that have stepped up their membership renewals and new members. For the Squadrons that have yet to send in any memberships, as of January 15, your membership is expired. You may have a membership card but if the adjutant has not sent in the payment or your card, you are not eligible for benefits.

As of February 5, the list I received, we have 25 Squadrons who have not sent in any dues: Hay Springs, Albion, Bloomfield, Wayne (in work), Hemingford, North Platte, Callaway, Barlett, Arnold, Yutan (2 yrs. behind), Curtis, Palisade, Sutton, Cowles, Fairfield, Kenesaw, Shickley, Adams (2 yrs. behind), Cortland, Western, Dorchester, Plattsmouth, Bennet, Falls City, and Pawnee City (2 yrs. behind). We have 50 Squadrons at 100% or better and 30 Squadrons above the 75% target already. THANK YOU!!

One of the benefits is the National Emergency Fund (NEF). To be eligible for it you must have a current membership card and can receive up to \$3,000 due to damages caused by a natural disaster. If your Squadron is listed as “0” memberships turned in, you might want to contact your adjutant immediately, especially if you have paid.

On January 31, Governor Pete Ricketts signed the proclamation for Highway 20 to be named the “Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway” through Nebraska. There will be some walkers from Nebraska starting at the Wyoming line and walking to South Sioux City on May 11-22, 2020. If you are interested in walking contact the Department of Nebraska to get the contact information.

Another project is helping the Nebraska State Patrol K-9 Initiative to replace their K-9’s. The Winside Squadron 252 and the Beemer Riders Chapter 159 have pledged \$500 each to start the fund and we are challenging each Squadron and Rider’s Chapter to donate \$50 each. Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units are welcome to donate, also. The donations need to be sent to the Department of Nebraska by March 1 and put in memo NSP K-9 initiative. All donations will be presented to the NSP K-9 Fund in March. We have had a good working relationship with the State Patrol and would like to help with this endeavor.

April is Children & Youth month. This will be the 82nd Annual Children and Youth month for the Sons. I hope you have something planned or have time to get things together for April. The Detachment of Nebraska Children & Youth Chairman is Eric Garrels from Gibbon.

District Conventions will be starting in February. Detachment will have officers at each Convention to pass information and talk with any Sons members in attendance. We hope you can attend the Conventions in your District. A good time to meet your upcoming officers from Detachment.

Detachment is needing members to move up to help fill committee positions. If you have some time, you could help with these committees, we would appreciate it greatly. The committees usually meet during June Convention and January Conference. Most everything else is done by phone or email otherwise.

If there is anything the Detachment can do to help you, we have officers and committee members across the state. Please call if we can help. Detachment will have the closest member to assist to save travel time.

Mail Call

District 8 Fundraiser

February 29, 2020 from 4:00-8:00 pm
Papillion American Legion Post 32
230 W Lincoln Street
Food will be served
Age 13-Adults \$10 and Children Age 5-12 \$5
Silent Auction Patriotic Theme

Contact: District 8 Commander, Dave Doolen
402- 547-7597
leatricedoolen@msn.com

2020 Mid-Year Conference-Kearney



Bruce Feuerbach, National Vice Commander, (Midwest Region) was presented with a plaque and an Admiralty from the Nebraska Navy. Pictured (L to R) NECman Bill Crosier, NVC Bruce Feuerbach, and Commander Gary Wooten.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Commander Gary Wooten awarded Ryan N. Berney of the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services Department the 2019 Nebraska American Legion Firefighter/EMS of the Year. Pictured with Ryan is his wife, Tiffany, and daughters, Adrianna and Maskenna.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Commander Gary Wooten awarded Christopher J. Lichtenberg of the Saunders County Sheriff's Office the 2019 Nebraska Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



District 8 Vice-Commander Fran Shelton and Mason City Post 142 member Edith Deuel presented Commander Gary Wooten a check for Operation Comfort Warrior from their afghan raffle.



Comander Gary Wooten presented Area A Commander Daryl Harrison with the set of Centennial Coins following the raffle drawing.



Sarah Lasso of Columbus High School was the winner of 2019 Nebraska American Legion Oratorical competition and was awarded a \$1,100 scholarship and will compete at the National Competition. Second place and a \$700 scholarship went to MicKael Halverstadt of Thayer Central High School, third place and a \$500 scholarship went to Grace Brennemann who is homeschooled, and fourth place and a \$300 scholarship went to Simon Podliska of Creighton Prep High School. Pictured with the winners are Commander Gary Wooten and Oratorical Chairman Michael Hatfield.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Commander Gary Wooten are pictured with 2019 Cornhusker Boys' State Governor Evan Jolley.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Commander Gary Wooten awarded Coleton Kanzmeier the 2019 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Commander Gary Wooten are pictured with 2019 Outstanding Junior Law Cadets Austin Pierce and Emma Wareham.



The Kearney Post 52 Color Guard presented the colors during the Joint Session.

"GREETINGS FROM CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE!"

Randy G. Kaliff – Boys' State Committee President

The American Legion Boys' State program has been going on since 1933 and Nebraska's since 1938. Only during the WWII years of 1942-1944 Nebraska had no sessions of our legion program. 49 states hold this program, Hawaii does not. Nebraska is the only state which holds both Boys' State and Girls' State at the same time, on the same campus! This seven-day event is designed for High School students who graduated from the 11th grade (juniors) to learn more about how government works, setting up a '51st' state, complete with city, county, and state offices. There are many Nebraskans amongst us who have become graduates of this program.

Registration for the 2020 session is quickly coming to a close, it will be held from May 31 to June 6, 2020 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus at the Harper/Schramm/Smith facilities on the north end of the campus. Every student who has been accepted receives a packet of information and forms that need to be completed before attending. We are responsible for everything that goes on during the weeklong session, from dorm room assignments, the daily schedule, speakers, processing election forms and ballots, medical emergencies, behavioral problems, as well as the extracurricular activities held during the week.

Many speakers come during the week to address different session events; the opening/closing sessions, and several joint sessions, especially on Wednesday evening with a band and choir concert and the state governor as speaker are highlights of the week. A daily paper is printed with highlights of each days' events, election results, platform issues of the two parties, town happenings, sports activity reports, sometimes a joke or two, and a weather report.

Each day is very structured, from the time they get up at 0630 every morning, meals, session events, extracurricular activities, evening surveys, and preparations for the next days' sessions, to lights out at 2300. Every dorm floor is a town named after an event having great historical significance in our military history. Each floor has four counselors responsible for each students' whereabouts and reporting problems if necessary. Our multi-tiered counselor structure helps us have a successful program with their input of new ideas during the year as well as their supervision of staying on time.

Many legionnaires volunteer to help with the week-long program; all volunteers in a supervisory position are required do a background check prior to attending. If you are interested in helping, please contact the state adjutant's office as soon as possible. We appreciate all the legion members who do help every year! New volunteers remark they had no idea what happens and all we do during the week. If you would like to get a better idea of what Boys' State is all about and become a volunteer, you will come away from the program with a brighter outlook concerning today's youth and our future. These students are chosen from the top of their high school class with recommendations coming from guidance counselors, superintendents, or principles to attend. They have a strong grasp on today's issues, and most have long lists of activities they participate in outside of the classroom. Come and take a look at our future!

The Cornhusker Boys' State program relies on the fee we assess each post for sending a delegate to the weeklong program. Even though overhead at the university goes up every year; fees for 2020 have stayed the same at \$375. We think our week-long program at the university provides a good 'bang for your buck' compared to other programs held on campus for only two or three days. Past Boys' State president Aldie Johnson talked about and began the process of reaching out to the 'alumni' of graduates from this program, an alumni newsletter and funding are beginning to come online, literally. If you like golf and are an alumnus call the office to find out about the Boys' State golf tournament on May 30th for camaraderie with fellow graduates and a good time. We hear from many past graduates that our program was the impetus in their lives to do more with their life and become successful. Your life experience and success is what this program is all about, for these senior teenage students will become our future leaders. If Cornhusker Boys' State has been instrumental in your success, let us know and we invite you to consider giving back with a donation to this new fund. Come to the campus on May 31 – June 6, become a volunteer, or just come to set in on a scheduled event. The Boys' State Committee and Corporation members appreciate all the people who help to make this program a success, especially all the posts that send us a delegate and alternate name. The list is long, make it longer. **Thank You** for your help and support!!

Legionnaire in the Spotlight

Dennis Laughlin

Dennis Laughlin of Alliance had the honor of participating in the 2019 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival held October 28-November 2 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He qualified for the national festival after winning a gold medal at the 2019 local Black Hills competition held at the VA in Hot Springs, South Dakota with his “Chief Red Cloud Tribute” mixed media item. This category is for items that have the distinct use of two or more applied or fine arts techniques in the creation of a single piece of art.

Laughlin was presented with a second-place silver medal and certificate from the 2019 National Veteran’s Creative Arts Festival in the category. Laughlin had this to say about his piece:

“The project was accomplished my making a wooden mold and "wet-forming" the leather around the wood mold. The leather is vegetable-tanned tooling cowhide leather. The lacing is buckskin. The beads are made from buffalo bone. The horsehair is from a local Paint horse, similar to those ridden by the Lakota. The turkey feather is from a turkey I hunted several years ago. The cover flap portrait of Red Cloud was done with oil paints. The inner part of the bag is done with ink, and the white hair is accomplished by using a scalpel blade to scrape the fine lines. The "circle" is 24K gold, symbolic of "Red Cloud's War" to stop the migration across sacred territory to the gold fields in Montana.

The printing is from words spoken by Red Cloud after the massacre at Wounded Knee on December 29, 1890.”

While Laughlin was stationed in Vietnam, he read the book by Dee Brown, "Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee", which affected him greatly. Growing up with Native American friends in his neighborhood, he became very interested in the culture and spirituality. He saw the damage and destruction caused by alcoholism and abject poverty. As a kid, he was always amazed by the pride and fortitude of his friends, no matter the circumstance. During the summers, they would travel back and forth from the Pine Ridge Reservation. "Chief Red Cloud" always stayed in his mind, as one of his friends said his family were descendants of Red Cloud.

During his career as an artist and graphic designer, he spent several years in Ohio. One great opportunity was to design and fabricate the interior and exterior Native American based displays for a resort on Lake Erie. He did extensive study on the Northern tribes and their influence on the culture of the Northern states and through the Midwest. He had the opportunity to track down and talk to one of the Native Americans he grew up with. He asked her about all her family and how they were doing. She said they were all dead as a result of alcoholism or murder occurring on the Pine Ridge Reservation. She said her only means of "survival" was to leave the reservation, relocating to Santa Fe, NM, and immerse herself into Native American spirituality. She is an artist, married to an artist, and doing well.



Laughlin spent 8 1/2 years in the Air Force as an artist/illustrator. His last assignment was a 2-year tour with the USAF Thunderbirds, creating their airshow and publicity material.”

Laughlin is a member of the Alliance Post 7 and is the Box Butte County Veterans Service Officer. Pictured with Laughlin is Mary Culbertson of the Black Hills VA Health Care System. A big thank you to Mary for this article and the pictures!

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival program is Co-sponsored, on the local and national level by the US Department of Veterans Affairs & the National American Legion Auxiliary. In 2019, over 3,500 Veterans from 130 VA medical facilities entered the art, music, drama, dance, and creative writing competitions. The National Festival is held in a different city each year. Contact your local VA for more information on the program.

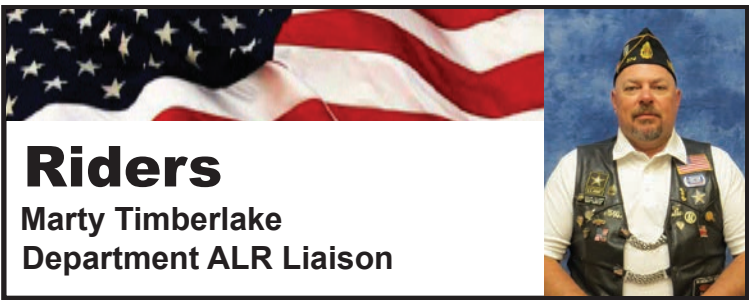
“Legionnaire in the Spotlight” is a new section each issue. Please send in submissions to afwashburn@windstream.net or mail them to Headquarters. Please limit them to 800 words and two pictures. Please call Amanda at 402-464-6338 with any questions.

ID Resolve From The LIT

In today’s world, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. If you or your spouse fall victim to identity theft what would you do? Where would you turn? With Legionnaire ID Resolve you’ll have 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

If you haven’t fallen victim to identity theft yet, don’t think you’re safe. Data breaches happen every day, where thieves can steal your name, address, date of birth, credit card information, medical records, and most critically your Social Security number. That’s why Your Department of The American Legion has endorsed ID Resolve. A new program to help Legionnaires fight back — instead of being a victim and not knowing where to turn.

ID Resolve helps you eliminate the uncertainty – by putting ID experts on your side to clean up the mess and help restore your good name. You can be confident you’re getting the protection you deserve when it comes to your money, your accounts, your credit cards, your financial record and your hard-earned good name. Plus, our no-obligation money-back guarantee allows you a full 30-day examination period in case you change your mind about this identity resolution.



Riders
Marty Timberlake
Department ALR Liaison

Spring is right around the corner. Occasionally, there will be a nice enough day that you’ll start to see motorcycles again. As the weather continues to get nicer, more of us will be out on the streets. For many of us, the wind in our faces, the freedom, and the companionships we have with other riders are the main reasons we love to ride. Whether two or three wheels, we live for the feeling it gives us. It’s not always about the destination, it’s the journey. If we’ve been there a hundred times, or for the first time, it doesn’t matter. We all share the love of riding, but it comes with risk.

Motorcycles have a smaller visible footprint and often disappear into blind spots. Cell phones and other electronics create distractions. Sometimes, you take your eye off the road for just a second just long enough to miss a red light, stop sign, or someone coming up in your blind spot. In an instant a life could be lost. I’m not saying it’s always the fault of a 4 wheeled vehicle, many riders’ deaths are caused by operator error, animals, objects in the road, weather, or road conditions and some just can’t be prevented, but many can. From the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2018: 4985 motorcyclists died in accidents. The Nebraska DOT reported the following for 2018: 23 motorcycle fatalities and 470 crashes involving motorcycles. In 2018, there were 53,556 registered motorcycles in Nebraska. That’s one crash out of every 114 registered motorcycles.

Motorcycle accidents are overrepresented in traffic fatalities. It’s up to all of us to create and maintain a safe environment for all motorists, including motorcycles.

- Here are some rules to follow when out on the roads:
- Never drive distracted. That text or phone call can wait. If it can’t, pull over somewhere. Stay focused! Lives depend on it.
 - Be courteous, it’s not a race, signal early and give others time to recognize your intentions before executing them.
 - Drunk driving, don’t do it!
 - Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings, always rescan around you in case things change.
 - No hot dogging! Reckless driving by cars or motorcycles is dangerous and can get someone killed.
 - No wheelies, racing, or weaving in and out of traffic
 - Obey all traffic signs and signals, they exist for a reason.
 - Make sure you keep up with vehicle maintenance, regardless of what you ride or drive. Mechanical malfunctions can be exceptionally deadly for motorcyclists, as well as other vehicles.
 - Give yourself plenty of room between yourself and the vehicle in front of you so you don’t have to slam on your brakes. Motorcycles don’t have the same braking distance that cars do. Most of them don’t have anti-lock brakes, which can lead to skidding and having to lay it down.
 - Anticipate what others around you are going to do, any experienced driver or rider can typically predict what the other person is about to do based on their actions, trust your instinct.

As we are revving up into 2020, our goals haven’t changed. The riders are dedicated to remembering our heroes that have passed, and improving the lives of those that are still with us. But safety must be a priority! Know your hand and arm signals, share the road, and be courteous to the cages (all vehicles that aren’t motorcycles).

To the rest of you, please pay extra attention to us. We are your friends, family, loved ones, neighbors, or future friends you just haven’t met yet. So please keep an eye out for us, you never know what the future holds. Let’s all discover it together.



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Adam, Fredrich H., Wilcox, Korea
Albers, John W., Humphrey, WWII
Amen, Harry J., Lincoln, Korea
Ammon, Donald L., Fremont, Vietnam
Anderson, Burton N., Gothenburg, Korea
Anderson, James W., Yutan, Korea
Armendariz, John Sr., South Omaha, Korea
Ash, Duane E., Arcadia, Vietnam
Bachtell, Roger R., Omaha, Korea
Bailey, Dale R., Wymore, SAL
Baker, Albert E., Lincoln, Vietnam
Baustian, John V., Fremont
Baxter, Virgil, Edison, SAL
Behrens, Donald, Yutan, Korea
Berger, Dwayne D., Dannebrog, Korea
Berger, Francis H., Spalding, WWII
Betts, Lester, McCook, Korea
Bloch, Dennis, South Sioux City, Vietnam
Bogus, Arnold J., St. Paul, Vietnam
Bolita, James L., South Omaha, Vietnam
Boltjes, Kelvin, Sidney, Vietnam
Booth, George Sr., Benson, Korea
Borchers, Landis H., Pleasant Dale
Boyd, Clements, Elmwood, WWII
Brandenburger, Lawrence, Silver Creek, Korea
Brandt, Kenneth, Norfolk, Vietnam
Brooks, Larry L., Cozad, Vietnam
Bruns, Alvin H., Sidney, WWII
Burleigh, Jerry, Gordon
Buzzard, Dale, Virginia, Korea
Canney, Walter A., Waverly, Korea
Carew, David D., Potter, Korea
Carpenter, Clyde D., Chadron, WWII
Carr, Floyd E., Lincoln, Vietnam
Carter, Rodney R., Dalton, Korea
Clement, Kenneth, Ord, Korea
Colombe, Ernest D., Omaha, Korea
Cox, Harlan E., Norfolk, Vietnam
Cox, Ralph G., Fullerton, Korea
Crynes, Dan, Tekamah, Vietnam
Custard, Earl J., Herman
Czapla, Clarence, Genoa, Korea
Dahl, John A., Ceresco, Korea
Davenport, Robert E., Schuyler, WWII
Desmond, John, Lincoln, Korea
Devening, James L., Tekamah, Vietnam
Dingwerth, Jerry E., Grand Island, SAL
Dixon, Joe R., Hastings, Vietnam
Doehling, Merle, Havelock, Vietnam
Dornacker, Robert, Bennington, WWII
Dorris, Wilton H., Arthur, Korea
Dotson, Robert D., Fairfield, Korea
Downing, David B., Superior, Korea
Drake, David, York, Vietnam
Dummer, Willard, Spencer, Vietnam
Dunn, Fred C., Atkinson, Korea
Erickson, Marvin A., Lincoln, WWII
Ferguson, William M., Bennington, Vietnam
Finnell, George W., Gordon, Vietnam
Flowers, Richard M., Millard, Korea
Foulk, Gerald K., York, Korea
Freese, Leon, Plymouth
Friend, Arnold J., Ralston, WWII
Froendt, Otto G., Coleridge, Korea
Galeano, Ralph, Omaha, Vietnam
Gerler, Gerald E., Seward, Korea
Getz, Donald J., Omaha, Korea
Gill, Kenneth L., Decatur, WWII
Glover, Richard S., Grand Island, Vietnam
Goc, James F., Ashton, Korea
Goering, John D., Syracuse, Korea
Goshorn, Sanford C., Merna, Vietnam
Grell, Richard L., Omaha, Korea

Gydesen, Duane C., Grand Island, Korea
Gydesen, Gerald, Dannebrog, Vietnam
Hank, Robert H., Winside, Korea
Hankel, Richard W., York,
Hankla, Orval, Clearwater, WWII
Hansen, Robert, Fort Calhoun, Vietnam
Hanson, Leroy W., Omaha, Korea
Hanson, Wayne A., Millard, Korea
Harris, David E., Grand Island, Korea
Hartman, Jerry R., Chadron, WWII
Hartwig, Edgar C., Auburn
Hayner, Ralph D., Omaha, WWII
Haynes, Ed, Bellevue, Vietnam
Heim Val, Superior, WWII
Henery, Roger A., Madison, Vietnam
Henning, Douglas B., Bellevue, Korea
Herbolsheimer, Dale L., Pierce, Korea
Hicks, Eugene W., Beaver Crossing, Korea
Hill, Arnold W., Nebraska City, Vietnam
Hilliker, Pat, Hay Springs, SAL
Hinrichsen, Jack J., Dubois, WWII
Hintz, Dennis L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Hoff, Dwight, Wauneta, WWII
Hoffman, John C., Pierce
Holman, Max A., Omaha South, WWII
Hopken, Lambert F., Geneva, Korea
Hoselton, Howard, Sumner, WWII
Hoskinson, Larry L., Millard, Vietnam
Huber, Mark D. Sr., Gering, Vietnam
Irish, Larry L., Grand Island, SAL
Jacobs, Donald D., North Platte, Korea
Janssen, Norman J., Spencer, Korea
Jobst, Verdon C., Lincoln, Korea
Jochim, Eugene R., Lincoln, Korea
Johnson, Dale V., Shickley, Korea
Johnson, Harvey G., Greeley, Vietnam
Julesgard, Don, Grand Island
Kamrath, Vincent A., Lincoln, WWII
Kassik, Robert R., Milligan, Vietnam
Kauth, Lavern, Bloomfield,
Kraft, Mary J., Grand Island, Korea
Kremlacek, Edward, Malmo
Kruse, Harry R., Burchard, Korea
Kult, William R., Blair, Vietnam
Lannin, Gordon H., Elmwood, Korea
Launer, Donald J., Fremont, WWII
Lobart Jr., Robert W., Grand Island, Vietnam
Lutz, Marlin, Benkelman, Korea
Lyon, Richard L., Grand Island, Vietnam
Magwire, John M., Pleasant Dale, WWII
Marking, John, Columbus, Korea
Abler, Maynard, S., Pierce
Mays, Warren, Big Springs, Vietnam
McDermott, A. W., Ord, Korea
Meador, Richard A., Holdrege
Mettenbrink, Harold W., Arcadia, Korea
Meyer, Jerry W., Blue Hill, Vietnam
Miska, Garry, Ord
Mitchell, Robert F. Jr., Omaha, WWII
Monson, Warren W., Norfolk
Monteforte, Joseph C., Fairmont, Korea
Moody, Edward R., Crawford, Korea
Morrison, Kenneth L., Neligh, Korea
Morrison, Richard E., Millard, Vietnam
Morton, John K., Lincoln, Vietnam
Mroczek, Anzel, Loup City, Korea

Nielsen, Chris M., Dannebrog, Korea
O'Donnell, Michael M., Rushville, Vietnam
Olson, Leslie, York, Korea
Olson, Waldo D., South Omaha, WWII
Ostgren, Stan, Jansen, Korea
Ottmann, Steven, Dorchester, SAL
Peterson, John J., Omaha, WWII
Poggemeyer, Ronald M., Nebraska City
Prentice, Thomas G., Mullen, Korea
Prokop, Kenny, Gresham, Vietnam
Reinsch, Paul W., Lincoln, Korea
Reis, Franklin D., Blue Hill, Vietnam
Rempe, Edward H., Superior, Korea
Rhode, Carl, Seward, WWII
Rice, Michael, Millard, Korea
Richards, Stanley J., Oakland, WWII
Rief, Richard E., Grand Island, SAL
Rogers, Larry J., Grand Island, Korea
Rogert, Don W., Valley, WWII
Ross, Robert M., Auburn, Korea
Rowe, Wayne F., Lincoln, WWII
Rust, James D., Superior, Vietnam
Ryba, Paul F., Omaha, Vietnam
Sapp, James L., Wymore, SAL
Schaefer, Clement E., Valentine, WWII
Shald, Donald L., Stuart, Korea
Sheets, Stanley, Superior, WWII
Shelton, Gene, Columbus, Korea
Shilhan, Richard J., Lincoln, Korea
Shotkoski, Eugene A., St. Edward, Korea
Skaff, Duane L., Omaha, Vietnam
Skinner, Ronald D., Millard, Korea
Sliva, Richard, Columbus, Korea
Spencer, Richard A., Alliance
Spotanski, Gary S., Grand Island, Vietnam
Staack, Eugene, Cook, WWII
Stark, Arthur C., Hastings, Korea
Stone, Roger J., Lawrence, Vietnam
Stroh, Roy, Sidney, Korea
Svoboda, Theodore D., Lincoln, WWII
Sweeney, John M., Greeley, Korea
Taulborg, Bernard P., Omaha, Korea
Taylor, Henry O. Jr., Rushville
Tonjes, Norman, Scribner
Tussey, William J., Lincoln, Vietnam
Unkel, Melvin, Lincoln, Korea
Urban, Raymond, Arcadia, Vietnam
Vancura, Edwin, Ord
Vandenberg, Frederick H., David City, Korea
Vanderheiden, W. J., David City, WWII
Vasey, William R., Cozad, Vietnam
Vocasek, Robert, Dorchester,
Wagner, Hans H., Bloomfield, Korea
Walgren, Charles G., Hay Springs, Vietnam
Way, Rodney D., Lincoln, Vietnam
Weber, Marvin G., Arnold, Korea
Wemhoff, Raymond J., Humphrey, Korea
West, Harry L. Jr., David City, WWII
Wilke, Barry J., Columbus, Vietnam
Willetts, Keith, Elmwood
Williams, Donald K., Omaha, Korea
Wimer, Lavern, Polk, WWII
Wolford, James C., Lincoln, WWII
Wray, Robert B., Omaha, WWII
Ziegelbein, Kenneth, Polk, Korea
Zimmerman, Russell R., Dewitt, WWII

Gearld Winings of Atkinson Post 86 is alive and well.

Events Calendar

March

- 1 District 6 Convention - Kearney
- 7 District 3 Convention - Jackson
- 7 District 4 Convention - Gering
- 8-11 Washington Conference - Washington D.C.
- 11 90% Membership Target Date
- 14 District 7 Convention - Dodge
- 14 District 12 Convention - Hickman
- 15 American Legion Birthday
- 17 St. Patricks Day
- 22 District 5 Convention - North Platte
- 28 District 9 Convention - Curtis
- 28 District 10 Convention - Alma
- 29 District 2 Convention - Crofton

April

- 4 District 1 Convention - Chadron
- 8 95% Membership Target Date
- 10 Good Friday - Office Closed
- 12 Easter Sunday

May

- 3-7 Spring Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
- 13 100% Membership Target Date
- 22 National Poppy Day
- 25 Memorial Day - Office Closed

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of February 18, 2020

District	2019 Members	2020 Members
1	274	259
2	567	477
3	230	203
4	363	306
5	128	107
6	1,393	1,110
7	702	568
8	1,018	720
9	315	277
10	308	227
11	1,022	868
12	260	200
13	144	112
15	156	148
Total	6,880	5,582

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Don Suchy, Children & Youth Chairman

Here it is March already, we had our Mid-Year Conference in Kearney and made plans for the New Year for the Children and Youth program. The committee gave out pink piggy banks to be taken home to be filled and brought back to Department Convention in Kearney in June for the Child Welfare Foundation.

The three main focuses and primary areas of concern of the American Legion are:

- TFA Temporary Finance Assistance (Larry Kaspar)
- CPR Consolidated Post Report (Ken Hanel)
- CWF Child Welfare Foundation (Don Nelsen)

We have two new members on the Children and Youth Committee, they are Larry Kaspar from Dorchester and Ken Hanel from West Point. I would like to welcome both new members to our Committee. April is Children and Youth month and there is still time to plan a special project at your Post. Valparaiso will be hosting a Children and Youth Fun Day on April 25th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We will have numerous activities for our community children as well as the military children. If you would like to attend, you are more than welcome. If you would like some information on how to host your own Fun Day at your Post, just give me a call, I would be glad to help you. I will be attending the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis in May, at this time I will be getting updates on our new programs and our new partners for Children and Youth. The Committee and I would like to thank all of you for your support of the Nebraska Children and Youth Program. Without your support we would not have the success that we have.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to give me a call at 402-326-0463 or email me at donfarms@aol.com.



Wilber Post 101 presented the Zajicek Award to Lambert and Charles Zoubek for being active in programs and projects. Pictured (L to R) Lambert Zoubek, Charles Zoubek and Department Commander Gary Wooten.



Dewitt Post 212 presented Roland Garrison with a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Glen Pieper and Roland Garrison.



District 5 and Area D Legion Family members helped to provide a proper funeral at Fort McPherson Cemetery for veteran Charles Grigsby. Grigsby had no living family members, but over fifty people attended his service.



Thedford Post 230 hosted a flag retirement ceremony.



Dodge Post 122 members residing at Parkview Retirement home had the opportunity to attend a post meeting. Comradery and information was well received and much appreciated. Photo by Jerry Schulte.



Bellevue Post 339 presented Kevin Jones of the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office the 2019 Post Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Dave Coombs, Kevin Jones, Commander Dawn Matthews and Mitch Matthews.



Plattsmouth Post 56 helped host a "Stuff the Truck" event to help fill the local food banks.



Columbus Post 84 received a donation for \$500 from Whitetails Unlimited. Pictured (L to R) Ron Kosiba, Connie Hickey, Nick Arps, Jack Steiner, Saul Soltero, Adam Lindgren and Mark Arps.



Ord Post 38 Honor Guard performed a service for their past Post Chaplain.



Cook Unit 360 performed a Quilts of Valor ceremony at the Belle Terrace facility in Tecumseh. Pictured top (L to R) Eugene Pope, Gary Maxiner, Eldon Bueche, and Gary Wilhelm. Pictured bottom (L to R) Eldon Bartels, Tom Rother, Linda Davis, and Ron Rathe. Family members are pictured with each veteran.



Lincoln Post 3 presented the colors at the signing of the Wreaths Across America proclamation by Governor Pete Ricketts. Pictured (L to R) Fred Chrastil, Wade Graft, Dale Nurnberg, Gerry Wolf, Ed Schnable, and Pam Alm.



Omaha Post and Unit 1 presented a check for \$800 to Victory Apartments in Omaha. Pictured top (L to R) Ed Svoboda, Rose Sheehy, Jackie Nielsen, Jim Downey, and Victory Apartment Manager Tom York. Omaha Post 1 held a Christmas Party at their Post for 65 local kids. Pictured bottom is the Post 1 Honor Guard.



Weston Squadron 308 Commander Curtis Havelka and Sons members presented District 7 Commander Dan Benes a check for \$1,200 to Operation Comfort Warriors.



Bellwood Post 327 member Jerry McDonald presented Jennifer Shurts of Woodmen of the World this handmade plaque to thank the organization for their patriotic flag program and flag donations.

Correction from December 2019 paper: Thurston Post 372 should be Pender Post 55 members being presented Quilts of Valor.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

March 2020



WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



On Friday, December 13, 2019, the Nebraska Highway Commission unanimously gave approval to name US Highway 20 in Nebraska as "The Medal of Honor" highway. Department of Transportation Director Kyle Schneeweis subsequently gave his approval, and Governor Pete Ricketts gave final approval --- signing the paperwork on January 31st as part of Veterans Legislative Day, an annual event at the State Capitol for veterans and veteran service organizations

Highway 20 stretches across the United States and Nebraska from east to west. This is indeed a great way to remember these special military members.

With National Medal of Honor Day approaching on March 25th, it made me wonder how many Nebraskans have received this honor. To qualify to be called a Medal of Honor recipient from Nebraska, one must be a native Nebraska resident or have lived in Nebraska at least two years before their military service. I was surprised to find there are 72 Nebraska recipients of the Medal of Honor --- serving in nine wars.

Since National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29th, I am concentrating on the Vietnam

War Medal of Honor veterans. There were seven Medal of Honor recipients during the Vietnam War: **Ronald Coker***, **James Fous***, **Charles Hagemeister**, **Robert Hibbs***, **Miguel Keith***, **Joseph Robert Kerrey**, and **Gerald Young**. Of these seven recipients, four received their medals posthumously (* denotes Medal of Honor presented posthumously). Space does not allow me to tell the story of each recipient, so I have chosen those with the most affiliation to Nebraska.

Perhaps best known to Nebraskans is **Joseph Robert Kerrey**, aka, **Bob Kerrey**. Kerrey was born in Lincoln on August 27, 1943 and is a graduate of Lincoln Northeast High School. He received a degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Bob led his Navy Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) team on a mission to capture important members of the enemy; and, although seriously injured in the battle, they eliminated an enemy force and took several prisoners. Later, Kerrey became a U.S. Senator for the state of Nebraska. Prior to becoming a senator, he served as the governor from 1983 to 1987.

James Fous was born in Omaha, Nebraska on October 14, 1946, graduated from Central High School, and attended the University of Omaha (Now UNO). He joined the US Army in 1967. He served in Company E, 4th Battalion, Division 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division.

On May 14, 1968, while on a reconnaissance mission in Kien Hoa Province, he threw himself on a grenade --- saving the lives of the men with him. James is buried in Fort McPherson National Cemetery at Maxwell, Nebraska.

Miguel Keith was born on June 2, 1951 in San Antonio, Texas. He made his way to Omaha and left North High School in 1968 to enlist in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserves in January of 1968. He was discharged April of 1969 and joined the regular Marine Corps in May of 1969. Lance Corporal Keith, even after a grenade went off near him, sacrificed his life to single-handedly eliminate an estimated 25 enemy soldiers in the Quang Ngai Province on May 8, 1970. Miguel is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha, Nebraska.

So, to these members of the military we say, "We will remember the sacrifices you have made for our country and for all of us." Remember March 25, 2020 as National Medal of Honor Day and March 29, 2020 as National Vietnam Veteran War Day. "I Remember."

*Elizabeth Paes
Department President*



HOW TO SPEND A WINTER WEEKEND --- OR MID-YEAR CONFERENCE 2020

The Mid-Year Conference began at 1:00 PM on January 10, 2020 at the Kearney Ramada Inn with the Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting. Department President Elizabeth Paes gave the meeting to order. Opening ceremonies and introductions were made. 8 & 40 Le Departmental Chapeau Gloria Asch was introduced to the audience. Gloria invited all in attendance to join in the fun of the Pouvoir following the DEC meeting.

After introductions, the DEC got down to business. The Girls State Budget of \$168,360.02, with a delegate fee of \$400, was approved. The DEC also approved a fundraiser for the Auxiliary, sales of a red polo shirt made for the Nebraska American Legion Family. Look for more information coming soon.

Unfortunately, Districts 6, 9, and 10 turned in requests to revoke the charters for four units; and President Paes did revoke them. The units so affected will be asked to send in their charters. Further action by the DEC may be needed for the charters so revoked. A total of eight communities were affected by these actions.

Members then announced their intentions to run for Department offices. Announcing for the office of

President was Barbara Meyer. Vicki Ozenbaugh announced for the office of Department Vice-President. Pat Wiseman announced for the office of Department Chaplain, and Kathy Mazur announced for the office of National Executive Committee Member. Please notice that there is no candidate for the office of Department Historian.

Following the close of the meeting, the 8 & 40 held their Pouvoir. And, at about 6:00 PM, flashbacks of clothing from past decades came floating down the

hallways. The Centennial Birthday Party began.

January 11th began with The American Legion Family opening ceremonies led by American Legion Commander Gary Wooten. Department President Elizabeth Paes accepted a proclamation from the City of Kearney presented by Mayor Stanley Clouse. The proclamation recognized the 100th Birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Following the joint session technical training, Auxiliary



Auxiliary members dressed in period attire celebrating the 100th Birthday of the Auxiliary. Front row (l to r) Vicki Ozenbaugh, Elizabeth Paes and Barbie Meyer. Back row (l to r) Adaline Hanel, Nancy Harold, Debra Albers, Ruth Greenaugh, Lisa Moore and Angie Foster.

Continued on Page 2...

THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska celebrated the 100th birthday of the National American Legion Auxiliary during the Mid-Year Conference held January 10 - 12, 2020 in Kearney, Nebraska.

A birthday party was held Friday evening where guests were greeted by Department President Elizabeth Paes dressed in period attire. All enjoyed goodies, including a cake decorated with the 100th year centennial logo (made by Kearney HyVee). Pictures of the four ladies from Nebraska who served the American Legion Auxiliary as National President were on display for all to see. Brandon Cortes, with NTV television, reported on the celebration and on the American Legion Auxiliary. His segment was aired on the 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM news (check the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Facebook page for a link to one of the segments and more pictures of the event).

Kearney Mayor Stanley Clouse greeted the American Legion Family on Saturday during the joint session. Mayor Clouse presented President Paes with a proclamation declaring January 10 - 12, 2020 American Legion Auxiliary Centennial Days. President Paes gave the proclamation to the Kearney ALA president to be displayed at the Kearney American Legion post home for all to see.

Thank you to all who participated in the centennial birthday party. The first one-hundred years are behind us. Let us continue our mission of "Service not Self." Let us continue to support The American Legion and our veterans, our military, and their families. We are at the beginning of the next one-hundred years of service for the American Legion Auxiliary. Imagine what we can do in the next one-hundred years!!!!

*Donna Hatfield,
Nebraska ALA Centennial
Chairman, 2019/2020*



2020 LEGISLATIVE DAY

On Friday, January 31, 2020, 110 members of all Veterans Service Organizations in Nebraska came together at the call of the Nebraska Veterans Council (NVC). James Pierce, Chairman of the NVC, conducted opening ceremonies and greeted all members present. The podium was then turned over to John Hilgert, Director of the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, to act as Master of Ceremonies.

Director Hilgert introduced State Senators Brewer, Gragert, Crawford, and Blood. Following the state senators, Director Hilgert introduced special speaker Governor Pete Ricketts. The highlight of the Governor's message was signing the paperwork to name Highway 20 through Nebraska as "The Medal of Honor Highway." The Governor urged all to encourage any active duty military member leaving the service to stay in Nebraska.

The Legislative priorities set by the Nebraska Veterans Council are **LB-153**, **LB-770**, and **LB-842**. **LB-153**, introduced by Senator Brewer, changes the provisions relating to military retirement taxation. **LB-770**, introduced by Senator Gragert, changes provisions relating to disabled veteran permits through the Nebraska Game and Parks

Commission. **LB-842**, introduced by Senator Crawford, changes provisions relating to motor vehicle tax for active duty service members. The NVC gave their reasons for supporting these three bills.

The bills opposed by the NVC are **LB-58** and **LB-816**. **LB-58**, introduced by Senator Morfeld, adopts the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act whose purpose is to allow a court to intervene in extreme cases where a person has demonstrated that they are a danger to themselves or others. **LB-816**, introduced by Senator McCollister, provides for information and training on firearm safety and suicide prevention and places restrictions and requirements on certain transfers of firearms.

If you were not able to talk with your state senator on Legislative Day, it is time to go to nebraskalegislature.gov, research these bills, and find out your state senator's views on these bills --- and make sure they know your thoughts, as well.



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Just a reminder that your “Unit Member of the Year” award forms and “Salute to Servicewomen” award forms are due to Department by April 20, 2020. The forms can be found in the ABC Book or on the Department website. The website is nebraskalegionaux.net.

Department is once again going to recognize special mentors at Department Convention. If there is someone who has provided support and guidance to you as a member and/or leader in the American Legion Auxiliary, submit their name with an explanation on how they have impacted you as a member by April 20, 2020. The mentor nominees can be sent to Department Headquarters to my attention or to my address as listed in the ABC Book under Past Presidents Parley.

Kathy Mazur

FROM THE SECRETARIES DESK

- This information was sent to Units recently:
- Individual History Questions from our Historian
 - Dues Change Forms (Grey) (Please send in even if you are not changing your dues)
 - Poppy info pages. You may include in your ABC Book. (Lavender)
 - Girls State Orientation Schedule
 - District Convention Schedule
 - Unit Data Form – Send in after you elect your unit officers.
 - Week of Sharing
 - Year-end reports
 - Year-end impact reports

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary

POPPY RECOGNITION



Richard Harald is a Korean War veteran (1954 - 1955), served in the Air Force, and is now 82 years old. He has been making poppies since December of 2014 and has put out 112,500 in those 5 years. He works hard at keeping up with the demand

Richard is a very crafty person

and has made wallets, clocks, hooked rugs, and beaded items to keep his idle fingers busy.

Pictured is Chairman Leatrice Doolen and District 8 Commander Dave Doolen presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Richard in recognition of all his hard work.

Would you like to earn a few extra dollars?

The Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary is looking for interested veterans to make poppies. The Auxiliary supplies the kits and pays 5 cents for each poppy made.

We will provide training if needed.

Call: Lisa at 402-466-1808

EDITOR’S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of “THE STAR” to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by

MARCH 10, 2020

2020 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR ASSIGNMENTS							
Month	Grand Island VA Med Center 10 Centerpiece	Central NE Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Centerpiece	Norfolk VA Home 20 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 13 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha VA Med Center 75 Tray Fav
March	#126 Broken Bow	#209 Franklin	#266 Bennington	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#264 Dorchester Jrs.	#1 Omaha
April	#250 Oconto	#250 Oconto	#154 Blair	#222 Monroe	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#146 Rising City
May	#110 Dwight	District 6 Juniors	#303 Paxton Jr	#243 Plymouth	#36 Gering	#36 Gering	#232 Malmo
June	#335 Davenport	#296 Shelby		#326 Osmond	#36 Gering	Nebraska Jrs.	#232 Malmo
July	#19 York	#199 Cambridge	#3 Lincoln	#302 Leigh	#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	#222 Shubert
Aug.	#38 Ord	#218 Exeter		#175 Jackson	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	
Sept.	#38 Ord	#218 Exeter	#288 Farnam	#302 Leigh	#288 Farnam		
Oct.	#61 Sutton	#377 Wilcox	#353 Louisville	#283 Platte Center	#200 Bayard	#133 Culbertson	#197 Eagle
Nov.	#145 Bloomington	#225 Eddyville		#127 Craig	#200 Bayard		#222 Shubert
Dec.	#38 Ord		#371 Valparaiso	#62 Newcastle			
Jan.					#7 Alliance		
Feb.	#310 Gibbon				#7 Alliance		
Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Vicki Colson Ph:(308)289-4836 Email: colson.vicki@yahoo.com							

NEBRASKA MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY



On February 5th, the Beemer American Legion Auxiliary Unit 159 presented a \$500 check to the newly formed Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation to further their work of honoring Nebraska’s greatest warriors. The NMoH Foundation is responsible for new signage along the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway (U.S. Highway 20).

Pictured, left to right, are: Janice Sindelar, Peggy Liermann, Daryl Harrison, Bev Raabe, and Janet English. Not pictured, but present for the occasion, were Cheryl Schultz, Teresa Beed, and Jackie Delmont.

QUILTS OF VALOR



On November 11, 2019, the “Blair Bunch” honored Craig Saylor with a handmade quilt to thank him for his service.

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE 2020

Continued from Page 1...

members started their portion of the Educational Conference. There was a special introduction of Honorary Junior American Legion Auxiliary President Allison Wiles. President Allison explained her project, “Art for the Heart, Consoling our Veterans.” Following her presentation, “a pass the hat” netted \$260 for Allison’s project.

Marlin Seeman was the special speaker for the conference. Marlin was injured in the Vietnam War. While being evacuated, the helicopter and Marlin were taking fire. Marlin gave a stirring talk on

his time in Vietnam. He reminded us of our “Why.” Several tissues later, Vice President Barbara Meyer recessed for lunch.

After lunch, members were free to visit with Program Chairs. Members moved from table to table asking questions they had of each Chair. Presentations during the afternoon included Past Department President Barbara Washburn on her experience at the “Creative Arts Festival,” Osceola Unit members Marji Cloeter and Diana Langer on the “Great Seal of the United States,” and a

recap of the DEC by Department Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Moore. Candidates for Department offices again announced their intentions to run for Department offices. The “hat” was again passed, this time for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Funds raised were \$169.

Everyone was reminded that the Oratorical Contest would begin at 6:00 PM that evening. With no further business, the closing ceremony concluded with a hand salute to the flag.

A worship services began at 8:00 AM on Sunday morning. The joint Family Session was gaveled to order by American Legion Commander

Gary Wooten at 9:00 AM. Auxiliary VA & R Chair Renee VanWinkle reported on the events finished for our veterans to this point in the year.

Children and Youth Chair Marge Suchy reported on what has been done for our children --- particularly children with military parents. The session had drawings for several raffles. The Auxiliary benefited over \$200 from the raffle of several items, including metal wall hangings made by Jim Moore, husband of Secretary / Treasurer Lisa Moore. Winners were Marva Kasl, Lorene Bartos, Elizabeth Paes, Arlis Hohl, and Jean Vackiner --- who won the Auxiliary Symbol. A great big THANK YOU

to Jim Moore for his hard work and kindness. With no further business before the membership, Commander Wooten closed the Mid-Year Conference.

The Mid-Year Conference provided a relaxed atmosphere for learning and socializing for the entire weekend. As usual, “Mother Nature” had her way with the Conference; and ice and cold were a part of the weekend.

It is concerning that there is not a candidate for Historian. Our second century depends on the leadership to continue this organization. The second century depends on us.

MEMBERSHIP

Are we all ready to see our membership hit 100%? I recently read in a Nebraska Legionnaire membership article that the American Legion membership saturation of eligible veterans is only at 30% in Nebraska. If this is the case, we have a lot of work to do; and we can reach our goals.

As this article is being written, our department is at 86.02% of our goal. We are 8th in the nation. We have 422 new members to welcome, including 11 male members. We have 51 units that have reached 100% or more in membership.

Each unit’s goal is set at the beginning of the year. The objective number can be achieved by members renewing their membership and recruiting new members. If someone decides not to renew their membership or if a member has passed away, that will not change the objective number of members needed to reach your unit’s 100% membership goal. Will District 13 make it to 100% of goal? Or will

your district?
Have you begun your plans for the one week of “Caring and Sharing” this spring? During the week of April 1-7, 2020, we are asking unit members and leaders to work together to contact all members of their units. We want you to call (or visit) members in good standing, members who still need to renew, and former members who need to rejoin (have not paid dues since 2017). The purpose of these calls is to let ladies know their membership is valued and/or that they are missed. If you rejoin a member, fill out the entry for the national award drawing --- and send it to the Department Secretary so she can forward it to National Headquarters. I can envision a winner from Nebraska.

“Hold the vision, trust the process.” Anonymous

Kimberly Gurley
Membership Chair

DIST.	DIST. NAME	% TO GOAL
13	Fix my EYES	96.37%
1	I can SEE Clearly	91.08%
11	Cotton EYED Joe	89.49%
2	EYE of the Tiger	88.36%
7	Betty Davis EYES aka Betty Paes Eyes	86.69%
9	I SEE the light	85.64%
10	LOOK at us	84.62%
12	My EYES Adore you	84.73%
8	Private EYES	84.84%
5	Hungry EYES	83.14%
6	When Can I SEE you again?	81.98%
4	I only have EYES for you	81.29%
3	I Can’t Take my EYES off of you	78.71%
Department Total		86.02%
14	Department Unit 500	126.83%



DIST. 8 OFFICERS



District 8 recently installed their officers. Pictured (left to right) are: Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer, Historian Alice Gottsch, Secretary / Treasurer Leatrice Doolen, Vice President Paula Pillen, and President Rosemary Pringle.

DODGE COUNTY CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY



22 members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 122 enjoyed a birthday celebration at the November 14, 2019 meeting at the Vets Hall in Dodge. The room was decorated in a patriotic theme. The Dodge unit was organized in 1924. Photo courtesy of the Dodge Criterion.

FORT ATKINSON ALA UNIT 348



The Fort Atkinson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 348 celebrated the 100th birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary by giving out cookies at the Fort Atkinson State Park during Fort Calhoun’s Heritage Days in October 2019. Pictured are: Secretary Anita Kusek and Membership Chairperson Sue Welchert.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR MEETING

Theme: “Art for the Heart...Consoling our Veterans”

Dorchester Legion Hall

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Registration at 9:00 am

\$6 registration includes continental breakfast & noon meal.

Meeting begins at 9:30 am

For help with lodging, please contact Karen Wiles

To facilitate planning, please RSVP by calling or texting Karen Wiles at (402) 484-6213

Please bring your Junior members whether active or not. It will be a fun and educational day!

CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE 2020 ELECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We Want YOU!

Plans are underway for Girls State 2020, and we need your help. Election volunteers are needed to help ensure that the election procedures run smoothly and efficiently.

Volunteers are needed on the following dates and times:

Mon., June 1, 2020 - Filing for Office - 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Tues., June 2, 2020 - Primary Election - 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Wed., June 3, 2020 - General Election - 8:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

(All times are approximate. Location is at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Courtney Rempe at Courtney.Rempe@gmail.com or 402-560-6194t

Those who volunteer will receive more information in mid-May.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

“But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.” - 2 Chronicles 15:7 New International Version (NIV)

We have been working hard to serve our veterans and get everything we have planned done. Sometimes, it’s easy to get burned out and discouraged. Encourage each other and be reminded that it is all worth the effort. Just look at the smiles on their faces and the joy they reflect for what is done to help them.

Our reward is in our hearts and in our minds when we know that we

have done the best we can. Keep up the good work.

Prayer: Lord, please renew our spirit and give us the strength to go on and finish the good work that we have begun. Help us to work together as family. Keep our words kind and loving. Inspire us to do our best. We look forward to the day when we receive our reward in our Heavenly home. In Jesus name. Amen.

Pat Wiseman
Chaplain

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Letter for today is “V”

Most of us recall the educational programs and early alphabet studies that focused on a letter. The letter “V” may not be used as frequently as some of the others in most conversations, but it is used to begin some strong and important words. **Veterans, valor, victorious, valiant, valuable, and very** --- to name a few.

The focus for today is the Value of a Visit. Hospitalized veterans and those in care facilities put much Value on Visits from the American

Legion family. The Veterans are in places they would rather not have to be. Many are far away from their families. They have Very long days, and our short Visits let them know they are not alone.

When planned events are scheduled at the facilities, try to attend and make it a priority to Visit the Veterans!

I can name 3 Valuable leaders in the Nebraska ALA whose names begin with the letter V. Can you?

Barbie Meyer
Department Vice President

EDUCATION

As the school year winds down, many classrooms find a need for supplies. If your unit has not yet supported the “Give 10 to Education program,” now is the time. Check with your school to discover how your unit can donate some end-of year-needs. Your unit’s donation of classroom needs and the appreciation shown to

teachers make a difference.

Teacher Appreciation Day this year occurs on May 5th. What can your unit do to recognize and thank the teachers in your school for their dedication to the children in your community?

Sharon Brozovsky
Education Chair

MUSIC

Greetings to you all.

I pray you are keeping warm and enjoying music in your lives.

I encourage you to choose a “theme song” each month to concentrate on. For instance, in January it could be “Let it Snow!” I like snow, but that is because I can choose to stay home and just watch it fall. How can something that falls without sound be so heavy when you have to scoop it!!!!

Then, in February, of course, I think of “I Don’t Know Why I Love You Like I Do.” Of course, the answer is the last phrase --- “I Don’t Know Why, I Just Do!”

March had me stumped for a

while, but this morning I woke up with “I’m Looking Over a 4-Leaf Clover!”

Take this time to visit our veterans and encourage them to sing these simple songs with you. You will find that they will love to participate, or maybe just smile! If you have any ideas for “theme” songs for the next months, let me know!

Spring is coming! Keep making music!

Louise Wheeler,
Music Chairman
oldwheels@windstream.net

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

April is Children and Youth month, as well as the month of the Military Child. Since April is right around the corner, now is the time to start planning your activities for the Children and Youth in your community.

Since April is also the month of the Military Child, there is one day set aside to add extra emphasis. It is called “Purple Up For Military Children.” April 3rd is the date that the ALA is recognizing for communities to wear purple to show their support and thank military children for their bravery and the sacrifices they make on the home front. This would also be something you could share with your local schools and businesses.

Lisa Williamson, our National Children and Youth Chairman from the Department of Alaska, is asking us to put emphasis on the Youth Hero Award and The Good Deed Award. Her goal is to reach 100 awards to be given out by National Convention in August --- commemorating the ALA’s 100th Birthday. We need to contact our schools and explain this program to the teachers and also keep an eye out for articles in your local newspapers and on the news. Let’s get these children recognized for

the good things that they are doing. Did you know that the Dandelion is the flower of the Military Child? The Military Child is like a Dandelion.

It puts down roots almost anywhere.

It’s almost impossible to destroy. It’s an unpretentious plant, but yet good looking.

It’s a survivor in a broad range of climates.

Military children bloom everywhere the wind carries them. They are hardy and upright.

Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military.

Planted swiftly and surely, they’re ready to fly in the breezes to take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends.

Thank you for all you do for our Children and Youth. Let’s try to hit the 100% mark for Children and Youth. Just a friendly reminder to make sure that you report all of your Children and Youth activities. By doing so, you will be eligible to receive the Best Overall Department Children and Youth Program Award.

Marge Suchy
Children and Youth Chairman

Thank
you!

I would like to thank everyone at the Mid-Year Conference who contributed to helping our veterans through my project, “Art for the Heart...Consoling our Veterans.” All of the donations will be put toward purchasing supplies so that our Nebraska veterans may have the opportunity to participate in art therapy. So, thanks again to anyone who made a donation.

Allison Wiles
Honorary Dept. Jr. President

I wish to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, calls, and emails during my time confined at home. My apologies for not making some commitments. Thank you for all the kindness and understanding you have shown. I hope for a quick recovery and no more changes in plans.

Elizabeth Paes,
Department President



LEGISLATIVE DAY



Department President Elizabeth Paes, PDP Deb Albers, and Department Secretary Lisa Moore visited with State Senator --- and Cornhusker Girls State Alumna --- Julie Slama

In Memoriam

Received December 10 to February 10, 2020

Phyllis Hickman.....Omaha.....	1	Mary A Hladovcak.....Neligh.....	172
Sally A Hutt.....Tecumseh.....	2	Donna Payne.....Neligh.....	172
Donna Davis.....Lincoln.....	3	Sharon L Baker.....Palmyra.....	195
Mary D Ludwig.....Lincoln.....	3	Ruth Farmer.....Sutherland.....	208
Gladys Arrants.....Alliance.....	7	June Linstrom.....Sutherland.....	208
Marie Pennisi.....Nebraska City.....	7	Jean McDonald.....Franklin.....	209
Irma Kreifels.....Nebraska City.....	8	Betty Boyce.....Franklin.....	209
Betty Braye.....Nebraska City.....	8	Gwen Menard-Tipper.....Decatur.....	215
Jean Thayer.....Nebraska City.....	8	Anne M Koch.....Gretna.....	216
Helen M Rothfuss.....Hastings.....	11	Millie A Sedlacek.....Gretna.....	216
Mary Ciseros.....Chadron.....	12	Carol J Quinn.....Oxford.....	219
Mary L Thornton.....Chadron.....	12	Bernadine Sullivan.....Eddyville.....	225
Carol E Keim.....Chadron.....	12	Mary J Henn.....Elgin.....	229
Susan Erickson.....Norfolk.....	16	Rita Wagner.....Elgin.....	229
Mary Ellen Blatchford.....York.....	19	Olga Franzen.....Odell.....	231
Lillie Thomas.....Wymore.....	25	Helen Wolfe.....Union.....	235
Edna M Day.....Wymore.....	25	Rita L Lichti.....Milligan.....	240
Judy M Meints.....Beatrice.....	27	Heral R Schultz.....Ruskin.....	242
Ruth Darden.....Omaha.....	30	Virginia Lewis.....Ruskin.....	242
Sheila Pille.....Papillion.....	32	Josephine Behrends.....Bartley.....	245
Thelma L Hauschild.....Papillion.....	32	Dorothy Foster.....Bartley.....	246
Virginia Trueblood.....Gordon.....	34	Marjo Highland.....Talmage.....	247
Mabel Sommerfeld.....Wayne.....	43	Marjory Clements.....Elmwood.....	252
Viola Heinrich.....Lawrence.....	45	Mary L George.....Winside.....	257
Maria Shatto.....Kearney.....	52	Reba Dempcy.....Eustis.....	258
Vera Hansen.....Pilger.....	69	Delores J Barta.....Swanton.....	261
Beverly J McCarthy.....O’Neill.....	93	Margaret Kurtenbach.....Lindsay.....	274
Grace Kozak.....Wilber.....	101	Enid Heady.....Herman.....	274
Irene M Tenopir.....Wilber.....	101	Barbar Vokoun.....Hallam.....	294
Avis Shafto.....Superior.....	103	Jean Oltman.....Hallam.....	294
Phyllis Ross.....Superior.....	103	Donna Madsen.....Doniphan.....	300
Patty Gleason.....Palmer.....	120	Neva Brabander.....Doniphan.....	300
Viola Hall.....Rising City.....	146	Jo A Frickey.....Doniphan.....	300
Louise Wells.....Scotia.....	150	Carol A Treat.....Doniphan.....	300
Adele Faaborg.....Fullerton.....	151	Laurine A Bell.....Doniphan.....	300
Alice H Steckel.....Fullerton.....	151	Pat Johnson.....Doniphan.....	300
Constance E Glaser.....Fullerton.....	151	Doris Rouse.....Doniphan.....	300
Joyce C Bowman-Walsh.....Burchar.....	156	Irene Gobler.....Leigh.....	302
Leona Holtorf.....Cedar Rapids.....	158	Theresa L Eggers.....Leigh.....	302
Joann Engbrecht.....North Platte.....	163	Fontelle Harvey.....Page.....	315
Arleen Young.....North Platte.....	163	Christine Fox.....Deshler.....	352
Betty Buman.....Pawnee City.....	168	Irene Mueller.....Thurston.....	372

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department
- 1 District 6 Convention - Kearney
- 7 District 3 Convention – Jackson
- 7 District 4 Convention - Gering
- 8 District 2 Convention – Crofton
- 10 Deadline for April/May Issue of “The Star”
- 14 District 7 Convention – Dodge
- 14 District 12 Convention - Hickman
- 15 Scholarship Deadline to Dept. Headquarters (see ABC book or website)
- 15 Happy Birthday American Legion
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 21 District 9 Convention - Curtis
- 22 District 5 Convention – North Platte
- 28 District 10 Convention - Alma

April

- 3 ALA Purple Up for Military Children Day (wear purple!)
- 4 District 1 Convention - Chadron
- 5 District 6 & 10 - Girls/Boys State Orientations
- 12 Easter
- 15 Military Kids Day - Wear Purple
- 19 District 3, 5, 7 - Girls/Boys State Orientations
- 26 District 1, 2, 9, 11, 12, 13 and Lincoln Girls/Boys State Orientations

For Your Advanced Planning

- May 31-June 6, 2020 ALA Cornhusker Girls State - Lincoln, NE
- June 25-28, 2020 Department Convention, Ramada, Kearney, NE
- Aug. 28-Sep. 3, 2020 National Convention, Louisville, KY

2020 ALA GIRLS STATE ORIENTATIONS

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
District 1	Sunday, April 26, 2020	1:00 PM CST	Valentine Post #90 256 N. Main St. Valentine, NE
District 2	Sunday, April 26, 2020	1:00 PM CST	Neligh Post#172 115 W 3rd St. Neligh, NE
District 3	Sunday, April 19, 2020	1:30 PM CST	Emerson Hubbard HS 109 W. 3rd Emerson, NE
District 4	Sunday, May 2, 2020	1:00 PM CST	Bayard Post #200 436 Main St. Bayard, NE
District 5	Sunday, April 19, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Centura HS 201 N State HWY 11 Cairo, NE
District 6	Sunday, April 5, 2020	1:00 PM CST	Centura HS 201 N State HWY 11 Cairo, NE
District 7	Sunday, April 19, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Valparaiso Post #371
District 8	Sunday, May 3, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Valley Post #58 111 E. Front St. Valley, NE
District 9	Sunday, April 26, 2020	2:00 PM CST	McCook Evangelical Church 602 E 14th St McCook, NE
District 10	Sunday, April 5, 2020	3:00 PM CST	Windmill in Minden 541 N Colorado Ave. Minden, NE
District 11	Sunday, April 26, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Wilber Post #101 898 School St. Wilber, NE
District 12	Sunday, April 26, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Denton Community Center 7115 Lancaster Ave. Denton, NE
District 13	Sunday, April 26, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Pawnee City Post #168 512 6th St. Pawnee City, NE
Lincoln Area	Sunday, April 26, 2020	2:00 PM CST	Lancaster County Extension Center 444 Cherrycreek Rd. Lincoln, NE