

Dan Benes Elected State Commander



Daniel E. Benes of Valparaiso was elected as the State Commander of the Nebraska American Legion during the 103rd Annual Convention held June 25 - 27, 2021, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Benes is eligible for The American Legion through his 31 years of service in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve. He has been a member of The American Legion and Post 371 in Valparaiso for 41 years. He has served as District 7 Commander and Vice Commander, and Post Commander and Vice Commander.

Benes is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers, Nebraska Soybean Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau, and Saunders County Cattlemen.

Dan and his wife, Collie, live outside of Valparaiso where he is active in the family farming and cattle operation. He has five sons, one daughter, three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law and 11 grandchildren.

Other Department Officers elected during the convention were Department Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy of Valparaiso, Area A Vice Commander Michael Sheridan of Omaha, Area B Vice Commander William Berney of Spalding, Area C Vice Commander James Doyen of Clay Center, and Area D Vice Commander Monte Warner of Paxton. District Commanders newly installed were District 1 Judy Walters, District 3 Michael Ellis, District 4 Beth Linn, District 6 Julie Schnitzler, District 7 Jerry Schulte, District 8 Fran Shelton, and District 12 William Lawrence.

Maynard Jensen Memorial Scholarships Awarded

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, selected 20 recipients of the Maynard Jensen Scholarship. The Maynard Jensen scholarship began in 1989 as “The American Legion Scholarship” and it was renamed in 1992 in memory of Past Department Commander Maynard Jensen of Aurora.

Jensen was a World War II Navy Veteran who served in the invasion of Normandy and then in Southern France. He served as the Nebraska American Legion Department Commander from 1971-72. Jensen also served on numerous Department Committees within The American Legion.

For the 33rd consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money. The recipients of \$500 scholarships are Jaya Nelson of Bassett; Trey Lamkins of Union; Kiara Mikkelsen of Superior; Brooklyn Kohmetscher of Lawrence; Audra Nolting of Bancroft; Calyn Laible of Merna; Kaden Wykert of Sutherland; Kinlee Bacon of Bancroft; Kati Topp of Winside; Jared Fox of Paxton; Charlotte Turner of Omaha; Kassidy Hoerle of Amelia; Olivia Gottula of Burchard; Madison Spatz of Brainard; Zackry Henke of Dalton; Kylie Meinke of Crete; Kelby Mumm of Hebron; Rebecca Hupp of O’Neill; Carin Mellick of Waterbury; and Kylee Lehmkuhler of Arnold.



National Convention in Phoenix

The 102nd Annual National Convention will be held August 27 - September 2nd at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Committee meetings, the Nebraska Legion Caucus, and the Tri-Stack Party with North and South Dakota will all be held on Sunday, August 29. There will be no parade this year.

The general session begins on Tuesday, August 31 and will conclude at approximately noon on Thursday, September 2.

Delegates and alternates were voted on at Department Convention, but there is still time to get your name on the list if you would like to attend. Nebraska will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel two blocks from the convention center. Information must be returned to Department by July 9th. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.

The Nebraska Legionnaire

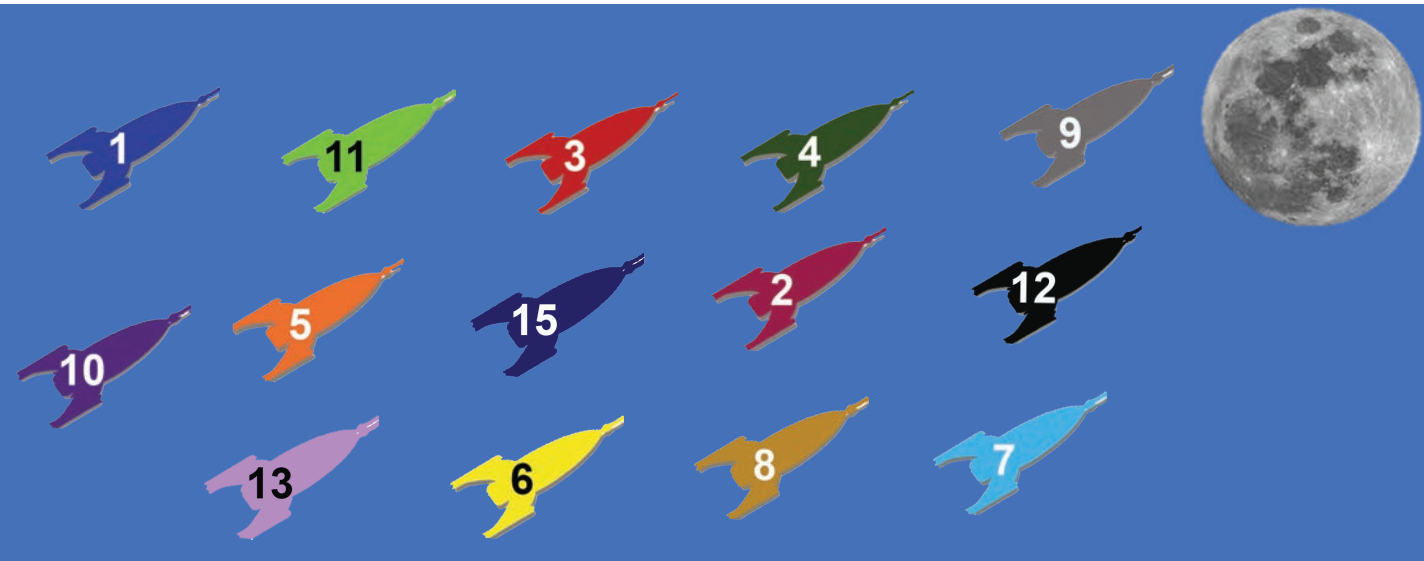
P.O. Box 5205

Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

BLASTING OFF TO 100%

2021 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,978 JUNE 22ND TOTAL: 25,319 - 93.85%

DISTRICT 9—95.41%	DISTRICT 12—95.27%	DISTRICT 7—95.21%	DISTRICT 4—94.14%	DISTRICT 2—94.11%
DISTRICT 8—93.77%	DISTRICT 3—93.63%	DISTRICT 15—92.71%	DISTRICT 6—92.67%	DISTRICT 11—92.47%
DISTRICT 5—92.26%	DISTRICT 13—92.19%	DISTRICT 1—91.42%	DISTRICT 10—90.23%	





Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



Why Should Veterans Choose To Use Veterans Affairs Health Care?

There are many reasons why veterans should consider using VA as their health care provider. One of the most important is the VA provides outstanding care to veterans and secondly VA health care providers understand veterans, their needs, and their unique health concerns. The focus of VA medical providers is that of serving veterans, thus their experiences and knowledge of treating veterans goes beyond the medical provider whose practice may see one veteran per month. By using the VA health care system veterans are providing important health care data that benefits current and future veterans in understanding how to better treat health care issues that present more often in veterans than the general US population.

As a Veteran Service Officer, I have had the opportunity to speak with many veterans across Nebraska regarding VA health care. The good, the bad, and the ugly of VA health care explained from veterans and their spouses/caregivers regarding their individual personal experiences. As a veteran I have been participating in VA health care for over 30 years and I have had many similar experiences as other veterans with whom I discuss this topic (good, bad, and ugly), in recent years I’ve had many more of the good experiences with the VA health care system than any other. Some veterans have informed me they had a terrible experience 20 or more years ago at the VA and have never considered using VA health care again. If one takes the time to reflect on different experiences throughout one’s life, there are likely times in which we’ve each had a poor experience with a company or person that made us question why we would want to do business or be around such a person. Often one experience is just that and not the whole picture, or the future of such relationships. I encourage veterans who meet the eligibility requirements to enroll in VA health care and begin using the benefits they earned while serving our great Nation. For veterans who receive VA disability compensation (10% or above) and are currently enrolled in VA health care are eligible for no cost hearing aids and glasses. I can attest the VA health care system has significantly improved over the last 30 years and has expanded avenues for veterans to access health care to include “Care in the Community.” The VA health care system through eBenefits provides for a Veteran to access their medical records, communication with medical providers, and prescription refills. We as Nebraska veterans are very fortunate in having quality VA health care facilities across our great State along with medical providers who participate in the Care in the Community program. If you have not using VA health care or have not considered doing so, I encourage you to contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) or VA eligibility at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) to apply for enrollment.



Chaplain’s Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain



(New Thing)

On Saturday, 22 May 2021, many Nebraska Legionnaires, and community persons observed the naming of our state’s Highway (Hwy) 20 as NE Medal of Honor (MoH) Hwy. It came about because concerned individuals, like Daryl Harrison, American Legion NE Area A Vice Commander, and others, walked 432 miles from Wyoming border to South Sioux City to draw attention to a few American service persons who gave their all-in sacrifice for their country during times of strife in many foreign scenarios.

But the question begged to be asked is: why aren’t there more MoH persons who served, or are serving, our nation during our trials of strength? Remember when Abraham, our human spiritual father of faith, led a rescue effort to free his nephew, Lot, from the hands of the enemies of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 14: 8-16)? There are untold examples of heroic efforts in Holy Scripture that would have earned various persons the MoH, but is this noble award simply about getting medals, or focused upon human valor in rare times? What’s wrong with anyone stepping up to fight for Jesus amid this country’s seeming fall from grace and mercy (Galatians 5:4)?



When followers of God fall into Apostacy (2 Thessalonians 2:3), which is Greek for the counterfeiting of God’s Gospel, they become caught up more in the world’s fleshly attractions, rather than pursuing God’s holiness (i.e., separate lifestyle unto the Lord) as noted in Romans 6:19. Apostacy is due to sin, followed by God’s eternal damnation (2 Peter 2:3). Only Jesus may save such a one in spiritual peril (Ephesians 1:13).

Yet, all is not lost. The Coming Light of Jesus (Matthew 26:64) will dawn upon humankind after our brief suffering under the Coming Darkness prescribed by Satan’s Anti-Christ reign with His second coming (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Yep! It’s a battle royale, but guess who remains champ? Yeah, you guessed it: Jesus! Want to be on the winning side? Earn your spiritual MoH by simply accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9,10), and continue in His holy way to hear your Lord say, “... Well done, thou good and faithful servant...” (Matthew 25:21).

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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Commander.....Dan Benes, Valparaiso
Senior Vice Commander.....Don Suchy, Valparasio
Area A Vice Commander.....Michael Sheridan, Omaha
Area B Vice Commander.....William Berney, Spalding
Area C Vice Commander.....James Doyen, Hastings
Area D Vice Commander.....Monte Warner, Paxton
Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
Activities Director.....Brent Hagel-Pitt, Lincoln
Chaplain.....Dr. William Jackson Jr., Lincoln
Historian.....Jennifer Salak, Omaha
Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha
Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Michael Landkamer, Columbus
Service Officer.....Levi Bennett, Lincoln
National Executive Committeeman.....William Crosier, Kearney
Alternate NECman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln

District Commanders

Dist. 1.....Judy Walters, Ainsworth
Dist. 2.....Dave Merrick, Creighton
Dist. 3.....Michael Ellis, Allen
Dist. 4.....Beth Linn, Scottsbluff
Dist. 5.....Marvin Donnelly, Hershey
Dist. 6.....Julie Schnitzler, Gibbon
Dist. 7.....Jerry Schulte, Valparaiso
Dist. 8.....Frances Shelton, Omaha
Dist. 9.....Dennis Kennedy, Culbertson
Dist. 10.....Roger Griffiths, Trumbull
Dist. 11.....Rodd Paul, Western
Dist. 12.....William Lawrence, Nehawka
Dist. 13.....Larry Borchert, Pawnee City
Dist. 15.....Ed Muggy, Lincoln



The NEBRASKA Legionnaire

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Kylea Pestel, Editor
Dave Salak, Publisher’s Representative

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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.


☐ I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Nebraska Legionnaire.

Name: _____

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



It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

July/August 1931 (90 years ago)

- Boasting of the 103 **MEMBERS** he has signed up for the American Legion this year, South Omaha Post No. 331 puts forward John **KRAJCEK** as the prize “Go-Getter” in Nebraska Legion circles this year.
- For the first time in history, the American Legion has reached the **MILLION** mark in its national membership, the goal being reached on July 3, one day ahead of the date which had been set.
- Representing himself as W. Bowen of **PLATTSMOUTH** and using an American Legion membership card as identification, a man was successful in putting over a **FORGED** cashier’s check for \$100 drawn on the Farmer’s State Bank of Plattsmouth at Davenport, Iowa this month. He passed the forged check and obtained an automobile from a Davenport Legion member who relied on the identification made thru Bowen’s supposed Legion membership card.

July/August 1941 (80 years ago)

- One of the outstanding features of the 1941 American Legion Department Convention **PARADE** in **HASTINGS** will be the **MOUNTED** Color Guards of the **LEXINGTON**, **COZAD**, **GOTHENBURG**, **SUMNER**, and **THEDFORD** Posts. These mounted color guards, in uniform with matched **HORSES**, will be something new in Nebraska Legion convention activities and are expected to spotlight the parade.
- “12 members have signed up for 1942,” writes **PUBLICITY** Chairman F.M. Jones of **WINSIDE** Post No. 252 after reporting elections of new officers. “We have 13 **BACHELORS** in our post,” he continues. Whether there is any connection between the two statements, he did not say.

I was running errands the other day when I ran into the former Ashland Mayor Paul Lienke. We were talking about his late wife Jeanie, who used to do a lot for us at Ashland Legion Post 129. Paul mentioned that Jeanie was buried in her hometown in Minnesota.

It came up that Jeanie’s uncle Lloyd was aboard the USS Oklahoma when it went down December 7, 1941. To identify remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System at Offutt AFB, Nebraska used mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome DNA supplied by family. Jeanie as well as other family members were proud and happy to help. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Lloyd R Timm was 19 years old when he passed. His remains were identified September 27, 2019; and he was buried May 25, 2020, in Wabasha, Minnesota, next to his Niece, Jeanie Lienke.

The Oklahoma, moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft December 7, 1941. The Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to capsize quickly. The attack resulted in the deaths of 429 crewman.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu’uanu Cemeteries. In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in Honolulu, in 46 lots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the Punchbowl. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable.

A single casket of USS Oklahoma Unknowns was exhumed in 2003 and showed evidence of extensive commingling. The remaining USS Oklahoma Unknowns were later exhumed between June and November 2015 so all remains could be analyzed at one time. Since then, DPAA anthropologists and odontologists, located primarily at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, have worked to sort and analyze over 13,000 bones and associate them to missing Sailors and Marines. Genealogists from the Navy and Marine Corps Casualty Offices conducted research to find family members so that DNA testing could be conducted by scientists at the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, all of which were critical components in the identification process.

As of June 1, 2021, 338 individuals from the USS Oklahoma have been identified, and they represent the first successful completion of a project of such complexity. Even more remarkable than the success of this project are all the families who were able to receive the remains of their loved ones.

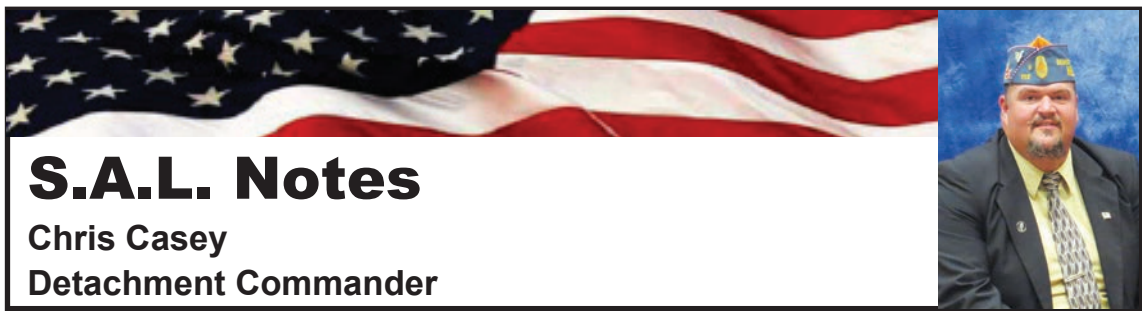
(To be continued in the next paper)

The Vets Get Pets Program is now open!

Eligible veterans can have up to \$350 in pet adoption fees covered through this program

Learn more at veterans.nebraska.gov/vetsgetpets





S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander

Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! We are beginning to see the light at the end of the dark tunnel known as COVID-19. Our Legion family has adapted and overcome the obstacles put in our path since the pandemic reached our shores. We must all continue to do everything we can to assist our veterans and their families as they attempt to return to a new normal. Now is the time to find a need at our Posts and in our communities and fill it!

June is always a busy month with elections at both the Squadron and Detachment levels. As a reminder, Squadron Adjutants should have sent their 2021-2022 Squadron Officer report to Detachment. The form should be completed and mailed/emailed immediately following elections. Please complete the form even if Officers have been reelected from the previous year. Please write legibly so that addresses and phone numbers get reported correctly.

We were only 228 memberships shy of achieving our 100% membership goal. We must do a better job of reminding our membership why they joined. We also must continue to find new ways to engage members in our programs so that they are eager to carry out our mission. We remain the largest Detachment in the Midwest Region. Continue to work those memberships and renewals!

If you have not already done so, please make sure to register for the updated MyLegion website. Sons members will be able to take ownership of their membership renewals if they choose to do so. They will no longer need to mail checks to the Squadron Adjutant or receive those “annoying” reminder calls. You also will be able to print your membership card from the website. National has continued to work on known issues and this has already proven to be a great tool for our membership.

The Sons of The American Legion continue to do great work across Nebraska. The Ashland Squadron 129 hosted their first annual charity golf tournament in June to benefit the Ashland American Legion Post and A Soldier’s Child Foundation. The Gretna Squadron 216 hosted a Texas Hold’em Tournament in June to assist the Gretna American Legion, veterans, and their community. Sons members are often vital pieces of their Post Honor Guards around the state. Sons were active at Memorial Day ceremonies from Gering to Papillion, Osmond to Ohioa, and everywhere in between.

We continue to have Posts from statewide contacting the Department about starting their own Squadron. For those that may be interested, it takes a minimum of 10 new Sons members (not transfers) to Charter a Squadron. At a minimum, a Commander and Adjutant need to be identified to submit the necessary paperwork for your Charter. Our wish is that every Post in our state would consider adding a Squadron to assist them in carrying out the four pillars of The American Legion. Please feel free to contact any Detachment Officer with questions you may have!

Sons of The American Legion Squadron Receives Award

Nathan Deke, Wilber Squadron 101 Vice Commander

The Roger Porter Squadron 341 of McCool Junction, Nebraska received the 6th annual membership plaque at the District 11 Convention for having the highest membership percentage out of the 23 Squadrons in District 11 by December 31, 2020 for the 2021 membership year.



District 11 Convention was held at the Western Post 255 on in March 2021. Pictured is Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Nebraska, Eastern Vice Commander David Rippe presenting the plaque to McCool Junction Officers (L to R) Justin Jacobson, Daniel Suhr, Phillip Coffey, John Smith, and Shane Smith.

The following Squadrons have received this honor; Milligan, Exter, Geneva, and Friend. We would like to say thank you and that we appreciate the District 11 American Legion for financing this membership project. The goal for this award is to promote timely membership turn in and increase the membership of all branches of The American Legion Family.



Hickman Squadron 105 member Hunter DeFreece participated in the Memorial Day Services with his local Post. He carried the memorial wreath for the program.



District News

District 1 - Judy Walters

I was born in San Diego, California at the Balboa Naval Hospital shortly after my father retired from the Navy after 20+ years. We moved back to O’Neill, Nebraska when I was an 8-year-old.

I was in the Navy from 1973 to 1977 completing boot camp at Orlando Florida. I was stationed with VP-31 Patrol Squadron at NAS Moffett Field, Mountain View California. I was a Yeoman 2nd Class and worked in the Instructional Development department of the squadron. VP-31 was the training squadron for the west coast P-3 sub hunters. I worked in Hanger 1 that once housed the Navy air ships and is the largest hanger covering 8 acres and so large it could form fog in the ceiling.

I moved back to O’Neill in 1981 which was when I first joined The American Legion. I worked 28 years at Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as a Social Service Worker in O’Neill and Social Service Supervisor in the Ainsworth and Valentine offices. I moved to Ainsworth after marrying Rich Walters in 1991. Rich passed away in 2014 after a five-year battle with cancer. The past seven years I have served as the Veteran Service Officer for Brown, Rock and Keya Paha. I retired November 2020 to spend time with family and care for my grandchildren. I have two children and three grandchildren. I am a past Commander of Brown County Post 79.

District 7 - Jerry Schulte

Greetings, at Department Convention I was installed as your District 7 Commander along with Adam Schweitzer as the District 7 Vice Commander. I have been a Legion member for 44 years. I have had the honor and opportunity to be your District 7 Vice Commander for over two years and the Dodge Post 122 Commander for the past five years and one year as the Dodge County Commander and Vice Commander. I have attended all the Dept Conventions, District 7 Conventions and Dodge County Conventions for the last five years. There has been a great deal of information that has been learned at these events.



We hope to listen and work with each Post family in District 7 to help them meet their goals and grow. District 7 will have their Fall Roundup on Sunday, October 17 in Yutan at which time we will all have the opportunity to learn and share ideas. We hope to visit all posts in District 7 to get to know everyone a little better and help make tasks easier and more beneficial. Together we can continue to grow District 7 to continue to be one of the top Districts in the Department.

District 12 - William Lawrence

As the District 12 Commander this year, I look forward to meeting and learning from many of The American Legion members within the department and explore a great opportunity to meet many more members within the district!

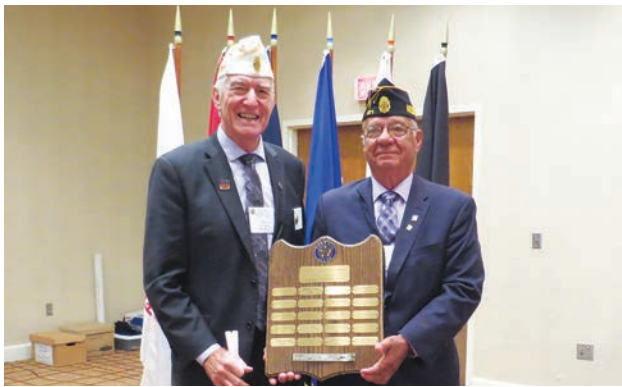
I am a native of Omaha, Nebraska, a veteran of the United States Air Force (USAF) and also the United States Marine Corps (USMC). I have been a member of Weeping Water Post 237 since 2013, serving as the Post Adjutant for the last several years. Besides Post administrative duties, I have been a member of the color and honor guard to support community events, funerals, and enjoy participating in parades.

Retiring from the USMC, I have had the privilege to continue working for the Department of Defense in the USAF as an information security and defensive cyber operations specialist working closely with active and reserve duty members. My best friend is my wife, Christina Allsman. We have been married since 1986 and blessed with two daughters, Veronica and Michaela.

I am looking forward to meeting all and serving the district and department!



2021 Department Convention - Lincoln



Don Suchy presented the 2021 Crowbar Award to Commander Gary Wooten. Pictured (L to R) Gary Wooten and Don Suchy.



Department Adjutant Dave Salak presented Commander Gary Wooten with a gift from the DEC, Officers, and Committee Chairmen. Pictured (L to R) Gary Wooten and Dave Salak.



Commander Gary Wooten presented the family of PDC George Cyboron with a memorial resolution. Pictured (L to R) Kathryn Cyboron, Commander Gary Wooten, and Vicki Cyboron.



PDC Jim Costello presented the 2021 Cody Kerr Award to Chuck Tuttle accepting for James A. Menke of Nelson Post 187. Pictured (L to R) PDC Jim Costello, Chuck Tuttle, and Commander Gary Wooten.



PDC Lyle Bartels installed the newly elected District Commanders and Vice Commanders.



The front table during the Joint Opening Ceremony. Pictured (L to R) Riders Liaison Marty Timberlake, Sons Commander Bud Neel, Commander Gary Wooten, Chaplain Dr. Jackson Jr., Auxiliary President Elizabeth Paes, and Sons Chaplain Tim Hecke.



Department Commander Gary Wooten presented the 2021 Nebraska Teacher-of-the-Year Awards to: Elementary School Kathy Hansen of Winside Public Schools, Middle School Susan Eigsti of Friend Public Schools, and High School Mardi Milton of Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools. Pictured (L to R) Commander Gary Wooten, Mardi Milton, Susan Eigsti, and Kathy Hansen.



Membership Chairman Steve Bartos presented certificates to Posts who reached 100% of their goal.



Department Commander Gary Wooten awarded District Citizenship medals. Pictured top row (L to R) District 11 Larry C. Kaspar, District 7 Commander Dan Benes accepting for Herbert P. Barnes, District 10 Vice Commander Donald Nelson accepting for James A. Menke, District 8 Commander Dave Doolen accepting for Donald E. Kiviniemi, District 9 Commander Dennis Kennedy accepting for Larry D. VonLoh, District 15 Commander Eddy Muggy accepting for Bruce C. Gubser, and Department Commander Wooten. Pictured front row (L to R) District 12 Commander David Glantz accepting for Anthony Moreno, District 4 Commander John Sanna accepting for Sarah L. Foland, Area A Vice Commander Daryl Harrison accepting for David M. Foreshore, District 6 John P. Arias, District 5 Commander Marv Donnelly accepting for LeRoy P. Hernandez, and District 1 Vice Commander Gary Sones accepting for John P. Dueker.

Fund Drive Underway for Grand Island State Veterans Cemetery

Grand Island has a proud history of honoring and caring for its veterans beginning in 1887 with the establishment of the Nebraska Soldiers and Sailors Home. When the home moved to Kearney two years ago the City of Grand Island took over responsibility for looking after Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The Hall County Hero Flight Association is now leading a community effort to expand and upgrade the cemetery located at the southwest corner of the 600-acre Veteran's Home property.

The group is seeking state and federal designation for the cemetery. State cemeteries have eligibility like the Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries; however, residency requirements may also be included. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, State Veterans Cemeteries are run solely by the state.

Last year the Nebraska Legislature unanimously approved LB 911 paving the way for development of the cemetery and the City of Grand Island lent support with a pledge of the additional acreage needed for the expansion.

The larger cemetery would serve veterans and their families for decades to come. The Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery will accept veterans from across Nebraska and the nation and provide for the internment of spouses. The state designation also requires that the grooming and ongoing maintenance and care of the grave sites, facilities, and grounds must comply with highest federal cemetery standards.

With that mission completed fundraising is now focused on securing the \$750,000 in local matching funds required for the \$7.5 million cemetery development cost. So far \$168,000 has been raised and the official fundraising effort was launched May 11th. Donations may be made to: The Hall County Hero Flight Association, 131 South Locust, Grand Island, NE 68801. The Veterans Cemetery Committee is led by Hero Flight Chairman, Don Shuda, and includes Don Smith, Vice Chair, Jay Vavricek, Pam Lancaster, Mike Ponte, Dan Naranjo, and other members of the community.

Cancer Care Insurance Plan

If you find yourself battling cancer, you may want help to cover the high cost of treatment and recovery. That's where this coverage comes in. Your American Legion



Department Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan, helps pay towards the cost of cancer – which may run into the thousands of dollars. Your current health insurance may not be enough to cover all of these costs.

That's why this coverage offers benefits – up to a lifetime maximum of \$300,000.00* – to Legionnaires who have been diagnosed with cancer. These benefits are paid directly to you or anyone you choose – not to doctors, hospitals or anyone else. Benefits from this plan could be used to pay for:

Hospital bills, Chemotherapy, Operations, Doctor visits, Nursing care, Prescription drugs, Mortgage, and more...

Even if cancer runs in your family or if you suffer from other serious medical problems – you are guaranteed acceptance into this plan as long as you have not been diagnosed with cancer (except skin cancer) in the last 5 years (3 years in LA, 2 years in VT, 12 months in TX, 6 months in ID, NV, and UT), and remain a Legionnaire in good standing.

This coverage provides benefits to help you pay for your fight against cancer. Apply for the Your American Legion Department Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan today.

Membership Minute
Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

On behalf of Commander Wooten and the Department Membership Committee, I want to extend a big “Thank You” to everyone who put forth some effort, large or small, to get our membership work back on track for the 2021 membership year. While we are still not totally back to normal, the situation has certainly improved enough that we can do most of the activities we need or desire to do. We should all be grateful for that.

July brings Independence Day and the start of the 2022 membership year. It’s a time to re-energize and spread some enthusiasm while still trying to catch some 2021 renewals.

The 2022 Direct Renewal notices from Indianapolis are in the mail or already here. They help considerably but will never replace some old-fashioned personal contact when it comes to finding and recruiting new members or renewing those current members who are sitting on the fence looking for an excuse not to renew.

Please keep in mind that the DMS-acquired members in Post 500 remain a good source of members for your local posts and will also be receiving renewal notices, and those members may be inclined to renew and transfer into a local post if they receive some personal contact NOW.

Renewal dues for Post 500 are established at no less than the most expensive dues in the department, and that alone may well be a good enough incentive for those Post 500 members to transfer and renew into your post!!! Especially those members who joined Post 500 in just the last year. They just recently took the initiative to join. It’s early in the renewal period. Your post’s lower dues may help. Belonging to a local post should also be attractive.

Please process your regular renewals as soon as you start receiving them. Establish some kind of regular schedule for transmitting them, and don’t hold on to them forever and a day!! There is an incentive for the individual “regular” Legionnaire who pays his or her dues early, a \$150 worth of incentive. Any member whose dues are paid AND transmitted (postmarked) to Headquarters by September 7th shall be in a drawing for \$150. Legionnaires, pay your dues promptly. Adjutants, make sure you send them in!

The migration to the new MyLegion.org remains a frustrating and disappointing work in progress. Several of the good reports that I use are still unavailable to me, and I hear the same complaints from other Legionnaires locally and from other states. As a member of the National Membership & Post Activities Committee, I know that it is important we remain patient and supportive of what is hoped to be an improved MyLegion. However, be assured that when my committee meets in Phoenix in August. I plan to voice my concerns and disappointment to the committee and national staff. I hope I can provide a more positive update in the next Nebraska Legionnaire.

Have a nice July.

2021 Stoldorf New Member Incentive Awards

Individual Awards

Category I

Creighton Post 74	Kenneth Meyer	8 new members	\$250.00
Wood Lake Post 202	Walter Ries	3 new members	\$83.33
Culberton Post 335	Dennis Kennedy	3 new members	\$83.33
Nelson Post 187	James Menke	3 new members	\$83.33

Category II

Dodge Post 122	Jerry Schulte	5 new members	\$250.00
Prague Post 254	Larry Johnson	3 new members	\$62.50
Howells Post 155	Glen Mlnarik	3 new members	\$62.50
Friend Post 183	Kenneth Lindsay	3 new members	\$62.50
Friend Post 183	Shawn Gray	3 new members	\$62.50

Category III

Morse Bluff Post 340	Rollie Otte	4 new members	\$250.00
David City Post 125	Dale Cooper	3 new members	\$150.00
David City Post 125	James Daro	1 new member	\$33.33
Hastings Post 11	Clark Williams	1 new member	\$33.33
Bellevue Post 339	Don Kiviniemi	1 new member	\$33.33

Category IV

Valparaiso Post 371	Daniel Benes	14 new members	\$250.00
Grand Island Post 53	Richard Simpson	4 new members	\$150.00
Grand Island Post 53	Greg Martin	3 new members	\$100.00

Post Awards

Category I

Indianola Post 334	124.14% of goal	\$350.00
Wood Lake Post 202	122.22% of goal	\$150.00

Category II

Elkhorn Post 211	116.67% of goal	\$350.00
Hebron Post 180	107.41% of goal	\$150.00

Category III

Bennington Post 266	108.26% of goal	\$350.00
Utica Post 49	105.05% of goal	\$150.00

Category IV

Gretna Post 216	101.38% of goal	\$350.00
Fremont Post 20	99.07% of goal	\$150.00



York Post 19 presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Commander Bill Hardy, Perry and Lucille Reichlinger.



Genoa Post 144 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Richard Green and Commander John Buhl.



Atkinson Post 86 presented a donation to West Holt High School. Pictured (L to R) Superintendent Paul Pistulka and Ken Stenka.



Beatrice Post 27 presented the Homestead 4-H Sporter Air Rifle team their 2021 State Championship trophy. Pictured (L to R) Andrew Enns, Jaden Gernsey, Colt Dittbrenner, Ty Dittbrenner, Coach Mike Yocum, and Commander Jerry Lamkin.

Mail Call

Department Headquarters has recently received many thank you notes from scholarship recipients. Maynard Jensen Scholarship recipients Brooklyn Kohmetscher, Audra Nolting, Madison Spatz, Rebecca Hupp, Kati Topp, Calyn Laible, Zackry Henke, and Kelby Mumm. Boschult Scholarship recipients Rylee Babish, Dane Bowers, and Kolby Daily. Eagle Scout recipient Aaron McClellan each sent a note thanking Nebraska Legionnaires for the help financially and supporting their future education.



Acklie, Marvin L., Lincoln, Korea
Albright, Donald H., Benson, Korea
Andersen, Ardean, Aurora, WWII
Anderson, Lynn L., Alliance, Vietnam
Anson, Stan, South Omaha, Korea
Aschoff, Ron E., Osmond, Korea
Bailey, Charles, North Omaha, Korea
Ballentine, James L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Bangs, Loren D., Aurora, Vietnam
Barnes, Earl K., Doniphan, WWII
Batenhorst, Chris, West Point, WWII
Bathke, Herbert M., South Sioux City, Korea
Bauer, Duane, Loup City, Korea
Bayne, Virgil M., Coleridge, WWII
Becker, Robert C., Wilber, Vietnam
Bessmer, Ronald G., Plainview, Korea
Blumanhourst, Alvin E., Cozad, Korea
Blunck, Lyle G., Creighton, Korea
Boes, Allen D., Stuart, Korea
Booth, Roger Q., Wilcox, Vietnam
Borer, Lawrence J., Elgin
Bottger, Mel, Grand Island, Vietnam
Bottom, Robert, Hebron, Korea
Brand, James E., Gering, Vietnam
Brauer, Siegfried H., Norfolk, WWII
Brewer, Junior, North Omaha, Vietnam
Brune, Leonard, Dodge, Korea
Burton, William T., Lincoln, Korea
Cary, David O., Ashland, Korea
Case, Cappy C., Millard, Vietnam
Catchpool, Stan, York, Vietnam
Chandler, Don A., Lincoln, Korea
Charron, Kenneth F., Central City, Korea
Correia, Antonio Jr., Omaha, Korea
Crook, Timothy D., Nebraska City, Vietnam
Dahlke, William E., Auburn, Korea
Dahms, Kenneth, Grand Island, WWII
Danbom, William R., Maywood, Korea
Dart, Louis Jr., Dwight, Korea
Dey, Vernon F., Gresham, Korea
Dobbs, Charles L., Weeping Water, Korea
Dokulil, Stanley, Wahoo, WWII
Doll, Lyle A., Millard, WWII
Donner, Philip V., Crofton, Korea
Douglas, George N., Naponee, Korea
Dunning, Alvin D., Litchfield, Korea
Eckhoff, Randell, Ashland, Vietnam
Edwards, Paul, Hardy, Korea
Eliason, Paul L., Wahoo, WWII
Faires, Joel F., Millard, Korea
Falck, Paul E., Cordova, Korea
Feddersen, Dale, Oconto, Vietnam
Fendek, David K., Auburn, Vietnam
Fishback, James L., Millard, Vietnam
Fisher, Larry G., Bridgeport, Vietnam
Fittje, Ronald R., Morse Bluff, Vietnam
Fitzsimmons, Michael L., St Paul, Grenada/Lebanon
Fleming, Kenneth, Sidney, Korea
Fornoff, Phillip B., Hayes Center, Korea
Fritz, James L., Butte, Vietnam
Geiken, Alvin L., Gothenburg, WWII
Gibson, Gerald N., Lincoln, Korea
Giroux, Marcel F., Columbus, Korea
Gishwiller, John, Wilcox, Korea
Gnuse, Robert L., Arlington, Vietnam
Grey, Roy G., Columbus, Vietnam
Gubbels, Vernon A., Randolph, Korea
Gutz, Albert H., Shelby, WWII
Hagemeister, Charles C., Lincoln, Vietnam
Hanrahan, Donald L., Millard, Korea
Hansen, Armand H., Grant, WWII
Hansen, James A., Walthill, Korea

Hanson, Bennet G., South Sioux City, Korea
Harper, Robert C., Hebron, Korea
Harris, Jack, Fairmont, Vietnam
Hartmann, William F., Garland, Korea
Haskins, Francis A., Lincoln, WWII
Heinz, Eugene O., Lawrence, Korea
Hemberger, Norbet, Holstein, Korea
Henderson, William A., Scottsbluff, WWII
Henry, Duane, Orleans, Vietnam
Herron, John Jr., Chadron, SAL
Hilderbrand, Merlin D., Central City, Korea
Hill, Raymond M., Syracuse, WWII
Hill, Ronnie D., Auburn, Vietnam
Hill, Sedgfield D., Plattsmouth, WWII
Hinrichs, George W., Laurel, Korea
Hlavec, John J., Lawrence, Korea
Hlavica, Frank R., Crete, WWII
Hoban, Thomas L., Havelock, Vietnam
Hoer, Chris L., Silver Creek, Korea
Hoobler, Lewis C., Pleasant Dale, WWII
Huber, Paul, Friend, Korea
Huneke, Robert R., Lincoln, Vietnam
Ingram, James L., Franklin, WWII
Johnson, Eric S, Central City
Johnson, Norman E., Central City, Vietnam
Jones, Alanson L., Broken Bow, Korea
Juranek, Virgil D., Campbell, Korea
Kalmer, Thomas E., Ohiowa, SAL
Keitges, William L., Omaha, WWII
King, Perry M., St. Paul, Korea
Klein, Henry Jr., Columbus, Vietnam
Kohl, Leonard A., Crete, WWII
Korus, Harry, Lindsay, Korea
Kothe, Cletus, Doniphan, Vietnam
Krieger, Lavern, Atkinson, Vietnam
Krieger, Russell L., Millard, Korea
Kudlacek, Rodney P., Milligan, Vietnam
Lange, Walter W., Wymore, Korea
Lanning, Gail, Eagle, Vietnam
Larson, Ralph H., Arnold, Korea
Laska, Dennis J., Columbus, Korea
Lauritsen, George L., Omaha, WWII
Lee, Bennie L., Benson, Vietnam
Legler, William R., Fremont, Korea
Legrand, Lyle L., Fremont, Korea
Leon, David, Alliance, WWII
Lonowski, Richard, Grand Island, Other Conflicts
Loraas, Cindy R., Papillion, Lebanon/Grenada
Mariniello, Peter, Papillion, Vietnam
Marquart, Verlen L., Deshler, Vietnam
Mars, Donald R., Hastings, Vietnam
Maslonka, Ralph, Pender, WWII
Matthes, Donald H., Lincoln, Korea
McGowan, Lawrence A., Fairmont, Korea
McKay, Gerald C., St Edward, Korea
Meeske, Keith, Beatrice, Vietnam
Meradith, Gary J., York
Minerich, Erick E., Clearwater, WWII
Moellenberndt, Robert, Aurora, Korea
Mohr, Marvin H., Ord, Korea
Montgomery, Robert L., Neligh, Korea
Morris, Merle, Auburn, WWII
Motis, Ernest L., Lincoln, Korea
Myers, Clay, Nelson, Korea
Myhre, Leland E., Saint Edward, WWII
Nelson, Donald E., Lincoln, WWII
Nelson, Leland G., Fullerton, WWII
Nelson, Richard W., Minden, Korea
Nesladek, David R., Morse Bluff, Vietnam
Nielsen, Orville, Spring Field, WWII
Nore, Russell A., Albion, WWII
O’Conner, James A., Greeley, Korea
Ostrander, Frank, Polk, Korea
Palensky, Don, Weston, Vietnam
Patton, Dale E., Aurora, Korea

Perry, Paul D., South Sioux City, Vietnam
Peters, Richard A., Hyannis, WWII
Peterson, Clifford, York, Korea
Petsche, David L., Denton, Vietnam
Preston, Wesley N., Lyons, Korea
Quigley, Dean L., Indianola, WWII
Racek, Keith E., Morse Bluff, Vietnam
Rath, Wilbur G., Laurel, WWII
Rathman, Donald L., Doniphan
Reed, Orval R., Wilber WWII
Reetz, Elvin, York, WWII
Reppert, Lee F., Pender, Vietnam
Rerucha, Richard J., David City, Vietnam
Rezac, Lawrence L., Valparaiso, Korea
Rieck, John L., Columbus, Vietnam
Rincker, Howard E., Hay Springs, WWII
Rodgers, Virgil L., Sutherland, Korea
Rohloff, Ben, Randolph, Vietnam
Rudloff, John, Verdigre, WWII
Russell, Ronald, Kearney, Korea
Sandin, Burdette E., Lincoln, WWII
Sass, Stanley, Fremont, Korea
Savidge, Charles C., Lincoln, Korea
Sayre, Larry D., Morrill, SAL
Sazama, Theodore B., St Paul, WWII
Scheele, Allen E., Swanton, Korea
Scheets, Lynn D., Friend, Vietnam
Schewe, Alvin E., Fort Calhoun, WWII
Schilke, Neil W., Fremont, Korea
Schlueter, Bruno A., Valentine, WWII
Schovanec, Ray L., Omaha, Korea
Schulz, Wilma L., Blue Hill, WWII
Schmidt, W. Leroy, Holdrege, Vietnam
Sedivy, Wesley D., Spencer, Korea
Seidel, Eugene R., Beatrice, Korea
Shanek, Walter, Odell, WWII
Shires, Warder L., Pleasant Dale, Vietnam
Sines, John C., McCook, WWII
Slama, Robert D., Dorchester, Vietnam
Slezak, Robert D., Milligan, Vietnam
Smith, Grover J., South Omaha, Korea
Smith, Russell E., Wymore, WWII
Sorensen, Richard E., Lincoln, Korea
Stalling, Clifford M., Arnold, WWII
Subject, Thomas J., Omaha, WWII
Swan, Norris, Hastings, WWII
Sweeney, Dennis M., Omaha, Vietnam
Sweet, Larry D., Aurora, Vietnam
Swoboda, Paul E., Paxton, Korea
Tangeman, Larry A., O’Neill, WWII
Teel, Lyle M., Central City, WWII
Teter, Stuart L., Wolbach, Korea
Thompson, Carl, St. Edward, WWII
Todd, Lyle R., South Sioux City, Other Conflicts
Tschida, Eugene, Papillion, Korea
Urbom, Ward C., Arapahoe, WWII
Vandevorde, Philip A., Wahoo, Vietnam
Vanevery, Kenneth G., O’Neil, WWII
Vanpelt, Dwaine, Central City, Korea
Vleck, Carl, South Omaha, Korea
Wach, Barry L., Sutton, SAL
Walker, Keith A., Mason City, Vietnam
Walton, James D., Omaha, Korea
Welniak, Lawrence, Burwell, Vietnam
Wiedel, Eugene J., Hebron
Wilkinson, Douglas W., Kearney, WWII
Williams, Pressley E., Lincoln, WWII
Wipfler, David M., Omaha, Vietnam
Wright, Llyod, Blair, Vietnam
Zeisler, Richard L., Butte, Vietnam
Zimmer, Leo E. Jr., Lincoln, Korea
Zimmerman, Howard W., Falls City, WWII

Events Calendar

July

- 4 Fourth of July
- 5 Fourth of July - Office Closed
- 20-25 Junior Shooting Sports Championship
- 23-31 Boys’ Nation - Washington D.C.
- 28-30 DSO School - Indianapolis, IN
- 29-31 Membership Workshop - Indianapolis, IN

August

- 4-8 American Legion World Series - Regionals
- 12-17 American Legion Baseball World Series
- 22-26 American Legion Legacy Run
- 27-2 National Convention - Phoenix, AZ

September

- 27- 2 National Convention - Phoenix, AZ
- 6 Labor Day - Office Closed
- 11 Patriot Day
- 16 The American Legion Day
- 17 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18-19 Children & Youth Conference - Indianapolis, IN
- 24-26 Americanism Conference - Indianapolis, IN

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



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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 June 16, 2021

District	2020 Members	2021 Members
1	320	309
2	629	611
3	238	224
4	342	309
5	133	131
6	1,303	1,323
7	721	680
8	903	830
9	323	311
10	319	344
11	1,064	1,065
12	248	253
13	146	152
15	158	147
Total	6,847	6,689



Elwood Post 290 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Adjutant Mel Divis, Glenn Hoffman 40 years, Keith Withers 50 years, and Commander Paul Zerr. Elwood Post 290 member Norman Hoveling was presented a Quilt of Valor by Unit 290 President Maria Atterberry. Pictured bottom (L to R) Norman and Doris Hoveling.



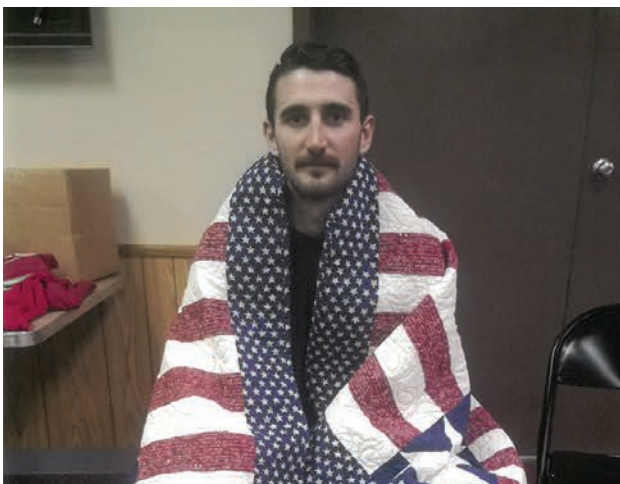
Dwight Post 110 presented 50-year certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Ken Kotera, Robert Kunasek and Tom Vodarka.



District 9 presented two awards to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Russ Wood, John Hanson Cornerstone Awardee, and Dennis Kennedy. Pictured bottom (L to R) Larry VonLoh receiving the Citizenship Award from Lee Carskadon.



Dodge Post 122 was presented with two casket flags. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Jerry Schulte, Norma, and Steve Brune with Leonard Bruness' flag. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Schulte, Anna Mae, and Rich Eikmeier with Clarence Eikmeiers' flag.



Brunswick Post 357 presented its members with Quilts of Valor made by Janet Todd. Pictured top is Vietnam veteran Clair Ohlrich. Pictured bottom is Gulf War veteran Austin Pittet.



Saunders County honored Keith Pokorny posthumously as Saunders County Veteran of the Month. Rose Pokorny accepted the award for her late husband, along with their children and grandchildren.



Bennington Post 266 presented a 60-year certificate of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) James Cheek and Harlan Hansen.



Atkinson Post 86 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured is Ed Siebrant surrounded by his family.



Dannebrog Post 241 presented a 50-year certificate of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dave Boehle and Roger Grim.



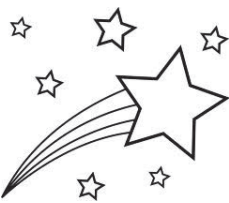
Howells Post 155 presented 50-year certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Glen Mlnarik, Joseph Bohaboj, and Daune Schlautman. Pictured bottom (L to R) Gerald Brichacek and Commander Glen Mlnarik.



The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

The Star

July - August 2021



We begin with anticipation, excitement, and a grateful heart. The 2021-2022 year for the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary is our year. We will happily work together as a team. Each loyal member plays a very important part in achieving

our goal of doing our very best for our veterans, children and youth, and communities.

Yes, as you can see, the crab has returned as a gentle reminder of no crabby attitudes when we attend meetings, work on committees, hold events, and help veterans in facilities and in our communities. The crab walks sideways avoiding responsibility and has painful pinchers much like hurtful words or actions. Let's bring the joy of being a member of the American Legion family into the world. Kindness is contagious. Together, we can do this. Let's begin with a timely project.

Dollar Days is an event in which we participate, giving \$5 to every hospitalized veteran at VA Medical Centers and to those who are residents in VA homes. In November 2021, recognizing Veterans Day, we will Double Down, \$10 instead of \$5. We will need to seek donations for the extra funds. This is a special amount this year only. Together, we can do this.

Membership, membership, membership. Your most important promise. Reading this article, you should have already paid 2022 dues.

Your Fall District meetings are just around the corner.

Please, please, share the time and place of your event with Department as soon as you know them.

Both the Midyear Educational Conference (January 2022) and the Department Convention (June 2022) will take place in Columbus.

It's our birthday! The Department of Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary turns 100 in 2022. Our first Department President was Minnie Penny. You will hear more about her and a project to honor her throughout the year.

On a personal note, I cannot thank Past President Paes enough for all she has done for this organization,

our veterans, and me during some very difficult times when many would have given up. Job well done, my friend.

Barbie Meyer
Department President



DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



L to R: NEC Kathy Mazur, President Barb Meyer, Vice President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Historian Angie Foster, Chaplain Pat Wiseman, and Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Moore

VICKI OZENBAUGH
DEPART. VICE PRESIDENT



WE ARE FAMILY!

We are family

I got all my sisters (and brothers) with me

We are family

Get up everybody and sing

Living life is fun and we've just begun
To get our share of this world's delights
(High) high hopes we have for the future
And our goal's in sight

The refrain (with an added word) and one of the verses from the song "We are Family" by Sister Sledge just might become part of our 2021-2022 Auxiliary year of membership. Building our family stronger is the "goal in sight."

What can you do to build the American Legion Auxiliary stronger? Reach out to your neighbor, those waiting in line at the checkout in any store, those attending an American Legion baseball game, or those proudly waving the United States flag --- just about anyone with whom to talk and share about what we represent and do for our military.

What can help you start up that conversation? Wearing our brand! Yes, proudly wear your American Legion Auxiliary emblem. Perhaps add a poppy to your emblem or your purse? Can you somehow attach a poppy to your cell phone? Or an emblem sticker?

Does your school have new teachers for this up-coming school year? Or do you have new neighbors in your community or neighborhood. Why not put together an American Legion Family welcoming kit?

Include a small American flag or lapel pin, our family membership pamphlet, information about your local Post and Unit, and sugar cookies decorated in red, white, and blue. Introduce yourself as a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

It's time to build our family stronger! And you are an important part of that family and process. We are family... all my sisters (and brothers) with me ... living the Auxiliary life is fun and we've just begun. . . to get our share of this wonderful organization's delights. . including high hopes for the future. . . with our goal's in sight. . . of a stronger Auxiliary family!

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Dept. Vice Pres

ANGIE FOSTER
DEPT. HISTORIAN



Why is history like a fruitcake? It's full of dates!

All jokes aside, I look forward to working with every Unit to record their history and have fun while doing it. My goal this year is to make the Unit History Books simpler and easier to do. The updated History Book Guidelines will be in the new ABC Book and on the website.

Also, I have a fun, upcoming project. So, stay tuned!

Any questions? Contact me: Email: angiefoster214@gmail.com or Call/Text: 308-520-5791.

Angie Foster
Department Historian

LISA MOORE
DEPT. SECRETARY



Membership card packets with Instructions, new transmittal forms, SLM/VIM transmittal (blue), dues form for 2022, Unit Data Forms, Member Data Forms, new member application, and your 2022 rosters will be mailed out by July 9th if you did not pick them up at Department Convention. If you do not have them by the 20th, please contact the office at 402-466-1808.

All forms and applications can be found on our Nebraska website under the ALA In "Print - Forms." These will be updated by August 1. Be sure to look there if you are trying to locate something. I can also email you the forms if you want them that way.

Thanks for all you do for our wonderful organization!

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

PAULA PILLEN



Paula J. Pillen-Quimby is the President of the ALA Eighth District (Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties). She is also president of Elkhorn / West Omaha Unit 362. Other past offices include being District 8 Vice President (membership) and Douglas County Vice President and President.

Her membership began with the American Legion Auxiliary in 2018 when spouse Russell G. Quimby became Commander of Elkhorn Post 211. Despite Russ being a West Point Military Academy alumnus with Reserve service later, Pillen's membership is under her father's service --- Pacific WWII veteran Eugene H. Pillen, who was first a member of the Platte Center Post. Her father's brother, Vernon Pillen, died during the Battle of the Bulge

at Julich, Germany. Her veteran grandfather, Henry Pillen (WWI, France), was an Honor Guard member for the Columbus Post.

Career work that relates to serving the Auxiliary includes being a communications and fundraising director for increasingly larger educational and healthcare organizations. She was the Quality Improvement and Financial Services Director for the Healthcare Association of Nebraska, which represents Community Health Centers. Paula is a retired Licensed Nursing Home Administrator who specialized in Dementia Care, ran four facilities, and was an adjunct at Bellevue University in Healthcare Administration. Russ and Paula are heavily involved with eldercare to family over the last five year (five people).

Paula J. Pillen
402-763-6209
6001 N 147th St.,
Omaha, NE 68116

NANCY HARROLD



Theme: **The Legion Family: Stronger Together**

I am District 6 President Nancy Harrold, and my theme is "The Legion Family: Stronger Together."

I have been an Auxiliary member for 10 years, eligible through the service of my dad, Doug, a WW2 Navy Veteran and the service of my

husband, Robert A., a Vietnam Navy Veteran. Our daughter, Amber, served in the Army for 12 years. We have two sons, also --- Larry and Robert D.

I served as Custer County President 4 years, President of Palmer-Lomax Unit 126 in Broken Bow for 5 years, and District 6 Vice-President 2 years. My husband has been a member of the American Legion and VFW for 50 years. We are both American Legion Riders.

Nancy Harrold
District 6 President

GIRLS STATE HAPPENINGS



Alex Sasse

Alex Sasse, from Fremont, was elected Girls State Governor at the 2021 session of ALA Cornhusker Girls State.

Senators representing Nebraska at Girls Nation in July will be Alex Sasse and Avery Wright from Waterloo. 1st alternate is Pauline Jonglertham from Hastings, and 2nd alternate is Alyssa Erthum from Ainsworth.

Avery Wright was also awarded the Nebraska Samsung Scholarship for 2021.



Avery Wright

WINSIDE MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

The Roy Reed American Legion Post 252 of Winside held its Memorial Day program in the Winside Auditorium. The program coordinator was Post Adjutant Bud Neel, and the guest speaker was former U.S. Congressman Hal Daub.

Placing of the Memorial Poppy wreath at Winside’s Pleasantview Cemetery was ALA Unit 252 member Pam Greunke. Pam was honored to place the wreath as a mother of an active duty service member. Pam and Todd Greunke are parents to SSGT Brian Greunke, USMC.



Members of the Polk ALA Junior Auxiliary helped put out flags on graves for the Memorial Day weekend.

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.							
2021/2022 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
July	#235 Union	#176 Blue Hill	#353 Louisville	#302 Leigh	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#222 Shubert
Aug.	#38 Ord			#175 Jackson	#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	
Sept.	#352 Deshler	#209 Franklin		#84 Columbus	#7 Alliance	#364 Naponee	
Oct.	#283 Platte Center	#141 Hampton		#307 S. Sioux City	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	
Nov.	#61 Sutton	#141 Hampton	#3 Lincoln	#128 Crawford			#222 Shubert
Dec.	#38 Ord	#257 Eustis		#302 Leigh	#95 Curtis	#364 Naponee	
Jan.				#283 Platte Center	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	
Feb.	#310 Gibbon			#62 Newcastle		#230 Thedford	
March							#354 Pleasant Dale
April				#283 Platte Center	#7 Alliance		
May				#70 West Point			
June							
Units, please check with your (Med Center) Assignments to see if they are accepting items before you make or send them.							
Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Alice Vieselmeyer Ph:(402)947-9001 Email: alicevies@aol.com							

2021-22 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

Department Officers

President Barbie Meyer..... 12455 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, NE 68870
Vice President..... Vicki Ozenbaugh..... 515 Road 18, Ohiowa, NE 68416
Historian..... Angie Foster..... PO Box 93, Osceola, NE, 68651
Chaplain..... Pat Wiseman..... PO Box 58, Homer, NE 68030
Secretary/Treasurer..... Lisa Moore 318 N Railroad, Wilber, NE 68465
National Committeewoman..... Kathy Mazur 13932 Meadow Ridge Road, Omaha, NE 68138

District Presidents

One..... Mary Krause 339 N Osborne St., Ainsworth NE 69210
Two..... Cyrs Bauermeister 222 E Willow Street, Pierce, NE 68767
Three..... Vicki Gullikson PO Box 40, Coleridge, NE 68727
Four..... Bonita Dickenson 1710 19th Ave., Lot 42 Sidney, NE 69162
Five..... Terrie Haworth PO Box 793, Sutherland, NE 69165
Six..... Nancy Harrold..... 959 Myers Rd, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Seven..... Janie Nelson 2425 Co Rd C, Valparaiso, NE 68065
Eight..... Paula Pillen..... 6001 N 147th St, Omaha, NE 68116
Nine..... Peggy Kennedy 310 Christi Avenue, Culbertson, NE 69024
Ten..... Tina Nelson 503 N Brown Avenue, Clay Center, NE 68933
Eleven..... Vicky Thompson..... PO Box 31, Milligan, NE 69406
Twelve..... Charlene Hobelman 4800 SW 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68523
Thirteen..... Amanda Washburn 455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003

Department Chairmen

Advisory Kathy Mazur 13932 Meadow Ridge Road, Omaha, NE 68138
Americanism Tammy Runions..... PO Box 253, Minden, NE 68959
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Kathy Mazur 13932 Meadow Ridge Road, Omaha, NE 68138
Cavalcade of Memories..... Angie Foster PO Box 93, Osceola, NE, 68651
Children & Youth..... Vicki Colson..... PO Box 61, Paxton, NE 69155
Community Service..... Debra Albers 1759 5200 Road, Davenport, NE 68335
Constitution & Bylaws..... Barbara Washburn 455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003
Distinguished Guest..... Kathy Mazur 13932 Meadow Ridge Road, Omaha, NE 68138
County Government..... Amanda Washburn 455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003
Education..... Mary Eickhoff..... 1915 Nemaha Ave, Falls City, NE 68355
Finance..... Vicki Cyboron..... 5152 N 155 Ave, Omaha, NE 68116
Girls State..... Nicole Vance 522 Meadowbrook Ct, South Sioux City, NE 68776
Girls State Advisory..... Annette Gloystein PO Box 84, Exeter, NE 68351
Gold Star Pat Wiseman..... PO Box 58, Homer, NE 68030
Junior Activities Sharon Brozovsky PO Box 86, Wilber, NE 68465
Leadership..... Loree Hendrickson..... Road 3, Unit 1, Shickley, NE 68436
Legislative..... Ruth Hietbrink 735 Washington Street, Sterling, NE 68443
Membership..... Kimberly Gurley P.O. Box 277, Milligan, NE 68406
Music Jean Vackiner..... 35878 Boiling Springs Rd., Cody, NE 69211
National Security Elizabeth Paes PO Box 92, Prague, NE 68050
Parliamentarian..... Jacki O'Neill..... 1018 Gordon Dr., Lincoln, NE 68522
Past Presidents Parley Beverly Neel 57580 847 Road, Wayne, NE 68787
Poppy Jody Schmale 910 N 55th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504
Resolutions Donna Hatfield..... PO Box 841, Lexington, NE 68850
“The Star” Editor Lorene Bartos..... 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Chairman Renee Van Winkle 2063 9th Ave., Farwell, NE 68838
Service to our Veterans..... Alice Vieselmeyer..... 112 S Pine St., Friend, NE 68359

Veterans Administration Medical Center Representatives

Lincoln..... Linda Varejcka 450 Conestoga Avenue, Hickman, NE 68372
Omaha Paula Pillen..... 6001 N 147th St, Omaha, NE 68116
Grand Island Kathryn Cyboron 2454 7th Avenue, Boelus, NE 68820

Veterans Administration Medical Center Associate Representatives

Hot Springs, SD..... Karol Lockmon PO Box 147, Rushville, NE 69360

Nebraska Veterans Home Chairmen

Central Nebraska..... Linda Garvel 78345 480th Ave, Ashton, NE 68817
Norfolk..... Karen Ohlrich 2600 Westside Plaza Dr. #108, Norfolk NE 68701
Eastern Nebraska Leatrice Doolen..... 630 S Washington St., Papillion, NE 68046
Scottsbluff Cecil Doshier..... 1960 Kings Road, Gering, NE 69341

Honorary Department Junior Officers

Honorary President Ellie Thede St. Paul
Honorary Vice President..... Carly Rains..... Dorchester
Honorary Historian Samantha Stepanek..... St. Paul
Honorary Chaplain..... Shia Rasmussen St. Paul

Department Headquarters contact information..... PO Box 5227, Lincoln, NE 68505
Telephone: 402-466-1808..... Email:neaux@windstream.net Web: nebraskalegionaux.net

65 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Patricia (Pat) Young was honored June 10, 2021 for 65 consecutive years of membership to the Cambridge American Legion Auxiliary Unit #199. The award was presented by Jo Lewis, Membership Chair-person

HALLAM CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Hallam Unit 294 recently presented Continuous Membership Certificates to a number of members.



Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Kerns (R) presented certificates to (L-R) Brenda Frahm (35 years), Martha Williams (15 years), Colleen Eickmeier (5 years), and Julie Kerns (30 years) at its Memorial Day Dinner. (PIC 1) Historian Beth Navratil presented 35-year certificates to Ana Lou Roth (PIC 2) and Darlene Navratil (PIC 3), both of whom could not attend. Others not present to receive certificates were Stacey Birkett (40 years), Ruth Albers (25 years), Linda Rahrat (20 years), Lynette Boyce (5 years), and Brianna Anderson (5 years).

LEADERSHIP

Someone once said, “Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader ... They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role – always about the goal.”

When I was asked to take on the role of Department Leadership Chair for the coming year, my gut reaction was, “Oh dear, I’m no leader.” I immediately went and looked up the definition of leadership and found the following, which said that leadership is: “The art of motivating a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal.”

Could I accomplish this, I wondered? After further research and finding the quote at the beginning of this article, it occurred to me to just encourage all of you to “set out to make a difference.” After all, isn’t that what being an American Legion Auxiliary member is all about? We already have a common goal – serving veterans – and we’ve never been “about the role – always about the goal.”

Let’s work together over the coming year to serve our veterans well. And let’s all inspire other Auxiliary members to become their best selves in the effort. We’ll begin with the President’s Homecoming in September. I look forward to seeing you there, and remember that we’re “always about the goal.”

Loree Hendrickson
Leadership Chr.



(L to R) Honorary Jr. President Ellie Thede and Convention Pages Klaira Rasmussen, Samantha Stepanek, and Shia Rasmussen ---- all of St. Paul Unit 119.



NEC Kathy Mazur escorting honored guest NWD Vice President Rhonda Larkowski of Colorado at the convention.



ST. PAUL CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

St Paul Unit 119 presented several Continuous Member Certificates at a recent meeting.



Charlotte Rasmussen (left) presented a 70-year Certificate to Eveyln Dvorak (center) and a 50-year Certificate to her daughter, Sharon Zeombe (right). LaVonn Nielsen (not present) received a 60-year Certificate.

FAMILY STRONGER TOGETHER MEMBERSHIP 2022

Alone we are Strong... together we are Stronger.

Beginning with the 2022 membership year, as we focus on the Family, we should define “Family.” At <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>, you can find the following definition. It is fitting for us today.

Family (noun) 4. a: a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation: FELLOWSHIP.

Help us grow our family stronger this year. Here is who we can ask to be members. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion;

2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods:

April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty

or after honorable discharge;

3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

4) those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Keep looking for more details to come on new and exciting family awards for the 2022 membership year. The first Renewal Notice is scheduled to be mailed to all Senior members on September 1st.

“The strength of a family, like the strength of an army, is in its loyalty to each other.” – Mario Puzo

Kimberly Gurley
Membership Chr.

DIST.	DISTRICT FAMILY NAME	% TO GOAL
1	The Andersons (Father Knows Best)	
2	The Munsters	
3	The Brady Bunch	
4	The Waltons	
5	The Tanners (Full House)	
6	The Flintstones	
7	The Cleavers (Leave It to Beaver)	
8	The Clampetts (Beverly Hill Billies)	
9	The Cunninghams (Happy Days)	
10	The Cartwrights (Bonanza)	
11	The Jetsons	
12	The Bunkers	
13	The Addams Family	
	Total Department	
	Goal from National	
14	Department Unit 500	

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 NIV

So many times in these days there are things that scare us. Turn on the TV or radio news and not much of it is good. Riots, murders, storms, deaths, accidents, and the list goes on. We worry about running out of money or food or maybe even a place to live. God is telling us not to be afraid. He will give us strength and help us. We simply need to talk to Him and ask for His help. If He is holding us up with His hand, we

have nothing to fear. His help is all we need.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You so much for this promise. Forgive us for forgetting to bring our worries to You and leaving them there with You. Help us to be patient and have confidence in Your words. Thank You for always loving us even when we don't deserve it. Grant us the peace that comes with knowing that You are in control.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Pat Wiseman
Dept. Chaplain

MUSIC



There is the chorus of angels, the song of the birds of the sky, and the song of the whale in the deepest oceans. There is music in the wind, the prairie grasses, and in us, the pitiful humans.

Music is energy. Energy is life. Is it no wonder that music is the only true universal language which can communicate to the masses, the newborns, the demented, and the dying?

My friends, never underestimate the universal power of music in your connections to our youth and our elders --- and across political lines. Where words have become tools of protest to the hypersensitive and undereducated, there is still hope to utilize music to stir our souls to patriotism and unity.

Join me in this wonderful adventure!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chr.

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 AUGUST 10, 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY

4 Independence Day – Depart. Headquarters Closed
24-31 ALA Girls Nation – Washington, DC

AUGUST

10 Deadline for articles for Sept. issue of "The Star"
27 - Sept. 2 National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

January 2022 Mid Year Conference, Columbus, NE
June 2022 Department Convention, Columbus, NE
Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2022 National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

In Memoriam

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MILLARD ELECTION

At their June unit meeting, the Millard American Legion Auxiliary #374 elected and installed their 2021-2022 Unit Officers and Chairmen.



Pictured (left to right) are Unit President Karen Brink, Vice-President Tara Scott, Membership Chair Patty Polson, Secretary/Historian Sally Johnson, Public Relations Chair Melissa Steinle, and Treasurer Mary Bauder. Not Pictured are Chaplain/E-Board member Kristi Leavitt and E-Board members Julie Polson and Cheri Sempek.



Past Department Presidents (l to r) Evelyn Dvorak and Eva Nollette, two grande dames of the Department Convention. Each has reached her 94th Birthday, and both are still active in their units.

Are you up for a challenge?

Keep your eyes peeled for the upcoming hunt!

COMING SOON

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

You are cordially invited to attend

the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,

Saturday, July 31st thru Sunday, August 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

at Buffalo Bill State Historical Park, (NE State Park sticker required)

2921 Scouts Rest Ranch, North Platte, NE 69101

Wreath laying will be every hour starting at noon.

Saturday, July 31st

8:30am - Funeral Procession starting at the 20th Century Veterans Memorial

6:00pm - Enjoy food, Pals Brewery, and Music

The Public is welcome.

Carnations will be available to purchase to lay on the Tomb.

Organizations wishing to participate in wreath-laying should contact Michelle Lupomech.

Sponsored by

DAR Sioux Lookout Chapter

Contact for more information: Michelle Lupomech

317-979-3238

mlupomech@gmail.com

