

Law and Order



In response to the call for defunding the nations police and watching a nation in turmoil, Department Commander Gary D. Wooten took it upon himself to draft a letter to local, state, and national law enforcement agencies voicing the Nebraska American Legion’s support for maintaining law and order. Commander Wooten presented the letter of support to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) on June 28, 2020 and received a standing ovation for his work. In a unanimous vote of 21-0, the DEC voted to approve the letters as written and send them out to local, state, and national law enforcement agencies and American Legion Posts in the state.

The letter of support was sent out in the August newsletter to all 355 American Legion Posts, all Department, District, and County officers, and all Department Committee members. Commander Wooten asked everyone to share this letter with their local law enforcement agencies and to show that the Nebraska American Legion would be there to assist and support them in whatever capacity they needed.

Many Posts and Legion members took these letters and presented them to their local law enforcement agencies. The following responses were received:

Kearney Police Department Chief Bryan Waugh said, “I received the letter of support for law enforcement today from Commander Gary Wooten. I have shared a copy with our

entire organization. As a proud veteran and Post 52 member, THANK YOU! We truly appreciate it and have the same support and respect for our military, veterans.”

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner replied, “Dear Gary, I really appreciated you and The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, for making the effort your support of not just Law Enforcement, but for the nation as a whole. Your words really struck home and reassures those of us in law enforcement that we are not being judged by the actions of a few officers who are not in the job for the right reasons. Thank you again for your support.”

Bellevue Chief of Police Capt. Tom Dargy said, “Dear Mr. Wooten, on behalf of the Bellevue Police Department, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your letter of support. Your support comes during a most difficult time, when it seems that Police Officers are not respected as they should be, so it goes without saying that we are very thankful for your support. Your organization is very important to our community. Thank you again for your support and if we can ever assist you in the future, please do not hesitate to call.”

Department Sergeant-at-Arms Shannon Falk delivered the letter to the Nebraska State Patrol Office in Norfolk, Norfolk Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff’s Dept., Madison County Sheriff’s Dept., Stanton County Sheriff’s Dept., West Point Police Department, Battle Creek Police department, and the Albion Police Department. He stated, “The response was extremely positive and each organization expressed their thanks and gratitude for Department’s support.”

Thank you to everyone who took Commander Wooten’s charge and presented this letter to their local law enforcement agencies. If you would like a copy of the letter to present, please contact Department Headquarters.

Pictured top (L to R) State Patrol Trooper Greg Miller, State Patrol Trooper Kevin Chase, Fremont Post 20 Commander Vern Gibson, Fremont Police Chief Jeff Elliot, and Dodge County Sheriff Steve Hespen.

Pictured bottom (L to R) Emerson Post 60 Commander Dave Mahler, American Committee member Dean Chase, Post 62 Newcastle Commander Aaron Meyers, District 3 Vice Commander and Allen Post 131 Commander Mike Ellis, District 3 Commander Dean Ennen, Dakota County Sheriff Don Taylor, Scott Morgan, Allen Post 131 Adjutant Lyle Carlson, Wakefield Post 81 Commander Gary Salmon, and Ponca Post 117 Commander Randy Lukken. Picture provided by the Nebraska Journal-Leader newspaper in Ponca.



The Nebraska Legionnaire

P.O. Box 5205

Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

BLASTING OFF To 100%

2021 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,978 SEPTEMBER 10TH TOTAL: 13,990 – 51.86%

DISTRICT 15–56.20%	DISTRICT 2–54.97%	DISTRICT 4–53.75%	DISTRICT 3–53.39%	DISTRICT 13–52.79%
DISTRICT 8–52.71%	DISTRICT 12–52.55%	DISTRICT 6–52.16%	DISTRICT 11–51.43%	DISTRICT 7–50.95%
DISTRICT 5–50.14%	DISTRICT 10–45.15%	DISTRICT 9–44.56%	DISTRICT 1–42.68%	



Commander's Corner

Gary Wooten
Department Commander



Moving Forward



HOORAY!!! As I write this, it appears the Governor is going to open our state up to more normal business. That is great news for our Posts, our communities, and our state. I hope all of your American Legion Family have started working through your Post, Unit, and Squadron to get back open and active again. I know this has been a trying time for all of us, but I have seen and heard about you all pulling together to also defeat this COVID-19 outbreak that has affected us all. For those who lost loved ones during the


last few months, we keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers.
I hope we all have remembered that September was National Preparedness Month. I encourage all of you to sit down and think about how you will respond to the next disaster that hits you. Are you prepared to stay put and stay safe, or to evacuate your house and business if necessary? Do you have water, food, shelter, medical supplies, and other necessary items stored and ready to go? I encourage all of you to at least go to the FEMA website and review their recommendations for every household. In addition, I ask that all of you donate to The American Legion National Emergency Fund. Ask your Post, Unit, or Squadron to also make a donation. Remember, The American Legion is here to assist you in case of a disaster.

October is Membership Month. I want to congratulate all of the membership chairs and Adjutants at our Posts for their hard work getting paid memberships into Department. We did achieve our goal of 50% paid membership by September 10th. In particular, I want to congratulate the Commanders of Districts 12, 13, and 15 because all Posts in each of those Districts have sent in paid memberships to Department. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, so please pay your dues and help contact members of your Post to get them renewed for this next year.

All the Districts will be holding their Fall Roundups and meetings within the next few months. I encourage and invite all of your American Legion Family members to attend your District meetings and to participate. After all, it is your organization and you should help decide our paths. Each of your American Legion members have District officers who are part of the Department Executive Committee. Let your thoughts and opinions be heard. Besides, we are always looking for members who want to step up and be leaders; maybe that’s you. So hopefully we will see you at your District meeting. If you are unsure of the time and place for your meeting, check it out on our Department website or contact Department. Oh, and right now we have some openings for District officers and are looking for some leaders to step up. If you are interested, please contact me or the Department.


I look forward to working with all of you in 2020-2021! For God and Country!
Pictured is Commander Wooten serving at Wilber Post 101’s regular 1st Sunday breakfast.

“2019 and Beyond”



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



Omaha VAMC Fisher House

The Fisher House program, established in 1990 by Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher, provides free temporary accommodations at no cost, for family members of hospitalized veterans and active duty military personnel. The Fisher House Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, veterans, and their families and caregivers.

The Omaha VA Medical Center is excited to have opened a Fisher House on our main campus! The open date was September 9, 2020.

The projected \$8 million project, which is being funded by the Fisher House Foundation, will features 16 fully-furnished suites and serve as a “home away from home” for the families of veterans or military service members receiving treatment at the Omaha VA Medical Center. The facility will also feature a large kitchen and dining area, an elevator and a full laundry.

Some items that are not covered in the public FAQ is that this service and eligibility applies to veterans receiving service through Care in the Community and staying in Omaha. Meaning, if the VA is paying for it via authorization, so if a veteran is at UNMC getting treatment overnight, family members are eligible. Two other caveats, parking is assigned near Fisher House within walking distance to include wheelchair access. Also, the term “family” is broadly defined to include relatives, close friends, and caregivers or the equivalent of familial support to a veteran while receiving extended episode of care.

Special thanks to Jacob Hausman for the information.
The Omaha Fisher House Program can be reached via email at OmahaFisherHouse@va.gov

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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Area C Vice Commander.....Bonnie Brewer, Elmwood
Area D Vice Commander.....Gene VonForell, Crawford
Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
Activities Director.....Brent Hagel-Pitt, Lincoln
Public Relations Officer.....Vacant
Chaplain.....Dr. William Jackson Jr., Lincoln
Historian.....Jennifer Salak, Omaha
Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha
Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Shannon Falk, Norfolk
Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms.....Doug Frahm, Amelia
Service Officer.....Philip Dittbrenner, Beatrice
National Executive Committeeman.....Bill Crosier, Kearney
Alternate NECman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln

District Commanders

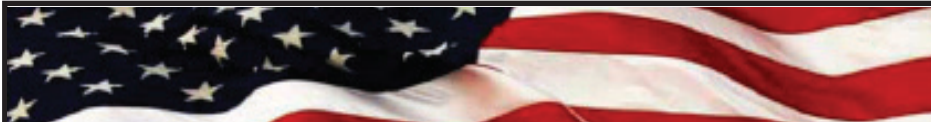
Dist. 1.....Darrell Marshall, Chadron
Dist. 2.....David Merrick, Creighton
Dist. 3.....Dean Ennen, Ponca
Dist. 4.....Vacant
Dist. 5.....Marvin Donnelly, Hershey
Dist. 6.....Jeffrey Konz, Genoa
Dist. 7.....Dan Benes, Valparaiso
Dist. 8.....David Doolen, Papillion
Dist. 9.....Dennis Kennedy, Culbertson
Dist. 10.....Roger Griffiths, Trumbull
Dist. 11.....Rodd Paul, Western
Dist. 12.....David Glantz, Denton
Dist. 13.....Larry Borchert, Pawnee City
Dist. 15.....Eddy Muggy, Lincoln



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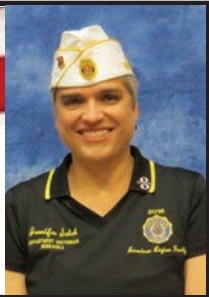
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It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Donald E. Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

October 1930 (90 years ago)

- Argonne Post 61 at **SUTTON**, Nebraska was honored at National Convention at **BOSTON** by being cited as one of the few posts in the United States to secure over 400 percent membership in 1930 over the previous year. The post was presented with a certificate of **DISTINGUISHED** Service.
- Eight stock-raising **HOMESTEADS** southeast of **ALLIANCE** are open to filing for homestead entry. The land is in the north part of Garden County and is good ranching land. Ex-service men have a 90-day preference beginning November 12. After February 11, the general public can file upon what is left.

October 1940 (80 years ago)

- Nebraska’s champion **HOLDREDGE** Junior Drum and Bugle Corps carried off third place honors in the junior corps competition at the Boston **NATIONAL** Convention, from a field of 19 corps.
- BENSON** Post 112 and **VFW** No. 2503 recently presented a flagpole and the **AUXILIARY** presented a flag to Omaha’s new park in Benson.
- Young **CITIZENS**’ contests are again in season in Nebraska and plans are underway for county contests in many parts of the state. Finalists will have a busy two days in Omaha, taking tests and being entertained by the Legion and the World-Herald. The 52 contestants will be guests of the Legion at the **BANQUET** on November 19 and of the World-Herald on November 20, when the **WINNERS** will be announced.

October 1950 (70 years ago)

- Eddie **MUNSON**, of Lincoln Post 3, was the winner of a free, 12-day trip to **HAWAII** in National Commander George Craig’s Hawaiian Trip Membership Contest. Eddie signed up 402 members for 1950. He also had to prepare a 25-word statement on the how he signed up that many members.
- Should you be going through **LEXINGTON** some Sunday and happen to hear a loud buzzing sound coming from the direction of the football field, you will discover that the sound comes from a number of model **AIRPLANES** being flown by members of The American Legion-sponsored Lexington Model Club. The Club, now under the direction of Legionnaire Don Ross, was organized in December 1948 with 8 members. The group has increased to 20 youngsters and 6 men. Assisting in the sponsorship are the Plymouth Dealers of Lexington.

The theme for this article is about “Your Word”. Most of us have had the experience of losing one or more of our friends, service buddies or company companions to death while in the service.


Did you make a promise to yourself that you would do all you could so they will be remembered? Or have you just given up and tried to forget.

During every war there are casualties and many grieving family members. They all ask the same questions. Why us, why now, and why, why, and why? We don’t have answers to these questions. All we can try to do, and have done, is to console the families. Many of you made promises to yourself that you would, for the remainder of your life, do whatever is necessary so that these military personnel will be remembered in some way. Working together with all the military organizations in your community will provide the commitment to erect memorials to our WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and War on Terror Veterans.

We are living in such troubled times now. It seems some just want to create hate and as much division as possible between one another. It just gets crazy. Blame it on Covid-19, or blame it on the election, or just blame it on your neighbor. Why don't we turn our hostility around and continue to work towards doing good things for our communities and the world? We veterans and our military should be taking the lead to show the rest of the world how to act and how to get along. We have that responsibility to our POW/MIA’s; they kept their word.

Those men and women who served our country becoming POW's and MIA's, were fighting FOR our country, not fighting against their fellow countrymen. When you go in the military, you swear that you are willing to lay down your life for our country and your fellow troops. Your word is all you have- if it is not good then you have nothing.

It is our duty to keep working to do all we can to return our brave warriors to their families and our country. It is up to us to make this a better world in which to live. Success is not easy, it is almost always difficult, but we can make such a difference working together!



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Amanda Washburn, Editor
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2021 Mid-Year Conference
Make Your Reservations Now

The 2021 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 15-17, 2021 at the Ramada Inn in Columbus. The room rate is \$99.95 a night and breakfast is included with the rooms. The Ramada Inn is located at 265 33rd Avenue in Columbus. Call 402-835-4350 for reservations.

Did you know you can read the Nebraska Legionnaire online at www.nebraskalegion.net?

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.

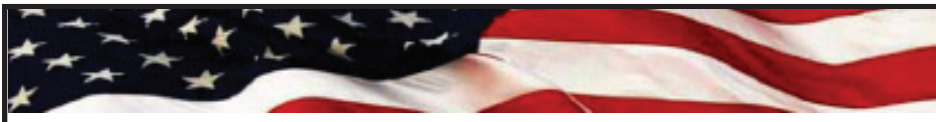
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Chaplain's Corner


Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain





S.A.L. Notes

Robert Neel
Detachment Commander



“It’s Here”

Believe it or not, the time is upon us to really take stock of what’s happening around us. Just in case some of you have been off planet for a few centuries (smile), there’s a new “world” on earth. It’s called “the last days.”

If you recall your Bible study about the ascension of Jesus in Acts 1:7-12, this marks the start of the last days explored by studies in Eschatology, or end times prophesy. So, the last days have been ongoing for more than two millennium (e.g., 2,000 years). That means that what has been foretold to come to pass just may be around the corner...like...REAL soon. But...are we ready?

Let’s look at the facts. The earth has sustained a number of often violent events within these past two millennium. Notwithstanding the rise and fall of Alexander the Great, Imperial Rome, various Chinese dynasties, tribal wars in Africa, conquests in Central and South America, lengthy Native American conflicts in North America, and in the rest of our dear world. There have also been tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, forest fires, polar warmings, and a host of other unusual disturbances. And what about that worldwide flood, huh? But wait: am I acknowledging that there is something—or someone—behind these seemingly unrelated circumstances??? Would you come to the same conclusion, or continue to rely on science and human philosophizing to satisfy your craving for self-significance? When will you make that decision: now, or after you’re no longer here to make a difference?

Clarifying the issue, then, means knowing your place in the scheme of things. Did you know that Jesus incarnated, was born, lived, died, and resurrected just for you? How about the reality of God’s love for His greatest creation manifested right after Adam and Eve’s sin in the Garden of Eden through his Protoevangelium (i.e., Greek for first gospel) in Genesis 3:15? Have you ever thought why would God do that? One thing to consider is: who loves you more than you love yourself? Who will go to any length from eternity to show you love? How have you made it through the living hell of some of your circumstances far beyond your capacity to accomplish? What...? I can’t hear you. Did...did you say...you don’t know...?

Don’t feel bad. You’re among the majority of fellow self-professed believers in Christ who, in all honesty, just don’t understand or comprehend how they’ve managed to live this long and overcome. But all is not lost.

The last days are a signpost for believers to know—actually—what God’s timetable may be revealing to all who live on this blue marble of ours (Revelation 3:3). This era prepares believers to be watchful of Jesus’ coming—the Parousia (Greek for the Rapture)—and the Judgment. One judgment affords believers rewards for standing in the Lord, the Bema (i.e., Greek for white throne judgment seat) in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The other judgment is the condemnation of unrepentant sinners earmarked for hell, alongside the fallen angels and Satan/Lucifer (John 3:19).

Those end times are approaching, just as the Word/Bible forecasted through the Old and New Testaments. That means every detail of our lives nowadays must be accountable to God to win us a place beside Him in heaven and the new earth with Jerusalem as world capitol (Revelation 3:12),

Sssooo...what’s up my fellow travelers in a world not our own? Are you up for a renewed life with Jesus, or do you want to slug it out, as always, with no one having your “six” (Romans 12:2)?



Another month has flown by and I am farther behind. I awoke at 4 AM to rain drops this morning and something reminded me I needed to get this letter into the Legionnaire. Not sure if it was an omen we are getting rain or something else.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Looking at the August 31, 2020 membership update, there are some Squadrons that have achieved the 10% target date and some Squadrons are already 100%+. Outstanding job to everyone that has met or exceeded the goal by September 10th. Now you can work on recruiting new members. The next target date is 25% of renewals by October 15, 2020. I hope to see more Squadrons with memberships turned in on the next update.

The Detachment Senior Vice Commander Chris Casey has been keeping the Detachment Facebook page up to date. If you have not visited the page, search for Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Nebraska if you do Facebook. VC Casey is doing a great job. Not sure where he finds the time.

The District fall roundups will be commencing soon. Officers of the Detachment will be attending the meetings and some have to travel quite a distance to get there. We hope there will be some SONs members there to talk to when we arrive. It is a busy time of the year for everyone. Even sounds like there is more than rain in the forecast for some areas, with a warm up later in the week.

The Detachment Commander’s projects for this year are: A Soldier’s Child (Gold Star Kids project in Nebraska), Gifts for Yanks (team effort with the Legion family) and NSP K-9 initiative (a team effort with the SONs and Legion Riders to support the NSP). Donations can be sent anytime to the Detachment office.

I have been traveling the state and have heard some great comments about the SONs Squadrons in Nebraska. When I hear these comments, they do not stop with me, as I pass them along at my next stop or put some in the articles. If you have a short, Atta boy story you want me to share in an article, send it to my email: bagnlg2b@gmail.com or mail it to Bud Neel, 57576 847th Road, Wayne, NE 68787.

Well, I need to get ready for work and enjoy the rain we so desperately needed a long time ago. I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend social gathering event. Take care and will be cruising the state for the upcoming meetings.

Non-political Organization

This is a reminder that The American Legion Family is a non-political organization. Do not wear your cover, branded shirt, or any other branded item at any political rally or at any campaign event. Furthermore, any Post holding a political forum must extend an invitation to all those running for office and remember to remove any trademark items from view. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.

Mail Call

Dear American Legion,
Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient. This scholarship has special meaning to me a Maynard Jensen is my great grandpa, Arnold Jensen’s, cousin. This will be beneficial in furthering my education.
Sincerely,
Kyla Carlson

The Nebraska Department of Veterans’ Affairs has a new website with new features!

- **Enhanced employment tools** in our *Nebraska Veterans’ Gateway*
- **New Expert Systems** to navigate benefits and services
- **Interactive map** to show available mental health resources across Nebraska
- **Live chat feature** to connect with an accredited State Service Officer

Check it out at veterans.nebraska.gov



District Officer Training



Department Commander Wooten, Department Staff, and various committee chairman held a District Officers training on Saturday, August 15 in Kearney. This training was attended by ten of the fourteen Districts, with six of the Districts having both their Commander and Vice Commander in attendance.

Topics included Americanism programs, membership, conventions at every level, constitution and bylaws, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders, and many others. An educational and fun day was had by all and we thank those who were able to attend and participate.

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.

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

The September target date has passed, and I'm glad to report that Nebraska surpassed the 50% milestone. The next target dates to concern us are the 55% target on October 15th and the 65% target on November 12th. Let's strive to make sure we exceed them, too.

As I've indicated before, we probably all tend to rely too much on the dues notices from the national headquarters to be the pointed stick that prods our members to renew their memberships. There's certainly no problem in being grateful for the service those renewal notices provide, but we all must supplement what they do by making some personal contacts. I'm sure many of our members would really appreciate it.

For the more than half of you who have renewed your memberships for 2021, Thank You!!! As promoted in the "Membership Awards for 2021" (posted on the website), the name of 46-year member Wayne Schacht from Orchard Post 136 was drawn for the \$150 Early Bird Member Award for regular members. Congratulations, Wayne!

New this year is another drawing for our PUFL and Nebraska Life members --- the Permanent/ PUFL Member Appreciation Award. Any Nebraska "Permanent" or "PUFL" member on the Department membership roster on January 1, 2021 shall be in a drawing for \$150.00. Now may be a good time to at least consider a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership.

And, don't forget the Post Rebate Program. A post that signs up a new member who has never belonged to The American Legion before and has that membership transmitted to Department Headquarters by the cut-off date shall receive \$5.00 from Department Headquarters. Postmark date is November 14, 2020. Sign up some new members and earn a rebate for your post. (Remember, all the renewals in the world won't solve all of our membership shortfalls if we don't get out and recruit some new Legionnaires, too.)

I continue to promote the use of Post 500 as a source of members for our traditional posts. I've tried to share information in that regard with most of the Post Commanders and Adjutants for whom I had an email address. I also made a presentation to the District Commanders at their training day in Kearney. I hope that has done some good. Locating those potential members is relatively easy --- it just takes a little more effort to "locate and contact." If I get enough feedback, I may consider doing another little training session at the Mid-Year Conference --- even if it's not part of the official agenda.

If your post has tried some unusual or interesting membership effort and had some success, please share it with me. I'd like to let everyone know the things that are working. Renew. Reinstate. Revruit. And thank you for all your efforts. Have a nice October!



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Ploesti was the most decorated battle in the history of the American Armed Forces - 1,700 plus airmen took off on a volunteer mission - told half would not return to base. But if successful they would shorten the war by 6 months by destroying Hitler's gas station. The oil fields were more heavily defended than Berlin and more than one-third of the planes/men did not return to base. Five Medal of Honor were awarded.

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Legionnaire in the Spotlight

Alfred Zieg



Alfred Zieg was born on May 31, 1923 in Waco, Nebraska. Zieg graduated from Schuyler High School in 1941. A year after he graduated, Zieg moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to work for the Union Pacific Railroad. He stated that he went to Las Vegas because he could make 45 cents more an hour working there compared to Nebraska. While working in Las Vegas, Zieg decided to enlist in the US Navy and was sworn in on December 15, 1942 in Reno, Nevada. Three of Zieg's brothers were already serving in World War II.

Following his enlistment, Zieg was sent to California Polytech University for a three month long special radio program. Because of the special program, he never had to attend basic training and never did learn how to swim. After finishing his training, he was sent to Treasure Island in San Francisco for more radio training. Out of the 400 men who were in his group, Zieg was the only one that got every question correct on their initial math exam. The Navy then sent Zieg to Oklahoma A&M University for more radio technology training and then he was sent back to Treasure

Island for his official Radar Schooling. In 1943, Zieg had to take the "Oath of Allegiance to the US". The radar program was classified, and he was not able to tell anyone about the program or what he was learning.

On May 15, 1944 Zieg traveled to Portsmouth, VA to board the USS Wasatch (AGC-9). The ship was one of the first Amphibious Flagships in the US Navy. After finishing sea trials in the Chesapeake Bay, the USS Wasatch traveled to the Panama Canal and into the Pacific Ocean. The first stop for the Wasatch was the shores of New Guinea. Zieg shared, "When we started walking up the shore the beach was rocky. When we looked closer at the shore, we realized that the rocks were really live ammunition shells. We were lucky they didn't go off when we walked on them."

Zieg shared that while on the beach one of his shipmates had climbed up a tree to get some fruit. The shipmate fell out of the tree and Zieg raced to his rescue. He quickly ordered the other men to grab some green branches and start a fire so the ship would send someone to help. Years later at a ship reunion the shipmate that Zieg had helped save remarked that he wished he knew who had saved his life. That was the first time in over 40 years that the two had seen each other.

The USS Wasatch was deployed to join the other ships who were on their way to invade Morotai Island. While in the radar section, Zieg was the only one in their radar group who would climb up the SG Radar Antenna to change the antenna. The antenna was 120 feet up above the ships deck and there was no safety harness for the climb. Following the invasion of Morotai Island on September 15, 1944 the USS Wasatch took General MacArthur back to Leyte. This is when he made his famous comments, "I have returned."

In October of 1944 the USS Wasatch was right in the middle of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Zieg remarked, "When we left the battle, we were surrounded by who knows how many ships. All you could see was ships everywhere." Over the next year, the ship remained in the area and was part of the Invasions of Lingayen, Balikpapan, and Wakanoura. After the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the USS Wasatch and Zieg were sent to occupy multiple cities in Japan. Most of the Sailors on the ship were contaminated with radiation while stationed there. In November of 1945, the USS Wasatch and its Sailors began to sail back to the United States. The ship traveled to Pearl Harbor and then to San Diego. Once his enlistment had ended, Zieg returned to Nebraska on February 22, 1946. On March 24th, he was married to his wife, Thelma, of 62 ½ years. Zieg noted that he and his wife never had dated during their courtship, but instead sent letters back and forth for many years. Zieg entered an eighteen-month training program through the local natural gas company and worked in both Scribner and Hooper. He retired from the gas company in 1985 after 40 years of working for them.

Starting in 1984 Zieg and wife started traveling following his retirement. They also began to attend his ship reunions in 1989. Prior to moving to Lincoln for his cancer treatments, he did lots of wood working projects and yard work in his free time. One of his favorite projects was the shadow box for his medals and ribbons pictured in this article.

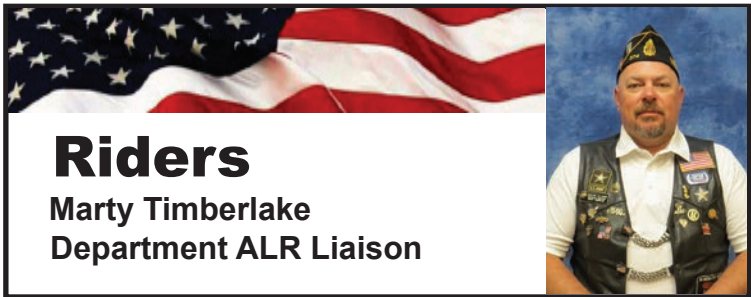
Each year Zieg contacts the catholic school in Fremont to find out the number of students in the high school. He purchases a gold Presidential dollar to each of the students. The dollar has the Statue of Liberty on the back of it and Zieg stated, "I thought that by giving each of the students a coin, that they might better understand the sacrifice of all servicemen." Zieg gives the coins to the students at the Veterans Day program.

Zieg celebrated his 97th birthday on May 31 and received over 700 cards from all over. He also was commissioned as an Admiral in the Great Nebraska Navy. He has three children, Nancy, Tom, and James, all of who live in Lincoln.

Zieg is a lifetime member of the Scribner American Legion Post 121 and of the Hooper Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10535.

A big thank you to Alfred for the interview and all of the stories and pictures for this article.

"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.



Riders

Marty Timberlake
Department ALR Liaison

Hello Legion families. Wow, Summer went by like a whirlwind. While I won't miss the 90-100-degree days, I'm not ready for the riding season to be over. Fortunately, we still have time. By the time you read this, the State Romp will have taken place. This is an annual event that the American Legion Riders attend from all across the state. It's a time where we can get together, meet, ride and share stories and ideas. Most of the time, we only see each other at our two conventions each year. So, this is chance for us to cut loose and have a good time. I am really looking forward to this event.

I am so proud of our riders and the selfless things they do. I have never had so many feel good moments than I have around these guys and the things we participate in. With COVID-19 keeping everyone inside, the

annual Thank-A-Vet tour looked as though it wouldn't happen. But James Keyes (Benson Chapter 112) worked with several retirement and assisted living centers, to make it happen. With safety concerns taking top priority, we were able to ride out to the facilities and see our great Veterans. While we weren't able to sit and talk with them like we have in the past, we were still able to show off our motorcycles and bring smiles to them. One year, a WWII vet told me that he couldn't believe that we would take time out of our day just to come and sit with him. I was immediately choked up. And I know, from talking with riders across the state, this is a common feeling among us. As Bob Swanson was famous for saying, "Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance". We must always remember.

Another amazing event happened in late August. While former NE State ALR Liaison and ALR Rider of the Year for 2020 Casey Walton and two others took the lead on this event, the American Legion Family in Gordon helped with the fundraiser event. To date, the Gordon Chapter 34 has raised over \$41,000 for the Swanson family in Gordon. The family has had a multitude of accidents and health conditions within their family.

I want to wrap this up by reminding all of the Legion Posts out there that these are the kinds of things that the Riders bring to the table. While not every Chapter is as active, or has a large group, we are all out there helping out in some way and bringing attention to the American Legion Families. I've had several posts tell me that having a Riders Chapter brought new life and new memberships to their posts, when they didn't know what their future held. If you are considering having a Riders chapter in your post, please contact me directly at alr@nebraskalegion.net.



Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarships

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, selected four recipients of the Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship. The Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is named in memory of Past Department Service Officer Jim Hurlbert. Hurlbert was a strong supporter of The American Legion Baseball program and giving back to the youth who participated.

The Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is awarded based on the players leadership, scholarship, citizenship, and financial need. Recipients are nominated by their team manager, along with additional endorsements from other community leaders.

For the 32nd consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money.

The recipients of \$500.00 scholarships are Sean Gildersleeve of O'Neill, Jacob Jarzynka of Ravenna, Jacob Vanderford of Lincoln, and Kade Bredemeier of Falls City.



Abelbeck, Dwight R., Deshler, Korea
Adams, Delbert E., Denton, Korea
Alexander, William W., Central City, Vietnam
Allington, Roger A., Havelock, Vietnam
Andersen, Andrew, Millard
Arkle, Robert W., York, Korea
Auch, Robert W., Colon
Baker, Harlen, Millard, Vietnam
Barth, Arvid L., Lincoln, Korea
Bauer, James G., Pleasant Dale, Lebanon/Grenada
Bausback, Leonard C., Lincoln, Korea
Beeson, Jack D., Wayne, Vietnam
Bennett, Rollen, Newman Grove, WWII
Biga, John W., South Omaha, WWII
Bixler, Duane C., Hayes Center, Korea
Bockerman, Raymond H., Arapahoe, WWII
Boeckman, Jerome, Wynot, WWI
Bohaboj, Louis J., Dodge, Korea
Boone, Donald J., Ashland, WWII
Booth, Tony K., Thedford, Vietnam
Bott, George, Gering, Korea
Brannagan, Larry, Wood River, Vietnam
Brass, Delmer L., Gothenburg, Vietnam
Brestel, Jonathon P., Callaway
Brown, Alfred G., Omaha, WWII
Brown, Larry L., Lincoln, Korea
Burhoop, B. E., Grand Island, Vietnam
Capoun, Marvin J., Schuyler, Korea
Carlson, Dale A., Silver Creek
Carr, Joseph G., Wahoo, Vietnam
Cartwright, Jerry D., Malmo, Vietnam
Casperson, Jack, South Omaha, WWII
Chamberlain, Larry R., Lincoln, Vietnam
Chapman, Bob, Murdock, Vietnam
Christian, George J., Wahoo, Korea
Citta, Joe L., Sutherland, WWII
Cortese, Sam, Millard, WWII
Costanzo, Gary C., South Omaha, Vietnam
Creighton, Ivan R., Wayne, Korea
Cromey, Roger V., South Omaha, Korea
Cunningham, James E., Hebron, Korea
Cunningham, Robert M. Jr., Milford, Vietnam
Dau, Gordon P., Yutan, WWII
Daves, Jerry L. Sr., Bellevue, Lebanon/Grenada
Dietrick, Scott L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Dill, William S., Valentine, WWII
Distefano, Sam, Millard, WWII
Dittoe, Robert E., Wymore
Dougherty, Frank S., Lincoln, Korea
Drinkwalter, Bill, Thedford, Korea
Drumm, Charles, Fort Calhoun, Korea
Duracinski, Clarence S., Ralston, Korea
Duranski, Mark D., South Omaha, Vietnam
Earl, Howard D., Lincoln, Vietnam
Egr, Jim, Bellwood, Vietnam
Elwod, William C., Fremont, Korea
Ferguson, Lawrence T., Wymore, Korea
Finke, Ivan, Ravenna, WWII
Ford, James M., Omaha, Vietnam
Fox, Leon E., Holdrege, Korea
Frahm, Alan Q., Ponca, Vietnam
Frerichs, Gary C., Coleridge, Vietnam
Fries, Jack L., Gering, Korea
Gaibler, Orville, Farnam, Korea
Gannaway, Frank S., Union, WWII
Gerdes, Virgil P., Plattsmouth, Vietnam
Gleason, Gerald, Central City, Korea
Goller, David A., Plattsmouth, Lebanon/Grenada
Graves, Donald, South Sioux City, Korea

Greaves, John, South Omaha, Korea
Greek, Ronald E., Omaha, Vietnam
Green, John M., Wauneta, Vietnam
Greene, Richard W. Sr., South Omaha, WWII
Greving, Leland J., Central City, Korea
Griess, Aaron, Sutton, Korea
Grotzky, Donald H., Norfolk, Korea
Gruhn, Roger W., Holdrege, Vietnam
Haase, Richard, West Point, Vietnam
Hald, Richard W., Curtis, Korea
Hanich, Theodore, Sutherland, WWII
Hanten, Harold L., Omaha, Korea
Hartford, Robert F., Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam
Haumann, David W., Thedford
Heidlek, Phil H., Fairbury, Korea
Helke, Norman C., Millard, Korea
Henshaw, Jim L., Pleasant Dale, Vietnam
Hill, Jim, Plainview, Vietnam
Hiller, Dick, Bellwood, Vietnam
Hobza, Eden, Millard, Vietnam
Hoesing, James F., Newcastle, Korea
Holmstedt, Don T., Central City, Korea
Houser, Terry L., Bloomington, Vietnam
Hulett, Gary, Auburn, Vietnam
Hultman, James E., Ralston, WWII
Igo, Joseph W., Millard, Vietnam
Jacobson, Harold F., South Omaha, WWII
Jameson, Gary T., Stapleton, Vietnam
Jedlicka, John E., Schuyler
Jefferson, John F., Central City
Jirka, Adolph J., Millard, Vietnam
Johnosn, Victor A., Deshler, Vietnam
Johnson, William W., Gibbon
Johnston, Walter J., Central City, Vietnam
Jones, Gary E., Central City, Vietnam
Jungbluth, Evan, Wahoo, WWII
Kay, Donald G., Chadron
Kent, Terry A., Millard, Vietnam
Kinslow, William K., Wayne, Korea
Kirk, Lacy M. Sr., South Omaha, Korea
Klundt, David W., York, Vietnam
Krance, Edwin D., South Omaha, Korea
Kriz, Robert J., Hemingford, Korea
Kudlacek, Loran W., Brainard, Vietnam
Kuhns, Clifford C., Franklin, Korea
Kurcz, Joseph, South Omaha, Vietnam
Land, William J., Nemaha, Vietnam
Larsen, Robert A., Millard, WWII
Larson, Wilbur D., South Sioux City, Vietnam
Lehman, Edward M., Millard, Korea
Levendofsky, John, Hebron
Liermann, Charles A., Beemer, Vietnam
Lindquist, Lloyd L., Oakland, Korea
Lorenz, Norman D., Osmond, Korea
Loschen, Harold W., Kearney, Korea
Lumbard, Jay G., Kearney
Marchand, Charles F., Millard, Korea
Mason, Victor J., Millard, WWII
Matthes, Harold, Denton, Korea
Mauk, Alan G., Ralston, Vietnam
McClanahan, Jack N., Fort Calhoun, Vietnam
McHargue, Thomas D., Central City, Korea
McVay, Millard S. Jr., Davenport, Vietnam
Menghini, Alfred G., Omaha, Korea
Meyer, James R., Denton, Vietnam
Michel, Victor L., York, WWII
Mitchem, Gerald T., McCook, Vietnam
Mlady, Willard L., Verdel, Korea
Mosel, Roger L., Plainview, Korea
Moshier, Charles E., Arapahoe, Korea

Muhlbach, L. O., Arnold, Vietnam
Musiel, Edward W., Prague, Vietnam
Nansel, Larry K., Kearney, Korea
Neafus, Wendell F., Alliance, Korea
Nebuda, Jim, West Point, Vietnam
Neff, Juanita, Winnebago, Korea
Nelsen, Robert G., Creighton, WWII
Nelson, Charles E., Jackson, Korea
Nelson, Keith E., Madrid, Korea
Oleson, Gerald E, Crawford, Vietnam
Osborn, Merlyn R., Talmage
Otte, LeRoy M., Lincoln, Korea
Owens, Harley W., Nebraska City
Pearson, Roy M., Holdrege
Peatrowsky, LeRoy, West Point, Vietnam
Pekarek, Frank F., Valparaiso, WWII
Penner, Donald J., York, Korea
Pierson, Ray R., Sutherland
Plager, Edwin, Elk Creek, Vietnam
Plautz, Dennis, Garland
Pohlmann, Merlyn H., Deshler, Vietnam
Priess, Lloyd R., Lincoln, Korea
Probst, Richard, South Omaha, WWII
Raskey, Dwayne, Brainard, Korea
Robb, George C., Oakland, WWII
Rosburg, Michael R., Denton, Vietnam
Rother, Edward J., Wolbach, Vietnam
Rust, James, Superior, SAL
Sackett, Clarence A., Ashland, Vietnam
Salazar, Antonio R., Millard, Vietnam
Sazama, Glenn, Osmond, Korea
Schinstock, Francis, West Point, WWII
Schlick, Ted L., Grand Island, Korea
Schmidt, Herman, Garland
Schneider, Leland, Holdrege, Korea
Shannon, Esther M., Columbus, Vietnam
Slama, Jerome, Brainard, Korea
Smith, M. Grant, Minatare, WWII
Smith, Waldo E., Arthur, WWII
Snoke, Dwight H., Eagle, Korea
Snow, James E., Winnebago, Vietnam
Stanek, Glen T., Elsie, Gulf War
Stapleton, James L., Allen, Vietnam
Stephens, Charles F., Papillion, Vietnam
Stout, Jay R., Winnebago, Panama
Stuart, Charles, Columbus, Vietnam
Svoboda, Rudy A., David City, WWII
Swanda, Harry R., Scribner, WWII
Tate, James L., Valentine, Vietnam
Thew, Robert L., Fremont, Korea
Tighe, Lawrence E., Hooper, Korea
Toms, Tommy, York, Vietnam
Twiford, Gerald A., South Sioux City, Korea
Tyrrell, Steve, Milford, Vietnam
Uhing, Kenneth J., Wynot, Korea
Unick, Eugene, Pleasanton, WWII
Vacha, Jerome G. Jr., South Omaha, Vietnam
Vandeventer, Robert D., Long Pine, Korea
Voboril, Frank L., Millard, WWII
Vorce, Donald G., Davenport, Korea
Walth, Donald D., Gering, WWII
Walz, Marvin J., Arthur, Vietnam
Weinandt, Lawrence A. Jr., Fremont, Korea
Wenzl, James M., Sterling, Lebanon/Grenada
Whitner, Charles W., North Omaha, SAL
Widdowson, George H., Shelton, WWII
Wilkins, William W., Shickley, WWII
Wilson, Bob, Ainsworth, Vietnam
Wilson, Donald E., Omaha, Vietnam
Wood, Robert D., Hemingford, Vietnam
Wright, Richard, Sidney, Vietnam
Wuehler, Merle, Kearney, Korea
Zimmerman, Arnold H., Virginia, WWII

Events Calendar

October

- 10-15 Virtual Fall Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
- 12 Columbus Day - Office Closed

November

- 11 Veterans Day - Office Closed
- 26-27 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

December

- 23-25 Christmas - Office Closed
- 31 New Years Eve - Office Closed

January

- 1 New Years Day - Office Closed

Check www.nebraskalegion.net under the meetings tab for all upcoming National, State, and District events.

The American Legion Preamble

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of September 11, 2020

District	2020 Members	2021 Members
1	317	47
2	626	73
3	238	28
4	339	52
5	133	4
6	1,286	125
7	696	96
8	894	137
9	322	77
10	317	53
11	1,034	44
12	248	31
13	124	0
15	156	0
Total	6,730	767



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Havelock Post 342 members assisted with food preparation and distribution at the Matt Talbot Kitchen. Pictured (L to R) Commander Ann Jordan and Adjutant Dell Spier.



Winside Post 252 celebrated their 100th birthday with an open house with the Winside Auxiliary and Sons. Cake and ice cream was served to all in attendance.



Omaha Post 1 and Papillion Post 32 members conducted a flag folding ceremony and explained flag etiquette to the students at the Rosewood Academy and Child Development center in Omaha. Members included District 8 Commander Dave Doolen, District 8 Vice Commander Fran Shelton, Ann Guy, Dave Guy, Jerry Olson, and SAL member Logan Olson.



Valparaiso Post 371 member Larry Martin was honored by the Saunders County Supervisors as the September Veteran of the Month. He is a Vietnam veteran and received a Purple Heart. He is a 50 year American Legion member.



Weston Post 308 held their 8th Annual Vintage Tractor Ride. There were 132 entries and the Weston Sons sold over 200 meals.



Malmo Post 232 presented Larry Dauel with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Proett and Larry Dauel.



The family of Newcastle Post 62 member Len Marron donated boxes of food and other goods from Len's store in Newcastle to the families of deployed Iowa National Guard troops. Marron passed away in April and the family decided not to reopen the store but to donate goods to our military.



Morse Bluff Post 340 held their 67th Annual Barbeque Chicken Dinner Fundraiser. They served over 500 half chicken dinners and sold out in ninety minutes.



Curtis Post 95 presented Dallas Petersen with a certificate and pin for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Ron Wiest and Dallas Petersen. Curtis Post 95 presented certificates to the Community Hospital Health Foundation and the Curtis Medial Center for donating an AED machine to the Post. Pictured bottom (L to R) Erin Pascoe, Jessica Bortner, Commander Ron Wiest, and Mareesa Hasenauer.



Dodge County installed their new county officers at their annual meeting. Pictured (L to R) District 7 Commander Dan Benes, County Vice Commander Vern Gibson, County Commander Fred Fachman, and Scribner Post 121 Commander Bill Alsmeyer.



Benson Chapter 112 and other Legion Rider members visited senior living centers in Elkhorn, Blair, and Missouri Valley on August 29 for their "Thank a Veteran Tour". About 50 riders participated in the ride.



Potter Post 291 and Unit 291 had a float in the Potter Days celebration. Pictured is Junior member Hailae Steele



What a difference a year makes! Veterans Day 2020 will most likely be different than it was in 2019. Will there be school programs? Will veterans be able to visit with the students? There will be a Veterans Day; we will just adjust to “the new normal.”

This did make me remember when I was a child --- many years ago --- and think about what kind of Veterans Day we had. I do not remember ever having a school wide program, but we may have talked about the day. Why is there a Veterans Day? When did the day become a holiday? What did Veterans Day mean? But never a school assembly. No band music, no tributes, and certainly no speeches.

Neither of my Grandfathers or my

Father were in the service, so I really did not pay much attention to the day. I did realize I had four uncles who served in the Military --- two uncles on my Mother’s side of the family and two uncles on my Father’s side of the family. We knew about their service, but it was never discussed. They did not want to talk about it.

One uncle on my Father’s side served in the Army during WWII. To his children, he only spoke a little about being in France and liberating some of the concentration camps. The horror he must have seen. No parades. No parties. Just went back to raising his family. My Father’s other brother served in Korea. I know nothing about what he did in Korea. I do remember him coming home. Again, there were no parties or parades. He just went back to farming.

My Mother’s oldest brother served in WWII. He was at the “Battle of the Bulge.” When we

lived in Hawaii, we were able to visit the Pearl Harbor Memorial on the Admiral’s Barge during a visit my aunt and uncle made to Oahu. While visiting Pearl Harbor, a documentary was shown. That evening, he had nightmares. The memories were there; he just would not talk about them. He came home and went back to farming. No parties. No parades.

My other uncle on my Mother’s side also served in WWII. I have no idea where he served. But, when he came home, he also went back to farming. No parties; no parades. He always felt badly that he enlisted and left for training before he received his high school diploma. When he was in his seventies, he went back to school and received his GED. His children were not aware he was going to school. They were all surprised when he showed them his high school diploma. He was so proud of himself --- and so were they! Both of my Mother’s brothers were in the Army.

We all know how the Vietnam veterans returned. No parties; no parades. They went back to their jobs and started raising their families. There certainly were no school assemblies for Veterans Day during that period of our history.

So, when did the Veteran’s Day ceremonies begin? What made everyone want to pay tribute to those who served their country? I would like to think that our Legion Family played a large part in these Veterans Day programs. Perhaps, because of the Legion Family contributing to our communities and schools, people began to recognize the sacrifices these men and women made in their lives. Communities wanted to pay tribute for what they had done for our country.

So, on this Veterans Day, I honor every veteran. I cannot ever say I understand the sacrifices each veteran has made, but I would like to say to each of you veterans that I am aware

of all that each veteran has done to give us what you have given to us as a country.

I am also aware that gives me an obligation to not just say I am an American, but that I understand what obligations I have to you and your service to my country. The obligation to make our communities, schools, and government my responsibility.

To all those who have served our nation, Happy Veterans Day!

Elizabeth Paes
Department President



DISTRICT PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

JEAN VACKINER



My name is Jean Vackiner, and I have the unprecedented honor of serving my third year as District One President.

I belong to honor my late father, Korean War Veteran Sgt. First Class Eugene H. Kurpgewit of Ewing, Nebraska, who served in the 35th Infantry and saw more hell by the age of 19 than I could ever imagine. My eldest son, Sgt Cade Vackiner, is a Recruiting and Retention NCO in the National Guard in Casper, Wyoming.

I have been a member of the ALA since 1998 when, after a pot of coffee, discovered Eva Nollette blocking my way to the bathroom to introduce me to all the American Legion Auxiliary had to offer. Not

only did she sign me up on the spot, but I believe I have served as Unit President all but one of these 22 years.

I am an RN/Case Manager for Aseracare Hospice, a job that allows me to honor many veterans in their last walk through their “We Honor Veterans” program. I live with my husband Jeff, a slew of cows, five chickens, two dogs, a lazy cat, and a really cool turtle named Hank. He’s my therapy turtle.

We live south of Cody on the Niobrara River. We have three grown sons – Cade, Clay and his wife Ashley and my step grandson, Tylan, of Cody; and Chance and his wife Maria of Merriman. I am not-so-patiently waiting for grandbabies. You’d think during quarantine they wouldn’t have had anything else to do.

I sing in a quartet called “Rural Route” when we can find the time. I enjoy gardening, and I am a crazy bird lady --- spending more on birdseed than on my husband. I also enjoy tubing/kayaking the Niobrara with lots of beer and friends, in that order. And I love cooking for

people who love to eat. I used to love football, until all professional athletes became idiots, so will have to find something else to fill my time to avoid housework.

I continue to be in awe of the strong, smart members of our American Legion Family and strive to be half the people they are in serving our veterans, our military, and their families. I am grateful to the wonderful members of District One, humbled by their talents and work ethic, and eager to have the chance to lead them into 2021.

AMANDA WASHBURN



Hi. My name is Amanda Washburn, and I live in Ashland. I am in my first year as the District 13

President. I have been a member of Bickel-Nelson Unit 360 in Cook, Nebraska since the day I was born. My grandma signed me to be a member when I was an hour old, and I have been an active member ever since. I have been a member for 27 years.

I am eligible for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary through the service of both of my grandfathers during World War II. My grandpa Merle Riensche served in the European theater, and my grandpa Donald Washburn served in the ordinance plant near Mead, Nebraska. Both of them were active Nebraska American Legion members.

My parents and grandparents all made sure that I knew the sacrifice that all service members made and made sure we would volunteer whenever we could. I have attended 18 National Conventions and have attended numerous Unit, District, and Department meetings. I was honored to be elected and serve as Department Junior President in 2009 and National Junior President in 2013. Currently, I am serving as

a member on the National Education Committee and on the National Centennial Committee.

I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2018. I work for the Nebraska American Legion as the Executive Assistant/Newspaper Editor.

In my free time, I like to hang out with my friends and help my parents on their farm. I am looking forward to working with all members of District 13 to support our veterans, active duty military, and their families. My president’s project is to collect items for the veterans in the new apartments on the Lincoln VA campus. Check out the District 13 newsletter for more information.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Round-Up in Cook on October 17th.

CORRECTION FROM SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

The photo of Arlis Hohl in the District President's Spotlight was incorrectly labeled as Cathy Day.

In Remembrance - LOLA URBAN

Lola R. Urban, Past Department President, age 96, of Osceola, Nebraska, passed away August 12, 2020 at Ridgeview Heights Assisted Living in Osceola. Funeral services were held Saturday, August 15, 2020 at St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Osceola.

Lola was a permanent member of the Osceola American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91. She served various offices in the American Legion Auxiliary on the local, county, district, state, and national levels. She served as Department President 1990-1991. Her theme was “Set Your Sails Be on Course with A.L.A.” Her symbol was a ship.

On March 15, 1945, she was united in marriage to Francis Urban;

and, 5 days later, he left for basic training in the Navy, being stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois. There, she was employed as a telephone operator. They returned to the family farm near Osceola in 1948. There, they raised eight children, six boys and two girls. In 1980, they moved into Osceola, where she resided until moving into the Ridgeview Heights Assisted Living in 2014.

Lola was a member of St. Vincent Ferrer Church, where she taught CCD classes and was a CCD Coordinator. Lola also was a 4-H leader and past part-time librarian for 15 years at the Osceola Library.

Lola is survived by her children --- Randy Urban of Osceola, Kent

(Peggy Johnson) Urban of Shelby, Connie (Ron) Boruch of Osceola, Janet (Larry) Neujahr of Osceola, Richard Urban of Silver Creek, and Gregg (Cindy) Urban of Fairbury --- and 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Francis; parents Earl and Naomi Hardle; sons Jerome and Raymond; three infant babies; granddaughter, Nicki Glatter, and brother, Milton Hardle.

Thanks for your service to the American Legion Auxiliary. You will always be remembered for your kind ways and service.



1991



2020



1990-1991 Theme

OFFICE NOTES

Roxanne Hiatt has joined the office team. She is still training, so be kind when you call and she answers the phone.

Thanks for sending in your unit donations. Reminder: Please send the colored sheets back to me. This helps with my time and filing.

Reminder: Poppy orders go on a separate check! As do Membership payments! All other donations may be combined.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BOUGHT RAFFLE TICKETS!! You helped raise \$3400! Great job!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED GIFT CARDS!!!! You helped give away \$1155 in gift cards.

Gift Card	Amount	Winner
Visa	\$25	Julie Totten
Barnes & Noble	\$25	James & Eva Crawford
American Express	\$25	Harlene Bicknase
Cornhusker Debit	\$25	Vicki Ozenbaugh
Target	\$20	Dillon Hanel
Cabela's	\$50	Bernice Weber
Amazon	\$25	Connie Deke
Bath & Body Works	\$20	Donna Hatfield
Office Depot	\$35	Barbie Meyer
Hobby Lobby	\$20	JoAnn Johnson Unit 225
Lowe's	\$25	Crys Bauermeister
Amazon	\$25	Vicki Ozenbaugh
Target	\$40	Julie Totten
Scheels	\$30	Saundra Karst
Barnes & Noble	\$25	Rose Janke
Walmart	\$20	Nathan Deke
Menards	\$30	Pat Wiseman
Home Depot	\$25	Rose Janke
Best Buy	\$100	Mary Kempf
Michaels	\$20	Pat Wiseman
Target	\$25	Paula Pillen
Office Depot	\$50	Janelle Janeck
Walmart	\$25	Vicky Thompson
Amazon	\$25	Marissa Olhrich
Visa	\$25	Scheryl Tonniges
Amazon	\$50	Barbara Ross
Menards	\$20	Sharon Scott
Home Depot	\$25	Connie Deke
Lowe's	\$25	Julie Totten
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$50	Pat Wiseman
JOANN	\$25	Vicki Cyboron
Lowe's	\$25	Gwenda Ruff
Barnes & Noble	\$50	James Costello
Kohl's	\$50	Kristi Edwards
Disney	\$25	Kim Gurley
J.C. Penney	\$25	Cheryl Schult Unit 159
Amazon	\$25	Kristi Edwards

QUILTS OF VALOR

On August 13, a Quilt of Valor was presented to Maurice (Boots) Parks at his home. It was presented by American Legion Auxiliary president Loree Dienstbier. Before the quilt was presented, Loree told about the history of Quilts of Valor. These quilts are to be used and wrapped around veterans for comfort.

Maurice "Boots" served in the US Army. He enlisted April 14, 1944 and is a World War II veteran. He was honorably discharged on February 16, 1946.

Boots served in the Pacific Theatre in the Philippines and Japan under General Douglas MacArthur. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the

American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippines Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Boots was unaware of the presentation; and, when he was asked what he thought, he said he was flabbergasted. He shared that he was married shortly before he left for the Army and his wife had their first child when he was gone. When he got home, she was afraid of him.

Boots’ son Ron and wife Connie (pictured) and granddaughter Trish Dezort were present. The American Legion Riders formed a flag line and --- after the presentation --- saluted Boots. Everyone thanked him for his service.



2020/2021 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
Oct.	#61 Sutton	#377 Wilcox	#353 Louisville	#283 Platte Center	#200 Bayard	#133 Culbertson	#197 Eagle
Nov.	#145 Bloomington	#225 Eddyville	#216 Gretna	#127 Craig	#213 Wallace	#213 Wallace	#222 Shubert
Dec.	#38 Ord	#251 Arcadia	#371 Valparaiso	#62 Newcastle	#7 Alliance	#310 Dalton	#235 Union
Jan.	#290 Elwood	#290 Elwood			#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#49 Utica
Feb.	#310 Gibbon		Dorchester Sr.	#357 Brunswick	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#146 Rising City
March	#335 Davenport	#316 Elm Creek	#110 DeWitt	#283 Platte Center		Dorchester Jr.	#354 Pleasant Dale
April	#250 Oconto	#250 Oconto		#322 Swanton		#364 Naponee	Dorchester Jr.
May		#225 Eddyville					
June							
July			#353 Louisville	#302 Leigh	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	
Aug.							
Sept.							
Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Vicki Colson Ph:(308)289-4836 Email: colson.vicki@yahoo.com							

BENNINGTON ALA

The Bennington American Legion Auxiliary Unit #266 celebrated their 100th Anniversary throughout the 2019-2020 year with a dinner in March for the American Legion Post #266 Birthday. In June, during the Bennington Days weekend, the Legion Hall featured several historical displays.

The Auxiliary used kiosks with posters to emphasize past presidents, state and national poppy poster winners, Nebraska Girl’s State, a kitchen remodel, and bake sale fundraisers. The Legion kiosks featured a WWII bomber jacket and hat. A POW Table was set, and their Veterans Memorial was featured. Also, their other activities of Fireworks Sales and Legion Baseball Teams were displayed.

In November, the American Legion sponsored a dinner to honor the Auxiliary’s 100th Anniversary.



Omaha Unit 1 Auxiliary took 15 buddy baskets to the Victory Apartments. We have 45 more to make in the next couple of weeks. Rose Sheehy, Barb Killion, and Kathy Mcdowall-Secret had a great time putting them together and delivering them.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Hello, members.

I am Shari Luther, a proud member of Brown County Unit #79 in Ainsworth, Nebraska. I am a 70-year member, joining as a tiny tot through the eligibility of my father, Ivan White (and also eligible through my husband, Wes Luther). I love working Membership and Junior Activities.

Every four years, this great nation of ours allows voters an opportunity to go to the polls and make their voices heard in the selection process of our President and in deciding other important issues. Since the voting age is now 18, some high school students have played a major role in the outcome of these elections. Many of today’s youth go to the polls well informed and better prepared to cast a ballot than some of us who have voted for years. How, you ask?

To a great extent, it’s because of the education process of our schools in this great state. However, there’s a side bar thrown in to how our children learn about government and are encouraged to vote come that important day in November. That is a notable program called “County Government Day.”

The American Legion and Auxiliary have sponsored this great program since 1947. To organize each year, hold a meeting of county officials, school administrators, and the Legion and Auxiliary members. Appoint a County Chairman.

Instruction in the function and operation of County Government Day rests within the school system. Let’s make this program a reality by hosting County Government Day in each county. With the COVID-19 situation, I hope some parts of this learning experience can still be held.

Please notify the American Legion Department Headquarters as soon as possible with a date and the name of the chairman.

Contact Info: Shari Luther, 1427 E 1st St., Ainsworth, NE 69210 – 402-387-2289.

Shari Luther
County Government Chair



VISION YOUR HISTORY

Our VISION for 2020-2021 should include our history. Each and every day, history is being made throughout the world. It is no different for the Auxiliary. Throughout the year, your unit is making its own history. Each and every member and unit has a story to tell over the course of the Auxiliary year. You need to record it for future generations.

For the units that wrote a 2019-2020 narrative, you have most of your work for the history book completed. Follow the guidelines in the ABC Book to compile your history book. Even though the deadline isn't until when your district holds their Convention, this can be done now. You have the "history" that is needed.

If your unit did not write a 2019-2020 narrative, you can still create a 2019-2020 History Book. Your Historian can utilize your unit's minutes and any publicity from last year to compile your history book.

And let's not forget to be recording this year's history. Utilize the monthly narrative template

(found in The ABC Book) to have your information ready to compile your 2020-2021 Narrative. Also, if you complete these each month at your meetings, you will have the information you need to complete the Mid-Year and End-of-Year reports with ease.

From the National level, there are three programs that will be promoted. They are:

HOW TO CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HOW TO INVOLVE A JUNIOR MEMBER

HOW TO RECORD AND POST TO “MEMBERS REMEMBER”

For a sneak preview, you can visit the National website (alaforveterans.org). Otherwise, I will be sharing information about them via the Auxiliary newsletters. Or, you can contact me if you would like to know more now.

The mission for the American Legion Auxiliary is "In the spirit of Service, Not Self to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans,

military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security." And our vision "is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.”

So, why do we promote our unit's history? "The heart of any organization's history is in its records --- items that officers, members, directors, staff, and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. They provide unique testimony to the achievements of an organization" --- ours --- The American Legion Auxiliary!

(Quoted material is taken from our National website.)

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Dept. Historian

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 12 Columbus Day – Department Headquarters Closed
- 24 Make-A-Difference Day
- 31 Halloween

November

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 3 Election Day - Remember to Vote!
- 6 Deadline for articles for the December issue of "The Star"
- 10 Happy 100th Birthday American Legion Auxiliary
- 11 Veterans Day
- 26 Thanksgiving Day - Department Headquarters Closed
- 27 Department Headquarters Closed

For Your Advanced Planning

January 15-17, 2021	Mid-Year Convention, Columbus, NE
June 24-27, 2021	Department Convention, Lincoln, NE
Aug. 27 - Sept. 2021	National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

ALA GIRLS STATE - 2021

Cornhusker Girls State is coming June 6 - 12!

January would be a good time to go to your local schools and talk to the Junior girls about what Girls State is and how it can change their lives for the better.

We will have room for a maximum of 410 girls. The cost to send a girl was \$400 for this past year. The 2021 cost will be set after the Executive Council has their planning meeting this fall. You can do a fundraiser or ask a business or service club or Girls State Alumnus for help. Donations to help support this program may be made to an Auxiliary unit by **anyone**.

Girls State information will be coming to the units the first part of January. The deadline to get the application submitted is March 1, 2021. Now, I know we are all busy, but that gives you over a month and a half to get this done. Please get them in by the deadline. This will give Roxanne some time to process the paper work and get the acceptance letters back to the units. Also, make a copy of the application and signed Pledge sheet for future reference if needed.

Some of the District Orientations start around April 11. If your delegate cannot make it to your District Orientation, she can go

to another district's orientation. Orientations are important as this is where the girls learn more about Girls State and what is expected from them. It also gives them time to ask any questions they may have. Parents are also welcome to attend.

When you interview your girls, make sure they know that there is no leaving Girls State early --- especially for the ACT Test.

Volunteers will be needed again to help with the elections.

Nicole Vance
Cornhusker Girls State Chr.

VISION 2021 MEMBERSHIPS

The author Simon Sinek said, “People don’t buy what you do, they buy WHY you do it.”

What is your “Why?” Have you shared your story? Have you shown others your “why?” Have you asked others to join? What about the new bride that just moved to town? What about the new granddaughter just born? What about the spouse of a veteran or the new neighbor?

According to government census figures, Nebraska has just over 142,000 veterans in the state. I often hear Auxiliary members who have belonged for a long time say, "I know everyone in town and there is no one left to join.” In Nebraska, our 2021 Goal is 17,702; and, if 50% of the veterans in our state are under age 65 and 1/2 of them have a spouse, then we have a lot of people left to ask --- because that doesn't even count sisters, mothers, daughters, or grand-daughters. So, keep on asking. Carry those membership applications in your pockets.

All of the unit goals have been

sent out to the District Presidents and Vice Presidents. If they have not shared those numbers already, they will be sharing those numbers with your unit soon.

We are on our way to 101 units at 100% this year. The first unit to be at 100% is in District 2 --- Primrose Unit 347.

Remember to send in those dues you have collected right away. We don’t want anyone to lose out on benefits. The membership year is from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Your benefits begin on January 1 2021, but only if you have your membership for 2021 paid before that date.

We look forward to a Great year filled with Great Vision.

Kimberly Gurley
"Vision 2021"
Membership Chr. 2020-2021

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 NOVEMBER 6, 2020



The Valparaiso ALA Unit 371 delivered treats to the Saunders County Law Enforcement offices to thank them for their service. Pictured, L-R, are Marge Suchy, Cindy Redlinger, Susan Kliment, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Kyle Coughlin.



Past Department President Evelyn Dvorak of St Paul Unit 309 recently attended the 2020 Howard County American Legion Family Meeting. She looks great being 94 years young! Thanks for your continued service to the ALA.

DIST.	DISTRICT NAME	% TO GOAL
2	EYE of the Tiger	40.58%
3	I Can't Take My EYES Off of You	32.08%
12	My EYES Adore You	26.31%
13	Fix My EYES	23.55%
7	Betty Davis EYES aka Betty Paes Eyes	22.69%
8	Private EYES	22.51%
11	Cotton EYED Joe	21.68%
1	I Can SEE Clearly	20.21%
10	LOOK at Us	17.70%
6	When Can I SEE You Again?	17.22%
5	Hungry EYES	12.35%
9	I SEE the Light	11.68%
4	I Only Have EYES for YOU	9.88%
	Total Department	22.75%
	Goal from National	
14	Department Unit 500	12.28%

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person’s strength..
Proverbs 17:22 New Living Translation

These days, there are many confusing and frightening things going on. We just don’t know what to expect sometimes. Solomon wrote many proverbs with advice on how to live our lives. He was a very wise man, and we would do good to listen to what he says.

It is important not to let life get us down. Remember that God is always with us and is planning good things for our lives. Keeping a happy attitude is good for our health, both physically and mentally.

Not only for ourselves, but try to spread good cheer as we help

our veterans. A smiling face, kind words, and patience go a long way in making a better world for everyone around us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us as we serve our veterans to be cheerful and smiling. Renew our spirits. Give us inspiration to find ways to make their days better even when we can’t visit them or give them hugs. Give us the strength to do the things we need to do. Thank You for Your many blessings. Please keep us all healthy and send healing to those who need it. Protect those who work to keep us “One Nation Under God.” In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Pat Wiseman
Dept. Chaplain

MUSIC

Autumn is here. In true Nebraska fashion, In September, we went from summer (90s) to late autumn (40s) in less than 24 hours!

This is a great season to give thanks and celebrate with music. One thing my sister and I have been asked to do is play piano duets outside for the care center residents. Such a small thing, but it brings so much joy. They roll out the electronic keyboard and seat the residents out in the lawn. If you have a guitar or other instrument at your disposal, offer your services to any shut-in residencies.

Enjoy the cool days and nights and give thanks for all blessings!

Louise Wheeler
Music Chr.

In Memoriam

Received August 10 to September 10, 2020

Betty E Wilson	Omaha.....	1	Thelma Barnes	Scotia	150
Avis Pittman	Omaha.....	1	Glenda Miller	North Platte	163
Shirley Rockel.....	Lincoln.....	3	Geraldine Eckles.....	Superior	187
June Chudly	Lincoln.....	3	Sue Gilbert.....	Milligan	193
Elva L Novotne	Lincoln.....	3	Ivy L Anderson.....	Decatur	215
Gloria L Dilocker.....	Brownsville, MN ...	3	Ruth Jenny	Mesa, AZ	216
Janice L Barr	Sun City, AZ	3	Doris K Erickson.....	Falls City.....	222
Arline Baird	Central City	6	Betty Crawford	Nebraska City...	235
Lois Johnson	Chadron	12	Blanche Capek	Milligan	240
Glenda D Gamby.....	Chadron.....	12	Darlene F Slezak.....	Milligan	240
Maryann Weinandt.....	Fremont.....	20	Floyddean Hawley	Edgar	248
Rita M Koch.....	Newcastle.....	31	Angela Ridgway.....	Fairfield.....	256
Marcella A Legler.....	Fremont.....	47	Vonda Gigax	Hayes Center....	287
Emma Lyon.....	Peoria, AZ.....	50	Theresa A Rice	Osmond.....	326
Shirley Vangroningen.....	Sutton.....	61	Joyce Gansebom	Omaha.....	326
Cheryl A Dedrickson.....	Sutton.....	61	Dorothy R Zymola.....	Bellevue.....	331
Mari Jessen	Battle Creek.....	75	Arlene J Mahoney.....	La Vista.....	331
Frances Praluner	Battle Creek.....	75	Ethel Kavan	Morse Bluff.....	340
Betty Edstrom.....	Omaha.....	82	Helen Kinnamn	Miller.....	351
Dorothy Anderson	Omaha.....	91	Loucille Reisslnd.....	Miller.....	351
Esther M Hale.....	Oklahoma City, OK.	93	Florence Schmidt	Deshler	352
Deloris McGinnis	Lincoln.....	105	Dorothy J Ballou.....	Wahoo	359
Shirley Hile.....	Ponca City, OK.	105	Laverne Souchek.....	Wahoo	371
Alice Ostrand.....	Broken Bow.....	126	Patricia Waschinek.....	Omaha.....	373
Joyce E Pfund	Fremont.....	129			

POTTER AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
RECOGNIZED BY COMMUNITY

The Potter Days celebration was held September 4-5, 2020. American Legion and Auxiliary members Jerry and Jeanne Steele were chosen as Grand Marshals by the 2020 Potter Days Committee.

Jeanne has been active in ALA Unit #291 for 40 years and is Membership Chairman and a Past Cheyenne County ALA President. Jeanne also helps choose Cornhusker Girls State attendees. She has been a Girl Scout and Boy Scout Assistant leader and is active in community projects and the United Methodist Church.

Jerry is a long-time American Legion member and the current Commander

of Post 291 He also is a Past District 4 Commander. Jerry served with the 45th Engineers as a helicopter Crew Chief in 1969-1972. Jerry is active in the refurbishing the American Legion Hall, has served as Scoutmaster, is President of the Veteran’s State Cemetery Alliance Foundation, and is an active member of the United Methodist Church, the Potter Community improvement Committee, the Potter Historical Foundation, and the Lions Club. He also is the Cheyenne-Duell County American Legion’s Government Day Chairman.



QUILTS OF VALOR



together nine quilts for the Quilts of Valor unit located in Alliance, Nebraska. As of July 4, 2020, there have been 253,000 quilts presented to very deserving veterans all across the nation. These quilts are pieced together with the utmost care and concern for the veteran to be honored.

Lou Marshall has put more than 12 hours into making a quilt, from start to finish, for a very special person in her life – her brother, William Rhett Campbell! He served in Vietnam during 1968-1969.

William was presented his Quilt of Valor on September 4th, 2020, a day before his birthday! Lou sent his quilt to their sister in Fayetteville, North Carolina, who participated in the presentation --- while Lou was there via Zoom! . The presentation was held at the Kirby Vacuum Store with the help of Rick and Latoya. Latoya is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Fayetteville.

Members of the Chadron, Nebraska ALA Unit 12 have kept themselves active in the community, but one member --- Lou Marshall --- has truly kept herself busy during this “down time” we have all been suffering through for most of the 2020 year! She has been doing quilting for the Quilts of Valor!

So far, Lou has assisted in putting

Thank you

Dear Elizabeth Paes,

Thank you so much for your generous support of my future education through the Department Roberta Marie Stretch Scholarship. This scholarship will benefit me greatly as I take the next step in my educational journey. Starting this August I will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I’ve always dreamt of becoming a teacher, which is why I will be majoring in Secondary English Education. I’m very passionate about helping and teaching others. Throughout high school, I was able to pursue these passions by being involved in peer mentoring and circle of friends. I hope to volunteer in similar organizations in college. I’m also very passionate about learning new things myself. I love to read lots of different kinds of books and travel to new interesting places to soak up all the information I can. In college, I’d love to study abroad. In addition to becoming a high school teacher, my goal is to earn my Master’s degree in counseling. Over the course of my high school career, I’ve seen how immensely important counselors are to student development and success. My own guidance counselor has inspired me so much. After finishing my postsecondary education, I’d love to return to a school just like Wilcox-Hildreth. I feel incredibly honored and grateful to have been chosen to receive this scholarship. Your contribution will help to relieve the financial burden of college, as well as allow me the opportunity to take the first step in achieving my goals.

Thank you,
Claire VanLaningham

Dear American Legion Auxiliary- Department of Nebraska,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$400 Department of Nebraska Scholarship. I am very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

By awarding me with the Department Nurses Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. You generosity has inspired me to help others.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Jensen
Chadron, NE

Thank you to all who participated in the “Summer Card Bash.” To all who contributed gift cards and purchased gift cards, Thank you. Even though all the tickets were not sold, it was a great success. You helped to keep our commitment to the organization and the programs we support. We congratulate the winners!

A special “Thank You” to our Department Secretary/Treasurer, Lisa Moore. From her concept of the raffle to the conclusion of the project, she was in there working to get it done. She used Facebook chats to update us online. Great job Lisa, and again thank you for helping us get going.

Elizabeth Paes, ALA Department of Nebraska President

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship Selection Committee,

Thank you for awarding me the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship. I feel honored to receive this scholarship. It will be used towards the cost of supplies and fees in the fall when I start college. It was very much appreciated!

Sam Mergheim
Shickley, NE

To the American Legion Auxiliary Department of NE,

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of my application for the Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship! Yesterday (Friday, May 29, 2020), I was informed that I have been named one of the 15 scholarship recipients. I feel honored, thankful, and incredibly excited to receive this news. Not only does this honor make my college experience feel more certain in these uncertain times, it gives me the opportunity to remember my grandfather in my educational pursuits. Earlier this spring, I was accepted to and have committed to attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. With this scholarship, I will be able to explore so many more opportunities available to me and truly make a positive impact in his memory. Thanks you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done.

Sincerely,
Emma Johnson

Dear American Legion Auxiliary,

I am honored to receive the Department Spirit of Youth Scholarship. Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship. It has been a strange year, and I look forward to starting college.

Sincerely,
Moran Boldt
Riverdale, NE

American Legion Auxiliary

Thank you for your generous \$400 scholarship. I am honored to have been selected for your award. I am looking forward to starting college at Bryan College of Health Sciences in the fall.

Holly Weber
Dorchester, NE

American Legion Auxiliary,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient for the nursing scholarship. This scholarship will help me pay for my college expenses and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for making this opportunity possible for me!

Jenna Cox
Valentine, NE

American Legion Auxiliary- Dept. of NE,

Thank-you for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. I plan to further my education and obtain my nursing degree at Mount Mary University. This Scholarship will help cover tuition, books, and other fees. Again, thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Natalie Reeves

Dear Elizabeth Paes & Lisa Moore,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of your generous scholarship! I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. This scholarship will greatly help me with the financial expenses of college. Thank you so much for helping me achieve my goal of becoming a nurse!

Sincerely,
Emily Coufal
Wahoo, NE

I would like to express my thanks towards you for choosing me as a recipient to the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship. I appreciate your recognition of my efforts. As I filled out in the form, I am going to Northeast Community College this fall for welding. Because of your generous gift, I will be able to focus on my studies without worrying about financial uncertainty. The money received will contribute towards tools and books. Thanks again for your generous scholarship which I was awarded.

Sincerely,
Lexi Schroeder

Dear American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship Selection Committee,

Thank you for awarding me the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship. I feel honored to receive this scholarship. It will be used towards the cost of supplies and fees in the fall when I start college. It was very much appreciated!

Sam Mergheim
Shickley, NE

American Legion Auxiliary,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient for the Nurses Scholarship! It will be very beneficial in helping me continue my education at UNK! In the fall, I plan to attend UNK and major in Pre-Nursing through the KHOP (Kearney Health Opportunities Program) program!

Allison Miller
Lawrence, NE